

Before the Presiding Judges of the Administrative Judicial Regions
Per Curiam Rule 12 Decision

APPEAL NO.: 26-021

RESPONDENT: Collin County District Court Judges

DATE: September 29, 2026

SPECIAL COMMITTEE: Judge David Evans, Chair; Judge Robert Trapp; Judge Sid Harle; Judge Ana Estevez; Judge Alfonso Charles

On July 20, 2026, Petitioner requested from the District Court Judges of Collin County (Respondents) various records documenting “the deletion, destruction, purging, or overwriting of electronically stored information” during a certain timeframe, including system metadata. On July 22, 2026, Petitioner requested from Respondents records referencing criminal investigations or matters invoked as a basis for withholding records from Petitioner in prior Rule 12 requests. In a set of August responses to each request, the Local Administrative Judge (LAJ) for the Respondents declined to provide Petitioner information pertaining to the Respondents’ adjudicative functions and stated that it was not aware of any “judicial records” responsive to the requests. It also added that Respondents were not withholding any records from Petitioner due to any criminal investigation or matters. Petitioner filed an appeal in part challenging Respondents’ “no responsive judicial records” replies to the requests. In response to the petition, Respondents reiterated to the special committee that they lacked judicial records responsive to Petitioner’s requests.

Respondent has informed the special committee that it lacks judicial records responsive to Petitioner’s July 20 and July 22 requests. If a requested record does not exist, a respondent’s inability to produce a requested record is not a denial of access to judicial records under Rule 12 and the Rule 12 appeals process does not apply to the request. *See, e.g.*, Rule 12 Dec. Nos. 17-015, 17-020, 23-003, 23-006, 23-010, 25-007, 26-003, 26-004. Accordingly, the appeal is dismissed.