September 1, 2020 Supreme Court Court of Criminal Appeals State (1 Court - 9 Justices) (1 Court - 9 Justices) Highest Appellate • Final appellate jurisdiction in civil and juvenile Courts Final appellate jurisdiction in criminal cases Civil Appeals Criminal Appeals **Courts of Appeals** (14 Courts - 80 Justices) State Intermediate Regional jurisdiction **Appellate** Courts • Intermediate appeals from trial courts in their respective courts of appeals districts Office of Court Administration **District Courts** (478 Courts - 478 Judges) Administrative Judicial Regions • Original jurisdiction in civil actions over \$200, divorce, title to land, contested elections Original jurisdiction in felony criminal matters State Trial Juvenile matters Appeals of Death **Courts of** Sentences **General** and • 13 district courts are designated criminal district courts; some Special others are directed to give preference to certain specialized Jurisdiction • 381 districts containing one county and 97 districts containing more than one county **County-Level Courts** (522 Courts - 522 Judges) **Constitutional County Courts (254) Statutory County Courts (250) Statutory Probate Courts (18) County Trial** (1 in each county) (in 90 counties plus 1 (in 10 counties) **Courts of** multi-county court) Limited Original jurisdiction in civil actions between Limited primarily to probate, Jurisdiction All civil, criminal, original and \$200 and \$20,000 mental health and guardianship appellate actions prescribed by law matters Probate, mental health and guardianship for constitutional county courts (contested matters may be transferred to District Court) In addition, jurisdiction over civil matters between \$200 and \$250,000 Exclusive original jurisdiction over (some courts may have higher misdemeanors with fines greater than \$500 maximum jurisdiction amount) or jail sentence Juvenile matters Appeals de novo from lower courts or on the record from municipal courts of record Local Trial Municipal Courts¹ Justice Courts¹ **Courts of** (945 Courts – 1,316 Judges²) (802 Courts - 802 Judges²) Limited Jurisdiction Criminal misdemeanors punishable by fine Civil actions of not more than \$20,000 only (no confinement) Small claims Exclusive original jurisdiction over Criminal misdemeanors punishable by fine municipal ordinance criminal cases³ only (no confinement) Limited civil jurisdiction Magistrate functions Magistrate functions 1. All justice courts and most municipal courts are not courts of record. Appeals from these courts are by trial de novo in the county-level courts, and in some instances

Court Structure of Texas

- in the district courts.
- 2. Some municipal courts are courts of record—appeals from the courts are taken on the record to the county-level courts. As of April 2020, 188 courts indicated that they were a court of record; a list is posted at http://www.txcourts.gov/about-texas-courts.aspx.
- 3. An offense that arises under a municipal ordinance is punishable by a fine not to exceed: (1) \$2,000 for ordinances that govern fire safety, zoning, and public health, (2) \$4,000 for dumping of refuse or (3) \$500 for all others.