



TEXAS JUDICIAL COMPENSATION COMMISSION

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CHAIR:
SCOTT SALMANS

TEXAS JUDICIAL COMPENSATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 12, 2022

Convene: 10:00 am

Attendance:

Members in Attendance

Scott Salmans, Chair, Mr. Carlos Amaral, Justice Cindy Bourland, Ms. JJ Clemence, Mr. Conrith Davis, Mr. Tony Fidelie, Justice Phil Johnson, Ms. Linda Kinney, Mr. Curt Nelson
All members in attendance.

Roll Call – Megan LaVoie called roll.

Introductions – *Scott Salmans and Megan LaVoie*

Approval of Meeting Minutes 11.09.2020 – *Scott Salmans*

Motion from Carlos Amaral to approve. Second from Mr. Nelson. Minutes approved unannouncedly.

Update from the State Bar Judicial Section – *Justice Brett Busby, Texas Supreme Court*

Justice Busby introduced himself to the Commission and thanked them for their service. Justice Busby gave an overview of the role of the Supreme Court during the COVID-19 pandemic and an update on virtually no backlog for civil cases, and the current criminal backlog. He also gave an overview of compensation in relation to retention and inflation.

Legislative History of Judicial Compensation – *Judge Alfonso Charles, Presiding Judge 10th Administrative Judicial Region, 124th District Court*

Judge Charles presented to the Commission on the historical pay increases since 1991. He noted the base salary for a district judge has not had an increase in 10 years and the current salary is not competitive to attract good judicial candidates. Judge Charles recommends a 15-20 percent pay increase.

Chairman Salmans discussed the importance of increasing the base salary of a district judge and the input of the commission in making these recommendations. He also recommended including the salary recommendations as an exceptional item in the budget.

Judicial Salaries, Demographics and Turnovers – *Angela Garcia, Chief Data Officer, Office of Court Administration*

Megan LaVoie, Administrative Director, Office of Court Administration, outlined the Texas Judicial Compensation Commission requirements in statute as well as the new experience requirements for judges in Texas.

Angela Garcia gave an overview of the current judicial salaries and the current demographics of the judiciary. She also discussed the salary scales to include inflation and increased salary projections at 10 percent, 15 percent, and 20 percent. Mr. Amaral discussed salaries of the Attorney General, Governor, university presidents, and other lead members of government entities compared to the judiciary. Inflation was mentioned by Mr. Davis and Chairman Salmans as a factor to be considered in increasing judicial pay.

Next Steps

Ms. LaVoie discussed next steps to include the next meeting and public hearing date. The report is due on December 1, 2022.

Adjourn – 11:35 a.m.