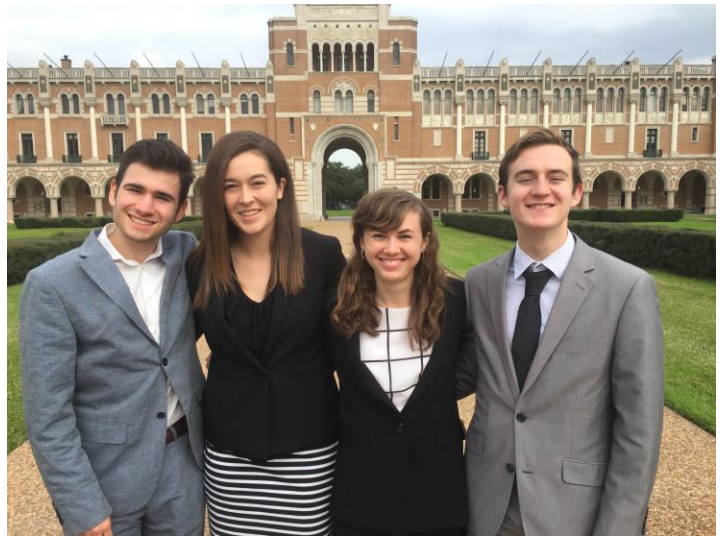




## HOUSTON ACTION RESEARCH TEAM

# HOUSTON★CHRONICLE



Moses Glickman, Carolyn Daly, Claire Noel, & Mason Reece

### *Helping Voters Choose Among Judicial Candidates, Fall 2019*

This HART, comprised of undergraduate students from political science, social policy analysis, history, math, and economics, partnered with the *Houston Chronicle* to examine how the Chronicle could improve their process for endorsing judicial candidates. Each election cycle, the Chronicle considers dozens candidate for elected office prior to announcing endorsements for the highest quality candidates. However, the high number of judicial races and substantial amount of candidates running places a significant strain on the Chronicles resources. As a result, the team developed

recommendations on how the Houston Chronicle could most efficiently determine and distribute its judicial endorsements. After identifying best practices for endorsing judicial candidates from academic literature, the team interviewed a series of stakeholders, including academics, local judges, political consultants, and editors from other newspapers. The team also created an original survey designed to

measure the criteria people care about most when selecting judicial candidates, and collected responses from more than 2,400 Houstonians. Key recommendations include examining the professional legal experience of candidates, improving the consistency of the endorsement process through emphasis on the candidate questionnaire, and increasing the transparency of the endorsement process in order to build additional trust and credibility.

