

**STATE OF TEXAS**

**RESOLUTION**

**of the**

**TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL**

**Improving Training and Community Engagement**

WHEREAS, the Texas Judicial Council is the policymaking body for the Texas Judicial Branch, created under chapter 71, Texas Government Code; and

WHEREAS, the Council is charged with improving the administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, events like the 2016 Beyond the Bench; Law, Justice, and Communities and the 2019 Public Engagement Pilot Project were widely successful in bringing diverse communities together to learn about and make recommendations on improvements to the court system; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals is responsible for adopting rules and programs related to judicial education; and

WHEREAS, training centers responsible for judicial education have been required to offer implicit bias training for Texas judges since 2001; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no requirement that Texas judges obtain implicit bias training hours; and

WHEREAS, in light of recent national events, the Council wishes to continue the judiciary's dedication to continuously working to improve public trust and confidence; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Judiciary has a strong history of commitment to public engagement and efforts to increase trust and confidence in the Third Branch; and

WHEREAS, the Council recognizes efforts to improve public trust and confidence require planning and education;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Texas Judicial Council recommends:

1. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals should require judges to obtain additional training on implicit bias; and
2. The Judicial Council should create an advisory committee of the Council to assist the Council in its focus on judicial training, community engagements, and developing judicial summits.



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Honorable Nathan L. Hecht  
Chair, Texas Judicial Council