



TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

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CHAIR:
HON. WALLACE B. JEFFERSON
Chief Justice, Supreme Court

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
CARL REYNOLDS

VICE CHAIR:
HON. SHARON KELLER
Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

August 7, 2008
12:30 p.m.
Texas Center for the Judiciary
1210 San Antonio Street, 8th Floor
Austin, Texas

COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

Carl Reynolds, Administrative Director of the Office of Court Administration (OCA), called the meeting of the Legislative Committee (Committee) to order at approximately 12:30 p.m. on August 7, 2008 in the Texas Center for the Judiciary.

ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS

The following members of the Committee were present:

Hon. Monica A. Gonzalez, Judge, San Antonio Municipal Court
Hon. Polly Spencer, Judge, Probate Court #1, Bexar County

The following members of the Committee were present by phone:

Hon. Linda Thomas, Chief Justice, 5th Court of Appeals, Dallas
Hon. Kelly Moore, Judge, 121st Judicial District, Brownfield
Hon. F. Alfonso Charles, Judge, County Court at Law No. 2, Gregg County

Others in attendance were Margaret Bennett, OCA General Counsel, María Elena Ramón, OCA Deputy General Counsel, Ted Wood, OCA Assistant General Counsel, Katie Bond, OCA Assistant General Counsel, Wesley Shackelford, TFID Special Counsel, and Tiffany Roper Deputy Director for the Court Improvement Project. Also in attendance by phone was Judge Sharon Keller, Presiding Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals.

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Reynolds addressed the Committee noting that Chief Justice Thomas will be joining by phone and had asked him to run the meeting in her place. Then he described the format of the Legislative Proposals that the Committee would be asked to review.

The following guests were recognized:

Seana Willing, State Commission on Judicial Conduct Executive Director
Kennon Peterson, Supreme Court of Texas Rules Attorney
Janelle Collier, Senate Jurisprudence Committee Director

Mr. Reynolds suggested that as the Committee review the proposals, they prioritize and classify them into categories such as those that will go forward to the Texas Judicial Council (Council) and those that should be set aside.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

Mr. Reynolds reported on the list of legislative proposals. Additional presenters were Ms. Bennett, Ms. Ramón, Mr. Wood, and Ms. Bond.

He commented that the Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth & Families Legislative Committee will be meeting on the 13th and will submit proposals afterwards.

As Ms. Bond presented the CRCB proposals, numbers 7 through 11, Mr. Reynolds requested the format for each resolution be changed to remove purpose information from the background section. Ms. Bond agreed to make the changes.

Proposal number 32 authorizing the *Chief Justice to appoint regional presiding judges* is an issue debated by the State Bar of Texas - Court Administration Task Force (SBOT-CATF). Mr. Reynolds suggested that the Council may want to make a different proposal than what SBOT-CATF is proposing. Judge Keller added that the Court of Criminal Appeals would favor having input on the appointments also. This proposal was set aside for further consideration by the Council.

The proposal regarding *requiring the convicting court rather than the State Commission on Judicial Conduct (SCJC) to enter the order of removal after a conviction of a judge*, number 54, was tabled for further review by the workgroup.

Mr. Reynolds suggested the final proposal for an OCA Certification Division and fees for process server certification, number 71, be amended for the Council to say it would support the exceptional item for OCA's Legislative Appropriations Request. Chief Justice Thomas requested that if all the courts are unified in their approach to the budget that the resolution from the Council could include endorsement of all budget proposals.

All the proposals discussed will be presented to the Council for consideration with the exception of those set aside.

NEW BUSINESS

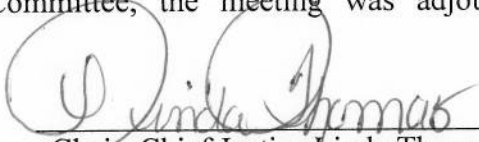
None.

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Woods announced that the next Judicial Council meeting will be on September 19. The next Committee meeting will be in October and Mr. Reynolds suggested having another Judicial Council meeting in November to give time to work on the remaining resolutions.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.



Chair, Chief Justice Linda Thomas