

2 more Texans in line for federal judgeships

BY NORMAN BAXTER
Chief, Chronicle Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Two more Texans, Andrew L. Jefferson Jr. of Houston and Associate State Supreme Court Justice Sam Johnson of Austin, are expected to be nominated by President Carter for judgeships on the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Sources here said the nominations probably would be made within the next six weeks. In the last two months Carter nominated three other Texans to judicial vacancies created last year when Congress added nine judges to what had been a 15-member court.

Jefferson, 45, is an attorney in private practice but was the first black in Texas to serve as a state district judge. He was a court of domestic relations judge first and then a criminal district judge in Harris County.

Johnson, 59, has been a state district judge in Hillsboro and was on the state's 14th Court of Civil Appeals, based in Houston.

Their nominations will be subject to confirmation by the U.S. Senate. The 5th Circuit is headquartered in New Orleans and has jurisdiction over appeals from federal courts in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida and the Panama Canal Zone.

The recent Texas nominees to the court are U.S. District Judge Reynaldo G. Garza of Brownsville, the first Mexican-American named to the 5th Circuit; Carolyn Dineen Randall, a Houston attorney specializing in corporate and federal se-

curities law who would be the first woman on the court; and Thomas M. Reavley of Austin, a former associate justice of the Texas Supreme Court.

Jefferson has been active in politics. He was campaign chairman last year for Rep. Mickey Leland, D-Houston, and in 1975 was co-chairman of the re-election committee of then-Houston Mayor Fred Hofheinz.

Born in Dallas, Aug. 19, 1934, Jefferson moved to Houston in 1936 and was graduated from Yates High School in 1952. He then earned a bachelor's degree at Texas Southern University in 1956 and a doctor of laws degree at the University of Texas in 1959.

He was an assistant district attorney in Bexar County (San Antonio) in 1961 and 1962 and then joined the U.S. attorney's office for the Western District of Texas as an assistant.

Jefferson was a trial counsel for Humble Oil & Refining Co. (now Exxon) from 1968 until his appointment as a domestic relations judge in 1971. He became a criminal-court district judge in 1973 and resigned in 1975 to enter private practice.

Johnson received a bachelor's degree from Baylor and a law degree from the University of Texas. He was the district attorney of Hill County from 1953 to 1958 and became a state district judge at Hillsboro in 1959.

Six years later he left the bench to become the first executive director of the Houston Legal Foundation. In 1967 he became a member of the 14th Court of Civil Appeals in Houston, and Johnson joined the state supreme court in 1972.

SAM D. JOHNSON
JUSTICE
THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS
AUSTIN 78711

June 25, 1979

Dr. Hector Garcia
1315 Bright
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Doctor:

Because you have helped so greatly, we wanted to share the enclosed news with you.

This article is overly affirmative in what it recites. It is good news, of course, but there are a number of hurdles in front of us and we will believe it when--and if--it actually comes about.

In any event, we know that things would never have progressed this far without your help and active intercession for us. We are most deeply grateful.

We will keep you posted on how things ultimately work out. Until then, please know that we send sincere thanks along with warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sam", with a horizontal line underneath the name.

SDJ:da

Enclosure