

Judge Guy Herman  
Probate Court No. 1  
200 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Austin, TX 78701  
(512) 854-9258



Judge Nicholas Chu  
Probate Court No. 2  
200 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Austin, TX 78701  
(512) 854-5512

## Travis County Probate Courts

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July 10, 2025

Dear Central Texas Attorneys:

In the aftermath of the July 4 weekend floods, Judge Guy Herman and Judge Nicholas Chu wish to express our deepest condolences to all Central Texans affected by these tragic events. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time. We know these events have affected wide swaths of our community and we join in the mourning for those lost to the floods.

As reports of the devastating losses of life and property continue to develop, we encourage our community to support one another and face the work ahead. We direct attorneys to the Supreme Court of Texas' Emergency Order on the Hill Country Flood State of Disaster and encourage all attorneys to make reasonable agreements on extensions of time and other accommodations for those affected by the floods. (Supreme Court of Texas, Misc. Docket No. 25-9035, available at [259035.pdf](#).) The State Bar of Texas offers a list of disaster relief resources [here](#).

We also encourage members of the Bar to give generously of their time and skills as recovery enters the phase of attending to legal matters. People will need assistance with immediate practical concerns like replacing lost identification documents, obtaining death certificates for persons who cannot be found, and establishing the right to make claims for insurance and public assistance. To assist clients whose loved ones' remains are not recovered, consult Health & Safety Code Sec. 193.010, Certificate of Death by Catastrophe, which provides a process for obtaining a death certificate within 10 days of a disaster. Over time, needs will evolve to probate and heirship work, as well as the establishment of trusts to hold inherited assets that, while inadequate to meet the needs of some indigent heirs, will disqualify them from the benefits they depend on.

Legal services programs such as Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA) will organize volunteer opportunities in the coming weeks and months, and we encourage all lawyers to contribute to these recovery efforts. This work often begins after public attention has moved on to other things, and we appreciate your support of the long-term engagement these projects will require.

As recovery efforts begin, we take heart in the spirit of strength and community that embodies our region and its people. We thank all of you who demonstrate that spirit in your work for those affected and look forward to supporting you as we move forward together.

With heartfelt condolences,

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Hon. Guy Herman  
Presiding Judge, Probate Court No. 1

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Hon. Nicholas Chu  
Presiding Judge, Probate Court No. 2