

The Quorum Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: DECEMBER 23, 2004

Items from Strayhorn, TPPF, Cornyn, and Texas Watch

STRAYHORN PROPOSES PARITY IN PAY FOR TEXAS JUDGES: Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn today released a special report on judicial pay, which [recommended](#) bringing Texas' judges' pay in line with their counterparts in other states. "My report found that Texas judges earn much less than judges in other states, and even first-year lawyers," Comptroller Strayhorn said. "Worse, the average tenure of an appellate judge is less than one full term. We must address the growing challenge of retaining our state's best and hardest-working judges."

TPPF 3RD ANNUAL POLICY ORIENTATION ANNOUNCED: The *Texas Public Policy Foundation* will host its 3rd annual *Policy Orientation for the Texas Legislature* on January 26 and 27, 2005. The event, which has been sold-out and drawn standing-room-only crowds in previous years, will feature keynote addresses by **Gov. Rick Perry, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst** and **Speaker Tom Craddick**. This year's panel topics include: school finance, education reform, health care, Medicaid reform, transportation, water policy, tort reform, homeowners insurance, and telecommunications.

CORNYN STATEMENT ON JUDICIAL RENOMINATIONS: I'm [encouraged](#) that the President plans to renominate these well-qualified candidates to the federal bench. I hope that with a new Senate, tempered by the last two elections, we will have a fresh start to the confirmation process. I'm especially pleased that the President intends to renominate my friend and former colleague, **Justice Priscilla Owen**. And I hope she will receive better treatment next year than she has received in the past.

TEXAS WATCH STAFFING FOR UPCOMING SESSION: **Alex Winslow**, Executive Director (nawinslow@texaswatch.org). Alex will be [developing](#) and directing issue strategy and program direction, as well as being *Texas Watch's* lead voice in the media. He joined our team earlier this year after serving the last five years as Chief of Staff to a key member of the House of Representatives. His broad expertise in the legislative and political process offers a unique knowledge and understanding of public policy-making.

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