## Supreme Court Court of Criminal Appeals State (1 Court - 9 Justices) (1 Court – 9 Judges) Highest 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** (496 Courts - 496 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 • 399 districts containing one county and 97 districts containing more than one county County-Level Courts (537 Courts – 537 Judges) **Statutory County Courts (261) Statutory Probate Courts (22) Constitutional County Courts (254) County Trial** (in 91 counties plus 2 (1 in each county) (in 11 counties) **Courts of** multi-county courts Limited Original jurisdiction in civil actions between Limited primarily to probate, covering 6 counties) Jurisdiction \$200 and \$20,000 mental health and guardianship All civil, criminal, original and matters Probate, mental health and guardianship appellate actions prescribed by law (contested matters may be for constitutional county courts transferred to District Court) In addition, jurisdiction over civil Exclusive original jurisdiction over matters between \$200 and \$250,000 misdemeanors with fines greater than \$500 (some courts may have higher or jail sentence maximum jurisdiction amount) Juvenile matters Appeals de novo from lower courts or on the record from municipal courts of record Justice Courts Local Trial Municipal Courts<sup>1</sup> **Courts of** (797 Courts - 798 Judges) (952 Courts – 1,270 Judges<sup>2</sup>) Limited Jurisdiction Civil actions of not more than \$20,000 Criminal misdemeanors punishable by fine Small claims only (no confinement) Exclusive original jurisdiction over Evictions municipal ordinance criminal cases<sup>3</sup> Criminal misdemeanors punishable by fine Limited civil jurisdiction only (no confinement) Magistrate functions Magistrate functions

Court Structure of Texas
September 2023

- 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 May 2023, 205 courts indicated that they were a court of record; a list is posted at <a href="http://www.txcourts.gov/about-texas-courts.aspx">http://www.txcourts.gov/about-texas-courts.aspx</a>.
- 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.