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**RECEIVED**

**JAN 15 2014**

LOYD NEAL  
County Judge, Nueces County, Texas

By 

12 January 2014

Samuel Loyd Neal, Jr.  
Nueces County Judge  
901 Leopard, Room 303  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

**Subject: County Court at Law 5 Unexpired Term**

Dear Judge Neal,

Attached is my Statement of Qualifications for you and the Commissioners to consider.

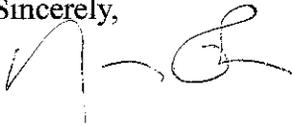
Briefly: 33+ years Lawyer  
(formerly Board Certified in Civil Trial and Civil Appellate Law until I stopped paying dues)

9+ years Volunteer Prison Chaplain at Maximum Security Prison (McConnell – Beeville)

Past 6+ years – practicing almost exclusively in County Court at Law 5 and speaking to students at the Student Learning and Guidance Center (now Student Support Center)

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Norm Thomas

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Statement of Qualifications

I am a 61 year old former Airborne Ranger who has been a Corpus Christi trial lawyer for over thirty three years, and will have been married to my wife, Brenda, for forty years on May 10.

For the majority of my career, I tried mostly large civil business cases in both the trial and appellate courts. Formerly Board Certified in Civil Trial and Civil Appellate Law, I allowed my certifications to lapse when I was primarily volunteering as a Prison Chaplain at the McConnell Unit in Beeville for up to 60 hours a week for over nine years. At the prison, I counseled many, many men and consequently asked them to write helpful, honest letters to be read to troubled young people in Corpus Christi.

I integrated these letters into sessions of the Drug Court at County Court 5 as well as presentations to the local alternative school (formerly Student Learning and Guidance Center, now Student Support Center). For over six years, through the tenures of three judges, I have taken an active role in Drug Court, a program shown to be very effective. As interim judge, I would maintain the sense of stability that is important for the success of this program.

I have also worked in County Court 5 as a court appointed attorney for the past six years, which started as a result of my work in prison and seeing the flood of young men there. Judges Lewis, Shamsie, and Chesney often appointed me to particularly troublesome cases. For example, I was asked to visit with a mother who was reportedly uncooperative with investigators and in denial over the molestation of her child. After our visit, she reversed course and gave the officers the location of the abuser who had fled. Officers from the Juvenile Probation Department as well as the juvenile jail have asked me to counsel kids.

I have an excellent working relationship with the prosecutors, court staff and the Department of Family Protective Services caseworkers, as well as CASA.

I have seen and know that early, seemingly tough, but not life ruining punishment is sometimes the kindest and wisest thing to do. I know that each case, each child, each family needs to be judged on its unique facts.

Court 5 is not a sometime court for me – this is where a never ending river of pain and misery flows. And it is also a place that can and does successfully turn families and lives completely around. A judgeship here is not a stepping stone for me – I will faithfully perform as Judge for the unexpired term and continue to work in that Court in whatever capacity I am assigned or asked to serve, as well as continue in the volunteer activities.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norm Thomas'. The signature is stylized with a large 'N' and a cursive 'T'.

Norm Thomas