



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

**May 20, 2022
10:00 AM**

**Public Livestream at
<https://www.youtube.com/c/TexasCourts/videos>**

COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

On May 20, 2021, Chief Justice Nathan L. Hecht called the meeting¹ 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
Ms. Zina Bash, Keller Lenkner, LLC, Austin
Hon. Jennifer Caughey, Jackson Walker LLP, Houston
Ms. Sonia Clayton, Virtual Intelligence Providers, LLC, Houston
Mr. Jon Gimble, District Clerk, McLennan County, Waco
Hon. Claudia Laird, Judge, County Court at Law No. 2, Montgomery County
Hon. Jeff Leach, State Representative, Allen
Hon. Missy Medary, Judge, 347th District Court, Corpus Christi; Presiding Judge – Fifth Region
Hon. Emily Miskel, Judge, 470th District Court, McKinney
Hon. Valencia Nash, Justice of the Peace Pct. 1, Place 2, Dallas County
Hon. Kathleen Person, Judge, City of Temple Municipal Court, Temple
Hon. Maggie Sawyer, Justice of the Peace, McCulloch County, Brady
Hon. Edward J. Spillane, III, Presiding Judge, City of College Station
Hon. Ken Wise, Justice, 14th Court of Appeals, Houston
Hon. Judith Zaffirini, State Senator, Laredo

Members not in attendance were *Mr. Kevin Bryant, Senator Brandon Creighton, Hon. Bill Gravell Jr., Ms. Rachel Racz, Hon. Sherry Radack, Hon. Reggie Smith*

¹ 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 [August 20, 2021](#), meeting minutes were approved as presented.

REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

Civil Justice Committee Update

Judge Emily Miskel, Chair of the Committee, gave an update on the Civil Justice Committee. This committee met twice prior to the Judicial Council meeting and Judge Miskel gave an overview and progress made on each charge of the Committee.

Chief Justice Hecht outlined the successes of the Texas Eviction Diveresion Program, being one of the most successful in the country.

Public Trust and Confidence Committee Update

Judge Ed Spillane, Chair of the Committee, gave an update on the Public Trust and Confidence Committee and an overview on the progress made on each charge of the Committee.

Criminal Justice Committee Update

Judge Ed Spillane gave an update on the Criminal Justice Committee on behalf of Judge Missy Medary, chair of the Committee. He gave an overview of the committee charges outlining remote hearings, Operation Lonestar, SB6 bail reform and the Public Safety Report System, and the Criminal Case Backlog.

The Council discussed the need for best practices in virtual court for litigants.

Data Committee Update

Ms. Megan LaVoie gave an update on the Data Committee on behalf of Judge Bill Gravell, Jr., Chair of the Committee. She gave an overview of the charges and that the committee recieved an update on the National Court Data Standards, the 2021 Annual Statistical Report, and the Uniform Case Management System.

Texas Indigent Defense Commission Report

Mr. Geoff Burkhardt, Executive Director, Texas Indigent Defense Commission, presented the TIDC Report.

Update Border Magistration and Operation Lonestar

Ms. Megan LaVoie presented on details and statistics of Operation Lone star and the border magistration process which is coordinated by the Office of Court Administration.

2021 Annual Statistics Report Update

Ms. Angela Garcia, Chief Data Officer, Office of Court Administration, presented on the 2021 Annual Statistics Report and current case backlog statistics.

Court Backlog Funding Update

Ms. Megan LaVoie, Administrative Director, Office of Court Administration, gave an overview on the current status on court backlog funding and the disbursement of those funds.

Update on Bail Reform and SB6

Ms. Alejandra Pena, Deputy Director of Research and Court Services Division, Office of Court Administration, presented on SB6 and the Public Safety Reporting System. Ms. Nitu Gill, Project Manager, Office of Court Administration gave a demo on the Public Safety Reporting System.

NEW BUSINESS

Senator Judith Zaffirini presented Chief Justice Hecht with a token of appreciation from the entire Council thanking him for his dedicated service.

Next Meeting – September 30, 2022

Adjourn – 11:54 AM

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

Nathan L. Hecht
Chair