



For Immediate Release  
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## **Texas Courts of Appeals Report a Strong Fiscal Year 2018**

AUSTIN – Consistent and timely decisions in our appellate cases is vital to Texas’ system of justice. During the most recent fiscal year, the state’s fourteen courts of appeals continued a trend of strong judicial performance.

The number of opinions issued by each justice increased by 4.5% from Fiscal Year 2017, and the total number of opinions issued by the courts increased by 1.3% to almost 10,000 opinions.

The courts' workload continues to increase in complexity. In fact, the number of civil cases now makes up a record percentage of the courts' docket. In Fiscal Year 2018, 54.3% of the cases filed were civil and 45.7% were criminal.

Sandee Marion, Chief Justice of the Fourth Court of Appeals in San Antonio and Chairwoman of the Council of Chief Justices, stated, “The courts of appeals continue to have challenging dockets comprised of sensitive issues like child protection cases and complex business litigation. The justices and court staff work diligently to deliver timely, well-reasoned and consistent opinions. Texans can count on the fourteen courts of appeals to continue this strong performance.”

The courts took advantage of a slight dip in filings this year to streamline their dockets, achieving over 100% on the legislature’s case-clearance measure. The courts’ solid performance has improved the timely delivery of justice, resulting in a dramatic 45% reduction in the number of cases that have been pending for over two years and a 63% drop in the number of submitted cases over one year.

The Texas court system is divided into three broad levels of courts, with trial courts, courts of appeals and two high courts—the Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals. Except in death-penalty cases, the fourteen courts of appeals are the first place to appeal, and often the last, for individuals seeking review of a decision of the trial courts. Each year, between 10,000 and 12,000 civil and criminal cases are appealed to the courts of appeals.

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