

A photograph of a modern, multi-story building with a prominent glass entrance. The building has a light-colored upper section and a darker lower section. In the foreground, there is a large, well-maintained rose garden with various colors of roses, including pink, red, and yellow. Two green lampposts are visible on either side of the garden. The sky is a clear, light blue.

OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION

DAVID SLAYTON · ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

WHAT IS OCA?

- **Texas Government Code Chapter 72**
- **Under direction and supervision of Supreme Court and Chief Justice**
 - **Powers and Duties**
 - ❖ **Budgets and expenditures**
 - ❖ **Personnel**
 - ❖ **Consultation and assistance**
 - ❖ **Examine methods and make recommendations**
 - ❖ **Annual Report**
 - ❖ **Rules**
 - ❖ **Grants**
 - ❖ **Data Collection**
 - ❖ **Court fees and costs**
 - ❖ **Electronic Filing System**
 - ❖ **Court Performance Standards**

WHO IS OCA?

- **MISSION**
 - **To provide resources and information for the efficient administration of the Judicial Branch in Texas**
- **Exemplify the highest standards of ethical and professional conduct.**
- **Advocate and practice efficient and collaborative administration**
- **Provide prompt, courteous and competent service**

RESOURCES

- **Trial Courts:**
 - Technical assistance, training, and research on court administration, court interpreters, and funding and standards for indigent defense
- **Appellate and Specialty Courts:**
 - Information technology solutions and fiscal consultation;
- **Judicial Branch Regulatory Boards and Policymaking Bodies:**
 - Staffing and support
- **Specialty Courts and the Regional Presiding Judges:**
 - Staffing and administration

INFORMATION

- **The judicial information website, Texas Courts Online;**
- **Statistics and analysis of court information and case activity;**
- **Descriptions of court system structure and jurisdiction; and**
- **Reports and studies about the courts and judiciary.**

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- **Judicial Branch Certification Commission**
- **eFileTexas.gov**
- **Texas Indigent Defense Commission**
- **Texas Court Remote Interpreter Service**
- **Guardianship Compliance Project**
- **Forensic Science Commission**
- **Court Security**

JUDICIAL BRANCH CERTIFICATION COMMISSION

- **Created in 2013**
- **Nine members appointed by the Supreme Court.**
- **Oversees the certification, registration and licensing of:**
 - **Court reporters and court reporting firms**
 - **Guardians and Guardianship Programs**
 - **Process servers**
 - **Licensed court interpreters**
 - **Registration of Guardianships throughout the State of Texas.**

FORENSIC SCIENCE COMMISSION

- **Three main responsibilities:**
 1. **Investigate** allegations of professional negligence and misconduct
 2. **Accredit** crime laboratories
 3. **License** forensic scientists who perform analysis on behalf of these accredited labs.
- **Nine members appointed by the Governor.**
- **Administratively attached to OCA.**

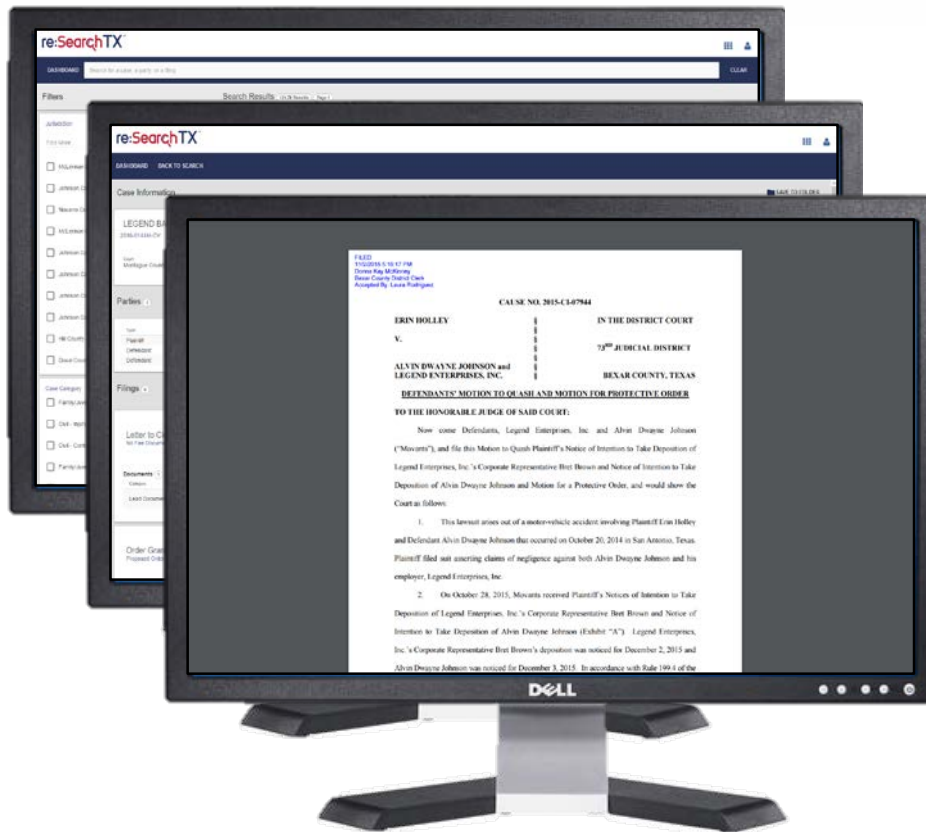
EFILETEXAS

- **Mandatory e-filing in civil cases for attorneys filing into civil cases in appellate, district or county courts.**
 - **Available but not mandatory for self-represented litigants.**
- **Mandatory e-filing in criminal cases pursuant to a schedule that began on July 1, 2017 and continues through January 1, 2020.**
- **eFileTexas.gov is funded through a per-case fee passed by the 83rd Legislature. This allows the system to be cost neutral to for the filer.**
 - **Grants to counties to integrate with the e-Filing system also allowed.**

re:SearchTX – Public Access to Court Records

Summary

- Search for case records through all jurisdictions across the state of Texas
- View the register of actions of a case including parties, attorneys, case events and more
- View all case documents online
- \$0.10/page up to \$6 sent to counties



TEXAS INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION

- **Provides financial and technical support to counties to develop and maintain quality, cost-effective indigent defense systems that meet the needs of local communities and the requirements of the Constitution and state law.**
- **Standing committee of the Texas Judicial Council.**
- **Administratively attached to OCA.**



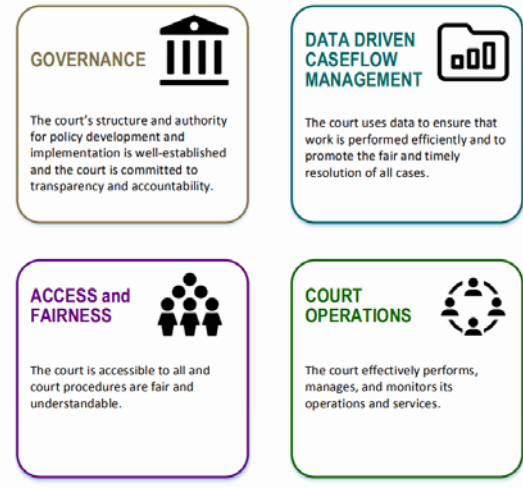
TEXAS COURT REMOTE INTERPRETER SERVICE

- **Assists courts in providing meaningful access for Limited English Proficiency individuals.**
- **Experienced Texas Licensed Court Interpreters provide services in all case types for short, non-evidentiary hearings that typically last 30 minutes or less.**
- **Used in courtroom hearings, judge's chambers, and attorney-client conferences right before a hearing for just the cost of a phone call or by videoconference.**

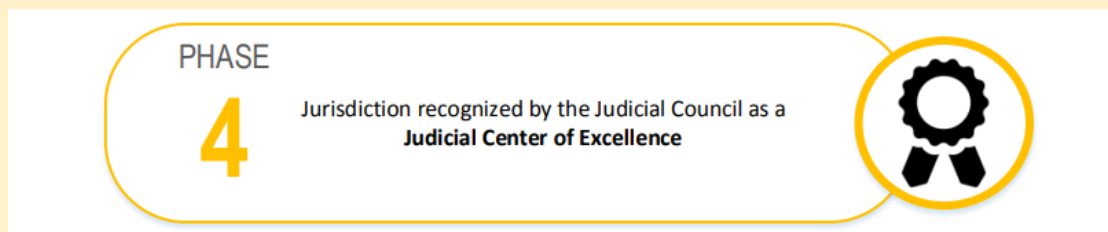
COURT SECURITY

- Senate Bill 42 - "Judge Julie Kocurek Judicial and Courthouse Security Act of 2017"
- Designed to improve the security of judges at all levels, both in their courthouses and at their homes.
- OCA's Court Security Division:
 - Supports the establishment of court security committees through training and technical assistance;
 - Assists courts with conducting and reviewing security and emergency preparedness assessments and developing improvement plans; and
 - Supports the implementation of privacy protections for judges by facilitating the restriction of public access to the residence address of a judge or judge's spouse.

CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE



- The Centers of Excellence Program supports judicial leaders looking to improve the administrative performance of their courts and to improve compliance with critical administrative requirements. The program is open to all district, county, justice and municipal courts.
- The program supports the assessment and improvement of performance in four areas: Governance, Data-Driven Caseflow Management, Access and Fairness, and Court Operations.
- Courts that successfully complete the four-phase program will be recognized by the Judicial Council as a Judicial Center of Excellence.



QUESTIONS

