January 1, 2019 Supreme Court Court of Criminal Appeals State (1 Court - 9 Justices) Highest (1 Court – 9 Justices) **Appellate** • Final appellate jurisdiction in civil and juvenile Courts • Final appellate jurisdiction in criminal cases Civil Appeals Criminal Appeals Courts of Appeals (14 Courts - 80 Justices) State Intermediate Regional jurisdiction Appellate Courts • Intermediate appeals from trial courts in their respective courts of appeals districts Office of Court Administration **District Courts** (472 Courts - 472 Judges) Administrative Judicial Regions • Original jurisdiction in civil actions over \$200*, divorce, title to land, contested elections Original jurisdiction in felony criminal matters State Trial Juvenile matters Appeals of Death Courts of Sentences **General** and • 13 district courts are designated criminal district courts; some Special others are directed to give preference to certain specialized Jurisdiction • 374 districts containing one county and 98 districts containing more than one county County-Level Courts (519 Courts – 519 Judges) **Constitutional County Courts (254) Statutory Probate Courts (18) Statutory County Courts (247) County Trial** (1 in each county) (in 89 counties plus 1 (in 10 counties) Courts of Original jurisdiction in civil actions multi-county court) Limited primarily to probate Limited between \$200 and \$10,000 Jurisdiction • All civil, criminal, original and and guardianship matters Probate and guardianship appellate actions prescribed by (contested matters may be law for constitutional county transferred to District Court) courts Exclusive original jurisdiction over • In addition, jurisdiction over civil misdemeanors with fines greater matters between \$200 and than \$500 or jail sentence \$200,000 (some courts may have higher maximum jurisdiction Juvenile matters amount) • Appeals de novo from lower courts or on the record from municipal courts of record Local Trial Municipal Courts¹ Justice Courts¹ Courts of (941 Courts – 1,317 Judges²) (803 Courts – 803 Judges²) Limited Jurisdiction Criminal misdemeanors punishable by fine Civil actions of not more than \$10,000 only (no confinement) Small claims Exclusive original jurisdiction over Criminal misdemeanors punishable by fine municipal ordinance criminal cases³ only (no confinement) Limited civil jurisdiction Magistrate functions Magistrate functions

Court Structure of Texas

- 1. All justice courts and most municipal courts are not courts of record. Appeals from these courts are by trial de novo in the county-level courts, and in some instances in the district courts.
- 2. Some municipal courts are courts of record—appeals from the courts are taken on the record to the county-level courts. As of March 2018, 174 courts indicated that they were a court of record; a list is posted at http://www.txcourts.gov/about-texas-courts.aspx.
- 3. An offense that arises under a municipal ordinance is punishable by a fine not to exceed: (1) \$2,000 for ordinances that govern fire safety, zoning, and public health, (2) \$4,000 for dumping of refuse or (3) \$500 for all others.