

SHERRY RADACK
CHIEF JUSTICE

TIM TAFT
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JANE BLAND
JUSTICES



**Court of Appeals
First District of Texas**
1307 San Jacinto Street, 10th Floor
Houston, Texas 77002-7006

Margie Thompson
Clerk of the Court

Janet McVea Williams
Chief Staff Attorney

M. Karinne McCullough
Court Administrator

Phone: 713-655-2700
Fax: 713-752-2304
www.1stcoa.courts.state.tx.us

June 2, 2004

The Hon. Nathan Hecht
Texas Supreme Court
P. O. Box 12248
Austin, Texas 78711-2248

Dear Justice Hecht:

This letter is written to request your consideration of (1) a resolution for the different requirements found in the current rules of civil and appellate procedure regarding certificates of service and (2) deleting the requirement for a certificate of conference on motions for rehearing filed in the appellate courts. Both suggested changes would benefit the practitioners and the appellate courts.

First, the current version of Texas Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.5(d) requires a certificate of service to state: (1) the date of service; (2) the method of service—hand delivery, mail, commercial delivery service, or fax, or combination of these methods; (3) the name of each person served; (4) the address of each person served; and (5) if the person served is a party's attorney, the name of the party represented by that attorney. Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 21a only requires a statement that the requirements of the rule have been met. If the two rules had the same requirements, we believe that fewer non-conforming documents would be presented to the appellate courts.

Secondly, we would respectfully request that the Supreme Court revisit Texas Rule of Appellate Procedure 10.1(a)(5) (certificates of conference on motions). In our experience, requiring a certificate of conference on a motion for rehearing is unnecessary and unproductive.

I am available to discuss these suggestions with you and can be reached at 832-814-2011.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherry Radack".

Sherry Radack
Chief Justice