

Denton County Republican Primary Runoff Candidate Info

Elizabeth Beach

Judge Elizabeth Beach was appointed to the Tarrant County Criminal District Court No. 1 bench by Gov. Rick Perry in October 2013 and has been elected unopposed twice since. She has been an attorney for 38 years with both criminal and civil experience. She has been an adjunct professor of criminal justice at TCU for 26 years. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Beach was a felony prosecutor with the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office and a chief felony prosecutor with the Dallas County District Attorney's Office. She was lead prosecutor in the first case in Texas that used DNA evidence to convict a criminal in 1988. She has been a guest speaker on 20/20, Anderson Cooper Live, and Nancy Grace. Judge Beach received her law degree from the University of Texas School of Law.

Brian Walker

Brian has been a successful Military and Veteran's Law, Criminal Law, and Civil Law Attorney for over 15 years. Brian has authored right at 100 civil and criminal appeals and he has served as first chair attorney in over 70 civil and criminal jury trials. Brian has won countless awards in the legal profession. While Brian was still in his 30s, Brian was named by Texas Lawyer magazine as being among the top two private practice attorneys in Texas under the age of 40. Brian is the co-founder and former Chairman of the Tarrant County Bar Association's branch of the Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans (TLTV) pro bono project for military veterans. Brian was given the "Leadership Award" by the TLTV program in 2012 for his service as that group's leader and for his extensive pro bono contributions and service to military veterans.

Brian is a former state criminal prosecutor and he is a former Judge Advocate (JAG) in the United States Air Force Reserves. Brian ended his Reserve commitment with the USAF at the end of 2019. Brian served over nine years as a JAG and he served overseas on multiple occasions. In addition to serving as a JAG, Brian made Air Force history by becoming the first JAG in history to ever be selected to serve as a Drill Instructor at the U.S. Air Force Officer Training School. While serving in that capacity for almost half of 2014, Brian trained officer cadets in leadership, Air Force history and principles, drill and ceremonies, esprit de corps, and other aspects of being a United States Air Force Officer.

Derbha Jones

Derbha Jones' story is a uniquely American story that could only happen in a place like Texas, where those looking for opportunity have always found an open door. Derbha was born in Monroe, Louisiana to hardworking, Christian parents. Although they had no formal education, her parents always provided for her needs so that Derbha could pursue an education and a better life for herself. After graduating from Northeast Louisiana University with a degree in Radiologic Technology, Derbha made her way to Texas in 1989 to become an x-ray technologist in Denton.

While working as an x-ray tech, Derbha's curiosity about the law and her desire to help others led her to enroll at the Texas Wesleyan School of Law (now the Texas A&M School of Law). She was admitted to practice law in Texas in 2002, and 17 years later, she has built a reputation in courtrooms across North

Texas as a fierce advocate for the weakest and most vulnerable among us – abused and neglected children.

Derbha Jones is one of only 16 attorneys in all of Texas who are Board Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in both Family Law and Child Welfare Law. She is also a Child Welfare Law Specialist with the National Association of Counsel for Children, and a National Certified Guardian with the Center for Guardian Certification.

Derbha and Reggie have been married for 34 years. They have adopted a son and have also served as foster parents. They have three children – Ashley, Taylor, and Joshua, and one granddaughter, Kylie. Ashley is a graduate of the University of North Texas and the UNT School of Law. She is a successful attorney in her own right in Dallas. Taylor also graduated from the University of North Texas, and is on track to obtain her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine in May 2020. Joshua is a student at Sanger High School, and Kylie just turned six.

Jim Johnson

I was born and grew up in Fort Worth in a big family with six children. My dad worked as a butcher for a neighborhood grocery store by day and was a U.S. Postal mail sorter by night. My mom worked washing dishes at our local elementary school. We attended University Baptist Church. I'm an Eagle Scout and worked summers at Sid Richardson Scout Ranch before moving to a better paying job at Brandt Furniture Factory to earn money for college.

I graduated valedictorian of Everman High School and finished in the top 1% of my class at UT Austin with a triple-major in economics, accounting, and business in the University of Texas Business Honors Program. It was always my dream to be a jury trial lawyer, and 14 years ago I went to law school at Texas Wesleyan where I also graduated top 1%.

I began my career as a Certified Public Accountant for Ernst & Young. I next served as Chief Finance Officer of Associates International Holdings Corporation then was promoted to Chief Executive Officer of CitiFinancial Japan Inc., where I led a complex business with more than 900 offices and 7000 employees.

My law practice during the past 10+ years includes business, family, and criminal law cases. I've done jury trials in Denton, Tarrant, Dallas, and Williamson Counties. I've been admitted to practice one case in Clark County, Nevada, and have done cases in the federal courts of the Texas Northern and Texas Eastern federal districts. For the past ten years, I've served as an Adjunct Professor of Law teaching one class per semester at Texas A&M University Law School.

I am the Denton County Republican Party's First Vice Chair - Finance. My wife (Pam Johnson) and I are active members of eight local Republican Party clubs, and we served as Delegates to the Texas Republican Party State Conventions in 2018, 2016, and 2014.

The 431st District Court's docket is diverse with general jurisdiction over business, family, and criminal law cases, including serious felonies up to murder and death penalty cases. This court's docket needs to be managed by an attorney with excellent legal knowledge and proven experience in executive management.