



PETER SAKAI
Judge

225th Judicial District Court

Bexar County Courthouse
San Antonio, Texas 78205
(210) 335-2233

September 6, 2021

Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor, State of Texas
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Re: Letter of Resignation, Effective Date of Resignation of October 31, 2021

Dear Governor Abbott:

It is with eternal gratitude and deepest humility that I submit my letter of resignation from the office of the 225th Judicial District Court, Bexar County, Texas, effective date of resignation of October 31, 2021. For nearly 16 years as the elected judge of the 225th District Court, I have proudly served the citizens of Bexar County and the State of Texas. I have stood in four elections and for the last three terms, I have been unopposed. When I first ran, I promised to protect children, empower families and improve the system. Since I have fulfilled my promises and I am ready to embark on a new path of my life.

With your permission, I would like to state for the record that I have served with great distinction and honor as an ethical servant leader for the children and families of my community. Prior to my first election to the 225th District Court succeeding my friend and mentor Judge John Specia, I was your Associate Judge of the nationally renowned Bexar County Children's Court for 11 years. In that position, I was appointed by the unanimous vote of the Bexar County Civil District Court Judges, lead by Judge John Specia and the late Judge Andy Mireles. Prior to that, I was appointed the Associate Judge/Referee of the 289th District Court (Juvenile Court) by Judge Tom Rickhoff and Judge Carmen Kelsey. I will be forever indebted to the judges who served as my mentors and friends.

Being a public servant and servant leader, I was honored to serve on the Texas Center for the Judiciary Board and the Judicial Section of the State Bar of Texas Board. I was elected to serve on the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Board which is the oldest judicial council in the United States. I have served as an advisory board member to several local nonprofits that provide for children and families in our community. I was elected by my peers to be the Local Administrative Judge for the Bexar County District Court Judges. I have led the Civil District Court Judges as the Judge with the most seniority status. My biggest and proudest accomplishment has been the Administrative Judge of the Bexar County Children's Courts. The Bexar County Children's Courts have grown and expanded with programs and services through public/private partnerships along with the leadership and support of

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County Judge Nelson Wolff and First Lady Tracy Wolff, Chair of the Hidalgo Foundation. Out of this collaboration came to be the Family Drug Court and Early Childhood Court, also known as Baby Court where I have presided over many CPS cases. We have successfully reunified over a thousand children with their parents in a highly successful and accountable reunification programs.

Please note that one of my closing duties and responsibilities as a District Court Judge was the calling and presiding over the special status hearing docket for the foster children without placement, more commonly called the Children Without Placement (CWOP) children. As a result of these hearings, I have ordered CPS to remove all foster children sleeping in CPS offices and find safe, supervised, clean, and reasonable accommodations. Governor Abbott, please do whatever you can do for these children. They do not deserve the treatment that the current foster care system provides for them. I have no doubt that you care about them and will address their issues. I pray for our foster children in care.

I stand ready to assist you or anyone in the smooth transition of the orderly operation of the 225th District Court. It has the most capable and efficient staff from Court Clerk Lidia Gamez, Court Reporter Kristin Anderson and Court Bailiff Reuben Rendon. Bexar County Children's Courts are one of the most well run programs in the nation and Children's Court Administrator Barbara Schafer deserves all the recognition and respect for her long term dedication and loyalty to the children and families that they serve. I could not have done all these things without my staff and my family.

Special love and devotion to my wife and life partner Rachel, my lovely children George and Elizabeth, my grandson Jackson, and the newest grandson yet to be born Grayson, who all helped me be the person that I am.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Peter Sakai

Cc:

Texas Supreme Court

Honorable Sid Harle, Presiding Judge, Fourth Administrative Judicial Region

Honorable Ron Rangel, 379th District Court, Local Administrative Judge

Honorable Nelson Wolff, Bexar County Judge