



## Questions for Candidates for Court of Criminal Appeals Conservative Coalition of Harris County

*This questionnaire will be posted onto the Conservative Coalition of Harris County website for public voter viewing.*

Candidate Name	Position for which Candidate is Running
<b>Lee Finley</b>	<b>Court of Criminal Appeals Place #8</b>

*Please give your answer to each of the following questions and please include your rationale with each answer. Please be concise & clear.*

1. Please describe the qualifications and experience that make you the best candidate for the office for which you are running. What differentiates you from your opponent (s)?  
**Answer: I have 20+ years of experience handling criminal, civil and family law cases in multiple State and Federal jurisdictions. I am a US Marine Corps veteran. I have lived in Texas for almost 30 years. I have degrees in Chemistry, Humanities, Philosophy and Law. I have a thorough understanding of the Texas criminal justice system, obtained from actual, in court, trial experience in front of juries and judges. I have set aside a portion of my time to represent indigent defendants in Texas, with charges ranging from illegal dumping to murder. I also have extensive experience representing Texas defendants with mental health issues.**
  
2. Please describe what you believe are the most significant issues in this race and why.  
**Answer: The most significant issues in this race, and facing the Court of Criminal Appeals are:**
  1. The time the court takes to render opinions;
  2. The recent trend of decisions that have the effect of preventing the prosecution of provisions of the Texas Criminal code and Texas Election Code;
  3. The lack of accountability to the Citizens;
  4. The inability to deliver efficient, effective administration of Justice for all citizens.
  5. The negative opinion of, and loss of confidence in, the Court, created by national news coverage of controversial decisions like the Cesar Fierro case, the Roy Criner case, and the Michael Richard case

3. List the state(s) in which you are or have been licensed to practice law, and the date(s) you received such licenses.  
**Answer: Answer: Texas 2001: Washington 2016**
4. Do you have judicial experience? To what extent have you practiced in the area of Criminal law?  
**Answer: I have not served as an elected Judge. I have 20+ years of criminal law experience. In that time I have represented thousands of defendants.**
5. What carries the greatest influence in your rulings: criminal case law, the Constitution, state statutes, or other?  
**Answer: 1. The Constitutions - 2. State Statutes - 3. Caselaw**  
**The role of the appellate courts is to interpret the law, in light of the hierarchy of laws, of which the Constitutions are the supreme law of their respective territories. The highest appellate court in each jurisdiction, of which the CCA is one, is tasked with not only interpreting the law, but changing or invalidating the law, in appropriate circumstances, including over ruling existing case law based on new statutes or changing circumstances; which is why "State Statutes" comes before case law for the highest court of each jurisdiction and/or subject matter.**
6. What has been your greatest accomplishment in your legal career and/or in your personal life?  
**Answer: The greatest accomplishment in my legal career is helping thousands of people, often in the lowest, worst moments of their lives. The greatest accomplishment in my personal life, together with my wife, is raising our amazing twins, who were born at 26 weeks, and who we were told had little chance of survival.**

BY RETURNING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE, THE CANDIDATE ASSUMES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL ANSWERS TO THIS QUESTIONNAIRE. THE ANSWERS ON THE FOREGOING REFLECT THE CANDIDATE'S BEST EFFORTS TO ANSWER THIS QUESTIONNAIRE HONESTLY AND DIRECTLY.

PLEASE SAVE YOUR COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE TO YOUR LOCAL MACHINE IN THE EVENT THAT THERE ARE ANY TECHNICAL PROBLEMS WHEN YOU ATTEMPT TO EMAIL IT BACK.

Once this questionnaire has been completed, please email it to:

[alex@cchc-pac.org](mailto:alex@cchc-pac.org)

\* **Please note:** You **must** return your questionnaire from the email address to which it was sent. Questionnaires returned from any other email address will be considered fraudulent and will **not** be recorded and no answers will be published in the voter's guide. CCHC-PAC deems a return from the proper email address as authentication of the correct respondent.