



The Supreme Court of Texas

CHIEF JUSTICE
JAMES D. BLACKLOCK

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February 7, 2025

Chief Justice Tracy E. Christopher
Chair, Supreme Court Advisory Committee
14th Court of Appeals
301 Fannin, Room 245
Houston, Texas 77002

Re: Referral of Rules Issues

Dear Chief Justice Christopher:

Thank you for your willingness to serve as chair of the Advisory Committee. The Supreme Court asks the Committee to study and make recommendations on the following matters.

Eliminating Pre-Grant Merits Briefing. The Court requests that the Committee study the elimination of the Court's current practice of requesting merits briefing before granting a petition for review. The Court further requests that the Committee propose draft rule amendments accomplishing this objective.

Prohibiting the Central Docket. The Court requests that the Committee study the replacement of the central-docketing system used by some counties with a statewide requirement that each case be assigned to a particular judge. The Court further requests that the Committee propose draft rule amendments accomplishing this objective.

As always, the Court is grateful for the Committee's counsel and your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Blacklock", written over a white background.

James D. Blacklock
Chief Justice