

**Press Release**  
**Judge Gil Jones**

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**Judge Gil Jones Files For Re-election**

Guilford L. "Gil" Jones, Judge of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District announced today that he has filed for re-election to that office, subject to the Republican Primary on March 4, 2008. Jones is seeking a fourth term in the district that serves the counties of Burnet, Blanco, Llano and San Saba.

Judge Jones, formerly in private practice for 23 years and who also is a CPA, has served on the bench of the 33<sup>rd</sup> District Court since 1997. The judge has been a driving force in advancing the efficient operation of the judicial system including procedural changes, implementation of the use of modern technology, and steady addition of programs for the benefit of his constituency while exacting personal responsibility from criminals, errant juveniles and civil litigants.

Among the changes Judge Jones has steered have been modification of criminal case processing for better disposition of cases, enhancement of the juvenile probation department to include significant additional therapies and guidance for juvenile offenders, implementation of email and other modern technologies resulting in greater efficiencies and saving taxpayers thousands of dollars annually, creation of the first multi-county drug court in Texas and the recent creation of a juvenile drug court, and creation of the 424<sup>th</sup> District Court. The judge's web site at <http://judgegiljones.com/> contains much more information about his activities and qualifications.

The judge stays current with the law, being a graduate of the first-ever Texas College of Advanced Judicial Studies as well as maintaining his status as a fellow of The College of the State Bar of Texas.<sup>1</sup> He has earned a reputation among the lawyers appearing before him of studying the law in each case and being careful in applying the law to the facts without trying to legislate from the bench. Jones said "I take special pride in taking the time to take each case, one at a time, to study the applicable law, and to make decisions that fit that particular case."

A landmark ruling by Judge Jones resulted in added protection for child witnesses in sex abuse cases in Texas. The law had long provided that a child victim of sexual abuse could, under certain circumstances, testify by closed circuit TV to avoid having to be in the direct glare of the perpetrator. The judge ruled that this provision also applied to a child who was not the victim but who had witnessed the abuse. The child in that case was spared the ordeal of testifying in front of the perpetrator who was eventually sentenced to life in prison. The case was appealed all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court which declined to hear the case, thereby effectively establishing it as settled law in Texas.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.texasbarcollege.com/>

Judge Jones has also been a leader in extra-judicial activities including as a member of the Supreme Court Task Force on Foster Care and as a regional representative to the Texas Association of District Judges where in the 2007 legislative session he played an instrumental role in monitoring legislation of interest to the state judiciary.

An active churchman and Vietnam era veteran of the U.S. Navy, Judge Jones believes that judges are made, not born, and is proud of the difference he has been able to make during his 11 years on the bench and hopes to continue using that experience for the public good. “I will continue to give 110% in exercising toughness with the integrity, leadership and experience gained in these 11 years and the 23 years of previous private practice” Jones said.