

**TEXAS  
COMMISSION  
ON *JUDICIAL*  
*SELECTION***



**CHAIR:**

Mr. David J. Beck

**LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS:**

Senator Brian Birdwell  
Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa  
Senator Joan Huffman  
Senator Robert Nichols

Representative Todd Hunter  
Representative Brooks Landgraf  
Representative Ina Minjarez  
Representative Carl Sherman

**CITIZEN MEMBERS:**

Mr. Charles "Chip" Babcock, IV  
Hon. Martha Hill Jamison (Ret.)  
Hon. Wallace Jefferson (Ret.)  
Ms. Lynne Liberato  
Mr. David Oliveira  
Hon. Thomas Phillips (Ret.)

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**Texas Commission on Judicial Selection Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** January 11, 2020

**Convene:** 9:58 AM

**Attendance:** *Megan LaVoie*

Mr. David Beck  
Sen. Juan Hinojosa  
Sen. Joan Huffman  
Sen. Robert Nichols  
Rep. Todd Hunter  
Rep. Ina Minjarez  
Rep. Carl Sherman  
Mr. Charles Babcock  
Ms. Martha Hill Jamison  
Mr. Wallace Jefferson  
Ms. Lynne Liberato  
Mr. David Oliveira  
Mr. Thomas Phillips

Members attending by phone:

N/A

Members not in attendance:

Sen. Brian Birdwell  
Rep. Brooks Landgraf

**Introduction of members:**

Members introduced themselves. OCA Administrative Director David Slayton introduced himself along with OCA staff, Megan LaVoie, Director Public Affairs/Special Counsel and Angela Garcia, Chief Data Officer.

Mr. Beck opened discussion and asked the members to identify any problems they saw in our current judicial selection system. Members raised some of the following issues:

Partisan elections;  
Public perception;  
Knowledge of candidates;  
Party affiliation;  
Financial issues;  
Short terms and political calendars;  
Political pressure;  
Judicial qualifications;  
Economic issue;  
Accountability of judges;  
Diversity (political, ethnic, gender) on bench;  
Campaigning;  
Campaign finance;  
Public education

No decision was made on any of these issues raised by the Members.

**Discuss Jamison Dec. 29, 2019 Letter:** *Martha Hill Jameson*

Discussion on letter that urges the Commission to test pre-existing conclusions and give stakeholders an opportunity to provide input before accepting proposed solutions.

Issue to consider: 2021 census may impact counties and court funding.

**Judicial Selection Landscape** presentation: *Megan LaVoie & Angela Garcia*

Ms. LaVoie provided overview from national perspective on methods of judicial selection. Ms. Garcia provided overview of statistical data in Texas.

**Appointment of Working Groups:** *David Beck*

Elections - Chair Phillips

Appointments & Confirmations - Chair Jefferson

Citizen Panels & Judicial Qualifications - Chair Liberato

**Next Meeting:**

February 11, 2020

**Adjourn:** 12:00 PM