



## TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

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CHAIR:

HON. NATHAN L. HECHT  
Chief Justice, Supreme Court

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:  
Megan LaVoie

VICE CHAIR:

HON. SHARON KELLER  
Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals

### MINUTES OF MEETING

September 27, 2024  
10:00 AM

#### COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

On September 27, 2024, Chief Justice Nathan L. Hecht called the meeting<sup>1</sup> of the [Texas Judicial Council](#) ("Council") to order at approximately 10:00 a.m.

The following members of the Council were present:

*Hon. Nathan L. Hecht, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Texas*  
*Hon. Sharon Keller, Presiding Judge, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals*  
*Mr. Kevin Bryant, Crow Holdings, Dallas*  
*Hon. Jennifer Caughey, Jackson Walker LLP, Houston*  
*Ms. Sonia Clayton, Virtual Intelligence Providers, LLC, Houston*  
*Mr. Jon Gimble, District Clerk, McLennan County, Waco*  
*Hon. Missy Medary, Judge, 347<sup>th</sup> District Court, Corpus Christi; Presiding Judge – 5<sup>th</sup> Region*  
*Hon. Emily Miskel, Justice, 5<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals, Dallas*  
*Hon. Valencia Nash, Justice of the Peace Pct. 1, Place 2, Dallas County*  
*Hon. Maggie Sawyer, Justice of the Peace, McCulloch County, Brady*  
*Hon. Reggie Smith, State Representative, Conroe*  
*Hon. Edward J. Spillane, III, Presiding Judge, City of College Station*  
*Hon. Ken Wise, Justice, 14<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals, Houston*  
*Hon. Judith Zaffirini, State Senator, Laredo*

Members not in attendance were *Ms. Zina Bash, Sen. Brandon Creighton, Hon. Bill Gravell, Jr., Hon. Claudia Laird, Rep. Jeff Leach, Hon. Kathleen Person, and Ms. Rachel Racz.*

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<sup>1</sup> The meeting may be viewed on the Office of Court Administration YouTube site at <https://www.youtube.com/user/TexasCourtAdmin/>.

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The [April 26, 2024](#), meeting minutes were approved as presented.

## **REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS**

*Texas Indigent Defense Commission Report and consider adoption of the report and resolution, Scott Ehlers*

Scott Ehlers, Executive Director, Texas Indigent Defense Commission presented on the [TIDC Report](#) and resolution. The Commission appointed Judge Missy Medary as Chair of the Texas Indigent Defense Commission taking over for Presiding Judge Keller.

Chief Justice Hecht called for discussion on the Resolution In Support of Appropriations Request for Improving Indigent Defense.

Motion to adopt TIDC resolution was made. The resolution was adopted.

*Civil Justice Committee Report and consider adoption of the report and resolutions, Justice Emily Miskel*

Justice Emily Miskel, Chair of the Civil Justice Committee, presented on the Committee Report and recommendations.

Justice Miskel noted the Children's Commission removed the recommendation number eight, of the Civil Justice Committee Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission Recommendations resolution. The Resolution will be updated with that removal.

Chief Justice Hecht called for discussion on each resolution as presented.

Motion to adopt the Civil Justice Committee Civil Jurisdiction Recommendations was made. Resolution was adopted.

Motion to adopt the Civil Justice Committee Local Administrative Judge Recommendations was made. Resolution was adopted.

Motion to adopt the Civil Justice Committee Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission Recommendations with the amendment was made. Resolution was adopted.

Motion to adopt the Joint Criminal Justice Committee, Civil Justice Committee, and Public Trust and Confidence Committee Supporting Court Personnel Recommendation was made. Resolution was adopted.

Motion to adopt the [Civil Justice Committee Report](#) was made. The report was adopted.

*Data Committee Report and consider adoption of the report and resolutions, Justice Emily Miskel*

Justice Emily Miskel, Chair of the Civil Justice Committee, presented on the Committee Report and recommendations on behalf of Judge Bill Gravell, Chair of the Data Committee.

Chief Justice Hecht and Justice Miskel called for discussion on the resolution as presented.

Committee motion on Data Committee Regional Data Coordinators Recommendation was made. The resolution was adopted.

Motion to adopt the [Data Committee Report](#) was made. The report was adopted.

*Criminal Justice Committee Report and consider adoption of the report and resolutions, Judge Medary*

Judge Missy Medary, Chair of the Criminal Justice Committee, presented on the Committee Report and recommendations.

Chief Justice Hecht called for discussion on each resolution as presented.

An amendment was made by Mr. Jon Gimble adding District or County Clerk to the Criminal Justice Committee Enhancing Bail Recommendations Resolution. Committee motion on Criminal Justice Committee Enhancing Court Security Recommendations with adopted resolution was made. The Resolution was adopted.

Committee motion on Criminal Justice Committee Enhancing Bail Recommendations was made. Senator Judith Zaffirini is present not voting. The Resolution was adopted.

Committee motion on Civil Justice Committee JCMH Recommendations was made. The Resolution was adopted.

Committed Motion on Joint Criminal Justice Committee and Public Trust and Confidence Committee Judicial Officers Recommendations was made. The Resolution was adopted.

Motion to adopt the [Criminal Justice Committee Report](#) was made. The report was adopted.

*Public Trust and Confidence Committee Report and consider adoption of the report and resolutions – Judge Ed Spillane*

Judge Ed Spillane, Chair of the Public Trust and Confidence Committee, presented on the Committee report and recommendations.

Chief Justice Hecht called for discussion on each resolution as presented.

A committee motion on adopting the Public Trust and Confidence Committee Addressing Judicial Profession Shortages Recommendation resolution was made. The resolution was adopted.

A committee motion on adopting the Public Trust and Confidence Committee Centers of Excellence Recommendation resolution was made. The resolution was adopted.

A committee motion on adopting the Public Trust and Confidence Committee Judicial Emergency Management Readiness Recommendation resolution was made. The resolution was adopted.

A committee motion on adopting the Public Trust and Confidence Committee Improving Access to Courts Recommendation resolution was made. The resolution was adopted.

A committee motion on adopting the Public Trust and Confidence Committee Civics Education Recommendation resolution was made. The resolution was adopted.

A committee motion on adopting the State Commission on Judicial Conduct Recommendation was made. The resolution was adopted.

Motion to adopt the [Public Trust and Confidence Committee Report](#) made. The report was adopted.

*Consideration of full council resolutions – Megan LaVoie*

Megan LaVoie, Executive Director, Texas Judicial Council, presented on the full Council resolutions.

A motion to adopt Judicial Compensation Commission Recommendations resolution was made. The resolution was adopted.

A motion to adopt the Supporting Adequate Funding for Civil Legal Aid in Texas resolution was made. The resolution was adopted.

A motion to adopt Ensuring Adequate Court Funding resolution was made. The resolution was adopted.

*Review and Approval of Criminal Data Elements Implementation – Alejandra Peña*

Ms. Alejandra Peña, Director of Data and Research, Office of Court Administration, presented on the criminal data elements implementation.

A motion to adopt the criminal data elements implementation was made. The criminal data elements implementation was approved as presented.

*Report on Centers of Excellence and Consideration of Approval of Designation – Michael Smith*

Michael Smith, Management Analyst, Office of Court Administration, gave a review of the Nomination Report on Dallas County Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1-2, and asked the Council for Consideration and Approval of the Designation as a Center of Excellence.

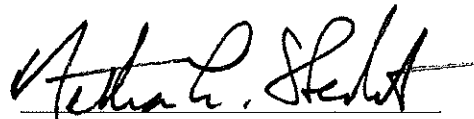
A motion was made to approve designation as a Center of Excellence to the Dallas County Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1-2. The designation was approved unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

**NEXT MEETING – December 13, 2024**

**Adjourn – 11:50 a.m.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan L. Hecht", written over a horizontal line.

Hon. Nathan L. Hecht  
Chair