

STATE OF TEXAS

RESOLUTION

of the

TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Joint Criminal Justice Committee and Public Trust and Confidence Committee Judicial Officers 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 Criminal Justice Committee is charged with studying the effective use of Associate Judges in Texas Courts; and

WHEREAS, the Public Trust and Confidence Committee is charged with monitoring public trust and confidence in the Texas Judiciary and recommending any necessary reforms to increase public support and respect; and

WHEREAS, for decades, Texas district and county courts have utilized judicial support officers to assist jurists with their duties and deal with caseloads; and

WHEREAS, over time, the label attached to these officers has varied, as have their scope of service, qualifications, and power; and

WHEREAS, while the basic qualifications for many Texas judges is established by the Constitution of the State of Texas, qualifications for these judicial officers is neither uniform nor necessarily congruent with the judge of the court served;

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

1. Pass legislation to add minimum qualifications regarding years of experience as a licensed attorney for magistrate positions under Government Code Chapter 54 that do not currently have a minimum requirement; and

2. Pass legislation to increase and standardize the minimum requirements for years of experience as a licensed attorney for associate judge positions created under Government Code Chapter 54A.



Honorable Nathan L. Hecht
Chair, Texas Judicial Council