



TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

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CHAIR:

HON. NATHAN L. HECHT  
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

June 28, 2019  
10:00 AM

Tom C. Clark - 1st Floor Conference Room  
205 W. 14th Street  
Austin, Texas

**COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING**

On June 28, 2019, Chief Justice Nathan L. Hecht called the meeting<sup>1</sup> of the Texas Judicial Council ("Council") to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. in the conference room of the Tom C. Clark Building in Austin, Texas.

The following members of the Council were present:

*Hon. Nathan L. Hecht, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Texas*  
*Hon. Sharon Keller, Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals*  
*Hon. Gary Bellair, Presiding Judge, Ransom Canyon Municipal Court*  
*Ms. Sonia Clayton, Virtual Intelligence Providers LLC, Houston*  
*Ms. Allyson Ho, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, Dallas*  
*Hon. Andrew Murr, Representative, Junction*  
*Hon. Valencia Nash, Justice of the Peace Pct. 1, Place 2, Dallas County*  
*Hon. Sherry Radack, Chief Justice, 1st Court of Appeals, Houston*  
*Mr. Kenneth S. Saks, Oliva Saks Garcia & Curiel, LLP, San Antonio*  
*Hon. Edward J. Spillane, III, Presiding Judge, City of College Station*  
*Hon. Vivian Torres, Medina County Court at Law, Hondo*  
*Mr. Evan Young, Baker Botts, Austin*  
*Hon. Judith Zaffirini, Senator, Laredo*

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<sup>1</sup> The meeting may be viewed on the Office of Court Administration YouTube site at <https://www.youtube.com/user/TexasCourtAdmin/>.

Members attending by phone were Representative Jeff Leach, Mr. Bill Boyce, Judge Bill Gravell, and Ms. Rachel Racz.

Members not in attendance were Senator Brandon Creighton, Judge Kelly Moore, Judge Scott Jenkins, Judge Polly Spencer (Ret.), and Mr. Kevin Bryant.

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The February 1, 2019, meeting minutes were approved as presented.

### **REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS**

Geoff Burkhardt, Executive Director, Texas Indigent Defense Commission, reported on the activities of the Commission.

Jeffrey Tsunekawa, Acting Director for Research & Court Services Division, Office of Court Administration (OCA), presented nominations for Centers of Excellence for consideration by the Council. Courts considered were the 347th District Court in Nueces County, Judge Missy Medary, Court Manager Andrew Garcia, and Court Administrator Marilee Roberts; and the 214th District Court in Nueces County, Judge Inna Klein, Court Manager Gabriela Dennis, and Court Administrator Marilee Roberts. Chief Justice Hecht requested a motion to approve Centers of Excellence designation for both courts. Senator Zaffirini made the motion, seconded by Chief Justice Radack. The motion carried unanimously.

Megan LaVoie, Public Affairs Director, OCA, and Jennifer Henry, Chief Financial Officer, OCA, provided the legislative and appropriations update.

General Counsel Mena Ramón, OCA, presented information on setting the salary of active regional presiding judges pursuant to Government Code Sec. 74.051(b) for Fiscal Years 2020-2021. Chief Justice Hecht requested motion to approve the recommended salary amount of 30% of the state base salary paid to a district judge, or \$42,000 per year, for the active regional presiding judges. Senator Zaffirini made the motion, seconded by Ken Saks. The motion carried unanimously.

David Slayton, Administrative Director, OCA, presented the proposed rule amendments to Judicial Council reporting requirements, Title I, TAC Ch 171. The amendments implement legislative changes. Chief Justice Hecht requested a motion to approve the amendments as presented for publication in the Texas Register. Chief Justice Radack made the motion, seconded by Judge Spillane. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Slayton presented information on the repeal of Judicial Council rules for the Collection Improvement Program (CIP), Title I, TAC Ch 175, pursuant to the repeal of the underlying statute for the CIP. Chief Justice Hecht requested a motion to repeal the CIP rules as presented. Senator Zaffirini made the motion, seconded by Mr. Young. The motion carried.

Mr. Tsunekawa gave a presentation on the Family Justice Initiative.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Chief Justice Hecht identified renewed and new committees for 2019-2020. Committee assignments are under consideration and will be announced in the forthcoming months.

Senator Zaffirini asked where ADA would fall as related to access to courts. Ms. Kristi Taylor, Executive Director, Judicial Commission on Mental Health, will suggest the Commission create a separate committee that would consider ADA access and that would make a recommendation to the Civil Justice Committee.

**NEXT MEETING**

To be determined.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.



Nathan L. Hecht  
Chair