

Name: David Rippel  
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 Dan Wilson epitomizes judicial excellence in the county courts. Judge Wilson is a fair and impartial judge who listens to the facts and arguments and bases his decision strictly on the law.

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

My greatest legal accomplishment is that I have always maintained my honor and dignity while serving my clients. My greatest personal accomplishment is my marriage to Laura and the births of Ben and Catherine.

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

County Court at Law 4 currently does not have a sitting judge. I will improve the time required to resolve cases, thus eliminating the accumulation of cases

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

I feel that all citizens have access to justice in our country. We provide superb access to justice in our county.

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?

I will always follow my conscience and fairly apply the law.

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

I believe that our justice system in Collin County is fair and efficient. I believe that we can improve the perception of access to justice.

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

I will follow my conscience and always strive to serve justice.

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?

Alternative sentencing is a sentencing program that is an alternative to jail. There are numerous tools used as an alternative to jail. Two examples of alternative sentencing are house arrest and monitoring devices that can detect a probationer's use of alcohol (scram). I will consider alternative sentencing and promise to follow my conscience.

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?

No.

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?

I have not seen a situation where strict application of the law is in conflict with justice. Moreover, judges should not legislate from the bench.

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

Yes. I believe that judges should be elected, and that we should know which party a judicial candidate is from.

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

I am a member of the NRA; I enjoy target practice, and collecting weapons.