

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF COLLIN

**Subject: Resolution, Judicial Infrastructure of the Eastern District of Texas – County Judge**

On **August 24, 2015**, the Commissioners Court of Collin County, Texas, met in **regular session** with the following members present and participating, to wit:

<b>Keith Self</b>		<b>County Judge, Presiding</b>
<b>Susan Fletcher</b>		<b>Commissioner, Precinct 1</b>
<b>Cheryl Williams</b>		<b>Commissioner, Precinct 2</b>
<b>Chris Hill</b>		<b>Commissioner, Precinct 3</b>
<b>Duncan Webb</b>	<b>Not Present</b>	<b>Commissioner, Precinct 4</b>

During such session the court considered adoption of a Resolution supporting the passage of the legislation recommended by the Administrative Office of the US Courts to authorize and establish two (2) emergency judgeships for the Eastern District of Texas.

**WHEREAS**, the Texas State Demographer issued startling reports in 2014 forecasting population increases in Texas for the next 15-20 years, including some 15 million more Texans;

**WHEREAS**, the Texas State Demographer's forecast, even taken conservatively, reflects that the Sherman Division of the Eastern District of Texas, already with half of the District's population, will surpass the Dallas Division of the Northern District in population within 15-20 years;

**WHEREAS**, the Dallas Division is staffed with seven full-time authorized judgeships, while the Sherman Division is understaffed with two judgeships;

**WHEREAS**, the last general courts bills assessing and addressing the need for additional judicial infrastructure was in 1992, reflecting the lengthy process for increasing the number of judgeships among states and districts competing for them;

**WHEREAS**, the Collin County, Denton County, Grayson County, and EDTX Federal Bar Associations, recognizing the need for judicial relief in the EDTX, co-sponsored a conference to consider the existing strain on the EDTX judicial infrastructure and the increased stress placed on it by the population growth forecasts by the Texas State Demographer, particularly in the Sherman Division;

**WHEREAS**, that conference was co-hosted by the County Judges of Collin, Denton, and Grayson Counties, namely the Honorable Keith Self, Mary Horn, and Bill Magers on August 4, 2015;

**WHEREAS**, along with community, business, education, prosecutor, and judicial leaders from several counties in the Eastern District of Texas, representatives of Collin County, Texas, attended the August 4<sup>th</sup> EDTX Judicial Infrastructure Planning Conference at the Center for American and International Law at 5201 Democracy Drive in Plano, Texas, co-sponsored by the Collin County, Denton County, Grayson County and EDTX Federal Bar Associations to address the demands created by the EDTX's exploding populations upon our existing judicial infrastructure;

**WHEREAS**, that conference explored the needs for and stresses upon the EDTX judicial infrastructure currently, and as projected through the next 15-20 years;

**WHEREAS**, that conference considered the EDTX's emergency status as recognized by the Administrative Office of the US Courts, namely the Administrative Office's proposed legislation to accord the Eastern District of Texas with two emergency judgeships;

**WHEREAS**, as a practical matter the existing judicial resources of the Eastern District of Texas are subject to the EDTX judges' assessment of the sitting judges and their assignment to the divisions most in need;

**WHEREAS**, if the judicial infrastructure needs of Sherman Division's burgeoning population being experienced and forecast over the next 15-20 years are not met, the judicial resources of the Beaumont, Lufkin, Marshall, Texarkana, and Tyler Divisions are subject to reassignment, adversely affecting the judicial accessibility for the citizens of those divisions; and

**WHEREAS**, the challenges of Eastern District population growth cannot be met by reshuffling the thin deck of judicial resources – six judges where there ought to be eight and, by national statistics based on caseload, more;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF COLLIN COUNTY, TEXAS that we respectfully request our United States Senators, working with appropriate Congressional Representatives of the Eastern District of Texas, support the prompt passage of the legislation recommended by the Administrative Office of the US Courts to authorize and establish, as soon as possible, two emergency judgeships for the Eastern District of Texas to help shore up a stressed judicial infrastructure serving 43 counties and 50,000 square miles, populated by citizens and businesses needing and deserving reasonable access to the federal courts.



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Keith Self, County Judge



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Susan Fletcher, Commissioner, Pct. 1



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Cheryl Williams, Commissioner, Pct. 2



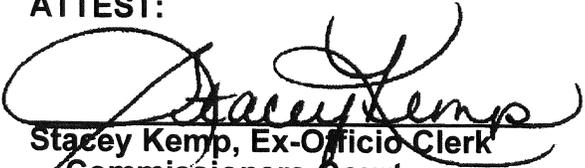
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Chris Hill, Commissioner, Pct. 3

Not Present

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Duncan Webb, Commissioner, Pct. 4



ATTEST:



Stacey Kemp, Ex-Officio Clerk  
Commissioners Court  
Collin County, T E X A S