

Name: Chrysti Bryant  
Court: Collin County Court at Law #4

- 1 What current or past judge do you most want to inspire your approach to judicial excellence, and why?

Judge Ray Wheelless because he is knowledgeable, prepared, thorough, and impartial.

- 2 What has been the greatest accomplishment in your legal career? In your personal life?

I treasure the letters received from my clients thanking me for how I have handled their cases. Their accolades are the best compliments I could ever receive. In my personal life, my greatest accomplishment has been, and continues to be, raising my three wonderful children in a way that is consistent with my own values.

- 3 What, if anything, would you change to improve the procedures and efficiency of the court you are seeking?

There is always room for improvement, however any changes would require an analysis of the benefits, costs and opportunities for improvement before implementation. I hope to continue the programs and efforts of Judge Ray Wheelless in this Court. I would work hard, be prepared for the day's docket and put in a full day's work. Based on my personal experience in the County Courts at Law, procedures could be improved with respect to scheduling of civil cases for trial and alternative dispute resolution. These opportunities for improvement should be explored along with other administrative functions of the court clerk and coordinator.

- 4 Do you feel that ALL citizens have equal and adequate access to justice in our county? How would you improve that access?

Yes I do feel that most citizens have equal and adequate access to justice in Collin County. Collin County's Indigent Defense Plan is in compliance with the Texas Fair Defense Act and provide representation to those qualified indigent persons accused of criminal acts as provided by the laws and constitutions of the United States and Texas.

- 5 Collin County tracks indigent defense dollars ordered by each judge. What effect would that reporting have on your decisions to order that the county pay for a defendant's defense?

The tracking of indigent defense dollars would have no effect on my decision. Such data is a historical record of past decisions and should have no bearing on any future individual case.

- 6 What do you perceive as the greatest obstacles to justice in Collin County?

The population of Collin County is growing and changing. As a result, dockets are increasing. We must continue efforts to move cases through the justice system in a timely manner while maintaining judicial integrity.

- 7 Incarceration is the most expensive criminal sanction available. How would that fact affect your sentencing decisions?

The cost of incarceration would not affect my sentencing decisions. Sentencing decisions should be made on a case by case basis while holding Defendants accountable for the choices they have made in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas.

- 8 Without commenting on a specific case or type of cases, should Collin County explore more or different types of alternative sentencing? What do you think works? What would you like to try?

Yes, there are numerous alternatives that should be carefully considered as allowed. I support the use of drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, community service and Battering Intervention programs.

- 9 Recently a Dallas judge made the news when he replaced a white juror with a minority one in a capital trial where the jury was all white and the defendant was not. Do you believe it is important for a minority defendant to have a jury that contains minority members?

There is specific statutory law and case law dealing with jury selection and challenges. I would follow the law to ensure all Defendants receive a fair trial.

- 10 When a judge's sense of justice appears to be at variance to the strict application of the law, what approach should an ethical judge take to resolve the conflict?

The Judge's role is to enforce and uphold the laws and constitution, not re-write them to fit the desired outcome. The law should be strictly applied to the facts of each case.

- 11 Do you believe that our system of partisan election of trial judges should be continued? How can it be improved?

Yes, partisan elections are a good indicator of a Judge's values and judicial philosophy. However, the parties to a lawsuit should be treated equally without regard to their political affiliation in the courtroom.

- 12 Tell the voters one thing about yourself that isn't on any website, nor discussed at any forum.

I rescued a retired racing greyhound named Tabi (formerly known as T's Zeeler).