**Houston GLBT Political Caucus PAC**

# Judicial Offices - Appellate Courts

**Screening Questionnaire, 2020**

The Houston GLBT Political Caucus PAC requires all candidates seeking its endorsement to complete and sign the following questionnaire We ask that each candidate personally complete the questionnaire and not delegate this task to someone else. We have endeavored to ask questions that would not cause a judicial candidate to engage in inappropriate political activity as defined by Canon 5 the Code of Judicial Conduct, and we have attempted to frame our questions in a way that would not elicit pledges or promises of conduct regarding pending or impending cases. Instructions: **Please complete all items on the questionnaire, save your completed form so you will have a copy then e-mail the completed document to the** **screenings@thecaucus.org****.**

Responses must be submitted before the screening interview. You will be contacted to schedule an in-person screening interview. Please refer to our candidate information page for more information:

<https://pac.thecaucus.org/screening/>

All questions concerning the screening process should be directed to Brandon Mack at screenings@thecaucus.org.

**Thank you for screening with the Houston GLBT Political Caucus PAC!**

The Houston GLBT Political Caucus PAC General Election endorsement meeting will take place on Saturday, August 1, 2020

Location: TBA

1. **BIOGRAPHICAL**

Candidate Name:

Office Sought:

Election Date:

*Voting Address*

Street Address:

City: State: ZIP+4:

*Mailing Addess*

Street Address:

City:

*Candidate Office Mailing Address*

State: ZIP+4:

Street Address:

City: State: ZIP+4:

Phone: Preferred Email: Website:

Voter ID #: Harris County Other: )

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State Bar of Texas License No.:

Law School and Graduation Date:

Date of Birth:

Bar Admissions and Courts of Admittance:

Date Admitted to Practice:

1. **QUALIFICATIONS**

Please briefly describe what you believe are the duties of the office sought.

**Please list any areas of legal specialization for which you are board certified.**

Have you ever been charged, convicted, placed on probation or granted any kind of deferred adjudication or pretrial diversion for any violation of the law in any jurisdiction? If yes, please provide the details of the offense (date, location, factual circumstances, presiding court and cause number) and the final disposition.

Yes No (Please circle your answer.)

If you answered 'YES,' please provide the details of the offense (date, location, factual circumstances, presiding court, and cause number) and the final disposition.

1. **YOUR CAMPAIGN AND POLITICAL EXPERIENCE**

Please briefly describe your political experience. This may include any formal training or experience as a volunteer, staffer, candidate or office holder.

What organizational endorsements have you received so far?

Please describe your campaign structure and strategy to get elected.

How much money have you raised so far for your campaign? What is your total campaign budget? *(Vague responses such as, “As much as we need” or “Enough to be competitive” are not acceptable. Please exclude in-kind contributions)*

What community organizations are you a member of? What leadership positions have you held in those organizations, and for how long did you hold those positions?

How are you engaging with voters during COVID-19, and specifically how are you planning to engage with LGBTQ+ voters in light of the global pandemic?

1. **KNOWLEDGE OF GLBT ISSUES**

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the Houston GLBT Political Caucus PAC?

Are you a member of any local, state, or national LGBT organizations or committees?

Yes No (Please circle your answer.)

If Yes, please identify the organization(s). If not, please tell us why not.

Have you ever expressed public support for any individual or organization that has been known to discriminate against the LGBTQ+ community or opposes equality for the LGBTQ+ community?

Yes No (Please circle your answer.)

If you answered "yes" to the question above, please explain any public support given for an individual or organization as listed above and include the name of the individual(s) or organization(s).

Would you accept an endorsement from an organization or person who is recognized as being anti- LGBTQ+?

Yes No (Please circle your answer.)

Have you ever represented a LGBTQ+ client or handled a case in which a client’s sexual orientation, gender identification or gender expression was a substantial issue? If yes, without violating any privileges, please describe the nature of the representation. If no, please explain any efforts you have taken to make your services available to LGBTQ+ clients.

What steps have you taken in your practice to ensure LGBTQ+ individuals are treated fairly and without discrimination by the courts, other attorneys and the legal system in general? In your answer, please refer to Section 5.08 of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

If elected, how will you ensure that LGBTQ+ individuals who appear in your court are treated fairly and without discrimination by your court, other attorneys and jurors? In your answer, please refer to Canon 3 of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct.

Please briefly discuss the holdings of the following cases and their relevance to the LGBTQ+ community:

R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes Inc. v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 884 F. 3d 560 (6th Cir. 2018) (decision forthcoming from U.S. Supreme Court)

Altitude Express Inc. v. Zarda, 883 F. 3d 100 (2d Cir. 2018) (decision forthcoming from the U.S. Supreme Court)

Parvan v. Smith, 137 S. Ct. 2075 (2017)

Obergefell v. Hodges, 576 U.S. 2584 (2015)

Romer v. Evans, 517 U.S. 620 (1996)

Pidgeon v. Turner, 538 S.W. 3d 73 (Tex. 2017)

United States v. Varner, 948 F. 3d 250 (5th Cir. 2020)

Gibson v. Collier, 920 F. 3d 212 (5th Cir. 2019)

Johnson v. Johnson, 385 F. 3d 503, 532 (5th Circ. 2004)

Whitaker By Whitaker v. Kenosha Unified Sch. Dist. No 1 Bd. Of Educ., 858 F. 3d 1034 (7th Cir. 2017)

What is the proper role of a judge in answering questions of new or unsettled law? Should the judge look to the law of other states and prevailing legal trends, or does the Texas Legislature deserve full deference?

Should an appellate judge look beyond the cold record of the trial court to his or her own life experiences in ruling on matters of law that could have an impact on individual lives? Please explain.

# ACKNOWLDGEMENT OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS

## Please read and acknowledge the following terms and conditions by affixing your initials and signature in the spaces provided:

 . I am intentionally seeking the endorsement of the Houston GLBT Political Caucus PAC.

 . I understand that the Houston GLBT Political Caucus PAC is an organization that is committed to eliminating prejudice, violence, and injustice against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people through education, activism, and political advocacy.

 . If I receive the endorsement of the Houston GLBT Political Caucus PAC, I agree to publicly acknowledge the endorsement by listing it in any printed campaign literature that substantially promotes endorsements by other community or political organizations and on any Web page that lists other organizations’ endorsements.

 . I have answered all of the questions in this questionnaire truthfully and to the best of my knowledge, and I have not intentionally or knowingly omitted information that might reflect poorly upon my qualifications or character and fitness for the office sought.

 . I acknowledge that violation of any of these terms and conditions, or any intentional or knowing untruthful response, may result in the Houston GLBT Political Caucus PAC revoking its endorsement.

Signature

Date

Caucus member: Yes No If yes, year joined:

Date Submitted:

Screening Date: Time:

**To be completed by Screening Committee:**

Election Cycle:

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