

## **“Indifference Identifies a Declining Future, Time to Raise the Bar”**

Kidney Contenders® Interview with Harris County, TX Assistant District Attorney, Mr. Clinton “Clint” Morgan. Mr. Morgan is running in 2022 for the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals Judge.

Kidney Contenders®: Why do you think Texas is in a “crisis of crime?”<sup>1</sup>

Clint Morgan: Casual discussions about crime are common in Texas. Many law-abiding residents, including myself, have noticed the rise in criminal activity. The crime was down at the beginning of the last decade because of law and order policies enacted in the 1990s murder rates in Texas, for example, were below the national rate at that time. But now we’ve lost those gains and murders are up again; murders in Houston are up 70% over a two-year period. Other crime stats are also up.

Kidney Contenders®: With appeal cases, as a Texas prosecutor, how do you determine if the appellate demonstrated a meritorious defense?

Clint Morgan: I look at what occurred in the defendant’s trial. I look at the complaint raised by the defendant. Does the defendant show the judge’s ruling was harmful and prevented a fair trial? Did the defendant receive a fair trial? In my opinion, appeals are entirely a question of law, not personal feelings. The law determines whether the claims are meritorious.

Kidney Contenders®: Your objective in the 2022 election is to become a judge on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. This court reviews death penalty appeals. As a Texas prosecutor, what do you think determines if the death penalty is constitutional in criminal cases?

Clint Morgan: The federal courts established the standard that we abide by in state courts.<sup>2</sup> Death penalty cases are increasingly litigated. The cost of litigation of death penalty cases is tremendous, so Texas prosecutors focus on using the death penalty for the most heinous crimes.

Kidney Contenders®: Overall, whom do you contend for?

Clint Morgan: Law-abiding citizens who want to live their lives and raise their families in peace, without fear of crime. They fund the criminal justice system with their tax dollars and they deserve a process that delivers swift, predictable results

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<sup>1</sup>The Katy News. 2021. Harris County Prosecutor Archives - The Katy News. [online] Available at: <https://thekatynews.com/tag/harris-county-prosecutor/>.

<sup>2</sup>The U.S. Constitution, 8th Amendment. 2021. Legal Information Institution. [online] Available at: [https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/eighth\\_amendment](https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/eighth_amendment) .