

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

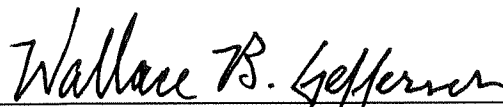
Misc. Docket No. 05- 9190

ORDER CONCERNING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR COURT REPORTERS DISPLACED BY HURRICANE KATRINA

ORDERED:

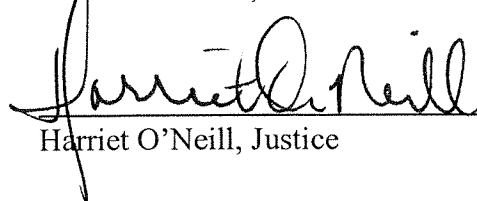
After full consideration of the attached request by the Court Reporter's Certification Board to temporarily reduce exam fees and waive the Statement of Proficiency requirement for out-of-state court reporters displaced by Hurricane Katrina who have sat or will be sitting for the court reporters exams on September 15, 2005, or January 27, 2006, the Court hereby grants the request. This order is effective immediately.

In Chambers, this 17th day of November, 2005.

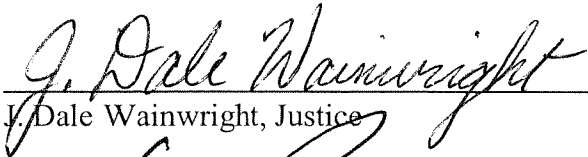


Wallace B. Jefferson, Chief Justice

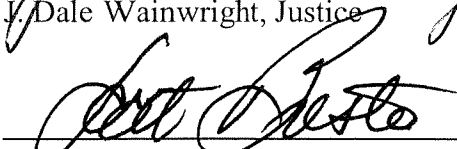
Nathan L. Hecht, Justice



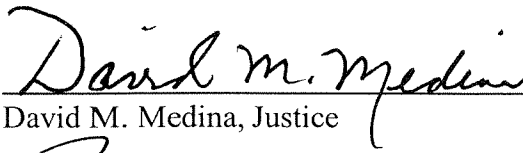
Harriet O'Neill, Justice



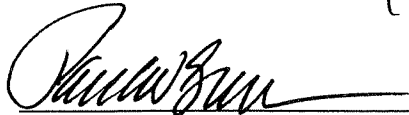
J. Dale Wainwright, Justice




Scott Brister, Justice




David M. Medina, Justice



Paul W. Green, Justice



Phil Johnson, Justice



Don R. Willett, Justice



**COURT REPORTERS
CERTIFICATION BOARD**

**A Division of the Office of Court
Administration**

October 17, 2005

Chair

CATHARINA HAYNES

Board Members

OLAN BOUDREAUX
WENDY ROSS
ALBERT ALVAREZ
AUDREE CRUTCHER
JUDY MILLER
ART RICHARDSON
ANGELINA LOZANO
KIM TINDALL
SARA DOLPH
LY NGUYEN
MICHELLE HERRERA
VACANT (Public Member)

Director

MICHELE L. HENRICKS

Administrator of Licensing

SHERYL JONES

Administrative Assistant

TYEE S HOLCOMBE

Justice David M. Medina
Supreme Court of Texas
Tom C. Clark Building
205 W. 14th St., 3rd Floor
Austin, Texas 78701

Re: REVISED Request for Supreme Court Approval to Reduce Exam Fees
CRCB Special Accommodations for Hurricane Katrina Evacuees

Dear Justice Medina:

Please disregard the Court Reporters Certification Board's previous request to "waive" exam fees dated October 12, 2005 and consider this the Board's REVISED REQUEST to "reduce" exam fees to **\$5.00 per fee** and waive the Statement of Proficiency requirement as set out in the Supreme Court Rules for the September 16, 2005 and January 27, 2006 court reporter exams for out-of-state court reporter evacuees displaced by Hurricane Katrina. It has come to our attention that in statute the Board is "required" to collect fees, hence our revised request.

In response to inquiries from out-of-state court reporters affected by Hurricane Katrina and the emergency circumstances in effect at that time, at the September 17, 2005 meeting of the Court Reporters Certification Board, the Board voted to temporarily waive fees and the Statement of Proficiency requirement for evacuees sitting for the September 16, 2005 court reporters exam pending approval. Additionally, the Board voted to extend the special accommodations to include the January 27, 2006 exam.

Please reference the following requirement and fees as set out in the *Standards and Rules for Certification of Certified Shorthand Reporters as Promulgated by the Supreme Court of Texas*:

- 1) Section V.E. Statement of Proficiency (two mock tests of oral exam passed at 95% accuracy)
(not in statute)

(1)

2) Section VI. Fees: Certification Fee - \$85 (one-time), Written Exam - \$50, Oral Exam - \$100, Oral & Written Exam - \$100

Statutory references for fees set out in Chapter 52, Government Code, are as follows:

§ 52.013 POWERS AND DUTIES

(a) The Board shall:

(4) *charge and collect the fees prescribed by this chapter;*

§ 52.022 APPLICATION FOR EXAMINATION

A person seeking certification must file an application for examination with the board not later than the 30th day before the date fixed for the examination. *The application must be accompanied by the required fee.*

§ 52.026 CERTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION FEE AND RENEWAL

(a) A person who receives certification as a shorthand reporter or a shorthand reporting firm or affiliate office that registers with the board *must pay the initial fee and any other required fee before receiving the certification* or registration.

The Court Reporters Certification Board ("Board") respectfully requests the Court's approval in the form of a short letter or memo effective for the September 16, 2005 and January 27, 2006 court reporters exam. I have taken the liberty of including a draft of the approval letter for the Court's review and signature.

If I may provide any additional information, please contact me at 512)463-1747 or by e-mail at Michele.henricks@crCB.state.tx.us.

Thank you in advance for the Court's prompt attention in this matter so that the Board may provide this much needed assistance to the evacuees.

Sincerely,

Michele L. Henricks
Director, CRCB

Attachment(s)

CC: Judge Catharina Haynes, Chair – CRCB
Frank Knapp, Assistant Attorney General – OAG
Carl Reynolds, Administrative Director – OCA
Lisa Hobbs, General Counsel – Supreme Court of Texas

(2)