



## 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
Brent Coffee	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.

- 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 dedicated my career to serving our criminal justice system. I was recruited by the Texas Attorney General's Office to prosecute election & voter fraud crimes in the Election Integrity Division. I am the only one in this race who has that type of knowledge and expertise.**

**I began my legal career in San Antonio and was a prosecutor at the Bexar County District Attorney's Office where I prosecuted and handled cases up to first degree felonies. This court reviews what occurs at the trial court level and that experience brings a needed perspective to the Court.**

**I am accustomed to handling high case loads and dockets, and will be able to effectively and efficiently manage the workload this Court maintains.**
- Please describe what you believe are the most significant issues in this race and why.

**Answer: The most significant issues are two-fold. First, is the need to have at least one justice on the Court who has experience prosecuting and dealing with election crimes. This is a specialized area of the law few lawyers have expertise in. I am one of those lawyers.**

**Second, there needs to be a concerted effort to move through cases efficiently without undue delay in issuing rulings. Texans deserve a court system that is working diligently to resolve matters before the Court.**

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 do not have judicial experience, I believe I have more courtroom experience and more trial by jury experience than any candidate in the race.

I have been licensed in Texas since May 2011 and have spent the vast majority of that time in criminal law. Most of these years have been spent on the prosecution side of the table but also some time on the defense side, and I am able to bring a balanced view to the court when listening to both sides, which is important for a justice to have.

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

**Answer: Judicial philosophy. This is what is most important, especially for a court at this level. As a lawyer who is an Originalist in the vein of the late Justice Antonin Scalia and Judge Robert Bork, the approach a judge takes to the Constitution, statutes, as well as case law, will differ from a judge who takes the view that the Constitution and law are “living documents” that evolve at the whims of judges, which some would call “legislating from the bench.”**

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: Time will tell in this area as AI programs continue to develop. One of the challenges will be the handling of evidence presented in court created by AI and identifying it as such.**

**The right to trial by jury and the right to face your accusers in court are not affected by advances and technology. Any shift away from that system would be unconstitutional.**

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.