## January 2025 Supreme Court **Court of Criminal Appeals** State (1 Court - 9 Justices) (1 Court - 9 Judges) Highest **Appellate** • Final appellate jurisdiction in civil and juvenile Courts Final appellate jurisdiction in criminal cases 15<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals 1<sup>st</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Courts of Appeals (1 Court – 3 Justices) Civil Criminal State (14 Courts – 80 Justices) **Appeals Appeals** Intermediate Statewide jurisdiction **Appellate** Regional jurisdiction Intermediate appeals in civil cases Courts Exclusive jurisdiction of intermediate appeals Intermediate appeals from trial in cases brought by or against the state, state courts in their respective courts of entities and state officers and employees appeals districts Exclusive jurisdiction over intermediate appeals from the Texas Business Court Office of Court Administration **Business Court District Courts** (504 Courts - 504 Judges) (5 Divisions - 10 Judges) Administrative Judicial Regions Concurrent civil jurisdiction with district courts in certain Original jurisdiction in civil actions over \$200, divorce, complex business disputes when the amount in controversy title to land, contested elections exceeds \$5 million and \$10 million Original jurisdiction in felony criminal matters State Trial Concurrent civil jurisdiction with district courts in actions in Juvenile matters Courts of which one of the parties is a publicly traded company Appeals of **General** and Death • 13 district courts are designated criminal district Supplemental jurisdiction over any claim related to a case or Special Sentences courts; some others are directed to give preference to controversy within the courts jurisdiction that forms part of Jurisdiction the same case or controversy (subject to certain exceptions in certain specialized areas Tex. Gov't Code § 22.220(d)) 407 districts containing one county and 97 districts • No jurisdiction over: claims arising out of Chapter 74, Civil containing more than one county Practice and Remedies Code; claims in which a party seeks recovery of monetary damages for bodily injury or death; or claims of legal malpractice **County Trial County-Level Courts** Courts of (538 Courts - 538 Judges) Limited Jurisdiction **Constitutional County Courts (254)** Statutory County Courts (260) Statutory Probate Courts (24) (1 in each county) (in 91 counties plus 2 multi-county (in 12 counties) Original jurisdiction in civil actions between \$200 courts covering 6 counties) Limited primarily to probate, and \$20,000 All civil, criminal, original and appellate mental health and actions prescribed by law for guardianship matters Probate, mental health and guardianship constitutional county courts (contested matters may be transferred to District In addition, jurisdiction over civil matters between \$200 and \$250,000 (some courts Exclusive original jurisdiction over misdemeanors may have higher maximum jurisdiction with fines greater than \$500 or jail sentence amount) Juvenile matters Appeals de novo from lower courts or on the record from municipal courts of record **Local Trial** Justice Courts<sup>1</sup> Municipal Courts<sup>1</sup> Courts of (796 Courts - 797 Judges) (954 Courts – 1,261 Judges²) Limited Jurisdiction Civil actions of not more than \$20,000 Criminal misdemeanors punishable by fine only Small claims (no confinement) Evictions Exclusive original jurisdiction over municipal ordinance criminal cases<sup>3</sup> Criminal misdemeanors punishable by fine only (no confinement) Limited civil jurisdiction Magistrate functions Magistrate functions

**Court Structure of Texas** 

- 1. 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.
- 2. Some municipal courts are courts of record—appeals from the courts are taken on the record to the county-level courts. As of May 2024, 205 courts indicated that they were a court of record; a list is posted at <a href="http://www.txcourts.gov/about-texas-courts.aspx">http://www.txcourts.gov/about-texas-courts.aspx</a>.
- 3. 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, (2) \$4,000 for dumping of refuse or (3) \$500 for all others.