

**JUDICIAL BRANCH CERTIFICATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

(Virtual Meeting Conducted by Zoom)  
205 W. 14th Street  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Friday, May 1, 2020  
(10:00 a.m. Until Adjournment)

The meeting of the Judicial Branch Certification Commission (JBCC or Commission) was called to order by Judge Lee Hamilton, Chair, at 10:00 a.m., Friday, May 1, 2020. Members in attendance were Judge Lee Hamilton; Judge Sid Harle; Judge William Sowder; Judge Victor Villarreal; Judge Polly Spencer; Velma Arellano; Don Ford; Ann Murray Moore; and Mark Blenden.

Staff members in attendance were Jeff Rinard, EPRS Director; Scott Gibson, JBCC General Counsel; Michele Henricks, Deputy Director of Regulatory Services; Sheryl Jones, Licensing Manager; Melinda Saucedo, Investigator; Tyees Holcombe, Judicial Regulatory Assistant; Rachel Davis, Legal Assistant, and Veena Mohan, Assistant Attorney General.

Complaint review committee members in attendance were Eric Johnson, Process Servers Complaint Review Committee, and Kim Tindall, Court Reporters Complaint Review Committee.

Agenda Item III, Opening Remarks

Judge Hamilton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Director Jeff Rinard thanked staff for their hard work and gave an overview of staff functions while teleworking during the pandemic. He noted that the in-person Guardianship exam is being rescheduled for July.

Agenda Item IV, Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

The February 7, 2020 minutes were approved.

Assistant Attorney General Veena Mohan presented agenda items V, VI, VII, VIII, and IX.

Agenda Item V. Approval of JBCC Disciplinary Action, by Default, and Issuance of Final Order from Complaints

Process Servers Certification – September 19, 2019  
A. In the Matter of Cristina Salgado, Cause no. 0122

Sanction: Suspension of certification, fully probated, for a period of six months after the date of the final order; Completion of a 7-hour pre-certification civil process service education course approved by the Commission within six months after the date of the final order.

Agenda Item VI. Approval of Agreed Orders – Acceptance by Respondent of Sanction/Administrative Penalty

Upon proper motion and second, the Commission voted to approve Agreed Orders for the following complaints:

Court Reporters Certification – June 7, 2019, December 6, 2019

A. In the Matter of Belinda Baraka, Cause No. 0088

Sanction: Reprimand

B. In the Matter of Anthony 'Tony' Baiamonte III, Cause No. 0136

Sanction: Reprimand and complete 2.5 hours of continuing education in rules and ethics, due within 6 months after the date of the final order. The continuing education requirement is separate and in addition to continuing education required for renewal of certification

Process Server Certification – September 19, 2019, March 5, 2020

C. In the Matter of Kerry Jackson, Cause No. 0125

Sanction: Reprimand

D. In the Matter of Genoveva Casares, Cause No. 0151

Sanction: Reprimand

Agenda Item VII. Advisory Board Complaint Review Committee & Staff Recommendations to Dismiss Complaints

Upon proper motion and second, the Commission voted to dismiss Cause No. 0138.

Court Reporters Complaint Review Committee – December 6, 2019

A. In the Matter of Robert Thomas, Cause No. 0164

Respondent and Attorney Ismael Pease, and Complainant, Judge Roger Rodriguez, in attendance. Rescheduled to August 7, 2020 due to technical difficulties.

Process Servers Complaint Review Committee – March 5, 2020

B. In the Matter of Angela Austin, Cause No. 0138

Agenda Item VIII. Administrative Dismissals of Complaints

Upon proper motion and second, the Commission ratified administrative dismissal of Cause Nos. 0153, 0162, 0230, and 0236.

Court Reporters Certification

- A. In the Matter of Cause No. 0153
- B. In the Matter of Cause No. 0162
- C. In the Matter of Cause No. 0230
- D. In the Matter of Cause No. 0236
- E. In the Matter of Cause No. 0252

Complainant Marlonia Ivey in attendance. Rescheduled to August 7, 2020 due to technical difficulties.

Agenda Item IX. Request for Reconsideration on Administrative Dismissal of Complaints

Upon proper motion and second, the Commission affirmed its previous decision to ratify administrative dismissal of the following complaints:

Court Reporters Certification

- A. In the Matter of Cause No. 0179  
Judge Sid Harle and Judge Polly Spencer recused themselves.
- B. In the Matter of Cause No. 0201

Agenda Item X. Administrative Matters Relating to the JBCC

Jeff Rinard, EPRS Director, gave an update on the following agenda items:

- A. Eleventh and Twelfth Emergency Orders Regarding COVID-19 State of Disaster Supreme Court, Misc. Docket Nos. 20-9055 and 20-9059. The Twelfth Emergency Order extends the expiration dates of JBCC licensees who expire between March 13, 2020 and June 1, 2020, to July 15, 2020, and may be extended. Upon proper motion and second, the Commission voted to delegate Mr. Rinard the authority to grant a provisional guardianship extension and to grant an additional exam.
- B. Court Reporters Advisory Board Efforts to Address Court Reporter Shortage.
  - 1. Proposed Rules of the Judicial Branch Certification Commission. 52 comments were received and the JBCC is discussing 4 of the comments requesting minor changes with the Supreme Court. Once proposed rules are adopted, 2 new certifications will be created for the court reporting profession; apprentice and provisional.
  - 2. Report on Court Reporter Reciprocity Outreach to the Supreme Court. 31 states have a Court Reporter certification, and JBCC has reached out to these states. Nevada, Idaho, Georgia, Colorado, and South Carolina (5 states) have no interest in a reciprocity agreement with Texas. Illinois, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Tennessee (4 states) expressed an interest in a reciprocity agreement. Arkansas and California (2 states) have scheduled an agenda item to discuss reciprocity with Texas at their next board meeting. Kentucky,

Mississippi, New Jersey and New Mexico (4 states) were also receptive to considering a reciprocity agreement.

C. SB 31-Relating to Establishing a Guardianship Abuse, Fraud, and Exploitation Deterrence Program (GAFEDP)

As of September 1st, 16 employees have been hired for the program and are undergoing a 5-phase training program. Since implementation of the program, staff members have visited 62 courts in 51 counties and reviewed over 40,000 cases. 40% of the cases reviewed were found out of compliance.

D. Guardianship Registration, Training and Criminal History

40,959 guardianships have been registered in the JBCC's system. The majority are family member guardianships with the team continuing to process registrations. In 4 months, 14,000 criminal history checks have been completed. 14,207 guardians have completed the Guardianship training in English, and 423 guardians have completed the Guardianship training in Spanish.

E. JBCC Meeting Dates

1. Next JBCC Meeting – Friday, August 7, 2020
2. Proposed Meeting Dates for FY 2021:
  - o Friday, November 6, 2020
  - o Friday, February 5, 2021
  - o Friday, May 7, 2021
  - o Friday, August 6, 2021

Agenda Item XI. Public Comment

The following individuals provided public comment:

- Lorrie Schnoor, President, TCRA
- Kelly Hanna, President, TEXDRA
- Glenn Miller
- Sharise Breckenridge-Linson
- Bryan Thomas
- Kate McAlpine
- Steve Bresnen
- Katherine Buchhorn
- Rene Moarefi

Agenda Item XII. Closing Remarks

Judge Lee Hamilton expressed appreciation for the court reporters' devotion to their profession and recognized the importance of their work in the court system and the state of Texas.

Director Jeff Rinard congratulated Judge Hamilton on his retirement and expressed appreciation for his service as Chair of the Commission since 2014.

David Slayton, OCA Administrative Director, thanked Judge Hamilton for his service on the Commission and presented him with a certificate of recognition signed by himself and Chief Justice Nathan Hecht, Supreme Court of Texas.

Judge Sid Harle, Chair-Elect, expressed that it was his honor and privilege to serve with Judge Hamilton, and praised his leadership while serving on the Commission.

Judge Hamilton shared that he was honored to serve as Commission Chair and thanked the Commission members for their intellect, judgment, and commitment to ethics, and expressed his pleasure in serving with them. Judge Hamilton also thanked JBCC staff for their support and praised the work they have done.

Agenda Item XIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

  
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Judge Sid Harle, Chair

  
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Date