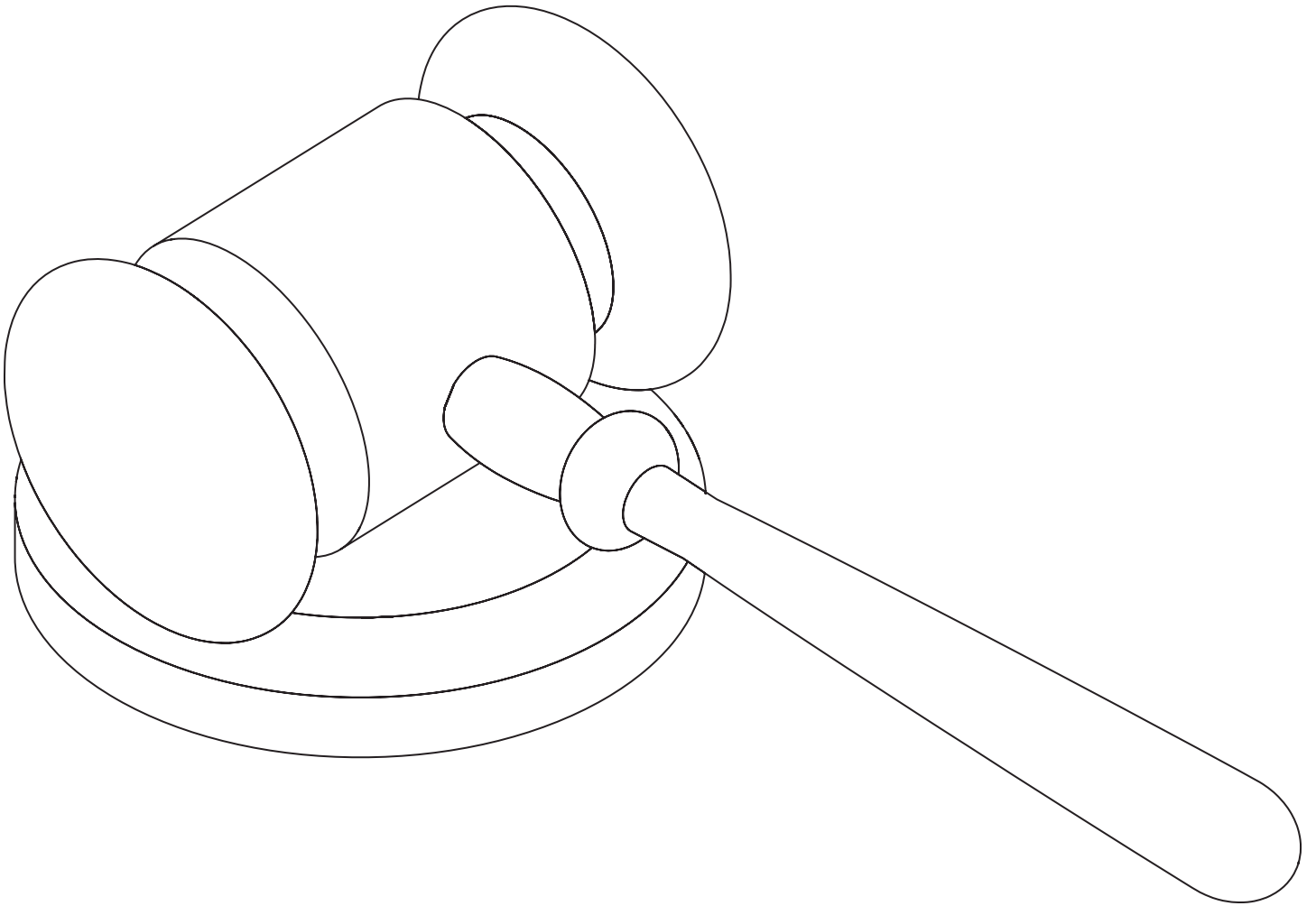


COURT KIDS

THE TEXAS JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Coloring And Activity Book





GAVEL

The Texas Court System

What Is the Court System?

The judicial branch is a system of courts that help settle disagreements and make sure people follow the law. Texas has many different types of courts to help with different kinds of cases. These courts include the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeals, District Courts, and others.

How It Works

The courts handle both criminal and civil cases.

- **Criminal cases** are about people breaking the law. Some crimes are serious (like killing or seriously hurting another person) and others are less serious (like stealing something from a store or speeding when driving).
- **Civil cases** are about disagreements between people or businesses. This could include things like divorce or someone not paying money they owe.

What Do the Courts Do?

Texas has two main types of courts:

- **Trial Courts:** These courts hear cases for the first time. A judge or a jury listens to the facts and makes a decision.
- **Appeals Courts:** If someone disagrees with a decision made in a trial court, they can ask the appeals court to review the case. The appeals court looks at the trial to see if anything was done wrong.

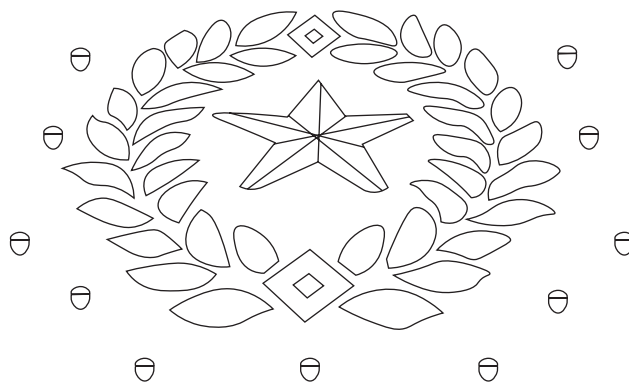
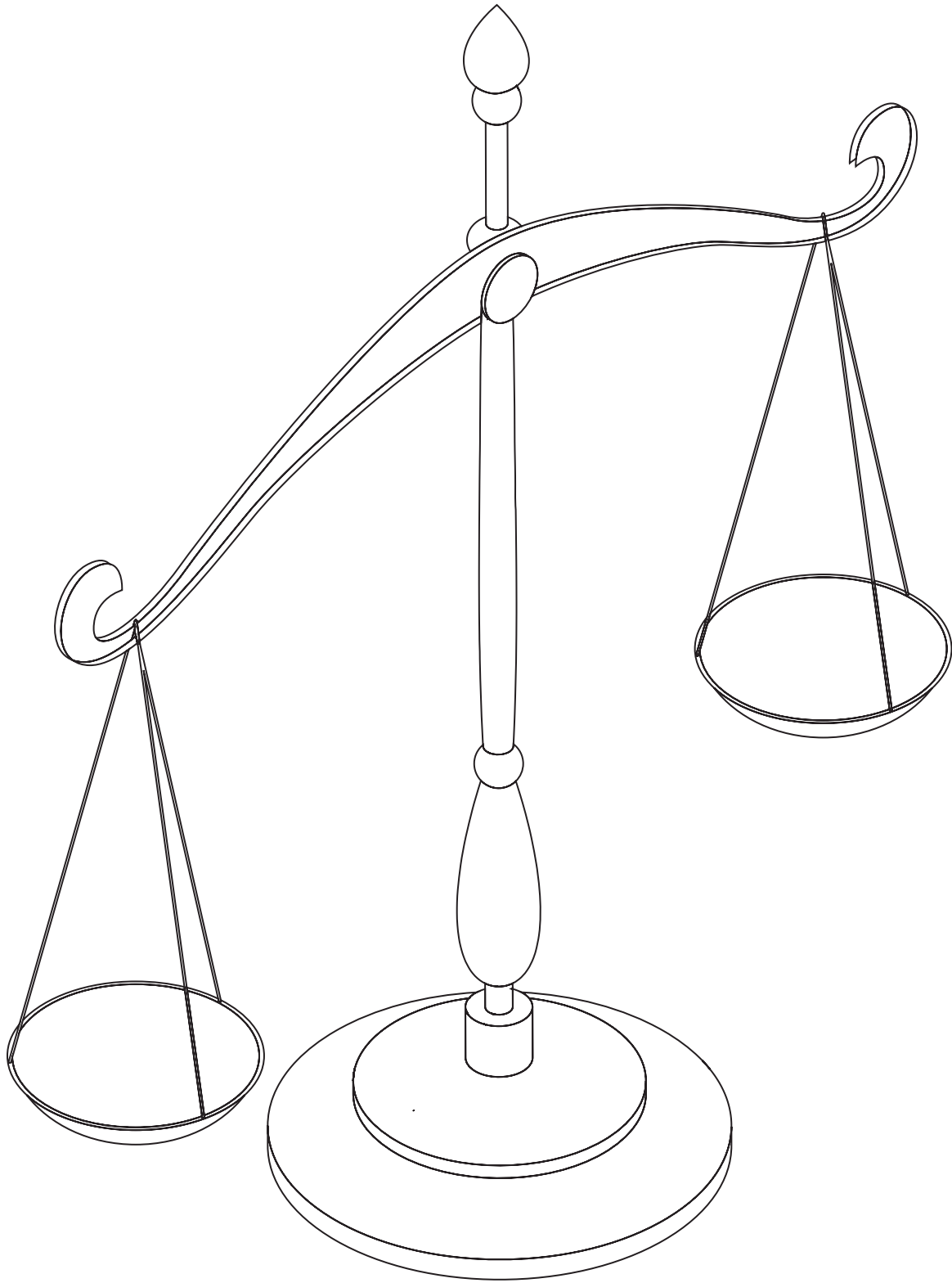


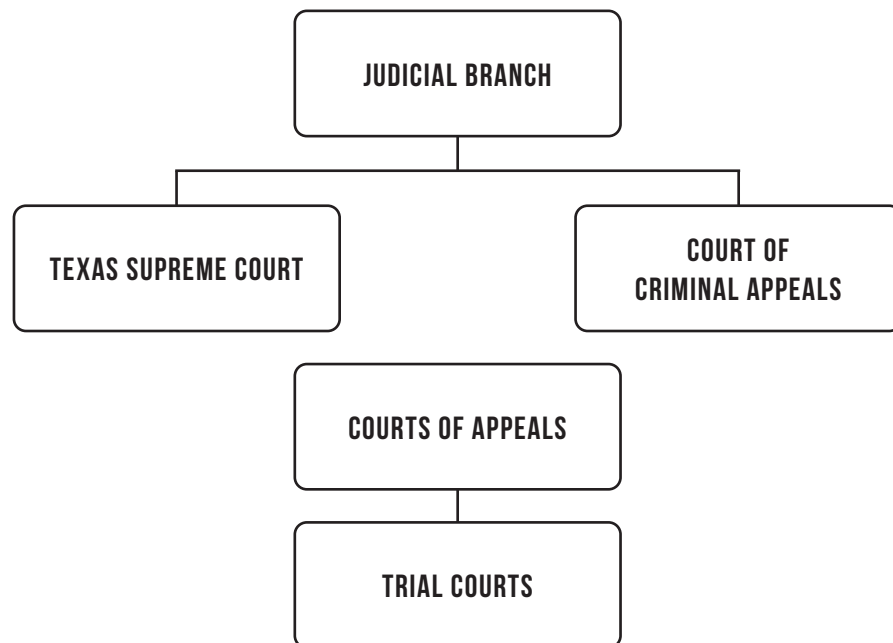
Illustration of Carpet Pattern - Supreme Court of Texas Courtroom



SCALES OF JUSTICE

Types of Courts

- **Supreme Court of Texas:** This court makes the final decision in civil cases.
- **Court of Criminal Appeals:** This court makes the final decision in criminal cases. It decides on serious criminal cases, like those with the death penalty.
- **Courts of Appeals:** These courts hear most of the appeals first from the trial courts. If someone disagrees with the decision of the courts of appeals, they can ask the highest courts to review the case.
- **District Courts:** These courts handle cases with serious crimes, civil cases involving a large amount of money, and most cases involving family relationships.
- **County Courts:** These courts hear cases with less serious crimes, civil cases involving smaller amounts of money, and helps figure out who get a person's things when they die.
- **Justice and Municipal Courts:** These courts handle criminal cases where a person only has to pay money as a punishment and civil cases involving a small amount of money or more simple disagreements between people.



Who Are the Judges?

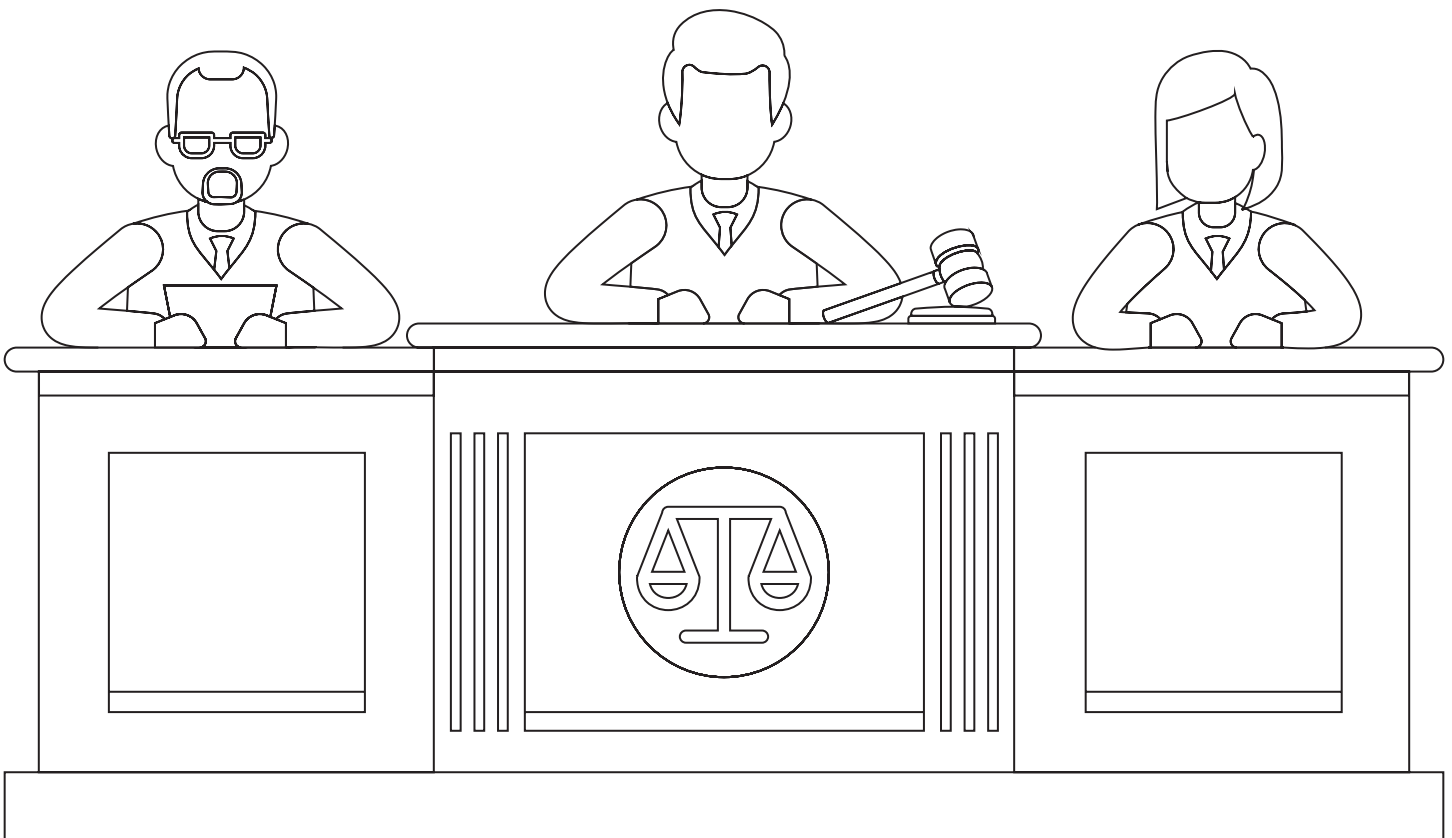
Judges in Texas have to know the law and be fair. Most judges are elected by the people in their area. Some judges, like those in the Business Court or municipal courts, are chosen by the governor or city leaders. Judges in higher courts have to be at least 35 years old and have been a lawyer for many years. Judges in some lower courts do not have to be a lawyer.

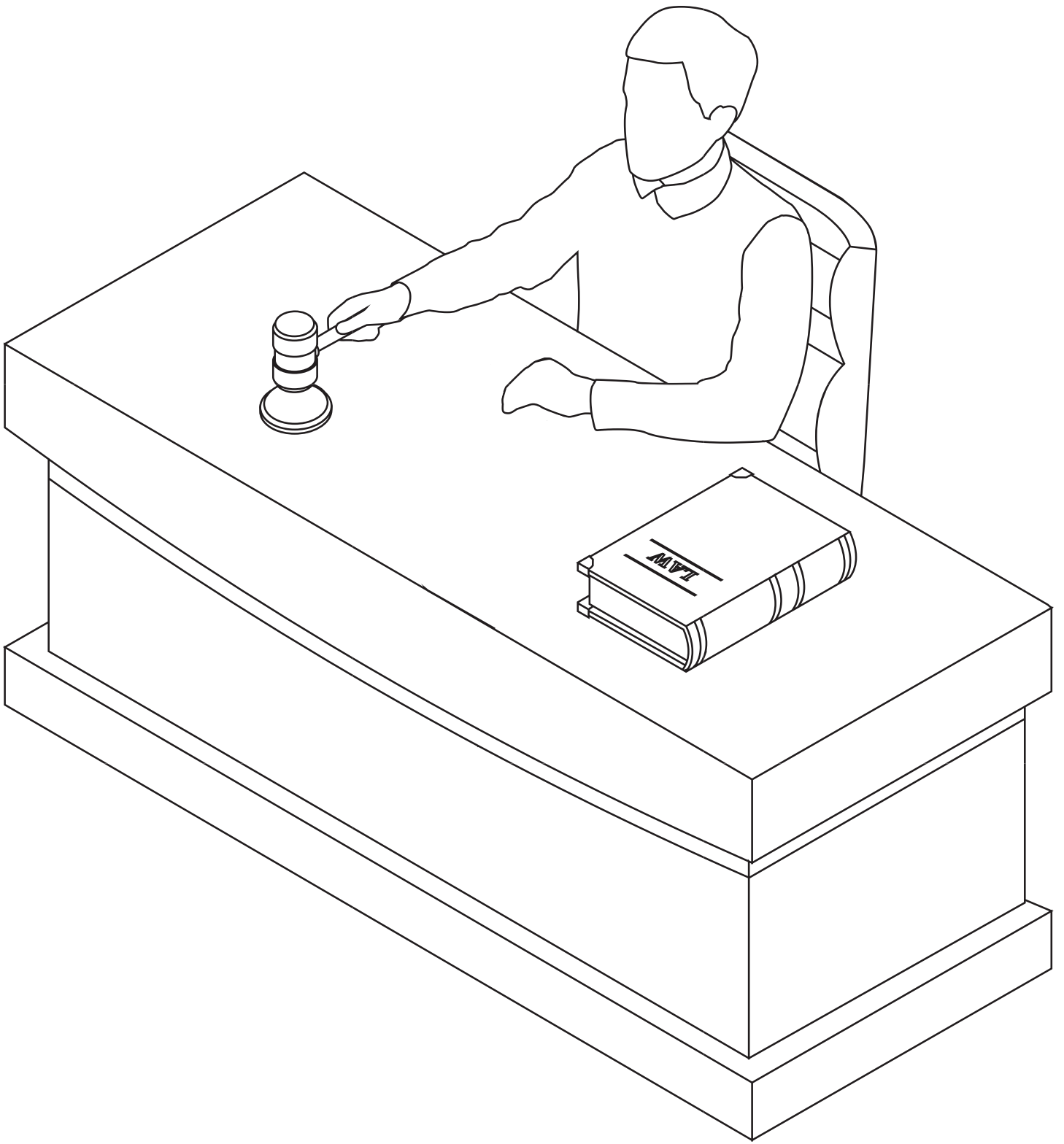
What Happens If Judges Do Something Wrong?

Judges have rules they must follow. If someone thinks a judge is not doing their job correctly, they can make a complaint. A special group looks into complaints and can tell the judge to do better or even remove them from their job.

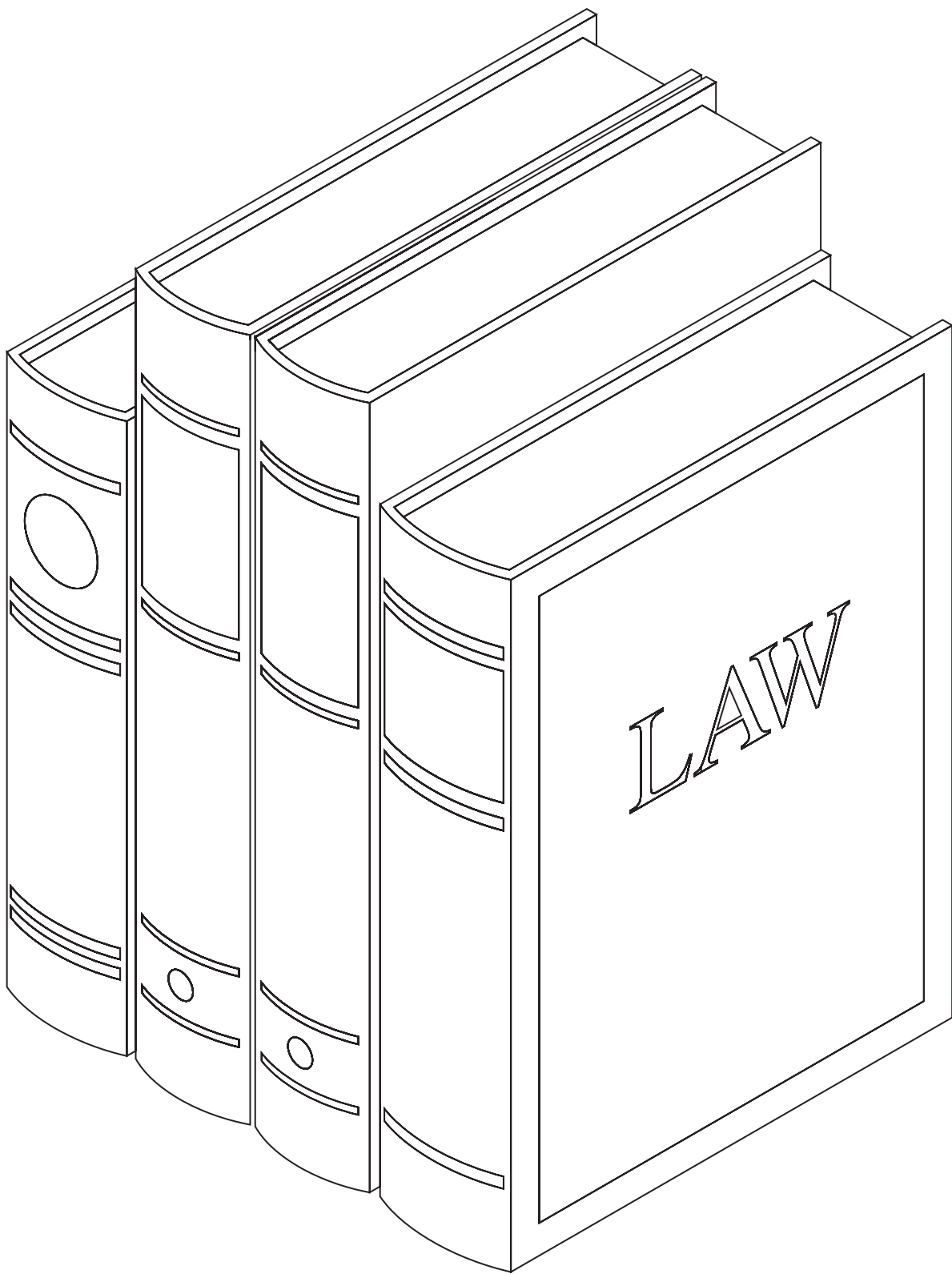
Conclusion

Texas has a big and important court system to make sure people follow the law and settle disputes. It includes different types of courts, judges, and rules to make sure everything is fair.





JUDGE



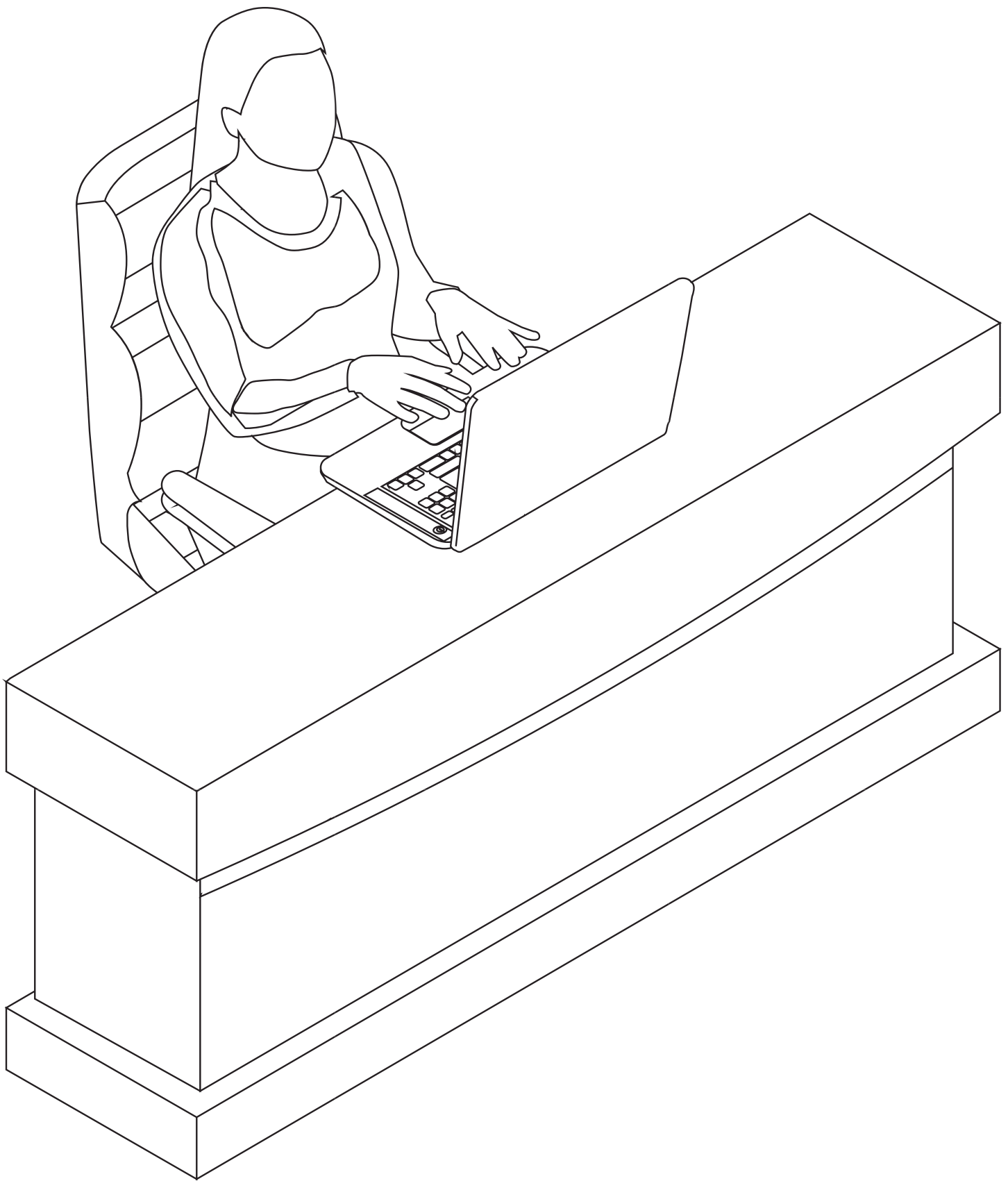
LAW BOOKS

SECRET MESSAGE

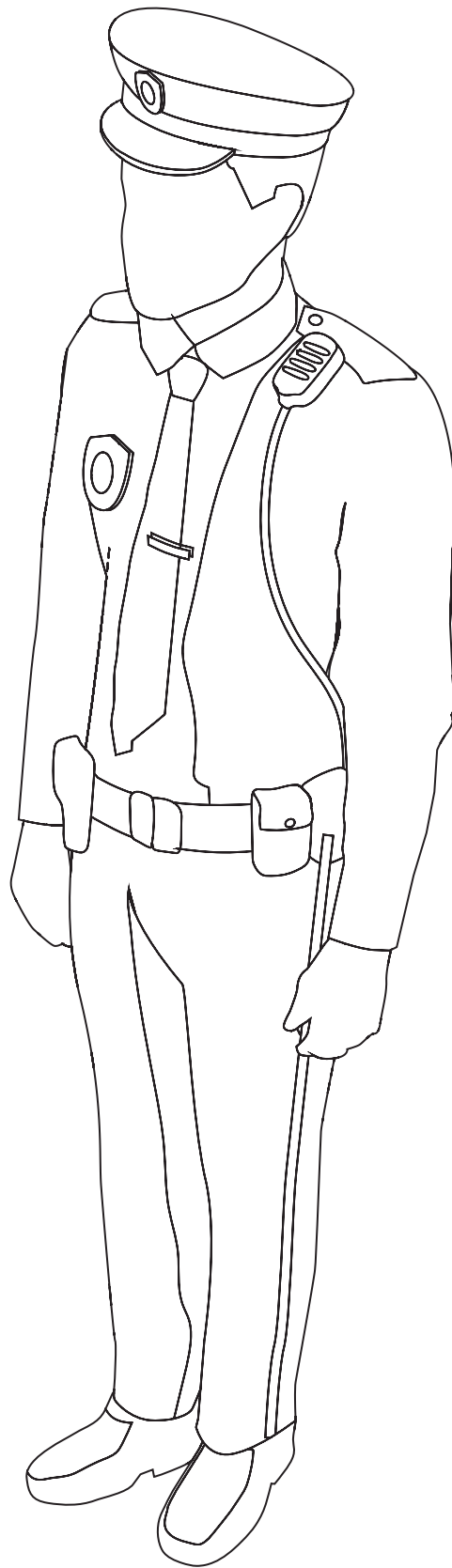
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19	=	g
20	=	m
21	=	u
22	=	l
23	=	b
24	=	f

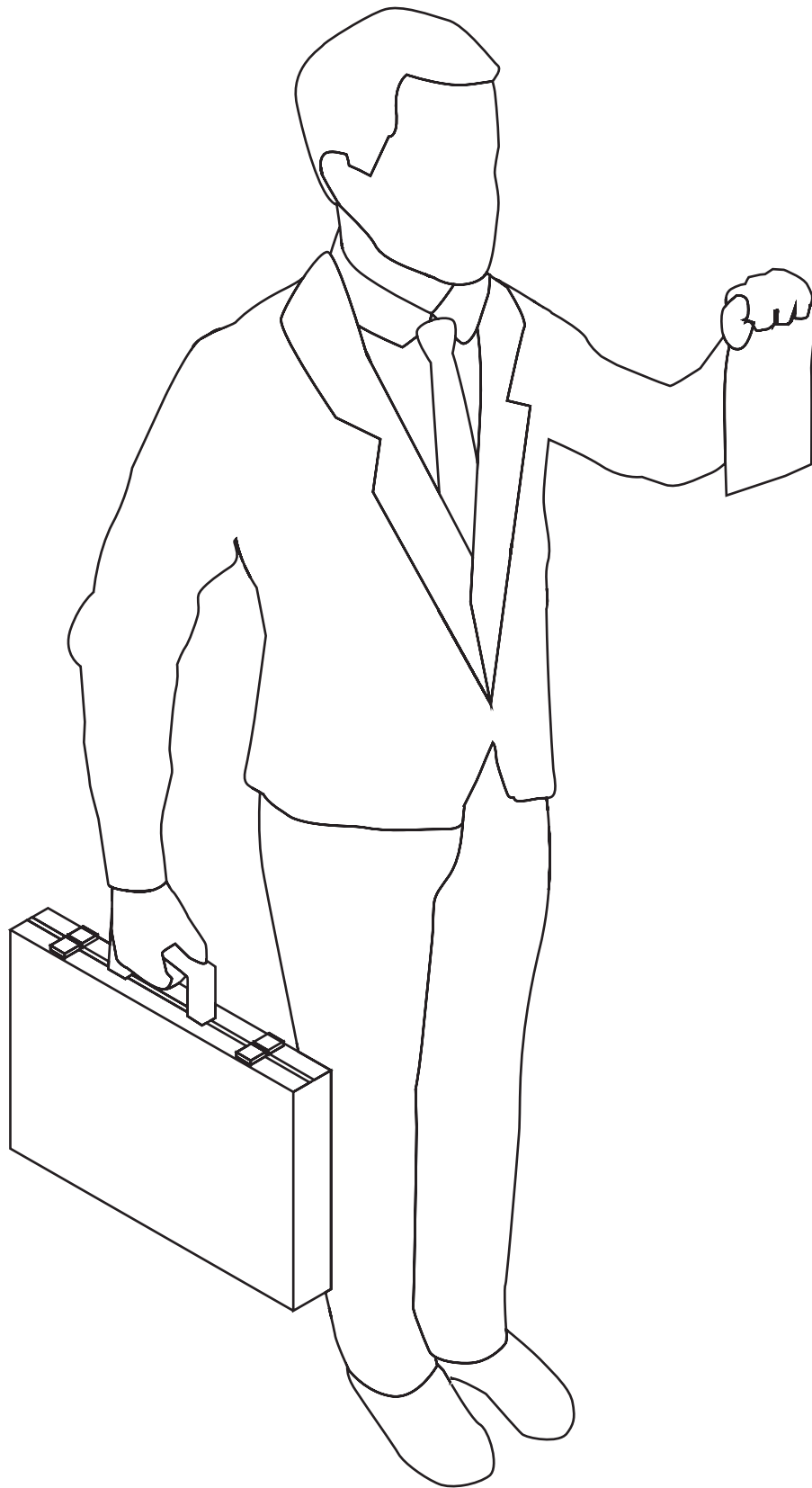
Answer on page 21



COURT REPORTER



BAILIFF



LAWYER

WORD SEARCH

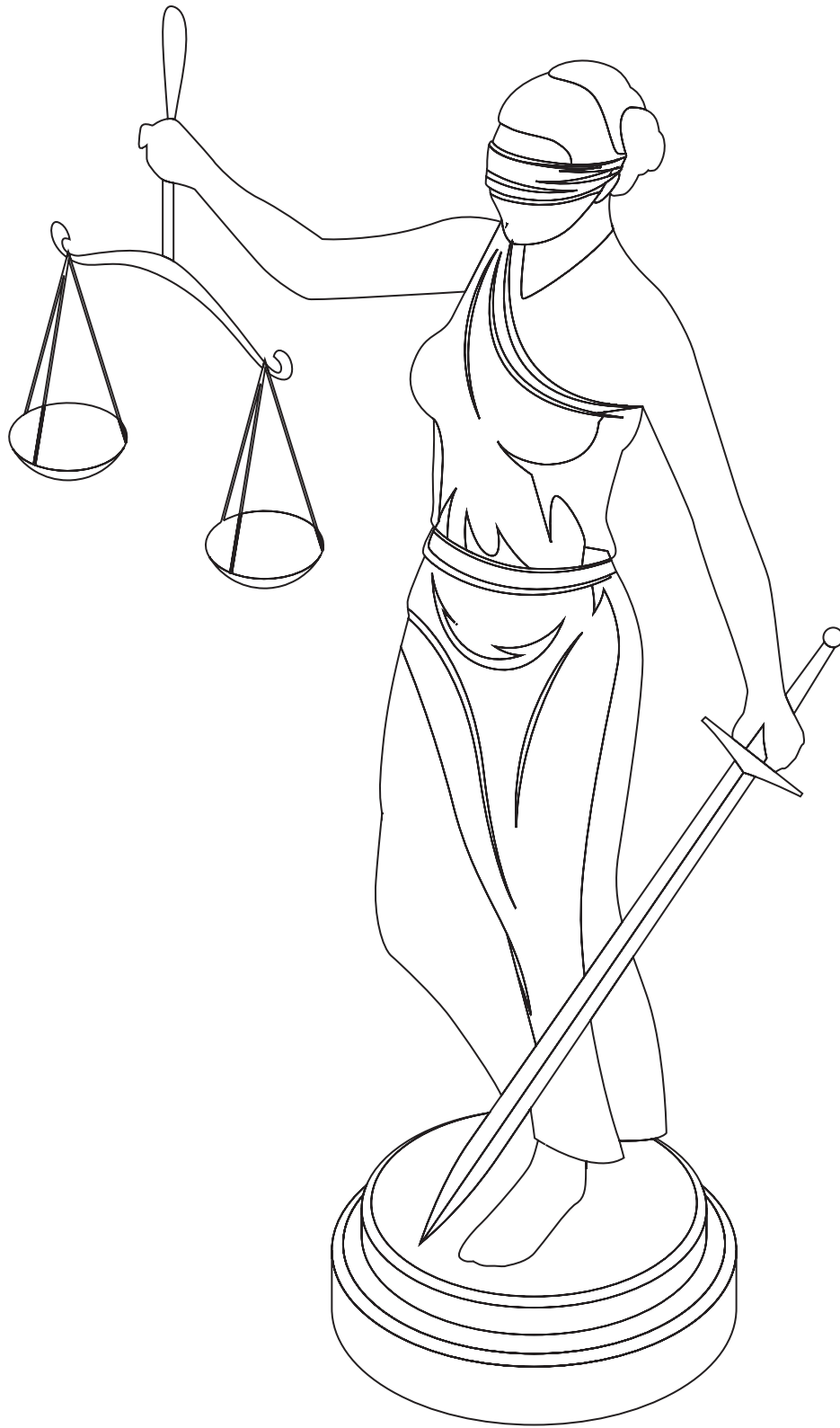
C	L	A	E	P	P	A	T
V	O	J	J	W	A	L	C
M	E	U	W	U	C	L	I
L	V	R	R	V	D	E	D
A	I	I	D	T	E	G	R
C	N	S	C	J	F	E	E
J	R	D	T	W	E	D	V
U	I	I	F	C	N	R	I
R	L	C	M	P	D	F	L
Y	D	T	S	I	A	S	R
E	V	I	D	E	N	C	E
A	T	O	E	M	T	A	Y
T	U	N	T	R	I	A	L

ALLEGED
APPEAL
CRIMINAL
COURT

DEFENDANT
EVIDENCE
JUDGE
JURISDICTION

JURY
LAW
TRIAL
VERDICT

Answer on page 21



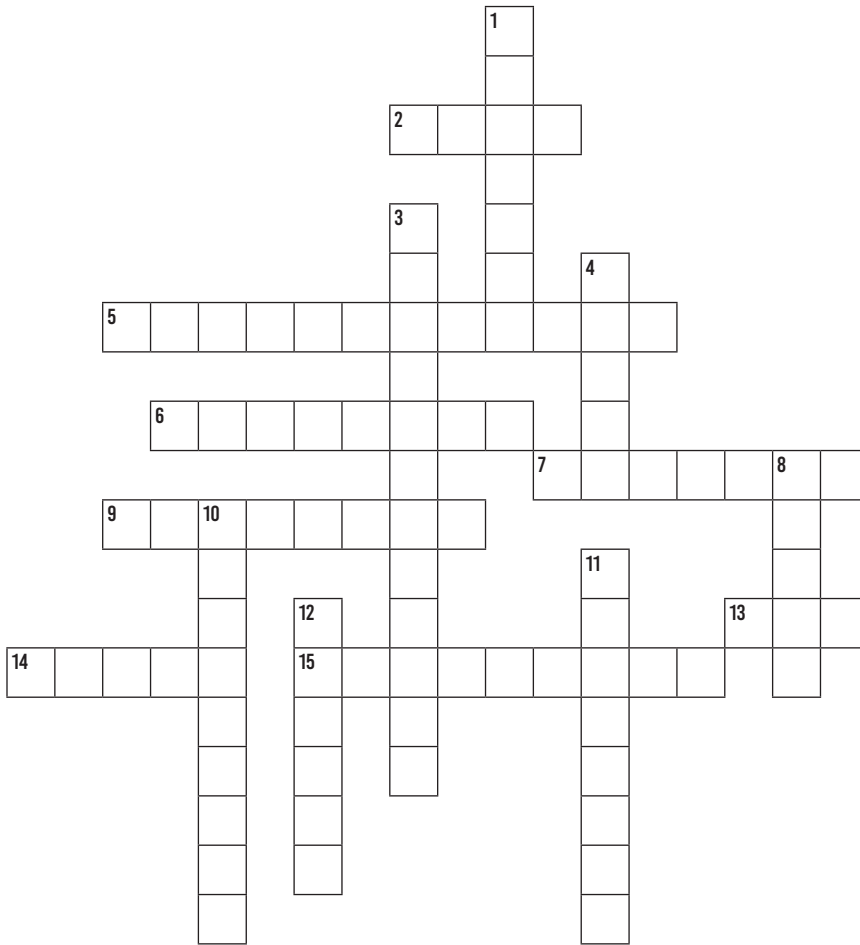
LADY JUSTICE

TEXAS COURTS WORD SCRAMBLE

suttaet
 paepla
 njluivee
 raotutiyh
 obtprae
 ijdalcui
 oucrt
 eocdk
 idneeecv
 gjued
 aegldel
 rujy
 cviil
 tiatgemras
 ntifiaplf
 tirdvec
 nndaftde
 tairl
 crliianm
 cusrtjinioid

Answer on page 22

CROSSWORD



Across:

2. a body of people sworn to give a verdict in a legal case on the basis of evidence submitted to them in court.
5. the official power to make legal decisions and judgments.
6. a person under the age of full legal responsibility.
7. a written law passed by a legislative body.
9. of, by, or related to a court or judge.
13. a system of rules enforced to govern behavior.
14. a person who oversees court proceedings.
15. a person who brings a case against another in a court of law.

Down:

1. a decision on a disputed issue in a civil or criminal case.
3. a court proceeding in which a person who is charged with having committed or omitted an act against the community or state is brought to trial and either found not guilty or guilty and sentenced.
4. a proceeding presided over by a judge, judges, or a magistrate to determine claims or disputes in civil and criminal cases.
8. a formal examination of evidence before a judge, and typically before a jury, in order to decide guilt in a case of criminal or civil proceedings.
10. an individual, company, or institution sued or accused in a court of law.
11. the available body of facts or information indicating whether a belief or proposition is true or valid.
12. an application to a higher court for a decision to be reversed Civil, a noncriminal lawsuit, usually involving private property rights.

Answer on page 23

TEXAS COURTS WORDS ALPHABETICAL ACTIVITY

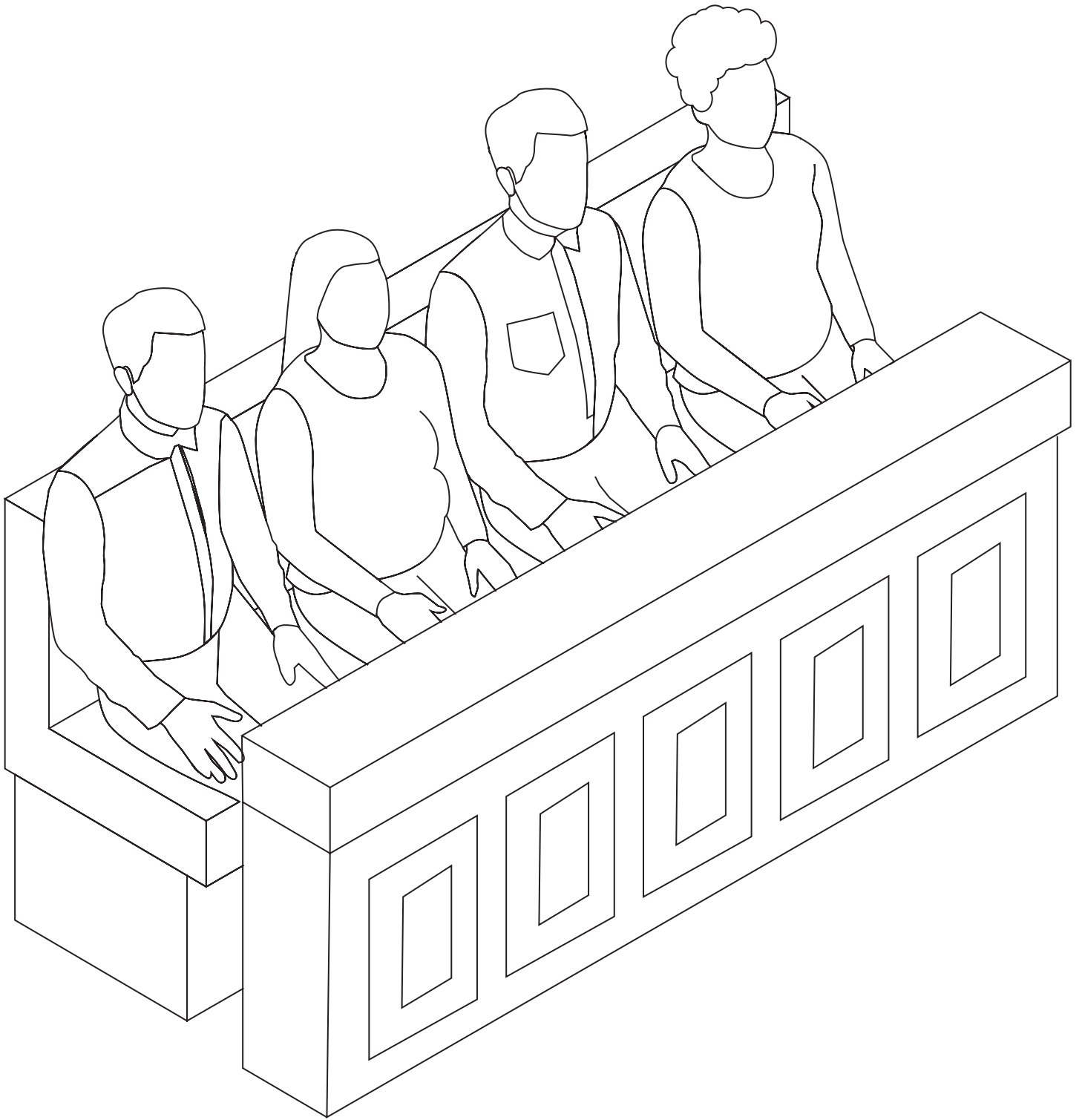
Magistrate
Law
Juvenile
Plaintiff
Defendant
Authority
Alleged
Criminal Case

Constitution
Court
Docket
Appeal
Probate
Civil Suit
Statute
Judicial

Guardianship
Judge
Jurisdiction
Trial
Verdict
Jury
Evidence
Texas

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 15. _____ |
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| 10. _____ | 22. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 23. _____ |
| 12. _____ | 24. _____ |

Answer on page 23



JURY

CONNECT THE DOTS



GLOSSARY

Alleged: said, without proof, to have taken place or to have a specified illegal or undesirable quality.

Appeal: an application to a higher court for a decision to be reversed.

Authority: the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience.

Civil Suit: a noncriminal lawsuit, usually involving private property rights. For example, lawsuits involving breach of contract, probate, divorce, negligence, and copyright violations are just a few of the many hundreds of varieties of civil lawsuits.

Criminal Case: a court proceeding in which a person who is charged with having committed or omitted an act against the community or state is brought to trial and either found not guilty or guilty and sentenced.

Court: a proceeding presided over by a judge, judges, or a magistrate to determine claims or disputes in civil and criminal cases.

Defendant: an individual, company, or institution sued or accused in a court of law.

Docket: a calendar or list of cases for trial or people having cases pending.

Evidence: the available body of facts or information indicating whether a belief or proposition is true or valid.

Judge: a person who oversees court proceedings.

Judicial: of, by, or related to a court or judge.

Jurisdiction: the official power to make legal decisions and judgments.

Jury: a body of people (usually twelve in number) sworn to give a verdict in a legal case on the basis of evidence submitted to them in court.

Juvenile: a person under the age of full legal responsibility.

Law: a system of rules enforced to govern behavior.

Magistrate: a civil officer who administers the law, especially one who conducts a court that deals with minor offenses and holds preliminary hearings for more serious ones.

Plaintiff: a person who brings a case against another in a court of law.

Probate: the official proving of a will.

Statute: a written law passed by a legislative body.

Trial: a formal examination of evidence before a judge, and typically before a jury, in order to decide guilt in a case of criminal or civil proceedings.

Verdict: a decision on a disputed issue in a civil or criminal case.

SECRET MESSAGE ANSWER

W	E	L	C	O	M	E	T	O
7	9	22	4	3	20	9	17	3

T	H	E	O	F	F	I	C	E	O	F
17	16	9	3	24	24	2	4	9	3	24

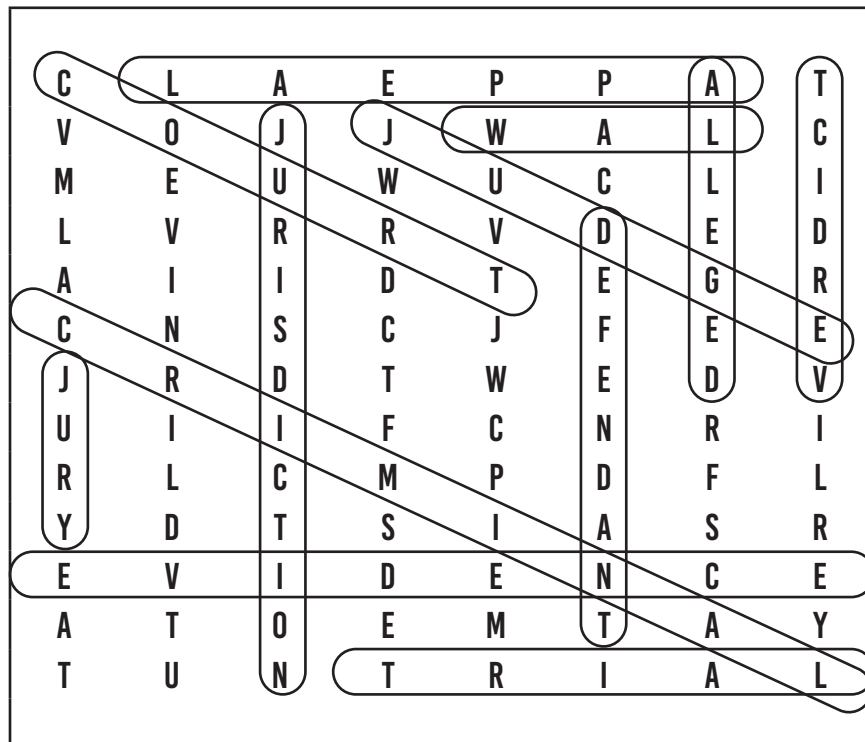
C	O	U	R	T
4	3	21	18	17

A	D	M	I	N	I	S	T	R	A	T	I	O	N
8	6	20	2	5	2	1	17	18	8	17	2	3	5

W	E	H	O	P	E	Y	O	U	E	N	J	O	Y
7	9	16	3	13	9	14	3	21	9	5	10	3	14

Y	O	U	R	V	I	S	I	T
14	3	21	18	11	2	1	2	17

WORD SEARCH ANSWERS



TEXAS COURTS WORD SCRAMBLE

ANSWERS

s t a t u t e

a p p e a l

j u v e n i l e

a u t h o r i t y

p r o b a t e

j u d i c i a l

c o u r t

d o c k e t

e v i d e n c e

j u d g e

a l l e g e d

j u r y

c i v i l

m a g i s t r a t e

p l a i n t i f f

v e r d i c t

d e f e n d a n t

t r i a l

c r i m i n a l

j u r i s d i c t i o n

suttaet

paepla

njluivee

raotutiyh

obtprae

ijdalciu

oucrt

eocdkt

idneeecv

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aegldel

rujy

cviil

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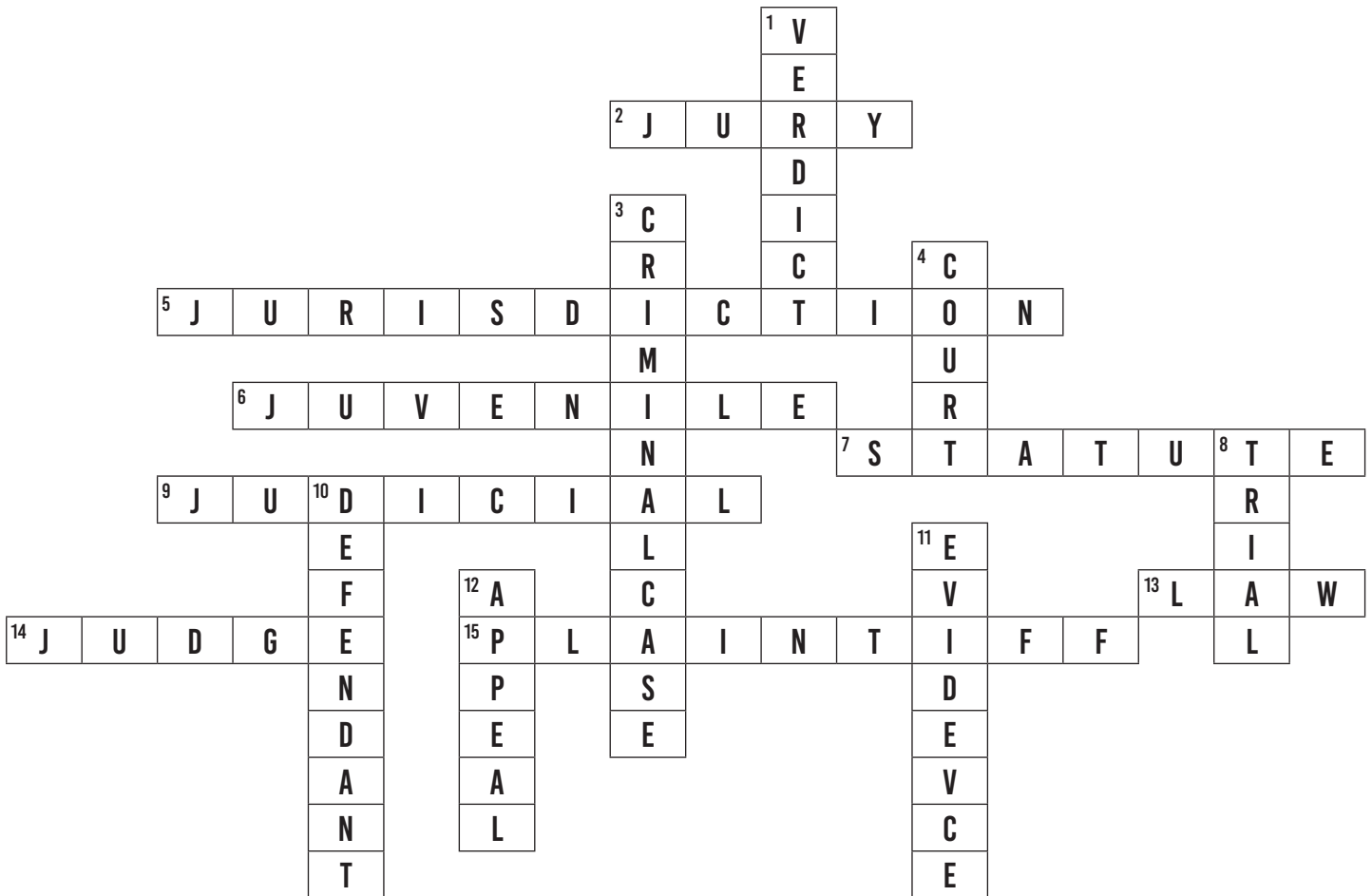
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CROSSWORD ANSWERS



ALPHABETICAL ACTIVITY ANSWERS

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Alleged | 13. Jurisdiction |
| 2. Appeal | 14. Jury |
| 3. Authority | 15. Juvenile |
| 4. Civil Suit | 16. Law |
| 5. Criminal Case | 17. Magistrate |
| 6. Court | 18. Plaintiff |
| 7. Defendant | 19. Probate |
| 8. Docket | 20. Statute |
| 9. Evidence | 21. Texas |
| 10. Guardianship | 22. Constitution |
| 11. Judge | 23. Trial |
| 12. Judicial | 24. Verdict |

THE TEXAS JUDICIAL SYSTEM



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APRIL 2025