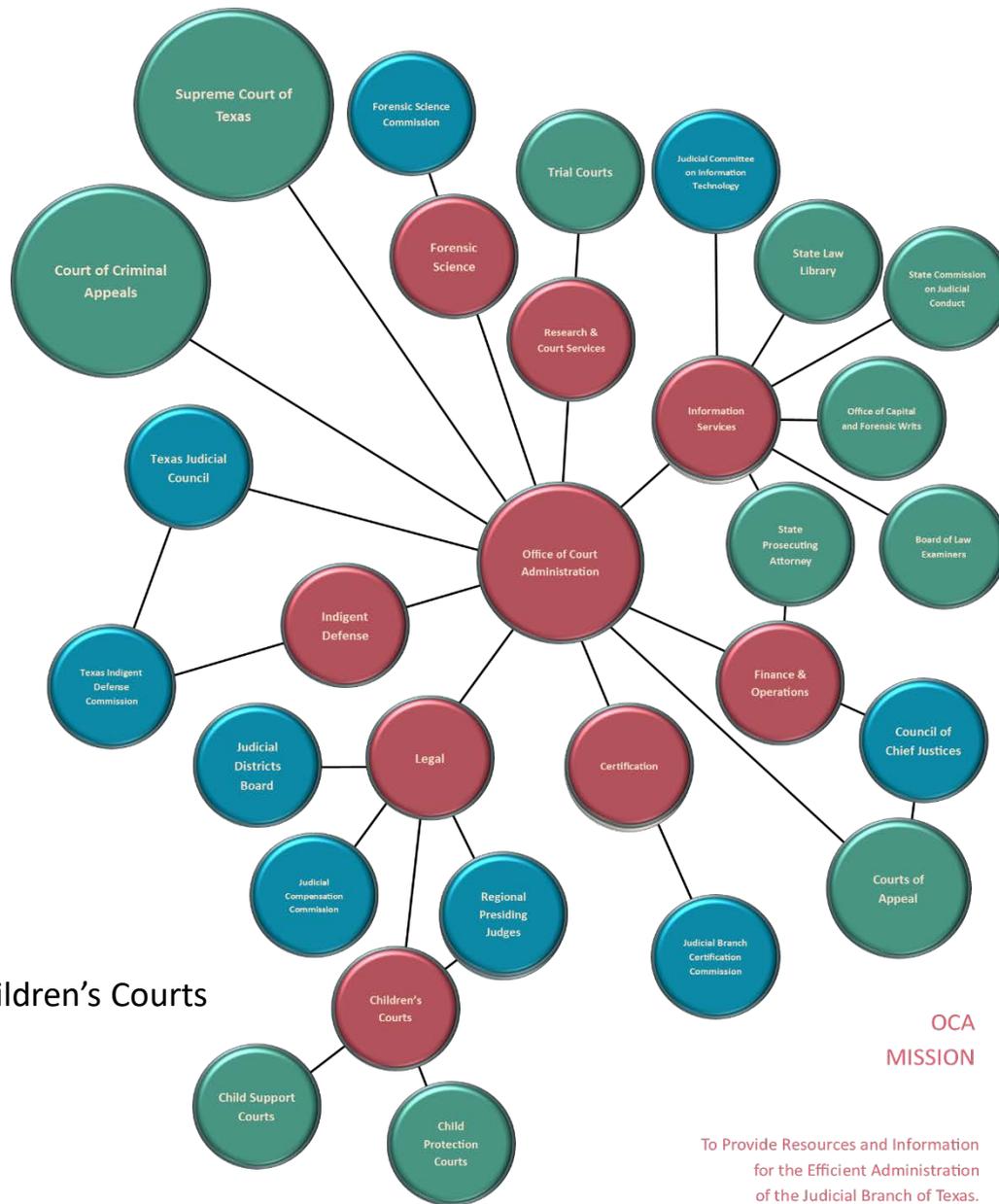


Legislative Appropriations Request
Exceptional Items
for Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021



Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council
David Slayton
Administrative Director



OCA
MISSION

To Provide Resources and Information
for the Efficient Administration
of the Judicial Branch of Texas.

Total FTEs = 236.6 *

*137.4 FTEs (58%) in Children's Courts



Texas Judicial Council

- Policy-making body for the Judicial Branch
- 22 members – Judicial, Legislative, Executive Appointees
 - Chief Justice, Chair
 - Presiding Judge, CCA – Vice Chair
 - 2 appellate justices
 - 2 district court judges
 - 2 county court judges
 - 2 justices of the peace
 - 2 municipal court judges
 - 2 senators
 - 2 representatives
 - 6 public members appointed by Governor
- Executive Director – statutorily Administrative Director, OCA
- OCA provides staff support

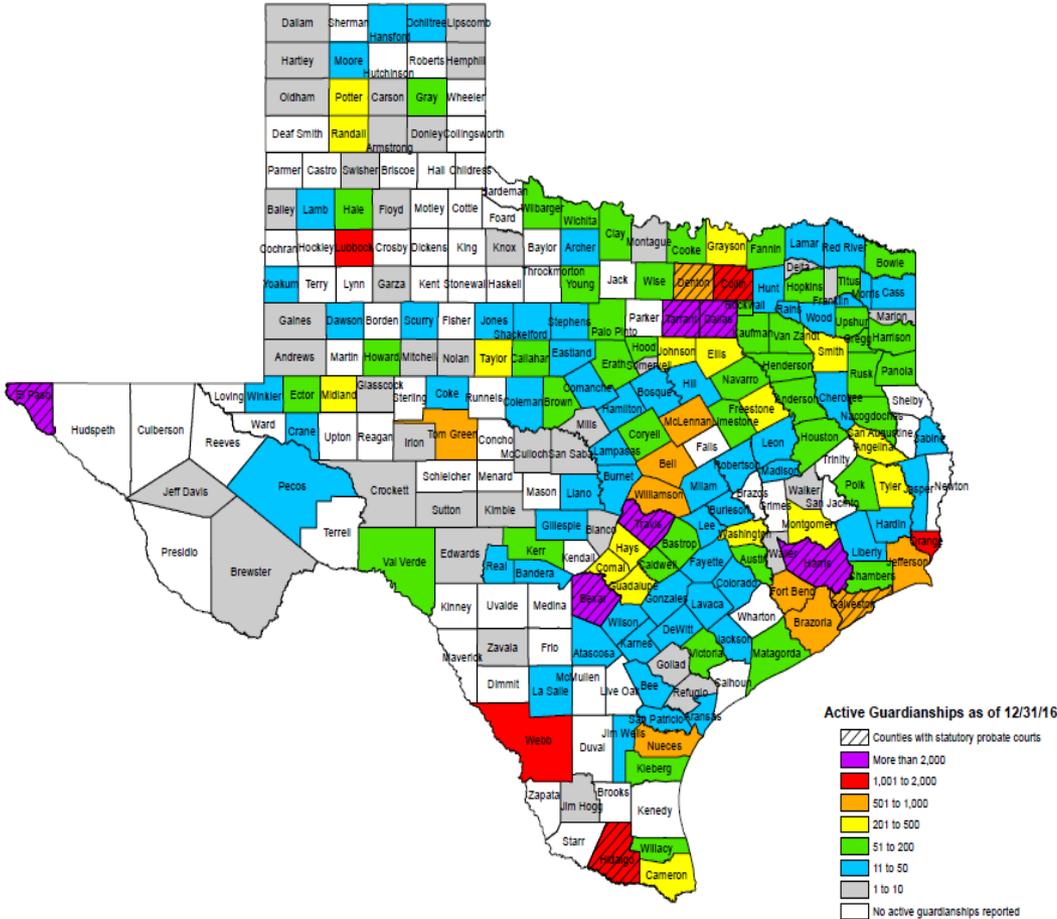


Texas Judicial Council Efforts & Accomplishments

- **Data Collection Improvements**
- **Juvenile Justice**
 - School ticketing reform - 2013
 - Decriminalization of failure to attend school - 2015
- **Guardianship**
 - Strengthened guardianship alternatives and procedures in guardianship cases - 2015
- **Mental Health Revisions**
 - Screening protocols, competency restoration, jail diversion - 2017 and Current
- **Criminal Court Cost Assessment - 2017**
- **Courthouse Security Enhancements - 2017**
- **Civil Justice System Improvements - Current**
- **Modernizing Bail and Pretrial System - Current**
- **Elder and Incapacitated Adult Exploitation Protections - Current**



Exceptional Item #1: Prevent Fraud and Abuse Committed Against the Elderly and Incapacitated



FACTS

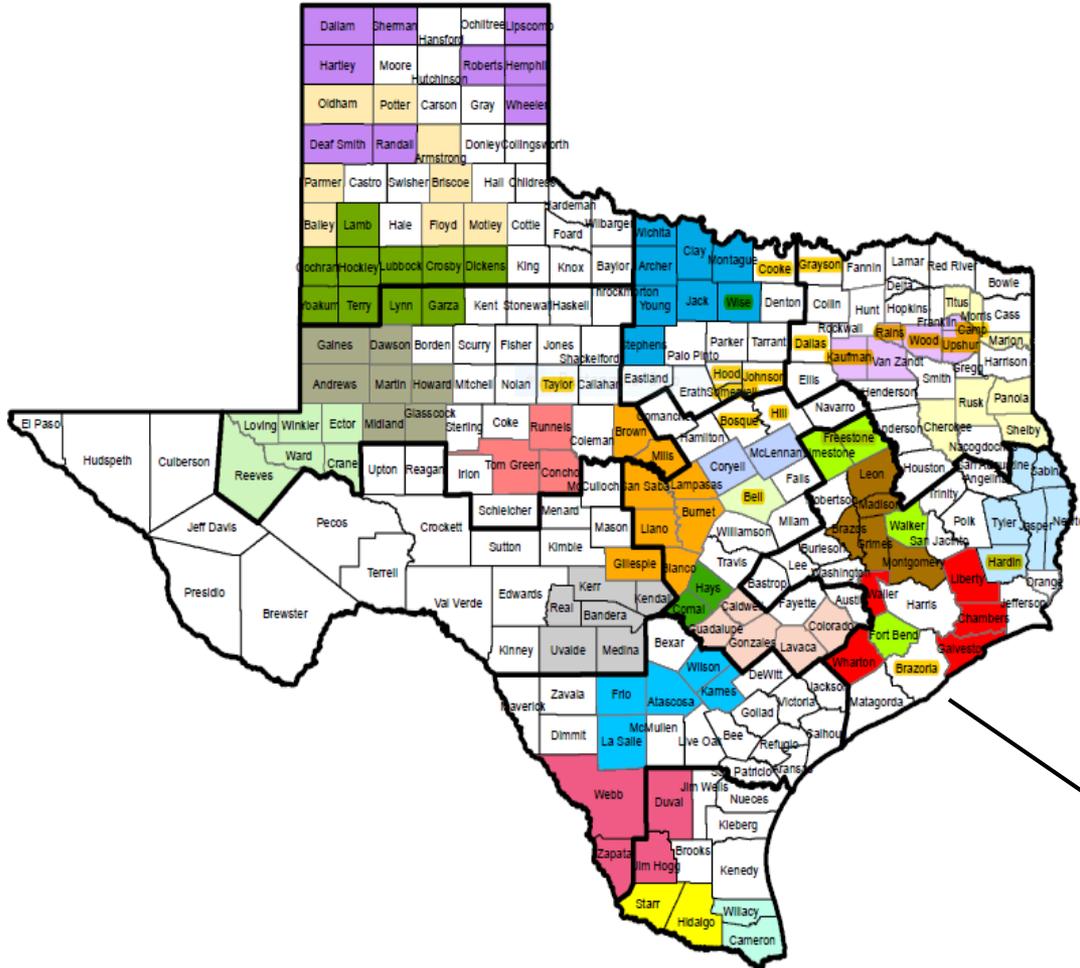
- Population over 65 expected to double by 2030 to 6 million
- Approx. 51,250 active guardianship cases in TX, 21,000 in courts without resources to review cases
- 8% increase in guardianship cases during the last 5 years
- \$5 billion in assets under court/guardianship control
- Review of 28,000 guardianship files found 41% out of compliance

Exceptional Item Request

- Expands Guardianship Review Program statewide
- 28 FTEs (18 guardianship compliance specialists, 2 managers, 4 for SB1096 Registration, 4 operational staff)
- \$4.9 million over the biennium



Exceptional Item #2: Protecting Texas Children - Create Additional Courts for Growing CPS Caseloads



- Regional Presiding Judges have identified a need for 9 additional child protection courts (CPCs)
- 18 FTEs (9 Associate Judges, 9 Court Coordinators)
- \$4.2 million over biennium – Includes lump sum obligations due to anticipated retirements
- By the end of the 2020-21 biennium, 57% of child support court staff and 20% of the CPC staff will be eligible to retire creating a \$1 million potential liability for OCA
- Request includes \$549K contingency funding for lump sum annual leave payments

Proposed new courts: 1) Dallas; 2) Bell; 3) Taylor; 4) Grayson, Cook and Wise; 5) Northeast Texas Child Protection Court No. 2; 6) Southeast Texas Cluster Court; 7) Brazos River Valley Cluster Court; 8) Brazoria; 9) Hood, Johnson, Somerville, Bosque and Hill.



Exceptional Item #3: Securing Texas Courthouses and Providing Safety for Texas Judges

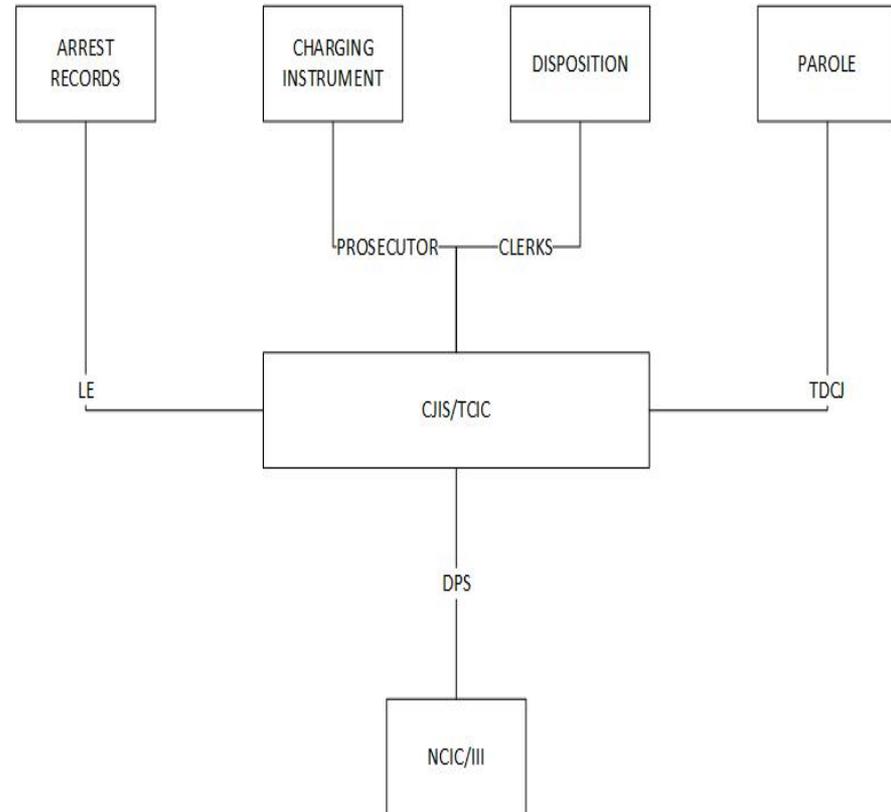
- Court security reported incidents increased 150% from FY16 to FY17
- There is a need to expand consultation and technical assistance on court security to over 3,000 judges and county personnel
- Includes 2 FTEs to:
 - Assist in removing personal info from public databases; review court security protocols; provide technical assistance; connect counties and judges with security resources
- \$376,346 over the biennium



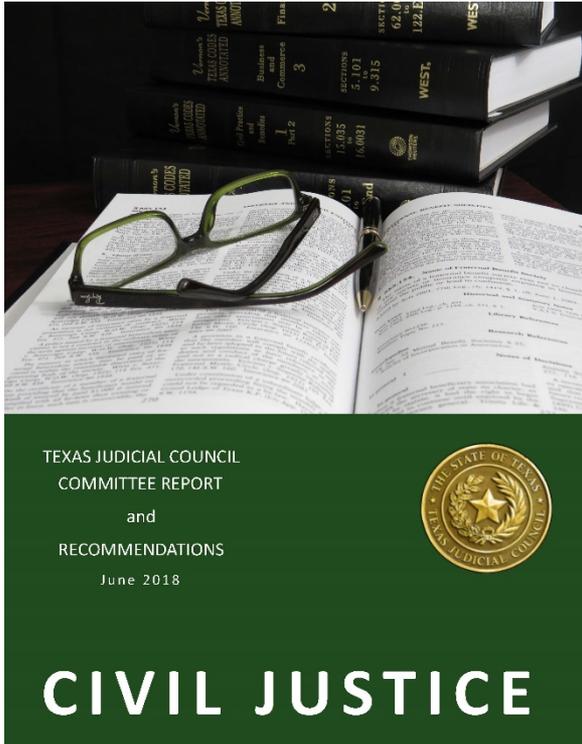
Exceptional Item #4: School Safety Initiative – Statewide Case Management System (CMS)

- Automates reporting of court records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS)
- CMS one of 40 recommendations included in the Governor’s School and Firearm Safety Action Plan issued May 30th, 2018 and a Judicial Council recommendation
- Close critical information gaps to prevent shootings like that in Sutherland Springs
- Targets counties with population under 20,000 (> 1/2 of Texas counties) which have limits on collecting data
- Provides magistrates immediate access to critical information
- Standard configuration for use by all counties
- 2 FTEs (Project Manager and Contract Manager)
- \$29.7 million over the biennium

CRIMINAL RECORDS FLOWCHART



Exceptional Item #5: Judicial Council Resources

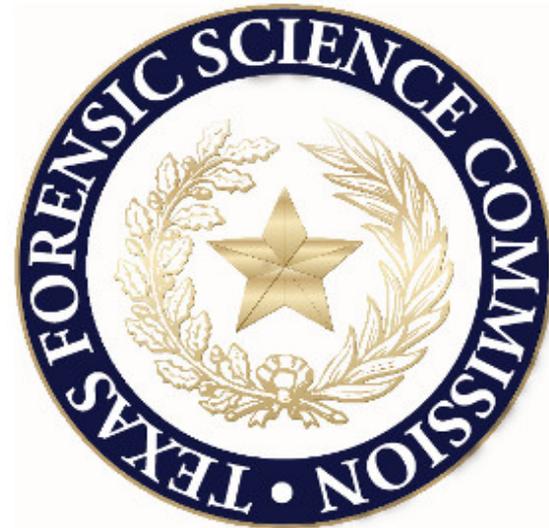


- Funding for the Texas Judicial Council:
 - Judicial Workload study is 11 years old - used to determine need for new district courts
 - 2 FTEs for staff attorney resources – assist trial judges in analyzing difficult legal issues
- Judicial Council has never been provided an appropriation for this work
- OCA has been required to provide funding for major studies in recent years to permit the Council to make its decisions
- \$712,480 over the biennium



Exceptional Item #6: Appropriation of Forensic Science Commission Operating Account 5173

- As of January 1, 2019, all forensic scientists must be licensed
- License fees collected are dedicated to FSC
- Request gives FSC access to all projected revenue
- Will be used to create forensic bench book; accreditation program for crime scene reconstruction; ongoing licensing system maintenance



\$191,800 over biennium



Riders

- **Estimated Receipts Appropriation, Texas Forensic Science Commission Operating Account.** There is hereby appropriated to the Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council an amount equal to the unexpended balance on hand from all fees deposited into the Texas Forensic Science Commission Operating Account No. 5173 for the Texas Forensic Science Commission, as of August 31, 2019, to administer and enforce Article 38.01 (estimated to be \$84,000). In addition to the amounts appropriated above are all deposits to the Forensic Science Commission Operating Account No. 5173 for the same purposes (estimated to be \$8,000 in fiscal year 2020 and \$132,000 in fiscal year 2021.)
- **Estimated Receipts Appropriation, Statewide Electronic Filing System Account.** There is hereby appropriated to the Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council an amount equal to the unexpended balance on hand from all fees deposited into the Statewide Electronic Filing System Account No.5157 as of August 31, 2019 (estimated to be \$0). In addition to the amounts appropriated above are all deposits to the Statewide Electronic Filing System Account No. 5157 for the same purposes (estimated to be \$0 in fiscal year 2020 and \$0 in fiscal year 2021.)
- **Performance Reporting for the Collection Improvement Program.** The Office of Court Administration shall report the following information to the Legislative Budget Board and the Governor on September 1st of each year: (1) the number of mandatory programs in operation; (2) the number of mandatory programs not in compliance; (3) the number of voluntary programs in operation; (4) the number of new voluntary programs in operation; and (5) information on program revenue that indicates the impact of the collections program on revenue collections in participating programs. The office of Court Administration should seek to increase the number of voluntary programs by five each fiscal year.

