



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
JENNIFER BALIDO	COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS, PLACE 9

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

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| <p>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)?</p> |
| <p>Answer: In my over 34 years in criminal justice, I have served as a criminal district judge three times, a prosecutor, and a criminal defense attorney. I have participated in over 140 jury trials as an attorney and approximately 40 jury trials as a judge. I have also authored approximately 40 appeals or post-conviction writs of habeas corpus. I have trial and appellate death penalty experience. Every day as a felony trial court judge I apply the law as written to the facts of the cases before me—there is no question what kind of judge I will be; you can see what kind of judge I am.</p> |

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

Answer: This court is the most important court that no one knows about, until the court makes a decision that makes headlines. This court has the power to change the law in the decisions it makes and the opinions it writes. Texans need to be confident that the judges they elect to this court will be dedicated to apply the law AS WRITTEN and not expand the law with language and applications that were not intended by the authors of the legislation or framers of the US or Texas Constitutions. A lion's share of the work this court does is in the realm of post-conviction writs of habeas corpus. Many times, the state and defense agree to finding of fact and conclusions of law in the trial court, and the trial court signs off on the agreed findings and recommends to the CCA that relief should be granted. If the CCA agrees with the findings of fact and conclusions of law, they are now precedent that must be followed. The CCA must diligently examine these agreed cases to make sure that the nuanced findings do not change the law or affect other cases with similar issues. I have also noticed that in some recent opinions, it seems that the court decides what it wants to hold and then writes around the issues and the applicable law to justify its decision. That is judicial activism. A proper analysis starts with the federal and state constitutional provision, moves to the statute passed by the legislature, and then looks to how the law was applied to the facts in that particular case.

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 am currently a criminal district judge in Dallas County, appointed by Governor Abbott in January, 2025. I was appointed to the criminal district court bench twice before by Governor Perry. Since joining the Dallas County DA's Office in October 1992, I have practiced trial and appellate criminal law, first as a prosecutor, then as a public defender and private criminal law practitioner, and then as a judge. I also was Chief of the Appellate Division of the Dallas County DA's Office. I served on the City of Dallas Judicial Selection Committee for 6 years and evaluated judicial candidates on the Dallas Bar Association's Committee for a Qualified Judiciary. I was licensed to practice law by the State Bar of Texas in May, 1991.

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

Answer: The US Constitution carries the greatest influence in my rulings, then the Texas Constitution, state statutes, and finally the criminal case law.

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: AI can never replace the human brain, heart, and soul, and those who use AI to the exclusion of human input do so at their peril. AI is a useful tool to start research, but it cannot and should not be used to the exclusion of research. The legal system cannot rely upon the legal conclusions that an AI tool espouses. Already, you are seeing courts ordering attorneys certify that they did not rely on AI for the legal arguments they make in written motions.

I like the use of digital hearings to open the courthouse to more public scrutiny, but courts need to make sure that the solemnness of the hearing is not jeopardized by the digital nature. Because of the right to confrontation guaranteed by the Constitution, very few criminal hearings can utilize digital tools, but some preliminary matters can be handled by Zoom or Teams. Victims, defendants, family members, attorneys, court staff, and judges need to maintain the dignity that a courtroom provides and demands. The Court also should disable the comment function of any streaming platform during a court hearing. The commentary from the viewing public too easily affects the actions of those participating in the hearing, and the hearing itself should not be affected by comments posted in real time.

I have also seen the physical evidence available in criminal cases grow exponentially in my 34 years in criminal law. When I first started at the DA's Office, a murder case might have a police report, a written statement from the victim, the witnesses, or the defendant, and maybe a couple of physical exhibits. Now, a criminal case will routinely include call detail reports from the 911 center, video from surrounding businesses or light pole cameras, videos from body cameras and car cameras from all responding officers, audit trails from all videos, metadata contained in videos and photos, GPS data from vehicles or phones, terabytes of information from cell phones (including Instagram, Facebook, or whatever app of the moment), DNA, contact DNA, and the list goes on and on. A simple felony case may have 75 pieces of digital evidence; a murder case may have 750. The DA and the defense attorney assigned to the case must review all of this evidence to determine whether the evidence is exculpatory or inculpatory. The storage of digital media evidence by the attorneys, the court reporters, and the court's clerk, and its transfer to the appellate court is also problematic, as converting the evidence to a format used by the appellate court may cause the destruction of metadata contained in the program of the exhibit, which inherently changes the evidence. When I was Chief of the Appellate Division at the Dallas County DA's Office, the appellate court ordered us to convert terabytes of cell phone data downloaded to a blue-ray disc to another digital format because the appellate court did not have a blue-ray player. We explained to the court the potential for metadata loss, and an alternative plan was devised. There are exhibits (mostly cell phones) that take months and sometimes years to access and download because the passcode is unknown to the law enforcement agency. Obviously, this is an ongoing challenge, as the digital world changes almost daily.

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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.

JENNIFER BALIDO

3887 PRINCESS LANE, DALLAS, TEXAS 75229 214-697-9419 JBALIDO@AOL.COM

REPUBLICAN CREDENTIALS:

Appointed Judge of Criminal District Court #1 of Dallas County
(appointed by Governor Greg Abbott)

Appointed Judge of 291st Judicial District Court (appointed by
former Governor Rick Perry)

Appointed Judge of 203rd Judicial District Court (appointed by
former Governor Rick Perry)



Victory 2000, 2002, 2004, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014 Phone Bank; Bush-Cheney Strike Force
Congressman Pete Sessions Campaign Strike Force

Republican National Convention: New York City—Guest of Delegate

Republican State Conventions: San Antonio, Dallas, Ft. Worth, Houston--Delegate

Republican 26th and 5th Congressional Conventions--Delegate, Sgt. at Arms

Republican 8th Senatorial District Conventions--Delegate, Rules Committee, Sgt. at Arms

Republican Precinct 1118 and 1140 Conventions--Delegate

George W. Bush Election Eve Campaign Event—Volunteer

Bush Precinct Captain—Precinct 1118

Preston West Republican Women's Club—Current Member, former Treasurer

Park Cities Republican Women's Club—former Vice-President of Programs

Dallas Republican Career Women—former Member, former Minority Outreach Chair

Bentwood Republican Women's Club—former Member

Dallas Pachyderm Club—former Member

Served as Election Clerk twice in Republican Primary

JENNIFER BALIDO

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EXPERIENCE:

Judge, Criminal District Court #1 (Current Position)

Appointed by Governor Greg Abbott; presiding over a docket of approximately 4000 felony criminal offenses from low-level drug cases to capital murder

Judge, 291st Judicial District Court

Appointed by Governor Rick Perry; presiding over a docket of approximately 2500 felony criminal offenses from low-level drug cases to capital murder; highest number of dispositions in FY 2014

Judge, 203rd Judicial District Court

Appointed by Governor Rick Perry; presiding over a docket of approximately 2500 felony criminal offenses from low-level drug cases to capital murder; lowest cost per disposition in FY 2010

Dallas County District Attorney's Office

Appellate Division Chief

Supervision of 20 attorneys handling appeals and post-conviction litigation in 17 felony and 12 misdemeanor courts; advisor to elected Criminal District Attorney on law and policy; trial support; training of prosecutors and investigators

Administrative Chief

Supervision of the Financial Services Department, Budget, Support Staff, Animal Cruelty Unit, Victim Witness Services, and response to Open Records Requests

Felony Court Chief, Trial Division

Supervision and execution of felony docket of approximately 2500 cases; supervision of two felony prosecutors and criminal investigator; research and investigation of felony cases; tried over 90 felony and misdemeanor jury trials including capital murder, murder, aggravated robbery, kidnapping, business fraud, securities fraud, white collar crime, public integrity, family violence, and all levels of narcotics and theft cases

Appellate Division Attorney

Sole responsibility for the investigation, preparation and presentation of State's response to applications for post-conviction writs of habeas corpus in capital murder/death penalty cases

Dallas County Public Defender's Office

Felony Court Public Defender

Representation of indigent defendants charged with felony in state court; pre-indictment and pre-trial investigation; participated in 30 jury trials and numerous bench trials; advised and sat second-chair to less experienced felony attorneys; appointed as Special Prosecutor in first-degree felony cases

Private Criminal Law Practice

Representation of defendants charged with state criminal charges on a fee or court-appointed basis; trials and appeals; appointed Special Prosecutor on approximately 10 cases to prosecute cases where the District Attorney's Office had a conflict; appointed Writ Master to resolve factual and legal issues in post-conviction writs of habeas corpus

EDUCATION:

Texas Tech University School of Law, J.D. awarded, December 1990

Board of Barristers, Vice-Chair of Appellate Advocacy

National Mock Trial Team

University of Texas at Austin, B.A. in English awarded, August 1987

Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society

Midland High School, Honor Graduate, May 1983

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS:

State Bar of Texas, Criminal Justice Section

Board of Directors, elected July 2025

Dallas Bar Association

Criminal Law Section, Secretary 1995 and Vice-Chair 1996

Corporate Counsel Section, Board of Directors 2005

Mock Trial Coach, Hillcrest High School 2004-2005

Mock Trial Coach, Ursuline Academy, 2006-2010

Mock Trial Coach, Bishop Lynch High School, 2012-2013

City of Dallas Judicial Nominating Committee 2018-2025

Federalist Society, Member

Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association

Dallas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association

Board of Directors 2000

Secretary 2001

Dallas Young Lawyers Association

VoTexas Voter Education Program Chairperson for Sunset High School

Committee For a Qualified Judiciary, Member 1998-2020

Dallas Police Academy

Past Instructor, Detective School

Greater Dallas Crime Commission (now North Texas Crime Commission)

Junior Leagues of Texas

State Public Affairs Committee

Junior League of Dallas

Coordinator for 75th Anniversary Gift of Victim's Waiting Room at Crowley Criminal Courts Building

Texas Stampede

Sponsor Liaison for Rodeo benefiting Children's Medical Center and the Pediatric Programs UT-

Southwestern, 2003 and 2005

Interfaith Housing Coalition

Project Manager, Renovation of Children's Area

Board of Directors 1998

Habitat for Humanity

Homebuilder

Ursuline Academy Parents Board

Sophomore Class Representative

Parent representative on Dean of Students Committee

PERSONAL:

Married to Carlos Balido, May 1991; two daughters: Elizabeth, age 31, 2016 Trinity University graduate; 2020 Texas Tech Law School graduate, licensed 2020 State Bar of Texas, associate attorney at Walters, Balido, and Crain; Catherine, age 26, 2020 Boston College graduate, 2023 Tulane Law School graduate, licensed 2023 New York State Bar, associate attorney at Paul, Hastings

Experience You Expect. Justice You Deserve.

JUDGE
Jennifer 
BALIDO

for Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 9



JUDGEBALIDO.COM

POL. ADV. PAID FOR BY JENNIFER BALIDO FOR CRIMINAL COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 9



MEET JUDGE BALIDO

Judge Jennifer Balido is a lifelong Texan who grew up in a middle-class Midland family rooted in public service. The daughter of two schoolteachers, she earned her bachelor's degree from **The University of Texas at Austin** and her law degree from **Texas Tech University School of Law**.

Judge Balido has built one of the most well-rounded legal careers in Texas, serving in the Dallas District Attorney's Office, private practice, and the Public Defender's Office. She has completed more than 200 trials, authored nearly 40 appellate briefs, and held senior leadership roles within the Dallas DA's Office. Governors Rick Perry and Greg Abbott have appointed her to the bench three times. **She now presides over Criminal District Court No. 1, managing a docket of more than 4,000 felony criminal offenses that range from low-level drug cases to capital murder.**

Judge Balido has taught at the Dallas Police Academy and helped train police chiefs across Texas on key criminal statutes. A mother of two, Judge Balido is a devout Catholic alongside her husband of 34 years, Carlos. A conservative judge with extensive credentials, **Judge Balido is running to provide Texans with a proven courtroom professional committed to always delivering fair justice.**



JUDGE BALIDO'S PRIORITIES

- Uphold the Constitution and Rule of Law
- Strengthen Public Safety
- Bring a True Trial-Court Perspective to the CCA
- Improve Judicial Efficiency and Case Management
- Maintain Integrity and Transparency in the Judicial Process
- Strengthen Accountability and Standards Within the Justice System

