

THE AMERICAN BENCH—2016

TEXAS

TEXAS COURTS OF APPEALS—Continued

Justices

Place 2	Nora Longoria
Place 3	Gregory T. Perkes
Place 4	Nelda V. Rodriguez
Place 5	Gina M. Benavides
Place 6	Dori Contreras Garza

Clerk of Court

Cecile Foy Gsanger
Nueces County Courthouse
901 Leopard
Corpus Christi, TX, 78401
Tel: (956) 318-2405, Fax: (956) 318-2403

TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS - FOURTEENTH DISTRICT includes Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, Harris, Waller and Washington counties. The court sits at Houston and may sit at any county seat within the district.

Chief Justice

Place 1	Kem Thompson Frost
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Justices

Place 2	Sharon McCally
Place 3	Brett Busby
Place 4	Marc Brown
Place 5	Martha Hill Jamison
Place 6	William J. Boyce
Place 7	Ken P. Wise
Place 8	John J. Donovan
Place 9	Tracy Christopher

Clerk of Court

Christopher A. Prine
301 Fannin
Houston, TX, 77002
Tel: (713) 274-2800

TEXAS DISTRICT COURTS

The District Courts are Texas' courts of general jurisdiction. A district may consist of one or more counties, or there may be two or more District Courts in the same county. The state is currently divided into 450 judicial districts. At present each District Court is served by one judge, although a constitutional amendment in November 1985 allows the Legislature to establish more than one judge per court. Judges are elected in district-wide partisan elections for four-year terms. Vacancies between elections are filled by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Retired judges may serve by assignment of the chief justice of the Supreme Court or the presiding judge of an administrative judicial region. If needed, an Associate Judge position(s) can be created by a county's commissioner court. The Presiding Judge of a court will appoint one or more Associate Judges to a court as needed.

The courts have exclusive, appellate and original jurisdiction of all actions, proceedings and remedies, except in cases where jurisdiction is conferred on another court. Jurisdiction varies from district to district, but generally the courts have original jurisdiction over felonies, divorce, title to land, contested elections, juvenile matters and civil cases when the amount in controversy is \$200 or more. In counties having statutory County Courts at Law, the District Courts usually have exclusive civil jurisdiction when the amount in controversy is \$100,000 or more and concurrent jurisdiction with the County Courts at Law of amounts exceeding \$500 but less than \$100,000 as well as concurrent jurisdiction in specified family matters. The courts also have jurisdiction of contested probate cases in counties which lack statutory courts to hear probate matters exclusively. All matters for which a remedy is not provided by law are heard by the District Courts. The courts may issue extraordinary writs and other writs necessary to the exercise of proper jurisdiction.

Most District Courts exercise both criminal and civil jurisdiction, but in densely populated areas some courts may be designated to specialize in criminal, civil or family law cases, although these

courts may hear any case under District Court jurisdiction as the need arises. In 1977, the Family District Courts, formerly known as Texas Domestic Relations and Juvenile Courts, were created by the Legislature to have primary responsibility for cases involving family law matters. Districts 300 to 330 and District 360 are Family District Courts. Criminal District Courts are established in Dallas, El Paso, Jefferson and Tarrant counties to hear criminal cases and/or cases involving divorce, dependent and neglected children, adoption and civil habeas corpus. Criminal District Courts in Dallas and Tarrant counties have concurrent criminal jurisdiction with County Courts in matters normally heard in the County Courts. In some counties various aspects of County Court jurisdiction have been transferred to the District Court; in other counties jurisdiction is concurrent in some or all matters normally heard in County Courts. Cases in which the death penalty has been assessed are appealed directly to the Court of Criminal Appeals; all other appeals are heard in the Courts of Appeals.

The courts sit at each county seat and at other places prescribed by law.

TEXAS DISTRICT COURTS - 1st JUDICIAL DISTRICT includes Jasper, Newton, Sabine and San Augustine counties.

Presiding Judge

Craig M. Mixson

Jasper County District Clerk

Kathy Kent
121 North Austin, Room 202
Jasper, TX, 75951
Tel: (409) 384-2721

Newton County District Clerk

Bree Allen
P.O. Box 535
Newton, TX, 75966-0535
Tel: (409) 379-3951

Sabine County District Clerk

Tanya Walker
P.O. Box 850
Hemphill, TX, 75948-0850
Tel: (409) 787-2912

San Augustine County District Clerk

Jean Steptoe
100 West Columbia, Room 202
San Augustine, TX, 75972
Tel: (936) 275-2231

TEXAS DISTRICT COURTS - 1st JUDICIAL DISTRICT A includes Jasper, Newton and Tyler counties.

Presiding Judge

Delinda Gibbs-Walker

Jasper County District Clerk

Kathy Kent
121 North Austin, Room 202
Jasper, TX, 75951
Tel: (409) 384-2721

Newton County District Clerk

Bree Allen
P.O. Box 535
Newton, TX, 75966-0535
Tel: (409) 379-3951

Tyler County District Clerk

Chyrl Pounds
100 West Bluff, Room 203
Woodville, TX, 75979-5220
Tel: (409) 283-2162

TEXAS DISTRICT COURTS - 2nd JUDICIAL DISTRICT includes Cherokee County.

Presiding Judge

Dwight L. Phifer