

## Complexities in the Geographical Jurisdictions of District Courts As of September 2023

To understand the complexities stemming from the piecemeal creation of District Courts in Texas, a taxonomy of jurisdictional boundary-overlap patterns was developed. Because most courts' boundaries overlap wholly or partially with some other court, the state's 496 District Courts cover its 254 counties in 103 distinct areas. Each area is defined by a lack of overlapping boundaries with other areas.

The taxonomy is useful because it allows us to understand a very complex geographical system by understanding a small number of patterns occurring within that system. Six patterns emerged from an analysis of geographical boundaries. The frequency of the six patterns is shown in the table below. Examples of each pattern and further details follow the table.

<b>Jurisdictional Overlap Patterns</b>	<b>Number of Areas</b>	<b>Number of Counties</b>	<b>Number of Courts</b>
Single County / Multiple Courts / No Courts Serve Another County	30	30	308
Single County / Single Court / Court Does not Serve Another County	16	16	16
Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / Identical Jurisdictions	6	23	13
Multiple Counties / Single Court	27	77	27
Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / One Separate Jurisdiction	13	39	57
Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / Many Separate Jurisdictions	11	69	75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>496</b>

## Single County / Multiple Courts / No Courts Serve Another County

<i>County</i>	<i>Number of Courts</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Number of Courts</i>
Harris	61	Ector	5
Dallas	39	Midland	5
Tarrant	28	Smith	5
Bexar	27	Brazos	4
Travis	21	Ellis	3
Collin	14	Grayson	3
Hidalgo	13	Gregg	3
Denton	11	Kaufman	3
Fort Bend	8	Orange	3
Jefferson	8	Wichita	3
Montgomery	8	Angelina	2
Galveston	6	Coryell	2
McLennan	6	Nacogdoches	2
Williamson	6	Parker	2
Brazoria	5	Rockwall	2
<b>TOTAL Counties = 30</b>		<b>TOTAL Courts = 308</b>	

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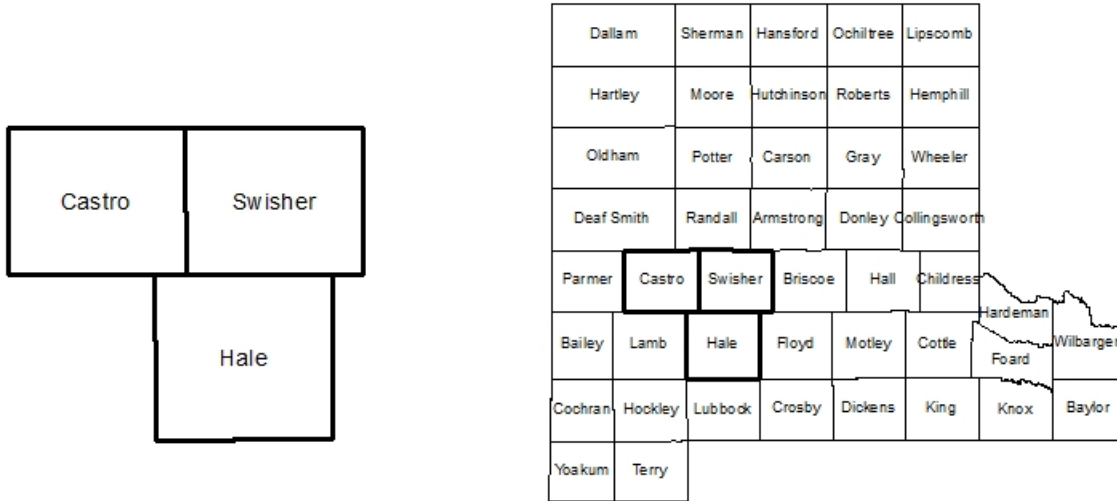
## Single County / Single Court / Court Does not Serve Another County

<i>Counties with a Single District Court</i>	
Cooke	Lamb
Eastland	Medina
Erath	Milam
Fannin	Navarro
Harrison	Palo Pinto
Hill	Rusk
Hood	Van Zandt
Kendall	Wood
<b>TOTAL Counties = 16</b>	<b>TOTAL Courts = 16</b>

# Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / Identical Jurisdictions

## An Example from the Ninth Administrative Judicial Region

<i>Court</i>	<i>Counties in Jurisdiction</i>
64 <sup>th</sup> District Court	Castro, Hale, & Swisher
242 <sup>nd</sup> District Court	Castro, Hale, & Swisher



### Counties Sharing Multiple Courts

**3 Counties:**

- Castro, Hale & Swisher
- Dimmit, Maverick & Zavala
- Polk, San Jacinto & Trinity

**4 Counties:**

- Blanco, Burnet, Llano, & San Saba

**5 Counties:**

- Atascosa, Frio, Karnes, La Salle & Wilson
- Aransas, Bee, Live Oak, McMullen & San Patricio

**TOTAL Counties = 23**

### Courts

**2 Courts:** 64 & 242

**2 Courts:** 293 & 365

**2 Courts:** 258 & 411

**2 Courts:** 33 & 424

**2 Courts:** 81 & 218

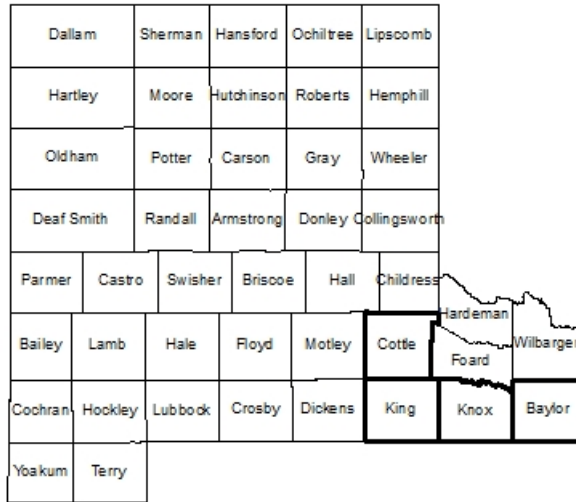
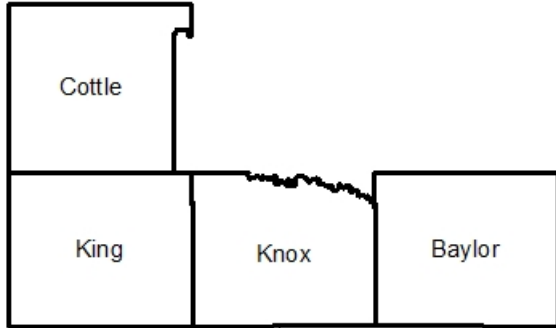
**3 Courts:** 36, 156 & 343

**TOTAL Courts = 13**

## Multiple Counties / Single Court

### An Example from the Ninth Administrative Judicial Region

<i>Court</i>	<i>Counties in Jurisdiction</i>
50 <sup>th</sup> District Court	Baylor, Cottle, King & Knox

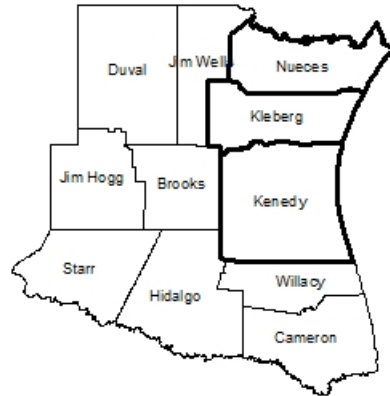
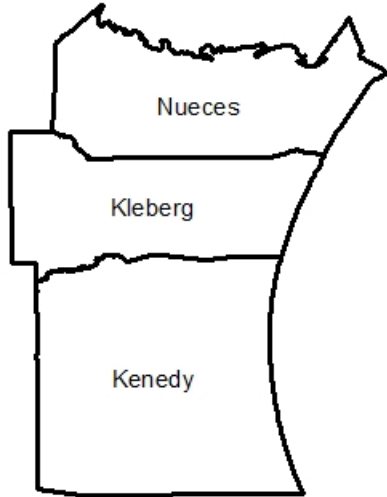


Counties Per Court	Counties Sharing a Single Court	Administrative Judicial Region
<i>Two</i> (13 Courts in 26 Counties)	Austin & Fayette (155 <sup>th</sup> )	3 <sup>rd</sup>
	Falls & Robertson (82 <sup>nd</sup> )	3 <sup>rd</sup>
	Brooks & Jim Wells (79 <sup>th</sup> )	5 <sup>th</sup>
	Real & Uvalde (38 <sup>th</sup> )	6 <sup>th</sup>
	Borden & Scurry (132 <sup>nd</sup> )	7 <sup>th</sup>
	Jones & Shackelford (259 <sup>th</sup> )	7 <sup>th</sup>
	Stephens & Young (90 <sup>th</sup> )	8 <sup>th</sup>
	Jack & Wise (271 <sup>st</sup> )	8 <sup>th</sup>
	Terry & Yoakum (121 <sup>st</sup> )	9 <sup>th</sup>
	Deaf Smith & Oldham (222 <sup>nd</sup> )	9 <sup>th</sup>
	Cochran & Hockley (286 <sup>th</sup> )	9 <sup>th</sup>
	Bailey & Parmer (287 <sup>th</sup> )	9 <sup>th</sup>
	Brown & Mills (35 <sup>th</sup> )	9 <sup>th</sup>
	<i>Three</i> (7 Courts in 21 Counties)	Bosque, Comanche & Hamilton (220 <sup>th</sup> )
Fisher, Mitchell & Nolan (32 <sup>nd</sup> )		7 <sup>th</sup>
Andrews, Crane & Winkler (109 <sup>th</sup> )		7 <sup>th</sup>
Glasscock, Howard & Martin (118 <sup>th</sup> )		7 <sup>th</sup>
Loving, Reeves & Ward (143 <sup>rd</sup> )		7 <sup>th</sup>
Archer, Clay & Montague (97 <sup>th</sup> )		8 <sup>th</sup>
Foard, Hardeman & Wilbarger (46 <sup>th</sup> )	9 <sup>th</sup>	
<i>Four to Five</i> (7 Courts in 30 Counties)	Edwards, Kimble, McCulloch, Mason & Menard (452 <sup>nd</sup> )	6 <sup>th</sup>
	Haskell, Kent, Stonewall & Throckmorton (39 <sup>th</sup> )	7 <sup>th</sup>
	Dawson, Gaines, Garza & Lynn (106 <sup>th</sup> )	7 <sup>th</sup>
	Dallam, Hartley, Moore & Sherman (69 <sup>th</sup> )	9 <sup>th</sup>
	Briscoe, Dickens, Floyd, & Motley (110 <sup>th</sup> )	9 <sup>th</sup>
	Baylor, Cottle, King & Knox (50 <sup>th</sup> )	9 <sup>th</sup>
Carson, Childress, Collingsworth, Donley & Hall (100 <sup>th</sup> )	9 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>Total Counties = 77</b>	<b>Total Courts = 27</b>	

## Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / One Separate Jurisdiction

### An Example from the Fifth Administrative Judicial Region

<u>Court(s)</u>	<u>Counties in Jurisdiction</u>
28, 94, 117, 148, 214, 319 & 347	Nueces
105	Kenedy, Kleburg, & Nueces



#### Counties Sharing Several Courts

Bell & Lampasas (3<sup>rd</sup> AJR)  
 Crosby & Lubbock (9<sup>th</sup> AJR)  
 Johnson & Somervell (8<sup>th</sup> AJR)  
 Webb & Zapata (4<sup>th</sup> AJR)  
 Chambers & Liberty (2<sup>nd</sup> AJR)  
 Cameron & Willacy (5<sup>th</sup> AJR)

Hansford, Hutchinson & Ochiltree (9<sup>th</sup> AJR)  
 Kenedy, Kleburg & Nueces (5<sup>th</sup> AJR)  
 Callahan, Coleman & Taylor (7<sup>th</sup> AJR)  
 Duval, Jim Hogg & Starr (5<sup>th</sup> AJR)  
 Bastrop, Burleson, Lee & Washington (2<sup>nd</sup> AJR)  
 Calhoun, De Witt, Goliad, Jackson, Refugio & Victoria (4<sup>th</sup> AJR)  
 Gray, Hemphill, Lipscomb, Roberts & Wheeler (9<sup>th</sup> AJR)

#### Primary County

Bell  
 Lubbock  
 Johnson  
 Webb  
 Liberty  
 Cameron

Hutchinson  
 Nueces  
 Taylor  
 Starr  
 Bastrop  
 Victoria  
 Gray

#### Courts

27, 146, 169, 264, 426 & 478  
 72, 99, 137, 140, 237 & 364  
 18, 249 & 413  
 49, 111, 341 & 406  
 75, 253 & 344  
 103, 107, 138, 197, 357, 404, 444, 445 & 484  
 84 & 316  
 28, 94, 105, 117, 148, 214, 319 & 347  
 42, 104, 326 & 350  
 229 & 381  
 21, 335, 423 & 465  
 24, 135, 267 & 377  
 31 & 223

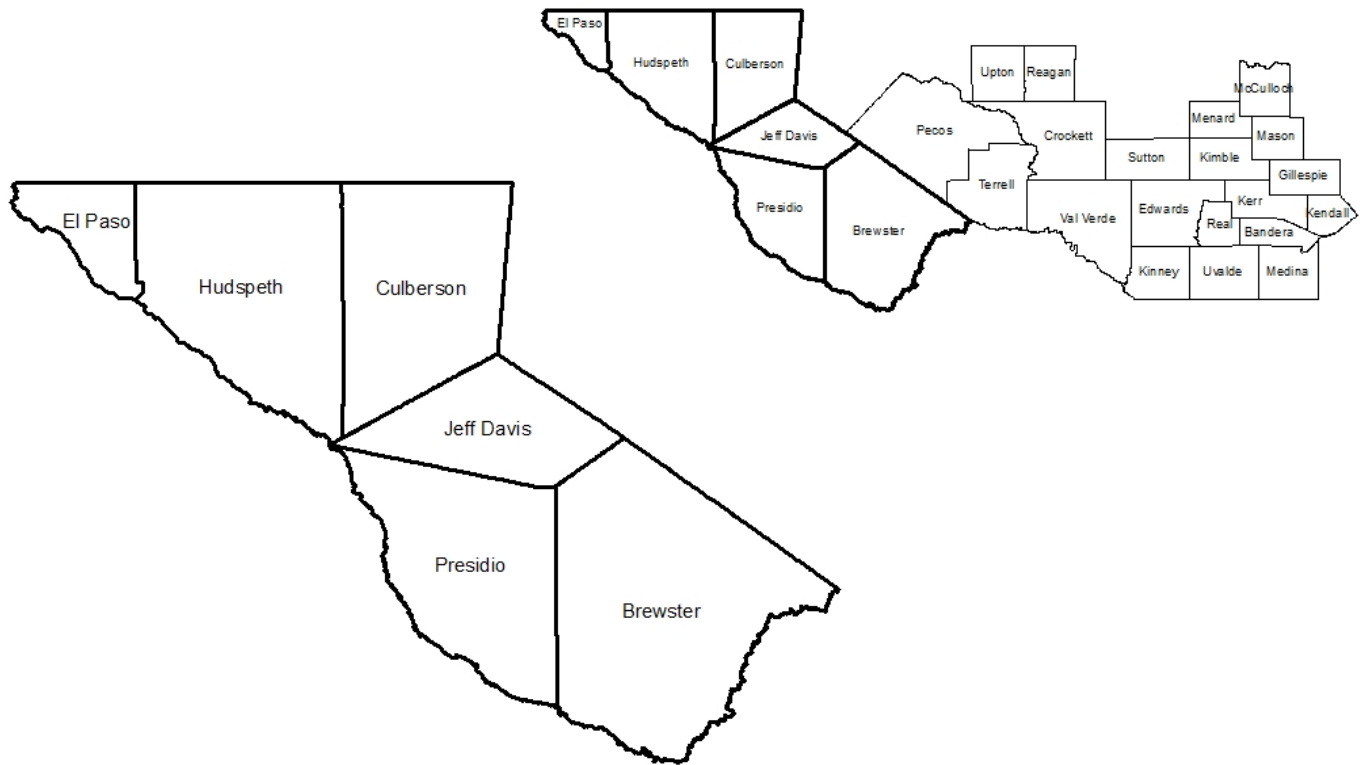
**TOTAL Counties = 39**

**TOTAL Courts = 57**

## Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / Many Separate Jurisdictions

### An Example from the Sixth Administrative Judicial Region

<i>Court</i>	<i>Counties in Jurisdiction</i>
34, 41, 65, 120, 168, 171, 210, 243, 327, 346, 383, 384, 388, 409, 448, Crim. District Court No. 1	El Paso
205 394	Culberson, El Paso, & Hudspeth Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, & Presidio



#### Counties Sharing Several Courts

- 2 Counties:** Matagorda & Wharton
- 3 Counties:** Armstrong, Potter & Randall
- 3 Counties:** Bandera, Gillespie & Kerr
- 5 Counties:** Camp, Marion, Morris, Titus & Upshur
- 6 Counties:** Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis & Presidio
  
- 7 Counties:** Coke, Concho, Irion, Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling & Tom Green
- 7 Counties:** Caldwell, Colorado, Comal, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Hays & Lavaca
  
- 8 Counties:** Hardin, Jasper, Newton, Panola, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby & Tyler
- 8 Counties:** Crockett, Kinney, Pecos, Reagan, Sutton, Terrell, Upton & Val Verde
- 9 Counties:** Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Hunt, Lamar, Rains, & Red River
  
- 11 Counties:** Anderson, Cherokee, Freestone, Grimes, Henderson, Houston, Leon, Limestone, Madison, Walker & Waller

**TOTAL Counties = 69**

#### Courts

- 3 Courts:** 23, 130 & 329
- 5 Courts:** 47, 108, 181, 251 & 320
- 2 Courts:** 198 & 216
- 3 Courts:** 76, 115 & 276
- 18 Courts:** 34, 41, 65, 120, 168, 171, 205, 210, 243, 327, 346, 383, 384, 388, 394, 409, 448 & Crim. District Court No. 1
- 4 Courts:** 51, 119, 340 & 391
- 12 Courts:** 22, 25, 2<sup>nd</sup> 25, 207, 274, 421, 428, 433, 453, 456, 466 & 483
- 6 Courts:** 1, 1A, 88, 123, 273 & 356
- 3 Courts:** 63, 83 & 112
- 8 Courts:** 5, 6, 8, 62, 102, 196, 202, & 354
- 11 Courts:** 2, 3, 12, 77, 87, 173, 278, 349, 369, 392 & 506

**TOTAL Courts = 75**