

# CONTESTED JUDICIAL RACES 2010

All information has been provided/approved by the candidates.

## 331st Judicial District



Judge David Crain  
www.judgedavidcrain.com  
phone: (512) 474-4738

Judge Crain pioneered and presides over Travis County's misdemeanor Mental Health Docket where many mentally-ill offenders get treatment that helps them lead productive, law-abiding lives. As the Local Administrative Judge of our county courts, he helped establish Travis County's DWI Court. He has been elected 7 times—twice as Justice of the Peace and 5 times as Judge of Travis County Court-at-Law #3.

- ♦ Judge Crain has been a judge for 24 years and has presided over hundreds of jury trials.
- ♦ Judge Crain Implemented misdemeanor mental-health diversion docket through which hundreds of minor offenders get treatment and services instead of incarceration.

*"I am honored to have received the 2010 Torch Award from the Central Texas African American Family Support Conference in recognition of my work helping mentally ill misdemeanor offenders get appropriate treatment instead of jail time when possible."*



Keith Lauerman  
www.keithforjudge.com  
phone: (512) 671-3200

In over 12 years of private practice, Mr. Lauerman has represented hundreds accused of the most serious felony offenses, including capital murder, murder, manslaughter, aggravated robbery, aggravated assault and many more. He has had many serious felony jury trials in just the last few years, including: capital murder, murder, manslaughter, aggravated robbery, burglaries, drugs, and many more.

- ♦ Keith has been a Middle School Teacher and is currently an Adjunct Professor at Austin Community College. He holds a Master's Degree in education.
- ♦ Through his varied experiences, he has developed understanding and exercises compassion for both the accused and the victims of crime.
- ♦ Keith is also a former member of the United Steelworkers Union.
- ♦ Keith is a member of the State Bar College and is licensed by the United States Supreme Court.
- ♦ Keith currently is approved by the District Judges to represent mentally ill defendants and the indigent at ALL levels of Felonies

*"I have the RIGHT experience to be Judge of the 331st."*

## County Court at Law 3, Judge



Olga Seelig  
www.OlgaSeelig.com  
email: info@olgaseelig.com  
phone: (512) 848-3130

Ms. Seelig grew up in El Paso, Texas and graduated from The University of Texas School of Law. Many of Ms. Seelig's experiences have set the tone for her desire to see that everyone is treated fairly. Ms. Seelig is motivated by her work on both sides of the bar, and inspired by the work she had done for the District and County Court at Law judges.

- ♦ Seelig clerked for all of the Travis County Court at Law Judges during law school and was a prosecutor in the County Attorney's Office after graduation.
- ♦ Seelig later became a defense lawyer for court-appointed and paying clients in Travis and Williamson Counties. Her hard work earned an appointment to the Austin Municipal Court.
- ♦ As a judge, Seelig presided over criminal cases as well as magistrate cases at the Travis County jail.

*"I've done a lot of things, but there's something more than life experience that makes me seek the bench. It's about people—and a judge's responsibility to provide a fair, just court to serve them and our community. As the judge for County Court at Law 3, I'll continue my devotion to ensuring a fair and just court for all."*



John Lipscombe  
www.johnforjudge.com  
email: info@johnforjudge.com  
phone: (512) 485-3003

Mr. Lipscombe is a native Texan, born in Snyder. He is a graduate of The University of Texas and St. Mary's University School of Law. He was a law clerk with Judge Mike McCormick of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and a Staff Attorney for Senior Judge of the Court, W.C. (Bill) Davis. He has tried hundreds of cases as first chair, and co-chaired/trained new prosecutors on hundreds of additional trials. He has also worked on the development of criminal law of this State and has been a legal trainer and teacher for over 15 years.

- ♦ For 19 years, Lipscombe has served as a prosecutor in the Travis County misdemeanor courts he is running for in Travis County, working with juvenile defendants and their parents on school attendance and substance abuse; with victims of violent crime, property crimes, and domestic violence; with persons suffering from mental illness, and with defense attorneys, law enforcement officers, and judges to ensure just and fair resolution of criminal cases.
- ♦ Lipscombe enjoys mentoring young lawyers, guiding them in evaluating cases and preparing for trial, and coaching them through trials.
- ♦ Lipscombe has been endorsed by the Austin Chronicle, District Attorney Rosemary Lehberg, State Senator Kirk Watson, Mayor Lee Leffingwell, State Representatives Mark Strama and Eddie Rodriguez, Commissioner Karen Huber, every law enforcement group and over 1,000 individuals within Travis County.

*"A prosecutor's job is not merely to seek a conviction, but to see that Justice is done."*

## Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1



Daniel Bradford  
www.BradfordforJustice.com

Mr. Bradford has lived in Precinct 1 for 10 years and is active in the community. Daniel attended high school in Brazil, college at Ohio State University, and law school at The University of Texas School of Law. Bradford speaks fluent Spanish and Portuguese. Mr. Bradford wants to bring innovation, all the best practices of this new century, along with an insider's understanding to our community.

- ♦ Mr. Bradford is a dedicated public-interest lawyer who has worked for the Texas Civil Rights Project (where he helped represent the Sophia King family); for the University of Texas Legal Services for Students; and as a public defender of children in The University of Texas Juvenile Justice Clinic.
- ♦ Bradford works for Travis County Attorney David Escamilla as a legal advisor and specializes in open-government laws.

*"The justice court needs to better reflect the state of our lives. We live in a demanding world that makes it difficult to physically visit our court. This is especially true to hourly wage-earners, who may have to choose between defending themselves on a traffic citation or missing three hours of work."*



Yvonne M. Williams  
www.yvonnewilliams4jp1.com

Ms. Williams received her law degree from the University of Houston Law School and started her legal career as a civil rights trial attorney in federal courts. Williams relocated to Austin in 1990 and served as Assistant General Counsel at the Texas Department of Agriculture.

- ♦ Williams was an Austin Municipal Court Judge for the past 3 years, serving as the city's first overnight magistrate in the Travis County central Booking facility.
- ♦ Williams represented plaintiffs in discrimination lawsuits and South African anti-apartheid civil disobedience actions and practiced civil rights law in the Houston-Galveston area throughout the 1980's.
- ♦ Williams clerked for then Court of Criminal Appeals Justice, Morris Overstreet for 3 years. This is the court of last resort for criminal cases.
- ♦ Williams worked for the Texas Workers Compensation Commission (TWCC) for 13 years in various capacities writing over 500 opinions as a Hearing Officer & later managed a team of lawyers processing >2,500 cases before the State Office of Administrative Hearings on behalf of the agency. Mediation & alternative dispute resolution was engaged to resolve these cases.
- ♦ Williams is a 2nd Degree Black Belt in Karate and teaches Karate at Dottie Jordan recreation center. She also teaches legal writing at ACC Rio Grande Campus.

*"I plan to resolve the truancy docket using restorative justice and mediation; I will decrease the civil docket using mediation; & at all times, I will solicit input from the community to implement all these measures."*

## 2010 Judicial Candidates VOTERS GUIDE to Contested Judicial Races



Early Voting - February 16-26, 2010

Election Day is March 2nd

Precinct #123 Polling Site  
Southwest Key Community Center  
6002 Jain Lane  
7:00 am - 7:00 pm

Precinct #427 Polling Site  
Allen Elementary  
4900 Gonzalez  
7:00 am - 7:00 pm

Compiled by Southwest Key's East Austin  
Leadership Development Program (EALDP)

Southwest Key Programs is a minority-led nonprofit headquartered in East Austin which operates shelters, schools, youth justice and workforce programs across the country. The EALDP is a resident-driven initiative empowering a new wave of neighborhood leaders through education and advocacy around critical issues facing East Austin.

www.swkey.org



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## 147th Judicial District



Cliff Brown  
www.CliffBrownForJudge.com  
email: Cliff@CliffBrownForJudge.com

Mr. Brown has 20 years in the legal profession as a prosecutor, defense attorney and, most recently as the Austin Police Monitor.

- ♦ Brown worked as a prosecutor for 10 years and as a criminal defense attorney for over 7 years in Travis County and in New York City.
- ♦ Brown has handled thousands of cases involving serious felonies including murder, sexual assault, kidnapping, family violence and child abuse.
- ♦ Served as the community liaison to North Central Austin, to facilitate community-led solutions to local problems.
- ♦ Brown has been endorsed by all 21 groups to endorse in this race.

*"As our Police Monitor, I work diligently with our community at large and the Austin Police Department (APD) to bring balance, integrity and sound judgment to the citizen complaint process against APD officers. This role has given me a very unique perspective working collaboratively with parties on all sides."*



Bill Gammon  
www.backgammonforjudge.com  
phone: (512) 472-8909

Mr. Gammon has represented the residents of Travis County for over 22 years, both as plaintiff and defense attorney in civil and criminal cases.

Gammon believes that our justice system is an integral part of the front line of defense protecting victims and our community at-large from its dangerous and undesirable elements. Maintaining the integrity of that system is vital to its strength and is why judges have a sworn duty to behave in a way that avoids even the appearance of impropriety.

- ♦ Gammon has made a commitment to neither seek nor accept campaign contributions from any source and to limit campaign expenditures to an absolute minimum.

*"Justice is every citizen's birthright. As judge I will do what I can to make the law respected by making the legal system fair to everyone involved. Each person deserves respect as a human being, be they accused or accuser, criminal or victim."*

## 201st Judicial District



Amy Clark Meachum  
www.amymeachum.com  
email: amy@amymeachum.com  
phone: (512) 795-5032 fax: (512) 590-8717

Ms. Meachum grew up in a small, rural Central Texas town and is the first person on either side of her family to become a lawyer, graduating with honors from The University of Texas School of Law. During the past decade, she has been a partner for an Austin-based law firm. She has been considered as a Rising Star in Texas Law and Politics Magazine for the past 3 years.

- ♦ Meachum has represented numerous individuals throughout the country against drug companies for failing to warn about the dangers of their products.
- ♦ Meachum handles a complex civil litigation docket including such varied subjects as products liability, professional malpractice, alternative energy and health care law, representing plaintiffs in personal injury cases, defendants in business litigation matters, as well as counsels other lawyers on matters of legal ethics.
- ♦ Meachum has been endorsed by the Austin Women's Political Caucus, the Hispanic Bar Association of Austin, the Austin Black Lawyers Association and many Democratic clubs.

*"I believe a good judge knows the law, has an even temperament, an open mind, and respect amongst her peers, but most importantly understands that the courts are not solely for judges and lawyers — but ultimately for the families and citizens... our duty as lawyers and judges is to make that experience a fair, efficient and understandable one for all citizens."*



Justice Jan Patterson  
www.justicejan.com  
phone: (512) 494-3187

Judge Patterson has served on the court of appeals for over eleven years. She was born and raised in Austin, Texas. After graduating from the University of Texas Law School, she served as a federal prosecutor in New York, Texas and Washington, D.C., successfully prosecuting organized crime cases and violent offense cases. Judge Patterson has represented a wide variety of individuals in civil and criminal cases for over 25 years.

- ♦ Judge Patterson has been rated excellent and the highest rated judge on the court of appeals on the 2007 and 2009 Austin Bar Association evaluation polls and won the State Bar of Texas bar polls by overwhelming margins.
- ♦ Judge Patterson has taught at the University of Texas School of Law and is teaching a course in judicial ethics in fall 2010.
- ♦ Judge Patterson has written hundreds of opinions and handled dozens of cases dealing with the important cases that will come before the 201st District Court.
- ♦ Judge Patterson was appointed to serve as a Commissioner on the State Commission on Judicial Conduct and was elected vice chair of the commission by her fellow commissioners.

*"I promised you when I was first elected that I would work hard, that I would be a steward of my office, and that I understood the importance of serving the people and deciding cases correctly and fairly."*

## 299th Judicial District



Leonard Martinez  
www.leonardmartinezfor299th.com  
phone: (512) 472-0958

Mr. Martinez is board certified in criminal law with almost 30 years of continuous courtroom experience handling the most difficult cases. He is a proud Vietnam veteran, a graduate of the University of Texas School of Law, a strong leader in the Austin community, and an advocate for the mentally ill and drug addicted. His early education in psychology and nursing prepared him for the challenges of the criminal justice system and to help save and change lives.

- ♦ Martinez' goals are "to serve my community, the Bar, and to the best of my ability, protect and defend the Constitution of Texas and the Constitution of the United States of America."

*"Judges have the opportunity to affect people's lives and improve communities. I'm running for Judge because I want to be an instrument for positive change in our community."*



Mindy Montford  
www.montfordforjudge.com  
email: info@montfordforjudge.com  
phone: (512) 482-9543

Ms. Montford has lived in Austin, Texas since she was 6 years old. She graduated The University of Texas. Montford is the only candidate who has served for over a decade as a prosecutor and defense attorney in Travis County. Montford has taught at The University of Texas School of Law and co-hosted a weekly television news series titled "Court Files." She is currently a legal analyst for KXAN News.

- ♦ Montford served as the General Counsel to State Senator Eddie Lucio where she helped write the "Life Without Parole" law giving juries an alternative to the death penalty. She also served as a prosecutor for the Travis County District Attorney's Office in the Trial Court Division, Family Justice Division, and the Public Integrity Unit.
- ♦ Montford has prosecuted more than 100 jury trials for crimes of murder, aggravated assault, burglary, robbery, aggravated sexual assault, child abuse, and assault family violence.
- ♦ Montford has served as a board member for the Girl Scouts of Central Texas and the Travis County Women Lawyers' Association, among other organizations.

*"I will uphold the laws before me and treat every individual who stands before the bench with respect and dignity."*



Karen Sage  
www.karensageforjudge.com  
info@karensageforjudge.com  
phone: (512) 590-9864

After earning her law degree from the University of Minnesota, Ms. Sage prosecuted hundreds of important and high-profile felony cases, with crimes ranging from sexual assault to murder cases.

- ♦ Sage is currently an Assistant District Attorney for Travis County, and is the sole prosecutor in the Mental Health Court Docket. She finds alternatives to incarceration for the mentally ill. She is committed to decriminalizing mental illness and serves on the Mayor's Mental Health Task Force.
- ♦ Sage worked as a prosecutor in the United States Attorney's Office and was awarded the Director's Award for Superior Performance.
- ♦ Sage served as Counsel to the Mayor of Los Angeles for 3 years, where she helped develop key policies after the Rodney King riots and assisted with efforts so that Magic Johnson could begin his successful movie theater company in underserved neighborhoods.

*"I will provide the sense of justice, the knowledge of the law, and the measured compassion that the 299th District Court demands."*



Eve Schatelowitz Alcantar  
eveforjustice.com  
email: vote4eve@yahoo.com  
phone: (512) 585-6252 fax: (512) 535-7181

Ms. Schatelowitz was raised in the Austin area, is married to a Texas State Trooper Rey Alcantar and has three children. She received a law degree from St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio. She clerked with the Travis County Attorney's Office, then the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals where she assisted with Death Penalty Appeals, Writs of Habeas Corpus, and Petitions for Discretionary Review. She was an Assistant County Attorney for Travis County, prosecuting misdemeanor cases.

- ♦ In private practice, she has defended indigent clients with criminal offenses and handled complex Federal felonies ranging from white-collar crime to drug distribution conspiracies, assault, kidnapping, sexual molestation of children, money laundering and mortgage fraud.
- ♦ Schatelowitz is concerned that victims are not heard enough in the judicial process

*"Victims and their rights are most often heard only by law enforcement or by the prosecutor's office. By and large, victims do not come to courtrooms to tell their stories to the judge who will impose a sentence upon a defendant. As a defense attorney, and former prosecutor, I always take victims' rights into consideration."*



The East Austin Leadership Development Program is part of Southwest Key's East Austin Children's Promise initiative, which is guided by the belief that the community must have a voice in planning and decision making activities in order to sustain a high quality of life for the children of East Austin.

www.swkey.org