



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

April 26, 2024

10:00 AM

COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

On April 26, 2024, 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
Hon. Jennifer Caughey, Jackson Walker LLP, Houston
Ms. Sonia Clayton, Virtual Intelligence Providers, LLC, Houston
Mr. Jon Gimble, District Clerk, McLennan County, Waco
Hon. Bill Gravell, Jr., Constitutional County Judge, Williamson County
Hon. Claudia Laird, Judge, Probate Court No. 1, Montgomery County
Hon. Missy Medary, Judge, 347th District Court, Corpus Christi; Presiding Judge – 5th Region
Hon. Emily Miskel, Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Dallas
Hon. Valencia Nash, Justice of the Peace Pct. 1, Place 2, Dallas County
Hon. Kathleen Person, Judge, City of Temple Municipal Court, Temple
Ms. Rachel Racz, Vista Proppants & Logistics, Fort Worth
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 *Ms. Zina Bash, Mr. Kevin Bryant, Sen. Brandon Creighton, Rep. Jeff Leach, ad Rep. 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 [February 8, 2024](#), meeting minutes were approved as presented.

REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

Civil Justice Committee Update – Justice Emily Miskel

Justice Emily Miskel, Chair of the Civil Justice Committee, gave an update on current work of the Committee. The Committee has seven charges and reviewed three during the first meeting on April 1st. Justice Miskel updated on the progress of the Texas Business Court, the use of Artificial Intelligence in Texas courts, and monitoring the legislative mandated study on the court personnel workload of the district and statutory county courts.

Public Trust and Confidence Committee Update – Judge Ed Spillane

Judge Ed Spillane, Chair of the Public Trust and Confidence Committee, gave an update on the work of the committee. The Committee has eight charges and looked at four during the first meeting on April 17th. The Committee reviewed the legislative mandated study on court personnel workload, reviewed the comprehensive all-hazard emergency management plans for the judiciary, reviewed judicial profession shortages, and is studying ways to expand, improve, and strengthen the Centers for Excellence.

Criminal Justice Committee Update – Judge Missy Medary

Judge Missy Medary, Chair of the Criminal Justice Committee, gave an update on the work of the committee. The Committee has seven charges and reviewed four during the first meeting on April 3rd. The Committee reviewed studying ways to improve court and personal security for judges and court staff, the evaluation and monitoring of Texas' pretrial bail system for improvement, the judiciary's role and work on Operation Lone Star, and the legislative mandated study on court personnel workload.

Data Committee Update – Judge Bill Gravell

Judge Bill Gravell, Chair of the Data Committee, gave an update on the work of the committee. The committee has five charges and reviewed three of them during the first meeting on April 16th. The Committee reviewed the court activity reporting requirements to collect case-level statistical data and guiding revisions, the use of Artificial Intelligence in Texas Courts, and ways to strengthen communication plans covering the importance of judicial data collection and positive impacts data transparency has on the judiciary and policy.

Texas Indigent Defense Commission Report – Scott Ehlers

Scott Ehlers, Executive Director, Texas Indigent Defense Commission, gave an update on the Commission's current work, accomplishments, and reviewed the Commission's report.

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 Travis County Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3 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 Travis County Justice of the Peace Precinct 3. The designation was approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Emerging Landscape of Court Security – Hector Gomez

Hector Gomez, Director of Court Security, Office of Court Administration, gave an overview of court security, the new incident reporting, training for judicial jurisdictions and law enforcement, and improvements within the Office of Court Administration.

Robotic Process Automation in Tarrant County – Terry Derrick, Tyler Technologies

Terry Derrick, Tyler Technologies, presented on the robotic process automation in Tarrant County and the benefits it has made to the e-file process.

NEXT MEETING – September 27, 2024

Adjourn – 12:00 p.m.

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

Hon. Nathan L. Hecht
Chair