Judicial Qualifications and Selection in the State of Texas

Supreme Court Court of Criminal Appeals Number: 1 chief justice and 8 justices. Number: 1 presiding judge and 8 judges. Selection: Partisan, statewide election. Vacancies Selection: Partisan, statewide election. between elections filled by gubernatorial Vacancies between elections filled by gubernatorial appointment with advice and consent of Senate. appointment with advice and consent of Senate. Qualifications: Citizen of U.S. and of Texas; age 35 Qualifications: Citizen of U.S. and of Texas; age 35 to 74; and a practicing lawyer, or lawyer and to 74; and a practicing lawyer, or lawyer and judge of court of record together, for at least 10 years judge of court of record together, for at least 10 years. Term: 6 years. Term: 6 years. Criminal Appeals Civil Appeals **Courts of Appeals** Number: Each court has 1 chief justice and from 2 to 12 additional justices, for a total of 80 justices statewide. Selection: Partisan election within each court of appeals district. Vacancies between elections filled by gubernatorial appointment with advice and consent of Senate. Qualifications: Citizen of U.S. and of Texas; age 35 to 74; and a practicing lawyer, or lawyer and judge of court of record together, for at least 10 years. Term: 6 years. **District Courts** Number: 1 judge per court. Selection: Partisan, district-wide election. Vacancies between elections filled by gubernatorial appointment with advice and consent of Senate. Qualifications: Citizen of U.S. and of Texas; age 25 to 74; resident of the district for 2 years; and a practicing lawyer or judge, or both combined, for 4 years. Term: 4 years. **County-Level Courts**

Constitutional County Courts

Number: 1 judge per court.

Selection: Partisan, countywide election. Vacancies between elections filled by appointment by county commissioners.

Qualifications: "Shall be well informed in the law of the State." (Law license not required.) Term: 4 years.

Statutory County Courts/Probate Courts

Number: 1 judge per court.

Selection: Partisan, countywide election. Vacancies between elections filled by appointment by county commissioners

Qualifications: Age 25 or older; resident of county for at least 2 years; and licensed attorney who has practiced law or served as a judge for 4 years.

Term: 4 years.

Justice Courts

Number: 1 judge per court.

Selection: Partisan, precinct-wide election. Qualifications: No specific statutory or constitutional provisions apply.

Term: 4 years.

Municipal Courts

Number: Generally, 1 court per incorporated municipality and 1 judge per court. Statutes allow some city governing bodies to establish more than 1 court and/or more than 1 judge

Selection: Elected or appointed by the governing body of the city as provided by city charter or ordinance.

Qualifications: Determined by the governing body of the city. Term: Most appointed for 2-year terms and serve at the will of the governing body of the city.