

## Nomination Form

Section Representative to the Board of Directors

*Term 2018-2021*

Please limit this Nomination Information to 4 pages

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- 1) Provide your candidate's name, affiliation and full contact information, including email address and phone:

**William "Bill" J. Chriss**

**LAW OFFICE of WILLIAM J. CHRISS, P.C.**

**of counsel to**

**THE SNAPKA LAW FIRM**

606 N. Carancahua St.

Suite 1511

Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

361-884-3330

[wjchrisspc@gmail.com](mailto:wjchrisspc@gmail.com)

Fax: (512) 590-8696

- 2) I am nominating this person as a SMALL/**LARGE** (circle or underline) Section Representative to the Board of Directors. (There are currently two open positions: one Large Section Representative and one Small Section Representative). **LARGE**
- 3) This candidate is a member of the following section: Insurance Law Section
- 4) Briefly describe your candidate's personal background, character and contributions to their community.

Bill is well known in the legal community. He has been involved in numerous community organizations over the years. While my description could not do justice to his extensive career and resume, one example is his receipt of the 2016 Texas Center for Legal Ethics Chief Justice Jack Pope Award presented to an appellate lawyer or judge who epitomizes the highest level of professionalism and integrity. He has given back to the community by being an adjunct professor at various colleges in Texas as well as being on the committees of various organizations from the Texas Supreme Court Historical Society to the American Law Institute (ALI). Bill is one of the few Texas lawyers and judges to have been elected to membership in the ALI, publisher of the Restatements of the Law. He recently served as editor in chief of The Journal of Texas Insurance Law and as Dean of the Texas Center for Legal Ethics, which promotes the highest levels of ethics and professionalism among Texas lawyers. In 2016, Texas Chief Justice Nathan Hecht presented to him the Ethics Center's statewide Chief Justice Jack Pope Professionalism Award honoring an appellate lawyer or judge who epitomizes the highest level of professionalism and integrity.

In addition to his fulltime job, Bill is a historian, political scientist, religious scholar, and published author. He was nominated for the Rhodes Scholarship and attended Harvard Law School where he became one of the youngest members of his graduating class at the age of 23. He also holds graduate degrees in law, theology, history and politics, including a Ph.D. in history from The University of Texas. While maintaining his busy law practice, Bill has also taught Judicial Politics, Political Philosophy, History, and Constitutional Law within the Texas A&M University system. He has written several articles for scholarly journals and his first book, *The Noble Lawyer*, was published by Texas Bar Books in 2011, while his second book, *Six Constitutions over Texas*, is currently being edited for publication.

**The question becomes what has Bill not done?** He is the epitome of hard work and high intellect. But, most importantly, Bill is a humble person who has a wonderful sense of humor. He livens up meetings by his Greek references and his quick wit. If I had not seen his resume I would have never known how distinguished Bill's career and life has really been. He can talk to the every day person as well as Supreme Court Justices. He would be an asset to the Board.

5) Describe your candidate's professional achievements and commitment to the legal profession.

Please see Bill's attached resume setting out his distinguished career from the time he was one of the youngest members of his Harvard Law School graduating class at the age of 23 until today. His resume demonstrates his varied interests and achievements from theology to law. He is currently on the board of the Insurance Law Section.

6) Describe your nominee's participation in State Bar projects, including contributions to your Section.

Please see Bill's attached resume that demonstrates his extensive participation in the State Bar.

7) Provide *your* full contact information including email address and phone.

Meloney Perry  
Perry Law PC  
10440 N. Central Expy, Ste 600  
Dallas, TX 75231  
Telephone: 214-265-6224  
Email: mperry@mperrylaw.com

8) Please verify that you have discussed the duties and purpose of this position with your candidate and have verified they are willing to serve in this capacity, if elected.

Yes, I have discussed these duties with Bill. He is up to the task and would serve diligently.

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## Nominating Procedure

Nominations must include a completed Nomination Form and candidate resume. Resumes should be limited to one page and the nomination information should be limited to four pages. Nominations or resumes that exceed these limits will be reduced accordingly.

**Nominations will be accepted by mail or email (email is preferred) and must be received no later than Monday, February 5th at 5:00pm.** Send nominations to:

Tracy Nuckols, Project Manager, 1414 Colorado, Austin, TX 78701-1627  
Phone: (512) 427-1710, Email: [tnuckols@texasbar.com](mailto:tnuckols@texasbar.com)

Elections will be held at the Council of Chairs Meeting on February 23th at the Texas Law Center in Austin. Only Section chairs (or their designated representative) are qualified to vote in this election and you must be present to cast your ballot. Telephone attendees will be allowed to vote by email to [tnuckols@texasbar.com](mailto:tnuckols@texasbar.com). Early or late votes will not be accepted. Nominees are encouraged to attend and briefly present their qualifications to the Council of Chairs Committee on February 23.

There is no way to get Bill's resume on 1 page. His degrees alone take up 1/3 of a page.



## WILLIAM J. CHRISS, J.D., PH.D.

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606 N. Carancahua St., Suite 1511, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401  
(361) 884-3330 □ [wjchrisspc@gmail.com](mailto:wjchrisspc@gmail.com)



Dr. Bill Chriss is a trial and appellate lawyer who handles complex lawsuits and appeals, especially in insurance, commercial, construction, and property damage cases. He has tried to verdict and handled on appeal several multi-million dollar cases, including one of the early Texas mold cases (2004), and over the last 25 years he has handled hundreds of significant cases involving property damage and insurance coverage, especially water damage. He is currently an officer of the Insurance Law Council of the State Bar of Texas and was selected by the State Bar to produce a webcast on handling Hurricane Harvey claims for Texas lawyers with clients from affected areas. It was viewed by over 1,700 lawyers, the second highest webcast viewership in State Bar history.

Dr. Chriss is one of the few Texas lawyers and judges to have been elected to membership in the American Law Institute (ALI), publisher of the *Restatements of the Law*. He recently served as editor in chief of *The Journal of Texas Insurance Law* and as Dean of the Texas Center for Legal Ethics, which promotes the highest levels of ethics and professionalism among Texas lawyers. In 2016, Texas Chief Justice Nathan Hecht presented to him the Ethics Center's statewide Chief Justice Jack Pope Professionalism Award honoring an appellate lawyer or judge who epitomizes the highest level of professionalism and integrity.

In addition to his fulltime job, Dr. Chriss is a historian, political scientist, religious scholar, and published author. He was nominated for the Rhodes Scholarship and attended Harvard Law School where he became one of the youngest members of his graduating class at the age of 23. He also holds graduate degrees in law, theology, history and politics, including a Ph.D. in history from The University of Texas. While maintaining his busy law practice, Dr. Chriss has also taught Judicial Politics, Political Philosophy, History, and Constitutional Law within the Texas A&M University system. He has written several articles for scholarly journals and his first book, *The Noble Lawyer*, was published by Texas Bar Books in 2011, while his second book, *Six Constitutions over Texas*, is currently being edited for publication.

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# WILLIAM J. CHRISS, J.D., PH.D.

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606 N. Carancahua St., Suite 1511, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401  
(361) 884-3330 □ wjchrisspc@gmail.com

## EDUCATION

**J.D.**, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Mass., June 5, 1980

- Mark DeWolfe Howe Fellowship in Legal History

**Ph.D.**, History, University of Texas at Austin, December 20, 2014 (legal and political history)

- Dickson Allen Anderson Endowed Doctoral Fellowship in American History

**M.A.**, History and Politics (Political Science), Texas A&M University-Kingsville, August 6, 2006

**M.A.**, Applied Orthodox Christian Theology, St. John of Damascus Institute of Theology,  
University of Balamand, July 21, 2004

**B.A. with High Honors**, Government, University of Texas at Austin, August 15, 1977

- Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa
- Rhodes Scholarship Nominee, University Scholar, Junior Fellow (Constitutional History)

## LAW REVIEWS

*The Journal of Texas Insurance Law*, Editor in Chief (2013- 2016)

*The Appellate Advocate*, Co-editor in Chief (2015-2017)

## PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES (Abridged)

- American Law Institute (Member, 2013–present)
- Committee on Pattern Jury Charges of the State Bar of Texas—Business, Consumer, Employment (Member, 2005–2007, 2009–present; Vice-chair, 2015–present)
- Governing Council of the Insurance Section of the State Bar of Texas (2005–2007, 2009–present)
- Governing Council of the Appellate Section of the State Bar of Texas (2013–2016)
- Board of Trustees of the Texas Supreme Court Historical Society (2008–2014, 2016–present)
- State Bar of Texas Grievance Committee (Chair, Panel 3, District 11A Grievance Committee, 1995–97; District 11A Chair, 1997–99)
- Texas Board of Legal Specialization Advanced Civil Trial Advisory Panel and Subcommittee on Lawyer Discipline (1997–98)
- President, Corpus Christi Bar Association (1994).

## PROFESSIONAL LICENSES, HONORS, AND AWARDS (Abridged)

Recipient: 2016 Texas Center for Legal Ethics Chief Justice Jack Pope Award presented to an appellate lawyer or judge who epitomizes the highest level of professionalism and integrity

Recipient: 2005 Texas Bar Foundation's Dan R. Price Award for excellence in legal writing, commitment to clients, and service to the profession

Board Certified: Civil Trial Law and Personal Injury Trial Law, Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Martindale-Hubbell: AV-rated and listed in *The Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers*

Recipient: 2006–2008, University of Texas Dickson Allen Anderson Endowed Doctoral Fellowship in American History

Licensed: State Bar of Texas, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, U.S. Supreme Court

#### **REPORTED APPELLATE CASES (as lead counsel):**

*Walker v. Horine*, 695 S.W.2d 572 (Tex. App.--Corpus Christi, 1985)-**real estate law and contracts**; *Crites v. Mullins*, 697 S.W.2d 715, 12 Media L. Rep. 1111 (Tex. App.-- Corpus Christi, 1985)-**libel**; *Hukill v. H.E.B. Food Stores, Inc.*, 756 S.W.2d 840 (Tex. App.—Corpus Christi, 1988)-**premises liability and civil procedure**; *Carrillo v. Fruehauf Corp.*, 838 S.W.2d 573 (Tex. App.—San Antonio, 1992, rev'd 848 S.W.2d 83); *Fruehauf Corp. v. Carrillo*, 848 S.W.2d 83 (Tex., 1993)-**product liability and civil procedure**; *Tucker v. Terminix Intern. Co., L.P.*, 975 S.W.2d 797 (Tex. App.—Corpus Christi, 1998)-**evidence and procedure**; *Kerstetter v. Pacific Scientific*, 210 F.3<sup>rd</sup> 431 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2000)-**federal preemption and aviation law**; *Fiess v. State Farm*, 202 S.W.3d 744 (Tex. 2006) (amicus) - **insurance and property damage**; *Christi Bay Temple v. Guideone Specialty Mut. Ins. Co.*, 330 S.W.3d 251 (Tex. 2010) - **insurance, civil procedure, and religious freedom**; *LCS Corrections Services Inc. v. Lexington Insurance Co.* 800 F.3d 664 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2015) – **insurance coverage**.

#### **EMPLOYMENT (Abridged)**

**William J. Chriss, P.C.**, 2009–present  
(now of counsel to The Snapka Law Firm)  
Corpus Christi, Austin, and San Antonio, Texas  
Trial and appellate lawyer

**Texas Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism**, 2007–2009  
Austin, Texas  
Executive Director and Dean of Curriculum and Instruction

**William J. Chriss, P.C.**, 1998–2007  
(Solo practitioner)  
Corpus Christi and Austin, Texas  
Trial and appellate lawyer

#### **PUBLISHED WORKS and WORK IN PROGRESS (Abridged)**

“The External Aspect of Legal Ethics, Hot Coffee, and the Noble Lawyer: Attacks on the Profession and Their Massive Ethical and Social Damage,” *Trinity Law Review* 19, no. 1 (Fall 2013) 13-58.

“Chief Justice Jack Pope of Texas: Common Law Judge,” (book chapter) *Common Law Judge: Selected Writings of Chief Justice Jack Pope of Texas* (Austin, Texas Supreme Court Hist. Society, 2014) 322-354.

*The Noble Lawyer: The Truth about Attacks on Democracy's Chosen Profession, 1976–2008* (Austin: Texas Bar Books, 2011).

“Law” (book chapter), *American Centuries: The Ideas, Issues, and Values That Shaped U.S. History, Volume 4: 19th Century*, Karen Ordahl Kupperman, John Demos, et al., eds. (New York: Facts on File, 2011).

“Commentary on the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct Governing the Duties between Lawyer and Client” (with John F. Sutton, Jr.), *Texas Lawyers' Professional Ethics*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (State Bar of Texas, 2007).

“Personhood and the Right to Privacy in Texas,” *South Texas Law Review* 48, no. 3 (Spring 2007) 575-611.

“Coverage for Ensuing Water Damage under Texas Property Insurance Policies,” *South Texas Law Review* 46, no. 4 (Summer 2005) 1247-1281.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE (Abridged)**

**Adjunct Professor of History**, Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi, 2010, 2016

**Adjunct Professor of Political Science**, Texas A&M University at Kingsville, July 2006

**Adjunct Professor of Political Science, Public Administration, and History**, Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi, January 2002–May 2006

- Courses: The U.S. Constitution and Federalism, Political Theory and Ideologies, American Political Thought, Legislative Process, Administrative Law (graduate level), Judicial Politics, The Roots of Freedom, Texas History

### **PROFESSIONAL PAPERS, CONFERENCES, and PUBLIC APPEARANCES (abridged):**

#### **Insurance and Property Damage Law :**

“Insurance Law-*Stowers* Doctrine Update,” *Annual Business Disputes Course*, State Bar of Texas (September 7, 2017).

“How to Handle Hurricane Harvey Claims,” panelist, Webcast, State Bar of Texas (September 5, 2017).

“Legislative Update, Including New Hail and Insurance Laws,” panelist, Webcast, State Bar of Texas (August 30, 2017).

“Insurance Law-*Stowers* Doctrine Update,” *Advanced Insurance Law Seminar*, State Bar of Texas (June 8, 2017).

“Insurance and Medical Records,” panelist, *2016 Litigation Update Seminar*, State Bar of Texas (January 26, 2017).

“Insurance Law Update,” *Annual Page Keeton Litigation Conference*, University of Texas School of Law CLE (Oct. 28, 2016).

“Preparing for deposition in Insurance Cases,” *Annual Advanced Insurance Law Seminar*, State Bar of Texas Insurance Law Section (June 10, 2016).

“Mediation of Construction Defect Cases,” panelist, *Annual Advanced Construction Law Seminar*, State Bar of Texas Construction Law Section (March 4, 2016).



“Duties and Liabilities of Public Adjusters,” *South Texas Insurance Seminar*, State Bar of Texas Insurance Law Section (Feb. 26, 2016).

“Insurance Law Update,” panelist, *Webcast*, State Bar of Texas (Feb. 10, 2016).

“Rights and Liabilities of Public Adjusters,” *2015 Annual Advanced Insurance Law Seminar*, University of Texas School of Law CLE (November 13, 2015).

“Annual Insurance Law Update,” *Page Keeton Annual Litigation Conference*, The University of Texas School of Law CLE (October 30, 2015).

“Thirty Tips for Trying Insurance Cases,” panelist, *Advanced Insurance Law Seminar*, State Bar of Texas (June 12, 2015).

“Ethical Traps to Avoid as an Insurance Lawyer, 2014 *Advanced Insurance Law Seminar*, University of Texas School of Law CLE (November 13, 2014).

“Annual Insurance Law Update,” *Page Keeton Annual Litigation Conference*, The University of Texas School of Law CLE (October 24, 2014).

“Homeowner’s Policies: Liability and Property Coverages-Update on Key Provisions,” coauthor. *Advanced Insurance and Tort Claims Course*, University of Houston Law Center (June 12 & 19, 2008).

“Late Notice and Beyond: First and Third Party,” coauthor. *5<sup>th</sup> Annual Advanced Insurance Law Course*. (March 28, 2008) State Bar of Texas (March 27-28, 2008).

“*Fiess v. State Farm*: What Now,” panelist *4<sup>th</sup> Annual Advanced Insurance Law Course*. State Bar of Texas (March 29, 2007).

“Wind and Flood Insurance Policies.” *3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Insurance Law Course*. State Bar of Texas (CLE). (March 31, 2006)

“Pollution, Asbestos, and Toxic Soup,” panelist. *Texas Insurance Law Symposium*. South Texas College of Law. (January 27, 2006)

“Ensuing Loss Debate,” *Annual Insurance Law Symposium*, South Texas College of Law (January 27, 2005).

“Property Damage Litigation and the Economic Loss Rule,” *28<sup>th</sup> Annual Page Keeton Civil Litigation Conference*, The University of Texas School of Law (October 29, 2004).

“What’s New in Personal Lines,” panelist. State Bar of Texas Insurance Section CLE. (June 24, 2004)

“Mold and Construction Defects,” panelist. State Bar of Texas CLE for Attorneys. (23 April 2004)

“Insurance Coverage Issues Raised by House Bill 4.” *House Bill 4 Seminar*, State Bar of Texas CLE. (2004)

“Products Liability and Property Damage,” *27<sup>th</sup> Annual Page Keeton Products Liability & Personal Injury Law Conference*, The University of Texas School of Law (October 30-31, 2003).

Course Director, *Residential Construction Law Seminar*. The University of Texas School of Law (2003).

### **Trial Tactics, Appeals, and Procedure:**

“Lessons from the Life and Career of Chief Justice Jack Pope, 1913-2017” *Annual Advanced Appellate Law Seminar*, State Bar of Texas (September 7, 2017).

“Discovering Assets and Collecting Judgments,” *Soaking Up Some CLE Seminar*, State Bar of Texas (May 18, 2017).

“Ethical Issues in Trucking Cases,” *Truck Accident Seminar*, State Bar of Texas (November 12, 2015).

- “The Noble Lawyer,” *Presentations to Law Students*, University of North Texas Dallas School of Law (April 16-17, 2015)
- “Ethics in Handling Appeals,” *Advanced Appellate Seminar*, The University of Texas School of Law CLE (September 4, 2014).
- “Qualifying, Disqualifying, and Examining Expert Witnesses” Seminar provided by private contract to Office of the Attorney General of Texas. (August 28, 2006).  
 “How to Try a Property Damage Case,” panel participant/commentator. *Annual Insurance Law Seminar*. University of Texas School of Law CLE and State Bar Insurance Section (November 11, 2004).
- “Winning Jury Trials.” *One Day Practice Courses* (Created and co-presented the course). University of Texas School of Law CLE (September 17, 2004)

**Ethics & Professional Responsibility:**

- “Clients Who Misbehave,” *Annual Admiralty Conference*, University of Texas School of Law CLE (September 29, 2017).
- “American Origins of Judicial Independence: The Constitution and Federalist Papers,” *Symposium on Judicial Independence: Its Past and Future*, State Bar of Texas (August 31, 2017).
- “Client Intake,” *Annual Car Crash Seminar*, The University of Texas School of Law CLE (August 17, 2017).
- “Clients Who Misbehave,” *Annual Admiralty Conference*, University of Texas School of Law CLE (August 26, 2016).
- “Managing Client Expectations” Annual UT Car Crash Seminar,” University of Texas School of Law CLE (July 29, 2016).
- “Ethical Considerations: Closing a Law Practice.” *Soaking Up Some CLE Seminar*, State Bar of Texas (May 12, 2016).
- “Disqualification of Attorneys,” panelist, *Webcast*, State Bar of Texas (April 14, 2016).
- “Ethics and Dealing with the Difficult Client,” *Annual Admiralty Conference*, The University of Texas School of Law CLE (October 17, 2014).
- “Ethics and Managing Client Expectations,” *Annual Car Crash Seminar*, The University of Texas School of Law CLE (July 31, 2014).
- “Good Faith, Fair Dealing, and Other Contractual and Fiduciary Issues that Arise in the Interpretation of Partnership and LLC Agreements,” (with Byron Egan and Robert Keatinge), *Partnerships and Limited Liability Companies Conference*, The University of Texas School of Law (July 23, 2009).
- “Who’s Your Master?: The Practical and Ethical Tension between Answering to the Insurer Who Pays the Bills or Answering to the Client” (with Anne Blume, Chicago, Illinois), Plenary Session, Midwinter Meeting, *ABA Forum on the Construction Industry and Construction Litigation* (Miami, January 16, 2009).
- “The Ethics of Striking Back: The Noble Lawyer, The Noble Judge, and Attacks on the American Judiciary.” Annual Judicial Conference of the 5<sup>th</sup> Administrative Region of Texas (May 2, 2008).
- “The Noble Lawyer and Liberty and Justice for All: How We Got to This Point in the Public Mind and the Ethics of Striking Back (The Past as Guide to the Present),” *Annual Awards Banquet*. Dallas and Ft. Worth Inns of Court (January 7, 2008); *Rockwall County Bench/Bar Conference* (April 18, 2008).
- “The Ethics of Striking Back: The Noble Lawyer and the Rehabilitation of the Profession,” *Statewide and nationally publicized Webcast*. State Bar of Texas

- (January 9, 2008);
- The Noble Lawyer: Ethics and Professionalism Viewed from the Perspective of the Bar Throughout History,” *2008 Changes and Trends Affecting Special Needs Trusts: A Guide for Attorneys, Financial Advisors and Trust Officers*. University of Texas School of Law and The Wealth Management and Trust Division of the Texas Bankers Association (February 1, 2008);
- “The Noble Lawyer: The Past as Guide to the Present,” *Guide to the Basics of Law Practice Course* required of all new lawyers (Austin). Texas Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism (February 8, 2008);
- “The Ethics of Striking Back: The Noble Lawyer and the Rehabilitation of the Profession,” *Statewide Webcast re-broadcast by popular demand*. State Bar of Texas (February 22, 2008);
- “The Ethics of Striking Back: The Noble Lawyer and the Rehabilitation of the Profession,” *Joint Session of Professional Responsibility Classes*. Texas Tech University School of Law (February 28, 2008);
- “The Noble Lawyer and Liberty and Justice for All: How We Got to This Point in the Public Mind and the Ethics of Striking Back,” *Department of Defense Healthcare Law Conference*. U.S. Army Medical Command, Department of Defense (March 4, 2008);
- “The Noble Lawyer: The Past as Guide to the Present,” *Guide to the Basics of Law Practice Course* required of all new lawyers. Texas Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism (various locations, 2007-2008).
- “Lawyers, Ethics, and Financial Institutions.” *Meeting of Dallas Lawyers Representing Financial Institutions* (June 14, 2007).

## **INSURANCE CLAIM AND LITIGATION CLIENT REFERENCES**

Wallace A. Jones  
President  
Sunchase IV Homeowners Association  
Padre Getaways  
South Padre Island, Texas  
(956) 761-8888