

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

Third Court of Appeals Price Daniel Sr. Building
209 W. 14th Street, Room 101
Austin, Texas 78701

Friday, August 1, 2025 (10:00 a.m. Until Adjournment)

The meeting of the Judicial Branch Certification Commission (Commission) was called to order by Judge Sid Harle, Chair, at 10:02 a.m., on Friday, August 1, 2025. Members in attendance were Judge Sid Harle; Judge Victor Villarreal; Judge Glen Harrison; Judge David Jahn; Velma Arellano; Don Ford; Mark Blenden; and Ann Murray Moore. Judge William Sowder was not present.

Staff members in attendance were Ron Morgan, Commission Director; Scott Gibson, Commission General Counsel; Veena Mohan, Prosecuting Attorney; Sheryl Jones, Deputy Director; Melinda Saucedo, Compliance Manager; Amy Smith, Investigator; Kanisha Daniels, Investigator; Tyees Holcombe, Judicial Regulatory Assistant; and Brian Keenan, Criminal History Specialist.

Complaint review committee members in attendance were Tim Quinn, Process Servers Complaint Review Committee, and Shari Krieger, Court Reporters Complaint Review Committee.

Agenda Item III. Opening Remarks

Judge Harle welcomed and thanked Texas Supreme Court Oversight Justice Rebeca Aizpuru Huddle for attending the meeting. He also thanked staff for their hard work.

The Commission Director provided licensing statistical information as of June 30, 2025. Licensing numbers remained fairly the same. As of June 30, 2025, the breakdown is as follows: 2,350 court reporters; 490 licensed court interpreters; 461 certified guardians; and 3,959 process servers. In June, the Commission received 13 new complaints. Of the pending investigations, the Commission addressed 41. The Commission Director expressed his gratitude to the Compliance staff for their hard work.

The Commission Director provided a brief update on past and upcoming advisory board meetings and complaint review committee meetings.

He also provided updates on the recent events he attended that include: presenting at the Texas Association of Counties at its probate judges college in Lubbock; attending a "Luncheon and Learn" sponsored by Texas Guardianship Association in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex; and presenting to the Texas Judicial Council on the shortage of court reporters and the use of AI translation of documents in the licensed court interpreter context.

In closing, the Commission Director provided legislative updates. HB 5129 passed, which amends Texas Government Code Section 2062.002, prohibiting the Commission from sharing personal contact information of its licensees without their permission. The Commission staff will coordinate with a software vendor to provide a solution to obtain consent from the various professions.

Agenda Item IV. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Velma Arellano and second by Ann Murray Moore, the Commission voted to approve the May 2, 2025, minutes.

The Prosecuting Attorney presented agenda items V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X and XI.

Agenda Item V. Compliance Hearings Before the Commission

Court Reporters Certification

A. In the Matter of Cheryl Dixon, Cause No. 0777

Upon motion by Ann Murray Moore and second by Judge David Jahn, the Commission voted to permanently revoke the respondent's court reporter certification effective the date of the Final Order.

Agenda Item VI. Final Orders- By Default or Agreement

Process Servers Certification

A. In the Matter of Jesse Villarreal, Cause No. 0646

Upon motion by Judge Glen Harrison and second by Velma Arellano, the Commission voted to permanently revoke the respondent's process server certification effective the date of the Final Order and assess an administrative penalty of \$1,700 total against him due within 12 months after the date of the Final Order.

B. In the Matter of Melinee Gulley, Cause No. 0664

Upon motion by Judge Glen Harrison and second by Velma Arellano, the Commission voted to reprimand the respondent and assess an administrative penalty of \$500 against her due within 6 months after the date of the Final Order.

C. In the Matter of Aliesa Wilson, Cause No. 0676

Upon motion by Judge Glen Harrison and second by Velma Arellano, the Commission voted to permanently revoke the respondent's process server certification and assess an administrative penalty of \$1,350 total against her due within 12 months after the date of the Final Order.

D. In the Matter of Irene Akinsola, Cause No. 0706

Upon motion by Judge Glen Harrison and second by Velma Arellano, the Commission voted to permanently revoke the respondent's process server certification effective the date of the Final Order and assess an administrative penalty of \$1,250 total against her due within 12 months after the date of the Final Order.

E. In the Matter of Michael Ward, Cause No. 0719

Mark Blenden moved to amend the prosecutor's recommendation and notify the respondent to appear at a commission meeting. Judge Victor Villarreal seconded the motion. At the call for vote on the motion, 4 Commissioners opposed, and the motion failed. Upon motion by Ann Murray Moore and second by Judge Glen Harrison, the Commission voted to reprimand the respondent and assess an administrative penalty of \$100 against him due within 6 months after the date of the Final Order. Mark Blenden voted to oppose the motion.

Agenda Item VII. Settlement Agreement

Court Reporters Certification

A. In the Matter of Kathryn DeBusk, Cause No. 0729

Upon motion by Ann Murray Moore and second by Velma Arellano, the Commission voted to suspend the respondent's court reporter certification until (but not to exceed one year) the respondent provides satisfactory proof to the Commission's Director that she has corrected the deficiency that was the ground of the suspension by producing the transcript that the complainant paid for. If the Commission determines that the respondent has not corrected the deficiency, it may revoke or take other disciplinary action against her certification. Additionally, the respondent must pay an administrative penalty of \$1,350 due within 1 year after the date of the Final Order.

Process Servers Certification

- B. In the Matter of Carolyn Hunt, Cause No. 0671
Upon motion by Ann Murray Moore and second by Velma Arellano, the Commission voted to suspend the respondent's court reporter certification for a period of 6 consecutive months followed by a 6-month probated suspension. The Respondent must also pay an administrative penalty of \$1,250 within 1 year after the date of the Final Order.
- C. In the Matter of Lucious Buggs, IV, Cause No. 0681
Upon motion by Ann Murray Moore and second by Velma Arellano, the Commission voted to reprimand the respondent.
- D. In the Matter of Ezekiel Zeke, Cause No. 0685
Upon motion by Ann Murray Moore and second by Velma Arellano, the Commission voted to reprimand the respondent and place him on a probated suspension effective the date of the Final Order, through and including April 30, 2026. No later than April 30, 2026, the Respondent is required to successfully complete the 7-hour precertification civil process service education course. This coursework is in addition to the continuing education requirement for renewal of his process server certification.
- E. In the Matter of George Castillo, Cause No. 0696
Upon motion by Ann Murray Moore and second by Velma Arellano, the Commission voted to reprimand the respondent.

Licensed Court Interpreters

- F. In the Matter of Young Sung, Cause No. 0538
Upon motion by Ann Murray Moore and second by Velma Arellano, the Commission voted that, no later than 90 days after the date of the Final Order, the respondent must successfully complete the following course: "Licensed Court Interpreter Orientation" by provider MasterWord Services, Inc., a Commission-approved pre-licensure orientation course. This continuing education requirement is in addition to the continuing education required for the respondent's court interpreter license renewal.
- G. In the Matter of Lidia Rivera, Cause No. 0726
Upon motion by Ann Murray Moore and second by Velma Arellano, the Commission voted to reprimand the respondent and require that she successfully complete, no later than 60 days after the date of the Final Order, the following course: "Licensed Court Interpreter Orientation" by provider MasterWord Services, Inc., a Commission-approved pre-licensure orientation course. This continuing education requirement is in addition to the continuing education required for license renewal.

Agenda Item VIII. Administrative Dismissal of Complaints

Upon motion by Velma Arellano and second by Judge Victor Villarreal, the Commission ratified the administrative dismissals of the following complaints.

Guardianship Certification

No Misconduct

- A. In the Matter of Cause No. 0731
- B. In the Matter of Cause No. 0750
- C. In the Matter of Cause No. 0773

Outside the Jurisdiction of the Commission:

- D. In the Matter of Cause No. 0841

Process Servers Certification

No Misconduct:

- E. In the Matter of Cause No. 0550
- F. In the Matter of Cause No. 0577

- G. In the Matter of Cause No. 0647
- H. In the Matter of Cause No. 0675
- I. In the Matter of Cause No. 0667
- J. In the Matter of Cause No. 0668
- K. In the Matter of Cause No. 0680
- L. In the Matter of Cause No. 0705
- M. In the Matter of Cause No. 0710
- N. In the Matter of Cause No. 0721
- O. In the Matter of Cause No. 0813
- P. In the Matter of Cause No. 0817
- Outside the Jurisdiction of the Commission:*
- Q. In the Matter of Cause No. 0821

Court Reporters Certification

No Misconduct:

- R. In the Matter of Cause No. 0604
- S. In the Matter of Cause No. 0734
- T. In the Matter of Cause No. 0763
- U. In the Matter of Cause No. 0769
- V. In the Matter of Cause No. 0775

Agenda Item IX. Administrative Dismissal of Complaints and Requests for Reconsideration

- A. In the Matter of Cause No. 0651
Upon motion by Velma Arellano and second by Judge Victor Villarreal, the Commission voted to ratify the administrative dismissal and deny the reconsideration.
- B. In the Matter of Cause No. 0723
Upon motion by Velma Arellano and second by Judge Victor Villarreal, the Commission voted to ratify the administrative dismissal and deny the reconsideration.
- C. In the Matter of Cause No. 0757
Upon motion by Velma Arellano and second by Judge Victor Villarreal, the Commission voted to ratify the administrative dismissal and deny the reconsideration.
- D. In the Matter of Cause No. 0784
Upon motion by Velma Arellano and second by Judge Victor Villarreal, the Commission voted to ratify the administrative dismissal and deny the reconsideration.
- E. In the Matter of Cause No. 0819
Upon motion by Velma Arellano and second by Judge Victor Villarreal, the Commission voted to ratify the administrative dismissal and deny the reconsideration.

Agenda Item X. Requests for Reconsideration of Administrative Dismissal of Complaints

Upon motion by Ann Murray Moore and second by Velma Arellano, the Commission voted to affirm its previous decision to ratify the administrative dismissal and deny reconsideration.

- A. In the Matter of Cause No. 0711
- B. In the Matter of Cause No. 0778

Agenda Item XI. Requests for Reconsideration of Denial of Applications- CLOSED SESSION

The Commission convened in closed session at 10:35 a.m. and reconvened in public session at 10:44 a.m.

- A. Afolabi Ogunfuwa
The Commission considered the applicant's request for reconsideration of staff's denial of application for renewal of process server certification. Following discussion, there was no motion to reverse or otherwise alter the Director's denial of the application for renewal of the applicant's process server certification.

B. Douglas Matthys

The Commission considered the applicant's request for reconsideration of staff's denial of application for renewal of process server certification. Upon motion by Don Ford and second by Velma Arellano, the Commission voted to renew the applicant's application.

Agenda Item XII. Administrative Matters Relating to the Commission

A. Litigation – *Judicial Branch Certification Commission, et al. v. Holmgren and Preferred Legal Services, Inc.* The Commission convened in closed session at 10:46 a.m. to confer with legal counsel and reconvened in open session at 10:56 a.m.

B. Proposed Rule 10.35, Specialized Training-Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia, or Related Disorders for recommendation to the Supreme Court for adoption
Upon motion by Judge Victor Villarreal and second by Velma Arellano, the Commission voted to recommend to the Texas Supreme Court the adoption of Rule 10.35.

C. Proposed amendments to Rule 3.4, Alternative Certification for Military Spouses, Military Service Member, and Veterans, for recommendation to the Supreme Court for adoption
Upon motion by Velma Arellano and second by Ann Murray Moore, the Commission voted to recommend to the Texas Supreme Court for adoption the proposed amendments to Rule 3.4.

D. Appointment of Committee Members for the Complaint Review Committees
Upon motion by Velma Arellano and second by Judge David Jahn, the Commission voted to appoint members to the Complaint Review Committees.

E. Commission Meeting Dates

i. Next Commission Meeting & Proposed Meeting Dates for FY 2026

1. Friday, November 7, 2025 (Next Commission Meeting)
2. Friday, February 6, 2026
3. Friday, May 1, 2026
4. Friday, August 7, 2026

Upon motion by Velma Arellano and second by Ann Murray Moore, the Commission voted to approve the Commission meeting dates for FY 2026.

Agenda Item XIII. Public Comment

Eric Enim thanked the Commission and Investigator Smith for their work on investigating a complaint against him.

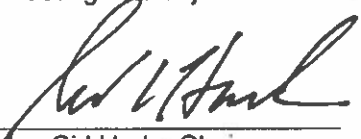
The Commission recessed at 11:01 a.m. and reconvened at 11:14 a.m.

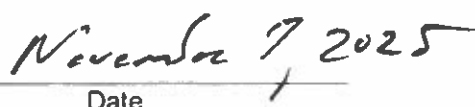
Agenda Item XIV. Closing Remarks

The Chair thanked the staff for their hard work and thanked Justice Rebeca Aizpuru Huddle for her commitment to attending the meeting.

Agenda Item XV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.


Judge Sid Harle, Chair


Date