

Assignment of Judges to Active Duty in the Trial Courts

The state is divided into nine administrative judicial regions, in each of which a presiding judge is designated by the governor and confirmed by the senate. These presiding judges are authorized by Sections 74.054 and 74.056, Government Code, to assign judges of their respective regions for service on courts other than those to which they were elected. Judges who may be assigned are regular, retired (“senior”) and former district judges, and regular, retired and former statutory county court judges.

The presiding judge of one administrative judicial region may request that the presiding judge of another region furnish judges for assignment in the region of the requesting judge. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court also is authorized by Section 74.057, Government Code, to assign judges of one administrative judicial region for service in another. The Chief Justice may also assign active and retired appellate judges to the trial bench.



During the year ended August 31, 2003, a total of 8,605 assignments were made to the trial courts of the state, and 26,203 days were served by the judges on assignment. Assuming 250 working days per year, this service was equivalent to approximately 104.8 additional full-time judges serving in the trial courts of the state.

Retired and former judges who served during the year totaled 318. These judges received 7,754 assignments and served 25,605 days—the equivalent of adding 102.42 full-time judges to active service during the year.

Active judges serving a regular court were assigned to courts in other areas 851 times. These judges served 598 days, adding the equivalent of 2.39 full-time judges to service.

The highest total number of assignments occurred in the Second Administrative Judicial Region, with 1,983 assignments made. However, assignments in the First Administrative Judicial Region resulted in the highest total number of days of service (7,313 days).

The presiding judges of the nine administrative judicial regions made a total of 455 assignments of their resident judges for service in other regions: First (42), Second (48), Third (190), Fourth (22), Fifth (3), Sixth (13), Seventh (59), Eighth (54), and Ninth (24).

Assignment of Judges to Trial Courts

For the Year Ended August 31, 2003

By the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	Total
	<u>Region</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Region</u>	
Assignments to the Administrative Regions:										
Number of Assignments:										
Active District Judges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Senior Appellate Judges	23	25	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	68
Former Appellate Judges	0	14	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	20
Senior District Judges	0	0	2	0	4	7	0	0	0	13
Former District Judges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	9
Active Statutory County Court Judges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Retired/Former Statutory County Court Judges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
TOTAL Assignments	23	39	25	0	4	10	0	0	14	115
Days Served:										
Active District Judges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Senior Appellate Judges	53	72	68	0	0	0	0	0	0	193
Former Appellate Judges	0	18	7	0	0	77	0	0	0	102
Senior District Judges	0	0	1	0	1	34	0	0	0	36
Former District Judges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7
Active Statutory County Court Judges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Retired/Former Statutory County Court Judges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
TOTAL Days Served	53	90	76	0	1	111	0	0	11	342
By Presiding Judges of Administrative Regions										
Assignments within the Administrative Regions:										
Number of Assignments:										
Active District Judges	17	134	6	25	35	40	16	225	80	578
Senior Appellate Judges	192	163	182	22	0	10	0	298	28	895
Former Appellate Judges	0	3	39	23	0	0	3	40	0	108
Senior District Judges	1,025	1,117	990	213	337	83	197	720	140	4,822
Former District Judges	161	364	0	60	74	53	0	40	26	778
Active Statutory County Court Judges	9	38	2	6	25	1	8	125	0	214
Retired/Former Statutory County Court Judges	111	46	67	11	47	61	27	68	79	517
TOTAL Assignments	1,515	1,865	1,286	360	518	248	251	1,516	353	7,912
Days Served:										
Active District Judges	19	23	0	29	5	27	2	298	68	471
Senior Appellate Judges	516	552	430	72	0	329	0	601	136	2,636
Former Appellate Judges	0	21	74	146	0	0	7	97	0	345
Senior District Judges	5,027	3,384	1,701	1,022	961	1,019	771	1,669	122	15,676
Former District Judges	685	1,095	0	271	419	302	0	90	146	3,008
Active Statutory County Court Judges	13	2	1	6	7	0	0	36	0	65
Retired/Former Statutory County Court Judges	465	136	113	16	111	511	109	153	200	1,814
TOTAL Days Served	6,725	5,213	2,319	1,562	1,503	2,188	889	2,944	672	24,015
Assignments from Other Administrative Regions:										
Number of Assignments:										
Active District Judges	0	3	2	0	1	7	2	0	3	18
Senior Appellate Judges	0	0	0	0	1	13	1	0	0	15
Former Appellate Judges	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Senior District Judges	69	47	120	10	16	10	4	67	30	373
Former District Judges	18	4	29	1	1	0	4	0	0	57
Active Statutory County Court Judges	0	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Retired/Former Statutory County Court Judges	0	0	48	23	0	0	4	0	0	75
TOTAL Assignments	87	63	200	34	21	30	15	67	33	550
Days Served:										
Active District Judges	0	1	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	10
Senior Appellate Judges	0	0	0	0	6	57	1	0	0	64
Former Appellate Judges	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	4
Senior District Judges	300	252	146	34	146	65	8	181	76	1,208
Former District Judges	235	4	84	1	6	0	14	0	0	344
Active Statutory County Court Judges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Retired/Former Statutory County Court Judges	0	0	59	101	0	0	5	0	0	165
TOTAL Days Served	535	257	289	136	162	131	28	181	76	1,795
By the Supreme Court*										
Number of Assignments:										
Active District Judges	0	16	1	8	1	0	0	2	0	28
Days Served:										
Active District Judges	0	34	1	8	1	0	0	7	0	51
Total --- Trial Court Assignments										
Number of Assignments	1,625	1,983	1,512	402	544	288	266	1,585	400	8,605
Days Served	7,313	5,594	2,685	1,706	1,667	2,430	917	3,132	759	26,203
Assignments to Other Administrative Regions	42	48	190	22	3	13	59	54	24	455

Assignment authorized by Government Code, sections 74.056 and 75.002. Information provided by the Presiding Judges of the Administrative Judicial Regions.

* Disciplinary Proceedings (Rule 3.02, Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure).