

Hon. Andrea K. Bouressa, First Business Court Division
Hon. Bill Whitehill, First Business Court Division
Hon. Melissa Andrews, Third Business Court Division
Hon. Patrick K. Sweeten, Third Business Court Division
Hon. Marialyn Barnard, Fourth Business Court Division



Hon. Stacy Sharp, Fourth Business Court Division
Hon. Jerry D. Bullard, Eighth Business Court Division
Hon. Brian Stagner, Eighth Business Court Division
Hon. Sofia Adrogué, Eleventh Business Court Division
Hon. Grant Dorfman, Eleventh Business Court Division

LOCAL RULES OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE TEXAS BUSINESS COURT

Effective December 1, 2025

The judges of the Texas Business Court hereby adopt these rules to provide for the orderly administration of justice and the discharge of their duties.

1. Authority and Applicability

These rules of administration are promulgated by the Business Court in and for the State of Texas, pursuant to its inherent power to control and guide the disposition of cases under Sections 25A.005 and 25A.020(b) of the Texas Government Code (“the Code”) and under Rules 7 and 10 of the Texas Rules of Judicial Administration (“TRJA”).

2. Time Standards

In addition to the time standards set forth in TRJA Rules 6.1 and 7.2, any matter taken under advisement will be ruled upon within three months of the date of the hearing or submission as applicable.

3. Docket Management of the Business Court

3.1 Reassignment and Consolidation

Reassignment and consolidation of cases may occur as follows:

- (a) If severance is ordered, the new case shall remain with the same judge hearing the case from which it was severed.
- (b) If two or more cases are substantially related and involve substantially the same parties, the Business Court administrative presiding judge may reassign any later-filed case to the judge hearing the first-filed case. The same may be ordered by the judge hearing the later-filed case(s), with the consent of the judge hearing the first-filed case.

- (c) Any case seeking relief based on a prior Business Court judgment or dispositive order should be reassigned to the active judge, if any, who rendered the prior judgment or dispositive order.
- (d) Reassignment of cases within the Business Court may be ordered by the administrative presiding judge for docket equalization within divisions or for any other reason in furtherance of the fair and efficient administration of justice, subject to statutory limitations.
- (e) Consolidation may be ordered only by the judge hearing the cases to be consolidated.
- (f) Cases may be reassigned by the Clerk according to any administrative reassignment policy adopted by the Court.

3.2 Docket Equalization

On a quarterly basis, or otherwise as needed, the Business Court may enter an administrative order stating that a specified number of the cases next filed in one or more Divisions of the Court after a certain date, exclusive of cases in which a temporary restraining order is requested, will be assigned to identified judges in other Divisions of the Court, who will sit as judges of the originating Division for purposes of that case. In each such case, the Clerk of the Court will e-serve notice of the judge assignment upon filing. The sequence for reassignment under the administrative order shall be randomly generated and shall remain confidential.

4. Holding Court

4.1 Calendar

The Business Court shall observe national and state holidays as defined in Section 662.003(a)–(c) of the Code. Each Business Court’s Division may also be closed consistent with its respective counties’ scheduled holiday closures.

In addition, no hearings or trials will be set during the week of the Annual Judicial Education Conference sponsored by the Texas Center for the Judiciary.

4.2 Judicial Absences from Court

Visiting judges may be assigned at the request of a sitting Business Court judge in the manner provided by Section 25A.014 of the Code and by TRJA Rule 8. *See also* Tex. Gov't Code § 25A.009(f).

If any Business Court judge is unable to hold court for more than ten consecutive court business days due to illness, disability, or any other extended or unplanned absence, the administrative presiding judge may request assignment of a visiting judge to administer that judge's docket until the return of the sitting Business Court judge.

4.3 Emergency Matters

If the judge to whom a case is assigned is not available to hear an emergency matter in that case, the matter will first be referred to the other Business Court judge within the same Division, and then if necessary, to any other Business Court judge whom the administrative presiding judge (or, if unavailable, the administrative presiding judge pro tempore or, if both are unavailable, the sitting judge) refers to hear the matter.

5. Judicial Budget Matters

The administrative presiding judge shall submit any budget requests of the Business Court to the Office of Court Administration in the form or manner prescribed.

6. Administrative Presiding Judge of the Business Court and Meetings of the Business Court Judges

6.1 Election

The Business Court judges shall elect by majority vote an administrative presiding Business Court judge and an administrative presiding judge pro tempore. The election shall be held at the annual meeting of the Business Court judges no later than September 15th of each even-numbered year, and the elected judges shall serve for the duration of the two-year term. Any Business Court judge may nominate another judge, or may self-nominate, for administrative presiding Business Court judge, but no judge can receive votes without consenting to such nomination. A vacancy in the position of administrative presiding judge shall be filled by the administrative judge pro

tempore as prescribed by Section 25A.009 of the Code, and a vacancy of the administrative judge pro tempore shall be filled by majority vote of the Business Court judges at the first regular meeting following the vacancy.

6.2 Duties

The administrative presiding judge has the duties and responsibilities prescribed in Section 25A.017(b) of the Code. The administrative presiding judge may delegate any such duties to any other Business Court judge(s) and may form committees of Business Court judges to accomplish the efficient discharge of these duties.

6.3 Meetings

The administrative presiding judge shall preside over regular meetings of the Business Court judges. An annual meeting will normally be held in person on the first Tuesday after Labor Day with monthly meetings held thereafter at a regularly scheduled time subject to the discretion of the administrative presiding judge, who may schedule them based on the judges' availability. Additional meetings may be held on any other day on which a majority of judges consent to such meetings.

The agenda for the regular meetings of the Business Court may include discussion and examination of the Court's dockets, including filing volume and disposition rates, the need for technical assistance or other electronic resources, budget requests, safety concerns, the need for visiting judges and exchange of benches, discussion of local rules and potential for uniformity, and any other matters concerning the business of the Court and the efficient and effective administration of justice.

6.4 Absence

In the event of the absence of both the administrative presiding judge and administrative presiding judge pro tempore, the administrative presiding judge may designate another Business Court judge to attend to any matters requiring the authority of that office.

7. Procedures for Adoption, Amendment, and Publication of Rules and Policies

7.1 Adoption and Amendment of Local Rules of Administration

The Local Rules of Administration may be adopted or amended by a majority vote of all judges at any regular meeting of the Business Court judges. No vote is required if the new rule or amendment is circulated to all Business Court judges by the administrative presiding judge, and the administrative presiding judge receives no objections to the rule or amendment within 30 days.

7.2 Adoption and Amendment of Local Court Rules

The Business Court, and each of its judges, may establish, within their discretion, local rules and guidelines in accordance with Section 25A.020(b) of the Code and TRJA Rule 7.2(f)(5). Judges within the same Division may elect to adopt uniform local rules and guidelines.

7.3 Notice and Publication

Consistent with TRJA Rule 10(a), the Local Rules of the Texas Business Court and any judge-specific requirements shall be published on the website of the Office of Court Administration and on the website for the Clerk of the Business Court.

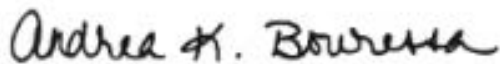
7.4 Confidentiality

Pursuant to TRJA Rule 7.1, the Business Court will adopt a court confidentiality policy. Every employee, clerk, intern, and staff member of the Business Court must acknowledge and agree to the court confidentiality policy in writing as a condition of employment with the Business Court, and as a condition of accepting any clerkship, internship, or other unpaid position with the Business Court.

The Office of Court Administration will ensure that any court reporter eligible to serve in the Business Court pursuant to a contract procured with the State of Texas has acknowledged and agreed to the court confidentiality policy in writing.

Written acknowledgments and agreements to the court confidentiality policy will be maintained by the Clerk of the Business Court.

APPROVED AND EFFECTIVE AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2025:



Andrea K. Bouressa, First Division



Stacy Sharp, Fourth Division



Bill Whitehill, First Division



Jerry D. Bullard, Eighth Division



Melissa Andrews, Third Division



Brian Stagner, Eighth Division



Patrick K. Sweeten, Third Division



Sofia Adrogué, Eleventh Division



Marialyn Barnard, Fourth Division



Grant Dorfman, Eleventh Division &
Administrative Presiding Judge