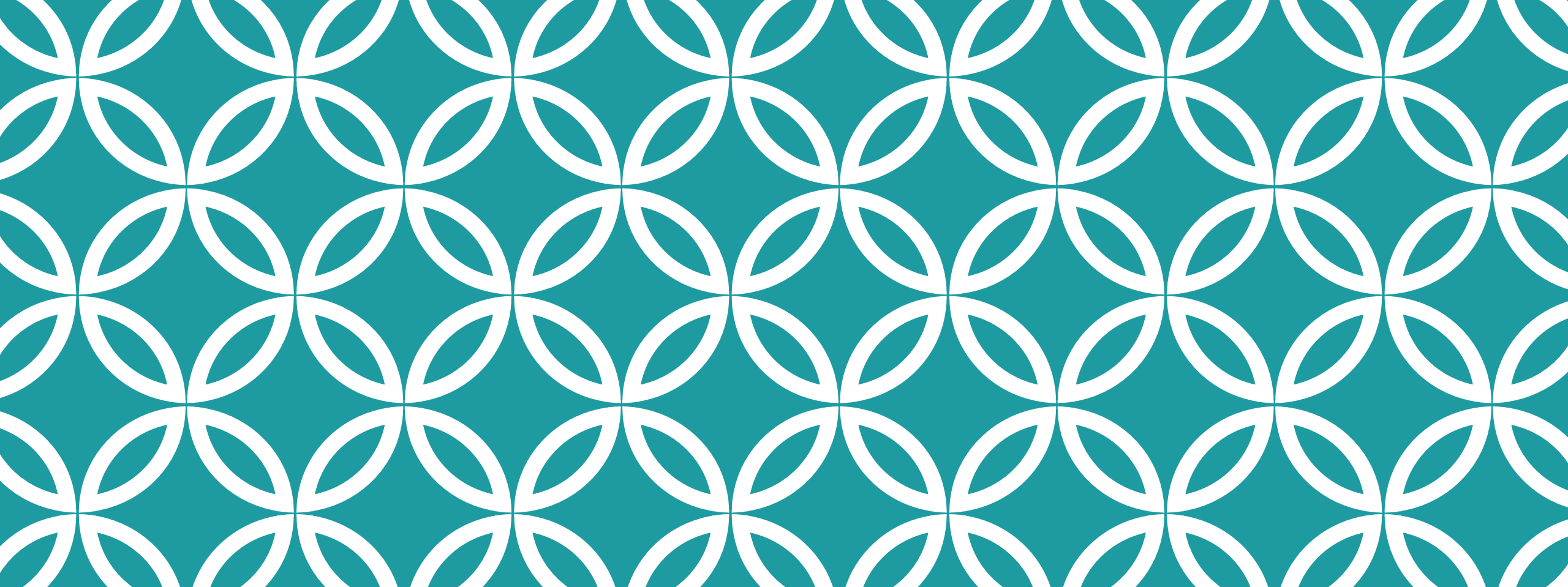




TEXAS COURTS & LEGISLATURE

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TEXAS COURTS |

HOW MANY COURTS ARE IN TEXAS?

As of January 2018: 1,456 Different Courts with a total of 2,825 individual judges:

- Supreme Court
 - Court of Criminal Appeals
 - Courts of Appeals
 - District Courts
 - County Courts
 - Justice Courts
 - Municipal Courts
-
- Each court serves a different function within the judicial process
 - The basic structure of the present court system of Texas was established by an 1891 amendment to the Texas Constitution of 1876.



Texas Courts

The basic structure of the present court system of Texas was established by an 1891 amendment to the Texas Constitution of 1876. The amendment established the Supreme Court as the highest state appellate court for civil matters, and the Court of Criminal Appeals as the highest state appellate court in criminal matters. The amendment also established courts of appeals that exercise intermediate appellate jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases.

District courts are the state trial courts of general jurisdiction. The geographical area served by each district court is established by the specific statute creating the court.

In addition to these state courts, the Texas Constitution provides for a county court in each county, presided over by the county judge. The county judge also serves as head of the county commissioners court, the governing body of the county. To aid the constitutional county court with its judicial functions, the Legislature has established statutory county courts, generally designated as county courts at law or statutory probate courts, in the more populous counties.

The Texas Constitution also authorizes not less than one nor more than 16 justices of the peace in each county. The justice courts generally have exclusive jurisdiction with the county courts when the amount in controversy exceeds \$200 but does not exceed \$10,000. They also have jurisdiction in misdemeanor cases where punishment upon conviction may be by fine only.

By statute, the Legislature has created municipal courts in each incorporated city in the state. These courts have original jurisdiction over violations of municipal ordinances and concurrent jurisdiction with the justice courts over misdemeanor state law violations, limited to the geographical confines of the municipality. Municipal courts also have civil jurisdiction limited to a few specific types of cases.

WHAT COURT DO I BELONG IN?

That's a matter of **jurisdiction**: a court's power to decide a case or issue a decree.

subject-matter jurisdiction: Jurisdiction over the nature of the case and the type of relief sought; the extent to which a court can rule on the conduct of persons or the status of things

personal jurisdiction: A court's power to bring a person into its adjudicative process; jurisdiction over a defendant's personal rights,

TEXAS SUPREME COURT

Highest state appellate court for civil matters. If you are appealing a ruling from an appellate court in a civil or juvenile case, the Texas Supreme Court is your destination.

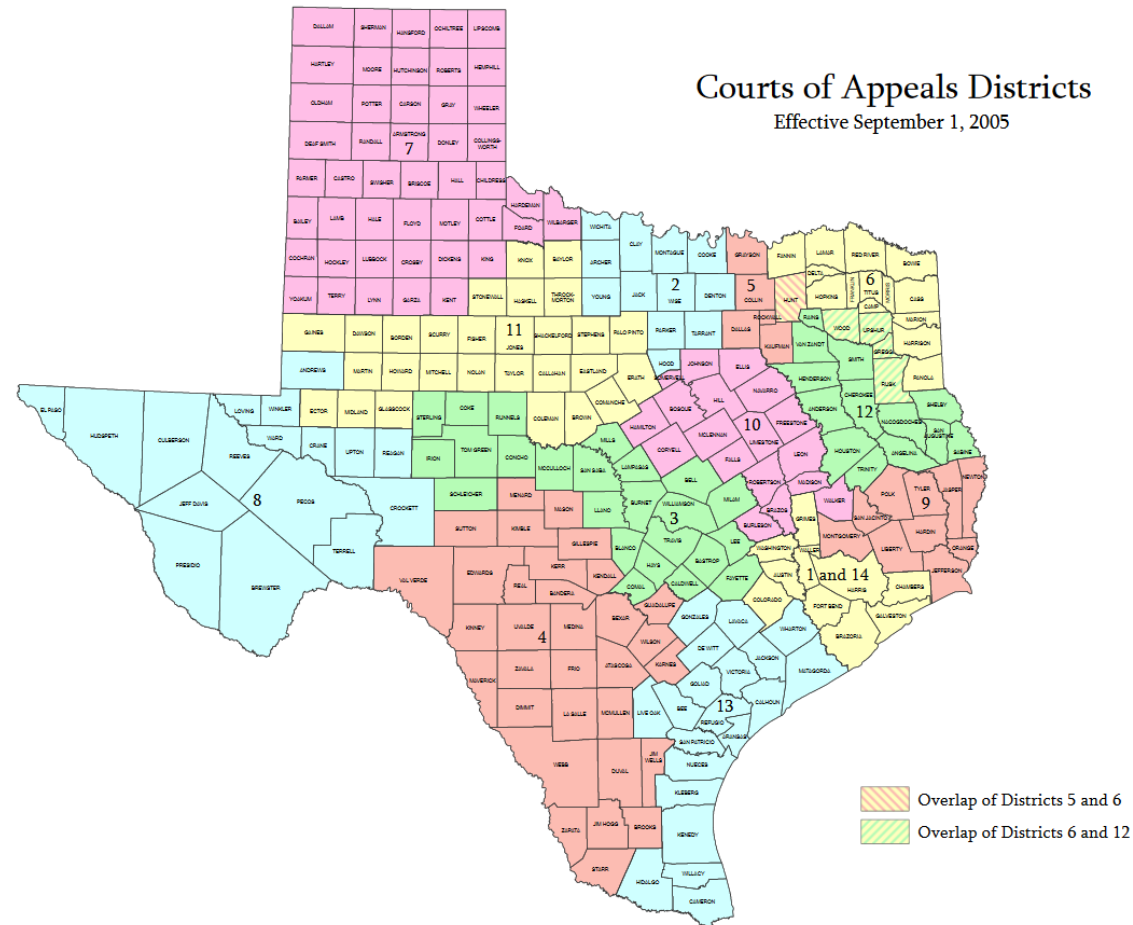
Appellate courts do not try cases, have juries, or hear witnesses. Rather, they review actions and decisions of the lower courts on questions of law or allegations of procedural error. In carrying out this review, the appellate courts are usually restricted to the evidence and exhibits presented in the trial court.



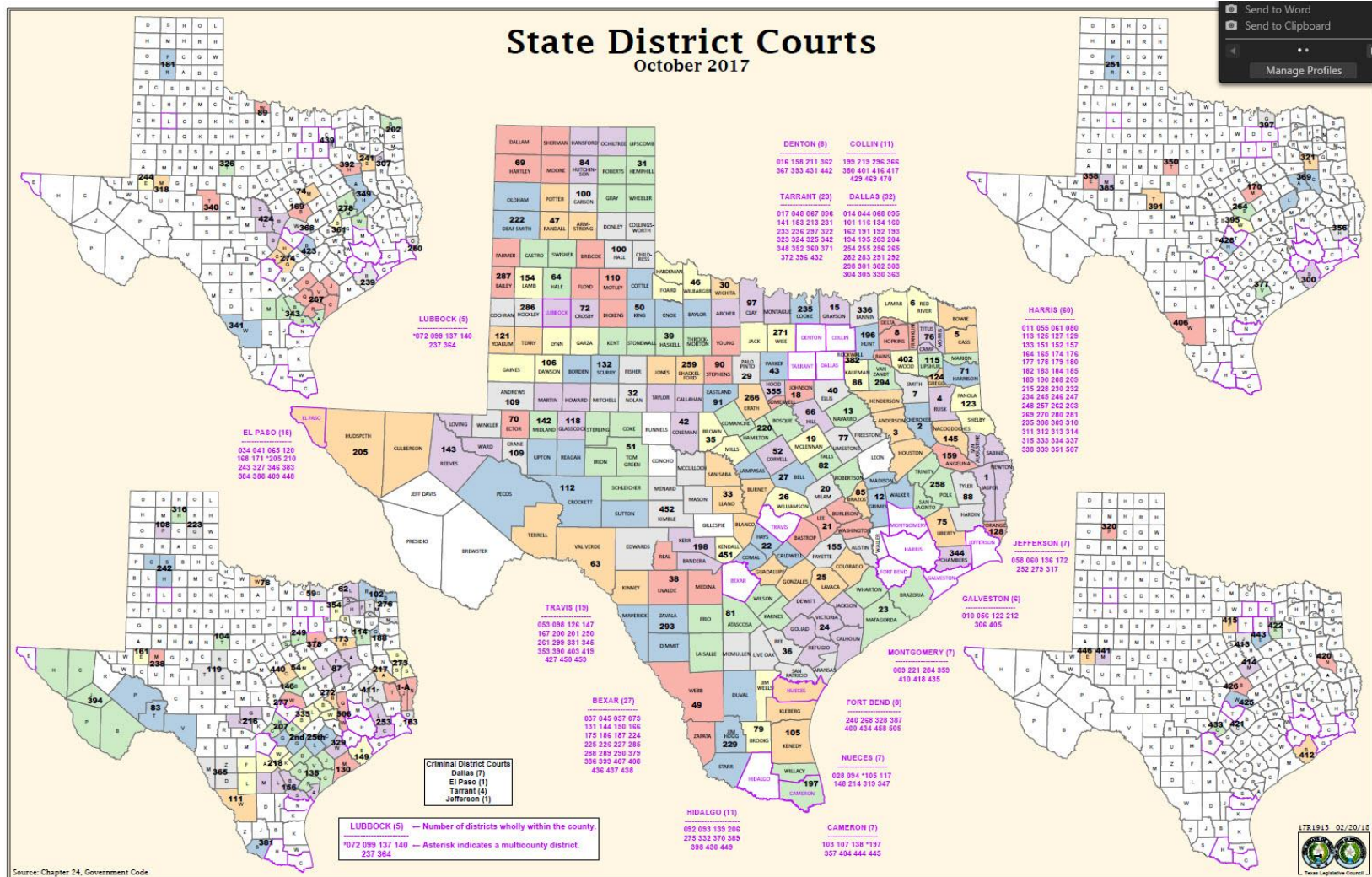
TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

The Court of Criminal Appeals is the highest state court for criminal appeals.

TEXAS COURTS OF APPEALS



DISTRICT COURTS



Source: Chapter 24, Government Code

