



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
Lesli Fitzpatrick	TX Court of Criminal Appeals, PI 3

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

1.

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: Twenty years of felony prosecution and defense courtroom experience, extensive state and federal appeal experience. Unlike all my opponents, I have experience on both sides of the scales of justice which gives me a balanced perspective of the law along with extensive state and federal appeal experience.

2.

2.	Please describe what you believe are the most significant issues in this race and why.
	Answer: The efficiency of this court needs to be reviewed. Ten years ago, an opinion was issued in 200 days. Now it takes over 500 which has a negative effect on all stakeholders.

3.

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: I have no judicial experience. I do have 20 years of criminal law experience prosecuting and defending felony crimes with dozens of jury trials. I currently work at TDCJ and handle appeals. Licensed in TX since May 1, 2001.

4.

4.	What carries the greatest influence in your rulings: criminal case law, the Constitution, state statutes, or other?
	Answer: I think whatever law is in question needs to be reviewed. I think they are all equally important.

5.

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: The new technology advancements can be used to enhance the speed of delivery of opinions, the movement of dockets and hearings in this court.

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

* **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.

Lesli Fitzpatrick Endorsements

I am the law-and-order judicial candidate in this race. I have been endorsed by the Combined Law Enforcement Association of Texas or CLEAT, the Texas Municipal Police Association or TMPA, the Houston Police Officer's Union, the Houston Police Organization of Spanish Speaking Officers, the Sheriffs in Lubbock, Midland, Ector, Tom Green, Denton, Williamson, Goliad and Galveston Counties. I currently live in Williamson County so along with the Sheriff I have also received the endorsements of the Williamson County Constables Paul Leal, Kevin Wilkie, and Jeff Anderson. I have also received the endorsements of Senator Kevin Sparks, Senator Charles Schwertner and Senator Pete Flores. I have received the endorsement of State Representatives Brad Buckley, Richard Hayes, Ben Bumgarner, Col. Terry Wilson (ret.), and Carrie Isaac. Tom Maynard, State Board of Education, District 10 has endorsed me too. I have attached a one-pager about me and my race for your use as well as my resume for your review.

My website is <http://www.Lesliforjudge.com>

My Facebook political page is [Lesli Fitzpatrick FaceBook Page](#)

LESLI R. FITZPATRICK

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Summary of Qualifications

Accomplished attorney with a strong background in Federal, State and County government and private practice, with over three years' experience in the prosecution of misdemeanor and felony crimes, with nearly fourteen years' experience representing clients charged with federal/state misdemeanor and felony crimes, with nearly seven years combined experience at the Texas General Land Office, Texas Senate, and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, who works well under pressure and with many different County, State and Federal agency constituents. Licensed to practice before all Texas State Courts and the United States Federal District Court for the Western District of Texas.

Professional Experience

Texas Department of Criminal Justice

March 2023 to the present

Director of Special Litigation – Office of General Counsel

- Oversees the activities of staff within the Special Litigation section; plans and organizes special litigation activities for agency civil cases; reviews laws, rules and regulations affecting agency operations and administration; provides legislative consultation, guidance and analyses; provides legal advice on policy decision making and identifies appropriate legal solutions; advises on the interpretation, application, and enforcement of agency laws and regulations, assists in the strategic planning process; develops, implements, coordinates, and evaluates policies, procedures, goals, and objectives; and ensures compliance with laws pertaining to the various program areas located within the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.
- Interacts with the Office of Attorney General on high-profile, post-conviction litigation involving the agency; monitors litigation impact on policies and procedures; oversees the preparation of litigation summary reports providing litigation case statistical information, progress and judgment; and coordinates management review of settlement activities;
- Drafts and reviews legal opinions, briefs, documents, reports and responses; and assists in the preparation, development, and review of legislation and assists in developing the agency's position regarding legislative impact.
- Supervises the work of others; identifies staff development and training requirements.

The Law Office of Lesli R. Fitzpatrick

June 2011 – March 2023

Solo Practitioner

- Managed all aspects of a criminal justice law firm, including scheduling, interviewing clients, court appearances, motion practice, discovery, pre-trial, trial planning and trials in Municipal, County, District and Federal Courts across Central Texas.
- Represented clients with mental health (MH) issues in criminal matters, advocated for clients on the MH Judicial Diversion Docket, and acted as a criminal justice Attorney on the felony Williamson County MH Docket Multidisciplinary Team.

Texas Senate Office of Engrossing and Enrolling

January 2011 – July 2011

Legal Professional

- Responsible for the technical and legal review of bills at all stages of the legislative process filed by Texas Senators during the 82nd Legislative Session.

Texas General Land Office
Staff Attorney

July 2007 - November 2010

- Designated Public Information Officer that handled hundreds of requests for public information.
- Wrote many letter briefs to the Office of Attorney General regarding possible exceptions under the PIA.
- Acted as the Open Meetings Act attorney for the agency and enforced the OMA at all Board meetings.
- Coordinated rule making/rule review processes including scheduling/training of lawyers and agency staff.
- Civil Litigation Coordinator for the agency representing the GLO at all civil court matters in the State.
- Legislative experience, including reviewing, analyzing, making determinations and tracking potential bills.
- Selected as Employee of the Quarter in September of 2009.

IE Discovery, Inc.
Legal Document Reviewer

December 2006 – June 2007

- Reviewed hundreds of legal documents subject to a discovery request in a pending federal lawsuit.

Ector County District Attorney's Office
Assistant District Attorney

April 2005 – May 2006

- Reviewed pending felony crimes against children and felony sex crime cases on intake.
- Presented cases year-round to the grand juries for indictment.
- Worked with district attorney investigators to coordinate witnesses and evidence for trials.
- Interviewed witnesses, victims, experts and the police in preparation for trial.
- Served as lead prosecutor in several felony jury trials.
- Eight weeks into this job, I prosecuted my first felony offense against a defense lawyer who had been to trial over 200 times. The jury convicted the defendant.
- Six months into this job, I prosecuted an aggravated sexual assault of a child. The jury gave the defendant life in prison.

The Law Office of Lesli R. Barber
Solo Practitioner

June 2003 – April 2005

- Managed all aspects of a criminal justice law firm, including scheduling, interviewing clients, court appearances, motion practice, discovery and trial planning in County, State and United States Federal Courts.
- Certified in guardianship law and represented clients in guardianship matters.
- Represented children in Child Protective Service and Juvenile Law matters.
- Represented State parolees in parole revocation matters.

Ector County Attorney's Office
Assistant County Attorney

May 2001 – June 2003

- Reviewed pending misdemeanor cases on intake.
- Presented misdemeanor plea offers to charged defendants during arraignments.
- Assisted the County Court at Law Judges with pre-trial hearings.
- Worked with county attorney investigators to coordinate witnesses and evidence for trials.
- Interviewed witnesses, victims, experts and the police in preparation for trial.
- Served as lead prosecutor in over twenty jury trials.
- Updated and revised the Ector County Sexually-Oriented Business Ordinance.

Williamson County DWI/Drug Court Team

Evaluator/Statistician
Specialty Court Coordinator

August 2011 – February 2017
February 2017- February 2019

Attended weekly/bi-weekly DWI/Drug Court team meetings to staff new clients and review active participant's progress. Attended weekly/bi-weekly DWI/Drug Court dockets and participated as a team member. Attended the DWI Court Training Operational Tune Up, presented by The National Highway Traffic Safety and in collaboration with the National Center for DWI Courts, 2015. Attended TADCP Annual Drug Court Training Conferences, presented by the Texas Association of Drug Court Professionals, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, and 2013. DWI Court Team Conference, presented by the Texas Center for the Judiciary, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013. Attended the DWI College, presented by the Texas Center for the Judiciary, 2018, 2015, 2014, and 2013.

Awards: The Williamson County DWI/Drug Court Team received the Texas Center for the Judiciary Spotlight on Success Award for Outstanding DWI Court Team in 2018 and the Texas Association of Specialty Courts Ruben G. Reyes Outstanding Specialty Court Team.

Education

South Texas College of Law, Houston, Texas
Doctorate of Jurisprudence

August 1997 - May 2000

I received a Dean's Merit Scholarship upon enrollment. I served as an Intern on the First Court of Appeals where I drafted legal memorandums for the Appellate Justices. I also worked as a Legal Research Assistant to Professor Elaine Carlson where I proof read and edited one volume of her Texas Civil Procedure Treatise manuscript for printing. And I served on the Houston Bar Association where I worked with the Juvenile Justice Mock Trial Program as a Law Student Facilitator. I was selected as the Board of Advocates Officer of the Year 1999 – 2000 and Who's Who of American Law Students 2000. I was the first recipient of the Shea Lynn Maloney Memorial Award in my last semester of law school in 2000.

Baylor University, Waco, Texas
Master of Arts – Sociology

August 1995 – May 1997

I was awarded a full ride in 1995 to obtain my Master's degree with a Graduate Fellowship and Stipend. I worked as a Teaching Assistant for the Chair of the Baylor Sociology Department.

University of Texas – Permian Basin, Odessa, Texas
Bachelor of Arts – Sociology, minor in Business Management

August 1992 - August 1994

I graduated with honors receiving the designation of Cum Laude. I was selected as an Outstanding Student Leader Nominee in 1994. I served on the UTPB Student Senate while working on my degree. I was selected as an Outstanding Alumni Nominee in 2006.

Current Professional Organizations

Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health (JCMH) Collaborative Council Member 2018 to the present, JCMH Substance Use Disorder Committee Member 2024 to the present.
State Bar College of the State Bar of Texas, Member 2013 to 2021, Fellow 2022 to the present.
Austin Bar Association Member 2023 to the present.

LESLI Fitzpatrick



REPUBLICAN *for* JUDGE
Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 3

Balanced. Conservative. Constitutionalist.

A fifth-generation Texan, Lesli R. Fitzpatrick currently serves the State of Texas as Director of Special Litigation for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Office of General Counsel. During her tenure with TDCJ, Lesli has first-hand legal knowledge of the Texas prison system that will serve her well as your next Texas Court of Criminal Appeals Judge. Prior to working at TDCJ, Lesli worked as a criminal prosecutor with dozens of jury trials under her belt. Previously, she owned and operated The Law Office of Lesli R. Fitzpatrick for over a decade. As a solo practitioner she predominately practiced criminal law in Williamson, Travis, Hays, and Bell Counties representing hundreds of clients charged with misdemeanor and felony crimes.

Lesli graduated with honors from The University of Texas of the Permian Basin with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. She then went on to Baylor University and graduated with a Master of Arts in Sociology. Lesli received her Juris Doctorate degree from South Texas College of Law.

Lesli has been a member of the State Bar of Texas since 2001. In 2013 Lesli became a member of the College of the State Bar and in 2022, Lesli became a Fellow of the College of the State Bar. Lesli is the former Vice-President of the Texas Association of Specialty Courts (TASC) and former TASC Director from 2018-2021. Since its inception in 2018, Lesli has served on the Collaborative Council for the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health which was created by the Texas Supreme Court and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

Lesli has spent over three-fourths of her legal career dedicated to practicing criminal law. Since the Texas Court of Appeals is the court of last jurisdiction for criminal cases, Lesli's broad and wide experience has prepared her to serve on this appellate bench. And because Lesli has worked on both sides of the law as a prosecutor and a criminal defense attorney, she has a balanced view of the law, which will serve her well in reviewing cases on appeal in this court.



For More Information visit: LesliForJudge.com