

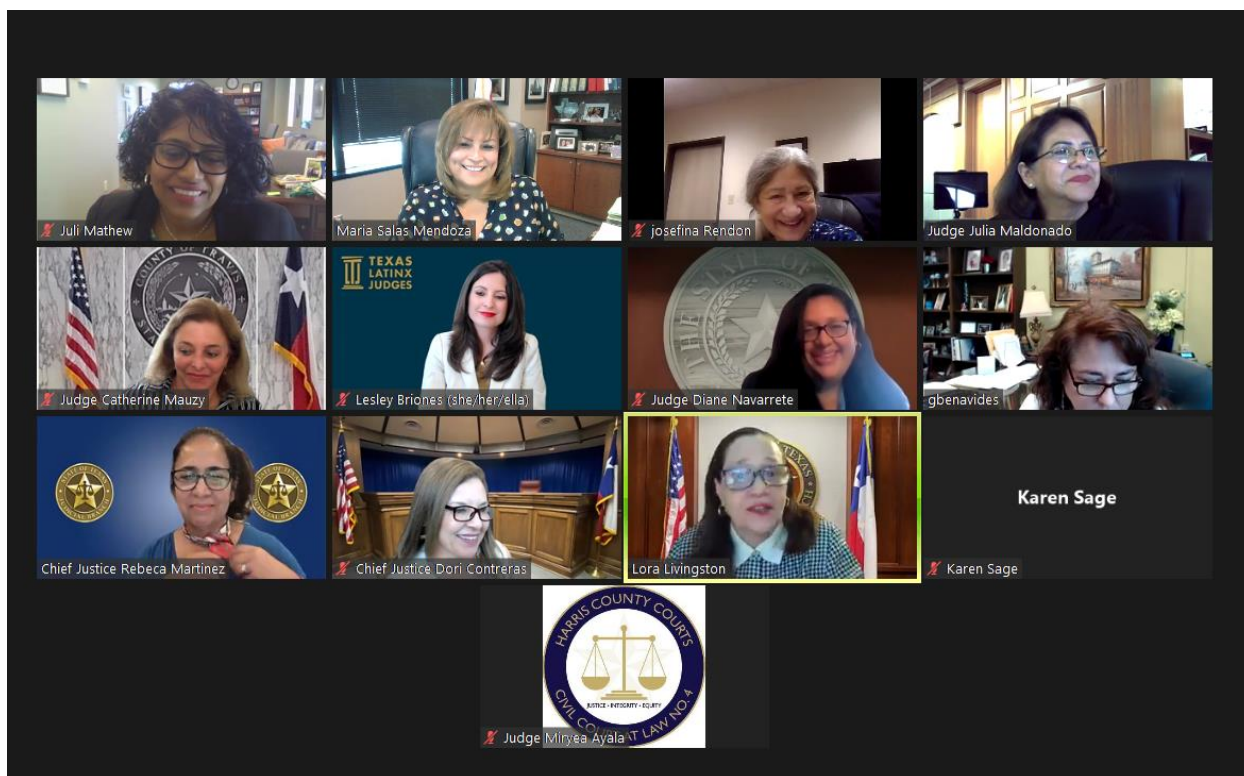


May 12, 2022
Mid-Year Report from District 11
Honorable Maria Salas Mendoza

Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas

MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

Members attended a virtual meeting of District 11 on May 4th, 2022. *We have four new members: Judge Miryea Ayala, newly appointed to Harris County Civil Court at Law No, 4, and Judge Dawn Deshea Rogers, 334th District Court, Harris County, Associate Judge Selina Mireles, Child Protection Court of South Texas Court #1, and Judge Selena Alvarenga, 460th District Court, Travis County.* District 11 currently has 98 members.



PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES:

Another fantastic Color of Justice (Austin) was held on April 14, 2022, at the Eidman Courtroom at UT Law School; its 17th annual COJ! Sixty (60) middle and high school students participated, approximately 85% of them were minorities. Lezly Cardenas, 2L, received the \$1,000 Scholarship sponsored by District 11, NAWJ, and Texas Latinx Judges. A DACA recipient, Lezly is passionately committed to helping immigrants like herself. She shared her powerful story with the students. (See link below.)



The judges' panel was comprised of: 1 appellate judge, 1 civil district judge, 1 criminal district judge, and one Justice of the Peace; 2 female, 2 male; 2 Latinas, 1 Chinese, 1 African American. The attorney panel included 3 females, 1 male; 1 Latina, 2 African Americans, 1 Mexican American; areas of practice included: family, criminal, international transaction, general counsel work.

Moody Bank and Travis County Women Lawyers were lunch sponsors for approximately 10 judges, lawyers and students.

<https://law.utexas.edu/publicinterest/news/national-association-of-women-judges-access-to-justice-scholarship-awarded-to-lezly-cardenas-23/>

On April 20, 2022, Chief Justice Rebeca Martinez hosted a Color of Justice program in San Antonio at the Young Women's Leadership Academy.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Judge Audrey Moorehead, County Criminal Court #3 (Dallas), was elected President of the Texas Association of County Court at Law Judges.

Judge Cynthia Wheless, 417th District Court (Collin County) is this year's Texas Women Lawyers Pathfinder Award Recipient. The presentation was made at the organization's annual meeting on April 29, 2022, in McKinney, Texas.

District Director Maria Salas Mendoza moderated the *Judges' Panel: Views from the Bench*, at the 19th Annual Texas Minority Program hosted by the State Bar Office of Minority Affairs on April 22, 2022, in Houston, Texas. The panel included Judge Al Bennet, U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas, Judge Beau Miller, 190th Civil District Court, Houston, Texas, and Judge Christine Weems, 281st District Court, Houston, Texas.

Judge Yolanda Huff, County Court 12 (Bexar), presented on CCP 16.22 at the Texas Association of Pretrial Services Conference on May 5, 2022.

Judge Beckie Palomo, 341st District Court (Webb), received the 2022 Law Day Award from the Laredo Webb County Bar Association on May 11, 2022, honoring her selfless public service and significant contributions to the legal profession and Laredo community.

The Global Diversity Council has invited Judge Rosie Speedlin-Gonzalez, County Court at Law #13 (Bexar), to speak at its 2022 Mexico LGBTQ+ Cumbre de La Unidad (*Unity Summit*) in Mexico City on June 16, 2022.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Justice Robbie Partida Kipness (5th Court of Appeals), Justice Dennise Garcia (5th Court of Appeals), Judge D'Metria Benson (Dallas County Court at Law #1), Judge Audrey Moorehead (Dallas County Criminal Court #3), newly elected judge Maria Aceves (192nd District Court, Dallas), and District Director Maria Salas Mendoza will host an evening social for members and prospective members on May 25, 2022.

Judge Audrey Moorehead and Judge Maria Salas Mendoza will present on *Criminal Trials in a Post-Pandemic Reality*, for the Women in the Law Section, State Bar of Texas, on May 25, 2022. The event will be virtual for attendees, but Judges Moorehead and Salas Mendoza will present live from the office of Krisi Kastle in Dallas, Texas.

A first El Paso Faces of Justice program is planned for June 24, 2022. Members will hold the event at the El Paso County Courthouse targeting UTEP college students. Planning committee includes members Judge Linda Chew, Judge Selena Solis, Judge Diane Navarrete, Judge Anna Perez, and Judge Maria Salas Mendoza; other members are Lisa Soto, Cori Harbour-Valdez, Judge Becky Bustamante and Women's Bar Association leaders Melissa Baeza and Priscilla Mata. The program is co-sponsored by Texas Latinx Judges, the plan is to award at least one \$1000 scholarship to a college student.