

STATE OF TEXAS

RESOLUTION

of the

TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Public Trust and Confidence Committee Civics Education Recommendations

WHEREAS, the Texas Judicial Council is the policymaking body for the Texas Judicial Branch, created under Chapter 71, Texas Government Code; and

WHEREAS, the Council is charged with improving the administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, the Public Trust and Confidence Committee was charged with studying ways to improve racial justice, equity, and inclusion in the justice system; and

WHEREAS, the Public Trust and Confidence Committee was charged with continuing to monitor public trust and confidence in the Texas Judiciary and recommend any necessary reforms to increase public support and respect; and

WHEREAS, for several legislative cycles, the Texas Judicial Council has advocated for increased and improved civics education for Texans young and old; and

WHEREAS, according to recent surveys less than half of U.S. adults can name all three branches of government; and

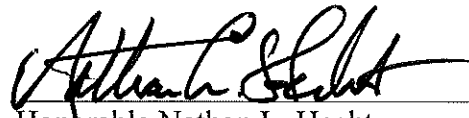
WHEREAS, although the Third Branch outpaces its sister branches in public confidence surveys, confidence in the state and federal court systems continues to deteriorate; and

WHEREAS, a declining understanding of and appreciation for the justice system plays a role in this deterioration; and

WHEREAS, the public should be further educated on the differences between the Third Branch and its sister branches, on how the judicial system was designed, and on how the courts operate differently from the political branches;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Texas Judicial Council requests the Legislature amend state law to require comprehensive civics education that includes an emphasis

on the judiciary, its design, and how the state and local court systems operate.

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

Honorable Nathan L. Hecht
Chair, Texas Judicial Council