Complexities in the
Geographical Jurisdictions of District Courts
As of January 2019

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 472 District Courts cover its 254 counties in 100 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	29	29	287
Single County / Single Court / Court Does not Serve Another County	15	15	15
Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / Identical Jurisdictions	6	23	13
Multiple Counties / Single Court	27	78	27
Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / One Separate Jurisdiction	13	39	54
Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / Many Separate Jurisdictions	11	70	76
TOTAL	**100**	**254**	**472**

Single County / Multiple Courts / No Courts Serve Another County

County	Number of Courts	County	Number of Courts
Harris	60	Williamson	5
Dallas	39	Smith	4
Bexar	27	Brazos	3
Tarrant	27	Ellis	3
Travis	19	Grayson	3
Hidalgo	12	Gregg	3
Collin	11	Orange	3
Denton	9	Wichita	3
Fort Bend	8	Angelina	2
Jefferson	8	Coryell	2
Montgomery	7	Kaufman	2
Galveston	6	Nacogdoches	2
Ector	5	Parker	2
McLennan	5	Rockwall	2
Midland	5		
TOTAL Counties = 29		**TOTAL Courts = 287**	

Single County / Single Court / Court Does not Serve Another County

Counties with a Single District Court	
Cooke	Lamb
Eastland	Milam
Erath	Navarro
Fannin	Palo Pinto
Harrison	Rusk
Hill	Van Zandt
Hood	Wood
Kendall	
TOTAL Counties = 15	**TOTAL Courts = 15**

Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / Identical Jurisdictions

An Example from the Ninth Administrative Judicial Region

Court	*Counties in Jurisdiction*
64th District Court	Castro, Hale, & Swisher
242nd District Court	Castro, Hale, & Swisher

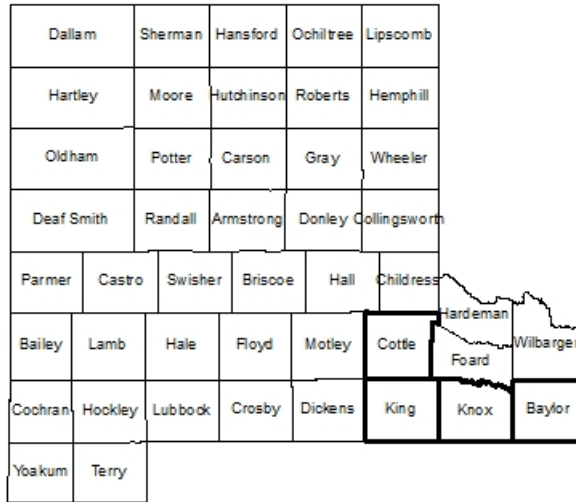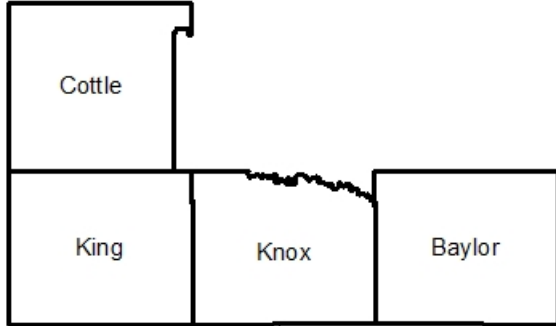| **Counties Sharing Multiple Courts**	**Courts**
3 Counties:	
Castro, Hale & Swisher	**2 Courts:** 64 & 242
Dimmit, Maverick & Zavala	**2 Courts:** 293 & 365
Polk, San Jacinto & Trinity	**2 Courts:** 258 & 411
4 Counties:	
Blanco, Burnet, Llano, & San Saba	**2 Courts:** 33 & 424
5 Counties:	
Atascosa, Frio, Karnes, La Salle & Wilson	**2 Courts:** 81 & 218
Aransas, Bee, Live Oak, McMullen & San Patricio	**3 Courts:** 36, 156 & 343
TOTAL Counties = 23	**TOTAL Courts = 13**

Multiple Counties / Single Court

An Example from the Ninth Administrative Judicial Region

Court	*Counties in Jurisdiction*
50th District Court	Baylor, Cottle, King & Knox

Counties Per Court	Counties Sharing a Single Court	Administrative Judicial Region
Two (12 Courts in 24 Counties)	Austin & Fayette (155th)	3rd
	Falls & Robertson (82nd)	3rd
	Brooks & Jim Wells (79th)	5th
	Borden & Scurry (132nd)	7th
	Jones & Shackleford (259th)	7th
	Stephens & Young (90th)	8th
	Jack & Wise (271st)	8th
	Terry & Yoakum (121st)	9th
	Deaf Smith & Oldham (222nd)	9th
	Cochran & Hockley (286th)	9th
	Bailey & Parmer (287th)	9th
	Brown & Mills (35th)	9th
Three (8 Courts in 24 Counties)	Bosque, Comanche & Hamilton (220th)	3rd
	Medina, Real & Uvalde (38th)	6th
	Fisher, Mitchell & Nolan (32nd)	7th
	Andrews, Crane & Winkler (109th)	7th
	Glasscock, Howard & Martin (118th)	7th
	Loving, Reeves & Ward (143rd)	7th
	Archer, Clay & Montague (97th)	8th
	Foard, Hardeman & Wilbarger (46th)	9th
Four to Five (7 Courts in 30 Counties)	Edwards, Kimble, McCulloch, Mason & Menard (452nd)	6th
	Haskell, Kent, Stonewall & Throckmorton (39th)	7th
	Dawson, Gaines, Garza & Lynn (106th)	7th
	Dallam, Hartley, Moore & Sherman (69th)	9th
	Briscoe, Dickens, Floyd,& Motley (110th)	9th
	Baylor, Cottle, King & Knox (50th)	9th
	Carson, Childress, Collingsworth, Donley & Hall (100th)	9th
Total Counties = 78	**Total Courts = 27**	

Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / One Separate Jurisdiction

An Example from the Fifth Administrative Judicial Region

Court(s)	*Counties in Jurisdiction*
28, 94, 117, 148, 214, 319 & 347	Nueces
105	Kenedy, Kleburg, & Nueces
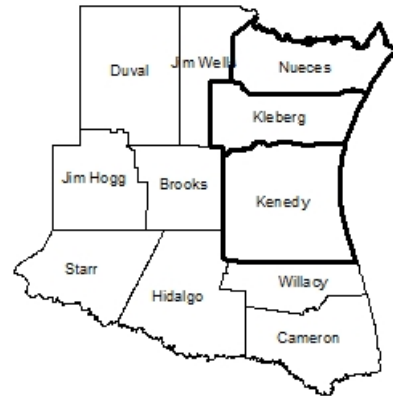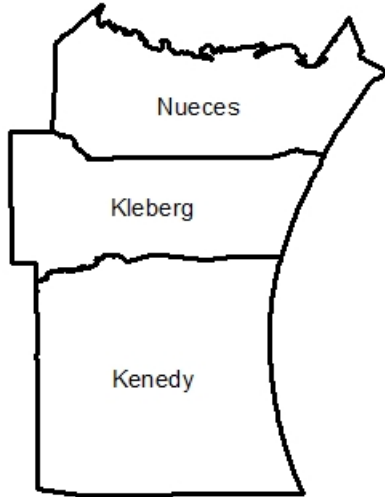
Counties Sharing Several Courts	**Primary County**	**Courts**
Bell & Lampasas (3rd AJR)	Bell	27, 146, 169, 264 & 426
Crosby & Lubbock (9th AJR)	Lubbock	72, 99, 137, 140, 237 & 364
Johnson & Somervell (8th AJR)	Johnson	18, 249 & 413
Webb & Zapata (4th AJR)	Webb	49, 111, 341 & 406
Chambers & Liberty (2nd AJR)	Liberty	75, 253 & 344
Cameron & Willacy (5th AJR)	Cameron	103, 107, 138, 197, 357, 404, 444 & 445
Hansford, Hutchinson & Ochiltree (9th AJR)	Hutchinson	84 & 316
Kenedy, Kleburg & Nueces (5th AJR)	Nueces	28, 94, 105, 117, 148, 214, 319 & 347
Callahan, Coleman & Taylor (7th AJR)	Taylor	42, 104, 326 & 350
Duval, Jim Hogg & Starr (5th AJR)	Starr	229 & 381
Bastrop, Burleson, Lee & Washington (2nd AJR)	Bastrop	21, 335 & 423
Calhoun, De Witt, Goliad, Jackson, Refugio & Victoria (4th AJR)	Victoria	24, 135, 267 & 377
Gray, Hemphill, Lipscomb, Roberts & Wheeler (9th AJR)	Gray	31 & 223
TOTAL Counties = 39		**TOTAL Courts = 54**

Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / Many Separate Jurisdictions

An Example from the Sixth Administrative Judicial Region

Court	*Counties in Jurisdiction*
34, 41, 65, 120, 168, 171, 210, 243, 327, 346, 383, 384, 388, 409, 448, Crim. District Court No. 1	El Paso
205	Culberson, El Paso, & Hudspeth
394	Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, & Presidio
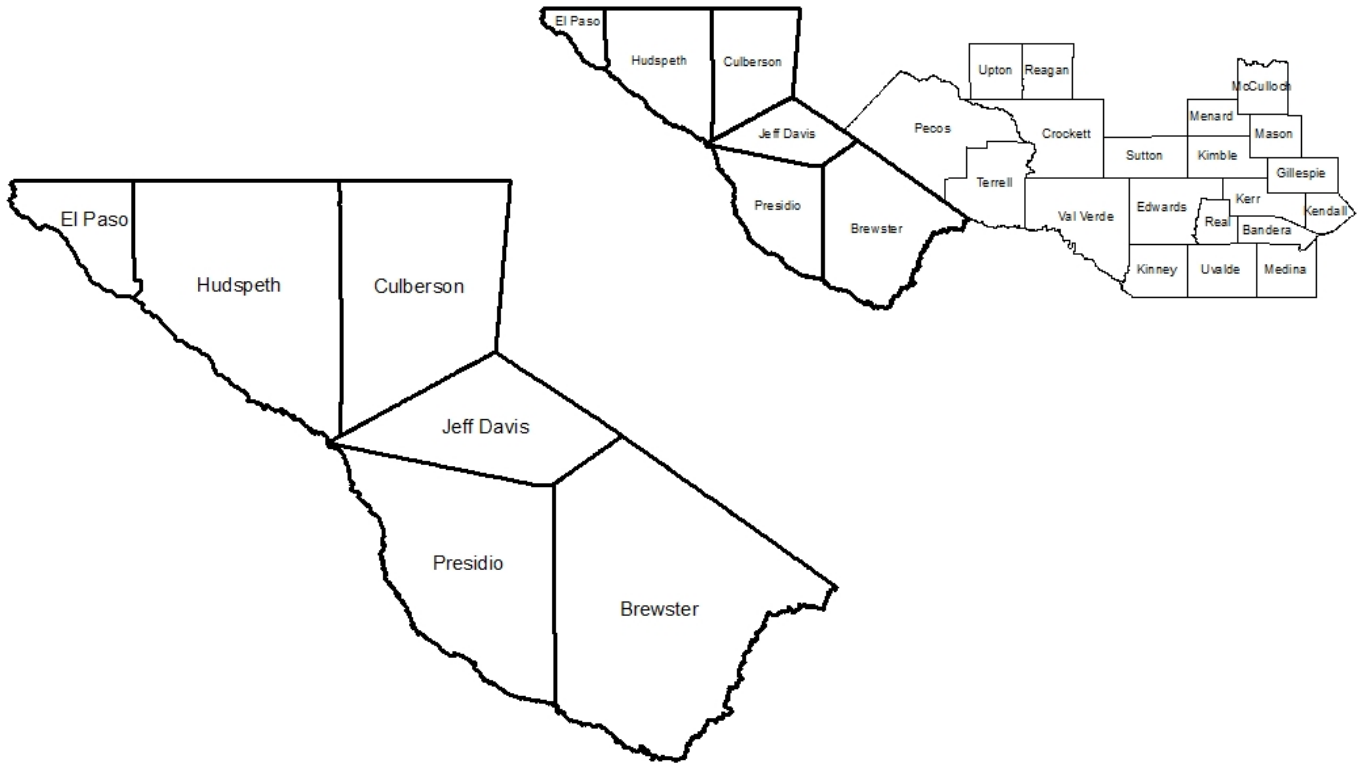
Counties Sharing Several Courts	**Courts**
3 Counties: Armstrong, Potter & Randall	**5 Courts:** 47, 108, 181, 251 & 320
3 Counties: Brazoria, Matagorda & Wharton	**7 Courts:** 23, 130, 149, 239, 300, 329 & 412
3 Counties: Bandera, Gillespie & Kerr	**2 Courts:** 198 & 216
5 Counties: Camp, Marion, Morris, Titus & Upshur	**3 Courts:** 76, 115 & 276
6 Counties: Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis & Presidio	**18 Courts:** 34, 41, 65, 120, 168, 171, 205, 210, 243, 327, 346, 383, 384, 388, 394, 409, 448 & Crim. District Court No. 1
7 Counties: Coke, Concho, Irion, Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling & Tom Green	**4 Courts:** 51, 119, 340 & 391
7 Counties: Caldwell, Colorado, Comal, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Hays & Lavaca	**9 Courts:** 22, 25, 2nd 25, 207, 274, 421, 428, 433 & 453
8 Counties: Hardin, Jasper, Newton, Panola, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby & Tyler	**6 Courts:** 1, 1A, 88, 123, 273 & 356
8 Counties: Crockett, Kinney, Pecos, Reagan, Sutton, Terrell, Upton & Val Verde	**3 Courts:** 63, 83 & 112
9 Counties: Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Hunt, Lamar, Rains, & Red River	**8 Courts:** 5, 6, 8, 62, 102, 196, 202, & 354
11 Counties: Anderson, Cherokee, Freestone, Grimes, Henderson, Houston, Leon, Limestone, Madison, Walker & Waller	**11 Courts:** 2, 3, 12, 77, 87, 173, 278, 349, 369, 392 & 506
TOTAL Counties = 70	**TOTAL Courts = 76**