

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Misc. Docket No. 06-9057

ORDER CREATING TASK FORCE ON JURY ASSEMBLY & ADMINISTRATION

ORDERED:

The jury's role in the legal system is critical. Given the importance of its function, the jury must be chosen from a fair cross section of the community, and the procedures for selecting the pool of prospective jurors must be fair and open. Juror source pools must be assembled so as to assure representativeness and inclusiveness, and selection procedures must be thoroughly random.

To assure these fundamental principles are realized in Texas, the Court hereby establishes the Task Force on Jury Assembly and Administration and appoints the following members:

Hon. Manuel Banales	Corpus Christi	Hon. James N. Parsons III	Palestine
Hon. Levi Benton	Houston	Hon. David Peeples	San Antonio
Lori Ann Bodino	Dallas	Hon. Rose Reyna	Edinburg
Kathy Byers	Houston	Hon. Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza	Austin
Hon. Linda Chew	El Paso	Hon. Patrick Rose	Dripping Springs
Hon. Mark Davidson	Houston	Hon. William D. Smith	Stinnett
Hon. David Evans	Dallas	Jack Strickland	Fort Worth
Hon. Terry Flenniken	Brenham	Trey Trainor	Austin
Hon. Dan Gattis	Georgetown	Bill Turner	Bryan
Prof. Lonny Hoffman	Houston	Hon. Alan Waldrop	Austin
Tommy Jacks	Austin	Hon. Jeff Wentworth	San Antonio
Hon. Kelly Moore	Brownfield	James Wilson	Georgetown
Mike Marin	Austin	Hon. Bonnie Wolbruek	Georgetown
Paula G. Morales	Ft. Worth	Judge Ben Woodward	San Angelo
Humberto Ornelas	El Paso		

The Task Force is chaired by Judge David Peeples. Professor Hoffman is designated Reporter for the Task Force, and Justice Paul Green is the Court's liaison.

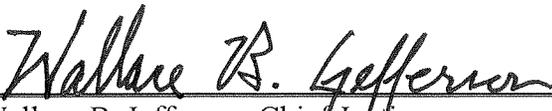
The Task Force is charged with reviewing Texas' rules for summoning jurors, particularly Texas Government Code sections 62.001-.501 and Texas Rules of Civil Procedure 216-36. The Task Force should make recommendations to harmonize the various rules, to ensure that jurors are summoned randomly from a fair cross section of the community, and to eliminate any opportunity for local manipulation which might undermine the integrity and randomness of the process.

In doing so, the Task Force should consider the past work and recommendations of any other judicial and legislative committees that have studied issues relating to jury assembly, the aspirations enumerated in Principle 10 of the American Bar Association's *Principles for Juries & Jury Trials*, published in August 2005, as well as:

- the reliability of the voter registration and drivers license lists that are used for summoning jurors and whether the existing procedures for merging those lists should be revised and strengthened;
- the need for uniform jury plans or a statewide approval process and depository of local jury plans;
- the designation and training of officials who shuffle and randomize juror lists and summon jurors;
- procedures for enforcing summonses that are disregarded;
- the process and recording of juror excuses, exemptions, and postponements;
- the process for randomly selecting and disbursing individuals from the jury room to jury panels in the courtroom; and
- any other issues related to jury assembly and administration.

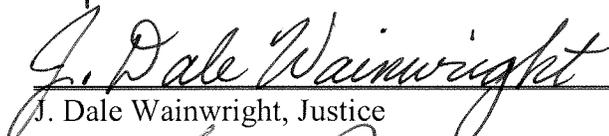
In considering these issues, the Task Force should also consider the extent to which its recommendations should apply uniformly to both civil and criminal cases. The Task Force should submit its report to the Court no later than December 1, 2006.

In Chambers, this 17th day of July, 2006.


Wallace B. Jefferson, Chief Justice

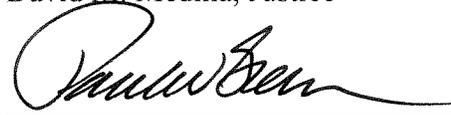

Nathan L. Hecht, Justice

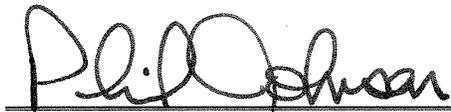

Harriet O'Neill, Justice


J. Dale Wainwright, Justice


Scott Brister, Justice

David M. Medina, Justice


Paul W. Green, Justice


Phil Johnson, Justice


Don R. Willett, Justice