

**JUDICIAL BRANCH CERTIFICATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

(Virtual Meeting Conducted by Zoom)  
205 W. 14th Street  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Friday, February 5, 2021  
(10:00 a.m. Until Adjournment)

The meeting of the Judicial Branch Certification Commission (JBCC or Commission) was called to order by Judge Sid Harle, Chair, at 10:00 a.m., Friday, February 5, 2021. Members in attendance were Judge Sid Harle; Judge William Sowder; Judge Victor Villarreal; Judge Polly Spencer; Judge Glen Harrison; Velma Arellano; Don Ford; Ann Murray Moore; and Mark Blenden.

Staff members in attendance were Jeff Rinard, EPRS Director; Scott Gibson, JBCC General Counsel; Michele Henricks, Deputy Director of Regulatory Services; Sheryl Jones, Licensing Manager; Melinda Saucedo, Investigator; Tyees Holcombe, Judicial Regulatory Assistant; Rachel Davis, Legal Assistant, and Veena Mohan, Assistant Attorney General.

Complaint review committee members in attendance were Pat Dyer, Process Servers Complaint Review Committee; Jamie MacLean, Guardianship Certification Complaint Review Committee; and Molly Pela, Court Reporters Complaint Review Committee.

Agenda Item III, Opening Remarks

Judge Harle welcomed everyone to the meeting. Judge Harle thanked the Advisory Board members and staff for their work in preparing for the meeting.

Director Jeff Rinard thanked staff for their hard work. Mr. Rinard recognized Judge Sowder, Ann Murray Moore, and Velma Arellano for their reappointments to the Commission and Judge Harle for his reappointment as Chair.

Agenda Item IV, Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

The November 6, 2020 minutes were approved.

Assistant Attorney General Veena Mohan presented agenda items V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, and X.

Agenda Item V. Disciplinary Hearings

Court Reporters Certification

- A. In the Matter of Leticia Escamilla, Cause Nos. 0173 and 0235  
Leticia Escamilla and attorney Nohl Bryant were present.  
Sanction: Respondent's certification suspended for 12 months, fully probated, with following terms and conditions in effect during the probationary period; 1) Respondent prohibited from working in court as an official court reporter. Practice limited to taking depositions or working in other areas outside of court, 2) Respondent ordered to complete current outstanding record due to court before taking any additional assignments, and 3) Respondent should have no substantiated complaints filed against her.  
Upon proper motion and second, the Commission voted 6 in favor and 2 opposed.

Agenda Item VI. Approval of JBCC Disciplinary Action, by Default, and Issuance of Final Order from Complaints

Guardianship Certification

- A. In the Matter of Kyla Baker, Cause No. 0261  
Kyla Baker present.  
Sanction: Respondent's certification revoked for 10 years and administrative penalty assessed in the amount of \$11,000; 22 violations at \$500 per violation. Due within 1 year of the date of the Final Order.

Agenda Item VII. Reconsideration of Agreed Final Order – Acceptance by Respondent of Sanction/Administrative Penalty

Process Servers Certification

- A. In the Matter of Ariele London, Cause No. 0144 (Deferred at JBCC meeting on 11/6/2020)  
Sanction: Refuse to renew certification.  
The matter is scheduled for the next meeting of the Commission on May 7, 2021.

Agenda Item VIII. Advisory Board Complaint Review Committee & Staff Recommendations to Dismiss Complaints

Upon proper motion and second, the Commission voted to dismiss the following complaints:

Process Servers Certification

- A. In the Matter of James Rodriguez, Cause No. 0191  
B. In the Matter of D. Octavia Logan, Cause No. 0192  
C. In the Matter of Caleb Malone, Cause No. 0194  
D. In the Matter of Mark Gyger, Cause No. 0199



E. In the Matter of Alfred Barrera, Cause No. 0205

Court Reporters Certification

- F. In the Matter of Gay Richey, Cause No. 0254
- G. In the Matter of Winona Williams, Cause No. 0260
- H. In the Matter of Melissa Voigt, Cause No. 0267
- I. In the Matter of Darlene Forville, Cause No. 0270

Guardianship Certification

- J. In the Matter of Letitia McPherson, Cause No. 0075
- K. In the Matter of Bonnie Bretzke, Cause No. 0189
- L. In the Matter of Sandra Eavenson, Cause No. 0244  
Don Ford recused

Agenda Item IX. Administrative Dismissals of Complaints

Upon proper motion and second, the Commission ratified administrative dismissal of the following:

Process Servers Certification

- A. In the Matter of Cause No. 0176
- B. In the Matter of Cause No. 0195
- C. In the Matter of Cause No. 0196

Guardianship Certification

- D. In the Matter of Cause No. 0208

Court Reporters Certification

- E. In the Matter of Cause No. 0289
- F. In the Matter of Cause No. 0295
- G. In the Matter of Cause No. 0296
- H. In the Matter of Cause No. 0299

The Commission convened in closed session at 12:16 pm to address agenda items IX. I and J and X. A and B. The Commission reconvened in public session at 12:58 pm.

- I. In the Matter of Cause No. 0238
- J. In the Matter of Cause No. 0247

Agenda Item X. Request for Reconsideration on Administrative Dismissal of Complaints

Court Reporters Certification

- A. In the Matter of Cause No. 0238

B. In the Matter of Cause No. 0247

Upon proper motion and second, the Commission voted to affirm its previous decision to ratify administrative dismissal of the above referenced complaints with 5 in favor and 1 opposed.

Guardianship Certification

C. In the Matter of Cause No. 0279

D. In the Matter of Cause No. 0280

Agenda Item XI. Administrative Matters Relating to the JBCC

Jeff Rinard, EPRS Director, gave an update on the following agenda items.

A. Development and Revisions to JBCC Rules Pertaining to Guardianship

Recommendations from Guardianship Certification Advisory Board are as follows:

1. Code of Ethics and Minimum Standards for Guardianship Services, Section 21(c) – Management of Multiple Guardianship Cases. Lowering the maximum number of wards assigned to a certified or provisionally certified guardian from 50 to 40 wards as the threshold for reporting requirement to the JBCC Division Director.
2. JBCC Rule 7.2(b) – Requirement of Certification. Current requirement is 2 years of work experience. Allow for course curriculum or training related to guardianship and approved by the Commission, to substitute for 1 year of work experience with 1 year of work experience required. Rule revision pending as stated, to be sent to Supreme Court for adoption with other program changes.

Upon proper motion and second, items 1. And 2. were approved by the Commission.

B. Supreme Court Appointments/Reappointments to Commission and Advisory Boards

Reappointments to the Commission:

- Hon. William "Bill" C. Sowder
- Velma Arellano
- Ann Murray Moore

The Hon. Sid Harle was redesignated as presiding officer.

Appointments/reappointments to the Court Reporters Certification Advisory Board:

- Hon. Cathleen Stryker, Presiding Officer (new)



- Shari Krieger (new)
- Janice Eidd-Meadows (reappointment)

Reappointments to the Guardianship Certification Advisory Board:

- Jamie Maclean (also redesignated as presiding officer)
- Chris Wilmoth

Appointments/reappointments to the Licensed Court Interpreter Advisory Board:

- Laura Angelini (new) (also designated as presiding officer)
- Luis Garcia (reappointment)

Reappointments to the Process Server Certification Advisory Board:

- Patrick Dyer (also redesignated as presiding officer)
- Eric Johnson

- C. Update on Court Reporter Reciprocity Outreach – California  
Status is pending.
- D. Status on Guardianship Program and Guardianship Registrations  
The January 2021 Annual Report for Guardianship Abuse, Fraud and  
Exploitation Deterrence Program (GAFEDP) was provided in materials.

Guardianship Program: Approximately 50,000 cases have been reviewed in 76 counties and 119 courts. Findings include 34% of cases missing annual reports, 47% missing annual accountings, 8% are waiving bonds, and 41% are out of compliance overall. Findings also found 4,588 deceased wards.

Guardianship Registrations: There are approximately 45,640 registrations in the JBCC system and 14,000 criminal history checks have been conducted. JBCC is working with the FBI and DPS on legislation relating to issues with providing criminal histories to the court clerks. 20,000 guardianship trainings have been completed.

E. JBCC Meeting Dates

1. Next JBCC Meeting – Friday, May 7, 2021

Agenda Item XII. Public Comment

Public comment was provided by the following individuals: Julie Davault, Melinda Garriga, Teri Workman, Robin Cooksey, Lisa Easley, Pam Marcinek, Dalla Inman, Sherri Fisher, Stephanie Davis, Sonia Trevino, Mike Miller, Carol Griffin, Diana Bengs, Terri Hill, Cindy Romero, Paula Frederick, Patti Wagner, Debbie Harris, Lorrie Schnoor, Deana Tarver, Dennis Holmgren, Sylvia Kerr, Pam Coder, Chavela Crain, Jill Driscoll, Karen Deshetler, Wendy Schrieber, Audra Paty, Kimberly Xavier, Amy Clark, Caroline Massa, Andrew Sutton, Christy Cortopassi,

Breck Record, Carrie del Angel, Cynthia Lenz, Desiree Heflin, Donna Trotman, Christi Sanford, Kim Dickman, Krista Hall, Jennifer Davenport, Jean Fraunhofer, Kayla Scott, Karen Schoeve, Lynette Caldwell, Leah Osteen, Lisa Traslavina, Mary Snow, Kristen Kopp, Monica Lancaster, Stephanie Lopez, Shelly Tucker, Shelley Mayo, Kathy Bradford, Pennie Futrell, Kelly Hassell, Christy Sievert, Renee Barrett, Res Ipsa Depositions, Mary Pierce, Pasqual Perez, Kelly Hanna, Detta Corona>

Agenda Item XIII. Closing Remarks

Judge Harle, Chair, thanked everyone for their attendance and participation at the meeting.

Agenda Item XIV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:27pm.



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Judge Sid Harle, Chair

6-9-21

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Date