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JUSTICE
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Justice Yañez secures her place on the ballot for the Texas Supreme Court
Putting technical questions to rest, the first Latina in Texas to serve on an appellate court submits over 900 signatures to secure her name on the ballot

(Austin, TX) — In a letter to Chairman Boyd Richie of the Texas Democratic Party, Susan Hays, legal counsel to Justice Linda Yañez, announced that as of 6 pm today the Yañez application for candidacy “contained more than 900 signatures” to meet all the technical requirements required for candidacy to serve on the state’s highest court.

Questions originally arose in a New Year’s Eve letter circulated by the campaign of Judge Susan Criss, suggesting they were not afraid of matching Justice Yañez’ credentials, an appellate court justice and Harvard Law clinical instructor, but that they feared technical issues would provide an opening for Republicans to challenge her candidacy. “Despite only having 48 hours’ notice over the New Year’s holiday, the Yañez campaign has supplemented the application to cure any defects,” Hays wrote.

“I thank the Criss campaign for bringing these issues to our attention,” Justice Yañez stated. “In the end, it provided a legal lesson on the decision in the Francis case, where the court ruled against technical traps subverting the democratic process.” Yañez was referring to *In re Francis*, 186 S.W.3d 534 (Tex. 2006), in which the Court held that the Election Code must be interpreted “as a tool rather than a trap.” The plaintiff in the Francis case was Terry Keel, the former State Representative/lobbyist who was called on by Speaker Tom Craddick to replace the previous Parliamentarian who resigned in protest, refusing to uphold his claim to absolute authority.

In the districts questioned by the Criss campaign, the Yañez campaign included verified signatures in the following amounts:

Houston (1&14) –	108 verified signatures
San Antonio (4)	– 82 verified signatures
Texarkana (6)	– 65 verified signatures
Amarillo (7)	– 68 verified signatures
Waco (10)	– 79 verified signatures
Eastland (11)	– 81 verified signatures
Tyler (12)	– 79 verified signatures

Yañez and Criss will face off in the March 4th Democratic Primary for Place 8 on the Texas Supreme Court. “The all Republican court has been subverting the jury process, now, thankfully, the democratic process will allow for a real debate to shine light on who has the qualifications to bring much needed reform,” Yañez concluded.