



## **County Criminal Court at Law 1 Judge**

**Salary: \$157,000 minimum, but is dependent on statutorily defined years of experience**

**Closing date: September 11, 2023**

### **Term**

This appointment is only until a successful candidate secures office by certified election in 2024 to fill the unexpired term of office through December 31, 2026.

### **Office Description**

The El Paso County Criminal Court at Law 1 has jurisdiction over all assigned causes and proceedings, civil, criminal, environmental, original and appellate, prescribed by law for county courts pursuant to Texas Government Code §25.0732, and other law. In this court:

- This court is specifically assigned Class A and B misdemeanors, Class C appeals, and Civil J.P. appeals.
- The judge employs a court bailiff, court coordinator, and the official court reporter.
- The court's official records are maintained and managed by county court clerks from the office of the El Paso County Clerk and district court clerks from the office of the El Paso County District Clerk.
- Judicial and courtroom security is the responsibility of the bailiff employed by the judge.
- Community Supervision (Probation) is conducted by probation officers from the El Paso County Community Supervision and Corrections Department when offenders are placed on supervision.
- Personal data regarding each arrestee used to determine suitability for release on personal bond is gathered by members of the El Paso County Criminal Justice Coordination Pretrial Services Department. This department also supervises pre-trial defendants.
- Prosecution on behalf of The State of Texas is conducted by assistant district attorneys from the 34th Judicial District Attorney's Office.
- Defendants found by the judge to be indigent are assigned counsel pursuant to the El Paso County Indigent Defense Plan mandated by the Texas Fair Defense Act.
- The Court is supported by both the County Court Administration and the Council of Judges Administration Offices.

As with all elected county officials, the County Criminal Court at Law 1 Judge has ultimate authority over the operations of the office, including the authority to hire and fire employees and direct their daily activities, subject to budgetary allocations from Commissioners Court.

### **Applicant Requirements**

- Age – minimum 25 years;
- U.S. Citizen;
- El Paso County Resident – minimum 2 years prior to appointment;
- Licensed attorney in Texas.

- Practiced law or served as a judge of a court in Texas, or both combined – for the 4 years preceding appointment;
- Must meet all requirements to execute a \$10,000.00 bond as required by Government Code 25.0006 and set by the Commissioners Court.
- If selected, applicant must diligently discharge the duties of the office on a full-time basis and may not engage in the private practice of law.

### **Ideal Candidate**

- It is preferred that a candidate have at least 8 years or more of general litigation experience, primarily in criminal defense, prosecution, and/or judicial experience within County and District Courts in El Paso County, Texas, including having tried several cases before a jury.
- It is preferred that a candidate have leadership experience managing a critical operation in the public sector, to include staff and organizational leadership, planning, budget preparation and oversight, and policy development.
- Be cooperative, have highest ethical and professional integrity standards, and be respected in the legal and judicial community.
- Good character and judicial temperament, demonstrating diligence, patience, open-mindedness, courtesy, punctuality, firmness, compassion, humility, and common sense.
- Have never been publicly reprimanded, suspended or disbarred by the Texas Bar Association or any other licensing state.
- Have not been convicted, or currently under indictment or criminal charges, for any criminal offense.
- Demonstrate his/her compatibility with the workload of the court.
- Be technologically proficient and able to access and use electronic case files and documents.
- Knowledge of the court reforms concerning bail and court measures is also preferred, but not required.
- Bilingual English and Spanish preferred, but not required.

**Vision:** The vision of Courts in El Paso County: The Courts are providing timely and equitable justice for all; an effective team with work relationships based upon mutual respect and trust; safe and secure County buildings, courtrooms and work environment; use up-to-date technology to provide best possible services and programs; provide educational and training opportunities for judges and court staff; provide the community easy access to information about court services and activities; are user friendly and accessible to all courts and courtrooms; refer clients to community resources – mental health, supervised counseling, transportation, etc; assess and monitor community risk and consider alternatives to incarceration; are recognized as a national and state model for court best practices; have sufficient number of courts to serve a growing El Paso community and to respond to the changing environment; have the confidence and trust of the El Paso community.

Interested candidates should submit a resume with a letter of interest to the attention of Ms. Claudia Y. Murguia at [clmurguia@epcounty.com](mailto:clmurguia@epcounty.com). The letter of interest should specify why the candidate is interested and believes they have the qualifications required as outlined for a County Criminal Court at Law Judge.

**Deadline to apply is Monday, September 11, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.**