

Name: Terri H. Green
Court: County Court at Law #6

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

I would have to say, Sandra Day O'Connor, who was appointed by President Ronald Reagan as the first female Associate Justice to serve on the United States Supreme Court. She came from humble beginnings, and through perseverance, graduated number 3 in her law school class and entered a world of law which at that time was predominantly male. She is a very influential woman in America. In 2001, the *Ladies Home Journal* ranked her as the second-most power women in America and on August 12, 2009, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor of the United States, by President Barack Obama. She retired from the bench in 2006.

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

The greatest accomplishment in my legal career was being sworn in as an Attorney before the United States Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. in the presence of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and William Rehnquist before his death.

The greatest accomplishment in my personal life was being blessed with two healthy boys and being able to participate with them in life's learning experiences, including watching them turn into fine young men, with one being in Oil and Gas and the other a very accomplished nationally ranked Jr. golfer at the age of 18 years.

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

I believe the Court has been run in an efficient manner, however, we do need to prepare for the growth of the county, and, therefore, be proactive by advocating for the creation of new courts before the need arises. In addition, I would support the implementation of a DWI/Drug Court Program similar to the one already created by one of the Judges for all County Courts to try and reduce the rate of repeat offenders.

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

Yes, based on the Texas Fair Defense Act for criminal defendants as well as the local agencies that provide low cost or pro bono legal assistance to individuals who meet the criteria for civil/family law matters.

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?

Local Rules effective January 9, 2009, establishes a procedure for determining indigency. It takes into consideration income, tax information, and liquid assets. Other factors considered are current incarceration and other government provided benefits for the defendant. They do **not** consider the defendant's ability to post bail, other family resources or current employment. There is a partial indigency program and a procedure to pay in installments. We must apply the balancing test to an indigent's request--the needs of the defendant versus the resources available to the County to meet those needs, so I would look at the need on a case by case basis. Due to Ethic Rules regarding Attorneys and Judicial candidates, I cannot comment on how that would affect my decisions, but would have to follow the law and any guidelines in existence.

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

The growth of the County and the need for more courts to handle the increase in dockets whether it be from the criminal or civil case loads is one of the obstacles to justice in Collin County.

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

As an Attorney Ad Litem certified by the State of Texas, Judges appoint me to represent individuals who are incapacitated mentally, emotionally or physically. As the only candidate with such specialized training and experience, I would be able to quickly recognize those defendants with mental and emotional issues and be equipped to refer them for treatment as needed. Due to the Ethic Rules governing Attorneys and Judicial Candidates, I cannot comment on how specific facts might affect my sentencing decisions.

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?

Research shows that other states and Judges use alternative sentencing such as work release programs, drug courts, and electronic monitoring in lieu of jail time which a Judge can order based on an agreement with the prosecutor and defense counsel. My position would be that if new guidelines are considered, ALL Collin County courts be required to implement them in order to ensure equal justice for all defendants countywide.

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?

The correct procedure to determine a jury panel's make up, including any challenges regarding a juror's race, is outlined in the Constitution, the Statutes, and case law. As a Judge, I would have to strictly follow the law.

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?

A Judge should disqualify (or recuse himself) when a conflict of interest arises between him and the parties which renders him incapable of being fair, or when he becomes aware that he has represented one of the parties in prior proceedings, or when he can no longer perform the duties of a judicial officer impartially, or when he can no longer perform judicial duties without being biased or prejudiced.

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

Yes, I believe it should be continued as everyone is afforded the opportunity to run for office irrespective of what party they belong to in this County. The citizens of the County have the ultimate decision of deciding who they want to place on the bench as their presiding Judge.

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

I have a two and one-half year old grandson who calls me "MiMi T". He loves to wear his "Terri Green for Judge" Green Tee Shirt and look for my BIG political signs on the side of the road!