

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



Texas Commission on Judicial Selection Meeting Minutes

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.)

www.txcourts.gov/tcjs

Date: July 10, 2020

Convene: 10:00 AM

Attendance: *Megan LaVoie*

Members in Attendance

Mr. David Beck
Sen. Brian Birdwell
Sen Robert Nichols
Sen. Joan Huffman
Sen. Juan Hinojosa
Rep. Todd Hunter
Rep. Brooks Landgraf
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

Minutes from Previous Meeting

The June 5, 2020 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Report on Future Public Hearings

Chairman Beck confirmed that the first public hearing in Corpus Christi is scheduled for July 29, 2020. It will take place via Zoom.

Presentations

Ann Timmer, the Vice Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court, discussed with the Commission the merit selection process for the state of Arizona. This merit selection process includes nominating commissions, distinct commission membership, a detailed nomination process, no lifetime appointments, and retention elections. Members of the Commission raised questions regarding the selection process, diversity, term limitations, and historical information on Arizona's changes to its judicial selection process.

James Tinley, Deputy Director of Enforcement, Texas Ethics Commission, explained the laws and regulations on judicial campaign finance, including general reporting requirements, special rules for judicial elections, and provided data from the finance campaign database relating to the amount of money being spent on judicial elections. Mr. Tinley noted that he is not giving any policy recommendations on behalf of the Texas Ethics Commission. The Commission requested more data on election contributions, which Mr. Tinley will attempt to provide.

Dr. Dottie Carmichael and Dr. George Naufal, research scientists with the Texas A&M Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI), provided information on PPRI and how they might assist the Commission in composing its final report for the legislature.

New Matters

Chairman Beck identified additional persons scheduled to appear at the next meeting, including Judge Martin Hoffman who will provide his views on judicial selection and Gary Bledsoe from the NAACP.

Additionally, as a reminder, the public hearing in Corpus Christi will be taking place on July 29, 2020.

Lastly, it was reported that there are 100,000 lawyers in Texas, and less than ten percent are board certified in any particular practice.

Chief Justice Jefferson recommended the 2036 Commission be requested to speak to the Commission.

Next Meeting – August 7, 2020

Adjourn - 12:05 pm