

Judge Jeff Gilbert: Presiding Judge: Municipal Court of Record for the City of Angleton, TX

Q. When did you become a judge and what was that process like?

July 2, 2012 I was appointed as a Municipal Court Judge by the City Council of my hometown, Angleton, Texas. As it is a part-time position, the process was far more limited than my colleagues who run for an elected bench. I interviewed with the Council and was appointed to the position. Since that time, I have been reappointed twice.

Q. What motivated you to join the IALGBTJ?

Simple, Hon. Barbara Hartle, the former presiding judge of the City of Houston introduced me to State District Judge Steven Kirkland who asked. I am so excited to know that he is running for the Texas Supreme court this year.

Q. What type of law did you practice before you became a judge?

Family Law, Criminal Defense and Civil Litigation. All of which I still do. I am a part time judge.

Q: What motivated you to become a judge?

Service. I first ran for judge while living in Houston in 1998 after serving as a Special Criminal Court Judge for the Harris County Criminal Courts at Law.

Q. How were you involved in the LGBT community prior to becoming a judge?

I have only been "out" for a little over six years. I participated with a wonderful group of men in Houston as a member of Fathers First which is a group of out/not yet out, divorced/not yet divorced gay men who have children and strive to lead open and honest lives while placing their children in a position of unconditional love. I actively work on behalf of the Human Rights Campaign with financial resources and volunteer efforts. I also support Equality Texas, Lambda Legal and the Victory Fund.

Q. What would you like to get out of the IALGBTJ?

Connection with colleagues. As a part time judge in a non-metropolitan community in the deep red state of Texas, I feel comfort knowing that are other judges who happen to be gay or lesbian. We are judges who happen to be gay. I do not view myself as a gay judge. I know that at any point in time, a member of city council could use the fact that I am gay as a reason to try to remove me from office. Fortunately, I have enjoyed strong support from our council and City Manager.

Q. What would you like the members of the IALGBT to know about you personally (hobbies, accomplishments, personal background)?

I am married to Davis Gilbert, who works for the United Way. We both love College Football AND Musical Theater [in the Venn Diagram of gay men we are a distinct group. Lol] We have four rescue dogs.

I serve on the boards of the SPCA of Brazoria County, the Brazoria County Historical Society, the Lake Jackson Planning Commission, and the Brazoria County Bail Bond Board. I am an AV-Rated Attorney and a 2017 Texas Super Lawyer. I love traveling and tailgating with friends. I am a 6th Generation Texas with a 96 year old “conservative” mother who attended his wedding and loved every moment. I have two adult children who have always known my unconditional love and who love Davis and me unconditionally.