



TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

205 WEST 14TH STREET, SUITE 600 - TOM C. CLARK BUILDING - (512) 463-1625
P. O. BOX 12066 - AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711-2066

CHAIR:

HON. JIMMY BLACKLOCK
Chief Justice, Supreme Court

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
Megan LaVoie

VICE CHAIR:

HON. DAVID SCHENCK
Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals

MINUTES OF MEETING

June 13, 2025
10:00 AM

COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

On June 13, 2025, Chief Justice Jimmy Blacklock 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. Jimmy Blacklock, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Texas
Hon. David Schenck, Presiding Judge, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals
Ms. Zina Bash, Keller Lenkner LLC, Austin
Mr. Kevin Bryant, Crow Holdings, Dallas
Ms. Sonia Clayton, Virtual Intelligence Providers, LLC, Houston
Hon. Jennifer Caughey, Justice, First Court of Appeals, Houston
Mr. David Dunmoyer, Texas Public Policy Foundation, Pflugerville
Mr. Jon Gimble, District Clerk, McLennan County, Waco
Hon. Missy Medary, Judge, 347th District Court, Corpus Christi; Presiding Judge – 5th Region
Hon. Emily Miskel, Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Dallas
Hon. Joe Moody, State Representative, El Paso
Hon. Valencia Nash, Justice of the Peace Pct. 1, Place 2, Dallas County
Hon. Kathleen Person, Judge, City of Temple Municipal Court, Temple
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, Fourteenth Court of Appeals, Houston
Hon. Judith Zaffirini, State Senator, Laredo

Members not in attendance were *Hon. Claudia Laird, Sen. Brandon Creighton, and Rep. Jeff Leach*.

¹ The meeting may be viewed on the Office of Court Administration YouTube site at <https://www.youtube.com/user/TexasCourtAdmin/>.

Senator Judith Zaffirini and Representative Joe Moody presented Chief Justice Jimmy Blacklock and Presiding Judge David Schenck with commemorative gavels to welcome them to the Texas Judicial Council.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The [December 13, 2024](#), meeting minutes were approved as presented.

REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

Legislative Update – Megan LaVoie and Louis Tomasetti

Megan LaVoie, Executive Director, Texas Judicial Council and Louis Tomasetti, Government Relations Director, Office of Court Administration, gave a legislative update on the 89th Legislative Session and the bills that impact the judiciary. This included judicial compensation and accountability, budget highlights and bills that included Council recommendations.

Data and Research Update – Alejandra Peña and Angela Garcia

Angela Garcia, Chief Data Officer, Office of Court Administration and Alejandra Peña, Director of Data and Research, Office of Court Administration presented a Data and Research update. Ms. Garcia outlined highlights of the Annual Statistical Report, and Ms. Pena updated the Council on clearance rates and performance measures.

Texas Indigent Defense Commission Report – Scott Ehlers

Scott Ehlers, Executive Director of the Texas Indigent Defense Commission presented on the Commission report and outlined the Texas Indigent Defense Commission's exceptional items to the Legislature and TIDCs appropriations.

Policy Landscape

Family Protection Representation – Crystal Leff-Piñon

Crystal Leff-Piñon, Director of Family Protection Representation, Texas Indigent Defense Commission, presented on Family Protection Representation in Texas.

Judicial Branch Professions, Ron Morgan and Holly Behl

Ron Morgan, Director of the Judicial Branch Certification Commission, Office of Court Administration and Holly Behl, Court Interpreter, Office of Court Administration, presented on the current environment around licensed court reporters and licensed court interpreters including next steps and technology options.

Texas Specialty Court Standards – Judge Brent Carr and Erin Morgan

Judge Brent Carr and Erin Morgan, Specialty Court Manager, Office of Court Administration, provided background on the Texas Specialty Courts Standards.

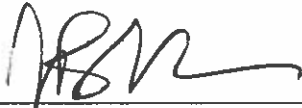
Chief Justice Blacklock noted Texas Specialty Court Standards is statutorily assigned to the Judicial Council.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Presiding Judge Schenck discussed the lack of indigent defense in Texas and the impact of a speedy trial to courts. Rep. Moody also expressed concerns about these issues.

NEXT MEETING – TBD

Adjourn – 12:01 pm



Hon. Jimmy Blacklock
Chair