

BOURLAND
FIELD
PURYEAR
TOTH

*..names to remember when
voting...*



An EXTREMELY important race is on your ballot! Remember these names...Cindy Olson Bourland, Scott Field, David Puryear and Mike Toth. All are justices on the Third Court of Appeals.

The Third Court of Appeals, which sits in Austin, is the intermediate appeals court for Tom Green county and all surrounding counties. Every decision made by a judge in our county is subject to review by the Third Court. This includes all appeals of civil lawsuits and all criminal prosecutions. This means cases that affect the average citizen such as divorce, child custody, liability cases concerning homeowners and small businesses, and criminal prosecutions for robberies, burglaries, and murder could easily find their way to the Third Court.

Another critical point for citizens to understand is that the Third Court is unique among the State's 14 intermediate appellate courts in that it hears the appeals of all cases involving Texas state government, state officials and state agencies. This means virtually all challenges to state legislation sponsored or supported by your locally elected representatives are required to come through the liberal district courts of Travis County, before proceeding to the conservative Third Court in case of appeal.

Currently, the Third Court is comprised of 6 Justices, all of whom are REPUBLICAN. These judges are all committed to the rule of law. Four of these six seats are on the ballot this year. All four Republicans are being opposed by liberal candidates recruited by, and heartily endorsed by, the liberal Austin crowd. What does that mean for Tom Green County citizens? It means that if the four Republican justices lose their races, Austin liberals will oversee the courts of Tom Green County since they would hold a majority of the seats on the Third

Court. Literally all decisions made by local Tom Green County judges and juries would be subject to revision by a new, activist, Third Court.

Liberal, activist judges bend the law to arrive at what they believe to be a “fair” result. Conservative judges, like the ones currently on the Third Court, strictly apply the constitution and the laws of this State. They DO NOT legislate from the bench!

It should be noted that because the Third Court deals with almost all cases involving state government, their decisions impact the entire state. Millions of Texans are affected by the opinions issued by the Court every year. AND, the decisions made by the Third Court are usually **THE LAST WORD OF THE TEXAS JUSTICE SYSTEM** in the matters brought before them. As reported recently in a statewide publication, the Third Court issued approximately 4500 opinions over the past 5 years. The Texas Supreme Court accepted **ONLY 40** of those cases for reviews. Notably, the Third Court was the appellate court **LEAST LIKELY** to be reversed by the Texas Supreme Court.

The voters of San Angelo can help to prevent this takeover by liberal, activist judges. Be sure you look for the four races on your ballot for the Third Court of Appeals. The incumbent justices deserve your support. Vote for Cindy Olson Bourland, Scott Field, David Puryear and Mike Toth.

Until next time...

Kat Rowoldt

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