



NAWBO
SAN ANTONIO
National Association of Women Business Owners

2016

JUDICIAL CANDIDATE SURVEY

Released October 14, 2016

PUBLIC
POLICY

INFORM. EDUCATE. ADVOCATE.

PURPOSE

The Public Policy Committee of the San Antonio Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) seeks to educate members about local, state, and national public policy issues that impact business. The National Association of Women Business Owners is a bipartisan organization. NAWBO-SA does not represent or support any political party.

2016 *JUDICIAL CANDIDATE SURVEY*

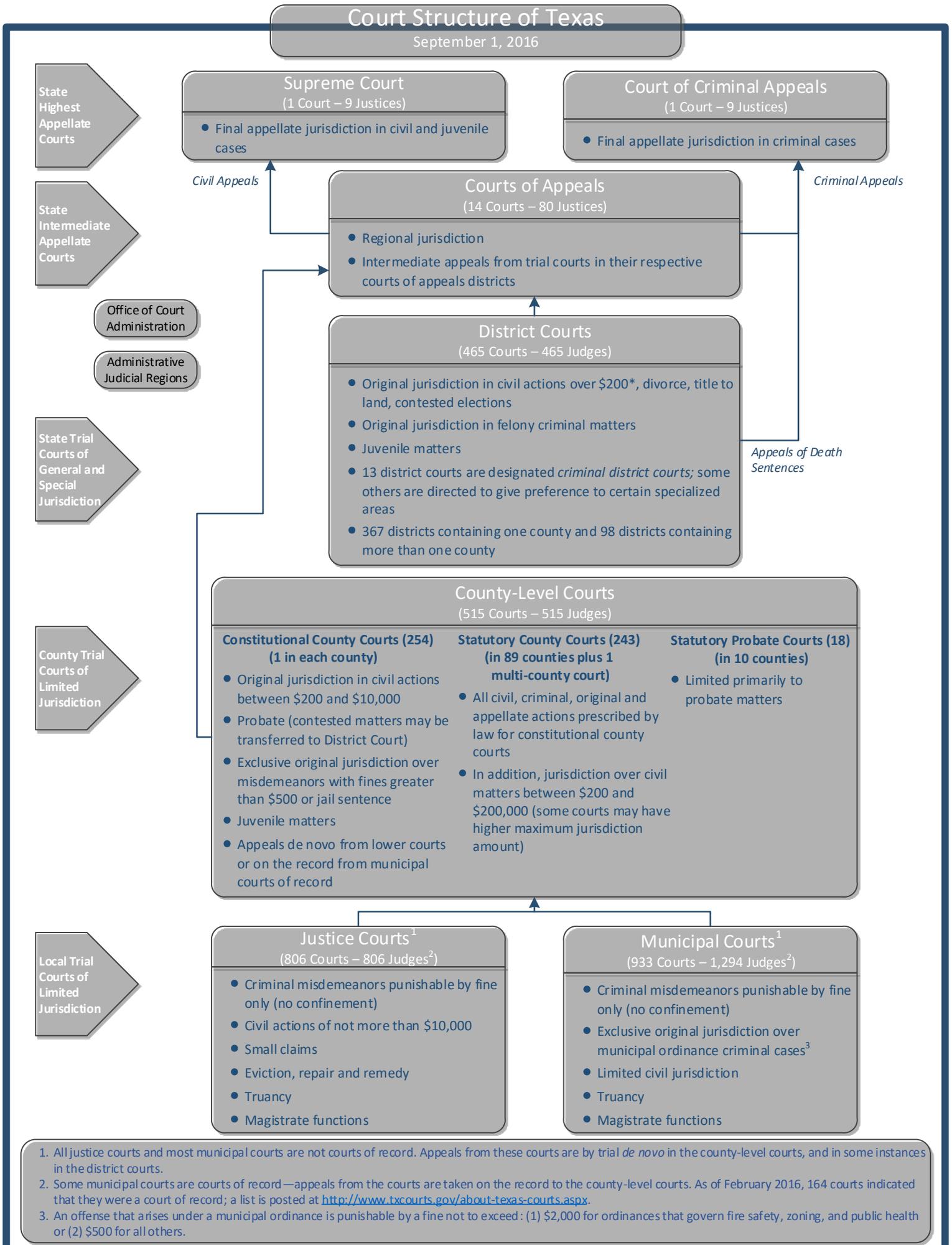
WHY THIS PROJECT

Our members expressed great interest in learning more about local candidates for office in the November election. Using publicly available information, the Public Policy Committee identified local judicial candidates running for election in November. Every attempt was made to contact each of these candidates. Each candidate was emailed a request to respond to a set number of questions determined by the Committee with the understanding that their responses would be compiled into a survey for the purpose of educating NAWBO-SA members and released to the public through the NAWBO-SA website and social media. All responses are reported exactly as provided by each candidate. The following is a compilation of survey responses.

PRODUCED BY THE PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs: Heather Tessmer & Lynn Weirich

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Kim Ford



SOURCE: <http://www.txcourts.gov/media/1435975/court-structure-chart-sept-2016.pdf>

NAME:	ALVARADO, Rosemarie / 438th District Court
EMAIL:	rosie@rosiealvaradopc.com
Beyond your formal education, what WORK EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	I am a practicing attorney with 14 years of courtroom experience. I have practiced in county, state district, state appellate, and federal district courts. My primary courtroom experience has been centered around litigating personal injury cases in county and state district courts, prosecuting federal and state false claims act cases (a.k.a. whistle-blower cases) and Section 1983 "color of law" cases (a.k.a. police misconduct cases), and representing individuals before the courts on family, criminal, and small business law matters. I manage the day-to-day operations of my law firm and manage all aspects of my caseload from inception through closing, settlement or trial. The court I am running for is a civil district court bench which hears a wide array of legal matters, including divorce, child support and custody, title to land, tax lien and foreclosures, personal injury, breach of contract, and many other civil disputes. Just as this court has a diverse caseload, I bring a diverse legal background to this bench, which makes me well-rounded and uniquely qualified for the bench.
Beyond your formal education, what TRIAL EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	I have tried 13 jury trials to verdict, and have argued several hundred motions and bench trials in both civil and criminal courts. I believe this courtroom and trial experience gives me the necessary experience to conduct court in this position.
Beyond your formal education, what LIFE EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	In life I have encountered adversities and experiences that I believe have better defined me as an individual, and which, I feel, will provide me empathy and make me more attuned to the individuals and entities that may come before me as they present their cases. I have been a litigant both as a plaintiff and defendant. So I understand what it is like to be in the court system and feel the stresses, fears, and pressures as a party and not a lawyer. I have dealt with the death of close family member and business partner. So I understand the emotional and financial complexities and change that death brings to families and business operation. I am a mother raising two daughters (11 and 9). Therefore, I understand the joys and daily struggles of parenting. I am the product of a divorced household and understand the way such an event affects children and changes family structure. I have owned and managed my own law firm for the past 7 years, and prior to that, was in a partnership for 7 years. I am the manager of a family owned real estate business. Thus, I am very well acquainted with the day-to-day operations of a business. Having worn multiple hats of owner, manager, marketer, human resources, book keeper, lawyer, etc. I have cared for ailing family with terminal and long term conditions, and understand the stress and commitments that such an undertaking entails.
Please list membership and leadership roles in associations and communication/trade organizations and civil philanthropy efforts:	Serving my community was instilled in me from a young age having grown up in a community service oriented family and watching both of my parents engage in professional organization, civic, and activist activities. I am involved in the following community, civic, and trade organizations: - Advisory board member to the San Antonio Crime Coalition, - Past-Chair of the St. John's Lutheran Academy School Board, - Girl Scout Troop Leader, - Radio Show Host providing legal commentary on the Longhorn Live Radio Show, - Past board president for Legacy Oaks homeowners association, - Past-mentor with the Girls and Ladies Sports program, - Past-mentor with the Harlandale High School Diversified Career Preparation Class - San Antonio Bar Association – Member - Mexican American Bar Association – San Antonio Chapter - Member - San Antonio Trial Lawyers Association – Member - San Antonio Bar Association – Family Law Section – Member - State Bar of Texas – Member - State Bar of Texas – Family Law Section -Member

<p>What distinguishes your legal experience that warrants election to judge?</p>	<p>In contrast to my opponent, I bring diverse legal experience to a court that hears a diverse array of matters. My practice as a lawyer has centered on multiple areas of practice, whereas my opponent practices law in one focused area.</p>
<p>What drove you to seek this office in particular?</p>	<p>I believe our legal system should serve as the foundation that protects and guarantees our rights and freedoms. I chose to run for three reasons: (1) because I enjoy practicing law in the civil courts and as a judge I want to ensure all litigants before this Court enjoy equal access and receive fair treatment under the law, (2) to continue the family tradition of public service, and (3) to continue serving as a real and tangible role model for my daughters.</p>
<p>If you are running against an incumbent, why?</p>	<p>Not applicable. The incumbent judge is retiring.</p>
<p>In 25 words, how would you uphold and maintain the dignity of the court?</p>	<p>Conscientiously and intelligently striving for legal fairness and objectivity; and maintaining moral courage to set aside political agendas and ideological factors when making rulings.</p>
<p>What do you think is important for us, as business owners, to know?</p>	<p>I am a successful small business owner. I have been involved in partnership in a small business. I manage a family owned business. I have represented business owners and their businesses, and have experience as a lawyer in business formation, drafting buy/sell agreements and contracts, prosecuting and defending collections, and providing general legal advice. Aside from all that, I am down to earth with an even temperament and enjoy life! I have many personal interests including quality family time, community outreach, art (painting, charcoal, sculpting, glassblowing), leisure reading, fiction writing, photography, gardening, in-line skating, skiing, scuba, kayaking, camping, bike-riding and cooking.</p>

NAME:	CANALES, David A. / 73rd District Court
EMAIL:	dacanales73@gmail.com
Beyond your formal education, what WORK EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	I currently serve as the Judge of the court to which I am seeking reelection. My experience prior to this bench was right in line with the types of cases that go before the court. In my legal career, I was a lawyer who handled civil and family law matters. Prior to becoming a lawyer, I worked as an insurance claims adjuster handling civil matters connected to the insurance industry. Before I was an adjuster, I was a paralegal for several lawyers that practiced civil and family law matters, among other cases in other sectors of the law.
Beyond your formal education, what TRIAL EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	Prior to my election to this bench, my trial experience was in civil and family law. In my time on the bench, I have presided over those cases.
Beyond your formal education, what LIFE EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	As a husband and a father to 3 boys, my family experience becomes invaluable when I preside over family law matters.
Please list membership and leadership roles in associations and communication/trade organizations and civil philanthropy efforts:	I am a member of the Bexar County Juvenile Board and chair of its Facilities Committee. I serve on the Bexar County Purchasing Agent Board, and in various capacities on several boards and committees within the Bexar County (Chair of the Technology Committee, Chair of the Ad Litem Subcommittee of the Children's Court Committee, and a member of other committees). co-chair the Community Justice Program, the pro bono project of the San Antonio Bar Association. I am a member of the State Bar of Texas's Professionalism Committee.
What distinguishes your legal experience that warrants election to judge?	I have worked hard to be fair and impartial, and to follow the law in my decisions as a judge. I believe that I warrant reelection to this position.
What drove you to seek this office in particular?	I am seeking reelection to the position.
If you are running against an incumbent, why?	N/A
In 25 words, how would you uphold and maintain the dignity of the court?	I treat everyone the way I would like to be treated--I listen, I rule fairly, and I am respectful of those before me.
What do you think is important for us, as business owners, to know?	When you have a matter that ends up in the 73rd District Court before me, I will listen and consider everyone's positions, I will read through the materials I am provided, and I will reach the decision I believe is just, fair and correct, while adhering to the applicable law.

NAME:	CASTRO, Frank J. / 399th District Court Judge
EMAIL:	FCASTRO.LAW@HOTMAIL.COM
Beyond your formal education, what WORK EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	I have practice law for 13 years with 4 years of that experience has an Assistant District Attorney who has handled countless felony cases. I currently practice criminal defense, family and personal injury law which allows me to represent individuals in these matters in what is often the most emotional and difficult times of their lives. During law school and shortly after I worked for the Texas Rural Legal Aid helping women who were suffering from domestic abuse. I helped these women get the divorce and/or protective services they needed from their abusive husbands with funds provided by VAWA (Violence Against Women Act).
Beyond your formal education, what TRIAL EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	I am currently in private practice and have tried to juries as both a former prosecutor and a defense attorney aggravated robbery, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, failure to stop and render aid involving serious bodily injuries, murder, controlled substances, theft, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, driving while intoxicated and domestic violence cases.
Beyond your formal education, what LIFE EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	I have had many achievements and failures throughout my life. However, I continue to count my blessings and understand that no matter how difficult my problems may seem there is always others who have it more difficult and could use some help. I am thankful for the blessings the Lord has giving me in regards to health, family, and in serving the community through my occupation as an attorney. I am aware that no one is promised tomorrow and I will use my experiences as a former prosecutor, criminal defense attorney, and former college football player in being a disciplined hard worker who is dedicated to the job I have before me.
Please list membership and leadership roles in associations and communication/trade organizations and civil philanthropy efforts:	I have participated in my catholic church in different roles since I was a young boy starting out as an alter server. I continue to strive in being the best husband and father to my wife and our two beautiful daughters Briella (5) & Tatiana (2) by showing our girls how to assist everyday people in need. In the past years we have taken our daughters to give homeless people sack lunches or blankets in efforts to help these individuals during their difficult times and to teach our girls the importance in helping the less fortunate. We have also taken our girls to schools on the south side or churches on the east side to give out back packs and school supplies to needy children, our last time being this past August.
What distinguishes your legal experience that warrants election to judge?	It is very easy for any candidate to say if they are elected they will have integrity, will be fair and impartial. However, in addition to my experiences mentioned, I feel it is necessary to give an example in which both the defense attorney and prosecutors trusted my judgment. Three years ago I was sitting in jury selection as a potential juror in an felony aggravated assault with a deadly weapon case. I was positive being a defense attorney and former prosecutor that one side would strike me from the jury in an abundance of caution. However, to my surprise I was left on the panel and served on the jury. After the case was over I asked both sides if one made a mistake and left me on the jury thinking the other side would strike me. The defense attorney said he wanted me on the jury because he knew me as one of the most fair and respected defense attorneys. Although the less experienced prosecutor had concerns because he did not know me, he was assured to leave me on the jury by his supervising prosecutor who said I could definitely be trusted to make such an important decision fairly and impartially with the evidence presented.
What drove you to seek this office in particular?	I am running because I feel everyone from the victims, witnesses, attorneys, and defendants need to have their voices heard and to receive fair treatment under the law. Being a District Court Judge would be an honor and it would

	allow me to continue to practice criminal law at a high level as well as continue to provide valuable service to the community as I did when I was an Assistant District Attorney.
If you are running against an incumbent, why?	I unseated the incumbent in the primary and thus I am not running against an incumbent.
In 25 words, how would you uphold and maintain the dignity of the court?	I would treat everyone with respect, would reserve my personal opinions from my legal opinions, and base my discretion on the facts and evidence.
What do you think is important for us, as business owners, to know?	I have a bachelor's of business administration and have run my own solo law office the past six years of my career and understand the difficulties, surprises and successes of a running a small business.

NAME:	DUNHAM, Frances / 438 Judicial District Court Judge
EMAIL:	mariearenas.cm@francesdunhamfor438.com
Beyond your formal education, what WORK EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	21 years of trial experience, extensive jury trial experience, bi-lingual English/Spanish, Volunteer in many different capacities since age 14.
Beyond your formal education, what TRIAL EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	I have done and won many jury trials as a civil/family law attorney. Most family law attorneys do not have my jury trial experience.
Beyond your formal education, what LIFE EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	I am a boot strap person. I went to college, graduate and law school as a single parent. All the while giving back to the community and those in need. I believe my experience in life, the community, and travel to third world countries makes me uniquely empathetic and humble to serve in this position.
Please list membership and leadership roles in associations and communication/trade organizations and civil philanthropy efforts:	State Bar of Texas, San Antonio Bar Association, Member of Saint Anthony De Padua Catholic Church; Early in my career: member of Junior League and founded "adopt a student" to help at risk teens; Taught religious education for over 15 years as a volunteer; Served as a Eucharistic minister for the sick at Santa Rosa Hospital, Served as a Pre-Marriage coach for couples preparing for marriage in the Catholic Church; was an active member of ACTS; have served in the choir and currently serve in the choir at Saint Anthony de Padua; Went on a mission trip to Guatemala last summer to help women and children victims of human rights violations, and to teach them how to avoid being victims of human trafficking; wrote a book on joint parenting that can be found on Amazon; spend approximately 35 hours per week on Free Legal Workshop writing, promoting and giving free seminars at places such as SAMMS Ministries, Bexar County Re-Entry Program, Dress for Success, Republican Headquarters, and other locations; served as a speaker/mentor at Healy Murphy School on Career Day sharing my story with at risk, underprivileged students with the desire to give them hope after hearing my journey.
What distinguishes your legal experience that warrants election to judge?	My extensive trial experience. I have tried countless jury trials and non-jury trials covering all areas of family law. With an MBA, I am also qualified to handle other civil litigation issues.
What drove you to seek this office in particular?	Over 80 percent of this office serves as a judge presiding over family law issues. I have extensive experience and success in this area of the law. It is the best way for me to give back and utilize the knowledge that I have acquired and benefit the citizens of Bexar County.
If you are running against an incumbent, why?	I am not.
In 25 words, how would you uphold and maintain the dignity of the court?	I believe in the law of the State of Texas and the U.S. Constitution. I believe that the courtroom should be respected and proper decorum followed all the while setting a tone for fairness, compassion and empathy.
What do you think is important for us, as business owners, to know?	Everyone deserves their day in court. I do not believe in pre-judgment until all of the facts and both sides have been presented. I make a very strong effort to not have biases. I have always worked extremely hard at work and in my volunteer career and for my family.

NAME:	GARZA, Dori / Texas Supreme Court, place 5
EMAIL:	justicedori@gmail.com
Beyond your formal education, what WORK EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	I am in my fourteenth year of service on the 13th Court of Appeals. The 13th Court of Appeals reviews all civil and criminal appeals arising out of a twenty county district. Within that time frame, I have reviewed, decided and written opinions in every type of civil appeal imaginable. The Texas Supreme Court reviews the civil appeals out of the fourteen courts of appeals in Texas so I am very familiar with the work.
Beyond your formal education, what TRIAL EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	Prior to being elected to the 13th Court of Appeals in 2002, I was a civil trial attorney for twelve years. I handled personal injury and employment discrimination cases. I tried approximately ten cases to a jury and several to the bench.
Beyond your formal education, what LIFE EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	Like many women in this organization, I have had to work very hard while juggling life's demands to achieve the success I enjoy. I was a single mother in college. Although I have been married since then, because of divorce, I largely raised my three children on my own. I worked as an Accountant for a number of years before starting law school. I was married and had two children while attending law school part-time and working full-time. Raising children as a single mother while building a successful legal career gives me a
Please list membership and leadership roles in associations and communication/trade organizations and civil philanthropy efforts:	I was recognized as a Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Woman of Distinction in 2014. I received the Good Samaritan Award in 2014 after serving six years (three as Chair) of the Good Samaritan Community Services-RGV. I have served as a Board member for Comfort House Services since 2009. I was a mentor with the UTPA Executive Mentor Program. I am a Life Member of the University of Texas Ex-Students' Association. I am a past board member of St. John's Episcopal Day School for which I served as President in 2009-2010. I am a frequent speaker at various schools in the Hidalgo County community. I was recognized as AVANCE Mother of the Year in 2005.
What distinguishes your legal experience that warrants election to judge?	My legal experience is comparable to that of the incumbent I am challenging. However, because my life experience and background is different, I offer a perspective that is lacking and that will add to the debate of the critical issues the Court confronts.
What drove you to seek this office in particular?	The Texas Supreme Court lacks gender, ethnic and ideological diversity. For over twenty years, the nine justices on the Court have shared the same judicial philosophy and ideology. Additionally, there are only two women on the Court, only one of which is Latina. The makeup of the Court does not properly reflect the demographics of Texas as it should.
If you are running against an incumbent, why?	There are three positions up for reelection this term. The other two positions are occupied by women. Running against the only two women on the court would be contrary to my objective which is to increase the number of women and add to the ethnic diversity.
In 25 words, how would you uphold and maintain the dignity of the court?	I will perform my job respectfully and honorably and conduct myself ethically as I have my fourteen years as a judge and my entire professional career.
What do you think is important for us, as business owners, to know?	The Texas Supreme Court makes important decisions that impact our daily lives. It is important to have a Court that is representative of all Texans so that the issues will be fully and fairly deliberated and decided.

NAME:	GONZALES, Norma / 131st District Court Judge
EMAIL:	norma4judge@gmail.com
Beyond your formal education, what WORK EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	32 years of trial experience. I am the only candidate who practices family law. I represent mothers, fathers, grandparents and children. I have represented local business owners, as well as litigated as both a plaintiff and defense attorney.
Beyond your formal education, what TRIAL EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	I have tried over 100 jury trials and have handled over 1700 cases in Bexar County alone. I have also handled cases in over 40 other counties in Texas.
Beyond your formal education, what LIFE EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	I was born and bred in San Antonio. My father was an aircraft mechanic at Kelly A.F.B. My mother was a homemaker during my childhood, but at the age of 80, she is still employed today with a local catering company. My mother still impresses me every day with her work ethic which I try to emulate. I have been a solo practitioner/business owner for many years. I understand the needs of the citizens and businesses which come before the court every day.
Please list membership and leadership roles in associations and communication/trade organizations and civil philanthropy efforts:	Since 1999, I have been the sole female trial adjunct professor at St. Mary's School of Law. I am a member and former president of the local chapter of ABOTA (American Board of Trial Advocates) I am a member of the San Antonio Bar Association and Bexar County Women's Bar Association. I am a life fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation and several other law related foundations. I am a former board member of the Battered Women's Shelter and former F.A.C.T. volunteer Former member of the Municipal Court Advisory Committee to San Antonio City Council - appointed by Mayor Phil Hardberger
What distinguishes your legal experience that warrants election to judge?	My 32 years of trial experience and over 100 Jury trials in Bexar County alone. Eighty percent of my current practice is in family law which is 80% of what this court hears on a daily basis. For many years I practiced civil trial law (non-family). I am the only candidate that has the experience that is essential to fill this position.
What drove you to seek this office in particular?	With judge Gabriel retiring as well as Judge Noll and Judge Saldana, there will be a dearth of experienced judges. The citizens need experienced and knowledgeable judges to address their life issues.
If you are running against an incumbent, why?	Judge Gabriel is retiring
In 25 words, how would you uphold and maintain the dignity of the court?	By Example. I stand by my reputation at the court house for my ethical standards and work ethic by which I abide by every day.
What do you think is important for us, as business owners, to know?	Experience matters. When one decision can change the life of your family member, colleague or a business, it is important to have a judge with the experience necessary to make the right decisions. Also, I have owned my own business since 2000.

NAME:	ISCHY-PRINS, Jan / 399th Criminal District Court, Bexar County
EMAIL:	jan4judge@gmail.com
Beyond your formal education, what WORK EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	Almost twenty-five years ago I opened my law office on Southside in San Antonio and practiced Criminal Law, Family Law, Probate, Real Estate Law, Social Security Disability, among others. I then served the public for eighteen (18) years as an Assistant Criminal District Attorney here in Bexar County. I am now in private practice with my husband, Richard Prins [USAF JAG Colonel (RET)]. I have also been appointed by Bexar County Judges as an Attorney Pro Tem (commonly referred to as Special Prosecutor) for multiple cases. I am a Former Adjunct Instructor of Criminal Law for UTSA School of Business Legal Studies Program and have guest lectured at the San Antonio College Law Enforcement Training Academy. I am honored to be awarded, for both 2015 and 2016, the Client Satisfaction Award – 10 Best: American Institute of Criminal Lawyers.
Beyond your formal education, what TRIAL EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	I have tried to a Jury right at, if not over, one hundred (100) trials. The maximum punishment a person convicted in the 399th Court faces is death. The second maximum sentence is life in prison with no parole. Because of the severity of crimes this court presides over, you need a Judge who is experienced in trying to a jury the most serious crimes, including death penalty cases. Both the Victim and the Accused deserve a Judge with extensive trial experience. Because I have been both a prosecutor and defense attorney here in Bexar County, I have the balance to look at cases from both sides along with the knowledge to know the appropriate laws and rule in accordance with the law.
Beyond your formal education, what LIFE EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	Everything about my life experience has led me to become a criminal district judge. For example: being a domestic violence victim in college who was arrested along with my abuser to being an 18 year prosecutor. The 399th Criminal District Court presides over the most serious criminal cases including felony domestic violence cases. In fact, these cases are so important, the District Attorney's Office has specific prosecutors assigned to prosecute these cases. Because of my vast experience, I am able to see all sides of a case. I have successfully prosecuted and defended domestic violence cases (including capital murder domestic violence). As a prosecutor, I have also dismissed domestic violence and other type of cases when warranted. I have a unique perspective by being an illegally arrested victim. That, along with almost 25 years' experience in criminal law, makes me well aware that sometimes innocent people are convicted and sometimes guilty people are exonerated. In that regard, all must be treated with dignity and respect and all deserve a Judge who knows the Rules of Evidence, understands the Criminal Rules of Procedure and can properly interpret the Penal Code and case law. I am that candidate.
Please list membership and leadership roles in associations and communication/trade organizations and civil philanthropy efforts:	Most recently I was awarded the Client Satisfaction Award – 10 Best: American Institute of Criminal Law Attorneys for both 2015 and 2016. I am also a Founding Member of the American Association of Premier DUI Attorneys. I belong to the San Antonio Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association and am a Board Member for the Community Resource and Recreation Center (CRRC of Canyon Lake). I have served our local schools as a part of the parent teachers association, secretary of the choir boosters and my husband and I were recognized two years in a row as Parents of the Year for JROTC. I have also served with the Texas District and County Attorneys Association, San Antonio Bar Association, American Bar Association and Texas Young Lawyers Association. As a protector of our local community, while an Assistant Criminal District Attorney, I successfully prosecuted

	<p>numerous cases in Bexar County. Following is a brief "snapshot" of the types of cases I have successfully prosecuted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a man who is now serving nine (9) Life Sentences with no parole for sexually assaulting his daughter; 2. man who is serving a life sentence with no parole for shooting his girlfriend (which resulted in the death of their unborn baby) in addition to killing his girlfriend's mother and sister; 3. man who is on death row for killing a woman by cutting her throat, stabbing her with a knife. The jury had to decide whether this man would be a future danger; 4. man serving a life sentence and twenty years for raping his wife and an unrelated girl; 5. man serving three 75 year sentences for raping women he met via social media; 6. person serving 75 years for arranging a murder; and 7. men convicted for abusing their adopted daughter by failing to seek medical attention for her after she was unable to eat, drink and communicate; she was also found to have numerous fractures at ER.
<p>What distinguishes your legal experience that warrants election to judge?</p>	<p>Extensive experience in our community. I am attorney of record for six-thousand six-hundred thirty (6630) criminal cases in Bexar County. My opponent is attorney of record for two-hundred twenty-one cases (221) in Bexar County, Texas. This information is as of August 30, 2016 and was obtained from the Bexar County District Clerk's Office. I am also the only candidate who has served our community as a Bexar County Assistant District Attorney, Bexar County Special Prosecutor and a Defense Attorney in Bexar County.</p>
<p>What drove you to seek this office in particular?</p>	<p>I've been preparing myself for this position my entire career as evidenced by my experience and background.</p>
<p>If you are running against an incumbent, why?</p>	<p>The incumbent in this court will not be on the bench in January 2017; that being said, I am the right candidate for this bench. I am also the candidate who has been a member of our community for over 25 years. In other words, I have a vested interest in serving our community because it is my home.</p>
<p>In 25 words, how would you uphold and maintain the dignity of the court?</p>	<p>Every person entering the courtroom must be treated with dignity and respect. This includes victims, attorneys, staff, law enforcement, visitors, jurors and the defendant.</p>
<p>What do you think is important for us, as business owners, to know?</p>	<p>So many victims are shocked when they are victimized. That is expected. What the person outside of criminal law may not realize is how many defendants are shocked when they are charged with a crime, especially when they are innocent. The criminal courtroom touches all of Bexar County. You need a judge in the 399th who is there for the people. I am that candidate.</p>

NAME:	JIMENEZ, Angelica / Judge, 408th District Court
EMAIL:	pat@vivapolitics.com
Beyond your formal education, what WORK EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	I'm currently a full-time attorney and managing member and shareholder of Figueroa & Jimenez, P.L.L.C. I practice in Bexar and surrounding counties with a concentration in family law cases.
Beyond your formal education, what TRIAL EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	Although most cases settle out of court, my law practice obtains temporary or final judgement verdicts from judges. I have tried one criminal case to a jury and have participated in several civil jury trials.
Beyond your formal education, what LIFE EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	I'm a first generation college graduate, an attorney, a wife, a mother of three, and a business owner. My strong work ethic and focus have been essential in pursuit of my goals and dreams. I'm proud of my family and I've accomplished a lot despite many challenges in my life. In terms of my career, I've grown up wanting to be a fair and compassionate judge who listens and treats everyone respectfully. I've helped hundreds of families in Bexar County navigate their way through the court system during their most challenging times and this feeling of helping others is what drives me to serve our community.
Please list membership and leadership roles in associations and communication/trade organizations and civil philanthropy efforts:	Texas Family Bar Association, American Bar Association, Bexar County Women's Association, Mexican-American Bar Association, Member of National Association of Women Judges, Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity, Hispanic Law Alumni Board Member
What distinguishes your legal experience that warrants election to judge?	My legal expertise in family law cases and general civil cases is very important for the bench I'm pursuing. The majority of cases heard in the 408th District Court will be family cases, and I bring essential experience to this courtroom as an attorney and mother of three, who understands the challenges that families can face on a daily basis.
What drove you to seek this office in particular?	This courtroom addresses mostly family law cases and this is my area of expertise. I have a passion for the law and I want to serve our community as a public servant.
If you are running against an incumbent, why?	No, I'm not running against an incumbent. The current judge is retiring from his seat.
In 25 words, how would you uphold and maintain the dignity of the court?	Good judicial temperament is important to maintain a high standard of ethics and integrity for all those who come before the court. We must set aside party politics to be fair and impartial, and allow litigants the opportunity to be heard and subsequently apply the law equally and fairly across the board, as rightfully deserved.
What do you think is important for us, as business owners, to know?	Organizations such as NAWBOSA are essential groups who can support women in business through networking, education and resources. I do my best to participate, either by attending events or volunteering. I learn from others or become motivated to achieve more when I'm around inspirational people. Participation is key because we all have knowledge to share and the capacity to learn.

NAME:	KALISKI, David / 131ST District Court
EMAIL:	davidkaliski4judge@gmail.com
Beyond your formal education, what WORK EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	My career has been extensive and focused entirely on the types of cases this court hears. I began practicing civil litigation with Lang and Kustoff in San Antonio handling complex insurance, and employment cases. Over time my practice expanded to include not only representing people but also commercial businesses, governmental and religious entities, taking Child Protective Services cases and child support matters and other family law matters.
Beyond your formal education, what TRIAL EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	While working with some of the premier law firms in San Antonio and South Texas I have handled everything from some of the smallest cases to some very large and complex civil cases.
Beyond your formal education, what LIFE EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	My background crosses racial, ethnic, religious and economic lines. It is that combination—that ability to connect and relate to the community in such a broad and real way--coupled with my professional experience, my dedication and my commitment that makes me think I am the right candidate.
Please list membership and leadership roles in associations and communication/trade organizations and civil philanthropy efforts:	I have served on the Board of The San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind, The Catholic Charities Advisory Board and Caritas Legal, The Rotary Club of San Antonio Board, The TMI (Texas Military Institute) Board of Trustees and as President of the TMI Alumni Board as well on the Catholic/Jewish Hanukkah Committee. I have also done a tremendous amount of free legal work for those in need.
What distinguishes your legal experience that warrants election to judge?	I bring a uniquely qualified background and perspective to the bench. I have the depth and breadth of professional experience, but as importantly, I bring the personal and intra-personal experience—the mind, heart and the understanding that is needed to sit on the bench in one’s community. A judge should be able to understand not only the laws being applied but the people they are being applied to.
What drove you to seek this office in particular?	It is a calling. I grew up going to the courthouse with my father—going down and watching trials, talking with lawyers and judges. Judge Ball took me on my first hunting trip when I was 8 years old. I’ve always admired the work of the courts. There is a dignity, a weight, an importance to the judiciary. We need good judges--it is important and means something to me. I want to be and believe I will be a good judge.
If you are running against an incumbent, why?	N/A
In 25 words, how would you uphold and maintain the dignity of the court?	Being measured, respectful and fair. A courtroom is not about the judge but the people that come before the court. "Be just and fear not."
What do you think is important for us, as business owners, to know?	I am one who understands the importance and sacrifice that goes into being a business owner. Your businesses as well as your families will be in good hands with me.

NAME:	KEASLER, Michael A. / Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 6
EMAIL:	mekeasler@yahoo.com
Beyond your formal education, what WORK EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	Private Practice, Grand Prairie, 1967-1969 Assistant District Attorney, Dallas, 1969-1981 Senior Felony Prosecutor, Career Criminal Division, 432 Jury Trials; Judge, 292nd District Court, 1981-1998 Judge Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, 1998-Present
Beyond your formal education, what TRIAL EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	432 Jury Trials as a prosecutor; Many felony jury trials and bench trials during my 17 years as a state trial judge
Beyond your formal education, what LIFE EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	As of September 1st of this year, I have been a state judge for 35 years. Before that, I tried cases on both sides of the docket for 14 additional years.
Please list membership and leadership roles in associations and communication/trade organizations and civil philanthropy efforts:	Member, American Law Institute, 2000 - present; Member, ABA Judicial Division (former chair of the National Conference of State Trial Judges Ethics Committee); Member, American Bar Foundation; Faculty 1992-present at The National Judicial College --- 2002 Robert Jackson Lecturer and former faculty council member; Dean, Texas continuing judicial education, 1990 - 1997; Chair, State Bar Judicial Section, 1996 - 1997; State Bar Judicial Section Board of Directors, 2011-2016; Former PTA President, Brownie Troop Leader; Currently worship leader at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Austin; Former vestryman, Sunday school teacher, youth group (EYC) sponsor, and chancellor at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Grand Prairie; Former Sunday school and confirmation class teacher at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Dallas.
What distinguishes your legal experience that warrants election to judge?	The quality of my written opinions while serving on the Court, my many law review articles over the past 35 years, and my teaching judges nationally and internationally on the topics of constitutional criminal law, statutory construction, standards of review, and professional ethics.
What drove you to seek this office in particular?	I thought my experience as a trial judge and trial attorney would be an asset to the Court.
If you are running against an incumbent, why?	I am the incumbent.
In 25 words, how would you uphold and maintain the dignity of the court?	By example. Since I teach judicial ethics, I am constantly aware of my obligation under Canon 3 to be "patient, dignified, and courteous.
What do you think is important for us, as business owners, to know?	Most people do not realize that Texas has two courts of last resort --- one criminal and one civil. Yet they vote for a third of our judges every two years.

NAME:	LONGORIA, John A. / COUNTY COURT AT LAW # 6
EMAIL:	john@longoria.com
Beyond your formal education, what WORK EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	Licensed to practice law 42 years, 60% criminal law; 40% family. I served in the U.S. Army in the army reserves and was honorably discharged at the rank of Captain. I have worked hard and held public offices of responsibility.
Beyond your formal education, what TRIAL EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	41 years practicing as a criminal and family law trial lawyer. My practice was very active.
Beyond your formal education, what LIFE EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	My wife and i have raised and educated 5 children. My service to god (very involved with my church); country (honorably discharge as a Captain in the U.S. Army and a very varied service to community: served 3 years on the VIA board; 9 years on county commissioners court (the last 2 as the county judge); 10 years in the state legislature; 5 months as an emergency justice of the peace (at no cost to the county) and 18 months as judge of county court 5 . My wife and I have raised and educated our 5 children. I have served on many boards and commissions. I was vice-president of the via board; chairman of the board of St. Leo Catholic School; among the founding members of the World Affairs Council; founding members of the Mexican American Bar Association; I will gladly forward my 3 page resume at your request.
Please list membership and leadership roles in associations and communication/trade organizations and civil philanthropy efforts:	I have a 3-page resume regarding the information that answers this question. Beside county judge and state representative I was the chairman of the board of the Bexar Metropolitan Water District I would gladly send a copy of my resume if you choose.
What distinguishes your legal experience that warrants election to judge?	I have the respect of the judges in Bexar County and other counties. I have the respect of my fellow attorneys. I have always fought hard for my clients; yet, I have always respected the dignity of the opposing attorneys and their clients. I am the only criminal county court at law judge (of 13) that is a democrat but my fellow judges unanimously selected me as the administrative judge for 2016. I am currently serving as judge of county court at law # 5.
What drove you to seek this office in particular?	I applied to be appointed to this court because i have a vast experience and history of service. I have the age, experience, common sense and wisdom to continue to serve our community in my chosen profession.
If you are running against an incumbent, why?	N/A
In 25 words, how would you uphold and maintain the dignity of the court?	Upholding the oath, to preserve and protect the constitution and laws of the us and Texas, and recognizing the dignity of all who appear in court.
What do you think is important for us, as business owners, to know?	My life of service to God, country and community. That I respect all people and know that you cannot have good jobs without good businesses to support those jobs.

NAME:	MERY, Michael E. / Re-election to the 37th District Court
EMAIL:	lrbmery59@att.net
Beyond your formal education, what WORK EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	I am the current judge of the 37th Judicial District Court, seeking re-election. I have served as a judge in Texas for over 17 years; and I have been an Assistant Attorney General of Texas, an Assistant District Attorney of Bexar County, a mediator, and a lawyer in private practice handling a wide variety of cases.
Beyond your formal education, what TRIAL EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	I have presided over hundreds of civil and criminal jury trials and thousands of non-jury trials and hearings. I have also litigated in behalf of my own clients.
Beyond your formal education, what LIFE EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	I am a husband, father and grandfather. I have been married for thirty-three and a half years, and I have four children and two grandchildren. I grew up on the Westside of San Antonio, learned to speak Spanish fluently, and have always been active in my Church and community.
Please list membership and leadership roles in associations and communication/trade organizations and civil philanthropy efforts:	I am a member of the State Bar of Texas and the San Antonio Bar Association. I am a former Vice-president of the Mexican American Bar Association of San Antonio. I served on the Industrial Review Board of the Nix Hospital System and on the Public Safety subcommittee of the County-City consolidation committee. I am a lector and cantor at my Church, St. George Maronite Catholic Church.
What distinguishes your legal experience that warrants election to judge?	As the first judge of Bexar County Court-at-Law #12, I led judicial reform by helping to establish the first Mental Health Court of Bexar County, over which I presided for several years. In 2010, Bexar County Commissioners Court bestowed upon me the title of Hidalgo, the most prestigious civilian award given in Bexar County, in recognition of my service on the Mental Health Court.
What drove you to seek this office in particular?	A passion for service and for justice led me to seek election to the 37th Judicial District Court.
If you are running against an incumbent, why?	I am the incumbent in this election, and I have no opposition in my bid for re-election.
In 25 words, how would you uphold and maintain the dignity of the court?	I will continue to uphold the dignity of the court by listening carefully, ruling wisely and treating everyone with respect.
What do you think is important for us, as business owners, to know?	Growing up with a father and many relatives who owned their own businesses and a mother who ran her parents' grocery store and butcher shop when she was single has provided me with many experiences and special insights into the challenges and problems which business owners face.

NAME:	MOLINA, Linda / County Court at Law #5
EMAIL:	lindamolinaforjudge@gmail.com
Beyond your formal education, what WORK EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	I have consistently worked in criminal law for 16 years. I am a criminal defense attorney, in both state and federal courts, in adult and juvenile courts. I take court-appointed cases, up to 2nd chair on death penalty cases in Bexar County. I also take court-appointed cases up to 3G felony offenses in Guadalupe and Comal counties. I am in court every day on criminal matters. I was an Assistant District Attorney in Bexar County for 12 years. I worked as a felony prosecutor for 10 years. I handled hundreds of cases, from magistrations to grand jury to jury trial. I also supervised and trained junior prosecutors. As an Assistant Attorney General, I defended state felony convictions against Constitutional challenges. I submitted briefs to federal courts. I also litigated evidentiary hearings. Presently, I am on the CJA panel in the Western District of San Antonio for Habeas Corpus. Based on my extensive and exclusive criminal law experience, on both sides, I have the perspective and balance needed to be the Judge of this court.
Beyond your formal education, what TRIAL EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	I have tried approximately 100 cases to verdict. As an Assistant District Attorney, I was in my assigned court every day. I handled contested matters on a daily basis. Those consisted of, in general: pleas to the court, sentencings, motions to adjudicate guilt, motions to revoke probation, bond hearings, motions for discovery, motions for new trial, motions for speedy trial, motions to suppress, and examining trials. In juvenile court, I handled the same kind of hearings, such as pleas to the court and motions to modify probation, but there were some that are unique to juvenile court, such as: detention hearings, hearings on motions for certification and transfer to adult criminal court, determinate sentence transfer hearings, hearings on requests for juvenile sex offender de-registration, and hearings on requests to seal juvenile records. Mixed in with all these were jury trials and bench trials on the merits. I was fortunate to have been assigned to very busy courts. Also, between October 2009 and January 2011, I was assigned to work alongside SAPD and BCSO specialized sex crimes detectives at ChildSafe. As a criminal defense attorney, I am in several different courts, sometimes in different counties, every day. Contested matters are less frequent, but I am still handling the same kinds of cases, trials, issues, and general hearings.
Beyond your formal education, what LIFE EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	Above all, I am a wife to Tim, mother to Miller, daughter to Lydia, and granddaughter to Martin. These people have guided and supported me throughout my life. They have helped create a much needed balance in my life and have helped shape my perspective. My husband Tim is everything. We met at law school orientation at SMU Law School. We have been at each other's sides ever since. He is my husband, father to our child, law partner, best friend, advisor, and live-in comedian. He gives me the confidence to trust my instincts. My 7-year old son Miller has the dubious honor of being the child of two criminal law attorneys. He hears a lot of interesting stories. He chimes in, though, with his own questions. He hears things I don't hear in my telling and he makes me re-think how I'm doing the telling. My 78-year old mother works hard every day and always has. She is an independent insurance agent. Her office, Garza Insurance Agency, has been in business for over 45 years. The best thing about her is that she sees the good in every person. She shows me how to look past the act and look at the person inside. My grandfather passed away at 94-years old. He came to the U.S. in 1912, fleeing the Mexican Revolution. A store merchant and rancher, he saw the world pretty simply and clearly. A man of few words, he got his point across without having to say much. It is what it is. Now handle it. I am also a long-distance runner. I ran my first full marathon last

	<p>year on South Padre Island, at 41 years old. I always say: I may not have strength, and I may not have speed, but I have endurance like you would not believe. I also do not stop.</p>
<p>Please list membership and leadership roles in associations and communication/trade organizations and civil philanthropy efforts:</p>	<p>Concordia Lutheran Church Rotary Club of San Antonio, Member Junior League of San Antonio, Sustaining Member San Antonio Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, Member San Antonio Bar Association, Member Christian Business Chamber of Commerce, Member Alamo City Republican Women, Member and Legal Advisor San Antonio Republican Women, Associate Member Bexar County Republican Women, Associate Member Alamo Pachyderm Club, Member Republican Club of Bexar County, Member</p>
<p>What distinguishes your legal experience that warrants election to judge?</p>	<p>I have a proven commitment to public service and criminal law; I have dedicated my career to it. As a criminal defense attorney, I handle cases, at every level, in adult and juvenile courts, in several counties. My tenure as a prosecutor for 12 years proves my dedication to public service; my work with the Attorney General's Office in Austin does as well. I have handled every type of criminal case, and I have done so at every point in the process, in both juvenile and adult criminal court. I have also received specialized training in trial advocacy, as well as in the investigation of various criminal offenses. You will find I am the most experienced, best educated, and most qualified candidate. I am ready and eager to continue my career of public service in this new capacity. This is not my last stop; this is my first step.</p>
<p>What drove you to seek this office in particular?</p>	<p>I chose to run for Judge of County Court 5, because an effective Judge, who will apply the law as it is written, can help lower the crime rate and slow down the revolving door of repeat offenders. County Court 5 is a misdemeanor court. It hears mostly cases involving alcohol, drugs, DWI's, assaults, and thefts, with sentences ranging from community supervision to one year in jail. County Court 5 is the first step and opportunity for a judge to impress on the offender the importance of staying out of trouble or face a harsh consequence for the offense they commit. It is at this level that a judge can stop the revolving door of crime before it escalates, by rehabilitating the ones we can, and putting the ones that need tough discipline in jail.</p>
<p>If you are running against an incumbent, why?</p>	<p>Presently, the most significant issue in County Court #5 is efficiency. As the Judge of County Court at Law No. 5, I will work on improving efficiency by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a consistent order for the court so both the prosecutors and defense attorneys will know what to expect • Establishing scheduling orders for pre-trial matters and trials with specific deadlines • Working to process cases quickly • Providing speedy resolutions and trials • Treating everyone equally and with the same degree of fairness • Helping create and maintain a pleasant courtroom environment with respect for everyone involved in the process • Being available at all times
<p>In 25 words, how would you uphold and maintain the dignity of the court?</p>	<p>I will work efficiently, and be mindful of everyone's time and schedules. I will treat each person who enters the courtroom and office with respect.</p>
<p>What do you think is important for us, as business owners, to know?</p>	<p>An effective Judge can slow down the revolving door of repeat offenders. County Court 5 is a misdemeanor court. Many of the offenses it hears are the type that affect our business owners, including graffiti, criminal trespass, criminal mischief, and theft. An effective judge can slow down the revolving door of crime before it escalates, by rehabilitating the ones we can, and putting the ones that need tough discipline in jail. This approach and accountability helps protect you and your businesses.</p>

NAME:	PARKER, Laura / 386th Juvenile District Court
EMAIL:	laura.rhame@yahoo.com
Beyond your formal education, what WORK EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	I have over 19 years direct experience in the field of juvenile law, 17 years as Judge coupled with 2 years as a prosecutor in Juvenile Court. I have been Board Certified in Juvenile Law since 2002, and I have presided over more than 29,000 juvenile cases.
Beyond your formal education, what TRIAL EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	As a prosecutor, I tried more that 100 cases to a jury. I specifically tried dozens of juvenile cases to juries, including the offenses of murder, aggravated robbery, and aggravated sexual assault. As Juvenile Judge I have presided over more that 100 jury trials during my career. My most recent jury trial was a capital murder.
Beyond your formal education, what LIFE EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	I am a lifelong resident of San Antonio. I am married and my husband and I have a 15-year-old daughter. I attended college out of state and have lived abroad. I have a wide variety of personal interests including travel, music and sports. I feel that due to the many experiences I have had in my life, I am able to connect with the young people that come before me in a variety of ways and to encourage them to have high expectations for themselves and not be defined by the circumstances that brought them to court.
Please list membership and leadership roles in associations and communication/trade organizations and civil philanthropy efforts:	Juvenile Board Chairperson, Texas Juvenile Justice Board Member, Communities in Schools Board Member, ChildSafe Advisory Council, Impact San Antonio, City-County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, City-County Joint Committee on Truancy
What distinguishes your legal experience that warrants election to judge?	I was appointed to my current position by the Governor of Texas and I have been re-elected 4 times. During my time on the bench I have created several special court programs; Restore Court for adolescent victims of human sex trafficking, nationally recognized Crossroads Mental Health Court for girls, and the Juvenile Drug Court. I have spent the majority of my 24 year legal career dedicated to making a difference in the lives of at-risk and delinquent youth.
What drove you to seek this office in particular?	I was appointed in 1999. I sought the appointment to the 386th District Court due to my extensive prosecution experience in Juvenile Court.
If you are running against an incumbent, why?	I am the incumbent
In 25 words, how would you uphold and maintain the dignity of the court?	Treating the parties fairly and with respect is an important aspect of courtroom management. Proper judicial temperament is paramount when working with juveniles and families.
What do you think is important for us, as business owners, to know?	I am invested in improving outcomes for at-risk and delinquent children. By addressing the needs of justice involved youth, recidivism is reduced and more kids stay on track to enter the work force. It is important for the business community to be informed about judicial candidates because judicial decisions impact our local community.

NAME:	PULLIAM, Jason / Justice, Fourth Court of Appeals
EMAIL:	jason@jasonforjudge.com
Beyond your formal education, what WORK EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	<p>I currently serve as a Justice on the Fourth Court of Appeals. I was appointed to this position by Governor Rick Perry. The Fourth Court of Appeals hears civil and criminal appeals for a 32 county region that covers most of south Texas. Prior to this appointment, I served as Judge of Bexar County, County Court at Law No. 5. I was elected in 2010 and reelected in 2014. County Court at Law No. 5 is a general jurisdiction court. I handled both civil and criminal cases and presided over more than 70 trials. In addition, I was one of a few County Court Judges who heard cases from the Civil District Courts. I heard family law cases and larger civil disputes to assist the Bexar County District Court judges. In addition, I served as Administrative Judge for the County Courts in 2013. Under my leadership, the county saved approximately \$200,000 in indigent defense costs without affecting the constitutionally protected rights guaranteed to each citizen. I also served as a member on the Texas Center for the Judiciary's DWI Curriculum Committee where I worked with judges from around the state to design courses for judges who handle intoxication related cases. For fiscal year 2013, I resolved more than 3,000 cases-that was second most among all county court judges. Also, in fiscal year 2013, I reduced my caseload by more than 450 cases-that was first among all county court judges. According to S.A. Scene Magazine's 2014 Judicial Report Card, I received a score of 94.07 (that was the highest score of any County Court at Law Judge on the 2014 ballot). According to the 2014 San Antonio Criminal Defense Lawyers Association's Judicial Survey, I was the highest rated County Court at Law Judge on the 2014 ballot. In 2011, I was the recipient of SAYLA's (San Antonio Young Lawyers' Association) Honorary Young Lawyer of the Year Award-given to one judge each year. Prior to my service on the bench, I served as a JAG Lawyer in the United States Marine Corps. In 2002, I was the recipient of the Defense Counsel of the Year Award-given each year to the top-rated criminal defense lawyer. After I completed my active duty service, I returned to Texas to represent Texans in criminal and civil cases. As a practicing attorney, I was recognized by my peers in local and state publications for my legal work. I was recognized as an Outstanding Lawyer by Scene in SA Magazine (2009 & 2010) and named a Texas Rising Star by Law & Politics Magazine (2009) – Only 2.5% of Texas Lawyers earn this distinction. I was also named a Rising Star in Scene in SA Magazine (2008 & 2009) My background of serving as a JAG Lawyer, record as a Trial Judge, and my commitment to interpreting the law as written, dispensing justice fairly and impartially, and resolving cases effectively and efficiently qualify me for continued service on the Fourth Court of Appeals.</p>
Beyond your formal education, what TRIAL EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	<p>The docket of the Fourth Court of Appeals is 50% civil and 50% criminal. As referenced in my response to question number six below, I presided over more than 70 trials as a trial judge. As a justice on an intermediate appellate court, I have authored more than 100 opinions. My judicial experience provides me with the unique perspective to appreciate the speed, volume, and demands placed upon a trial court as well as the more reflective, deliberate, and scholarly skills needed to successfully draft opinions as an appellate justice. I am the only justice currently on the court who has (1) tried a criminal jury trial as a practicing attorney; (2) presided over a criminal jury trial as a trial judge; (3) tried a civil jury trial as a practicing attorney; and (4) presided over a civil jury trial as a trial judge. As a county court judge, I managed an active criminal misdemeanor docket. In addition, I voluntarily heard cases from the county court presiding system and the civil district court presiding system. Prior to my service as a judge, I tried civil and criminal cases. As a United States Marine</p>

	<p>Corps JAG lawyer, I was the recipient of the 2002 Defense Counsel of the Year Award (given each year to the top-rated criminal defense lawyer). My legal experience as a practitioner and judicial experience at both the trial and appellate level in civil and criminal law makes me uniquely qualified to handle the cases filed in the court of appeals.</p>
<p>Beyond your formal education, what LIFE EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?</p>	<p>I have faced many challenges in my life that have given me strength and helped me become the person I am today. I was raised in a blue collar working-class family in a rough neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York. Drugs, violent crime, and unemployment were prevalent in my community. Despite the challenges I faced growing up in a densely populated inner city environment, I was able to become the first person in my family to graduate from college, graduate school, and law school. I also faced challenges when I joined the United States Marine Corps. The training was extremely difficult. The obstacles I faced early in life and during my military training prepared me for the demanding life of an attorney. As a young Marine Corps JAG lawyer, I was able to draw on the strength, discipline, and intestinal fortitude I gained from overcoming challenging circumstances earlier in my life to succeed.</p>
<p>Please list membership and leadership roles in associations and communication/trade organizations and civil philanthropy efforts:</p>	<p>I am a member of Resurrection Baptist Church. I participate in the church's Christian Business Network. I am a member of the San Antonio Bar Association. Prior to assuming the bench, I provided pro bono services at the Community Justice Center. I served as an-attorney coach for John F. Kennedy High School for the state mock trial competition in 2008-2009. I have also provided mentoring services at Sam Houston High School. I prepare food and serve the homeless at Travis Park on holidays. I am also a member of the San Antonio Downtown Rotary Club.</p>
<p>What distinguishes your legal experience that warrants election to judge?</p>	<p>As a trial judge, I presided over more than 70 trials. As a justice on an intermediate appellate court, I have authored more than 70 opinions. My judicial experience provides me with the unique perspective to appreciate the speed, volume, and demands placed upon a trial court as well as the more reflective, deliberate, and scholarly skills needed to successfully draft opinions as an appellate justice. I am the only justice currently on the court who has (1) tried a criminal jury trial as a practicing attorney; (2) presided over a criminal jury trial as a trial judge; (3) tried a civil jury trial as a practicing attorney; and (4) presided over a civil jury trial as a trial judge. As a county court judge, I managed an active criminal misdemeanor docket. In addition, I voluntarily heard cases from the county court presiding system and the civil district court presiding system. My background of serving as a JAG Lawyer, record as a Trial Judge, and my commitment to interpreting the law as written, dispensing justice fairly and impartially, and resolving cases effectively and efficiently qualify me for continued service on the Fourth Court of Appeals.</p>
<p>What drove you to seek this office in particular?</p>	<p>I am running for this office for the same reason I originally sought elective office. I have a deep and genuine passion for public service. I was raised to believe that those who have achieved some measure of success owe an affirmative obligation to give back to the community. I believe I have a responsibility to make a positive contribution to society by serving the public. I served as United States Marine to fulfill a duty I believe I owed to our nation. I am driven by the same sense of duty in seeking the office. In addition, the Fourth Judicial District deserves the most qualified person to serve as a justice on the Fourth Court of Appeals. I believe my extensive and diverse judicial and legal experience make me the best qualified person to serve on this court. Lastly, I have established a solid record and reputation at the courthouse as a judge equipped with the skills to handle civil and criminal cases. I believe the citizens of the Fourth Judicial District will benefit from my continued service.</p>

<p>If you are running against an incumbent, why?</p>	<p>I currently serve as a Justice on the Fourth Court of Appeals and I am the incumbent in this race.</p>
<p>In 25 words, how would you uphold and maintain the dignity of the court?</p>	<p>As a current appellate justice and former trial judge, I will continue to treat my colleagues, all attorneys, and all citizens with the respect they deserve</p>
<p>What do you think is important for us, as business owners, to know?</p>	<p>Our community needs judges who know the law and are highly experienced in order to strictly interpret contracts, oil and gas leases, real estate contracts, corporate contracts, insurance documents, and strictly apply the law to these agreements. Strict construction, interpretation, and application of the law to the facts of a case provides community and business leaders with the clarity, consistency, and certainty they need to make sound decisions. Texans want and are entitled to judges who are qualified, experienced, committed to correctly interpreting the law and deciding disputes fairly and impartially. The Fourth Court of Appeals hears appeals that directly affect businesses that operate in the court's 32 county judicial district. The court hears contractual disputes, personal injury cases, oil and gas, commercial, Deceptive Trade Practices Act, and corporate litigation cases. Judges should respect and follow the law as written. Judges should make their decisions based upon existing constitutional law, statutory law, and case law. I will continue to base all of my decisions on the United States Constitution, the Texas Constitution, Texas statutory law, and the decisions of United States Supreme Court, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Texas Supreme Court, and the Court of Criminal Appeals. Strict construction, interpretation, and application of the law provides citizens with a clear and predictable legal landscape. Lastly, as a practicing attorney, I represented business owners (sole proprietors and Fortune 500 companies). Everyone deserves effective, zealous, and ethical representation. I also represented individuals in my practice. My experience provides with a sense of balance that allows me to be completely impartial in deciding cases.</p>

NAME:	SACHANOWICZ, Leslie / 408th Civil District Court
EMAIL:	les.law@hotmail.com
Beyond your formal education, what WORK EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	I have practiced in numerous areas of the law involving a caseload of moderate to high complexity and/or exposure in all phases of litigation. The areas of practice include, all types in all areas of tort practice, developing high profile and complex civil litigation cases involving EEOC complaints, Title VII, insurance, ADA, re-organizational issues, and civil rights at the state, federal, arbitration, mediation, regulatory and appellate levels. My past legal practice also includes serving as General Counsel and Director of Risk Advisory Services for San Antonio Federal Credit Union (SACU), a \$2.9+ B Credit Union with 650 employees, 250,000 members and 20 locations in Texas. As General Counsel, I oversaw Legislative and Government Relations, Internal Audit, Regulatory Legal Monitoring and directed a staff of 20 with an operating budget of over \$2 million. Also, I am a certified mediator and have actively mediated cases in Bexar County.
Beyond your formal education, what TRIAL EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	# State Cases Handled 3,000 plus # Tried to Verdict 20 plus # Fed Cases Handled 80 plus # Civil Appeals Handled 20 plus
Beyond your formal education, what LIFE EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	When I was six years old, my family immigrated from Communist Poland to Toronto, Canada. I went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toronto, making me the only member of my family of four to attend and graduate from college. After graduating from college, I travelled to the United States to continue my education and to be with my future wife, Shannon. When I arrived in the United States, specifically Austin, my assets consisted of my ten speed Raleigh bicycle, a college degree and about \$1,000.00. I continued my education by earning a Master of Arts in Public Administration from the Texas State University and a law degree from St. Mary's University School of Law. During these years, I decided to and make America my home by getting married to my wife, Shannon, becoming a U.S. Citizen, and raising a family.
Please list membership and leadership roles in associations and communication/trade organizations and civil philanthropy efforts:	I have been an active member of the San Antonio community, and have served in many capacities for a number of local organizations including: • Alamo Kiwanis, board member • American Inns of Court, former member • Avance, former board member and vice chair • City Year San Antonio, former board member and vice chair • Leadership Graduate and Steering Committee Member, San Antonio Chamber of Commerce • Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, raised over raised \$75,000, Man of the Year • Los Compadres de San Antonio Missions, former board member • National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU): Legislative Committee • San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce former board member • San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce – Alex Briseno Leadership Graduate • San Antonio College: Government Adjunct Faculty, 20 years • San Antonio College: Adjunct Faculty Council, for member • St. Mary's School of Law: Trial Advocacy Adjunct Faculty Member since 2009 • St. Mary's School of Law Alumni Association, former board member • San Antonio Bar Foundation Fellow • San Antonio Federal Credit Union, former board member and vice chair • San Antonio Social Cycle Association, member • Texas State Bar Pro Bono College • Texas Bar Association Fellow • Volunteer Mediator Bexar County Dispute Mediation Center • YMCA, former board member • Youth leader, Alamo Heights United Methodist Church • Youth softball and soccer coach
What distinguishes your legal experience that warrants election to judge?	Ultimately, the NAWBOSA needs to ask themselves a question. Would they prefer to have legal matters determined by a 25 year lawyer with complex

	business experience and jury trial experience or a 5 year lawyer with limited family law experience and no jury trial experience?
What drove you to seek this office in particular?	I desire to continue my community servant approach and serve the community to resolve cases justly, fairly, and efficiently. I have over 20 years of rich community service in Bexar County as evidenced in my civic activities and community involvement. My goal is to serve the citizens of Bexar County with a commitment to equal justice.
If you are running against an incumbent, why?	N/A
In 25 words, how would you uphold and maintain the dignity of the court?	I would uphold the dignity of the courtroom by respecting all the parties, including witnesses, parties, jurors and the officers of the court, as well as, listening and allowing both sides equal opportunity to present their case without demonstrating partiality for any side. I would also exercise compassion, decisiveness, open-mindedness, sensitivity, courtesy, to people from all walks of life, and a commitment to equal justice.
What do you think is important for us, as business owners, to know?	My past legal practice also includes serving almost 5 years as General Counsel and Director of Risk Advisory Services for San Antonio Federal Credit Union (SACU), a \$2.9+ B Credit Union with 650 employees, 250,000 members and 20 locations in Texas. As General Counsel, I oversaw Legislative and Government Relations, Internal Audit, Regulatory Legal Monitoring and directed a staff of 20 with an operating budget of over \$2 million. This business experience exposed me to complex daily business issues dealing with everything from areas involving contract law, internal audit, governance, board policies, retirement committee issues, insurance and real estate, financial issues and employment issues

NAME:	TORRES-STAHN, Catherine / 175th District Court Judge
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Beyond your formal education, what WORK EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	I am the former Judge of the 144th District Court, also a criminal district court, like the 175th District Court I am currently seeking. I also have former experience as a Prosecutor for the Bexar County District Attorney's Office and a criminal defense attorney. I was a City of San Antonio Municipal Court Judge and Magistrate for 9 1/2 years. I am currently the Deputy Director and General Counsel for the Bexar County Adult Probation Department. My varied and vast experience, has allowed me to see all sides of the criminal Courts. I am the only candidate with 15 years of judicial experience in a 23 year legal career. I am prepared to step into the courtroom on day one and do the very important work of a Criminal District Court Judge. This position requires the discernment, experience and ability to make decisions balancing protecting a community and our families with the ability to determine whether an individual may be deserving of an opportunity to redirect their life. I have made these decisions in the past and am more prepared than ever to make decisions affecting the community and a person's life and liberty.
Beyond your formal education, what TRIAL EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	I have presided over a 100 felony trials as a District Court Judge, from drug offense to Capital Murders. As a Municipal Court Judge I presided over hundreds of cases, as well. I have tried various types of misdemeanors, felonies and a few family law cases while in private practice and while an Assistant District Attorney. Additionally, I have argued several cases in the Fourth Court of Appeals while in the DA's Office.
Beyond your formal education, what LIFE EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	My mother instilled in me at a very early age the importance of hard work and taking pride in whatever you endeavor. As a mother, wife, and daughter, I know the importance of the decisions in criminal courts that affect our community and our safety. I have owned my own business as a criminal defense attorney and I have dedicated countless service hours to our community through various local and national boards and commissions. I have committed my working life to being a public servant and am eternally grateful for the opportunity to give back to this community that has given me so much opportunity. I come from very humble beginnings and have worked very hard to be the first in my family to earn a college degree and beyond, by earning a law degree. Having attended inner city schools and having lived in economically challenged areas of town, I have seen firsthand, how bad choices, drugs and violence have hurt many. I am blessed to have a strong, hardworking mother who always ensured we were safe, that we were making good choices and that we never used excuses as a reason not to succeed. All of this has given me a unique perspective on what can be accomplished.
Please list membership and leadership roles in associations and communication/trade organizations and civil philanthropy efforts:	Currently: St. Mary's University School of Law Alumni Association, Board Member Hispanic National Bar Association, Judicial Council and former Co-Chair and Regional President and Convention Co-Chair for the Corporate Counsel Convention in San Antonio San Antonio Bar Association, member and fellow Mexican American Bar Association, member and former President Texas Bar Foundation, fellow Women's Bar Association, member League of Women Voters, member Texas Probation Association, member Chocolate and Charities, member Healthy Futures of Texas, former board member Commission on Children & Families, former commissioner Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women, former commissioner Citizens Commission on City/County Service Integration, former commissioner City of San Antonio July 4th Children's Parade, Chair 2000-2006 Market Square Commission, former Commissioner Teens in the Driver's Seat Coalition, former member FBI Citizens Academy,

	member Girl Scouts, Latina Advisory former member Hispanas Unidas, former board member HNBA, Legal Education Fund, former board member
What distinguishes your legal experience that warrants election to judge?	I have been privileged to spend 15 years of my 23 year legal career as a Judge. I understand the importance of this position and am committed to ensuring that my decisions are devoid of politics and prejudice. Having already been a Criminal District Court Judge, I am abundantly clear on the huge responsibility that this position holds and I am both personally and professionally prepared. I was fortunate in my judicial career to receive several awards recognizing my abilities and dedication to the bench. I have had the opportunity to teach Criminal Justice classes as an adjunct professor at UTSA and SAC. Further, most of my decisions on the bench have been upheld by higher courts, ensuring that we are not wasting tax payers money by retrying cases. I am often reminded, by individuals that I still encounter who have previously come through my Courts, who thank me for making decisions in their cases that changed their lives. I want to continue that very important work.
What drove you to seek this office in particular?	I am seeking this office because I saw the opportunity to further use my extensive judicial and legal experience to fill a void in the courthouse that will be caused by Judge Roman's retirement. My commitment to the 175th District Court, goes beyond the bench, and extends far into our community as a native San Antonian, who understands our great City and it's many needs and opportunities. As in all things there is room for improvement and I believe that my experience will assist in improving the judicial system and my knowledge of the many resources available in addressing the many needs of the mentally challenged, veterans and trafficked. Understanding also the critical need to ensure that victims are heard and restored; and that families, the elderly and children are protected from anyone that may pose a threat. The seriousness of the offenses that are heard in this Court requires a Judge who has the right experience and a proven commitment to justice. I am prepared to continue my work as a public servant in this Court.
If you are running against an incumbent, why?	Judge Mary Roman, the incumbent, is retiring.
In 25 words, how would you uphold and maintain the dignity of the court?	Upholding and maintaining the dignity of the Court requires judicial temperament that sets the tone for a respectful, efficient and accessible Courtroom. I have been that Judge.
What do you think is important for us, as business owners, to know?	I have been a business owner and understand how hard we all work for what we accomplish. I have seen many business owners enter the Courtroom as victims and it is important to me that they be heard and restored. Also, having had many jury trials, I respect the time of the jurors that serve and run an efficient courtroom to reduce unnecessary delay.

NAME:	TREVINO, Arcelia / 386th
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Beyond your formal education, what WORK EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	I possess a Teacher Educator Certificate at the secondary level for English and am certified to teach at the secondary level with my lifetime teacher certification. After obtaining my degree in education, I worked as a Summer Youth Program Monitor for the JTPA (Job Training Partnership Act) Program and continued working in this position during the summers while I taught English and Reading to Middle school children. As a JTPA Program Monitor, I evaluated whether children were complying with classwork assignments/job duties and that their employers complied with Federal Law. This federally funded program provided children the opportunity to attend school half the day and work the other half during the summer, providing usually at risk children the opportunity to obtain remedial education objectives with tight discipline and structured safe classroom environment and to obtain basic job skills. These children obtained the benefit of education while earning income. I continued in my commitment to work with children and families teaching middle school English and Reading. As most teachers are aware, teaching exceeds pass the school hours and work week. I participated in preparing Individualized Education Plans for children with special needs and tutored my students before school and during lunch time. Further, I coached UIL and track, coordinated after school program activities, and taught Summer School students. As a former teacher at the middle school level, I have firsthand experience with minors as an educator and have the patience, temperament, and experience to address issues impacting our youth which interfere with children's performance in school and conduct.
Beyond your formal education, what TRIAL EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	My law practice initially consisted primarily defending individuals charged with criminal offenses and now primarily family law cases. I have had bench trials and jury trials pertaining to criminal, family law, and civil matters.
Beyond your formal education, what LIFE EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	I consider myself a well-rounded/grounded person. I have worked since the age of about 14-15, essentially since I started High School. At the age of 19, had my first blessing: my first born. Then at the age of 23, I was blessed with my 2nd son. In hindsight, working since the age of about 15, raising my two boys while working and attending undergrad and law school granted me the unique life experience; as a mother, maintained my focus in caring and providing for my boys, and as a teacher, providing my students a safe, strictly structured learning environment.
Please list membership and leadership roles in associations and communication/trade organizations and civil philanthropy efforts:	graduated, Magna Cum Laude, from The University of Texas at Brownsville, in 1997 with a Degree in Education. I was honored by induction in to Phi Theta Kappa: an International Honor Society, Alpha Chi: A National College, and Kapa Delta Pi: an International Honor Society in Education.
What distinguishes your legal experience that warrants election to judge?	My legal experience coupled with my firsthand experience with minors as an educator, distinguishes me from the incumbent and warrants election to the Juvenile Court. With my education, training, and experience, I am qualified for Judge of the 386th Juvenile District Court. Further, as a mother, I understand the difficulties that families face daily.
What drove you to seek this office in particular?	I was driven to teach and practice family law, primarily because of my passion to help children. Juvenile Court is the ideal court that provides the golden opportunity to help children. The goal of this court is to hold children before the court accountable, protect them (while protecting the children not before the court as well as our community) redirect them to education provide those eligible rehabilitation programs, and help those minors who are actually victims.

<p>If you are running against an incumbent, why?</p>	<p>Am running for the opportunity to help children while protecting children before the court and the community through justice, education, and rehabilitation. Am aware that on or about 2007, Texas created the Blue Ribbon Task Force, which prepared a Report, "Transforming Juvenile Justice in Texas A Framework for Action."</p>
<p>In 25 words, how would you uphold and maintain the dignity of the court?</p>	<p>I would respect the court staff, officers of the court, and defendants along with their parents. I would expect reciprocity.</p>
<p>What do you think is important for us, as business owners, to know?</p>	<p>Accountability and education are two primary factors in rehabilitation. As a business owner myself, I would like for minors to be aware that destroying and/or taking private property is a serious offense and warrants more than a slap on the hand.</p>

NAME:	WIEDERMANN, Libby / 175th Criminal District Court of Bexar County
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Beyond your formal education, what WORK EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	I have been licensed almost 21 years and I have spent most of those years working in the area of criminal law, either with the Bexar County District Attorney's Office, as a criminal Defense attorney, teaching criminal law at San Antonio College or UTSA, or as a Bexar County Criminal Magistrate. All of this work experience has been in preparation for me to one day seek a criminal bench. Specifically, most of the 4000+ cases I have handled as a prosecutor or defense attorney have been felonies, which makes me uniquely qualified for a district court bench which only hears felony level offenses.
Beyond your formal education, what TRIAL EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	As a prosecutor and as a defense attorney I have had a lot of trial experience. To date I have tried over 95-100 criminal matters to a jury, and most of them have been felony offenses.
Beyond your formal education, what LIFE EXPERIENCE uniquely qualifies you for this position?	I am a cancer survivor and I battled this illness and chemo treatments while maintaining my private practice and continuing my position as a part-time criminal magistrate. I am tough, I don't give up and I don't let personal matters interfere with my obligation to clients.
Please list membership and leadership roles in associations and communication/trade organizations and civil philanthropy efforts:	Member, Congregation Agudas Achim Synagogue Volunteer, American Cancer Society Instructor, Alamo Area Council of Government (AACOG) Former Board Member, St. Mary's University School of Law Alumni Board Member, (either currently or formerly) of the following organizations: San Antonio Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, San Antonio Bar Association, San Antonio Republican Women, Alamo City Republican Women, Bexar County Republican Women, Alamo Pachyderm Club, Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, Bexar County Women's Bar Association, Texas District and County Attorneys Association (some are past memberships)
What distinguishes your legal experience that warrants election to judge?	There is no fluff or exaggerations on my resume--my legal work experience is real. As a D.A., I handled some of the worst and most difficult cases a prosecutor can handle, including baby deaths, domestic related murders, sex crimes and child abuse. I literally handled thousands of those cases, from intake to jury trial. As a defense attorney my legal experience has been similar to my experience as a prosecutor--I am in the courtroom everyday dealing with some of the most difficult matters that are heard in felony court. I have spent almost my entire legal career "working in the trenches," handling tough cases, every day, in many different courts and in front of many different judges. I am prepared to handle anything that comes before me as a district court judge.
What drove you to seek this office in particular?	I don't believe in running against an incumbent just because they are from a different party. I have been wanting to run for a criminal district court bench for a while, so when Judge Mary Roman said she was retiring, the upcoming vacancy of the 175th seemed like the perfect opportunity for me to run.
If you are running against an incumbent, why?	N/A
In 25 words, how would you uphold and maintain the dignity of the court?	I will treat ALL parties with respect, maintain appropriate judicial temperament, and I will be at work, in the courtroom, every day, making sure cases are heard and disposed of in a timely manner.
What do you think is important for us, as business owners, to know?	I am a small business owner. I also come from small business owners. My parents ran a "mom and pop" fabric business for 29 years in downtown San Antonio. They gave me my strong work ethic and taught me that you do whatever you need to do to keep the customer happy and coming back. My parents often opened the store early or stayed late to accommodate customers. I have carried that work philosophy with me throughout my career. As an Asst. D.A., I often worked late or on weekends to get the job done. As a solo practitioner, it is not uncommon for me to accommodate my clients by

	<p>meeting them after work hours. If elected Judge, I plan to follow that same work philosophy while on the bench. That could mean working late to accommodate a particular witness' schedule or get orders signed because you do what you need to do to get the job done!</p>
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