



For Immediate Release

Harris County criminal misdemeanor courts re-elect leadership judges to represent and advocate for county criminal courts

July 1, 2024 — The Harris County Criminal Courts at Law have re-elected two judges to serve in key judicial leadership roles representing the county’s criminal misdemeanor courts.

Judges Shannon Baldwin and Erika Ramirez were selected to serve as presiding judge and co-presiding judge, respectively, for the 16 Harris County Criminal Courts at Law.

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 for various county departments, officials, and projects. The co-presiding judge handles these duties when the presiding judge is not available.

Both begin their new six-month terms on July 1, 2024.

Presiding Judge

Judge Baldwin will begin her third term as presiding judge for the Harris County criminal misdemeanor courts. A Houston native and U.S. Army veteran, Judge Baldwin was re-elected to a second term on the Harris County Criminal Court at Law No. 4 bench in November 2022.

During her time as a jurist, she has served as Local Administrative Judge representing Harris County Criminal and Civil Courts at Law and presided over Harris County Misdemeanor Veterans Treatment Court and one of the county’s four SOBER Courts — both second-chance specialty court programs.

Prior to taking the bench, she spent more than two decades practicing law, handling cases ranging from Class C misdemeanors to capital murder, before taking the bench. She began her career at the Clayton County Solicitor’s Office in Jonesboro, Georgia, before returning to Texas and ultimately opening a law practice in Houston.

She holds a bachelor’s degree from Sam Houston State University and a law degree from John Marshall Law School.

Co-Presiding Judge

Judge Ramirez, also a Houston native, will begin her second term as co-presiding judge. She was elected to her first term on the bench of the Harris County Criminal Court at Law No. 8 in November 2022. She is the first Latina to sit on the Court 8 bench. She also presides over one of the county’s four SOBER Courts.

Before becoming an attorney, Judge Ramirez worked as a teacher, promotions coordinator for the Houston Comets, and caseworker assistant for the Harris County District’s Attorney’s Office, helping victims of domestic violence — the last of which spurred her interest in law school. After law school, she returned to the District Attorney’s Office where she spent seven years handling both felony and misdemeanor cases and working in the trial bureau and domestic violence, juvenile, and financial crimes divisions.

She holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas and a law degree from South Texas College of Law.

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