

Complexities in the Geographical Jurisdictions of District Courts As of October 1, 2007

To understand the complexities stemming from the piecemeal creation of District Courts in Texas, a taxonomy of jurisdictional boundary-overlap patterns was developed. Because most courts' boundaries overlap wholly or partially with some other court, the state's 446 District Courts cover its 254 counties in 96 distinct areas. Each area is defined by a lack of overlapping boundaries with other areas.

The taxonomy is useful because it allows us to understand a very complex geographical system by understanding a small number of patterns occurring within that system. Six patterns emerged from an analysis of geographical boundaries. The frequency of the six patterns is shown in the table below. Examples of each pattern and further details follow the table.

Jurisdictional Overlap Patterns	Number of Areas	Number of Counties	Number of Courts
Single County / Multiple Courts / No Courts Serve Another County	26	26	260
Single County / Single Court / Court Does not Serve Another County	15	15	15
Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / Identical Jurisdictions	6	23	13
Multiple Counties / Single Court	25	71	25
Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / One Separate Jurisdiction	14	47	56
Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / Many Separate Jurisdictions	10	72	77
TOTAL	96	254	446

Single County / Multiple Courts / No Courts Serve Another County

<i>County</i>	<i>Number of Courts</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Number of Courts</i>
Harris	59	Williamson	5
Dallas	39	Midland	4
Tarrant	26	Smith	4
Bexar	24	Ector	4
Travis	16	Brazos	3
Hidalgo	11	Gregg	3
Jefferson	8	Orange	3
Collin	8	Wichita	3
Montgomery	7	Angelina	2
Denton	6	Ellis	2
Galveston	6	Kaufman	2
Fort Bend	6	Nacogdoches	2
McLennan	5	Parker	2
TOTAL Counties = 26		TOTAL Courts = 260	

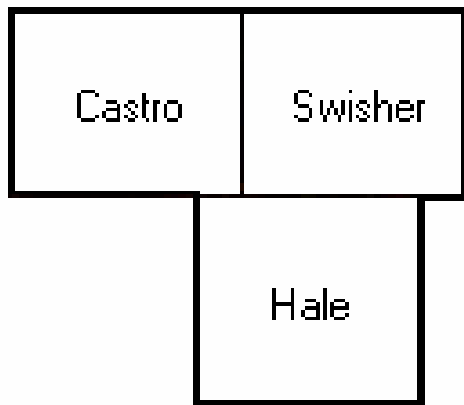
Single County / Single Court / Court Does not Serve Another County

<i>Counties with a Single District Court</i>	
Cooke	Milam
Coryell	Navarro
Eastland	Palo Pinto
Erath	Rockwall
Harrison	Rusk
Hill	Van Zandt
Hood	Wood
Lamb	
TOTAL Counties = 15	TOTAL Courts = 15

Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / Identical Jurisdictions

An Example from the Ninth Administrative Judicial Region

<i>Court</i>	<i>Counties in Jurisdiction</i>
64 th District Court	Castro, Hale, & Swisher
242 nd District Court	Castro, Hale, & Swisher



Dallam	Sherman	Hansford	Ochiltree	Lipscomb					
Hartley	Moore	Hutchinson	Roberts	Hemphill					
Oldham	Potter	Carson	Gray	Wheeler					
Deaf Smith	Randall	Armstrong	Donley	Collingsworth					
Parmer	Castro	Swisher	Briscoe	Hall	Childress				
Bailey	Lamb	Hale	Floyd	Motley	Cottle	Hardeman	Wilbarger		
Cochran	Hockley	Lubbock	Crosby	Dickens	King	Foard	Knox	Baylor	
Yoakum	Terry								

Counties Sharing Multiple Courts

3 Counties:

Castro, Hale & Swisher
 Dimmit, Maverick & Zavala
 Polk, San Jacinto & Trinity

4 Counties:

Blanco, Burnet, Llano, & San Saba

5 Counties:

Atascosa, Frio, Karnes, La Salle & Wilson
 Aransas, Bee, Live Oak, McMullen & San Patricio

TOTAL Counties = 23

Courts

2 Courts: 64 & 242
2 Courts: 293 & 365
2 Courts: 258 & 411

2 Courts: 33 & 424

2 Courts: 81 & 218

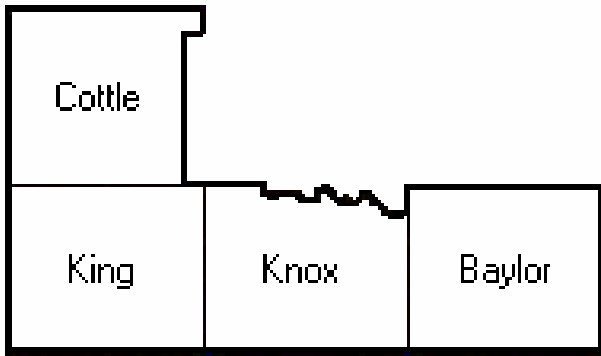
3 Courts: 36, 156 & 343

TOTAL Courts = 13

Multiple Counties / Single Court

An Example from the Ninth Administrative Judicial Region

Court Counties in Jurisdiction
50th District Court Baylor, Cottle, King & Knox



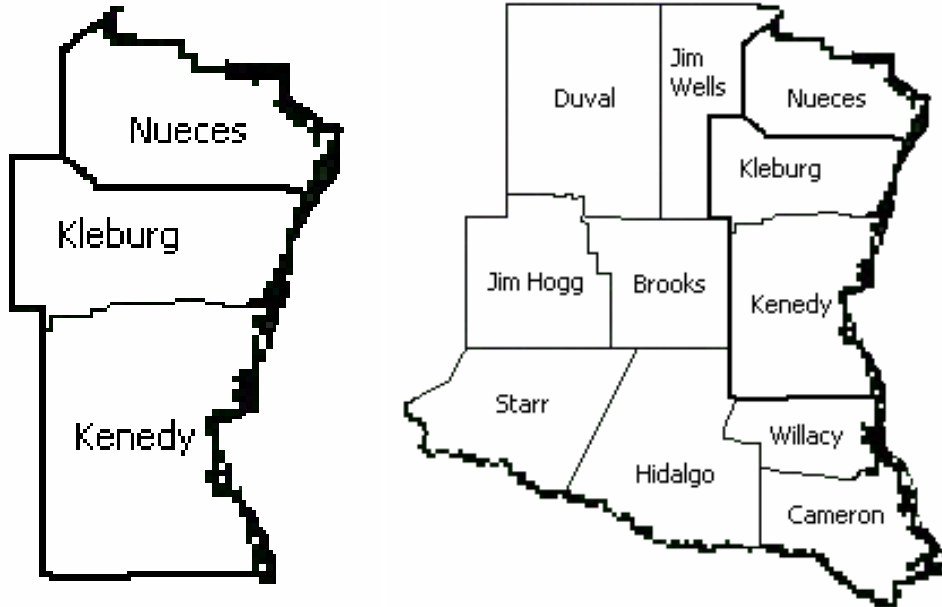
Dallam	Sherman	Hansford	Ochiltree	Lipscomb					
Hartley	Moore	Hutchinson	Roberts	Hemphill					
Oldham	Potter	Carson	Gray	Wheeler					
Deaf Smith	Randall	Armstrong	Donley	Collingsworth					
Parmer	Castro	Swisher	Briscoe	Hall	Childress				
Bailey	Lamb	Hale	Floyd	Motley	Cottle	Hardeman			
Cochran	Hockley	Lubbock	Crosby	Dickens	King	Foard			Wilbarger
Yoakum	Terry								Baylor

Counties Per Court	Counties Sharing a Single Court	Administrative Judicial Region
<i>Two (11 Courts in 22 Counties)</i>	Falls & Robertson (82 nd)	3 rd
	Brooks & Jim Wells (79 th)	5 th
	Borden & Scurry (132 nd)	7 th
	Jones & Shackelford (259 th)	7 th
	Stephens & Young (90 th)	8 th
	Jack & Wise (271 st)	8 th
	Terry & Yoakum (121 st)	9 th
	Deaf Smith & Oldham (222 nd)	9 th
	Cochran & Hockley (286 th)	9 th
	Bailey & Parmer (287 th)	9 th
	Brown & Mills (35 th)	9 th
<i>Three (8 Courts in 24 Counties)</i>	Bosque, Comanche & Hamilton (220 th)	3 rd
	Medina, Real & Uvalde (38 th)	6 th
	Fisher, Mitchell & Nolan (32 nd)	7 th
	Andrews, Crane & Winkler (109 th)	7 th
	Glasscock, Howard & Martin (118 th)	7 th
	Loving, Reeves & Ward (143 rd)	7 th
	Archer, Clay & Montague (97 th)	8 th
Foard, Hardeman & Wilbarger (46 th)	9 th	
<i>Four to Five (6 Courts in 25 Counties)</i>	Haskell, Kent, Stonewall & Throckmorton (39 th)	7 th
	Dawson, Gaines, Garza & Lynn (106 th)	7 th
	Dallam, Hartley, Moore & Sherman (69 th)	9 th
	Briscoe, Dickens, Floyd, & Motley (110 th)	9 th
	Baylor, Cottle, King & Knox (50 th)	9 th
Carson, Childress, Collingsworth, Donley & Hall (100 th)	9 th	
Total Counties = 71	Total Courts = 25	

Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / One Separate Jurisdiction

An Example from the Fifth Administrative Judicial Region

<u>Court(s)</u>	<u>Counties in Jurisdiction</u>
28, 94, 117, 148, 214, 319 & 347	Nueces
105	Kenedy, Kleburg, & Nueces



Counties Sharing Several Courts

Bell & Lampasas (3rd AJR)
 Crosby & Lubbock (9th AJR)
 Johnson & Somervell (8th AJR)
 Webb & Zapata (4th AJR)
 Chambers & Liberty (2nd AJR)
 Cameron & Willacy (5th AJR)
 Hansford, Hutchinson & Ochiltree (9th AJR)
 Kenedy, Kleburg & Nueces (5th AJR)
 Callahan, Coleman & Taylor (7th AJR)
 Duval, Jim Hogg & Starr (5th AJR)
 Bastrop, Burleson, Lee & Washington
 Calhoun, De Witt, Goliad, Jackson, Refugio & Victoria (4th AJR)
 Gray, Hemphill, Lipscomb, Roberts & Wheeler (9th AJR)
 Bandera, Gillespie, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, McCulloch, Mason & Menard (6th AJR)

Primary County

Bell
 Lubbock
 Johnson
 Webb
 Liberty
 Cameron
 Hutchinson
 Nueces
 Taylor
 Starr
 Bastrop
 Victoria
 Gray
 Kerr

Courts

27, 146, 169, 264 & 426
 72, 99, 137, 140, 237 & 364
 18, 249 & 413
 49, 111, 341 & 406
 75, 253 & 344
 103, 107, 138, 197, 357, 404, 444 & 445
 84 & 316
 28, 94, 105, 117, 148, 214, 319 & 347
 42, 104, 326 & 350
 229 & 381
 21, 335 & 423
 24, 135, 267 & 377
 31 & 223
 198 & 216

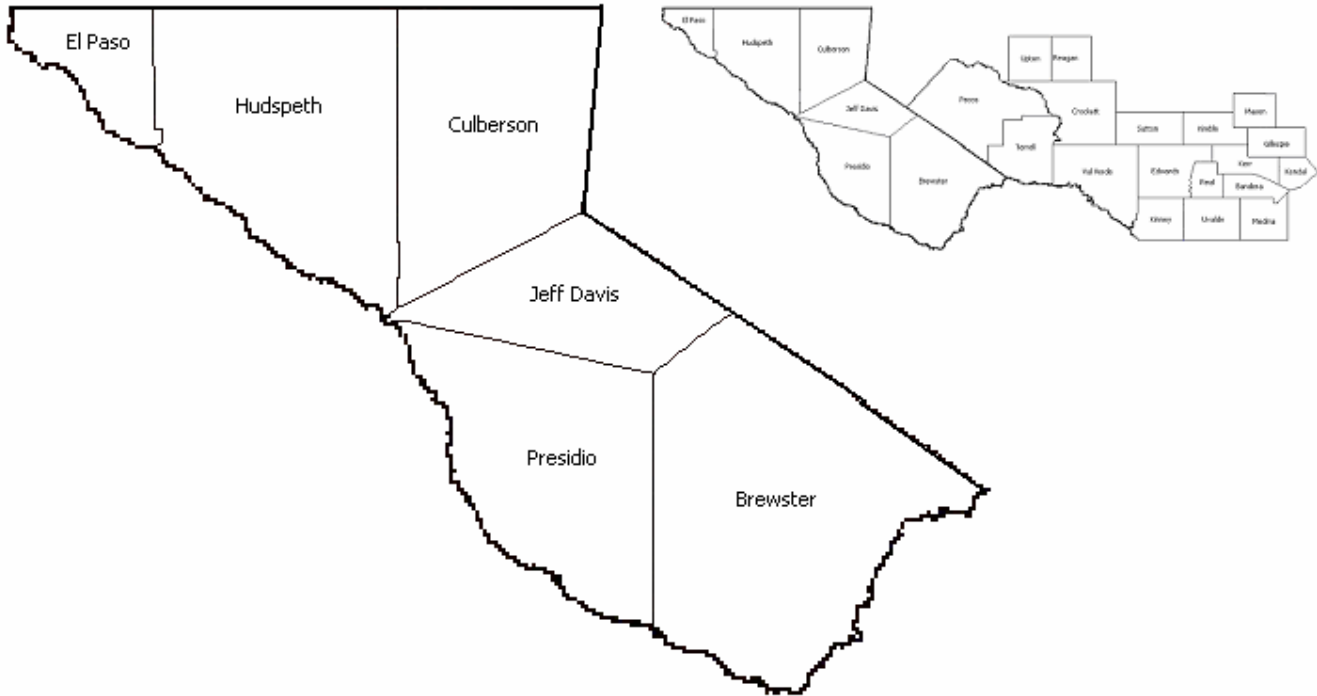
TOTAL Counties = 47

TOTAL Courts = 56

Multiple Counties / Multiple Courts / Many Separate Jurisdictions

An Example from the Sixth Administrative Judicial Region

<i>Court</i>	<i>Counties in Jurisdiction</i>
34, 40, 41, 65, 120, 168, 171, 210, 243, 327, 346, 383 & 384	El Paso
205 394	Culberson, El Paso, & Hudspeth Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, & Presidio



Counties Sharing Several Courts

- 3 Counties:** Armstrong, Potter & Randall
- 3 Counties:** Brazoria, Matagorta & Wharton

- 5 Counties:** Camp, Marion, Morris, Titus & Upshur
- 6 Counties:** Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis & Presidio

- 7 Counties:** Coke, Concho, Irion, Runnels, Schelicher, Sterling & Tom Green
- 7 Counties:** Caldwell, Colorado, Comal, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Hays & Lavaca

- 8 Counties:** Hardin, Jasper, Newton, Panola, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby & Tyler
- 9 Counties:** Crockett, Edwards, Kinney, Pecos, Reagan, Sutton, Terrell, Upton & Val Verde
- 11 Counties:** Bowie, Cass, Delta, Fannin, Franklin, Grayson, Hopkins, Hunt, Lamar, Rains, & Red River
- 13 Counties:** Anderson, Austin, Cherokee, Fayette, Freestone, Grimes, Henderson, Houston, Leon, Limestone, Madison, Walker & Waller

TOTAL Counties = 72

Courts

- 5 Courts:** 47, 108, 181, 251 & 320
- 7 Courts:** 23, 130, 149, 239, 300, 329 & 412
- 3 Courts:** 76, 115 & 276
- 18 Courts:** 34, 41, 65, 120, 168, 171, 205, 210, 243, 327, 346, 383, 384, 388, 394, 409, 448 & Crim. District Court No. 1
- 4 Courts:** 51, 119, 340 & 391
- 8 Courts:** 22, 25, 2nd 25, 207, 274, 421, 428 & 433
- 6 Courts:** 1, 1A, 88, 123, 273 & 356
- 3 Courts:** 63, 83 & 112
- 11 Courts:** 5, 6, 8, 15, 59, 62, 102, 196, 202, 336 & 354
- 12 Courts:** 2, 3, 12, 77, 87, 155, 173, 278, 349, 369, 392 & 506

TOTAL Courts = 77