

STATE OF TEXAS

RESOLUTION

of the

TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Civil Justice Committee Local Administrative Judge Recommendations

WHEREAS, the Texas Judicial Council is the policymaking body for the Texas Judicial Branch, created under Chapter 71, Texas Government Code; and

WHEREAS, the Council is charged with improving the administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, the Civil Justice Committee is charged with studying ways to improve court efficiency and recommending any necessary reforms; and

WHEREAS, in 1985 the 69th Legislature enacted the Court Administration Act, which in part aimed to improve local court administration “to provide all citizens of [Texas] a prompt, efficient, and just hearing and disposition of all disputes before the various courts”; and

WHEREAS, this included the adoption of local rules of administration by district and statutory county courts, overseen by a local administrative judge; and

WHEREAS, the Civil Justice Committee believes the intent of the Court Administration Act would be furthered through greater judicial administration continuity and local administrative judge leadership development; and

WHEREAS, under current law, local administrative judge term lengths are capped; and

WHEREAS, because Government Code Section 74.092 imposes a wide variety of responsibilities on local administrative judges, these judges frequently find that their term runs just as they begin to master these responsibilities, making administrative continuity difficult; and

WHEREAS, the duties and responsibilities placed upon local administrative judges is akin to a part-time job on top of a full-time job;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Texas Judicial Council recommends that:

1. The Legislature amend Government Code Section 74.091 and Section 74.0911 to require that a Local Administrative Judge serve in their role for a minimum term of two years to improve the continuity of local judicial administration; and
2. The Local Administrative Judge supplement be increased to match Local Administrative Judge responsibilities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan L. Hecht", written over a horizontal line.

Honorable Nathan L. Hecht
Chair, Texas Judicial Council