

Texas Supreme Court Advisory Committee

**SCAC Subcommittee on Legislative Mandates:
"Rocket Dockets" and "Fast Track" Proceedings
Interim Report – April 26, 2007**

I.

SUBCOMMITTEE'S CHARGE

1. To explore, evaluate, and advise the SCAC on whether and how the implementation of a "rocket docket" or "fast track" proceeding could reduce costs and delays within the Texas state court system.
2. To make recommendations to the SCAC on how a "rocket docket" or "fast track" proceeding could be implemented within the Texas state court system, and how it would work.
3. To explore and advise the SCAC on the benefits and liabilities of the implementation of such a system.

NOTE: Focuses on delay & cost; omits any connection to "vanishing trials" issue.

QUERY: Inclusion of appellate courts within the charge.

II.

ISSUES & TASKS

A. Gather data regarding delay/costs in Texas state trial courts

1. Purpose: Gather data regarding the number/percentage of cases resolved, the time from filing to resolution, and the costs of resolution to courts and litigants, by: (1) manner of resolution (voluntary dismissal, involuntary dismissal, summary judgment, bench trial, jury trial); (2) type of court (justice, county, probate, district); (3) type of case (criminal, civil, family; tort, contract, UDJA, statutory enforcement, etc.); (4) location (region, county, district); (5) discovery level.
2. Report on Data from the Office of Court Administration (OCA)

Members of the Subcommittee met with and obtained data from the OCA, which reports to the Judicial Commission, to see what light their data shed on issues which might or might not be problems and for which a rocket docket might or might not be a solution. One problem that might or might not exist in the judicial system, for which a rocket docket might or might not be a solution, is delay. The OCA collects data in the form of monthly reports from the district court that shed some light on this question. We reviewed OCA data on the age of cases at final disposition, both statewide and in the 10 counties with the highest volume of cases.

We also reviewed Justice Hecht's analysis of similar data in his 2005 S. Tex. L. Rev. article.

Statewide: The data show no clear trends, but indicate a general reduction in lengthy delays. OCA's statewide data on dispositions of civil cases in district courts show reductions over time in the subcategories of the cases taking the longest to resolve. For example, for the period from 1993-2006, the data show decreasing percentages of district court civil cases that took more than 18 months to dispose of (from 23% to 20%) and in those taking 12 -18 months (from 12% to 9%), with corresponding increases in the percentage of cases resolved in 3 months or less. See attached **Exhibit A**. Going farther back, the reductions are even greater. In 1986, for example, 32% of the cases took more than 18 months to resolve.

County Level: Delays vary by county. Similar OCA data on district court civil cases is available on a county-by-county basis back to 1993. This data reveals significant differences from one county to another. See attached **Exhibit B**. Some counties (Harris, Dallas, Travis, El Paso, Hidalgo, Collin) generally show a decrease, over time, in the percentage of cases taking more than 18 months to resolve. Others (Bexar?) appear to show an increase, and others (Tarrant, Denton, Ft. Bend) show fluctuations that reflect no specific trend.

Federal court data do not indicate a significant difference. For purposes of comparison, the United States District Court, Eastern District of Texas, reports that the average time from filing to final disposition of cases in that court was 15.9 months in 2001, 14.0 months in 2002, 17.0 months in 2003, 15.4 months in 2004, 15.9 months in 2005, and 17.7 months in 2006.

The data do not reflect reasons for the changes or variances. The OCA data do not shed light on the reasons for changes in the time to disposition from year to year, or the differences from county to county. Anecdotes and common knowledge suggest various possibilities, but the OCA data do not provide any objective confirmation. For example:

- Did the 1989 reform of workers' compensation remove cases that were more likely to be tried and more likely to take more than 18 months to dispose of than the remaining cases?
- Has an increased use of contractual arbitration clauses removed from the court system disputes that would otherwise have tended to take longer to dispose of than the remaining cases?

- Has an increase in mandatory or nearly mandatory ADR removed cases that would otherwise have tended to take longer to dispose of than the remaining cases?
- Do reductions in delays in specific counties reflect county-specific management changes (such as the mass torts panel in Harris County)?
- Do reductions in delays in specific counties reflect unique caseloads affected by substantive or procedural changes in statewide law (such as asbestos cases in Harris County)?
- Do higher delay percentages in specific counties reflect unique caseloads in those counties (such as administrative appeals in Travis County)?
- Do the puzzling variations from year to year in specific counties reflect mass settlements following bellwether cases, data reporting anomalies, or some other unique circumstances?

Unfortunately, the data do not answer these questions.

Similarly, the data do not address whether or how the type of case affects the length to disposition. The attached data relates to all civil cases in district courts, combined. (OCA has similar data for all criminal cases in district courts, for all county court at law civil cases, and for all county court at law criminal cases.) This civil case data includes family law cases (the largest single subcategory of civil district court cases), as well as tort cases, consumer cases, and business cases. The OCA does collect data on categories of cases. See attached **Exhibit C**. But the age-to-disposition data is not reported separately by type of cases.

Therefore, there could be trends of increasing delays in specific subcategories that are offset by improvements in other subcategories for which a rocket docket would not be appropriate. The OCA data do not allow one to determine whether or not this is happening.

The OCA data provide only limited guidance on the need for, purpose of, or ideal structure of a Rocket Docket. The OCA data appear to be the most data available on the issues we are exploring; but it is of only limited value for our focus on the need for or purpose of a Rocket Docket. The first concern is that the OCA does not track changes in time to disposition for specific subcategories of civil cases (such as mass torts, or business litigation) that may account for large numbers of cases and/or be the focus of concerns about delays for which a Rocket Docket might or might not be a solution. A second focus of concern for which the rocket

docket might or might not be a suitable response is litigation costs. There is no OCA data on litigation costs. A third focus of concern that may lead to private decisions to take potential disputes out of the court system, which the rocket docket might (or might not) encourage people to reconsider, is the perceived arbitrariness of court outcomes, especially in jury trials, either in general or in certain venues. There is no OCA data on this factor.

In summary, the OCA data mean only that we don't know whether there is a delay problem in Texas courts or not, and that we don't know, if there is a delay problem, where and what it is. They don't mean a rocket docket is a bad idea; they just don't by themselves shed any light on delay as a problem for which a rocket docket might (or might not) be an answer. And they don't provide any information on the extent to which costs are a problem that a Rocket Docket could address.

NOTE: Next month, OCA plans to submit proposals to the Judicial Council for rulemaking to improve its collection of data from the courts. No changes have been made in 25 years, and OCA staff would appreciate our suggestions on how to improve the data and collection process.

QUERY: Should SCAC appoint members to work with OCA on this process?

B. Gather information regarding other jurisdictions with “rocket dockets” and “fast track” systems.

1. Purpose: Obtain information to identify: (a) courts in the U.S. that have implemented a “rocket docket” system, (b) rules, procedures, and other features of these “rocket docket” systems, (c) other factors inherent in successful implementation and operation of “rocket dockets,” (d) the impact of these systems on number/percentage of cases resolved, time from filing to resolution, and the cost of resolution to courts and litigants, and (e) perceived pros/cons of the “rocket docket” system.
2. Report on review of articles addressing Rocket Docket systems.

Members of the Subcommittee reviewed 24 law review and journal articles, published between 1981 and 2007, that address rockets dockets within US jurisdictions.

Jurisdictions addressed. These articles discussed delay reduction programs implemented in state courts in San Diego, Ca., Providence, R.I., Detroit, Mi., Las Vegas, Nv., Dayton, Oh., Phoenix, Az., and Vermont (appellate courts), and federal district courts Arkansas (W.D.), California (N.D. and S.D.), Maine, Oklahoma (E.D. and W.D.), Pennsylvania (W.D.), Virginia (E.D.), and Wisconsin (W.D.). Most, but not all, of the

jurisdictions were described as having “troubled” court systems prior to implementation of the fast-track system, lacking significant case management, and often with over-crowded dockets, resulting in lengthy delays.

Rules and Procedures. The various courts adopted a wide variety of rules and procedures intended to move cases to a quicker resolution and reduce the delays and costs of litigation, including:

1. Status conferences required early in the case.
2. Early setting of fixed and immutable trial date.
3. Short discovery period that begins soon after filing of answer(s).
4. Reduced numbers of discovery requests and depositions.
5. Shortened deadlines for discovery responses/objections.
6. Shortened periods for pleading amendments and dispositive motions.
7. Limits on motion practice.
8. Rulings required within short time after hearing/submission
9. No continuances permitted (with rare exceptions) (“short of bleeding to death in the courtroom, you are not going to get a continuance”)
10. Routine penalties/sanctions for delay tactics.
11. Interim scheduling conference(s) during pretrial period.
12. Mediation/settlement conferences occur in parallel with discovery and pretrial.
13. “Short and sweet” trials (chess clock control, strict prohibition of cumulative evidence, stipulations, documentary summaries of evidence like expert qualifications).

Factors that promote successful implementation and operation of Rocket Dockets. Many of the articles focused on the structural, attitudinal, and less tangible factors that are necessary to make a Rocket Docket work, such as:

1. Overarching emphasis on speed of resolution
2. Judges committed to the process and willing to work hard.
3. Focused training required for judges and court staff.
4. Adequate court staffing and resources (judges; magistrate or pro tem judges; Rocket Docket administrators; calendar clerks).
5. Improved case management procedures (“backlog reduction programs”).

6. Oversight to monitor progress of cases and work habits of judges and court staff.
7. Coercion/persuasion from higher courts.
8. Central docket to replace individual dockets.
9. Individual calendars to replace a central docket.
10. Clear communication between court users and judges.
11. Acceptance and commitment by the bar.
12. Leaders (among bench and bar) who promote the concept.
13. Lack of opposition to the concept.
14. Available only upon voluntary and mutual agreement.
15. Implemented through incremental changes.
16. Political support of the program (in jurisdictions with elected judges).

Impact of the Rocket Docket systems. Some of the articles discussed improvements seen in most cases, but often not as much as anticipated.

The early pilot of the project in San Diego courts, for example, saw a substantial improvement in disposition times, disposing of 80% of cases within 18 months, but had hoped to meet an ABA goal of disposing of 90% of cases within 12 months. But the percentage of cases tried within 1 year of filing increased from 19% to 68%, and 97% of the cases were tried within 2 years.

In Maricopa County, Arizona, implementation of a Rocket Docket reduced the median time from filing to disposition from 32.7 months to 20 months.

The E.D. of Virginia faced a backlog of over 750 cases per judge when it implemented a Rocket Docket in 1962, and the average backlog was reduced to 288 case per judge by 1972, and 279 cases per judge by 1982. The median time to trial in 1965 in civil cases was 10 months, and that was reduced to 7 months by 1975, and 5 months by 1981. It has remained relatively constant since then.

Perceived pros/cons of the "rocket docket" system. Several of the articles discussed various reactions regarding the pros and cons of a Rocket Docket system, including:

PROS:

1. Limits time required to resolve disputes.
2. Reduces backlog of cases.
3. Reduces time spent on discovery disputes.
4. Increases overall efficiency.
5. Reduces costs of litigation (?).

CONS:

1. Speed trumps over fairness.
2. Tends to favor the (well-prepared) plaintiff.
3. Deadlines apply well to the average case, but not well at all to some other cases.
4. Expense of litigation goes up because the fast track procedure requires more court appearances to establish and enforce deadlines.

PRO or CON?

1. Requires local counsel experienced with that "rocket docket."

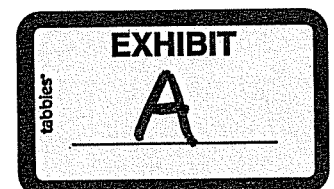
C. Make recommendation for implementation of a Rocket Docket in Texas.

The subcommittee has postponed addressing this task until it completes the prior two. At that time, the subcommittee will discuss and make recommendations to the SCAC on such issues as:

1. In which courts should a Rocket Docket be available (JP, county, probate, district, appellate)?
2. In which types of cases should it be available (criminal, civil, family, juvenile; tort, contract, UDJA, statutory enforcement, etc.)?
3. Should it be posed statewide, or left to local option?
4. Should it be mandatory or optional?
 - a. Mandatory for all cases (or certain types of cases)
 - b. Mandatory if one side requests
 - c. Mandatory if one side requests, subject to court order removing
 - d. Available if both sides agree
 - e. Available if court orders for good cause shown
 - f. Available if court orders based on specified objective criteria
5. What rules and procedures should it include?
6. How should it involve e-filing and e-service?
7. What current rules must be amended or adopted?
8. Should pattern written discovery requests be included?
9. What additional staffing and resources will the courts require?
10. How should it be implemented (transitional steps), i.e.
 - a. Develop support from bench/bar leadership
 - b. Publish proposed rules for comments
 - c. Implement in test courts or counties first
 - d. Implement as optional procedure
11. What pros/cons could be expected?

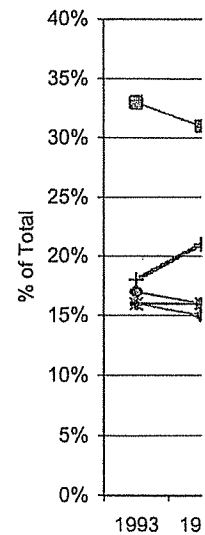
**Age of Civil Cases Disposed
District Courts Statewide**

Year	3 mo or <	3-6 mos	6-12 mos	12-18 mos	>18 mos	Total
1993	27%	20%	18%	12%	23%	100%
1994	27%	20%	19%	11%	23%	100%
1995	27%	21%	18%	10%	24%	100%
1996	26%	19%	19%	12%	24%	100%
1997	27%	20%	19%	11%	23%	100%
1998	28%	20%	20%	11%	22%	101%
1999	27%	20%	20%	10%	23%	100%
2000	27%	19%	20%	10%	23%	99%
2001	28%	19%	21%	10%	22%	100%
2002	29%	19%	22%	10%	20%	100%
2003	31%	19%	21%	11%	19%	101%
2004	31%	19%	21%	10%	19%	100%
2005	33%	19%	20%	9%	19%	100%
2006	32%	19%	21%	9%	20%	101%
Average	29%	20%	20%	10%	22%	100%



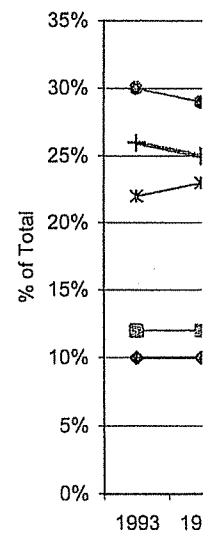
Harris County

Year	3 mo or <	3-6 mos	6-12 mos	12-18 mos	>18 mos	Total
1993	16%	16%	18%	17%	33%	100%
1994	16%	15%	21%	16%	31%	99%
1995	16%	16%	20%	14%	34%	100%
1996	16%	14%	24%	18%	27%	99%
1997	20%	21%	28%	15%	16%	100%
1998	20%	21%	29%	17%	14%	101%
1999	20%	23%	30%	14%	13%	100%
2000	18%	22%	30%	17%	13%	100%
2001	19%	22%	32%	16%	11%	100%
2002	21%	20%	34%	15%	10%	100%
2003	22%	18%	33%	17%	10%	100%
2004	21%	19%	33%	18%	9%	100%
2005	22%	23%	31%	12%	12%	100%
2006	21%	22%	32%	12%	13%	100%
Average	19%	19%	28%	16%	18%	100%



Dallas County

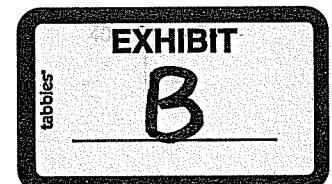
Year	3 mo or <	3-6 mos	6-12 mos	12-18 mos	>18 mos	Total
1993	22%	30%	26%	10%	12%	100%
1994	23%	29%	25%	10%	12%	99%
1995	22%	29%	24%	10%	15%	100%
1996	21%	28%	25%	11%	15%	100%
1997	18%	26%	26%	12%	18%	100%
1998	18%	24%	26%	12%	21%	101%
1999	17%	24%	25%	11%	23%	100%
2000	18%	25%	28%	12%	17%	100%
2001	19%	24%	28%	12%	17%	100%
2002	19%	22%	29%	12%	18%	100%
2003	18%	22%	29%	14%	17%	100%
2004	20%	23%	28%	12%	17%	100%
2005	20%	24%	29%	12%	15%	100%
2006	29%	21%	30%	10%	10%	100%
Average	20%	25%	27%	11%	16%	100%



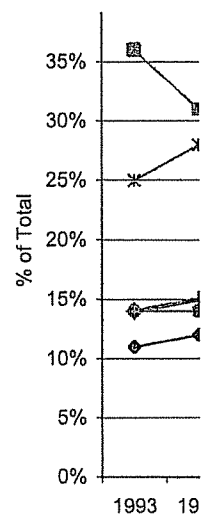
Tarrant County

Year	3 mo or <	3-6 mos	6-12 mos	12-18 mos	>18 mos	Total
1993	25%	14%	14%	11%	36%	100%
1994	28%	14%	15%	12%	31%	100%

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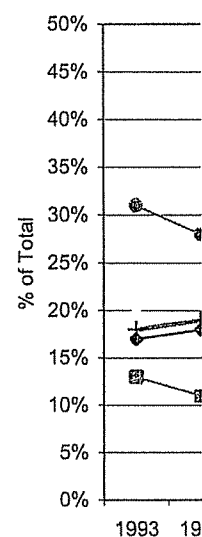


1995	27%	16%	16%	10%	32%	101%
1996	26%	16%	18%	10%	29%	99%
1997	24%	15%	17%	9%	35%	100%
1998	26%	15%	17%	10%	33%	101%
1999	25%	16%	18%	10%	32%	101%
2000	27%	16%	19%	10%	29%	101%
2001	26%	15%	20%	9%	30%	100%
2002	28%	14%	20%	9%	29%	100%
2003	29%	14%	20%	9%	28%	100%
2004	29%	15%	19%	9%	27%	99%
2005	28%	14%	19%	9%	29%	99%
2006	21%	22%	32%	12%	13%	100%
Average	26%	15%	19%	10%	30%	100%



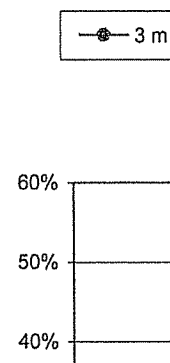
Bexar County

Year	3 mo or <	3-6 mos	6-12 mos	12-18 mos	>18 mos	Total
1993	31%	18%	17%	13%	20%	99%
1994	28%	19%	18%	11%	24%	100%
1995	24%	17%	14%	12%	34%	101%
1996	24%	16%	16%	11%	33%	100%
1997	36%	18%	15%	9%	21%	99%
1998	40%	17%	16%	9%	17%	99%
1999	33%	16%	15%	5%	30%	99%
2000	25%	12%	15%	4%	44%	100%
2001	25%	14%	17%	6%	38%	100%
2002	28%	14%	16%	6%	36%	100%
2003	32%	15%	16%	6%	32%	101%
2004	35%	14%	17%	5%	30%	101%
2005	36%	13%	18%	5%	28%	100%
2006	31%	12%	16%	6%	35%	100%
Average	31%	15%	16%	8%	30%	100%

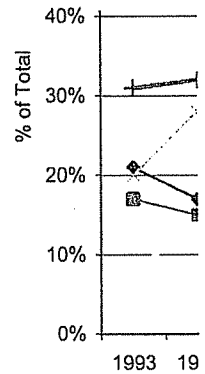


Travis County

Year	3 mo or <	3-6 mos	6-12 mos	12-18 mos	>18 mos	Total
1993	31%	21%	17%	11%	20%	100%
1994	32%	17%	15%	8%	28%	100%
1995	32%	17%	16%	9%	26%	100%
1996	30%	17%	17%	9%	27%	100%
1997	22%	12%	11%	6%	49%	100%
1998	25%	13%	13%	8%	40%	99%
1999	30%	15%	14%	7%	34%	100%
2000	30%	14%	13%	7%	37%	101%

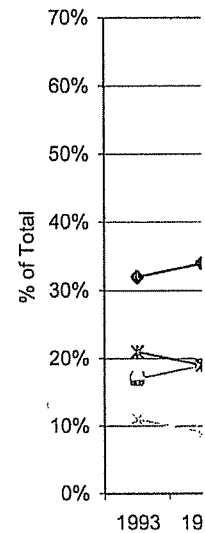


2001	29%	14%	13%	6%	37%	99%
2002	30%	17%	14%	7%	33%	101%
2003	31%	17%	16%	9%	27%	100%
2004	28%	14%	17%	9%	32%	100%
2005	34%	17%	15%	8%	26%	100%
2006	37%	18%	17%	7%	21%	100%
Average	30%	16%	15%	8%	31%	100%



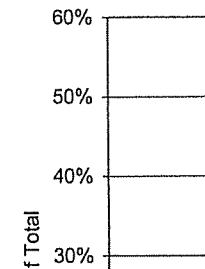
El Paso County

Year	3 mo or <	3-6 mos	6-12 mos	12-18 mos	>18 mos	Total
1993	32%	17%	18%	11%	21%	99%
1994	34%	19%	19%	9%	19%	100%
1995	36%	18%	17%	10%	21%	102%
1996	35%	15%	15%	11%	25%	101%
1997	33%	14%	17%	12%	24%	100%
1998	50%	12%	13%	8%	17%	100%
1999						0% No data
2000	29%	25%	11%	8%	27%	100%
2001	40%	19%	18%	10%	13%	100%
2002	40%	21%	19%	8%	11%	99%
2003	41%	20%	18%	8%	12%	99%
2004	34%	22%	22%	11%	11%	100%
2005	55%	19%	13%	6%	7%	100%
2006	65%	23%	11%	1%	0%	100%
Average	40%	19%	16%	9%	16%	100%



Hidalgo County

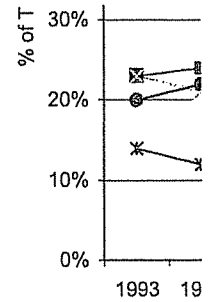
Year	3 mo or <	3-6 mos	6-12 mos	12-18 mos	>18 mos	Total
1993	23%	19%	23%	14%	20%	99%
1994	24%	20%	21%	12%	22%	99%
1995	25%	25%	19%	11%	20%	100%
1996	22%	24%	18%	13%	23%	100%
1997	20%	25%	22%	10%	22%	99%
1998	18%	23%	28%	12%	19%	100%
1999	17%	21%	24%	11%	27%	100%
2000	18%	19%	25%	9%	29%	100%
2001	19%	20%	28%	13%	21%	101%
2002	20%	16%	26%	12%	26%	100%
2003	32%	22%	19%	10%	17%	100%
2004	40%	25%	29%	6%	1%	101%
2005	42%	22%	20%	8%	8%	100%
2006	48%	20%	16%	6%	10%	100%



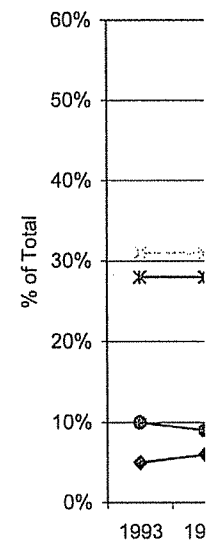
Average	26%	22%	23%	11%	19%	100%
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Collin County

Year	3 mo or <	3-6 mos	6-12 mos	12-18 mos	>18 mos	Total
1993	27%	31%	28%	10%	5%	101%
1994	26%	31%	28%	9%	6%	100%
1995	29%	30%	27%	9%	5%	100%
1996	29%	29%	28%	8%	6%	100%
1997	29%	27%	27%	10%	6%	99%
1998	28%	24%	29%	12%	7%	100%
1999	30%	29%	27%	9%	6%	101%
2000	32%	28%	26%	9%	5%	100%
2001	33%	28%	26%	8%	5%	100%
2002	35%	27%	25%	9%	4%	100%
2003	40%	24%	23%	8%	5%	100%
2004	48%	20%	22%	6%	4%	100%
2005	49%	21%	19%	7%	4%	100%
2006	49%	21%	20%	7%	3%	100%
Average	35%	26%	25%	9%	5%	100%



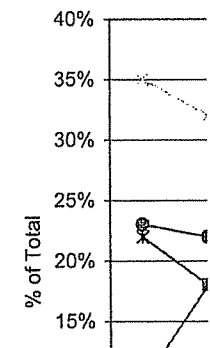
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Denton County

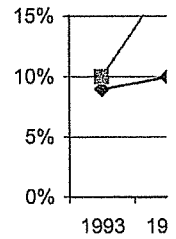
Year	3 mo or <	3-6 mos	6-12 mos	12-18 mos	>18 mos	Total
1993	35%	22%	23%	9%	10%	99%
1994	32%	18%	22%	10%	18%	100%
1995	27%	16%	17%	12%	28%	100%
1996	31%	19%	21%	11%	19%	101%
1997	31%	20%	24%	14%	11%	100%
1998	30%	21%	25%	12%	11%	99%
1999	29%	19%	20%	11%	21%	100%
2000	32%	19%	19%	9%	20%	99%
2001	34%	23%	24%	10%	9%	100%
2002	36%	21%	24%	10%	9%	100%
2003	35%	22%	25%	10%	8%	100%
2004	38%	21%	23%	10%	9%	101%
2005	38%	19%	22%	10%	11%	100%
2006	35%	19%	21%	11%	13%	99%
Average	33%	20%	22%	11%	14%	100%



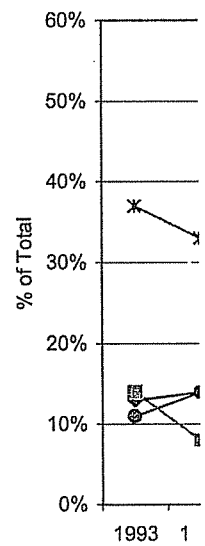
Fort Bend County

Year	3 mo or <	3-6 mos	6-12 mos	12-18 mos	>18 mos	Total
1993	37%	11%	13%	14%	25%	100%

1994	33%	14%	14%	8%	31%	100%
1995	49%	17%	15%	9%	11%	101%
1996	36%	15%	13%	10%	25%	99%
1997	35%	14%	16%	12%	23%	100%
1998	39%	18%	20%	9%	14%	100%
1999	34%	16%	18%	13%	19%	100%
2000	38%	16%	17%	13%	17%	101%
2001	33%	15%	14%	12%	26%	100%
2002	31%	13%	13%	10%	33%	100%
2003	35%	14%	14%	8%	29%	100%
2004	32%	15%	14%	6%	33%	100%
2005	33%	13%	12%	8%	34%	100%
2006	28%	12%	12%	8%	40%	100%
Average	35%	15%	15%	10%	26%	100%



x 3



x 3

District Courts
Activity Summary by Case Type from September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006

CIVIL CASES											
	Injury or Damage Involving Motor Vehicle	Injury or Damage Other than Motor	Workers Compensation	Tax Cases	Condemnation	Accounts, Contracts and Notes	Reciprocals (UIFSA)	Divorce	All Other Family Law Matters	Other Civil Cases	Total Cases
Cases on Docket:											
Cases Pending 9/01/2005	25,027	36,283	1,958	132,485	1,476	47,102	5,009	90,637	208,293	118,594	665,864
Docket Adjustments	(382)	(499)	(30)	(3,746)	(25)	(736)	(629)	(2,904)	(2,893)	(27,851)	(37,145)
New Cases Filed	15,069	14,167	451	57,612	296	41,149	2,687	116,478	131,100	64,596	443,605
Other Cases Reaching Docket:											
Show Causes Added	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	121,953	0	121,953
Other Cases Added	509	2,048	52	5,761	2	981	150	3,926	67,217	3,256	89,902
Total Cases on Docket:	40,273	51,999	2,431	192,112	1,749	88,496	7,717	208,137	527,670	158,595	1,278,179
Dispositions:											
Change of Venue Transfers	100	770	6	21	0	269	20	287	1,147	475	3,095
Default Judgments	386	337	17	11,045	10	9,750	197	8,731	7,488	6,606	44,567
Agreed Judgments	2,417	2,029	43	1,379	25	3,015	363	34,742	25,572	8,910	78,505
Summary Judgments	184	543	30	224	21	1,306	7	100	2,115	3,080	5,590
Final Judgments:											
After Trial - No Jury	1,571	1,101	51	12,302	64	2,963	919	45,779	237,688	11,306	113,744
By Jury Verdicts	439	329	19	56	3	143	6	124	107	248	1,474
By Directed Verdicts	8	12	0	24	0	20	11	60	207	106	448
Dismissed for Want of	1,996	2,205	69	5,801	6	5,843	313	16,490	12,685	6,061	51,469
Dismissed by Plaintiff	6,728	5,910	136	27,109	54	11,763	504	5,377	20,116	13,310	91,007
Show Causes Disposed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	116,518	0	116,518
Other Dispositions	1,245	2,250	46	5,311	18	3,404	245	3,802	15,420	9,655	41,396
Total Dispositions	15,074	15,486	417	63,272	191	38,476	2,585	115,492	237,063	59,757	547,813
Cases Pending 8/31/2006	25,199	36,513	2,014	128,840	558	50,020	5,132	92,645	290,607	98,838	730,366

Court Jury Activity:

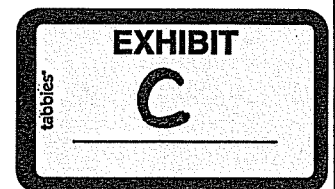
Jury Fee Paid/Oath	23,497	Age of Cases Disposed:	3 Months or Less	Over 3 to 6 Months	Over 6 to 12 Months	Over 12 to 18 Months	Over 18 Months	TOTAL
Jury Panel Examined	1,634							
Jury Sworn Evid. Presented	1,617		Number of Cases	177,288	101,769	113,815	47,710	107,231

JUVENILE DOCKET

Cases on Docket:	CINS	Delin	Total	Findings of Delinquent Conduct or CINS:	CINS	Delin	Total
Cases Pending 9/01/2005	452	17,948	18,400				
Docket Adjustments	5	91	96	Placed on Probation:			
New Petitions Filed	679	29,862	30,541	Under Parental Care	293	15,812	16,105
Motion to Revoke Probation Filed	119	5,310	5,429	Under Foster Care	0	151	151
Other Cases Added	11	4,485	4,496	Residential Facility	41	5,063	5,104
Total on Docket	1,266	57,696	58,962	Committed to TYC	0	2,453	2,453
Dispositions:				Final Judgment Without Disp.	9	633	642
Finding of Delinquent Conduct/CINS:				Total	343	24,112	24,455
Trials by Judge	286	19,932	20,218	Other Juvenile Court Activity:			
Trials by Jury	1	44	45	Detention Hearings	931	23,518	24,449
Finding of No Delinquent Conduct/CINS:				Hearing to Modify Order	21	812	833
Trials by Judge	0	251	251	Child Certified for Adult Crim. Court	0	251	251
Trials by Jury	0	14	14	Attorneys Appointed	503	19,252	19,755
Directed Verdicts	0	7	7				
Probation Revoked	3	2,267	2,270				
Continue on Probation	44	1,858	1,902				
Change of Venue Transfer	2	159	161				
Dismissed & Other Dispositions	418	12,788	13,206				
Total	754	37,320	38,074				
Cases Pending 8/31/2006	512	20,376	20,888				

OTHER PROCEEDINGS

	Post-Conviction Writs of Habeas Corpus	Other Writs of Habeas Corpus	Contempt, Extradition and Other Separately Docketed Proceedings	Bond Forfeiture Proceedings
Pending 9/01/2005	12,181	3,165	2,880	34,518
Docket Adjustments	183	269	19	1,298
Total Added	4,559	13,813	6,153	8,748
Total Disposed	3,901	13,278	4,421	8,281
Pending 8/31/2006	13,022	3,969	4,631	36,283



District Courts

Activity Summary by Case Type from September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006

CRIMINAL CASES																
Cases on Docket:	Capital Murder	Murder	Assault or Attempted Murder	Sexual Assault of Adult	Indecency with or Sexual Assault of Child	Robbery	Burglary	Theft	Auto Theft	Arson	Drug Sale or Manufacture	Drug Possession	Felony DWI	Other Felony	All Misdemeanors	Total Cases
Cases Pending 9/01/2005	845	2,752	18,841	2,592	10,901	7,386	18,609	25,658	5,806	1,109	18,674	47,567	12,568	49,505	6,141	228,954
Docket Adjustments	(53)	12	(660)	(59)	(185)	(168)	(599)	(373)	(166)	(21)	(1,129)	(317)	(174)	73	559	(3,260)
Cases Filed by Indictment	486	1,158	17,072	1,300	5,775	6,695	19,053	16,026	4,266	625	15,266	36,097	9,628	43,822	11,006	172,273
Cases Filed by Information	10	32	1,944	80	230	470	2,262	3,007	1,190	93	3,388	14,195	992	6,430	3,993	38,316
Other Cases Reaching Docket:																
Motions to Revoke Probation Filed	119	134	4,615	292	1,434	1,680	5,960	4,436	1,290	297	4,357	15,145	3,211	11,616	747	55,233
Shock Probation Returned from TDCJ/ID	0	3	65	6	25	69	130	39	4	9	139	143	32	118	19	801
Transfers from Other Counties	0	1		1	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	8	0	20
All Other Cases	45	120	823	81	95	355	465	551	102	57	821	436	201	3,038	335	7,223
Total Cases on Docket:	1,350	4,212	42,701	4,293	18,276	16,487	39,880	49,344	12,492	2,169	41,518	113,269	26,459	114,610	12,500	499,560
Dispositions:																
Convictions:																
Guilty Pleas or Nolo Contendere	127	490	8,364	398	2,013	4,037	8,930	10,222	3,395	317	10,906	28,320	7,750	24,756	2,369	111,809
Not Guilty Plea - No Jury	18	17	55	7	37	20	69	61	24	4	59	120	72	138	27	711
Guilty Plea - Jury Verdict	3	49	76	11	96	88	27	17	6	3	47	60	30	134	4	651
Not Guilty Plea - Jury Verdict	193	201	289	73	373	251	102	71	313	10	188	235	91	414	16	2,425
Total Convictions	241	757	8,784	489	2,519	4,396	9,528	10,371	3,438	334	11,200	28,735	7,943	25,442	2,416	115,596
Placed on Deferred Adjudication	11	43	1,623	246	1,189	1,026	3,561	3,968	759	194	4,099	11,646	344	10,676	726	43,111
Acquittals:																
Non - Jury Trial	0	7	40	5	0	14	16	26	10	1	14	52	17	100	7	316
Jury Verdict	7	32	92	30	119	34	26	25	3	6	21	73	26	120	24	638
Directed Verdict or JNOV	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	3	0	1	3	5	2	9	1	31
Total Acquittals	7	39	132	36	121	50	43	54	13	8	38	130	45	229	32	985
Dismissals:																
Insufficient Evidence	2	7	203	44	115	69	157	198	75	10	163	815	63	741	115	2,777
Conviction in Another Case	32	30	987	120	457	356	703	717	306	30	713	2,038	213	3,326	408	10,438
Speedy Trial Act Limitation	0	0	7	1	1	0	4	4	3	0	3	4	5	26	1	59
Case Refiled	145	64	356	68	160	136	169	190	24	12	186	360	129	648	29	2,576
Defendant Unapprehended	0	1	19	1	5	11	24	45	6	0	24	134	19	85	1	375
Defendant Granted Immunity	0	0	1	0	3	2	16	3	1	0	4	6	4	4	5	37
Other Dismissals	46	131	2,377	283	789	575	1,445	2,096	544	82	1,127	4,201	533	5,857	1,922	22,008
Total Dismissals	125	233	3,950	517	1,528	1,149	2,508	3,253	959	134	2,222	7,558	966	10,687	2,481	38,270
Transfers:																
On Change of Venue	0	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	4	7	16	39
To County Court	15	0	80	6	8	14	37	69	14	1	2	44	74	241	329	920
Other Dispositions:																
Placed on Shock Probation	0	8	75	11	26	69	145	40	7	4	150	145	43	155	2	880
Motion to Revoke Granted	16	49	2,463	173	690	957	3,553	2,420	1,881	147	2,944	7,910	1,587	6,450	1,414	30,654
Motion to Revoke Denied	0	37	1,553	100	502	574	1,738	1,503	308	136	1,060	5,051	997	3,810	204	17,575
All Other Dispositions	15	137	1,134	102	178	447	865	847	191	62	1,062	1,397	403	4,045	46	10,961
Total Other Dispositions	31	231	5,227	386	1,396	2,047	6,301	4,810	1,387	349	5,216	14,503	3,030	14,460	1,666	60,070
Total Dispositions	451	1,304	22,797	1,680	6,770	8,682	20,978	22,525	6,570	1,020	22,778	62,622	12,406	61,742	16,666	258,991
Cases Pending 8/31/2006	899	2,908	19,904	2,613	11,506	7,805	18,902	26,819	5,922	1,149	18,740	50,647	14,053	52,868	5,834	240,569
Sentencing Information:																
Death Sentence	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
Life Sentence	89	52	1,253	21	62	34	175	1	30	0	6	4	3	25	0	337
Lesser Offense Convictions	80	98	3,246	94	380	1,225	1,290	1,482	261	79	1,507	3,202	671	4,028	172	17,721
Cases - Unapprehended Defendants																
69,025																
Additional Court Activity:																
			Age of Cases Disposed:			60 Days or Less		61 to 90 Days		91 to 120 Days		Over 120 Days		TOTAL		
Jury Panels Examined			3,913			84,410		25,972		22,791		125,818		258,991		
Jury Sworn & Evidence Presented			3,484													
Cases in Which Attorney Appointed			169,998													

County-Level Courts
Activity Summary by Case Type
September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006

CIVIL CASES								
Cases on Docket:	Injury or Damage Involving Motor Vehicle	Injury or Damage Other than Motor Vehicle	Tax Cases	Suits on Debt	Divorce	All Other Family Law Matters	Other Civil Cases	Total Cases
Cases Pending 9/01/2005	23,712	7,452	2,172	70,496	9,323	16,182	70,222	199,559
Docket Adjustments	(534)	(106)	77	(2,388)	(319)	(326)	(2,317)	(5,913)
New Cases Filed	13,420	3,211	691	70,751	11,291	10,492	51,412	161,268
Cases Appealed From Lower Courts	26	91	1	337	0	0	2,806	3,261
Show Cause Motions Filed	0	0	0	0	0	8,800	0	8,800
Other Cases Added	462	64	1	1,371	892	1,469	8,646	4,905
Total Cases on Docket	37,086	10,712	2,942	140,567	21,187	36,617	122,769	371,880
Dispositions:								
Default Judgments	1,447	271	59	21,885	512	639	5,123	29,936
Agreed Judgments	1,074	252	67	3,406	2,951	1,347	6,208	15,305
Judg. After Trial - No Jury	1,293	338	259	4,078	6,262	4,410	7,375	24,013
Judg. by Jury Verdicts	289	33	0	94	193	253	104	917
Dismissed for Want of Prosecution or by Plaintiff	8,400	1,751	619	26,358	1,480	2,512	10,960	51,780
Show Causes Disposed	0	0	0	0	0	9,491	0	9,491
Other Dispositions	1,712	617	24	3,700	296	1,929	14,028	23,006
Total Dispositions	14,165	3,262	729	59,521	11,694	20,581	44,496	154,448
Cases Pending 8/31/2006	22,921	7,450	2,213	81,046	9,493	16,036	78,273	217,432
Age of Cases Disposed	3 Months or Less	Over 3 to 6 Months	Over 6 to 12 Months	Over 12 to 18 Months	Over 18 Months	TOTAL		
Number of Cases	49,472	37,918	36,512	13,014	17,532	154,448		

JUVENILE CASES								
Cases on Docket:	CINS	Delin	Total	Findings of Delinquent Conduct or CINS:	CINS	Delin	Total	
Cases Pending 9/01/2005	1,077	4,380	5,457					
Docket Adjustments	1,124	(242)	882					
New Petitions Filed	810	7,190	8,000	Placed on Probation				
Motions to Revoke Filed	11	563	574	Under Parental Care	541	4,042	4,583	
Other Cases Added	20	317	337	Under Foster Care	0	19	19	
				Residential Facility	19	601	620	
Total on Docket	3,042	12,208	15,250					
Dispositions:				Committed to TYC	0	464	464	
Find Delin Cond/CINS				Judgment No Disp.	6	240	246	
Trials by Judge	555	4,946	5,501	Total	566	5,366	5,932	
Trials by Jury	1	43	44					
Find No Delin Cond/CINS				Other Juvenile Court Activity:				
Trials by Judge	13	14	27	Detention Hearings	786	9,420	10,206	
Trials by Jury	0	16	16	Hearing to Modify Order	34	1,010	1,044	
Directed Verdicts	0	1	1	Child Cert. as Adult	0	42	42	
Probation Revoked	2	250	252	Attorneys Appointed	702	5,713	6,415	
Continue on Probation	8	127	135					
Change of Venue Transfer	37	80	117					
Dismissed & Other Disp.	232	2,310	2,542					
Total Dispositions	848	7,787	8,635					
Cases Pending 8/31/2006	2,194	4,421	6,615					

County-Level Courts
Activity Summary by Case Type
September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006

CRIMINAL CASES							
Cases on Docket:	DWI or DUID	Theft or Worthless Check	Drug Offenses	Assault	Traffic	Other Criminal Cases	Total Cases
Cases Pending 9/01/2005	118,867	256,078	50,806	55,616	54,777	138,648	674,792
Docket Adjustments	(826)	(1,009)	(160)	(480)	60	99	(2,316)
New Cases Filed	87,418	108,659	73,629	52,595	62,931	172,362	557,594
Cases Appealed From Lower Courts	0	204	110	109	26,802	2,699	29,924
Other Cases Reaching Docket:							
Motions to Revoke Filed	12,915	9,896	9,551	6,420	3,356	12,245	54,383
All Other Cases Reaching Docket	506	844	539	985	317	1,215	4,406
Total Cases on Docket	218,880	374,672	134,475	115,245	148,243	327,268	1,318,783
Dispositions:							
Convictions:							
Guilty Pleas or Nolo Contendere	64,765	39,185	35,489	22,230	30,265	94,905	286,839
Not Guilty Plea - No Jury	239	177	73	111	111	237	948
Guilty Plea - Jury Verdict	144	52	52	61	31	128	468
Not Guilty Plea - Jury Verdict	861	44	40	197	59	241	1,442
Total Convictions	66,009	39,458	35,654	22,599	30,466	95,511	289,697
Placed on Deferred Adjudication	698	15,347	14,705	7,330	22,514	19,178	79,772
Acquittals:							
Non - Jury Trial	276	47	46	195	50	177	791
Jury Verdict	624	37	28	252	18	189	1,148
Directed Verdict or JNOV	23	6	3	9	4	12	57
Total Acquittals	923	90	77	456	72	378	1,996
Dismissals:							
Insufficient Evidence	978	943	683	953	2,062	1,922	7,541
Speedy Trial Act Limitation	1,030	1,368	759	715	634	1,318	5,824
Other Dismissals	14,481	53,302	16,910	18,595	22,971	47,344	173,603
Total Dismissals	16,489	55,613	18,352	20,263	25,667	50,584	186,968
Other Dispositions:							
Motion to Revoke Granted	6,437	5,331	5,744	3,626	1,610	6,869	29,617
Motion to Revoke Denied	3,620	2,091	1,671	1,084	491	2,163	11,120
All Other Dispositions	2,559	2,553	2,421	1,801	3,469	4,889	17,692
Total Other Dispositions	12,616	9,975	9,836	6,511	5,570	13,921	58,429
Total Dispositions	96,735	120,483	78,624	57,159	84,289	179,572	616,862
Cases Pending 8/31/2006	122,145	254,189	55,851	58,086	63,954	147,696	701,921
Cases - Unapprehended Defendants							271,023
Cases Where Attorney Appointed as Counsel							139,601
Age of Cases Disposed	30 Days or Less	31 to 60 Days	61 to 90 Days	Over 90 Days	TOTAL		
Number of Cases	150,408	73,653	57,933	334,868	616,862		
PROBATE AND MENTAL HEALTH CASES							
	Cases Filed	Hearings Held					
Probate	58,943	77,182					
Mental Health	32,849	33,837					