



September 2026

Texas Judicial Council Recommendations

Judicial Compensation Committee Recommendations	
Compensation and Retirement <i>Resolution 1 & 2</i>	Recommendation 1: The Legislature should establish a permanent cost-of-living adjustment for judges tied to the consumer price index to prevent the erosion of judicial salaries to inflation. Recommendation 2: The Legislature should instruct ERS to recalculate the annuities of annuitants in JRS 2 to make a one-time permanent annuity adjustment, institute a cost of living adjustment, and repeal the statute (Government Code 834.102(e) and (f)) that made the 89 th increase to the base salary of a district judge inapplicable to JRS 1 retirees.
Family Representation Committee Recommendations	
Family Representation <i>Resolution 3 & 4</i>	Recommendation 1: The Legislature should establish and fund a statewide appellate Managed Assigned Council program to improve the quality of legal representation in child welfare cases. Recommendation 2: The Legislature should provide funding to TIDC to support grants to counties (to supply funding beyond what the counties already invest) to improve the quality of legal representation in child welfare cases. Recipients of grant funding should be required to implement quality improvements as a condition of the grant.
Judicial Resources Committee Recommendations	
Court Security <i>Resolution 5 (Rec 1-4)</i>	Recommendation 1: The Legislature should amend statutes protecting the personally identifiable information (PII) of a judge's family to include the first degree of consanguinity, first degree of affinity, or a person residing with the judge, reducing gaps created by differing statutory definitions of protected family members. The Legislature should amend statutes to restrict other governmental databases publicly revealing PII of judges and court employees. Recommendation 2: The Legislature should require the County Auditor, or other individual designated by the commissioner's court of a county, to submit to OCA's Court Security Division the annual balance, collections, and expenditures of all Court Security Funds. Recommendation 3: The Legislature should create a statewide standardized Judicial Branch identification badge for judges to ensure efficient and secure identification. Recommendation 4: The Legislature should require the law enforcement agency investigating a threat reported to the Judicial Security Division under Code of Criminal Procedure Article 102.017(f) to notify the Division of the outcome of the investigation. Recommendation 5: OCA should conduct a study and make recommendations to inform the development of statewide guidelines reflecting baseline courthouse security practices. The study should include judges, sheriffs, constables, and county commissioners.
Court Space & Facilities <i>Resolution 6</i>	Recommendation 6: The Legislature should assign to the Local Administrative District Judge in Government Code section 74.092 the duty to coordinate courtroom space for Business Court trials within the county. As an incentive for cooperation, the Legislature should further require that state reimbursement paid to a county for Business Court facility use be available at the discretion of the Local Administrative District Judge for judicial training, court personnel training, staffing, and court facility improvements.



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	Recommendation 7: The Legislature should encourage the State Preservation Board to make the Capitol's historic courtrooms available for oral arguments before the statewide 15th Court of Appeals. The Legislature should also ensure that the 15th Court of Appeals has adequate chambers and support space within the Capitol Complex to accommodate its planned expansion. Recommendation 8: The Legislature should require the 30 most populous counties to develop and submit a judicial infrastructure plan to the Texas Judicial Council every five years, addressing anticipated court facility needs. The OCA should develop a model infrastructure plan using a predictive analysis model that counties may use in preparing their plans. Recommendation 9: The Legislature should expand the court caseload analysis report required under Government Code 72.039 to include statutory county courts and direct OCA to provide the report to county judges in affected counties.
Court Efficiency & Staff Attorneys <i>Resolution 7</i>	Recommendation 10: The Legislature should support the OCA's exceptional item request to provide additional support to the judiciary by funding two additional resource attorneys and one administrative assistant to support the Presiding Judges of the Administrative Regions and state trial courts. Recommendation 11: The Legislature should establish a pilot grant program to fund staff attorney positions for trial courts. Interested courts would apply for funding and describe how the staff attorney would be used to improve court efficiency, case processing, or judicial productivity. Recommendation 12: The Legislature should support the exceptional item request of the 14 Courts of Appeals to provide funding for additional staff attorneys.
Judicial Professions <i>Resolution 8 (Rec 13, 15, 16)</i>	Recommendation 13: The Legislature should amend Government Code 154.103 to accept passing scores on skills tests offered by the National Court Reporters Association and the National Voice Reporters Association in lieu of passing Part A of the Texas certification examination (the skills test). Recommendation 14: The Judicial Branch Certification Commission should establish a registration program for Digital Court Recorders that includes initial training and ongoing continuing education requirements related to courtroom procedures, record preservation, ethics, and operation of digital recording systems. Recommendation 15: The Legislature should require courts to post on their public website the fee schedule detailing all fees charged related to providing a transcript, including expedited service and copy fees. Recommendation 16: The Legislature should establish a pilot grant program to support the use of digital court recording in interested trial courts and require participating courts to report on the benefits, challenges, costs, and operational impacts of digital recording systems. Recommendation 17: The Supreme Court should consider a requirement that any court using digital court recording must have a registered court recorder assigned exclusively to that proceeding to monitor the recording and perform the duties outlined in the Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure.



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Court Fees <i>Resolution 9</i>	Recommendation 18: The Legislature should increase the consolidated court costs to restore purchasing power eroded by inflation and preserve the level of services originally intended by the Legislature. Recommendation 19: The Legislature should provide General Revenue funds for the initial training of all new judges, court personnel, and prosecutors.
Access to Courts	Recommendation 20: The Texas Judicial Council should encourage the Supreme Court to explore expedited and temporary licensure pathways for attorneys licensed in other states who perform public service work including public defenders and attorneys taking appointments in indigent criminal, juvenile, and family protection representation cases.