



For Immediate Release

Harris County Criminal Courts at Law elect leadership judges to represent criminal misdemeanor courts

June 30, 2023 — Harris County Criminal Court at Law No. 4 Judge Shannon Baldwin has been elected by her peers to serve as presiding judge representing the county's 16 criminal misdemeanor courts.

Serving as co-presiding judge is Harris County Criminal Court at Law No. 1 Judge Alex Salgado.

The presiding judge is tasked with providing judicial leadership and general administrative guidance, including convening and presiding over judicial meetings and serving as the primary representative to various county departments, officials, and projects.

The pair will begin their six-month terms on July 1, 2023. Judge Baldwin is taking over for Judge Genesis Draper, who sits on the bench of Harris County Criminal Court at Law No. 12. Salgado was re-elected to his third consecutive term.

"I am honored that my colleagues have placed their trust in me," Judge Baldwin said, noting that her goal is to be responsive to her fellow judges and represent the collective group as best she can. "The promise I make to my colleagues is that I'm always going to be in there fighting for what is best for the judiciary."

A native Houstonian and U.S. Army veteran, Judge Baldwin is currently serving her second term on the Court No. 4 bench. She also presides over Harris County Misdemeanor Veterans Treatment Court, a second-chance program for veterans facing criminal charges and suffering from long-lasting effects from their time in combat.

She previously served as the Local Administrative Judge for the Harris County Criminal and Civil Courts at Law and presided over one of the county's S.O.B.E.R. Courts, an intervention and treatment program for individuals charged with misdemeanor Driving While Intoxicated and at high risk of becoming repeat offenders.

Before taking the bench, Judge Baldwin spent more than two decades practicing law, handling cases ranging from Class C misdemeanors to capital murder. She began her career at the Clayton County Solicitor's Office in Jonesboro, Georgia. She then returned to Texas, where she worked for various organizations – including a major Texas law firm, the Montgomery County Women's Center, and the Taylor County District Attorney's Office – before opening her law practice in Houston.

Judge Baldwin holds a B.S. in law enforcement and political science from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville and a law degree from John Marshall Law School in Atlanta.

Co-Presiding Judge Alex Salgado currently presides over both Court No. 1 and one of Harris County's S.O.B.E.R. courts. Prior to taking the bench, he spent nine years as an assistant district attorney in Walker and Fort Bend counties. During that time, he prosecuted a wide range of criminal cases, including misdemeanor, felony, and juvenile offenses.

He earned an English degree from Texas Tech University and a law degree from Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law. While in law school, he worked with the Harris County District Attorney's Office and served as a student attorney with the Earl Carl Institute for Legal and Social Policy.

MEDIA CONTACT

Holly Huffman, Communications Director, Office of Court Management
Email: Holly_Huffman@ccl.hctx.net