



**CENTERS OF  
EXCELLENCE**  
A Judicial Branch Initiative

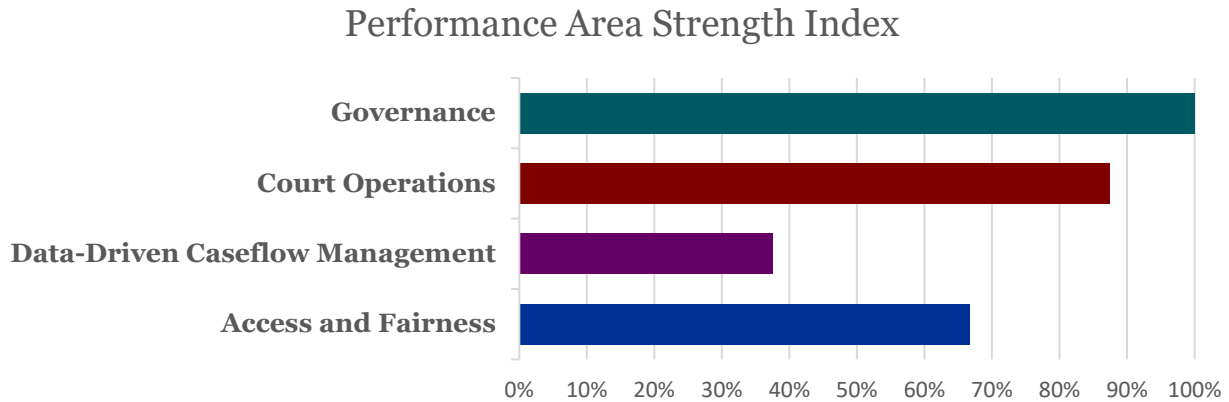
**Centers of Excellence Nomination Report on Williamson County  
Justice of the Peace Precinct 3, Georgetown, Texas**

Presiding Judge: Honorable Evelyn McLean  
November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

## Introduction to Williamson County Justice of the Peace Precinct 3

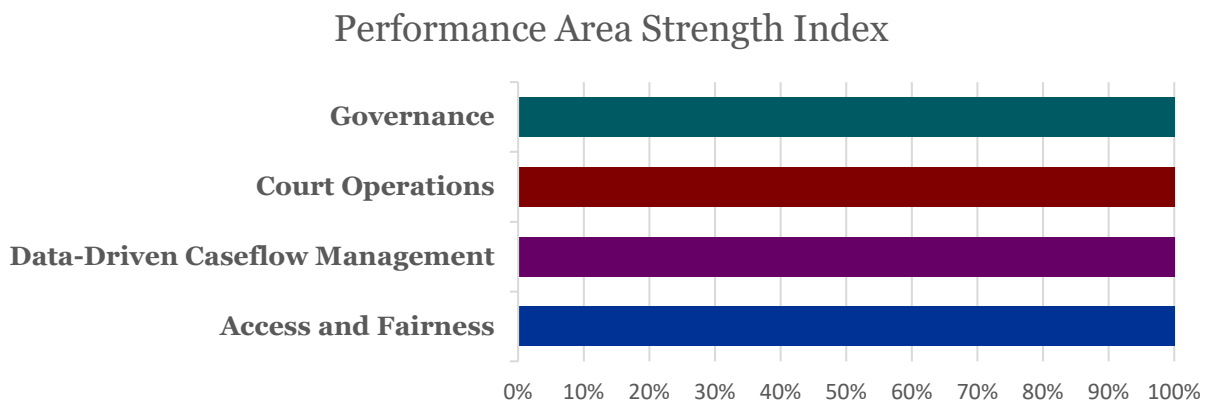
Justice of the Peace Precinct 3, Williamson County, is one of four justices of the peace for Williamson County, serving approximately 650,000 residents with jurisdiction on Class C misdemeanors, traffic violations, small civil claims, landlord/renter conflicts, truancy, and inquests.

### Baseline Performance Measures:



Williamson Justice of the Peace Precinct 3 was a strong performer in the *Governance* and *Court Operations Performance Areas*. Based upon their profile, the court indicated significant improvement could be made in the *Data-Driven Caseflow Management* areas. Mostly by revisiting standard operating procedures for their various dockets and reviewing policy and practice. As part of their program, the court began a full audit of all processes as part of their participation. In *Access and Fairness*, the court lacked a distinct language access plan. However, thanks to the efforts of previous Centers, the Office of Court Administration now has a template for language access plans which can meet the needs of Justice Courts

### Post Centers of Excellence Performance Measures:



Judge Evelyn McLean is a conscientious and dedicated public servant. She began her career in law enforcement in the early nineties, serving the Taylor and Georgetown Police Departments before taking the bench as Justice of the Peace Precinct 3 in Williamson County in 2019. As Justice of the Peace, Judge McLean faces significant challenges. Her caseload is almost double the total caseload of the other

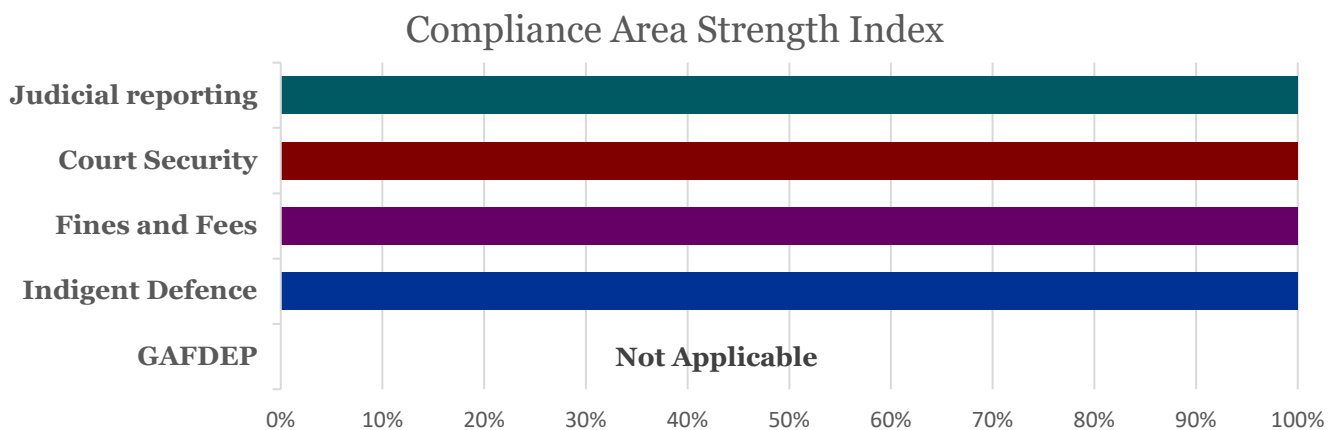
three justices in the county combined. This is largely because her precinct is dominated by the I-35 corridor, and she sits in the county seat. For reference, the court reported 13,406 active criminal cases for the month of September 2023. On top of a heavy caseload, Judge McLean spends one week out of every four on 24-hour call for inquests. Thus, carrying out both her duties to the court and Williamson County as part time coroner.

As such, Judge McLean excels in court operations. She manages a very large staff, delegates effectively, and ensures that all court staff is cross-trained and suitably supported by herself and senior staff. Staff are encouraged to review processes, suggest improvements, and work independently. Moreover, Judge McLean cultivates a deep culture of respect within her office, ensuring that work, which is meaningful to her community, feels meaningful to her staff.

Beyond that, Judge McLean’s court is active in the community outside their courtroom doors. They host events, town halls, and volunteer with local community groups and coordinate well with the other Justices of the Peace in Williamson County.

**Compliance Areas**

Justice of the Peace Precinct 3 maintains strong compliance with each required compliance area. Compared to County Courts at Law and District Courts with dual civil and criminal jurisdictions, Justices of the Peace have a narrower set of standards with regards to mandated reporting. Justice of the Peace Precinct 3 has an astoundingly high case load, particularly with regards to criminal fines and fees. Judge McLean ensures that her cases, payment plans, and fines are collected, paid, and reported accurately. Moreover, she ensures that court users and those seeking to pay their obligations, can avail themselves of their full rights to alternative payment schedules, payment plans, and alternatives to payments. Nowhere is this more evident than in her Teen Court program where she encourages deferrals and community service of justice involved youth.



**Summary of Findings**

Judge McLean runs a highly efficient, proactive Justice of the Peace Court in a rapidly expanding suburban county. The population of Williamson County has exploded since 2010, growing by almost 50% from approximately 400,000 residents in 2010 to over 650,000 in 2023. Judge McLean achieves excellence by centering the court as a service to the community, as a place where citizens can avail themselves of the right to be heard before the court.

To ensure that right, she maintains a well-functioning and well-organized court. One that can meet the demands of a high case load and operate independently of her should the need arise during her time conducting inquests. Along with her staff, Judge McLean is committed to a high standard of public service and excellence in judicial administration.