

Judicial Section, State Bar of Texas  
2017 Annual Business Meeting Minutes  
Texas Center for the Judiciary main conference room, Austin, Texas  
Thursday, October, 5, 2017

1. Welcome and call to order by the Chair, Judge Kerry Russell at 11:53 a.m.
2. Minutes from the 2016 Annual meeting were approved.
3. Chair's Report-Judge Kerry Russell
  - a. Committee Update
    - Legislative committee report will be presented by Judge Alfonso Charles
    - Website committee report will be presented by Judge Jennifer Rymell
    - Ethics committee report chaired by Justice Lee Gabriel has done a great job going through the old opinions. Now we will have a searchable database of opinions that will be on the judicial section website.
  - b. Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient for 2017 was the Honorable Thomas Morrow Reavley.
  - c. Chairman's Award was presented to Bill Strawn, Chairman of the Judicial Compensation Commission.
4. Secretary-Treasurer's Report: Judge David Garcia reported on the current fiscal condition of the Judicial Section and the financial information was presented for approval. Financials were approved unanimously. After a motion and second the minutes were approved from the 2016 business meeting.
5. Report for the Legislative Committee: Judge Alfonso Charles
  - a. Petition Bill passed
  - b. Court security bill passed
  - c. Mental Health bills passed
    - Call for early identification of individuals with mental health issues
    - Goal is to try to get them help instead of keeping them in jail
  - d. CCL's with guardianship jurisdiction will have to have larger bonds than in the past
  - e. SB1684 requires in criminal cases that individuals complete a verified risk needs assessment before any special terms of probation are required
  - f. Pay raise-Judicial Compensation Commission recommended a 10.2% raise
    - Formula pay bill introduced that took away a lot of the politics on pay raises. The bill died in calendars in the House but never got out of committee in the Senate.
    - Judges were highly motivated and mobilized this session and made an impact toward the end of the session.
    - SCR57 resolution created a committee to conduct hearings to study the formula pay bill. This committee will more likely conduct hearings in the spring.

- Plan next session is to push the formula bill with a few tweaks from the one introduced last session
- Fix the petition bill-did away with signature requirement to run for certain offices in state-wide and larger counties

6. Report for the Website Committee: Jennifer Rymell

- All data and information from the old site has been transferred to the new website.
- Committee still working on finalizing a word searchable database for the ethics opinions.
- Website is a whole lot more user friendly
- Anticipate the website will be fully operational in November

7. Report of the Nominations Committee: Judge Kerry Russell

Chair Elect	District Judge	Judge Randy Clapp
Place 1	Intermediate Appellate Justice	Gina Benavides
Place 2	District Judge	Melody Wilkinson
Place 6	District Judge	Roy Ferguson

There were no additional nominations from the floor. Following a motion and second, the slate was unanimously elected by acclamation.

- Recognition of outgoing Board Members: The Chair presented plaques to each of the outgoing Board Members and thanked them for their service and dedication.
- Incoming Chair's Remarks: Judge Jennifer Rymell recognized the out-going Chair Judge Kerry Russell and thanked him for his service to the judiciary. Pay raise will be a priority this upcoming year.
- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.