



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire must be submitted by applicants for consideration of appointment to the Texas Judiciary, this includes consideration of appointment to a district attorney position and vacancies on the Texas Supreme Court.

This form is intended to be completed using a word processing application. Please save the completed document to your hard drive or network, then sign the last page and submit to the Governor's Appointments Office, along with the Appointment Application, photograph, resume, and the State Bar and Judicial Conduct Release form. A writing sample is required for consideration of appointment to the Texas Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeals, and any Court of Appeals.

Name:	
State Bar Number:	Date of Admission:
Court/Office Sought:	

PROFESSIONAL DATA

1. List all federal or state courts in which you have been admitted to practice.	Admission Date

2. Describe your legal education, including activities and honors.

3. Provide your employment history after your graduation from law school, including any judicial clerkships. Include, for each firm or other entity, the entity's name, your area of practice, your length of practice with the entity, the names of supervisors, and your reasons for leaving.

4. For each of the positions described in Question 3, describe the nature of your law practice during that time.

Name

5. What percentage of your litigation experience was in:	
%	Federal District Court
%	State District Court
%	Other States Trial Courts of Record (e.g., County Courts)
%	Federal Appellate Courts
%	State Appellate Courts
%	Administrative Hearings
%	Arbitration

6. What percentage of your litigation experience was in:	
%	Domestic Relations
%	General Civil
%	Criminal
%	Personal injury (plaintiff)
%	Personal injury (defendant)
%	Other

7. Provide the names and contact information of three professional references and/or colleagues who are familiar with your legal career over the previous ten years.

8. Describe five (5) of the most significant litigated matters that you personally handled and give the citations, if the cases were reported. Give a capsule summary of the substance of each case and a succinct statement of what you believe to be the particular significance of the case. Identify the party or parties whom you represented; describe in detail the nature of your participation in the litigation and the final disposition of the case. Please also provide the names and contact information for your opposing counsel in those cases. (If you have been an incumbent judge for more than five (5) years, describe five of the most significant cases tried in your court. If you have been an incumbent judge for less than five (5) years, you may describe either cases you tried as an attorney or cases tried before you as a judge, or a combination of both.)
(1)
(2)
(3)
(4)
(5)

Name

Please answer questions 9-18 in no more than 100 words per question.

9. What is the proper role of the Judicial Branch within Texas's system of government?

10. For the court to which you seek an appointment (Texas Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeals, court of appeals, district court), describe your views on that court's proper role within the Texas judiciary and in relation to the other courts.

11. What role should precedent and stare decisis play in judicial decision-making?

12. Name a judge, living or dead, whom you admire and explain the basis for your choice.

13. Pick a U.S. Supreme Court decision that you think was wrongly decided, and explain why you think it was wrongly decided.

14. What, in your view, constitutes a sound judicial temperament?

15. Judges sometimes face a question of first impression. If there is no controlling precedent that is dispositive on an issue before your court, how would you go about deciding the issue?

16. Under what circumstances is it appropriate for a state court to declare unconstitutional a statute passed by the Texas Legislature and signed by the Governor?

17. Do you believe judges have a role in controlling the pace of litigation? If appointed, how do you intend to manage your caseload to ensure timely resolution of each case on your docket?

18. Have you or any law firm for which you have worked been involved in any lawsuit filed against the State of Texas, its agencies, officers, officials, or employees? If so, please describe the cases and any role you played during that litigation. If listing all such cases would be overly burdensome due to the nature of your practice, please describe the nature of your litigation against the State.

Name

19. List all elective and political offices held or sought. Include opponents' names, election dates, and results.

20. Describe any other political activities (e.g., campaign manager, fundraising, treasurer, poll watcher) in which you have actively participated in the past ten (10) years.

21. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law or holding judicial or other public offices?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, please provide details, including dates.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

22. Have you ever been arrested or charged by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, provide details. (Do not include traffic violations)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

23. Has a tax lien ever been filed against you or your spouse, or have you or your spouse, or companies in which you or your spouse has been a principal, filed for bankruptcy?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, provide details.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

24. Have you ever been sued by a client?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, provide details.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

25. Have you ever been a party in any other legal proceedings not listed previously?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, provide details. Do not list proceedings in which you were merely a guardian ad litem or stakeholder. Include all legal proceedings in which you were a party in interest, and any grand jury investigation in which you figured as a subject.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

26. Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee, or other professional group?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, provide details.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Name

27. Has your conduct as an attorney or judge ever become the subject of sanctions, disapproval, or criticism in any written order or opinion of a court?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, provide details.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

28. Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, cited, or fined for any reason by a regulatory agency?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, provide details.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

29. List all bar associations and professional societies of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices that you have held in such groups. List also chairmanships or any committees in the in the bar associations, professional societies, and memberships on any committees that you believe to be of particular significance (e.g., judicial selection committee, grievance committee). Also list any professional honors or certifications you have received.

30. List all organizations, other than bar associations or professional associations or societies, of which you are or have been a member, including civic, charitable, religious, education, social, and fraternal organizations. Also, indicate offices held and honors bestowed.

31. Cite any legal articles, books, or other published legal writings you have authored. If you are applying for an appellate bench, please attach a writing sample. Include the document in its entirety. And if available, use a document written within the last two years.

32. List the names and locations of any presiding judge, local administrative judge, regional administrative judge, and/or chief justice under whom you have served as a judge.

33. Is there anything in your background that would reflect poorly on the judiciary and/or negatively impact the confidence of the public in the courts of Texas?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, provide details.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

34. Are you current on all Supreme Court of Texas licensing fees, State Bar dues, and lawyer occupation tax?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Have you ever been overdue on any of these?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, provide details.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Name

35. Are you current on Continuing Legal Education?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Have you had any non-compliance in the past?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, provide details.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

36. Have you represented any charitable or non-profit organizations?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, list them, and indicate if you were paid for your services.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

37. Please describe any experience you may have had as a mediator or arbitrator.

38. Please describe any pro bono work you have done, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The average number of hours per year you donated to pro bono legal work over the last five (5) years.• Whether the work was for individuals or an organization.• The nature of the work.

39. Have you ever been licensed to practice law in any state other than Texas?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, please list each state, and provide details if you are NOT currently in good standing to practice law in that state.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

40. Have you ever failed any bar exams in any state?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, provide details.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

41. Have you ever been a member of a racially discriminatory organization or participated in the creation of policies that may be racially discriminatory?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, provide details.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

42. Please list any honors or awards (excluding those listed in Question #2.)

43. Please add any further information that you feel is relevant to this appointment.

Name

IF YOU CURRENTLY HOLD OR RECENTLY HELD A JUDICIAL SEAT, PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

44. Have you ever been the subject of any investigation or proceeding involving your conduct as a judge?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, provide details.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

45. If your name has been included in a "Bar Poll" in the past three years, state the following:	
• Your ranking relative to other judges in your locale.	
• The percentage of "Well Qualified" votes you received relative to your opponent, if applicable.	
• The percentage of "Well Qualified" votes you received relative to the total number of votes cast for you.	

Name

HEALTH INFORMATION

1. Within the last ten (10) years, have you ever been treated for or had any problem or any related condition associated with consumption of alcoholic beverages or any other form of drug addiction or dependency?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, provide details.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

2. Have you ever been treated for or suffered from any form of mental illness?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, provide details and specify any relative medications you have taken in the past five years.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

3. Is there any physical or mental illness that would impair your ability to perform your responsibilities as a judge?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, provide details.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Note:
Any information provided on the application or attached may be subject to the Texas Public Information Act. This means that an individual requesting copies of the information in your file may be provided access to that information.

I hereby certify that the foregoing and any attached statements are true, accurate and complete. I agree that any misstatements, misrepresentation, or omission of fact may result in my disqualification for appointment.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Submit by one of the following:
Appointments Staff (512) 475-2576 fax
Office of the Governor
PO Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

ServingTexas@gov.texas.gov (with scanned signature page)