



## PROCLAMATION OF APRIL 26, 2026, AS JUSTICE RUBY KLESS SONDOCK DAY

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In celebration of her 100th birthday, and in honor of her remarkable service to the State of Texas, the Supreme Court of Texas hereby proclaims April 26, 2026, to be Justice Ruby Kless Sondock Day.

Ruby Kless Sondock's historic legal career began even before she graduated as valedictorian of the University of Houston Law Center's 1962 class. She initially pursued a legal education with the aim of becoming a secretary, but she passed the bar exam before graduation and began practicing with a prestigious Houston law firm even before she finished her degree. She argued a case before this Court in her very first year of law practice.

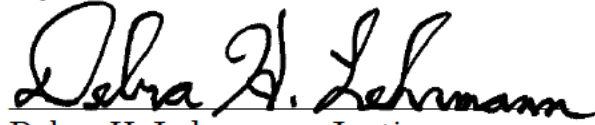
In addition to her first-place rank in her graduating class, Justice Sondock has a number of other "firsts." After presiding over the Harris County Domestic Relations Court for four years, Justice Sondock became the first female district court judge in Harris County when Governor Briscoe appointed her to the newly created 234th District Court. Then, in June 1982, Sondock became the first woman to serve as a justice of this Court in regular service when Governor Clements appointed her to fill the unexpired term of Justice James Denton. Justice Sondock chose not to seek election to the Supreme Court and instead ran successfully to regain her seat on the 234th District Court, where she served with distinction until she retired from the bench in December 1988. Her integrity, energy, and learning were legendary among those who appeared before her and served alongside her throughout her judicial career.

Justice Sondock's service did not end with her judicial retirement. She maintained a highly respected mediation practice for many years. To this day, she continues to work on legal matters, participate in conferences about the law, and attend events that are important to the Court and to the State. She has been a source of inspiration for countless Texans, including all of those who have followed her on the Supreme Court. The Court is grateful for her contributions to the law and to the profession. We call on all Texans to recognize and celebrate the example she has set.

Proclaimed and signed this 26th day of April, 2026.



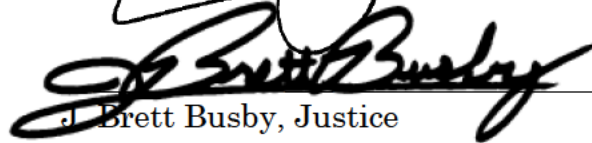
James D. Blacklock, Chief Justice



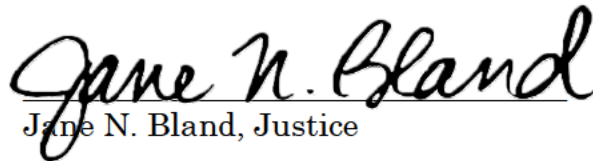
Debra H. Lehrmann, Justice




John P. Devine, Justice



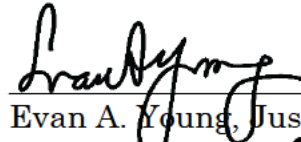
J. Brett Busby, Justice



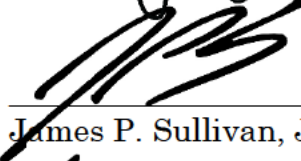
Jane N. Bland, Justice



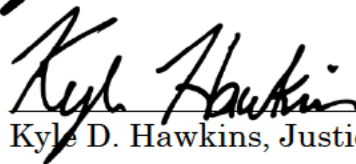
Rebeca A. Huddle, Justice



Evan A. Young, Justice



James P. Sullivan, Justice



Kyle D. Hawkins, Justice