

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND OCA OVERVIEW

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TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF PRETRIAL SERVICES 2026 CONFERENCE
MARCH 25, 20226



WHAT IS OCA?

- Authorized under Texas Government Code Chapter 72
- Under the direction and supervision of the Supreme Court and Chief Justice



Powers & Duties

- Budgets and Expenditures
- Personnel
- Consultation and assistance
- Examine methods & make recommendations
- Annual Reports
- Rules
- Grants
- Data Collection
- Court fees and costs
- Electronic Filing System
- Court Performance Standards



OCA MISSION

- Mission Statement:
 - To provide resources and information for the efficient administration of the judicial branch in Texas
- Exemplify the highest standards of ethical and professional conduct
- Advocate and practice efficient and collaborative administration
- Provide prompt, courteous and competent service
- Authorized for 354 employees in 10 different divisions





RESOURCES

- **Trial Courts:**
 - Technical assistance, training, and research on court administration, court interpreters, and funding and standards for indigent defense
- **Appellate & Specialty Courts:**
 - Information technology solutions and fiscal consultation;
- **Judicial Branch Regulatory Boards & Policymaking Bodies:**
 - Staffing and support
- **Specialty Courts & the Regional Presiding Judges:**
 - Staffing and administration





NEW CHIEF JUSTICE & PRESIDING JUDGE



**Chief Justice
Jimmy Blacklock
Texas Supreme Court**



**Presiding Judge
David Schenck
Court of Criminal Appeals**



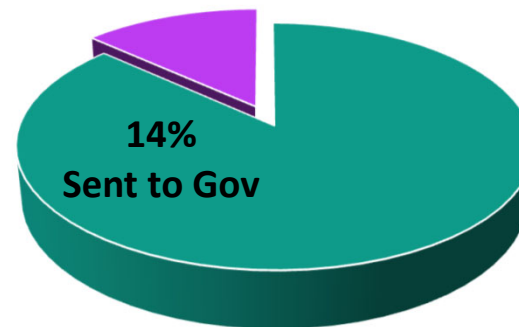
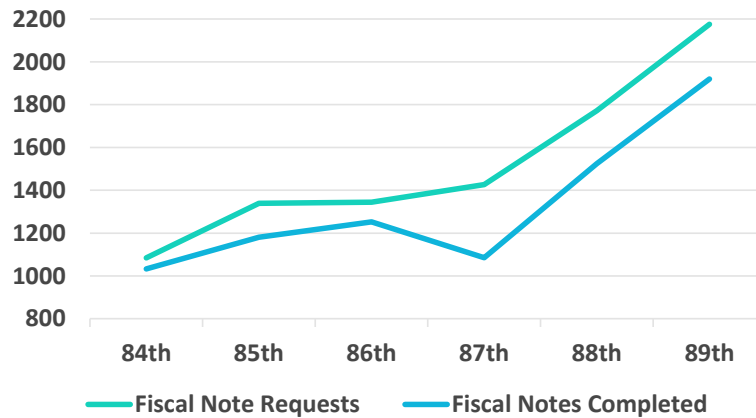
89TH
LEGISLATIVE
SESSION
HIGHLIGHTS



Session Statistics

Chamber	86 th Legislative Session	87 th Legislative Session	88 th Legislative Session	89 th Legislative Session
House	4,765	4,671	5,413	5,644
Senate	2,559	2,259	2,633	3,075
Total	7,324	6,930	8,046	8,719

Fiscal Notes



LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO BAIL



PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT SYSTEM

The Damon Allen Act, or SB6, changed the landscape for procedures to be followed during the setting of bail in Texas by requiring magistrates to consider a Public Safety Report (PSR) for defendants charged with a Class B Misdemeanor or higher offense.

Initially, the PSR provided magistrates with the following information:

- Pending Offenses & Criminal History Summary
- Arrest dates
- Offense type and severity
- Disposition and sentencing information

The PSRS generates a Bail Form for each defendant with the following information:

- Bail type (public)
- Bail amount (public)
- Bail conditions (restricted access)



PSRS CHANGES & ENHANCEMENTS (SB 9)

September 1, 2025

- Deadline to certify the Bail Form reduces from 72 to 48 hours

Article 72.023 (c)

- 17.151 bail modifications tracking

January 1, 2026

- Prosecutors provided access to bail forms

17.021 (c-1)

- Cross-county felony email notification

17.027 (c-d)

- Notification to elected District Attorney within the county a bail has been set for an offense involving violence

Article 72.038 (c-1)

April 1, 2026

- Enhancements to PSRS features:

- Current Protective Orders
- Outstanding Warrants
- Pending status on bail or participation in a pretrial intervention program and conditions of release
- Summary of CCH to include status (as applicable) of community supervision
- Failure to Appear by offense

17.021 (b)(5) (E-I)



GRANTS FOR INTEGRATION WITH PSRS

SB9 requires the PSRS to be configured to allow a county or municipality to integrate their jail records management system and case management systems

OCA may provide grants to reimburse counties and municipalities for costs related to integrating jail records management system and case management system (expiration – August 31, 2027)

**OCA is developing a streamlined process for grant applications. Additional details and guidance will be provided once framework is finalized*



DISTRICT COURT REVIEW

Timeliness: A district judge must review the bail decision no later than the next business day after the request is filed.

Standards: The reviewing judge must follow Article 17.09, Code of Criminal Procedure, and the established rules for setting bail, considering all presented facts.

If bail is increased / conditions added: *Applies when the defendant is not in custody.* Judge must issue a summons first, giving the defendant a reasonable chance to appear. Only then may a warrant be issued if the defendant fails to comply.


Notification Process: Local administrative district judges must establish procedures for the clerk to notify all district judges when a bail review request is filed.



FAILURE TO APPEAR FINDING

A Court Must Make And Enter An Affirmative Finding In The Judgment Or Dismissal Order If The Defendant Fails To Appear After Being Released From Custody For The Offense.

- If the court determines that the defendant **willfully** failed to appear after being released from custody for a Class B misdemeanor or higher category of offense, the court **must make and enter an affirmative finding** of the fact in the judgment or dismissal order in the case. (Art 42.01)
- The affirmative finding **must** include the **number of times the defendant failed to appear for the offense.** (Art. 42.0195)

	CAUSE No. 25-01-00001-CR COUNT No. 1	
	INCIDENT No. /TRN: 9219267335	
THE STATE OF TEXAS	§	IN THE 9TH DISTRICT
v.	§	COURT
JOHN DOE	§	MONTGOMERY COUNTY, TEXAS
STATE ID NO.: TX02536723	§	
<hr/>		
JUDGMENT OF CONVICTION BY JURY		
<hr/>		



BAIL APPEALS

Prosecutors are entitled to appeal an order they believe is insufficient if the case involved is...

- murder, a capital murder, certain aggravated assaults, an aggravated kidnapping, an aggravated robbery, an aggravated sexual assault, an indecency with a child, a trafficking of persons, or a continuous trafficking of persons offense

or

- the defendant must have committed a felony while on bail for a previous felony

The Appeal

Court of Appeals will conduct a de novo review of the bail decision and issue an order no later than the 20th day after the appeal is filed. The appellate process is guided by Supreme Court Rule.

Supreme Court of Texas

Misc. Docket No. 25-9059

**Preliminary Approval of New
Texas Rule of Appellate Procedure 31.8**



OTHER BAIL BILLS OF INTEREST

House Bill 75: *(Effective 9/1/2025)*

- Creates a standard for documenting probable cause findings. Magistrates must articulate in writing the rationale for the release of individuals for lack of probable cause within 24 hours of magistrate's determination.

Senate Bill 664: *(Effective 9/1/2025)*

- Standardizes qualifications for judicial officers, mandates training requirements for officials setting bail and reporting compliance violations.

Constitutional Amendment SJR5: *(Ballot Issue - November 4, 2025)*

- Allows judges and magistrates to deny bail to individuals accused of serious violent offenses such as murder, aggravated sexual assault and continuous human trafficking.



COURT SERVICES



UNIFORM CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Establishes a uniformed case management system for counties focusing on counties with a population of 20,000 or less.

- Collect county judicial data including mental health adjudications and protective order information
- Provide timely and accurate report of judicial data to OCA, national criminal history record information, and mental health record repositories
- Easily integrate with existing state or countywide systems to allow frequent sharing of information between systems
- Include adequate reporting standards to ensure the accurate reporting of information through the system

Two vendors deployed UCMS:

- iDocket
- Tyler Technologies



TECHNOLOGY & ACCESS



- Mandatory e-filing in civil cases for attorneys filing into appellate, district or county courts.
- Available but not mandatory for self-represented litigants.
- Mandatory e-filing in criminal cases pursuant to a schedule that began on July 1, 2017, and continues through January 1, 2020.
- eFileTexas.gov is funded through a per-case fee passed by the 83rd Legislature. This allows the system to be cost neutral for the filer.



- Search for case records through all jurisdictions across the state of Texas
- View the register of actions of a case including parties, attorneys, case events, and more
- View all case documents online
- \$0.10/page up to \$6 sent to counties



INTERIM STUDY



Digital Court Recording Study

HB 16 (89-2) requires the OCA to conduct a study on Digital Court Recording

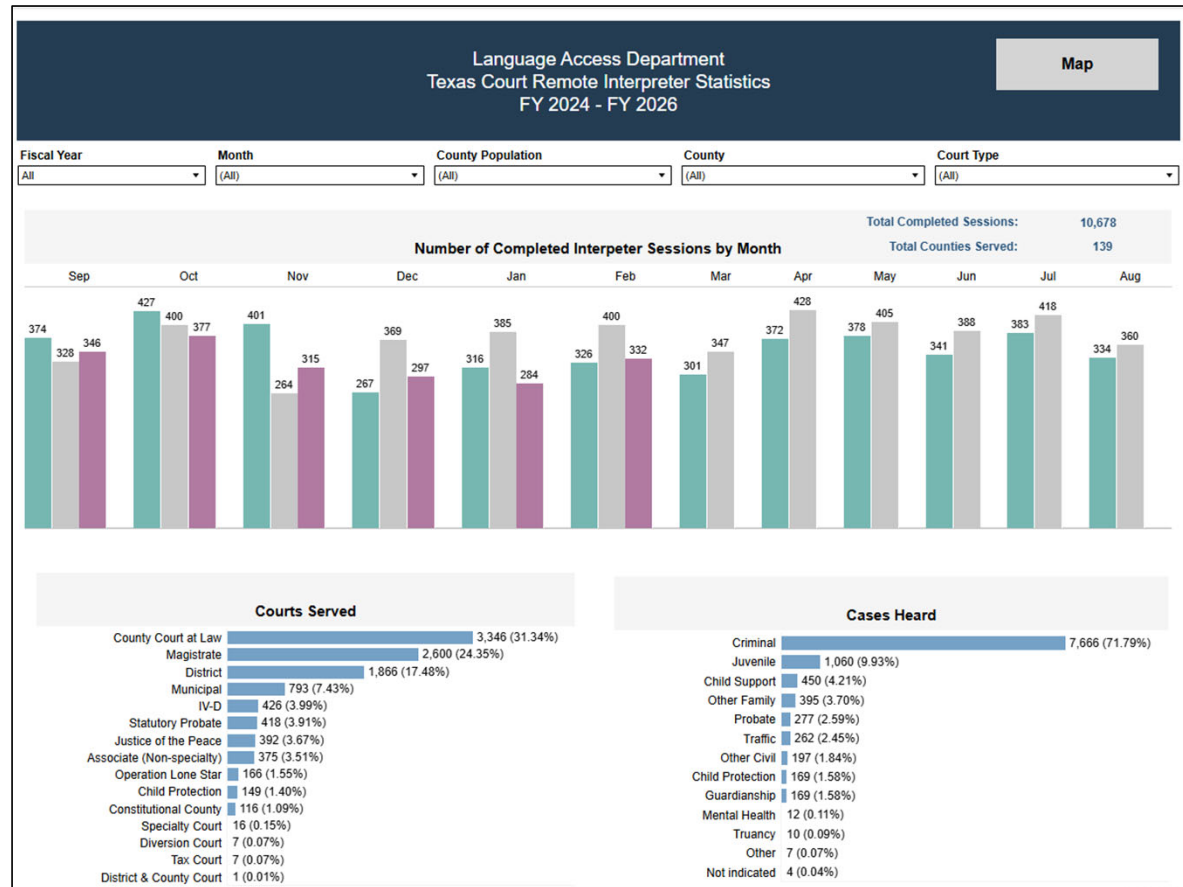
- An Evaluation of the current use of Digital Court Recording; including the cost, access, accuracy, and effectiveness.
- An analysis of other states using digital court recording.
- Recommendation on any necessary changes to statutes, rules, regulations, or standards.

Due: October 1, 2026

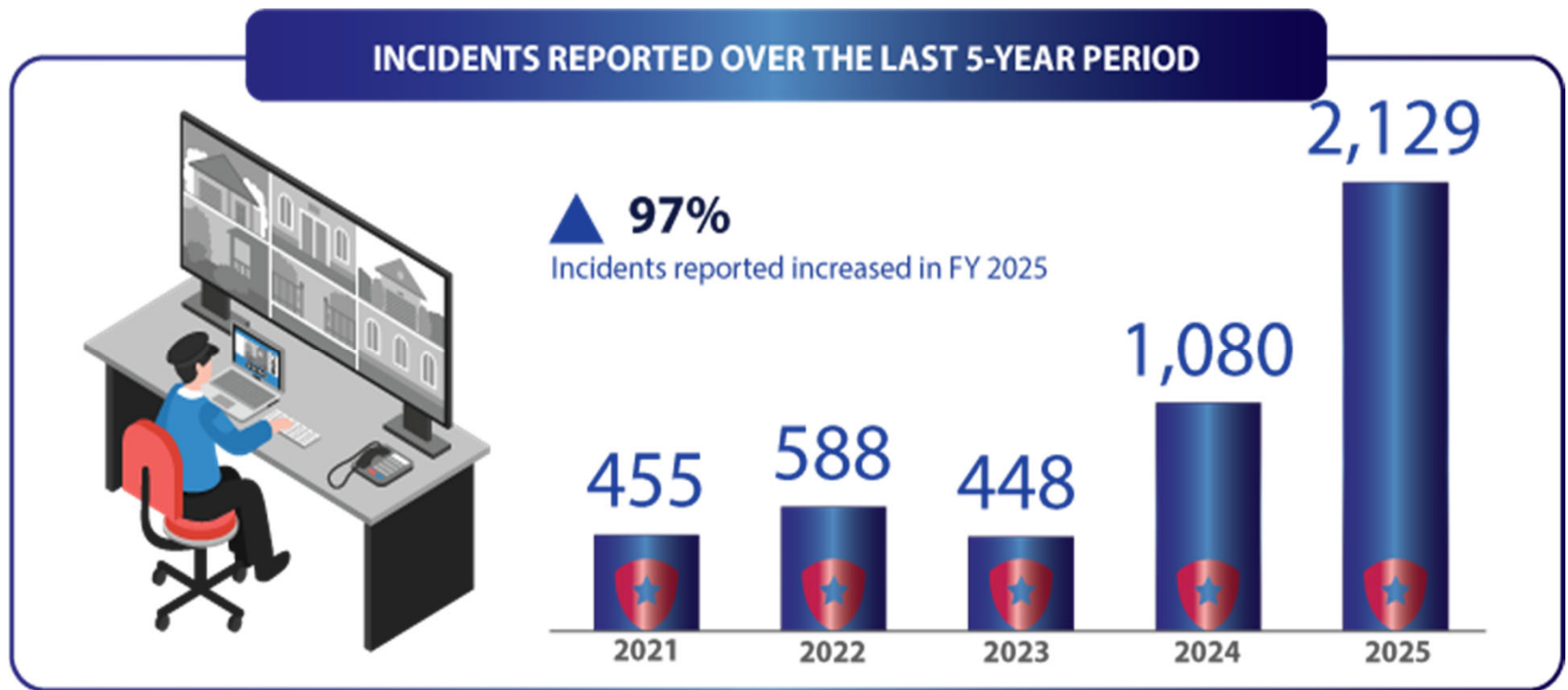


TEXAS COURT REMOTE INTERPRETER SERVICE

- Assists courts in providing meaningful access for Limited English Proficient individuals.
- Experienced Texas Master Licensed Court Interpreters provide free interpreting services in all case types for short, uncontested matters that typically last 30 minutes or less.
- Languages currently offered: Spanish, French, Portuguese and German.
- Interpreters can connect remotely via court's videoconference link or speakerphone.



TEXAS COURT SECURITY



TEXAS COURT SECURITY

COMBINED NUMBER OF INCIDENTS REPORTED



TEXAS COURT SECURITY

INCIDENTS REPORTED BY COURT TYPE & CLERKS OFFICE

1,561

MUNICIPAL

249

DISTRICT

124

JUSTICE

60

COUNTY

55

CLERKS

4

HIGH AND
INTERMEDIATE
APPELLATE

1

BUSINESS

Note: 75 incidents were not related to a particular court type.

PROTECTING THE JUDICIARY

HB 5081

“...a person, including a data broker, may not publicly post or display on a publicly accessible Internet website covered information of an at-risk individual...”

Who are the “at-risk individuals?”

- Judges, Clerks, employees of a state court, employees of clerk, immediate family members residing with “at-risk” individual

HB 16 (89-2)

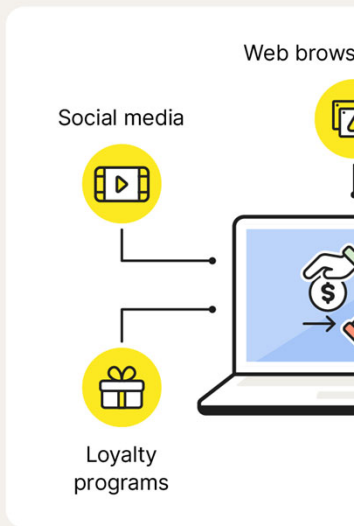
- Voter Registration List – Election Code 13.0021
- Real Property Records – Government Code 552.117
- Real Property Appraisal Records & Tax Records – Tax Code 25.025
- Drivers License Address – Transportation Code 521.121
- Government Employment Records – Government Code 552.117
- Who can request protection?
 - Judges (SB 42, 85R), Clerks, employees whose duties relate to court administration, and family members



DATA BROKERS

Company
Acxiom
Experian
Epsilon
Equifax
CoreLogic
Oracle Data Cloud
NielsenIQ
TransUnion
Dun & Bradstreet
Lotame
Intelius
Whitepages

How data brokers get your information



What data brokers collect about you



PROTECTING THE JUDICIARY



ORIGINAL

Personal Address:

420 COTTONWOOR RD
EAST TEXAS CENTER,
TX 12345-0000

REDACTED

REDACTED / REPLACED FOR PRIVACY:

722 21st St.
GALVESTON, TX 77550-0000

REPLACED



COMING SOON

Texas Department of Public Safety – Driver License

Texas Department of Safety – License to Carry Permit

County Voter Registration Office – Voter Registration Lists

County Appraisal District Office – Appraisal District Property Searches

County Clerk – Real Property Records

Government Employment Records

Government Records

Ethics Commission – Elected Official Financial Statements

Filing Authority - Judicial Candidate Application for Place on Ballot

Other Helpful Information

Other Resources

Military Discharge Records

Personal Information Displayed on Internet by Individual, Business, or Data Broker



COURT CONSULTANT SERVICE

This program meets the responsibility under Section 72.024 of the Texas Government Code for OCA "to consult with and assist courts in the efficient administration of justice." The OCA Consultant will assist a court or clerk's office in evaluating and implementing case management and administrative programs to improve the efficiency of court or clerk operations and the administration of justice.

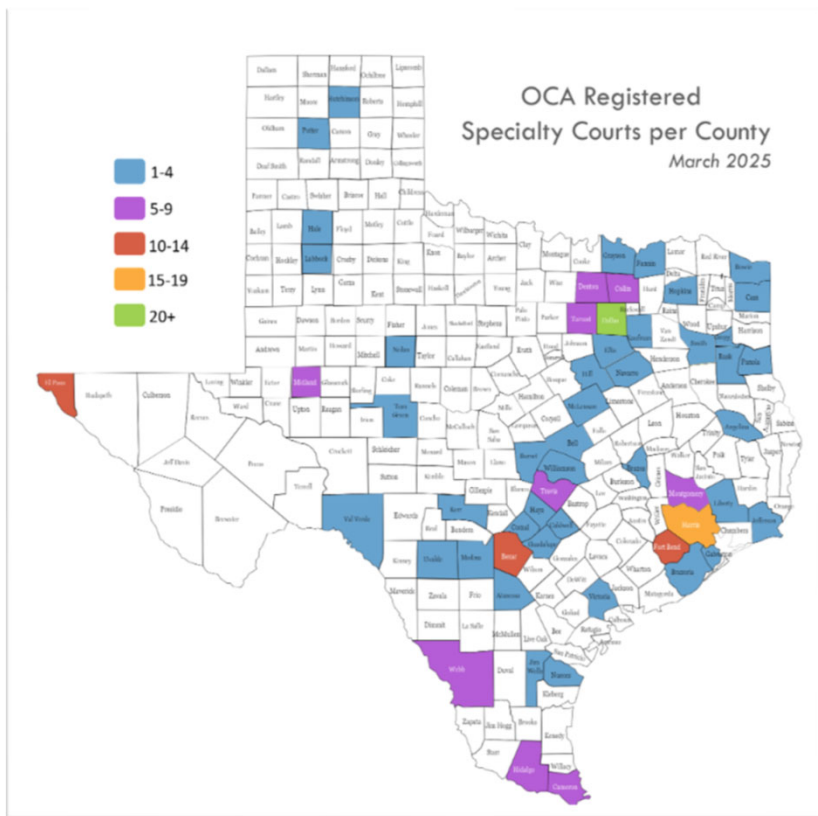


Court Administration Topics:

- Evaluation and development of case management strategies
- Calendaring procedures
- Jury management
- Development of forms
- Reporting procedures
- Assignment of judges
- Caseload management
- Financial procedures
- Integration with Re:SearchTX
- Electronic conversion
- CMS utilization
- Record retention



SPECIALTY COURT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



207 Registered Specialty Courts in Texas

Types of Specialty Courts:

- Commercially sexually exploited persons court program
- Family drug court program
- Drug court program
- Veterans' treatment court program
- Mental health court program
- Public safety employees' treatment court program; and
- Juvenile family drug court program

Specialty Court Resources:

txspecialtycourts.org & txcourts.gov/about-Texas-courts/specialty-courts



DATA & RESEARCH



REGIONAL DATA COORDINATORS

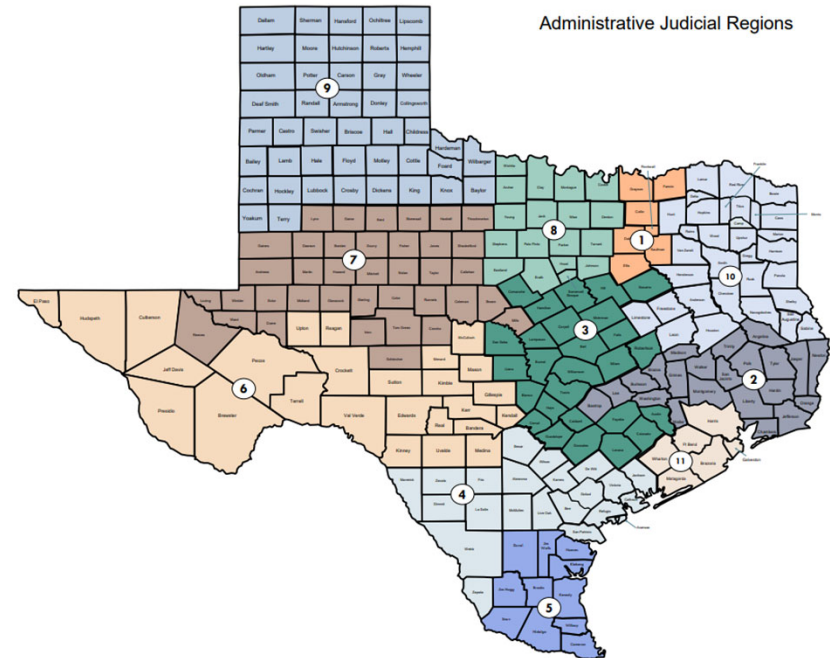
The Data Quality and Assistance Program strengthens the integrity of Texas judicial data through statewide training, collaboration, and support for judges, courts, and clerk offices. This is a new program established September 2025 under OCA's Data & Research Division.

Purpose: Ensure accurate, consistent, and reliable court case data across the state.

Goals:

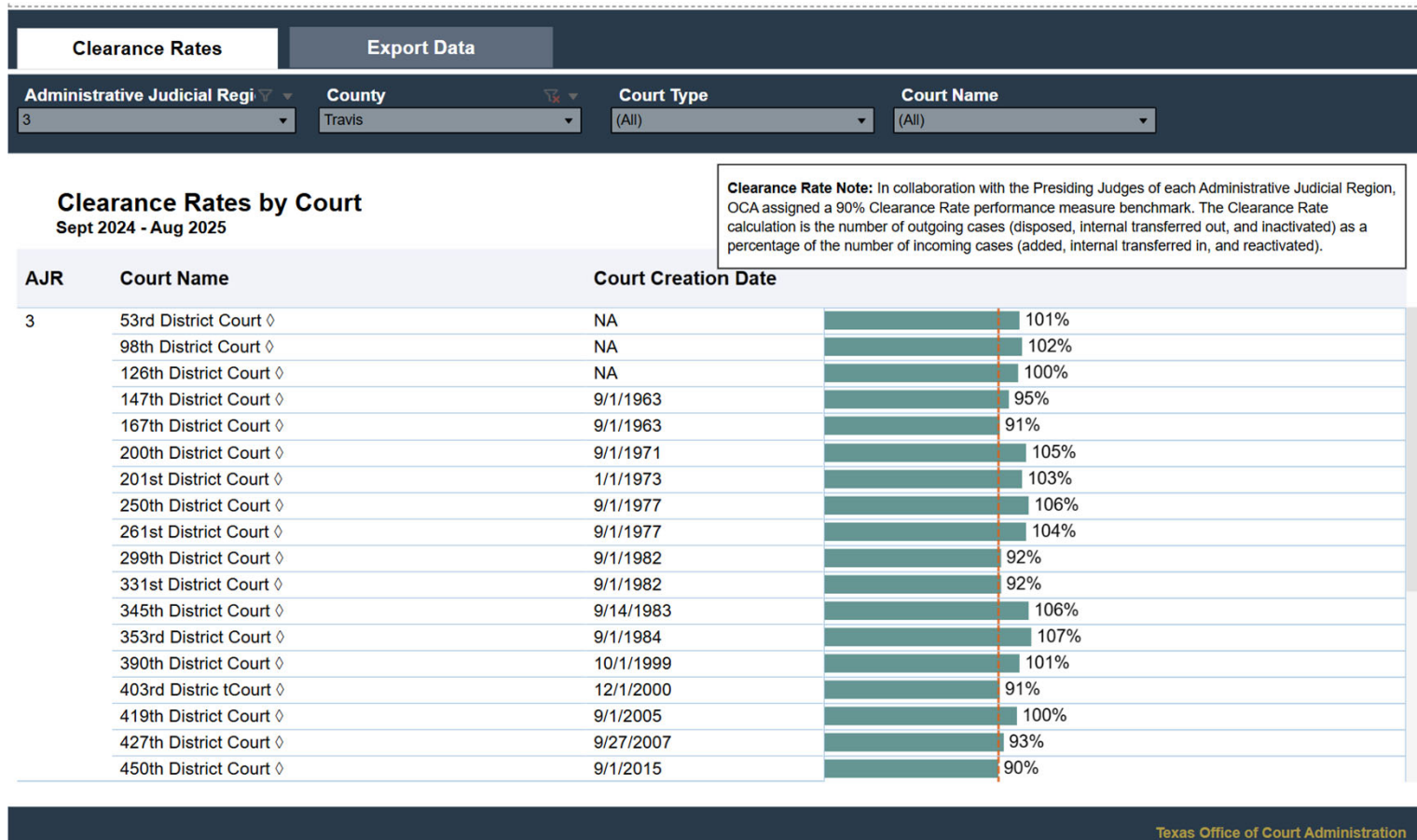
- Ensure uniform reporting practices across all counties
- Reduce misinterpretation of data fields
- Improve timeliness and completeness of reports
- Maintain integrity of statewide judicial data

The program houses 11 positions – Regional Data Coordinators (RDC) each assigned to one of the 11 Administrative Judicial Regions to assist and work with the counties in that area.



Court Performance Dashboard

HB 2384 (88R)



Court Level Monthly Reports - Population over 1 Million

Texas Court-Level Monthly Activity Reports

[Detailed County Reports](#)
 [County Clearance Rates](#)
 [Case Activity by Court](#)
 [Export Full Report](#)
 [Reporting Status](#)

Collin District Courts - Court Level Activity Report for January 2026

Note: Incoming Cases include cases added, internal transferred in, and reactivated cases. Outgoing cases include disposed, internal transferred out, and inactivated cases.

	Total for all Courts	199th District Court	219th District Court	296th District Court	366th District Court	380th District Court	401st District Court	416th District Court	417th District Court	429th District Court
Criminal	Incoming Cases	787	120	111	97	95	120	126	118	
	Outgoing Cases	946	134	134	108	161	130	142	137	
	Clearance Rate	120%	112%	121%	111%	169%	108%	113%	116%	
	Jury Panels	11	6		2		1	1	1	
	Motions for Continuance Granted	7	1	1	1	1		3		
	Motions for Continuance Denied									
	Pleas Accepted	195	28	23	33	34	21	27	29	
	Cases Tried by Presiding Judge	56	12	2	25		1	1	15	
	Cases Tried by Associate Judge									
	Cases Tried by Visiting Judge (Short Term Assign..)	40	29						11	
Cases Tried by Visiting Judge (Long Term Assign..)										
Civil	Incoming Cases	621	44	53	48	40	46	49	43	60
	Outgoing Cases	806	50	65	37	40	54	74	68	100
	Clearance Rate	130%	114%	123%	77%	100%	117%	151%	158%	50%
	Jury Panels	1								
	Motions for Continuance Granted	15	1				2	1		4
	Motions for Continuance Denied	13						1		
	Pleas Accepted									
	Cases Tried by Presiding Judge	52		2	3		11	7	14	1
	Cases Tried by Associate Judge									
	Cases Tried by Visiting Judge (Short Term Assign..)	12						1	9	
Cases Tried by Visiting Judge (Long Term Assign..)										
Incoming Cases	888	30	30	25	24	30	26	28	69	67

Report Month
January 2026

Select Court Type
 District
 Statutory County

Select County
 Collin
 Dallas
 Harris
 Tarrant

Filter by Case Type
 (All)
 Civil
 Criminal
 Family
 Juvenile

Filter by Court(s)

Office of Court Administration

Last Updated: 3/5/2026



What is Case Level Data?

- OCA currently collects aggregate level data.
- Over the last few years there has been a noticeable interest for more detailed data.
- Demand has been driven by the need for a more comprehensive insight into court cases and outcomes.
- This project will collect multiple data points for once case rather than general filing and disposition information.

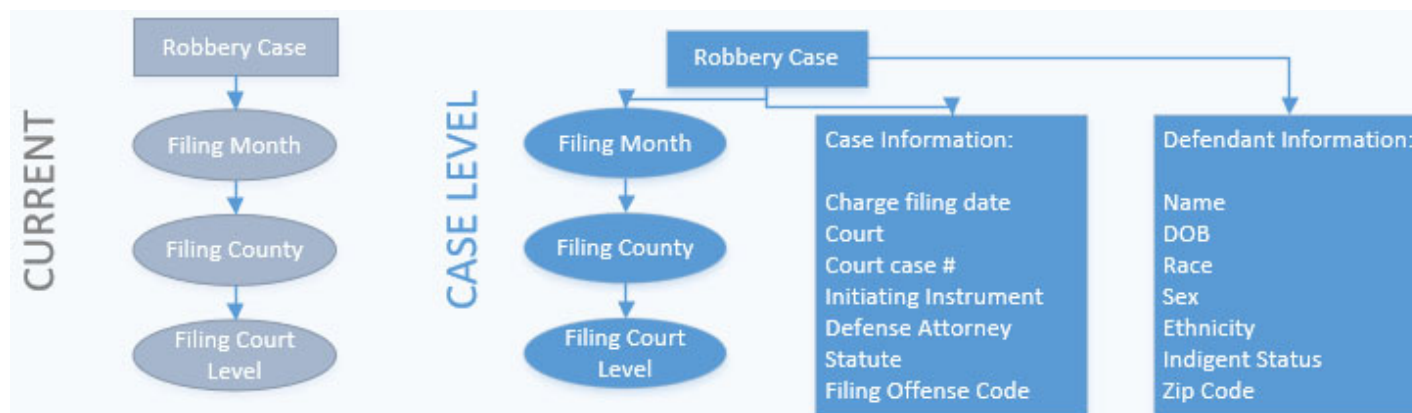


Our goal for this system is to eventually eliminate manual reporting for counties by integrating with local case management systems.

Timeline:



Contract was signed with Tyler Technologies in September 2024. Development work and partial integration has begun. New system will be **Court Analytics TX**.



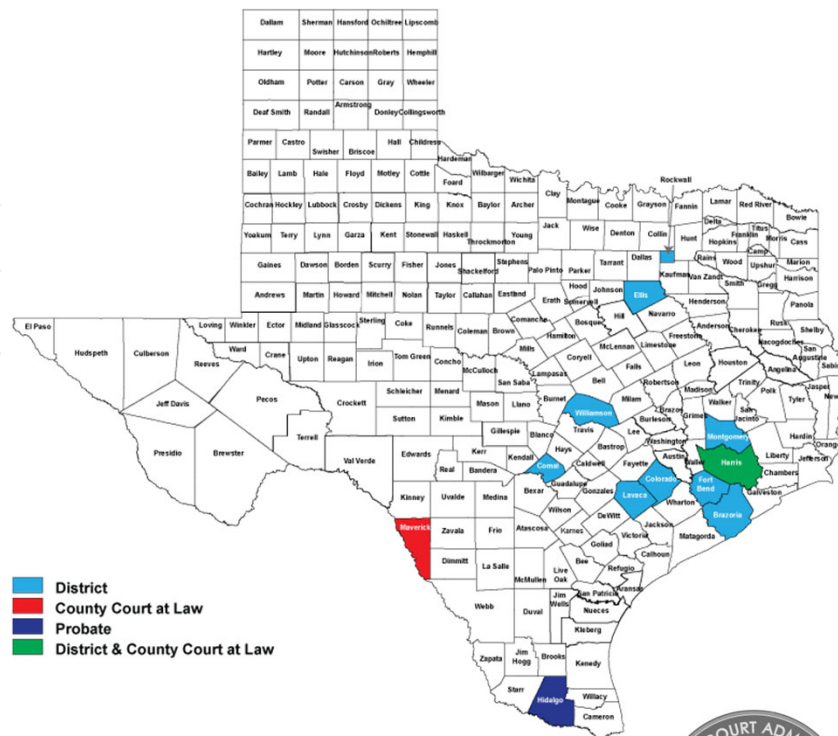
WORKLOAD ANALYSIS

District Court Workload Analysis Montgomery County

This jurisdiction is currently served by 8 district courts. Montgomery is also supported by 5 associate judges funded by the county and the Office of Court Administration's Child Support courts.

County	Estimated FTEs Needed ¹	% Current FTEs State Funded ²	Filings 2025	Change in Filings 2024-2025	Change in Filings 2021-2025	Clearance Rate 2025	Clearance Rate 2021-2025	Date Last Court Created
Montgomery	15.4	79%	19,891	3%	13%	96%	98%	2019
Statewide Totals, Change in Filings & Clearance Rates CY 2024				2%	6%	97%	94%	

Workload per Judicial Officer	Current	+ 1 FTE	+ 2 FTEs	+ 3 FTEs	+ 4 FTEs
Estimated Need	15.4				
Existing Resources ²	10.7	11.7	12.7	13.7	14.7
Workload per Judicial Officer ³	1.44	1.32	1.21	1.12	1.05



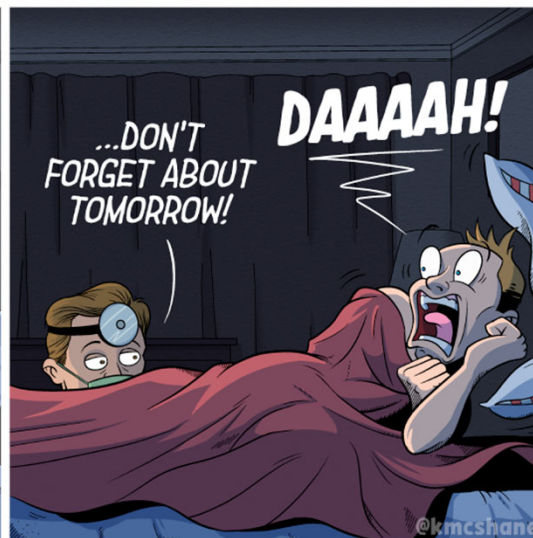
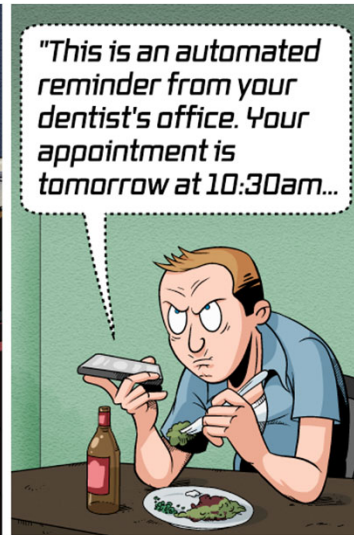
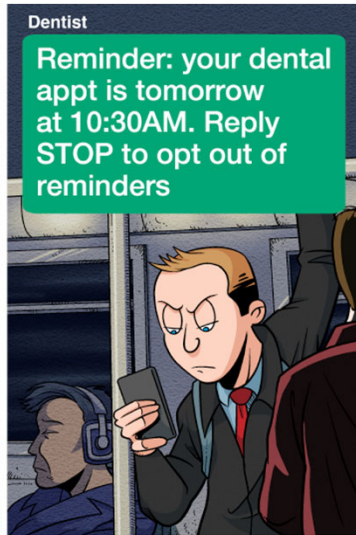
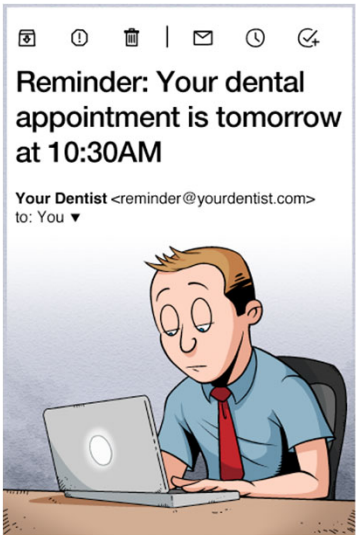
HB 3474 (88R) requires OCA to perform a biennial analysis of the 30 most populous counties.



TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Charged with studying methods to simplify judicial procedures, expedite court business and better administer justice. It examines the work accomplished by the courts and submits recommendations for improvement of the system to the Legislature, the Governor, and the Supreme Court.





COURT REMINDER PROGRAM



REPORTS & PUBLICATIONS

- Annual Statistical Report
- Judicial Workload Analysis for 30 Most Populous Counties
- Protective Order Efficacy
- Texas Judiciary Legislative Update
- Measuring Current Judicial Workload in Texas
- Damon Allen Act – Bail Proceedings and Public Safety Report System
- Texas Guardianship Compliance: Protecting Our Most Vulnerable Citizens and Their Assets
- Jury Trial During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Observations and Recommendations
- Study on Outcomes of Participants in Specialty Courts Who Have a Mental Illness
- Study on Record Retention, Availability & Access of Records Regarding Fine-Only Misdemeanors
- Study on Certain Juvenile Justice Issues
- Liberty and Justice: Pretrial Practices in Texas

- Texas Guardianship Reform
- Judicial Salaries & Turnover
- Fair Defense Laws 2021-2023
- Public Defender Primer
- And dozens more...



THE TEXAS BUSINESS COURT



TEXAS BUSINESS COURT



Statewide, specialized trial court created by the 88th Legislature to hear certain complex, high-dollar business disputes.

Judges:

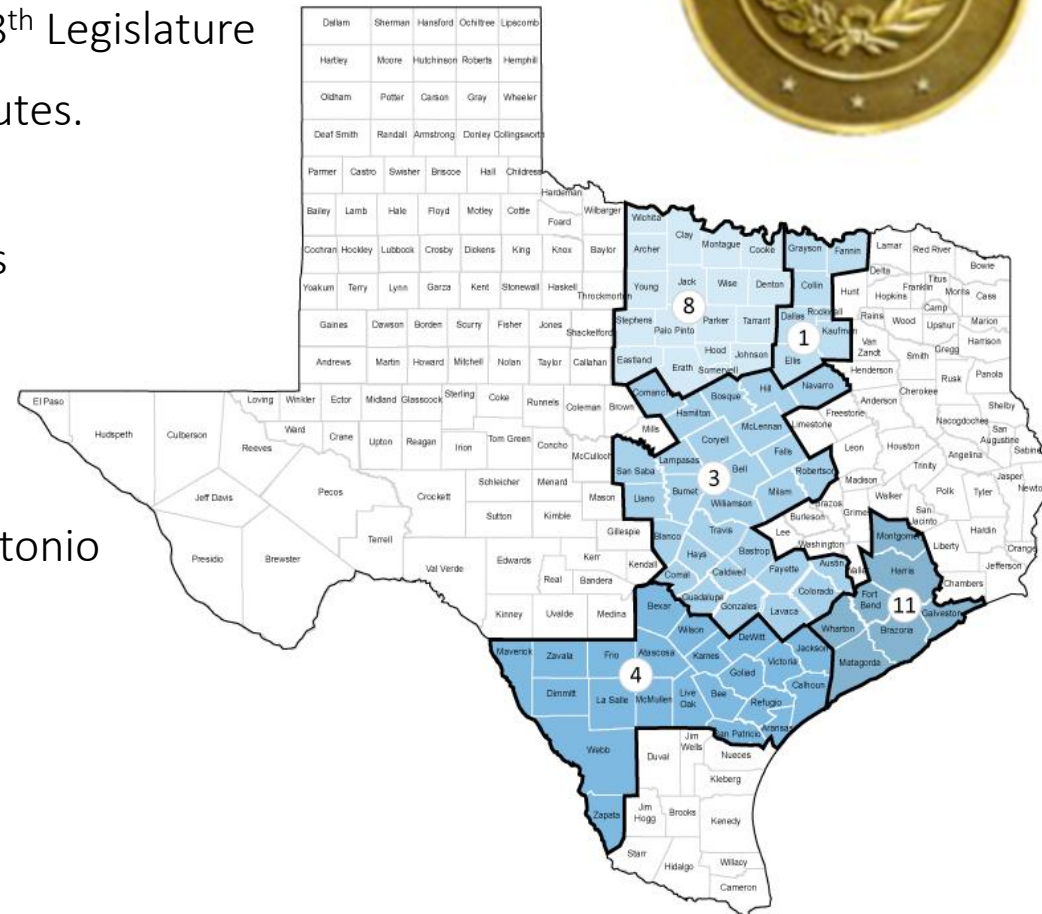
- Appointed by the Governor to 2-year terms
- 2 judges in each location

Court Locations:

- 11 Divisions
- Austin, Dallas, Ft. Worth, Houston & San Antonio
- Administratively attached to OCA

Opened: September 1, 2024

Clerk's Office: Austin, TX





**CELEBRATING THE COURT'S
ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY**



Key Upcoming Dates



90th Legislative Session Early Filing Begins November 9, 2026

90th Legislative Session Begins January 12, 2027

Last Day to File Bills is March 12, 2027

90th Legislative Session Ends May 31, 2027

Did you know... Texas is only one of four states where legislatures meet biannually, or every other year, rather than annually.



MONTANA
NEVADA
NORTH DAKOTA
TEXAS

QUESTIONS?



Jeffrey Tsunekawa

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