

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE May 12, 2026

TO Honorable Members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Nominations  
Paul E. Ridley (Chair), Jaime Resendez, William Roth, Kathy Stewart, Chad West

SUBJECT **Judicial Nominating Commission Recommendations of Full-time Municipal Judge including the Administrative Judge and Associate Judge Positions**

As you may be aware, the full-time Municipal Judges, including the Administrative Judge and Associate Judges, are appointed every two years through a Judicial recruiting process that is conducted by the Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC). The process includes reviewing court operations, accepting applications, conducting interviews, and recommending judges to the City Council Ad Hoc Judicial Nominating Committee.

Recently, the Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC) initiated a review of applicants to appoint judges upon the expiration of the current term. The job announcements were posted on March 23, 2026, and candidate interviews were held on the following dates:

- April 20, 2026
- April 21, 2026
- April 22, 2026

The Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC), as required by City Ordinance and pursuant to proper notice, convened into executive session and interviewed candidates for the full-time Municipal Judges including the Administrative Judge and Associate Judge positions of the City of Dallas. For your reference, attached you will find a copy of the list of ranked candidates and the Judicial Positions Recruitment Process.

Based on interviews, evaluations, and deliberations, the Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC), has ranked in order of preference and recommends to the Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Nominations **(3)** three candidates for Administrative Judge, **(15)** fifteen candidates for full-time Municipal Judge, and **(20)** twenty-four candidates for Associate Judge.

## **Administrative Judge Candidates**

The Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Nominations may recommend **(1)** one of the following candidates for Administrative Judge.

1. Hyattye Simmons
2. Robinson Jr, Preston
3. James LaMarca

### **Full- time Municipal Judge Candidates**

The Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Nominations may recommend **(10)** ten of the following candidates for full-time Municipal Judge.

1. Mark Murrell
2. Manuel Haddad
3. Kristen Kramer
4. Marcia Tillman
5. Brandy Mitchell
6. Emily Worland
7. Amy Gray
8. Demetrius Blacklock
9. Tonya Goffney
10. Amar Thakrar
11. Kevin Brooks
12. Desmond Cooks
13. Edward Jhonson
14. Andrew Novak
15. Jamie Young

### **Associate Judge Candidates**

The Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Nominations may recommend **(18)** eighteen of the following candidates for Associate Judge.

1. Melodee Armstrong
2. Lynn Richardson
3. Jamie Young
4. Kevin Brooks
5. Ashley Moreno
6. Amy Gray
7. Daniel McDonald
8. Alan Rich
9. Erane LaSusa
10. Stephanie Neal
11. Lana Byrne
12. Ashlei Gradney
13. Desmond Cooks
14. Sandra White
15. Christina Jump
16. McClalland (Full Name is Missing)
17. Erin Jackson

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- 18. Stephen McFayden
- 19. Darice Shaw
- 20. Helen Arizor

On Tuesday, May 12, 2026, the Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Nominations will review a report from the chair of JNC, Matthew McDougal, and consider a recommendation for City Council to consider on May 27, 2026. The deadline to appoint municipal judges is August 31, 2026. All judge candidates' applications, resumes, and cover letters, were delivered in a binder to your office on Monday, May 4, 2026.

Should you have any questions or need additional information please contact me at (214) 670-3316.

Service First, Now!



Dominique Artis  
Chief of Public Safety

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- |                                        |                                                            |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, City Manager   | Dev Rastogi, Assistant City Manager                        |
| Bertram Vandenberg, City Attorney (I)  | M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City Manager |
| Mamatha Sparks, City Auditor (I)       | Alina Ciocan, Assistant City Manager                       |
| Biliera Johnson, City Secretary        | Robin Bentley, Assistant City Manager                      |
| Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge | Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer                      |
| Baron Eliason, Inspector General (I)   | Ahmad Goree, Chief of Staff to the City Manager            |
|                                        | John Johnson, Chief of Real Estate                         |
|                                        | Directors and Assistant Directors                          |