

COURTS OF APPEALS

Analysis of Activity for the Year Ending August 31, 1985

There are 14 Courts of Appeals in Texas which, since September 1, 1981, have heard intermediate appeals in both civil and criminal cases.

Courts of Appeals are located in Fort Worth, Austin, San Antonio, Dallas, Texarkana, Amarillo, El Paso, Beaumont, Waco, Eastland, Tyler, Corpus Christi, and Houston. Houston has two Courts of Appeals. Each court has jurisdiction over a geographical district.

Five of the courts have three justices each. The Dallas Court, with 13 justices, is the largest. There are 80 justices statewide.

Pending Caseloads Reduced Again

For the third consecutive year, the 14 Courts of Appeals reduced their total pending caseloads during state fiscal year 1985, which ended August 31, 1985.

The Courts disposed of 7,981 total cases during the year, an average of 100 dispositions (57 criminal and 43 civil) per justice. These

dispositions reduced the pending caseload from 5,719 at the beginning of the fiscal year to 5,692 at the end of the year.

From calendar year 1974 through 1982, the total pending caseload of the Courts of Appeals grew larger each year as more cases were added than the courts were able to dispose of. On December 31, 1982, there were 6,816 total cases pending in the Courts of Appeals.

The trend was broken in calendar year 1983 when a surge in criminal dispositions reduced the total pending caseload by year's end. In fiscal year 1984, both civil and criminal caseloads were reduced during the year.

The Courts of Appeals had 3,502 criminal cases and 2,217 civil cases pending as of September 1, 1984. On August 31, 1985, 3,512 criminal cases and 2,180 civil cases were pending. The state average for pending cases at year's end was 71 per justice. This compares to the 1982 high of 86 pending cases per justice.

Figure 4.

COURTS OF APPEALS

Cases filed, disposed and pending by court, year ending August 31, 1985

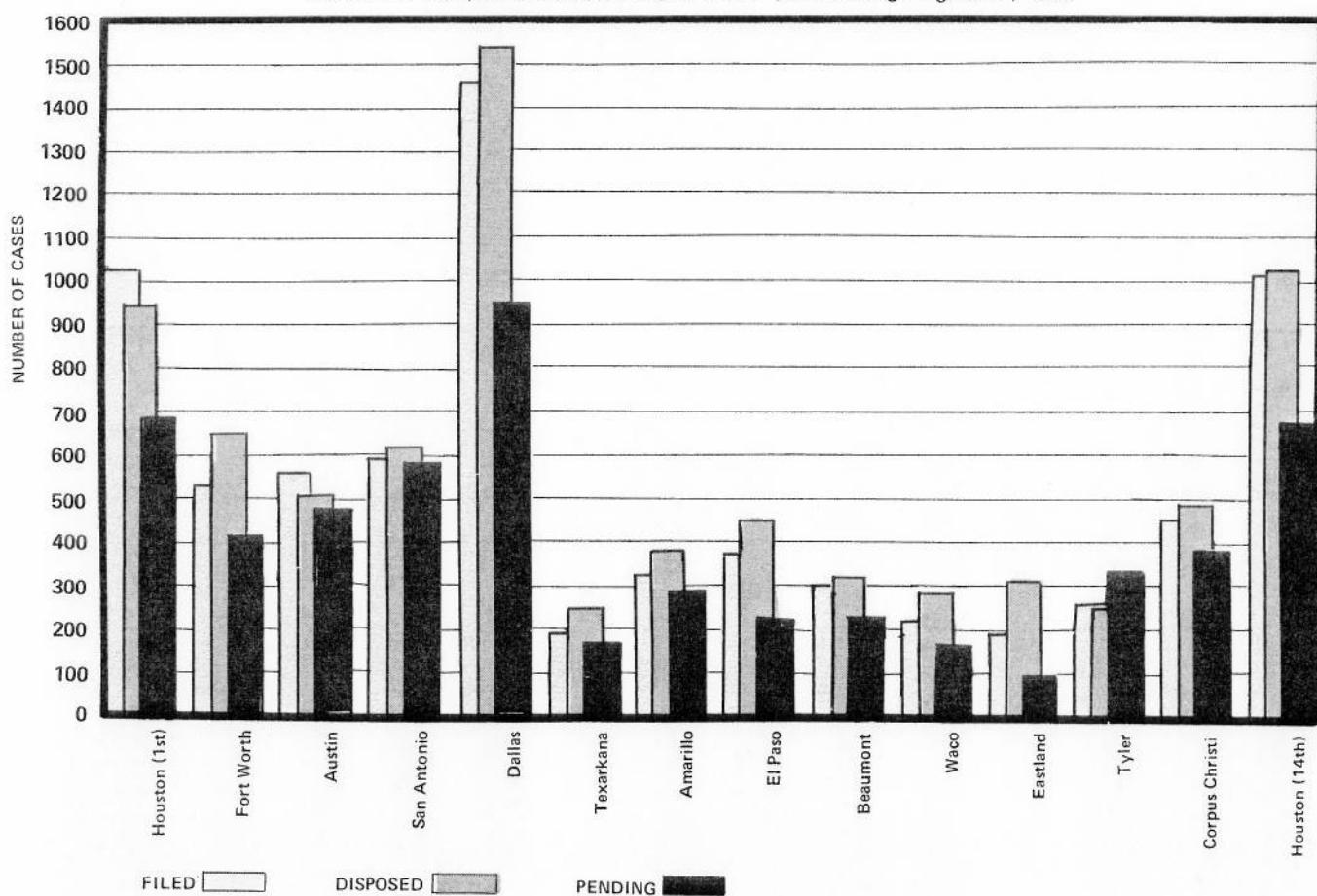
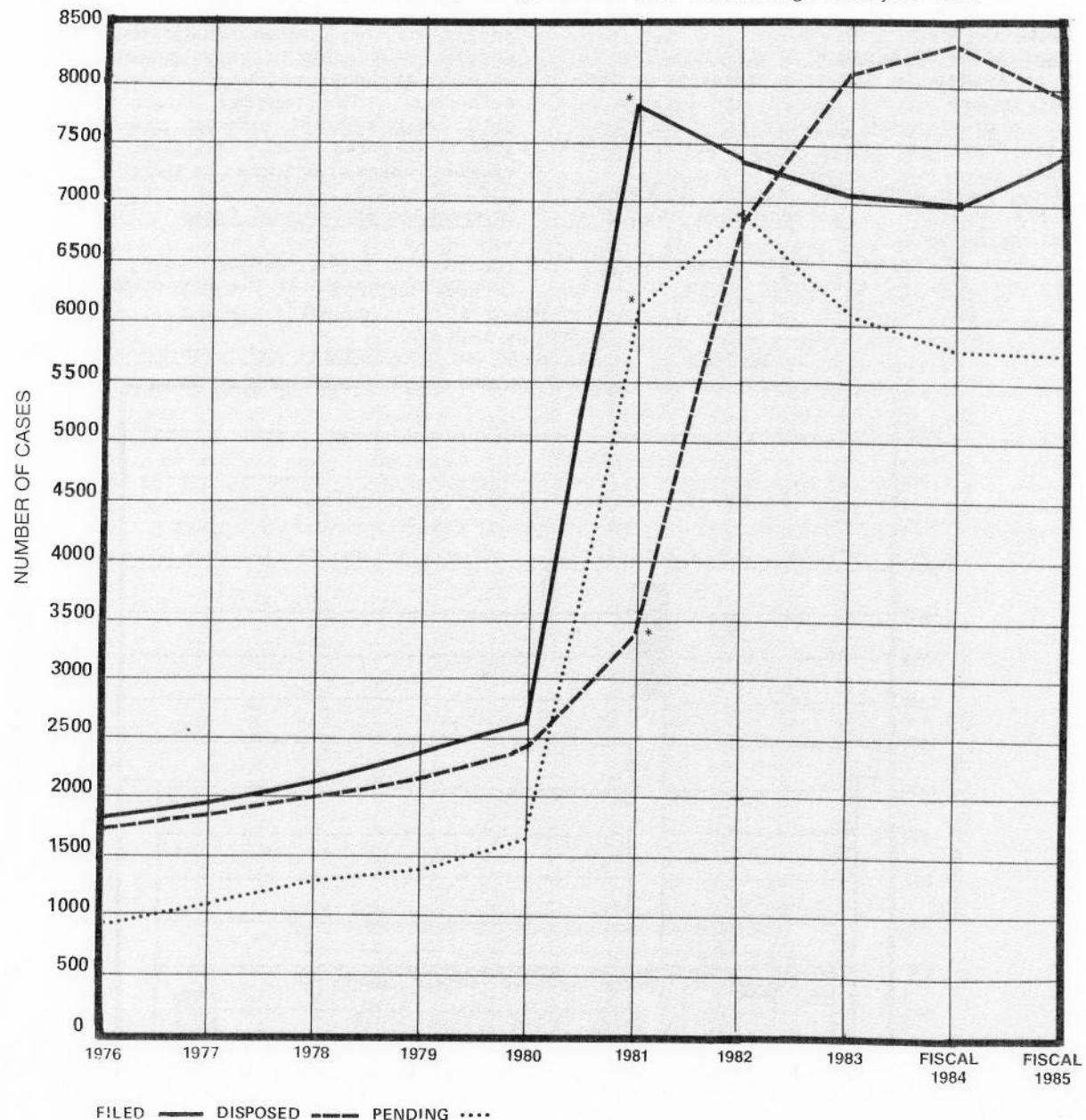


Figure 5.
COURTS OF APPEALS
Cases filed, disposed and pending, calendar year 1976 through fiscal year 1985



FILED —— DISPOSED - - - PENDING

* Caseloads increased sharply in 1981 when Courts of Appeals acquired criminal jurisdiction.

Total Filings Rise 7.7 Percent

A total of 7,484 cases were filed in the Courts of Appeals during the fiscal year, which included 4,186 criminal cases and 3,298 civil cases. This was an increase of 7.7 percent from the 6,951 total new cases filed in fiscal year 1984. New criminal cases increased 5 percent from the 3,988 filed in fiscal year 1984 and civil cases increased 11.3 percent from the 2,963 filed in fiscal year 1984.

Considering civil and criminal cases together, the First Court in Houston had the highest average number of new cases filed per justice (114.2) during fiscal year 1985. The other courts ranged down to 64 cases per justice filed in the Sixth Court in Texarkana. State average filings were 93.6 per justice.

The Fifth Court of Appeals in Dallas disposed of the largest number of cases per justice (118.7) during fiscal year 1985. The lowest number per justice (82) was in the Twelfth Court at Tyler.

State average dispositions were 99.8 per justice.

The largest number of pending cases per justice (113) at the end of the fiscal year was in the Twelfth Court of Appeals in Tyler. The lowest number per justice (33) was in the Eleventh Court in Eastland.

Approximately 27 percent of all cases filed in a Court of Appeals in Texas in fiscal year 1985 were filed in one of the two Courts located in Houston. Approximately 20 percent of all cases filed in the State were filed in the Dallas Court of Appeals.

In fiscal year 1985, the Courts of Appeals wrote 7,522 opinions, 4 percent less than the 7,841 written in 1984.

The Courts of Appeals reversed, at least in part, the decision of the trial court in 12.6

percent of the cases disposed of during fiscal year 1985, compared to 14.4 percent in calendar year 1984.

While the 14 Courts of Appeals operate to a large extent as autonomous courts in specific geographic areas, some equalization of the dockets occurs by transfer of cases among the courts on order of the Supreme Court, pursuant to statutory authority. The Supreme Court transferred 167 civil cases and 187 criminal cases in fiscal year 1985, compared with 151 civil cases and 419 criminal cases transferred in fiscal year 1984.

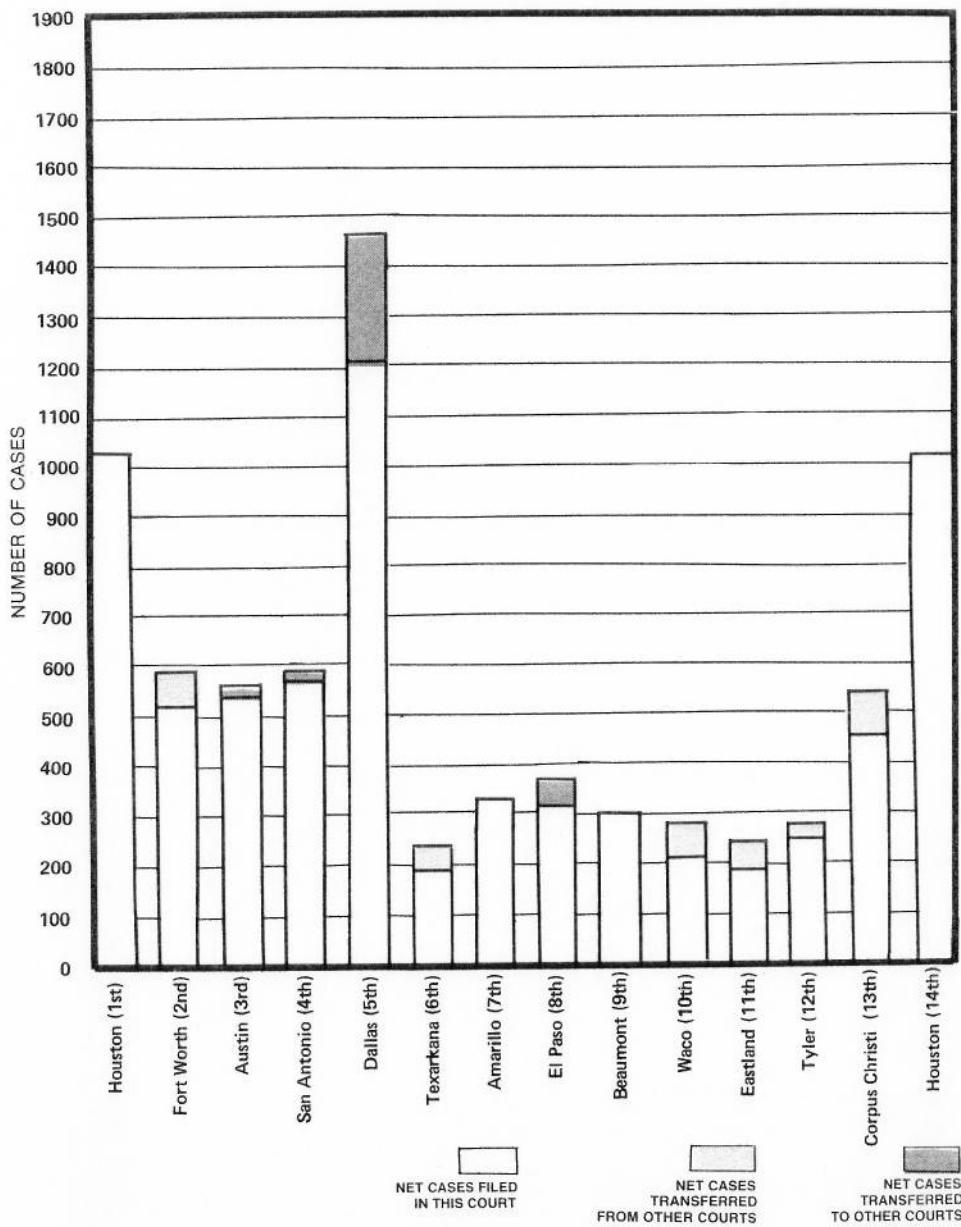
Disposition of Criminal Cases

Of the 3,512 criminal cases pending in the Courts of Appeals at the end of fiscal year 1985,

Figure 6.

COURTS OF APPEALS

Workloads and cases transferred, year ending August 31, 1985



58 percent had been on the docket less than 6 months, 30 percent from 6 to 12 months, and 12 percent more than 12 months.

The average lapse of time between the filing of a criminal case in a Court of Appeals and its disposition ranged from 6.3 months in the Eastland Court to 11.9 months in the San Antonio Court. The average lapse of time for cases statewide was 9.2 months.

A case is "submitted" when the court hears oral argument or when it is referred to the justices for formal consideration if no oral argument is heard. The average lapse of time between submission of a criminal appeal and its disposition ranged from 0.2 of a month in the Beaumont Court to 2.7 months in the San Antonio and Corpus Christi Courts. The average lapse of time for cases statewide was 1.2 months.

New Civil Filings Increase 11.3 Percent

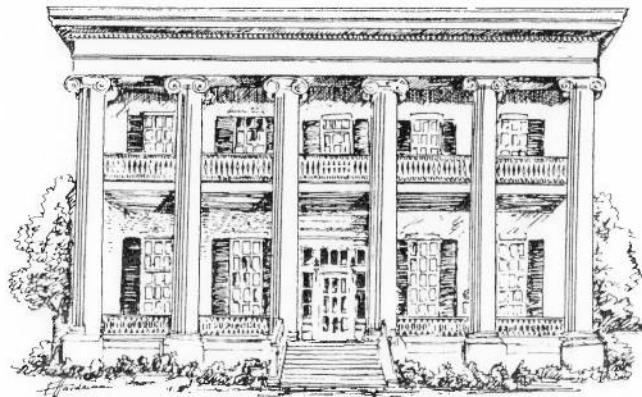
New civil cases filed in all of the Courts of Appeals during fiscal year 1985 increased 11.3 percent from fiscal year 1984. More new civil cases were filed in fiscal year 1985 than in fiscal year 1984 in all but the Corpus Christi, Eastland, and El Paso Courts. Of the courts with increased civil filings, the First Court in Houston experienced the largest percentage in-

crease--33.5 percent (112 cases). The Dallas Court continued to receive more new civil filings than any other court--612 compared to the average of 235.6 per court. The two courts in Houston, each of which has jurisdiction of the same geographical area, received a combined total of 828 civil cases, 27.8 percent more than in fiscal year 1984.

At the end of fiscal year 1985, 2,180 civil cases were pending on the dockets of the Courts of Appeals, 1.7 percent fewer than the 2,217 pending on September 1, 1984. Of those civil cases pending on August 31, 1985, 63.4 percent had been on the docket less than 6 months, 23.2 percent from 6 to 12 months, and 13.4 percent for more than 12 months.

The average lapse of time between the filing of a civil case in a Court of Appeals and its disposition ranged from 5.0 months in the First Court of Houston to 11.6 months in the Amarillo Court. The average lapse of time for civil cases statewide was 7.8 months.

The average lapse of time from the submission of a civil case to the court and its disposition ranged from 1.0 month in the Waco and Houston First Courts to 3.8 months in the Corpus Christi Court. The average lapse of time for cases statewide was 2.2 months.



GOVERNOR'S MANSION
AUSTIN, TEXAS

COURTS OF APPEALS

Total of Reported Activity for Year Ending August 31, 1985

CRIMINAL & CIVIL CASES

	TOTALS	AVERAGES PER JUSTICE*
<u>CASES PENDING SEPTEMBER 1, 1984.</u>	5,719	71
<u>CASES ADDED DURING YEAR ENDING AUGUST 31, 1985:</u>		
New Cases Filed	7,484	93
Other Cases Added	<u>470</u>	6
 TOTAL CASES ADDED DURING YEAR.	7,954	99
 <u>CASES DISPOSED OF DURING YEAR:</u>		
Cases affirmed.	4,317	
Cases modified and/or reformed and affirmed . .	159	
Cases affirmed in part and in part		
reversed and remanded	69	
Cases affirmed in part and in part		
reversed and rendered	33	
Cases reversed and remanded	714	
Cases reversed and rendered	186	
Cases dismissed:		
With written opinion	1,003	
Without written opinion.	529	
Cases otherwise disposed:		
With written opinion	546	
Without written opinion.	414	
Cases consolidated into other cases	<u>11</u>	
 TOTAL DISPOSITIONS DURING YEAR	7,981	100
 <u>CASES PENDING AUGUST 31, 1985:</u>		
Civil cases pending	2,180	27
Criminal cases pending.	<u>3,512</u>	44
 TOTAL CASES PENDING	5,692	71
 <u>OPINIONS WRITTEN DURING YEAR</u>	7,522	94

* Averages based on 80 justices

COURTS OF APPEALS
Activity for the Year Ending August 31, 1985

	Houston (1st Court)	Fort Worth (2nd Court)	Austin (3rd Court)	San Antonio (4th Court)	Dallas (5th Court)
	CIVIL	CIVIL	CIVIL	CIVIL	CIVIL
	CRIM	CRIM	CRIM	CRIM	CRIM
Cases pending September 1, 1984	150	368	518	143	299
New cases filed during year ending August 31, 1985	446	582	1028	276	248
Cases transferred in	0	1	1	19	51
Cases transferred out	0	0	0	0	0
Rehearings granted	7	7	14	4	8
Cases reinstated	5	48	53	13	2
Cases remanded from higher courts	0	18	18	0	13
TOTAL CASES ON DOCKET	608	1024	1632	455	621
Cases affirmed	122	388	510	101	255
Cases modified and/or reformed and affirmed	9	6	15	5	2
Cases affirmed in part and in part reversed and remanded	3	1	4	6	0
Cases affirmed in part and in part reversed and rendered	2	0	2	4	0
Cases reversed and remanded	42	52	94	37	24
Cases reversed and rendered	9	0	9	11	3
Cases dismissed:					
With written opinion	84	49	133	6	45
Without written opinion	0	0	0	64	24
Cases otherwise disposed:					
With written opinion	43	47	90	20	12
Without written opinion	66	16	82	35	4
Cases consolidated into other cases	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL CASES DISPOSED.	380	559	939	289	569
Cases decided:					
Excluding cases without written opinion	314	543	857	190	341
Excluding dismissals with opinion and cases without written opinion	230	494	724	184	296
Cases pending August 31, 1985:					
Pending up to 6 months	191	294	485	111	109
Pending from 6 to 12 months	29	133	162	50	110
Pending over 12 months	8	38	46	5	33
TOTAL CASES PENDING AUGUST 31, 1985	228	465	693	166	252
Average time between date of filing and disposition (months)	5.0	8.8	7.2	5.5	8.2
Avg time between date of submission and disposition (months)	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.9	1.8

COURTS OF APPEALS
Activity for the Year Ending August 31, 1985 (Continued)

	TEXARKANA (6TH COURT)	AMARILLO (7TH COURT)	EL PASO (8TH COURT)	BEAUMONT (9TH COURT)	CIVIL CRIM. TOTAL	CIVIL CRIM. TOTAL	CIVIL CRIM. TOTAL	CIVIL CRIM. TOTAL	WACO (10TH COURT)	CIVIL CRIM. TOTAL					
Cases pending September 1, 1984	69	101	170	136	146	282	131	217	348	102	138	240	46	98	144
New cases filed during year ending August 31, 1985	86	106	192	142	195	337	132	235	367	138	162	300	88	127	215
Cases transferred in	21	28	49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	34	70
Cases transferred out	0	0	0	0	0	0	-24	-20	-44	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rehearings granted	1	0	1	3	0	3	1	4	5	0	3	3	5	1	6
Cases reinstated	1	2	3	3	13	16	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	0
Cases remanded from higher courts	0	1	1	1	4	5	0	4	4	0	7	7	0	2	2
TOTAL CASES ON DOCKET	178	238	416	285	358	643	241	440	681	240	312	552	175	262	437
Cases affirmed	39	95	134	69	112	181	74	168	242	39	137	176	55	108	163
Cases modified and/or reformed and affirmed	10	1	11	1	0	1	4	4	8	5	1	6	8	3	11
Cases affirmed in part and in part reversed and remanded	1	0	1	2	0	2	3	0	3	1	1	2	2	0	2
Cases affirmed in part and in part reversed and rendered	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1
Cases reversed and rendered	18	4	22	24	9	33	28	20	48	7	16	23	17	6	23
Cases dismissed:															
With written opinion	28	38	66	38	53	91	8	3	11	8	32	40	27	26	53
Without written opinion	1	0	1	1	2	3	36	67	103	40	5	45	1	0	1
Cases otherwise disposed:															
With written opinion	11	2	13	18	28	46	15	5	20	6	1	7	0	1	1
Without written opinion	0	0	0	3	1	4	1	0	1	7	3	10	5	0	5
Cases consolidated into other cases	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL CASES DISPOSED.	110	140	250	165	206	371	178	272	450	117	198	315	121	150	271
Cases decided:															
Excluding cases without written opinion	109	140	249	161	202	363	141	205	346	70	190	260	115	150	265
Excluding dismissals with opinion and cases without written opinion	81	102	183	123	149	272	133	202	335	62	158	220	88	124	212
Cases pending August 31, 1985:															
Pending up to 6 months	34	55	89	52	93	145	48	98	146	46	73	119	30	62	92
Pending from 6 to 12 months	23	36	59	52	43	95	12	53	65	46	37	83	24	48	72
Pending over 12 months	11	7	18	16	16	32	3	17	20	31	4	35	0	2	2
TOTAL CASES PENDING AUGUST 31, 1985	68	98	166	120	152	272	63	168	231	123	114	237	54	112	166
Average time between date of filing and disposition (months)	7.4	9.1	8.3	11.6	9.1	10.2	8.5	9.3	8.9	10.5	8.3	9.1	5.3	8.6	7.2
Avg. time between date of submission and disposition (months)	3.1	1.3	2.1	2.1	1.0	1.5	2.4	1.1	1.6	1.8	0.2	0.8	1.0	1.5	1.3

COURTS OF APPEALS

Activity for the Year Ending August 31, 1985 (Continued)

	EASTLAND (11TH COURT) CIVIL CRIM TOTAL	TYLER (12TH COURT) CIVIL CRIM TOTAL	CORPUS CHRISTI (13TH COURT) CIVIL CRIM TOTAL	HOUSTON (14TH COURT) CIVIL CRIM TOTAL		
				GRAND TOTALS		
				CIVIL CRIM TOTAL		
Cases pending September 1, 1984	60	93	153	154	138	292
New cases filed during year ending August 31, 1985.	68	125	193	133	116	249
Cases transferred in.	24	20	44	13	22	35
Cases transferred out.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rehearings granted.	4	5	9	1	1	2
Cases reinstated.	1	5	6	5	1	6
Cases remanded from higher courts.	0	5	5	0	1	1
TOTAL CASES ON DOCKET	157	253	410	306	279	585
Cases affirmed.	60	121	181	34	54	88
Cases modified and/or reformed and affirmed	2	1	3	5	0	5
Cases affirmed in part and in part reversed and remanded	2	0	2	6	0	6
Cases affirmed in part and in part reversed and rendered	2	0	2	2	0	2
Cases reversed and remanded	16	18	34	23	10	33
Cases reversed and rendered	9	10	6	6	0	6
Cases dismissed:						
With written opinion.	19	13	32	46	33	79
Without written opinion.	13	12	25	2	0	2
Cases otherwise disposed:						
With written opinion.	6	9	15	15	6	21
Without written opinion.	2	4	6	1	2	3
Cases consolidated into other cases	0	1	—	1	0	1
TOTAL CASES DISPOSED.	131	180	311	141	105	246
Cases decided:						
Excluding cases without written opinion	116	163	279	137	103	240
Excluding dismissals with opinion and cases without written opinion	97	150	247	91	70	161
Cases pending August 31, 1985	18	52	70	57	64	121
Pending up to 6 months.	2	20	22	42	50	92
Pending from 6 to 12 months.	6	1	7	66	60	126
Pending over 12 months.	26	73	99	165	174	339
TOTAL CASES PENDING AUGUST 31, 1985	26	73	99	165	174	339
Average time between date of filing and disposition (months).	5.2	6.3	5.8	11.1	10.8	10.9
Avq. time between date of submission and disposition (months).	1.1	0.6	0.8	2.7	1.4	2.1
				3.8	2.7	3.3
					1.7	0.8
					1.1	1.1
					7.8	9.2
					8.0	8.6
					1.2	1.2
					2.2	1.6

COURTS OF APPEALS
Activity for the Year Ending August 31, 1981

SIXTH, TEXARKANA

William L. Cornelius
Gunn L. Hutchinson
Charles Bell
Assigned Justices
0

SEVENTH, AMARILLO

Charles L. Reynolds
Stephen F. Preslar
Richard N. Dodson
Richard N. Gauthier
John T. Boyd
Assigned Justices
2

EIGHTH, EL PASO

William E. Ward
Max N. Osborn
Charles R. Schultz
Assigned Justices
0

NINTH, BEAUMONT

Martin Dies, Jr.
Jack Brookshire
James D. McNichols
John Burgess
Assigned Justices
18

TENTH, WACO

Frank G. McDonald
Vic Hall
Bob L. Thomas
Assigned Justices
0

ELEVENTH, EASTLAND

Austin McCloud
Raileigh Brown
Bob Dickenson
Assigned Justices
0

TWELFTH, TYLER

J. W. Summers
Connally McKay
Paul S. Colley
John W. (Bill) Bass, Jr.
Assigned Justices
5

THIRTEENTH, CORPUS CHRISTI

Paul W. Nease
Horace S. Young
Norman L. Utter
Noah Kennedy
Paul A. Gonzalez
Robert J. Saenz
Fortunato P. (Fere) Benavides
Joe L. Dragnon
George T. Ellis
Assigned Justices
19

FOURTEENTH, HOUSTON

J. Curtiss Brown
Paul Prossier
William E. Juneau
Paul C. Murphy
Sam Robertson
Ross A. Sears
Bill Cannon
Joe L. Dragnon
George T. Ellis
Assigned Justices
29

TOTALS

4,721

93

197

72

69

158

36

36

2,176

7,522

7,522

* Ordinarily comable to an original opinion on the merits.

1. Retired eff. 1-35.

2. Left office eff. 1-85.

3. Elected eff. 1-85.

4. Retired appellate judges appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

5. Retired eff. 12-31-84, wrote additional opinions as an Associate Justice.

6. Retired eff. 1-31-84; resigned eff. 1-35; re-appointed eff. 1-35.

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0	0	0	0	0	0	0	263

0	0	1	1	5	5	42	109
0	0	0	0	0	1	29	58
0	0	2	0	2	2	28	102
0	0	0	0	0	0	14	14
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	263

0	0	1	1	5	5	42	109
0	0	0	0	0	1	29	58
0	0	2	0	2	2	28	102
0	0	0	0	0	0	14	14
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	263

0	0	1	1	5	5	42	109
0	0	0	0	0	1	29	58
0	0	2	0	2	2	28	102
0	0	0	0	0	0	14	14
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	263

0	0	1	1	5	5	42	109
0	0	0	0	0	1	29	58
0	0	2	0	2	2	28	102
0	0	0	0	0	0	14	14
0	0	0	0	0	0</		

COURTS OF APPEALS
Activity for the Year Ending August 31, 1985 (Continued)

COUNTIES FROM WHICH CASES WERE APPEALED TO A COURT OF APPEALS DURING FISCAL YEAR 1985

County	Cases	County	Cases	County	Cases	County	Cases
Harris	1,747	Pecos	15	Lampasas	7	Robertson	3
Dallas	1,360	Guadalupe	14	Morris	7	Runnels	3
Bexar	405	Hays	14	Waller	7	Titus	3
Tarrant	343	Lee	14	Ward	7	Trinity	3
Travis	320	Williamson	14	Washington	7	Tyler	3
El Paso	225	Aransas	13	Atascosa	6	Upton	3
Jefferson	157	Erath	13	Burnet	6	Uvalde	3
Nueces	147	Ochiltree	13	Colorado	6	Austin	2
Cameron	99	Rusk	13	Dewitt	6	Baylor	2
Galveston	97	Henderson	12	Grimes	6	Blanco	2
Lubbock	85	Liberty	12	Howard	6	Brewster	2
Bell	80	Milam	12	Kendall	6	Callahan	2
Potter	71	Bastrop	11	Limestone	6	Dickens	2
Smith	70	Elliott	11	Newton	6	Donley	2
Denton	68	Hardin	11	Red River	6	Garza	2
Brazos	64	Navarro	11	Starr	6	Hall	2
Brazoria	63	Palo Pinto	11	Stephens	6	Hudspeth	2
McLennan	63	Polk	11	Wharton	6	Jones	2
Collin	62	Val Verde	11	Wood	6	Karnes	2
Taylor	59	Burleson	10	Calhoun	5	Kenedy	2
Gregg	50	Chambers	10	Cherokee	5	Llano	2
Fort Bend	49	Comal	10	Comanche	5	McCulloch	2
Hidalgo	49	Jackson	10	Gillespie	5	Mills	2
Midland	46	Kaufman	10	Goliad	5	Mitchell	2
Anderson	42	Kerr	10	Jim Hogg	5	Parmer	2
Ector	40	Panola	10	Rockwall	5	Real	2
Montgomery	40	Scurry	10	Wilbarger	5	Refugio	2
Bowie	39	Van Zandt	10	Willacy	5	Sabine	2
Hale	39	Wise	10	Andrews	4	Sutton	2
Lamar	39	Clay	9	Archer	4	Wheeler	2
Webb	39	Cooke	9	Bandera	4	Wilson	2
Victoria	37	Hockley	9	Brooks	4	Winkler	2
Wichita	33	Jim Wells	9	Dawson	4	Yoakum	2
San Patricio	32	Moore	9	Falls	4	Zapata	2
Grayson	30	Somervell	9	Leon	4	Zavala	2
Tom Green	25	Terry	9	Live Oak	4	Armstrong	1
Hood	24	Bosque	8	Madison	4	Carson	1
Hunt	23	Cass	8	Nolan	4	Cochran	1
Nacogdoches	23	Coryell	8	San Jacinto	4	Coleman	1
Brown	22	Deaf Smith	8	Swisher	4	Cottle	1
Caldwell	22	Dimmit	8	Camp	3	Crosby	1
Parker	22	Duval	8	Childress	3	Dallam	1
Harrison	21	Eastland	8	Collingsworth	3	Fisher	1
Walker	21	Fannin	8	Culberson	3	Floyd	1
Bee	20	Gaines	8	Edwards	3	Franklin	1
Hopkins	20	Gonzales	8	Frio	3	Hansford	1
Johnson	20	Jack	8	Hamilton	3	Hartley	1
Orange	19	Medina	8	Hardeman	3	Lynn	1
Young	19	Shelby	8	Hill	3	Marion	1
Angelina	18	Upshur	8	Kimble	3	Menard	1
Matagorda	18	Fayette	7	Lamb	3	Reeves	1
Freestone	16	Houston	7	Lavaca	3	San Augustine	1
Gray	16	Hutchinson	7	Lipscomb	3	Shackelford	1
Maverick	16	Jasper	7	Montague	3	Sherman	1
Randall	16	Kleberg	7	Rains	3	Throckmorton	1