

Maggie Jaramillo
Presiding Judge, 458th Judicial District Court
301 Jackson St.(mailing)
Richmond, Texas 77469
Maggie.Jaramillodc458@fortbendcountytexas.gov
(832) 471-4905

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Fort Bend County Commissioners Court
401 Jackson St.
Fort Bend County, Texas

Re: Continued Funding for Associate Court Judges

Dear Honorable Members of the Commissioners Court,

As the Presiding Judges of the District Courts of Fort Bend County, we respectfully submit this letter to emphasize the vital role that Associate Court Judges play in the efficient administration of justice and to formally request continued funding for their positions.

Associate Court Judges have significantly contributed to the effective and timely resolution of cases, alleviating docket congestion and ensuring that the residents of Fort Bend County receive fair and prompt judicial proceedings. Their responsibilities encompass a broad spectrum of critical judicial functions, including hearing family law matters, civil cases, criminal law cases and other dockets that require specialized attention and expedited resolution.

The volume of cases in our district courts continues to rise with the county's rapid population growth. Without Associate Court Judges, delays in case processing would increase, leading to prolonged litigation, extended detention times in criminal and family law matters, and a greater burden on parties seeking justice. For example, when District Judges are in trial, they are unable to hear cases on their weekly dockets. Associate Judges have the authority to handle those dockets which allows for the disposition of both civil and criminal cases that would otherwise need to be reset. Associate Judges also preside over civil jury trials from inception to judgment and participate in after hour requests for warrant applications. Maintaining these judicial positions is essential to upholding the quality and efficiency of our court system.

We understand the importance of fiscal responsibility and recognize the county's budgeting constraints. However, the cost savings and efficiency gained through the continued employment of Associate Court Judges far outweigh the financial implications of their removal. The ability to manage growing caseloads efficiently not only benefits the courts but also reduces costs associated with prolonged litigation and delayed case resolution.

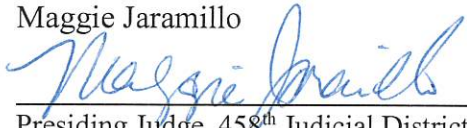
Therefore, we strongly urge the Commissioners Court to continue funding Associate Court Judges in Fort Bend County. Their contributions are indispensable to the fair and efficient

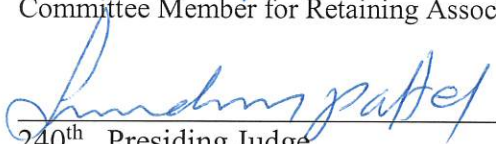
administration of justice, and their absence would have a profound impact on the judicial system and the residents we serve.

We appreciate your time and consideration of this request and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further at your convenience. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or to schedule a meeting.

Sincerely,

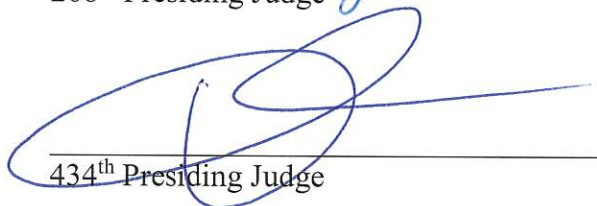
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Presiding Judge, 458th Judicial District Court
Committee Member for Retaining Associate Judges


240th Presiding Judge


268th Presiding Judge


400th Presiding Judge


434th Presiding Judge


328th Presiding Judge


387th Presiding Judge


505th Presiding Judge