

## Complexities in the Geographical Jurisdictions of District Courts As of September 2024

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 500 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.

Jurisdictional Overlap Patterns	Number of Areas	Number of Counties	Number of Courts
Single County / Multiple Courts / No Courts Serve Another County	30	30	312
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>500</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	64	Ector	5
Dallas	39	Midland	5
Tarrant	28	Smith	5
Bexar	27	Brazos	4
Travis	21	Ellis	3
Collin	15	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 = 312</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

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



Dallam	Sherman	Hansford	Ochiltree	Lipscomb				
Hartley	Moore	Hutchinson	Roberts	Hemphill				
Oldham	Potter	Carson	Gray	Wheeler				
Deaf Smith	Randall	Armstrong	Donley	Collingsworth				
Parmer	Castro	Swisher	Briscoe	Hall	Childress	Hardeman		
Bailey	Lamb	Hale	Floyd	Motley	Cottle	Foard	Wilbarger	
Cochran	Hookley	Lubbock	Crosby	Dickens	King	Knox	Baylor	
Yoakum	Terry							

### 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

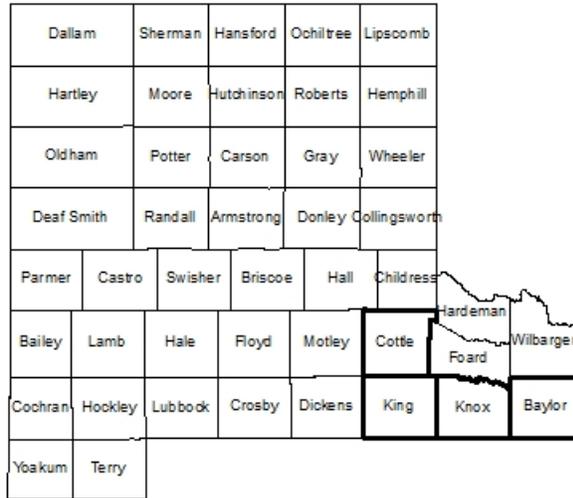
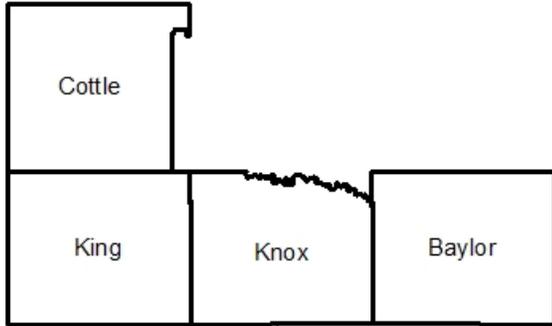
**3 Courts:** 36, 156 & 343

**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

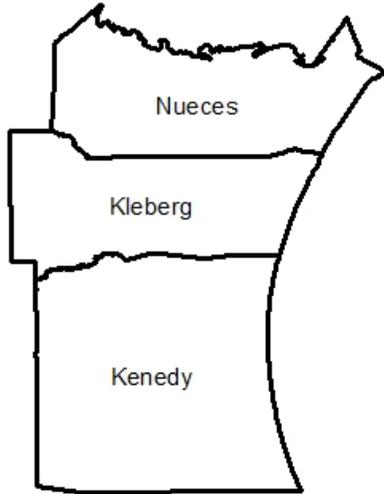


Counties Per Court	Counties Sharing a Single Court	Administrative Judicial Region
<i>Two</i> (13 Courts in 26 Counties)	Austin & Fayette (155 <sup>th</sup> )	3 <sup>rd</sup>
	Falls & Robertson (82 <sup>nd</sup> )	3 <sup>rd</sup>
	Brooks & Jim Wells (79 <sup>th</sup> )	5 <sup>th</sup>
	Real & Uvalde (38 <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> )	3 <sup>rd</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)

**TOTAL Counties = 39**

#### Primary County

Bell  
 Lubbock  
 Johnson  
 Webb  
 Liberty  
 Cameron  
 Hutchinson  
 Nueces  
 Taylor  
 Starr  
 Bastrop  
 Victoria  
 Gray

#### Courts

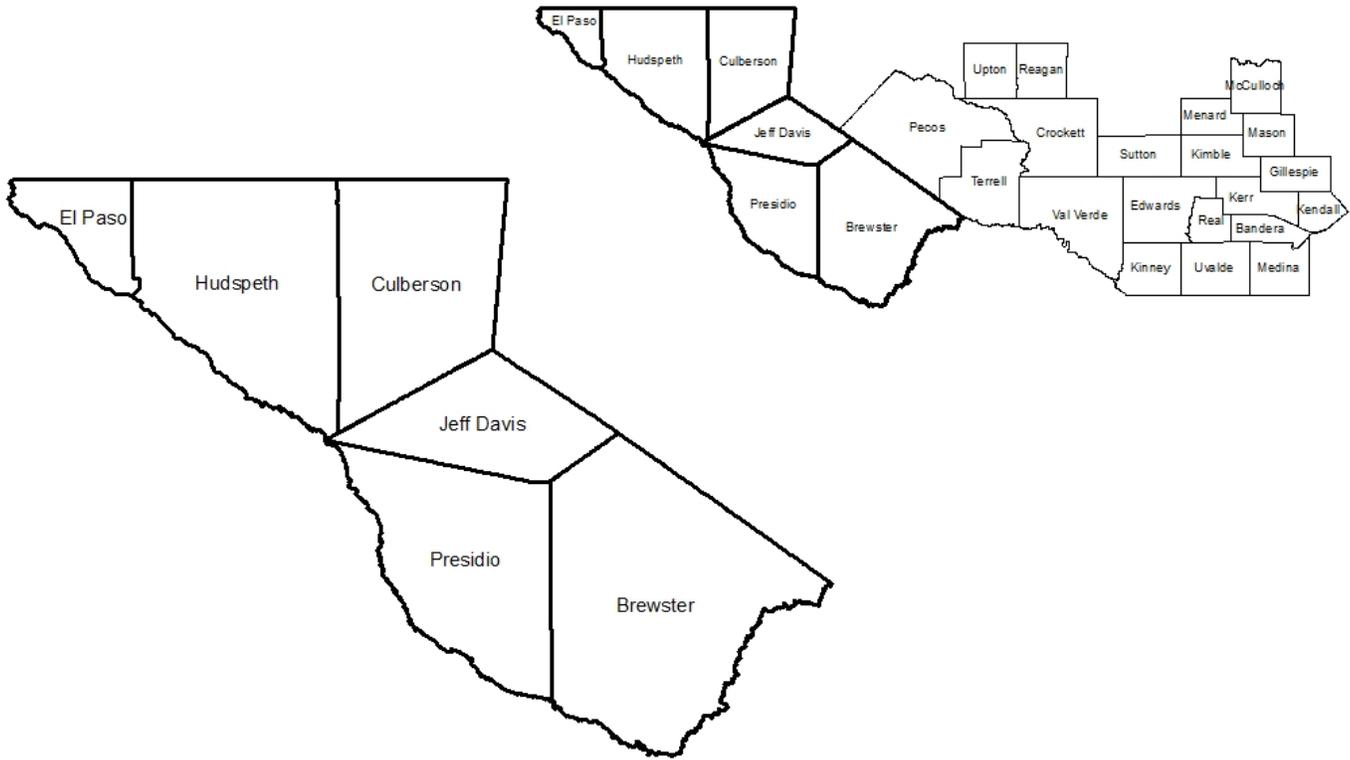
27, 146, 169, 264, 426 & 478  
 72, 99, 137, 140, 237 & 364  
 18, 249 & 413  
 49, 111, 341 & 406  
 75, 253 & 344  
 103, 107, 138, 197, 357, 404, 444, 445 & 484  
 84 & 316  
 28, 94, 105, 117, 148, 214, 319 & 347  
 42, 104, 326 & 350  
 229 & 381  
 21, 335, 423 & 465  
 24, 135, 267 & 377  
 31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

**TOTAL Courts = 57**

# Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / Many Separate Jurisdictions

## An Example from the Sixth Administrative Judicial Region

<u>Court</u>	<u>Counties in Jurisdiction</u>
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
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- 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
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- TOTAL Courts = 75**