



**BEFORE THE STATE COMMISSION
ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

CJC No. 25-0594

**PUBLIC ADMONITION
AND
ORDER OF ADDITIONAL EDUCATION**

**HONORABLE RUBEN BECERRA
COUNTY JUDGE
SAN MARCOS, HAYS COUNTY, TEXAS**

During its meeting on April 8-9, 2026, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct concluded a review of the allegations against the Honorable Ruben Becerra, County Judge, in San Marcos, Hays County, Texas. Judge Becerra was advised by letter of the Commission's concerns and provided a written response. Judge Becerra appeared before the Commission on April 8, 2026, and gave testimony.

After considering the evidence before it, the Commission enters the following Findings and Conclusions:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Honorable Ruben Becerra, served as County Judge, in San Marcos, Hays County, Texas.
2. Judge Becerra is the owner of the following social media accounts: (1) "Hays County Judge Ruben Becerra" Facebook page ("Judge Facebook Page"); (2) "Ruben Becerra" Facebook page ("Personal Facebook Page"); (3) "Judge Ruben Becerra" Instagram page ("Judge Instagram Page"); and (4) "Judge Ruben Becerra" X page ("Judge X Page").
3. Judge Becerra's Judge Facebook Page directly links to his Personal Facebook Page, as well as his Judge Instagram Page and Judge X Page.
4. Judge Becerra's Personal Facebook Page identifies him as the owner of Gil's Broiler & the Manske Roll Bakery ("Gil's"). His son, Cristian Becerra ("Cristian"), works there. Also, Judge Becerra and

his wife, Monica Becerra (“Mrs. Becerra”) own Becerra Corporation (“Becerra Corp.”) which owns Gil’s.

5. On July 27, 2024, Judge Becerra posted an advertisement for Gil’s on his Judge Facebook Page, under which he commented “This is a special post for me – my son is the baker ... Whenever possible, I encourage you to support local, however that looks.”
6. Judge Becerra posted several advertisements for other local businesses throughout his many social media pages.
7. Judge Becerra posted twelve advertisements for the following local businesses on his Judge Facebook Page: (1) Centro 35; (2) Ceremony Botanical Studio; (3) Cody’s Restaurant & Patio; (4) Crossroads Vintage Restoration; (5) Dapper Cave Barbershop; (6) DC Construction Services; (7) Gil’s; (8) Hudson’s on Mercer Street; (9) Rolling in Thyme and Dough; (10) Roughhouse Brewing; (11) State Farm Insurance – Rosie; and (12), Texans on Mission.
8. Judge Becerra posted three advertisements for the following local businesses on his Personal Facebook Page: (1) Community Pizza & Garden; (2) Dapper Cave Barbershop; and (3) Gil’s.
9. Judge Becerra posted fifteen advertisements for the following local businesses on his Judge Instagram Page: (1) Centro 35; (2) Ceremony Botanical Studio; (3) Dapper Cave Barbershop; (4) Devil’s Backbone Tavern; (5) Gil’s; (6) Green Heron Bookshop; (7) Hudson’s on Mercer Street; (8) Nutty Brown H-E-B; (9) Proof Liquor & Deli; (10) Roughhouse Brewing; (11) Springtown Roasters; (12) TasTe on Main – Buda; (13) The Yurtopian; (14) Vista Brewing; and (15) Zoi Market.
10. Judge Becerra posted five advertisements for the following local businesses on his Judge X Page: (1) Buda HIVE!; (2) Dapper Cave Barbershop; (3) Gil’s; (4) Ma Maison; and (5) Proof Liquor & Deli.
11. Twelve of the posts for local businesses across Judge Becerra’s social media pages were for Gil’s.
12. In his written response to the Commission, Judge Becerra stated, “No advertisement was ever made. I always support buying local.” Judge Becerra denied his endorsement of various businesses and people across his social media pages, as well as, denying he used the prestige of his office to advance the private interests of himself or others.
13. Judge Becerra organized a monthly car show “Classic Rides on El Camino Real” (“Classic Rides”) through Hays Classic Rides/Classic Cars of Hays County. Classic Cars of Hays County is owned by Cristian.
14. Classic Rides takes place on the Hays County courthouse grounds and requires each vehicle and vendor to pay a \$20 fee via the Hays Classic Rides website. Funds received were sent to Derek Ortiz (“Ortiz”), who owns Dapper Cave Barbershop.
15. Classic Rides offered sponsorship levels ranging from Premier Level at \$1,000, Platinum Level at \$500 (including “Judge Becerra Swag”), and Gold Level at \$250. Classic Rides also offered awards to attendees, which stated “Judge Becerra presents ...” at the top of the plaque.
16. Judge Becerra’s Community Liaison, Anita Collins, a county employee, provided logistical support for Classic Rides.
17. Judge Becerra posted forty-six times across his Judge Facebook, Instagram and X Pages regarding the “Classic Rides” event.

18. On February 21, 2025, a non-profit business organization was created called “Empower Hays.” Directors of Empower Hays were listed as Judge Becerra, Mrs. Becerra, and Cristian.
19. On February 24, 2025, Empower Hays requested permission to use the courthouse grounds for the Classic Rides car show. The event holder is listed as Cristian.
20. In his written responses to the Commission, Judge Becerra acknowledged he owned Gil’s but did not disclose that his son worked for the bakery. Judge Becerra also acknowledged family ties with Becerra Corp. and Empower Hays.
21. With regards to Classic Rides and/or Hays Classic Rides, Judge Becerra stated, “I helped organize a car show club.” But, Judge Becerra denied use of his courthouse staff in facilitating Classic Rides.¹ Judge Becerra acknowledged Derek Ortiz, owner of Dapper Cave Barbershop, “received funds which paid for the expenses [of Classic Rides].” Also, Judge Becerra acknowledged one of the courthouse use agreements for Classic Rides was signed by himself, but that all agreements were “in compliance with courthouse grounds use agreement.”
22. With regards to the sponsorship tiers for Classic Rides, Judge Becerra indicated the \$500 sponsorship tier never materialized and did not include what would have been included in the “Judge Becerra Swag.” Judge Becerra also indicated he did not sponsor any award, just presented them.
23. Judge Becerra denied Becerra Corp. or Empower Hays having any current or past involvement in any of the private businesses referenced. Also, Judge Becerra denied his financial and business dealings regarding Becerra Corp. and/or Empower Hays reflected adversely on his impartiality or interfered with the proper performance of his judicial duties.
24. In his appearance before the Commission, Judge Becerra acknowledged he was not exempt from judicial functions, and that he receives the judicial stipend. He stated that his current caseload consist solely of administrative license suspensions/revocations.
25. During his testimony, Judge Becerra acknowledged his posts endorsing local businesses were advertisements but were posted with the intent to support the local community solely as part of his administrative functions. He stated the Classic Rides event is no longer occurring and that he has stopped any posts regarding local businesses to his social media.

RELEVANT STANDARDS AND AUTHORITIES

1. Canon 2B of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct provides, in relevant part: “A judge shall not lend the prestige of judicial office to advance the private interests of the judge or others.”
2. Canon 4A(1) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct provides, in relevant part: “A judge shall conduct all of the judge’s extra-judicial activities so that they do not cast reasonable doubt on the judge’s capacity to act impartially as a judge.”

¹ There was an email in evidence from Anita Collins regarding Classic Cars with her signature as the Community Liaison for Judge Becerra.

CONCLUSION

Based on the record before it and the factual findings recited above, the Texas State Commission on Judicial Conduct has determined that the Honorable Ruben Becerra, County Judge, in San Marcos, Hays County, Texas, should be publicly admonished and ordered to obtain additional education for: (1) lending the prestige of his office to advance the private interests of himself and others by advertising local businesses on his social media pages; and (2) casting reasonable doubt on his capacity to act impartially as a judge when he endorsed various local businesses on his social media pages, in violation of Canons 2B and 4A(1) of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct.

Pursuant to this Order, Judge Becerra must obtain **two (2) hours** of instruction with a mentor, in addition to his required annual judicial education for Fiscal Year 2026. In particular, the Commission desires that Judge Becerra receive **two (2) hours** of this additional education in the area of social media and the judiciary. Pursuant to the authority contained in Section 33.036 of the Texas Government Code, the Commission authorizes the disclosure of certain information relating to this matter to the Texas Association of Counties to the extent necessary to enable that entity to assign the appropriate mentor for Judge Becerra.

Judge Becerra shall complete the additional **two (2) hours** of instruction recited above within **60 days** from the date of written notification of the assignment of a mentor. Upon receiving such notice, it is Judge Becerra's responsibility to contact the assigned mentor and schedule the additional education.

The Commission has taken this action pursuant to the authority conferred it in Article V, Section 1-a(8) of the Texas Constitution in a continuing effort to protect the public and promote public confidence in the judicial system.

Issued this the 23rd day of April, 2026.

Ken Wise

Ken Wise
Vice Chair, State Commission on Judicial Conduct