



## 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
Alison Fox	Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 3

*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 spent more than twenty years practicing criminal law at the appellate and post-conviction level, with experience that directly matches the work of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

**My qualifications and experience include:**

- Prosecutorial experience handling trials and pleas, providing firsthand knowledge of how records are created for appellate review.
- Extensive appellate practice, including briefing, petitions for discretionary review, and analysis of constitutional and statutory issues.
- Post-conviction and habeas corpus work, including leadership of a Conviction Integrity Unit, reviewing claims of innocence, ineffective assistance of counsel, and constitutional violations.
- Service inside the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals as a chambers or research attorney, where I have drafted opinions, reviewed habeas applications, and worked on capital and non-capital cases.
- Commitment to legal education, including teaching appellate law and mentoring law clerks and young attorneys.

**What Distinguishes My Candidacy**

- Appellate specialization: My career has focused almost exclusively on criminal appellate and post-conviction law—the core jurisdiction of the Court.
- Firsthand experience inside the Court: Few candidates have worked within the CCA itself, participating in opinion drafting and internal case review.
- Habeas corpus expertise: The Court’s most consequential work involves post-conviction review, an area where I have substantial, hands-on experience.
- Balanced perspective: I have served as a prosecutor, appellate lawyer, post-conviction reviewer, and judicial chambers attorney.
- Experience in high-stakes cases, including death-penalty matters requiring careful constitutional and procedural analysis.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals requires judges with deep appellate experience, familiarity with habeas corpus law, and an understanding of how cases reach the Court. My career has been devoted to those exact responsibilities, and I respectfully seek your endorsement based on that experience and preparation.

2. Please describe what you believe are the most significant issues in this race and why.

Answer: One thing that doesn't get talked about enough is the Court's backlog. The Court of Criminal Appeals already carries an enormous volume of habeas and discretionary cases. When judges have to learn appellate procedure and post-conviction law on the job, it slows everything down—and justice delayed is justice denied.

1. Why Experience Matters for Efficiency. This isn't a court where you can learn as you go without consequences. Every delay affects victims, defendants, and trial courts waiting for guidance. I've spent my career doing this work, so I can step in on day one without adding to that backlog. Backlogs erode confidence in the justice system. People want decisions that are careful—but also timely. Experience allows the Court to move cases efficiently without sacrificing accuracy.”

2. Appellate Qualifications Matter. The Court doesn't try cases—it reviews them. Most voters don't realize the CCA never hears witnesses. It decides complex legal and procedural questions. I've spent over twenty years doing that exact work.

3. Habeas Corpus Is the Court's Core Responsibility. This is where the hardest cases live. The CCA is the court of last resort for habeas cases—claims of innocence, constitutional violations, and ineffective counsel. I've handled those cases directly and led post-conviction review.

4. Death Penalty Experience Requires Precision. Capital cases demand restraint, not rhetoric. Death-penalty cases require strict adherence to law and procedure. I've worked on these cases and understand the consequences of getting it wrong. Law enforcement and conservative leaders value order, finality, and constitutional compliance.

5. Inside-the-Court Experience Is Rare. I know how decisions are actually made. No other candidates have worked inside the Court—reviewing records, drafting opinions, and advising judges. I've done that work, and it matters. Endorsers like knowing you understand the institution, not just the title.

6. Balanced Perspective Builds Trust. I've seen the system from every angle. I've been a prosecutor, criminal defense appellate lawyer, director of a Conviction Integrity Unit, and central staff and research attorney. That perspective keeps judges grounded and restrained.

3. Do you have judicial experience? To what extent have you practiced in the area of Criminal law? List the state(s) in which you are or have been licensed to practice law, and the date(s) you received such licenses.

Answer: While I have not served as an elected judge, I have spent more than five years working as a research (chambers) attorney at the Court of Criminal Appeals, performing the core analytical and support functions that appellate judges rely on every day. In my role as a Central Staff attorney at the CCA, I worked closely with all the judges, assisting in the review and resolution of criminal cases at the highest level.

My criminal law practice spans over two decades and includes experience at every critical stage of the criminal justice process:

- Trial-level prosecution, handling cases through plea negotiations and trial proceedings, which provided a foundation in evidentiary rules, record preservation, and courtroom procedure.
- Seven years of extensive appellate practice (in the Bexar County DA's Office as a felony appellate prosecutor and as a solo practitioner), focused on criminal appeals, oral argument, discretionary review, and statutory and constitutional interpretation—the primary work of the Court of Criminal Appeals.
- Three years post-conviction and habeas corpus litigation, including leadership of a Conviction Integrity Unit, where I evaluated claims of actual innocence, ineffective assistance of counsel, newly discovered evidence, and constitutional violations.
- Five years as a research/chambers attorney, where I have:
  - Reviewed trial and appellate records
  - Analyzed habeas applications and post-conviction claims
  - Drafted and edited judicial opinions
  - Conducted in-depth legal research on criminal statutes, procedural rules, and precedent
  - Assisted judges in resolving both capital and non-capital cases
- Five years as a central staff writ attorney, where I reviewed and analyzing THOUSANDS of habeas corpus applications filed by inmates challenging their convictions or sentences, including both capital and non-capital cases and drafted internal memoranda and proposed opinions for the judges of the Court, summarizing the facts, legal issues, and recommended dispositions based on existing law. This work requires the same skills demanded of appellate judges: careful record review, neutral legal analysis, respect for precedent, and disciplined application of the law.

I want to point out to the CCHC that NONE of my opponents have ANY post-conviction criminal appellate experience.

4. What carries the greatest influence in your rulings: criminal case law, the Constitution, state statutes, or other?

Answer: What will carry the greatest influence in my rulings is the Constitution and the statutes as written by the Legislature. A judge's role is not to rewrite the law to achieve a preferred outcome, but to apply it faithfully and consistently. I do not believe in legislating from the bench. Judicial restraint, respect for separation of powers, and adherence to precedent are essential to maintaining public trust in the courts.

Judicial restraint and stare decisis are essential to the rule of law. Courts exist to interpret and apply the Constitution and statutes as written—not to impose personal policy preferences or legislate from the bench. Respect for precedent promotes stability, predictability, and public confidence, allowing citizens, law enforcement, and trial courts to rely on settled law.

At the same time, precedent is not superior to the Constitution or the Legislature's enactments. When a prior decision clearly conflicts with constitutional text or statutory law, a judge has a duty to correct that error, not entrench it. My approach is grounded in restraint, fidelity to the law as written, and respect for the separation of powers—principles I have applied throughout my career in criminal appellate and post-conviction practice.

I am the only candidate with extensive experience in criminal appellate and post-conviction law and direct experience inside the Court of Criminal Appeals, reviewing records, analyzing habeas corpus applications, and drafting opinions. That experience matters. It ensures decisions grounded in the law as written—not in personal policy preferences—and allows me to serve on day one without a learning curve that would delay justice.

5. How will technological advancements (such as AI, digital Court Hearings, etc.) impact the criminal court system over the next few years? What issues should the public be aware of?

Answer: Criminal law is rapidly evolving alongside technological and scientific advances, and appellate courts are increasingly called upon to address issues that did not exist even a decade ago. Modern cases now routinely involve cell-phone extraction data, geofence and location-tracking warrants, digital forensics, surveillance technology, and emerging scientific evidence, all of which raise complex Fourth Amendment, evidentiary, and reliability questions. I have worked directly on cases involving these technologies, analyzing how existing constitutional principles apply to new investigative tools and how courts should evaluate novel forms of evidence. Staying current in this area is essential to maintaining both public safety and constitutional protections, and I make a point of continuing legal education on these developments. In fact, I will be speaking in February to the National Rifle Association specifically on technological advances in criminal law and their impact on courts, demonstrating my ongoing engagement with these critical, forward-looking issues. This is another important distinction between me and my opponents: I don't just practice appellate law, I am asked to teach it to other lawyers.

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.

# REAL EXPERIENCE MATTERS.

## CANDIDATE COMPARISON CHART

CANDIDATE NAME	ALISON FOX	OPPONENT 1	OPPONENT 2	OPPONENT 3
CRIMINAL DIRECT APPEALS	74	0	0	0
ORAL ARGUMENTS BEFORE COURTS OF APPEALS	4	0	0	0
POST-CONVICTION WRITS	4000+	0	0	0
YEARS IN DISTRICT ATTORNEY APPELLATE & CIU DIVISIONS	7+	0	0	0
YEARS AT THE TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS	9+	0	0	0

Numbers verified from running candidate names in TAMES, Westlaw, and LexisNexis on 10.28.2025.

## Alison Fox Endorsements

### Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 3

#### **Endorsements:**

- Abby Johnson
- Texas Right to Life
- Jack Skeen, Jr.
- Kingwood Tea Party
- South 7 Meet-up Club

**Recommended by** Montgomery County Tea Party

#### **Campaign Links:**

**Website:** [Alison Fox Website](#)

**Facebook:** [Fox for Judge](#)

**Instagram:** [Alison Fox for Judge](#)