COURT STRUCTURE OF TEXAS

= Sертемвек 1, 2008 **= Supreme Court Court of Criminal Appeals** (1 Court -- 9 Judges) (1 Court -- 9 Justices) State Highest -- Statewide Jurisdiction ---- Statewide Jurisdiction --Appellate Courts • Final appellate jurisdiction in civil • Final appellate jurisdiction in cases and juvenile cases. criminal cases. Civil Appeals Criminal Appeals **Courts of Appeals** (14 Courts -- 80 Justices) -- Regional Jurisdiction --State Intermediate Appellate Courts • Intermediate appeals from trial courts in their respective courts of appeals districts. **District Courts** (444 Courts -- 444 Judges)1 (347 Districts Containing One County and 97 Districts Containing More than One County) State Trial Courts of General and -- Jurisdiction --Special Jurisdiction Original jurisdiction in civil actions over \$200 or \$500,² divorce, title to land, contested elections. · Original jurisdiction in felony criminal matters. · Juvenile matters. • 13 district courts are designated criminal district courts; some others are directed to give preference to certain specialized areas. **County-Level Courts** (494 Courts -- 494 Judges) Constitutional County Courts (254) Statutory County Courts (222) Statutory Probate Courts (18) (Established in 84 Counties) (Established in 10 Counties) (One Court in Each County) -- Jurisdiction ---- Jurisdiction ---- Jurisdiction --· Original jurisdiction in civil actions · Limited primarily County Trial Courts of · All civil, criminal, original and Limited Jurisdiction between \$200 and \$10,000. appellate actions prescribed by to probate matters. • Probate (contested matters may be law for constitutional county transferred to District Court). courts • Exclusive original jurisdiction over • In addition, jurisdiction over misdemeanors with fines greater civil matters up to \$100,000 than \$500 or jail sentence. (some courts may have higher maximum jurisdiction amount). Juvenile matters. Appeals de novo from lower courts or on the record from municipal courts of record. **Justice Courts**³ Municipal Courts⁴ (821 Courts -- 821 Judges) (917 Cities -- 1,414 Judges) (Established in Precincts Within Each County) -- Jurisdiction ---- Iurisdiction --· Criminal misdemeanors punishable by fine only (no confinement). · Civil actions of not more than \$10,000. Local Trial Courts of • Exclusive original jurisdiction over municipal · Small claims. Limited Jurisdiction ordinance criminal cases. Criminal misdemeanors punishable by · Limited civil jurisdiction in cases involving fine only (no confinement). dangerous dogs. Magistrate functions. · Magistrate functions.

- 1. As of September 1, 2008 there were 444 district courts. The 80th Legislature authorized the creation of three additional new courts on September 1, 2007 but these had yet to be implemented. Another court was authorized to be created on September 15, 2008
- 2. The dollar amount is currently unclear.
- 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.
- Some municipal courts are courts of record appeals from those courts are taken on the record to the county-level courts.
- 5. 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 or (2) \$500 for all others.