



TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

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CHAIR:

HON. WALLACE B. JEFFERSON
Chief Justice, Supreme Court

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

David Slayton

VICE CHAIR:

HON. SHARON KELLER
Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals

TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

September 20, 2013
10:00 a.m.

SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS
Supreme Court Building
201 W. 14th Street, Room 104
Austin, Texas

COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

On September 20, 2013, Chief Justice Wallace B. Jefferson called the meeting¹ of the [Texas Judicial Council](#) (“Council”) to order at approximately 10:30 a.m. in the courtroom of the [Supreme Court of Texas](#) (“SCOT”) in Austin, Texas.

The following members of the Council were present:

Hon. Wallace B. Jefferson, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Texas
Mr. Richard Battle, Key Trak, College Station
Hon. Gary Bellair, Presiding Judge, Ransom Canyon Municipal Court
Hon. Bill Boyce, Justice, 14th Court of Appeals, Houston
Mr. Richard Figueroa, UBS Advisory & Brokerage Services, Houston
Ms. Allyson Ho, Morgan Lewis, Dallas
Ms. Ashley Johnson, Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP, Dallas
Mr. Virgil Justice, First Insurance Agency, Kerrville
Hon. Kelly Moore, Judge, 121st Judicial District, Terry & Yoakum
Hon. Orlanda Naranjo, Judge, 419th Judicial District, Travis County
Hon. Valencia Nash, Justice of the Peace Pct. 1, Place 2, Dallas County
Hon. Sherry Radack, Chief Justice, 1st Court of Appeals, Houston

Members attending via phone were Ms. Ho and Ms. Johnson.

¹ The meeting may be viewed on the State Bar of Texas website <http://www.texasbarcle.com/CLE/TSCSearch2.asp>

Members not in attendance were Presiding Judge Sharon Keller, Representative Roberto Alonzo, Judge Russell Casey, Senator Robert Duncan, Representative Tryon Lewis, Mr. Hank Nuss, Judge Glenn Phillips, Judge Linda Rodriguez, Judge Polly Spencer, and Senator Royce West.

Chief Justice Jefferson made open remarks and introduced Nathan L. Hecht as incoming Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Justice Hecht commented and thanked Chief Justice Jefferson.

Kari King, General Counsel for the House Judiciary Committee announced the decision of Judicial Council member Tryon Lewis not to run for the House of Representatives next session but that he plans to fulfill his current term.

REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC)

Wesley Shackelford, TIDC Deputy Director, reported on the new attorney and county reporting requirements under HB 1318 relating to the appointment of counsel to represent certain youths and indigent defendants. These new reporting requirements must now also be included in the attorney qualification section of each indigent defense plan. In this bill, the Legislature also directed the Commission to conduct a Weighted Caseload Study. The results of the study will need to be published by January 15, 2015.

Mr. Shackelford also reported that TIDC has begun helping OCA reporting by withholding grant funding from counties who have not complied with the reporting requirements until they present a plan to come into compliance.

MINUTES

With a quorum present, Chief Justice Jefferson called for a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. With proper motion and vote, the [June 7, 2013](#) meeting minutes were approved.

REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS CONT'D

Shared Solutions 2.0

Mr. Figueroa reviewed development of the conference and reported the next planning session would be October 3-4. In preparation for that meeting, the National Center for State Courts released a survey asking the recipients to prioritize potential core competencies for consideration at the Summit. He will report on the results at the next meeting.

Elders Committee

Chief Justice Jefferson recalled the appointment of the Elders Committee at the last meeting and its task to become engaged in the growing population of elderly in Texas. Mr. Slayton reported on behalf of Judge Spencer. He discussed the Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders (WINGS) where OCA had received funding from the American Bar Association to bring together statewide stakeholders in guardianship. WINGS has begun to identify issues throughout the system. The Elders Committee will review those issues for possible proposals for changes in the courts, or rules of procedure, for legislative recommendations to the Council. Issues should be identified in time for the next Council meeting.

e-Filing

Mr. Slayton provided a [program status update](#) on eFiling. He also discussed that the Attorney General received an opinion request from Bexar County regarding fees for eFiling. The opinion is not expected until the first of the year.

OCA Language Access Services and Court Consulting Services

Mary Cowherd, Deputy Director of OCA reported that the 83rd Texas Legislature provided funding to continue the Remote Interpreter Program. This program will be expanded to allow its licensed court interpreters to provide free remote Spanish interpretation services for all case types. Marco Hanson has filled the new position of Language Access Coordinator.

She then reported that the Legislature had also reinstated funding for the OCA court services consultant position. Aurora Zamora is the new court services consultant. She will provide technical assistance on court administration matters to judges, clerks, court personnel, and other county officials and staff, with primary emphasis on case management. Judge Naranjo brought up the point of the need for jurors to have interpreters as well.

Presentation from Specialty Courts Advisory Committee regarding Best Practices for Specialty Courts

Mr. Slayton reported that in accordance with SB 462 the Specialty Courts Advisory Council has approved Specialty Court Best Practice Guidelines. Senator Huffman has asked that the Council consider these practices for possible promulgating best practices to the problem-solving courts.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Slayton distributed highlights of the American Bar Association's Capital Punishment Assessment. He discussed the possibility of inviting someone from the assessment team to attend a meeting of the Council to take some of its recommendations into consideration.

Chief Justice Jefferson recognized Jennifer Cafferty, Supreme Court General Counsel for her service and asked Mr. Slayton to present a resolution from the Council. The resolution was approved by acclamation.

Chief Justice Radack recognized Chief Justice Jefferson for his service and presented a resolution from the Council. The resolution was approved by acclamation. Mr. Slayton read a statement from Presiding Judge Keller also acknowledging Chief Justice Jefferson's service.

NEXT MEETING

Justice Hecht and Mr. Slayton will be in touch to schedule a meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:58 p.m.

Wallace B. Jefferson
Chair