



October 22, 2021
For Immediate Release

Contact: Jhiela "Gigi" Poynter
(361) 724-0111

POYNTER KICKS OFF CAMPAIGN FOR COUNTY JUDGE

Refugio, TX – On October 18, 2021, local attorney Jhiela "Gigi" Poynter announced her candidacy for Refugio County Judge in the November 8, 2022 election and launched her campaign page on Facebook.

In Refugio County, the position of County Judge is multi-faceted. The County Judge not only serves as the presiding officer of the Commissioners Court, budget officer for the county, and head of emergency management, but also represents the county in many administrative functions, and exercises broad judicial duties, such as presiding over misdemeanor criminal and small civil cases, probate matters, and appeals from the Justice of the Peace Court.

"As a practicing attorney, small business owner, community volunteer, and mother of two small children, I am aware of and invested in the challenges facing Refugio County," Poynter stated in her announcement. "...[I] am committed to ensuring that my community is positioned for growth and success in the future, and that my fellow residents have access to and accountability in their leadership."

Poynter has lived in South Texas for nearly ten years. She obtained her Bachelor's degree from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, *cum laude* (2009) with a double major in Political Science and English, and her Juris Doctor and Graduate Diploma in Comparative Law from LSU (2012). To further excel in her probate and civil legal practice, she is currently enrolled at Texas A&M School of Law, working to earn her Master of Laws in Wealth Management (exp. 2022). Her commitment to her profession and personal achievements have been recognized by the Victoria Advocate as she was selected one of the 20 Under 30 Professionals of the Crossroads in 2018, and was featured earlier this month in their Women in Business Special Edition. Poynter was also recently selected to the 2021 Texas Super Lawyers Rising Stars List; each year, no more than 2.5% of lawyers in the state are selected to receive this honor.

An active community volunteer, Poynter has also been involved with numerous local organizations. She is a member of the Refugio Chamber of Commerce and recently joined the Refugio Lion's Club, where her husband served as President in 2020. She has been a member of the Junior League of Victoria since 2014, notably serving as Chair of the Women Leaders of Tomorrow Conference in 2018, and more recently, as Treasurer in 2021. She has also been a member of the Victoria County Bar Association since 2013 and served as President in 2017.

Poynter is the proud mother of Jammer (4) and Suri (2), and wife to Tim, an Assistant District Attorney for DeWitt, Goliad, and Refugio counties. In her free time, Poynter coaches youth soccer and likes to travel, having visited 17 countries and counting.

You can support her candidacy by following her campaign at www.facebook.com/poynterforjudge.

*Authorized and paid for by Jhiela Poynter. Jhiela Poynter, Campaign Treasurer.
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