



**BEFORE THE STATE COMMISSION
ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

CJC No. 21-0785

PUBLIC WARNING

**HONORABLE OSCAR SALINAS
FORMER JUDGE, SULLIVAN CITY MUNICIPAL COURT
SULLIVAN CITY, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS**

During its meetings on June 8-9, 2022, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct concluded a review of the above-referenced matter against the Honorable Oscar Salinas, former judge of the Sullivan City Municipal Court, Sullivan City, Hidalgo County, Texas. The Commission attempted to contact Judge Salinas to notify him of the allegations against him and to respond in writing to same, but Judge Salinas did not respond. After considering the evidence before it, the Commission entered the following Findings and Conclusion:

BACKGROUND

The Texas Municipal Courts Education Center ("TMCEC") filed a complaint against Judge Salinas alleging he failed to obtain his required judicial education for the 2019-2020 Academic Year, despite TMCEC granting Judge Salinas a conditional waiver that required him to attend a New Judges Seminar on December 7-11, 2020, which the judge also failed to attend.

During the investigation into this matter, the Commission learned that on March 3, 2022, Judge Salinas, who also served as an elected Trustee for the La Joya Independent School District, entered a plea of guilty to federal extortion charges relating to his renegotiation of school district vendor contracts and was convicted of same under Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951. Judge Salinas has yet to be sentenced.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Honorable Oscar Salinas served as the judge for the Sullivan City Municipal Court, Sullivan City, Hidalgo County, Texas.

2. Judge Salinas failed to obtain his required judicial education for the 2019-2020 Academic Year.
3. Judge Salinas was granted a conditional waiver by TMCEC which required him to attend the New Judges Seminar on December 7-11, 2022. Judge Salinas failed to attend.
4. In addition to serving as a municipal court judge, Judge Salinas was elected to serve as a Trustee for the La Joya Independent School District (“ISD”).
5. In his role as Trustee, Judge Salinas engaged in criminal conduct, namely extortion, while renegotiating La Joya ISD vendor contracts.
6. On March 3, 2022, Judge Salinas entered a plea of guilty and was convicted of extortion under Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951.

RELEVANT STANDARDS

1. Canon 2A of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct provides in relevant part that a judge shall comply with the law.
2. Article V, Section 1-a(6)(A) of the Texas Constitution provides in relevant part, that a judge shall not engage in “willful or persistent conduct that is clearly inconsistent with the proper performance of his duties or casts public discredit upon the judiciary or administration of justice.”

CONCLUSION

Based on the record before it and the factual findings recited above, the Texas State Commission on Judicial Conduct has determined the Honorable Oscar Salinas, former judge of the Sullivan City Municipal Court, Sullivan City, Hidalgo County, Texas should be publicly warned for failing to obtain his required judicial education for the 2019-2020 Academic Year, and for committing and being convicted of the federal offense of extortion in his role as a Trustee for the La Joya ISD. The Commission concluded the judge failed to comply with the law and engaged in conduct which constitutes willful or persistent conduct that cast public discredit upon the judiciary, in violation of Canon 2A of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct, and Article V, Section 1-a(6)(A) of the Texas Constitution.

The Commission has taken this action pursuant to the authority conferred it in Article V, §1-a of the Texas Constitution in a continuing effort to promote confidence in and high standards for the judiciary.

Issued this the 10 day of August, 2022.



David Schenck
Chairman, State Commission on Judicial Conduct