

Amanda N. Torres

January 16, 2009

County Judge Loyd Neal
Commissioner Mike Pusley
Commissioner Joe A. Gonzalez
Commissioner Oscar Ortiz
Commissioner Joe McComb
901 Leopard, 3rd Floor
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

RECEIVED
JAN 16 2014
LOYD NEAL
County Judge, Nueces County, Texas
By _____

Dear County Judge Neal and Commissioners:

Undoubtedly, the Commissioner's Court has a difficult task in appointing someone to fill the remainder of the Honorable Brent Chesney's term as presiding judge of County Court at Law Number 5, especially in light of the quickly approaching election. I offer my formal letter of interest and respectfully request that the Commissioner's Court consider appointing me to fill the remainder of Judge Chesney's term. I have not filed to run for this office or any office in the 2014 election.

My motivation to enter the practice of law came from a desire to help people and businesses in distress make sense of the laws which govern their day-to-day existence. After law school, I served as an Assistant District Attorney. During this time, I interacted with people from all areas of our community including young first time offenders and older established individuals who found themselves caught up in the consequences of bad decisions. Bound by a duty to see justice was done, I learned to look beyond the paper, to listen to information, and to respect everyone's role in the legal system. These lessons made me realize I wanted to do more.

In 2009, the Commissioner's Court appointed me to fill the unexpired term of the Honorable Joe A. Gonzalez, now Commissioner Gonzalez. During the three years I served as Justice of the Peace for Precinct 1, Place 1, I worked hard for the citizens of Nueces County. A large part of the community which came through the court were juveniles who appeared for class C misdemeanors and truancy. I quickly realized there was a need to influence the lives of these juveniles at the root level – the family. I worked closely with many local community organizations to create programming for juveniles and their families who found themselves facing challenges in the court system.

JP 1-1 also had a very large civil and criminal docket. I presided over many bench and jury trials in my time as a judge and as an Assistant District Attorney. I have

heard contested civil hearings regarding discovery and other pre-trial motions. I am familiar with the requirements for search and arrest warrants and mental warrants having issued many of them. I have developed a solid relationship with many law enforcement agencies, community organizations, and schools. As an administrator for this court, I supervised five employees and worked hard to ensure JP 1-1 was always at the top in terms of total cases filed, disposed, and monies collected.

After serving as a Justice of the Peace, I entered private practice and have worked as a civil litigation attorney with the law firm of Branscomb | PC. I have represented large corporations, small businesses, and individuals in all areas of civil law, including but not limited to fiduciary litigation and commercial litigation in all phases of the trial process.

I currently serve on the Texas Young Lawyers Association State Board of Directors and continue my commitment of service to the community. I have substantially contributed to several pamphlets to assist and guide the public in matters of truancy, identity theft, tenant's right to repairs, and the most recent guide to filing in small claims court.

I am confident that I have the necessary qualifications and experience to fulfill the remainder of the term in County Court At Law Number 5. I promise to work diligently for the citizens of Nueces County and to protect the integrity of this court until a new judge is duly elected. I do not take for granted the taxing nature of this court on the presiding judge's time and emotions. However, I know I am capable of providing stability and fairness to those individuals and entities who find themselves seeking justice in County Court at Law Number 5 during this transitional time.

It is with great respect in which I ask for your consideration for the appointment to fill the remainder of Judge Chesney's term in County Court at Law Number 5.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Torres', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Amanda N. Torres

AMANDA NICOLE TORRES

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(361) 815-9009

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PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Branscomb | PC

Litigation Associate

January 14, 2013 - Present

Practice Areas: Commercial and Business Litigation, General Liability and Personal Injury Defense, Probate, Trusts and Estate litigation

- Engage in all facets of commercial and general litigation, draft motions and briefs, conduct legal research and writing, and preparation for hearings and trials.
- Draft and respond to all requests for discovery, including depositions, interrogatories, requests for admissions, production and analysis of documents, and inspections.
- Advise clients, interview witnesses, and draft settlement agreements.
- Argue contested hearings in District Courts, County Courts, and JP Courts

Justice of the Peace Precinct 1, Place 1

Nueces County

October 1, 2009 - December 31, 2012

Handled the largest docket among all nine JP Courts and exercised magisterial duties which includes:

- Determining whether probable cause exists and issuing search and arrest warrants.
- Magistrating adults and juveniles.
- Conducting administrative hearings: handgun denial hearings, tow hearings, and driver's license suspension hearings.
- Presiding over forcible detainers, class C misdemeanor criminal dockets for adults and juveniles, and civil cases up to \$10,000 in controversy.

Managing the highest volume JP Court:

- Responsible for an office budget over \$218,000 and returned revenue to the County of about \$700,000 a year.
- Supervise a staff of five clerks.
- Actively worked to create new partnerships with local non-profits to provide needed programming to juveniles and their families.

Law Offices of Amanda N. Torres

Sole Practitioner

October 1, 2009 - December 31, 2012

Successfully operated a small independent practice focusing on criminal and some personal injury law.

- Counseled clients including individuals and non-profits.
- Drafted pleadings and motions and argued motions.
- Deposed witnesses and prepared cases for trial.
- Served as Guardian Ad Litem and Attorney Ad Litem on probate and personal injury cases.

Nueces County District Attorney's Office

Assistant District Attorney

January 14, 2008 - September 30, 2009

Responsible for all phases of criminal trials:

- Successfully completed to verdict over 20 jury trials, numerous bench trials and pretrial hearings.
- Direct and cross examination of civilian and expert witnesses.
- Presented cases to the Grand Jury, argued bond hearings, negotiated plea bargains and all pretrial matters, conducted trials, post-trial motions, and handled sentencing.

Regularly promoted with increasing levels of responsibility and assigned special tasks:

- Divert Court Prosecutor: Responsible for accepting or rejecting applicants to the felony drug diversion program.
- Intake Attorney: Exercised initiative and discretion in reviewing misdemeanor and felony intake prepared by various law enforcement agencies for acceptance, further investigation, or rejection

EDUCATION

Saint Mary's University School of Law
San Antonio, Texas

Juris Doctor, 2007

- County Court at Law Number Ten, San Antonio, Texas - Judicial Intern (2006)
- Thirteenth Court of Appeals, Corpus Christi, Texas - Judicial Intern (2006)
- St. Mary's Civil Justice and Litigation Clinic, San Antonio, Texas - Student Attorney (2005)

Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas

Bachelor of Arts Anthropology, 2002

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS & HONORS

Texas Young Lawyers Association Co-Outstanding New Director of the Year Award (2013)
Texas Young Lawyers Association - Board of Directors, Minority At-Large Director, Small City (2012 - Present)
Texas Justice Court Training Center - Education Committee Board Member (2012 - 2013)
Junior League of Corpus Christi (2012 - Present)
Botanical Gardens Advisory Board Member (2012 - Present)
Corpus Christi 40 Under 40 - Award recipient (2012)
Coastal Bend Aids Foundation Service Provider Award (2012)
Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse - Board Member (2010 - 2011)
Texas District and County Attorney Association (2008 - 2009)
State Bar of Texas (2008 - Present)
Corpus Christi Young Lawyers (2008 - Present)

COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

Panelist - TYLA's "What Do Lawyer's Do?" - TAMU-CC	February 26, 2013
Panelist - TYLA's "Protejase!" - La Union Del Pueblo, McAllen, Texas	September 7, 2012
Panelist - TYLA's "Vote America" - Carroll High School	October 9, 2012
Panelist - TYLA's "Vote America" - Miller High School	October 5, 2012
Guest Speaker - Women in Law Enforcement Graduate Class TAMU-CC	April 24, 2012
Keynote Speaker - Del Mar GED Graduation	June 23, 2011
Guest Speaker - Antonio Garcia Art Center Girls Leadership Camp	June 27, 2011
Guest Speaker - "Truancy" - Westside Business Association	August 5, 2010
Guest Speaker - "Graffiti 101" - K-Space Art Gallery	February 20, 2010