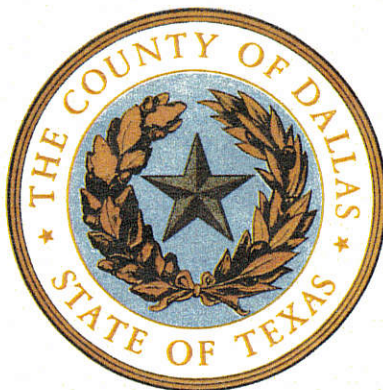


Resolution



ORDER NO: 2018-0569

DATE: May 15, 2018

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DALLAS §

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF JURY SERVICE

BE IT REMEMBERED, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 15th day of May, 2018, on a motion made by Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, Commissioner of District 1, and seconded by Dr. Elba Garcia, Commissioner of District 4, the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, Trial by jury is of fundamental importance in our system of justice, enshrined in both the Texas and Federal Constitutions. The work of juries helps to safeguard our democracy and the liberties we enjoy as citizens of a free society. Jury service is so important that the sworn members of a jury panel become officers of the court; and

WHEREAS, The Commissioners Court recognizes that the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas contain procedural safeguards in criminal cases for all defendants, including indigent defendants. This ensures the right to trial by jury in all civil and criminal cases and supports the courts in complying with such legal requirements; and

WHEREAS, Providing the right to representative juries requires equal protection of the right to serve, drawing potential jurors from a fair cross section of the community, and as a result of cases such as *Batson v. Kentucky*, 476 U.S. 79 (1986) and its progeny, the right to exercise preemptory challenges in criminal and civil cases, is subject to judicial oversight to ensure a nondiscriminatory basis for a preemptory strike, to avoid exclusion of jurors based solely on their race, gender and ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, Through established committees, such as the Jury Planning Committee, the Jury Appreciation Committee and Courthouse Committee, Dallas County Jury Services and the Dallas legal community are committed to implementing practices and procedures to ensure the inclusion and facilitate the participation of a representative cross-section of the community. This effort is to afford parties a fair and just trial by jury, including: implementing direct report of jurors to the Justice of the Peace; reminder and notification text messages and emails which are already being utilized; remote electronic check in; and reviewing and recommending changes to accommodate jurors and meet their needs; and

WHEREAS, The Judiciary of the Dallas Civil District Courts with the assistance of faculty from the Southern Methodist University (SMU) Dedman School of Law Civil Legal Clinic and SMU's Department of Statistical Science have implemented an Implicit Bias Study that commenced on April 2, 2018 and will continue through July 2, 2018 in order to evaluate the extent to which additional jury instructions can have an impact on reducing implicit bias in juror decision-making; and

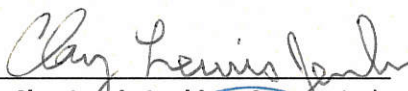
WHEREAS, The Dallas legal community through its professional associations, the Dallas Bar Association, in conjunction with its sister bars, protect and defend these constitutional rights, exercising the right to a jury trial in all courts in Dallas County, support and give thanks to those who have served and are serving on juries; and

WHEREAS, Dallas County is committed to ensuring jury service is a good experience. The Jury Appreciation Committee comprised of members from the County, jury services, the judiciary and the Dallas legal community continue to monitor and advise the County of any needs or issues. The committee also provided refreshments in the newly-renovated George Allen and Crowley Central Jury Rooms for Jury Appreciation Week held April 30 – May 4, 2018; and

WHEREAS, The Commissioners Court recognizes that to serve on a jury is to exercise one of the most important civic duties in both our state and our nation thus ensuring and protecting one of the foundations of our democracy and judicial system.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas recognizes the necessity of the fair and impartial justice offered to our residents by those who have served and are currently serving as jurors.

DONE IN OPEN COURT, this the 15th day of May, 2018.


Clay Lewis Jenkins, County Judge


Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, District 1


Mike Cantrell, District 2


John Wiley Price, District 3


Dr. Elba Garcia, District 4