



TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

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CHAIR:
HON. NATHAN L. HECHT
Chief Justice, Supreme Court

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
DAVID SLAYTON

VICE CHAIR:
HON. SHARON KELLER
Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals

COMMITTEE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

MINUTES OF MEETING

September 16, 2014

9:00 a.m.

Court of Criminal Appeals Courtroom
Supreme Court Building, 201 West 14th Street, Room 106
Austin, Texas

COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

Judge Linda Rodriguez called the meeting of the Committee on Juvenile Justice (Committee) to order at 9:05 a.m. on September 16, 2014, in the Court of Criminal Appeals Courtroom.

ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS

The following members of the Committee were present:

Hon. Linda Rodriguez, Judge, County Court at Law No. 2, Hays County
Hon. Gary Bellair, Presiding Judge, Ransom Canyon Municipal Court

Members attending via phone were Judge Valencia Nash.

Members not in attendance were Presiding Judge Sharon Keller, Judge Glenn Phillips, and Mr. Hank Nuss.

COMMITTEE CHARGE

After Judge Rodriguez delivered opening remarks, Mr. Slayton reviewed the committee's charge: To "[a]ssess the impact of school discipline and school-based policing on referrals to the municipal, justice, and juvenile courts and identify judicial policies or initiatives that: work to reduce referrals without having a negative impact on school safety; limit recidivism; and preserve judicial resources for students who are in need of this type of intervention."

Mr. Slayton reviewed past work of the Committee and [SB 393](#), relating to the criminal procedures related to children who commit certain Class C misdemeanors, and noted that hearings are currently being held on SB 393 and [SB 1114](#), relating to the prosecution of certain misdemeanor offenses

committed by children and to school district law enforcement. Mr. Slayton advised that there are some conflicts in need of clarification and the Texas Judicial Council (Council) should consider involvement. Other changes in need of clarification are related to culpability statutes in Penal Code §8.07 and §8.08, which were amended last session.

Also, HB 528 by Turner, relating to the restriction of access to the records and files of a child charged with or convicted of certain fine-only misdemeanor offenses, had been subject to an Attorney General request found that there was no conflict.

DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

The Committee chose to focus on the following areas for proposals:

- Raising the age of criminal responsibility from 17 to 18,
- Addressing clarification related to school ticketing,
- Addressing clarification related to culpability in Penal Code statutes,
- Developing a continuum for failure to attend, and
- Confidentiality.

Judge Rodriguez noted topics would be reported to the Council for consideration to move forward.

ADJOURNMENT

Witness registered are shown on the attached list. There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Chair, Judge Linda Rodriguez

WITNESS LIST

Texas Judicial Council
Juvenile Justice Committee
September 16, 2014 9:00 AM

Baskin, Joy (Texas Association of School Boards), Austin, TX
Carreon, Jennifer (Texas Criminal Justice Coalition), Austin, TX
Cobos, David M. (Justice of the Peace & Constables Association), Midland, TX
Deitch, Michelle (Self), Austin, TX
Fowler, Deborah (Texas Appleseed), Austin, TX
Frank, Julie Committee Director (Senate Jurisprudence), Austin, TX
Henneke, Elizabeth (Texas Criminal Justice Coalition), Austin, TX
Henry, James Truancy Supervision Coordinator (Justice of the Peace Court, Pct. 2, Midland County), Midland, TX
Mergler, Mary (Texas Appleseed), Austin, TX
Starkenburg, Gordon Justice of the Peace, (Justice of the Peace Court, Pct. 3, Plc 2, Brazoria County), Pearland, TX
Thomas, Nydia (Texas Juvenile Justice Department), Austin, TX
Turner, Ryan Kellus (Texas Municipal Courts Education Center), Austin, TX