

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
For HB 1761

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Hearing Date: April 9, 2025 8:00 AM

Holland Jones

Self

Garland, TX

Need whole judges accountable for Travis county they are doing nothing in my case my son getting neglected and abuse by the abuser. The system need do better

Scott Singleton

Self

San Antonio, TX

My name is Scott Singleton. I live in Bexar county Texas and I have had my life up, ended by the nefarious probate court to judge Veronica Vazquez, and overzealous and punitive approach to declaring my wife as a ward of the state.

Underneath Kathy Elder, Mary, Werner, william Bailey and the nefarious group of lawyers that operates within the probate court system in Bexar County I have had my wife declared to be award of the state and my estate pilfered from over \$600,000 in the span of six months.

It started with the probate court, super seating jurisdiction of the District Court, where I was proceeding with a divorce petition against my spouse. The probate court you served all authority of our established divorce proceedings, and our willingness to divide our assets then sought and acquired assets I had delivered to my wife to support her during the divorce. And sees those assets spent those assets on services that we did not need AND mandated. We order services as deemed necessary to the court. There are numerous process violations that occurred within the probate court to under Veronica Vazquez, numerous and unchecked expenses greenlighted by her court and unnecessary healthcare services mandated by her court, all without due process. There are so many permanent decisions performed by the guardian of the estate and the guardian of the person to steal money, humiliate the ward criminally persecute the ward and completely pervert the system of justice originally designed within the guardianship process that need to be looked at here. They denied me representation to the probate court for an extended period of time at the onset of their probate court. They falsified and maliciously used hearsay and falsified medical records and committed aggravated perjury in falsifying documents so that the court and the eventual jury had an unnecessary bias on this case.

My demand is that the fiduciary responsibility of the guardian estate is no longer protected by the court, the judge requires more auditing and oversight for her friends charges, especially that of the guardian of the person and the guardian of the state. My petition is also that there is a high bar for medical necessity of mandated care, which was shamelessly applied to my wife. This judge should be disbarred, these guardians of the estate should have all bond revoked and be subject to civil punitive and criminal violations, resulting in disbarment, and the guardian of the person should be written up on human rights violations for the emotional torture and complete perversion of the justice system, and be held liable for all damages to the person and to the estate. All associated judges in probate court who greenlighted these activities should be held and reprimanded formally for colluding with this Cabal of of nefarious, greedy, and perverter of the law and the state of Texas court system.

Jeff McKnight, Judge
Self--Judge 30th District Court
Wichita Falls, TX

My name is Jeff McKnight, and I am the Judge of the 30th District Court. Currently, I am serving my sixth year as the Local Administrative Judge (LADJ) in Wichita County, while serving only my seventh year as a judge. The duties of LADJ often involve significant time and coordination with the other courts to properly perform the LADJ duties. I find that I spend a significant amount of time in meetings with departments.

As LADJ, it is my duty to preside over the Courthouse Security Committee. This duty has led me to speaking with many county employees, meeting with many department heads, County Commissioners and County Judge related to security needs, meeting with the Sheriff's office, and developing Courthouse Security Plans. There are recurring meetings that address new issues and additional needs. These meetings have even recently included planning for additional technology. As the presiding officer of the Courthouse Security Committee, I must address any necessary changes to the security plan, violations of the security plan, and lapses in courthouse security. Currently, Wichita County is undergoing significant construction in the Courthouse. This has resulted in MANY meetings over design and construction as it relates to the courts and security within the courts and courthouse.

Next, I, along with the other judges of Wichita County, sit as members of the Wichita County Juvenile Board. This results in time being spent on the oversight of the Juvenile Probation Department. Additionally, routine inspections of any juvenile processing office and juvenile detention must occur by the members of the Juvenile Board.

The judges of Wichita County spend significant time to develop programs or implement policies that seek to benefit the efficient management of cases. One significant inefficiency we have found is in the issue of competency restoration. Wichita County is in the final stages of creating a jail-based competency restoration program. Judge Kennedy of the 78th District Court has spent significant time away from hearing cases working on this issue. Her efforts, along with many others, will reduce the amount of time a person is in jail awaiting competency restoration services.

These are just a few examples of duties that a District Judge must perform when not on the bench presiding over cases. These duties are matters that often take significant periods of time to address/resolve. As LADJ, there have been times where I find that I have expended multiple days per week in performing these duties. The duties of LADJ or other programs that are created by judges does not stop the number of cases over which we preside; instead these are matters that we address before 8 am, during lunch breaks, after 5 pm, during breaks in hearings and between hearings.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this written testimony to you. I am happy to follow up on any additional information you may need.

Thank you.

Subria Walker
Self
San Antonio, TX

Senior Aiman Subria Walker, pending SECAF investigation, has been retaliated and conspired against for whistleblowing on the coverup up of rape, assault on a service member, conspiracy, attempted murder on her son, medical fraud, being illegally investigated and fraudulently imprisoned, color of law, and child abuse in New Jersey and Alabama while being under investigation with Joanne Bass. I am afraid the interstate organized crime has reached to Texas with Judge Pulliam, who is from Brooklyn, NY. He failed to properly take my case out of state court after filing it in federal court in December of 2024 and put me at a disadvantage by still allowing the state courts to retaliate against me and try to arrest me this past month.

Dale Tromanhauser

Self - Field Service Engineer and alienated Father

Bedford, TX

I am in support of this bill as there is zero accountability or unbiased oversight for the District Court Judges, especially in the Family Courts. They need to be held accountable for their actions and rulings when families are destroyed for their personal financial gain. The system needs to be completely overhauled, but this is a good first step. These individuals rarely face any consequences for their disgraceful and sometimes disgusting rulings. The law is ignored often so cronyism can be observed while kids suffer. The children of Texas deserve better from the family courts. Transparency and accountability are gravely needed with these folks.

Thanks for reading my comments and taking the time to hopefully get this bill passed out of committee and onto the floor for a vote.

Victoria Hernandez

Self

Temple, TX

Good Morning, Chairman Leach, esteemed committee members, my name is Victoria Hernandez, I am here on behalf of myself, and testifying for the bill. Thank you for allowing me to speak in support of HB 1761, and thank you Chairman Leach for proposing this bill. I'm a Texan committed to a strong, fair judiciary—the foundation of our state's justice system.

HB 1761 enhances the Texas Supreme Court's jurisdiction, streamlining judicial processes and equipping our highest civil court to tackle Texas' legal challenges. I fully endorse this effort, but I urge you to look beyond passage to enforcement. The State Commission on Judicial Conduct (SCJC) must not just support this bill—it must actively uphold it.

Texas' judiciary is vast, with the Supreme Court as its civil pinnacle. HB 1761 refines its role, but laws alone don't ensure success. The SCJC, tasked with maintaining judicial integrity, is key. Too often, its enforcement has seemed inconsistent—cases of questioned impartiality linger without firm action. For HB 1761 to work, the SCJC must enforce its framework, ensuring judges adhere to the law.

Passing this bill is vital, but incomplete without the SCJC's commitment. It needs resources and a clear mandate to act decisively—not just react to complaints, but proactively uphold standards. Texans expect a judiciary they can trust. If the SCJC fails to enforce, HB 1761's promise weakens. We can't afford reforms that exist only on paper.

Consider public trust: a refined Supreme Court raises expectations for accountability. The SCJC guards that trust, but it must be empowered—through funding, authority, or guidelines—to match HB 1761's ambition. It's not enough to pass laws; we must ensure they're lived out in our courts.

I support HB 1761 for strengthening our judiciary, but its success hinges on enforcement. Direct the SCJC to uphold its duty with resolve. Let's build a Texas judiciary that's efficient, powerful, and unwaveringly just.

Thank you for your time. I welcome your questions.

Gabriel Chavez

Self

el paso, TX

I support this bill

Angel Reese

Self

Garland, TX

Yes judges should be hold accountable including in Travis county 353rd judges like Jon wisser and James arth that doesn't follow the law and we have complaint about my nephew been abuse and neglect and was kidnapped by the grandparents which was over look. They had sign tro which the allegations was false and gave the abuser power now my nephew tooth is rotting in his mouth because of the judge doing and not stepping in and investigating. Not investigating the guardian ad as well. They need be held accountable in every other county in Texas. Travis county is corrupted and needs to change and stop wasting taxes money on false allegations. If anybody goes along with the abuser they should be in prison with them

Crystal Marchan, Ms.

Self

Dallas, TX

This bill is relevant to my case due the judge acting inappropriately and not considering outcries of abuse of a minor or allowing critical evidence into trial. The courts decision to grant sole custody to my daughter's alleged abuser has had harmful consequences for her well being, health, and safety. Being placed in the custody of someone who has allegedly abused her has made her feel like her pain and experiences were not taken seriously by the legal system. Her trauma has only deepened making her feel isolated, distrusted, and helpless causing her emotional distress. She feels powerless, unsupported, and abandoned by a legal system who has dismissed and ignored her outcries and failed to protect her. This unresolved trauma and being in an unsafe environment has deeply affected her. The court cutting off all contact with her and I for over three years has deeply impacted and damaged my faith in the system. Labeling me as "vexatious" and "frivolous" for believing my daughters outcries and for continuing to fight for her safety due to a recent near death experience & overdose under her abusers sole custody feels like a betrayal by the system making me feel silenced, unsupported, and making it hard for me to advocate effectively on her behalf for her safety and protection. The failure of the court system believing her outcries will have long life consequences on both my daughter and I. Especially if the system continues to fail to address my child's safety .? Given this history, it's evident that the Judges rulings have been subject to significant appellate scrutiny, raising concerns about her judicial conduct and the impact of her decisions on affected individuals. I pray this bill reinforces judicial accountability and brings justice to all victims and families dealing with abuse and lack of transparency from the system.

Dominique Saunders

Self

Garland, TX

For one the judicial is not taking this seriously. Texas itself needs to get all judges in prison for failure to not follow the rules Travis county , Harris county, Bell county, Dallas county etc. Needs to change. Peoples are being false accused's for a lot of stuff and the except the tro with our hard evidence. This need to change you need have hard evidence before proving a tro. Judges needs to be held accountable for taking money from the abuser and being on their side along with the guardian ad since Travis county have hard time believe it. They all should do prison time . Texas needs change a lot of laws because It suck no parent should live like this at all. If judges and others that in the county that doesn't want to do their job locked them up. The commissioner doesn't investigate enough and they should be hold accountable too. We are tired and our kids are being subject as money and abuse it's sad

Morgan Collier
Accountability Matters PMA
Talco, TX

As a proponent of conservative Constitutional values—accountability, limited government, and rule of law—I commend the bill’s intent to discipline errant judges. However, these sections risk legal challenges by straying from U.S. Constitutional principles like due process and free speech. My analysis ensures they remain ironclad, favoring complainants while punishing judicial misconduct harshly.

Section 33.02115(a)-(b): False Complaint Penalties

The current text fines those who "knowingly" file false complaints (\$500-\$10,000). This deters abuse but threatens First Amendment rights to petition, as "knowingly" is vague and lacks process. A complainant could face penalties without a hearing, inviting federal lawsuits. I propose amending it to "maliciously and with demonstrable falsity," proven by clear evidence post-hearing. Cap fines at \$1,000, \$5,000, and \$10,000, adding judge restitution for proven malice. This slams bad actors, protects honest complainants, and shields the law from court.

Section 33.037(b): Suspension for Bail Violations

Mandating a suspension recommendation within 21 days of proceedings for Article 17.15 violations is tough but tramples due process. The Fifth Amendment requires a hearing before stripping a judge’s office or pay. It also undermines judicial independence by forcing the Supreme Court’s hand. Amend it to require a 7-day notice, a 21-day hearing prioritizing complainant evidence, and suspension only on a 2/3 Commission vote finding probable cause, with Supreme Court action in 14 days. This nails rogue judges fast, respects rights, and avoids Constitutional blowback.

These changes make H.B. 1761 a fortress of accountability, unassailable in court. I urge adoption to protect Texas justice and ensure the statutes remain intact after they are enacted.

Jessica Meeks
self, Wife Mother and Homemaker
Temple, TX

I strongly support HB 1761, aimed at increasing judicial transparency and allowing for the discipline of judges by the state commission on judicial conduct. My personal experiences with the court system highlight the urgent need for such measures.

During a CPS case, my children were unjustly removed from my home. I was a safe and nurturing mother, yet the judge, over Zoom hearings, made decisions that were not only unfair but also unconstitutional. The judge was rude to me but not to the attorneys, showing a clear bias. This lack of transparency in Zoom hearings allowed for unchecked judicial discretion.

In one instance, the judge ordered the circumcision of my sons, aged eight and three, despite my objections. I found a urologist opposed to the procedure, but the judge refused to allow him to testify or even appear at the hearing. I requested a second opinion and offered to pay for visits from a list of five pediatricians, but this was denied. I was not allowed to review the medical records that supposedly justified the circumcision, even though my parental rights had not been terminated.

The judge also reduced my visitation rights based solely on the aunt's complaints about the children's behavior after seeing me, without considering the impact of their removal on their well-being. These actions demonstrate a lack of accountability and transparency in the judicial process.

As a mother who has been fighting for her children for five years now through the court system, I can tell you that these courts feel like Nazis, systematically destroying families with their unchecked power. It feels like I'm up against a giant, powerless and alone. HB 1761 represents a glimmer of hope—a chance to stand up against this Goliath and protect the sanctity of our families. Please, for the sake of fathers, mothers and children everywhere, support this bill and help us reclaim our rights and our families. We need to make it very uncomfortable for judges to do wrong. HB 1761 is a step in the right direction towards improvement in this area. By supporting this bill, we can take a crucial step toward ensuring that judges are held to a higher standard and that families like mine are protected from unjust decisions. I urge you to vote in favor of HB 1761 to restore trust and fairness in our judicial system.

Jamie Haynes
Texans Wake Up
Canyon, TX

My name is Jamie Haynes with Texans Wake Up and I am commenting FOR HB 1761. Texas must continue to stay competitive with salaries to hire the best of the best for our judiciary especially since it is a dangerous position.

Steven Denny
self judge
AMARILLO, TX

I am the 320th District court and local administrative judge for Potter County. I've been a felony prosecutor, defense attorney, and a contract justice advisor in Afghanistan.

I'm addressing time spent preparing for hearings, orders and trials. Here's an example from last Thursday on a civil case involving an insurance policy dispute. I read the petition and answers for a total of 30 pages. The defendants each filed a motion for summary judgment. 3 total motions for 4 defendants with one that was 196 pages, one at 230 pages, then the last one for 2 defendants at 83 pages, but we couldn't hear the last one due to inadequate notice. That hearing is reset. The plaintiff filed a response 7 days before the hearing that was 965 pages. That's 1,504 pages read and partially re-read for a 1 hour hearing. That's typical for civil hearings.

Temporary family hearings can have hundreds of pages in filings prior to a hearing which also last about an hour.

I receive many individual documents that appear to be simple but must be fully read before signing the order. Motions for substituted service must have an affidavit or two attached and must show efforts to serve the party before asking for the substituted service. Motions to withdraw must have the client's consent or be set for a hearing. Motions for adult name change must have a criminal history and a fingerprint card. Even what appears to be a waiver of arraignment, which is the simplest criminal motion must be scrutinized because some attorneys sneak notice requests and discovery motions in them. Pro-se or self represented litigants routinely file incomplete documents and rarely perfect proper service.

For reference, on the day of this summary judgment hearing, I did 7 felony pleas and another civil hearing with slightly less filings. I also had to re-take the legislature mandated DPS test to access criminal histories prior to setting bonds. It had questions on it about entering boat motors as stolen by vin and which file to enter a tattooed stolen cow. It's the article file by the way. :-)

I am at work when I am supposed to be. I love going to work. I would go to work on holidays if I had staff there, but I am also at work when I am not at the courthouse. Law enforcement officers often find me eating dinner, during a haircut, at movies, plays and performances while seeking to get search warrants signed. Each is many pages and must be scrutinized and read before signing. They come to my home often enough in the middle of the night that my wife knows to be appropriately dressed if she goes to the restroom.

I support the 30% adjustment recommended by those that studied this in depth. I support turning over the quarterly reports and who must submit them to the supreme court to eliminate concerns of violation of separation of powers and I do not support removing private reprimands without amending qualifications for retired visiting judges. Thank you for all you do to keep our State great! Keep it up.