

Complexities in the Geographical Jurisdictions of District Courts As of September 2020

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 478 District Courts cover its 254 counties in 103 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	30	30	296
Single County / Single Court / Court Does not Serve Another County	16	16	16
Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / Identical Jurisdictions	6	23	13
Multiple Counties / Single Court	27	77	27
Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / One Separate Jurisdiction	13	39	54
Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / Many Separate Jurisdictions	11	69	72
TOTAL	103	254	478

Single County / Multiple Courts / No Courts Serve Another County

<i>County</i>	<i>Number of Courts</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Number of Courts</i>
Harris	60	Midland	5
Dallas	39	Williamson	5
Bexar	27	Smith	4
Tarrant	27	Brazos	3
Travis	20	Ellis	3
Collin	13	Grayson	3
Hidalgo	12	Gregg	3
Denton	9	Orange	3
Fort Bend	8	Wichita	3
Jefferson	8	Angelina	2
Montgomery	8	Coryell	2
Galveston	6	Kaufman	2
Brazoria	5	Nacogdoches	2
Ector	5	Parker	2
McLennan	5	Rockwall	2
TOTAL Counties = 30		TOTAL Courts = 296	

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

<i>Counties with a Single District Court</i>	
Cooke	Lamb
Eastland	Medina
Erath	Milam
Fannin	Navarro
Harrison	Palo Pinto
Hill	Rusk
Hood	Van Zandt
Kendall	Wood
TOTAL Counties = 16	TOTAL Courts = 16

Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / Identical Jurisdictions

An Example from the Ninth Administrative Judicial Region

<u>Court</u>	<u>Counties in Jurisdiction</u>
64 th District Court	Castro, Hale, & Swisher
242 nd District Court	Castro, Hale, & Swisher



Dallam	Sherman	Hansford	Ochiltree	Lipscomb				
Hartley	Moore	Hutchinson	Roberts	Hemphill				
Oldham	Potter	Carson	Gray	Wheeler				
Deaf Smith	Randall	Armstrong	Donley	Collingsworth				
Parmer	Castro	Swisher	Briscoe	Hall	Childress	Hardeman		
Bailey	Lamb	Hale	Floyd	Motley	Cottle	Foard	Wilbarger	
Cochran	Hookley	Lubbock	Crosby	Dickens	King	Knox	Baylor	
Yoakum	Terry							

Counties Sharing Multiple Courts

3 Counties:

Castro, Hale & Swisher
 Dimmit, Maverick & Zavala
 Polk, San Jacinto & Trinity

4 Counties:

Blanco, Burnet, Llano, & San Saba

5 Counties:

Atascosa, Frio, Karnes, La Salle & Wilson
 Aransas, Bee, Live Oak, McMullen & San Patricio

TOTAL Counties = 23

Courts

2 Courts: 64 & 242

2 Courts: 293 & 365

2 Courts: 258 & 411

2 Courts: 33 & 424

2 Courts: 81 & 218

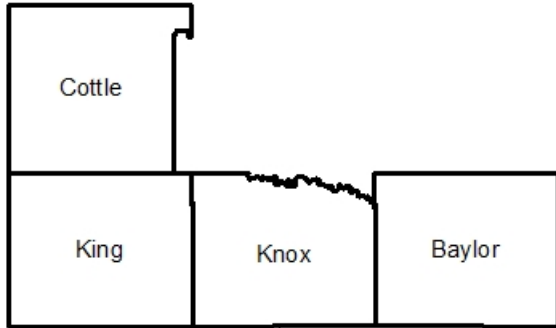
3 Courts: 36, 156 & 343

TOTAL Courts = 13

Multiple Counties / Single Court

An Example from the Ninth Administrative Judicial Region

<i>Court</i>	<i>Counties in Jurisdiction</i>
50 th District Court	Baylor, Cottle, King & Knox



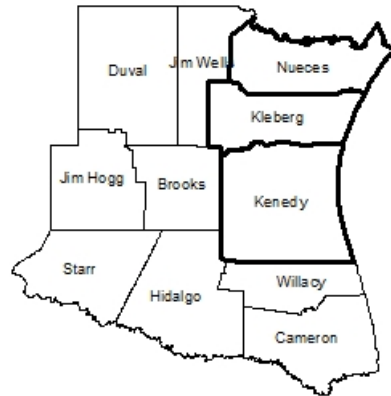
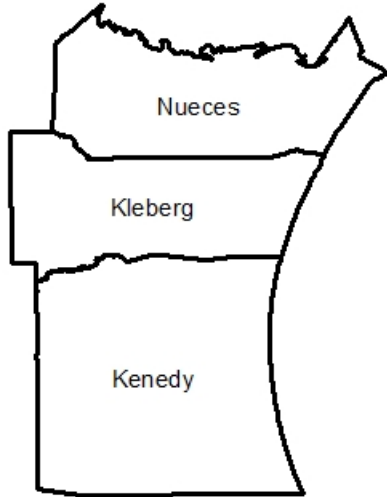
Dallam	Sherman	Hansford	Ochiltree	Lipscomb					
Hartley	Moore	Hutchinson	Roberts	Hemphill					
Oldham	Potter	Carson	Gray	Wheeler					
Deaf Smith	Randall	Armstrong	Donley	Collingsworth					
Parmer	Castro	Swisher	Briscoe	Hall	Childress				
Bailey	Lamb	Hale	Floyd	Motley	Cottle	Hardeman			Wilbarger
Cochran	Hockley	Lubbock	Crosby	Dickens	King	Foard			Baylor
Yoakum	Terry								

Counties Per Court	Counties Sharing a Single Court	Administrative Judicial Region
<i>Two</i> (13 Courts in 26 Counties)	Austin & Fayette (155 th)	3 rd
	Falls & Robertson (82 nd)	3 rd
	Brooks & Jim Wells (79 th)	5 th
	Real & Uvalde (38 th)	6 th
	Borden & Scurry (132 nd)	7 th
	Jones & Shackelford (259 th)	7 th
	Stephens & Young (90 th)	8 th
	Jack & Wise (271 st)	8 th
	Terry & Yoakum (121 st)	9 th
	Deaf Smith & Oldham (222 nd)	9 th
	Cochran & Hockley (286 th)	9 th
	Bailey & Parmer (287 th)	9 th
	Brown & Mills (35 th)	9 th
<i>Three</i> (7 Courts in 21 Counties)	Bosque, Comanche & Hamilton (220 th)	3 rd
	Fisher, Mitchell & Nolan (32 nd)	7 th
	Andrews, Crane & Winkler (109 th)	7 th
	Glasscock, Howard & Martin (118 th)	7 th
	Loving, Reeves & Ward (143 rd)	7 th
	Archer, Clay & Montague (97 th)	8 th
Foard, Hardeman & Wilbarger (46 th)	9 th	
<i>Four to Five</i> (7 Courts in 30 Counties)	Edwards, Kimble, McCulloch, Mason & Menard (452 nd)	6 th
	Haskell, Kent, Stonewall & Throckmorton (39 th)	7 th
	Dawson, Gaines, Garza & Lynn (106 th)	7 th
	Dallam, Hartley, Moore & Sherman (69 th)	9 th
	Briscoe, Dickens, Floyd, & Motley (110 th)	9 th
	Baylor, Cottle, King & Knox (50 th)	9 th
Carson, Childress, Collingsworth, Donley & Hall (100 th)	9 th	
Total Counties = 77	Total Courts = 27	

Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / One Separate Jurisdiction

An Example from the Fifth Administrative Judicial Region

<u>Court(s)</u>	<u>Counties in Jurisdiction</u>
28, 94, 117, 148, 214, 319 & 347	Nueces
105	Kenedy, Kleburg, & Nueces



Counties Sharing Several Courts

Bell & Lampasas (3rd AJR)
 Crosby & Lubbock (9th AJR)
 Johnson & Somervell (8th AJR)
 Webb & Zapata (4th AJR)
 Chambers & Liberty (2nd AJR)
 Cameron & Willacy (5th AJR)
 Hansford, Hutchinson & Ochiltree (9th AJR)
 Kenedy, Kleburg & Nueces (5th AJR)
 Callahan, Coleman & Taylor (7th AJR)
 Duval, Jim Hogg & Starr (5th AJR)
 Bastrop, Burlison, Lee & Washington (2nd AJR)
 Calhoun, De Witt, Goliad, Jackson, Refugio & Victoria (4th AJR)
 Gray, Hemphill, Lipscomb, Roberts & Wheeler (9th AJR)

TOTAL Counties = 39

Primary County

Bell
 Lubbock
 Johnson
 Webb
 Liberty
 Cameron
 Hutchinson
 Nueces
 Taylor
 Starr
 Bastrop
 Victoria
 Gray

Courts

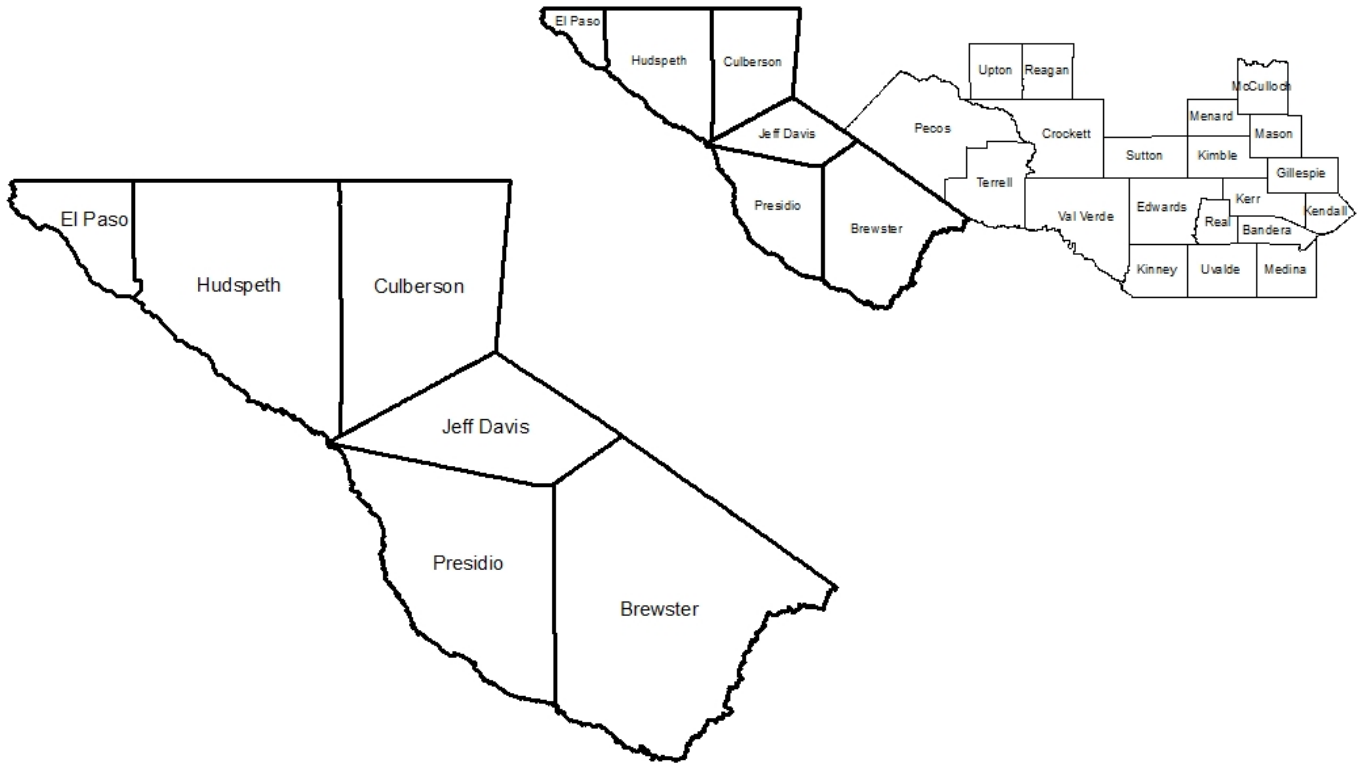
27, 146, 169, 264 & 426
 72, 99, 137, 140, 237 & 364
 18, 249 & 413
 49, 111, 341 & 406
 75, 253 & 344
 103, 107, 138, 197, 357, 404, 444 & 445
 84 & 316
 28, 94, 105, 117, 148, 214, 319 & 347
 42, 104, 326 & 350
 229 & 381
 21, 335 & 423
 24, 135, 267 & 377
 31 & 223

TOTAL Courts = 54

Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / Many Separate Jurisdictions

An Example from the Sixth Administrative Judicial Region

<i>Court</i>	<i>Counties in Jurisdiction</i>
34, 41, 65, 120, 168, 171, 210, 243, 327, 346, 383, 384, 388, 409, 448, Crim. District Court No. 1	El Paso
205 394	Culberson, El Paso, & Hudspeth Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, & Presidio



Counties Sharing Several Courts

- 2 Counties:** Matagorda & Wharton
 - 3 Counties:** Armstrong, Potter & Randall
 - 3 Counties:** Bandera, Gillespie & Kerr
 - 5 Counties:** Camp, Marion, Morris, Titus & Upshur
 - 6 Counties:** Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis & Presidio

 - 7 Counties:** Coke, Concho, Irion, Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling & Tom Green
 - 7 Counties:** Caldwell, Colorado, Comal, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Hays & Lavaca

 - 8 Counties:** Hardin, Jasper, Newton, Panola, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby & Tyler
 - 8 Counties:** Crockett, Kinney, Pecos, Reagan, Sutton, Terrell, Upton & Val Verde
 - 9 Counties:** Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Hunt, Lamar, Rains, & Red River

 - 11 Counties:** Anderson, Cherokee, Freestone, Grimes, Henderson, Houston, Leon, Limestone, Madison, Walker & Waller
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- TOTAL Counties = 69**

Courts

- 3 Courts:** 23, 130 & 329
 - 5 Courts:** 47, 108, 181, 251 & 320
 - 2 Courts:** 198 & 216
 - 3 Courts:** 76, 115 & 276
 - 18 Courts:** 34, 41, 65, 120, 168, 171, 205, 210, 243, 327, 346, 383, 384, 388, 394, 409, 448 & Crim. District Court No. 1
 - 4 Courts:** 51, 119, 340 & 391
 - 9 Courts:** 22, 25, 2nd 25, 207, 274, 421, 428, 433 & 453
 - 6 Courts:** 1, 1A, 88, 123, 273 & 356
 - 3 Courts:** 63, 83 & 112
 - 8 Courts:** 5, 6, 8, 62, 102, 196, 202, & 354
 - 11 Courts:** 2, 3, 12, 77, 87, 173, 278, 349, 369, 392 & 506
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- TOTAL Courts = 72**