



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Susan Lilly
(512) 477-7722

CHIEF JUSTICE NATHAN HECHT FILES FOR ELECTION

{Austin} – “*Hecht, yes!*” Chief Justice Nathan Hecht said when asked if he was going to run for Chief Justice after his ceremonial swearing in on Veteran’s Day which included U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia giving the oath of office.

“I have devoted more than 30 years to serving the people of Texas and I am proud to serve as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and to ask for Texans vote for that office. The court has established a national reputation for adherence to the rule of law in its decisions and strong leadership in making the justice system more efficient, fair, open, and accessible to all and I am committed to continuing that course,” said Chief Justice Hecht.

Governor Rick Perry appointed Nathan L. Hecht Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas in September 2013, succeeding Wallace B. Jefferson, and he began serving as Chief Justice October 1, 2013. Chief Justice Nathan L. Hecht is the Senior Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas and the senior Texas appellate judge in active service. He was appointed to the District Court in 1981, elected to the Court of Appeals in 1986, and first elected to the Supreme Court in 1988. In 2014 he will become the longest-serving Supreme Court member in Texas history.

Throughout his service on the Supreme Court, Chief Justice Hecht has overseen the rules of administration, practice, and procedure in Texas courts. He has served, by appointment of the Chief Justice of the United States, on the Advisory Committee on Civil Rules for the Judicial Conference of the United States.

Chief Justice Hecht has also been responsible for the Supreme Court's efforts to assure that all Texans, including those living below the poverty level, have access to basic civil legal services. He is the Court's liaison to the Texas Access to Justice Commission.

Before taking the bench, Chief Justice Hecht was a partner in the Locke firm in Dallas, practicing mainly in the area of general business and commercial litigation. He earned a B.A. degree with honors in philosophy from Yale University and his J.D. degree cum laude from Southern Methodist University School of Law, where he was a Hatton W. Sumners Scholar, was elected to Order of the Coif, and served as an editor for the Southwestern Law Journal. He served as a law clerk to the Hon. Roger Robb, Circuit Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, and as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Naval Reserve Judge Advocate General Corps.

Justice Hecht is a Life Member of the American Law Institute and a member of the Texas Philosophical Society.

Chief Justice Nathan Hecht will be up for election in 2014.

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