



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: September 25, 2012

Prepared By/Phone Number: Elizabeth Montgomery, 854-3124

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: David Escamilla, County Attorney

Commissioners Court Sponsor: Samuel T. Biscoe, County Judge

AGENDA LANGUAGE: Introduction of Elizabeth Winn, Assistant County Attorney, to Commissioners Court.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS: N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: N/A

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES: N/A

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

James W. Collins, County Attorney, 854-9415

John Hille, County Attorney, 854-9513

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE: All agenda requests and supporting materials must be submitted as a pdf to Cheryl Aker in the County Judge's office, Cheryl.Aker@co.travis.tx.us by **Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m.** for the next week's meeting.



DAVID A. ESCAMILLA
COUNTY ATTORNEY

STEPHEN H. CAPELLE
FIRST ASSISTANT

JAMES W. COLLINS
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT



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September 17, 2012

Hon. Samuel T. Biscoe
Travis County Judge
P. O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767

Re: Agenda Request
Introduction of Elizabeth Winn to Commissioners Court

Dear Judge Biscoe:

Enclosed are an original and eight copies of the above-mentioned item. Pursuant to the rules and procedures of the Travis County Commissioners Court, I have reviewed this item and request that you consider placing this on the September 25, 2012, Voting Session of the Travis County Commissioners Court.

If you have any questions with respect to this matter or if I can be of any other aid to you, please feel free to call on me.

Sincerely,

James W. Collins
Executive Assistant

JWC/erm
Enclosure

Elizabeth Hanshaw Winn

Experience and Skills

Texas Secretary of State, Elections Division, Austin Texas

Director, Legal Division (Staff Attorney 1990-1995)

1990-Present

- Serves as Project Manager over Legal Division of 9 employees (including Senior Attorneys plus support staff).
- Provides legal counsel to Secretary of State, Deputy Secretary of State, and Media/Communications Director, Public Information Officer, All Department Heads, State Legislators and their staff.
- Provides legal support to various agencies and organizations: Texas Municipal League, Texas Association of School Boards, Texas Education Agency, Texas Attorney General, Texas Association of Election Administrators, and Texas Conference of Urban Counties.
- Advises local governments (such as cities, school districts, conservation & reclamation districts, and emergency services districts) daily on reducing their litigation risks.
- Assists state and local officials in the implementation of complex federal and state enactments. Past examples include: Texas Accessibility Act (1999); Texas Help America Vote Act; House Bill 1, which resulted in a massive necessity for interlocutory agreements amongst local governments; Senate Bill 100 (82nd Legislature), which resulted in an increase of risk assessment and strategic planning by local entities in the conduct of their future elections, Senate Bill 14 (photo ID laws), and state redistricting.
- Drafts and implements complex administrative rules.
- Provides expert testimony in state and federal court proceedings.
- Assists Texas Attorney General in defense of our agency in election and constitutional lawsuits.
- Serves as subject matter expert before the Texas Legislature.
- Administers Secretary of State's Voting System Certification Program and provide guidance to local entities in their negotiations for voting technology equipment.
- Conducts and leads training for 3,700 local government officials.
- Successfully presented hundreds of continuing legal education courses on Election and Local Government Laws.
- Drafted content for First Generation Texas Online Pollworker Training.

Elizabeth Hanshaw Winn, Attorney at Law, Sole Practitioner

1990-Present

- Develop and implement probate litigation, draft estate planning and real estate documents and provide public presentations on estate planning issues.
- Prepare business organization documentation and provide client consultation on numerous business needs, such as employment contracts, lease negotiations, general business contracts (e.g., covenants not to compete, confidentiality agreements).

Shackelford, Knowles & Strickland, P.C., Houston, Texas

1987-1990

Associate Attorney

Developed and implemented litigation, discovery, settlement and trial strategies in the following areas of law: Employment Discrimination; Consumer Bankruptcy; Real Estate; Wills & Estate; Personal Injury; Workers Compensation; Family; Insurance Defense (represented TEIA); and Commercial Litigation.

NATIONAL SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- *Texas Implementation of the federal MOVE Act*, National Conference of State Legislators, San Antonio, Texas, 2011
- *Update on Lighbourne Decision*, The Election Center, Washington, D.C., 1992

BAR ADMISSIONS:

- Texas, 1988
- United States Tax Court, Houston, 1989
- Southern District of Texas, Houston, 1990

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Leadership Texas, Class of 1998
- Executive Women in Texas Government, Conference Facilities Committee Member
- College of the State Bar of Texas
- Texas Bar Association

LEGAL EDUCATION

University of Houston Law Center, Houston, Texas

Doctor of Jurisprudence: May 1988

Highlights of Honors and Activities:

- Justice, Honor Court
- Advocates, Member-1987-1988
- John Black Moot Court Competition, 1986

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Bachelor of Arts, May 1985

Major: Pre-Law/Paralegal Studies

Minor: Criminal Justice

Highlights of Honors and Activities:

- Outstanding Young Woman of 1985
- National Dean's List
- Who's Who Among American Universities and Colleges
- Best Citizen Award for 1985 at the University of Southern Mississippi

University of London - British Studies Program

- Summer of 1984
- Field of Study: England's Criminal Justice System

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Lone Star Girl Scout Council, Board Member, October 1998-2002
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Beta Psi Omega Chapter, Standards Chair, 2010-Present; Ivy Leaf Reporter, 2009-2010; Connections Chair, 2007-2008.
- Wesley United Methodist Church, Women's Outreach Committee Member, Women's Chorus Member.

AWARDS & HONORS

1997 TOPS Community Service Award; 1997 Nominations Committee for Outstanding Young Americans; 1991 Outstanding Young Women of America; 1994 Who's Who Among Rising Young Americans; 1992 Award of Distinction-Austin Metropolitan Business Resource Center.

PERSONAL

Bilingual Skills - French

Hobbies: Snow Skiing, Community Service, Helping Others Navigate the World of Personal Finance and Investing.