

STATE OF TEXAS

RESOLUTION

of the

TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

**Public Trust and Confidence Committee Addressing Judicial Profession Shortages
Recommendation**

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 is charged with studying judicial profession shortages and recommending methods to increase recruitment and any necessary reforms; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Judicial Branch Certification Commission oversees the certification, registration, and licensing of various judicial professions; and

WHEREAS, as of Fiscal Year 2024, there are 2,332 certified court reporters in Texas which constituted a 15% decrease from the number of court reporters in Fiscal Year 2005 when there were 2,755; and

WHEREAS, as of Fiscal Year 2024, there are 454 licensed court interpreters in Texas; and

WHEREAS, both nationally and in Texas there is a shortage of certified court professionals, including licensed court interpreters and certified court reporters;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Texas Judicial Council recommends that:

1. The Legislature fund an expansion of the Remote Court Interpreter Program to help meet demand for the program's services.

2. The Legislature should require the Judicial Branch Certification Commission to create a registration to regulate digital court reporters and recorders.

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