

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

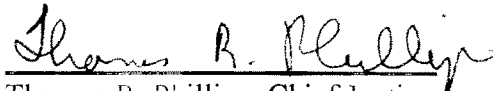
Misc. Docket No. 02 -- **9147**


APPROVAL OF THE LOCAL RULES OF THE COUNTY COURTS AT LAW OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

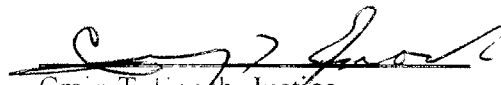
ORDERED that:

Pursuant to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 3a, the Supreme Court of Texas approves the attached Local Rules of the County Courts at Law of Montgomery County, Texas. The approval of these rules is temporary pending further orders of the Court.

SIGNED AND ENTERED this 26th day of July, 2002.


Thomas R. Phillips, Chief Justice

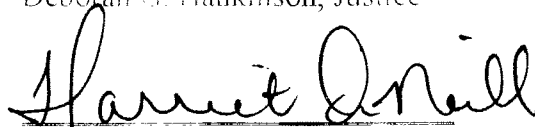

Nathan L. Hecht, Justice


Craig T. Enoch, Justice

Priscilla R. Owen, Justice

James A. Baker, Justice

Deborah G. Hankinson, Justice



Harriet O'Neill, Justice



Wallace B. Jefferson, Justice



Xavier Rodriguez, Justice

Local Rules of the County Courts at Law of Montgomery County, Texas

Purpose

The primary purpose of the Local Rules of the County Courts at Law of Montgomery County is the management of the court dockets sensibly, efficiently and fairly. These rules are to be an aid to the just disposition of cases without unnecessary delay or expense.

Rule 1

Application, Jurisdiction and Filing

Rule 1.1 Application

These rules apply to all cases, including civil, criminal, probate, mental health code, and family which the County Courts at Law have exclusive jurisdiction or concurrent jurisdiction with the District Courts of Montgomery County, Texas.

Rule 1.2 Jurisdiction

A. Exclusive Jurisdiction

Exclusive jurisdiction of County Courts at Law encompasses matters defined by statute, rules of court, case law or these rules as the sole province of County Courts at Law.

B. Concurrent Jurisdiction

Concurrent jurisdiction of the District Courts with the County Courts at Law is set forth in Section 25.1722 (a) of the Texas Government Code and other applicable law.

Rule 1.3 Assignment of Cases

A. Equal Assignment

The District Clerk or County Clerk shall assign cases equally among the courts on a rotation basis unless specifically instructed otherwise by these rules.

B. Assignment of Exclusive Jurisdiction Cases

The County Clerk shall assign cases of exclusive jurisdiction to the County Courts at Law.

C. Assignment of Concurrent Jurisdiction Cases

The District Clerk shall assign cases of concurrent jurisdiction to the District Courts and the County Courts at Law.

Rule 2
Local Administrative County Court at Law Judge

Rule 2.1 Powers and Duties of Local Administrative County Court at Law Judge

A. Election of the Administrative Judge

Pursuant to Section 74.091 of the Texas Government Code, a majority of the County Courts at Law Judges will elect a Local Administrative County Court at Law Judge for a one-year term at the December meeting of each year to commence on January 1st of the following year.

B. Duties

The Local Administrative County Court at Law Judge will have the duties and responsibilities provided in Government Code Section 74.092.

C. Meetings of the Judges of the County

The Local Administrative County Court at Law Judge or a majority of the County Courts at Law Judges shall call meetings of the Judges as needed. The Local Administrative County Court at Law Judge shall preside over such meetings, and in his/her absence, a temporary chairperson may be elected by a majority of the quorum.

Rule 3
Civil Cases

Rule 3.1 General

A. Concurrent Jurisdiction

All civil cases which the County Courts at Law Courts of Montgomery County have concurrent jurisdiction with the District Courts shall be filed in the District Clerk's office located at 300 North Main, Conroe, Texas 77301. These rules shall be applicable to all civil cases filed in the County Courts at Law Courts of Montgomery County.

B. Exclusive Jurisdiction

All civil cases of which the County Courts at Law have exclusive jurisdiction shall be filed in the County Clerk's office.

Rule 3.2 Time Standards for Civil Case Disposition

A. Civil Jury Cases

As far as reasonably possible, all civil jury cases shall be tried or dismissed within 18 months from appearance date.

B. Civil Nonjury Cases

As far as reasonably possible, all civil nonjury cases shall be tried or dismissed within 12 months from appearance date.

Rule 3.3 Filing and Assignment of Cases

A. Civil Case Information Sheet

All civil cases filed in the District Clerk's office of Montgomery County shall have attached a Civil Case information sheet which shall be on a form furnished by the District Clerk and shall indicate the type of action and monetary damages sought and any other information that the District Clerk requires.

B. Assignment

All concurrent civil cases filed shall be assigned in the District Courts and County Courts at Law of Montgomery County on a rotating basis and in compliance with these rules. Once assigned to a court, a case will remain on the docket of that court for all purposes unless transferred or reassigned as hereinafter provided.

Rule 3.4 Transfer of Cases; Docket Exchange; Bench Exchange

A. Transfer

After assignment to a particular court, a case may be transferred to another court by order of the Judge of the court in which the case is pending with the consent of the Judge of the court to which it is transferred, or by order of the Local Administrative County Court at Law Judge.

B. Exchange of Cases

The courts may at any time exchange cases and benches to accommodate their dockets or to expedite the court's trials.

C. Previous Judgment or Filing

Any claim for relief based upon a previous judgment shall be assigned to the court of original judgment. If a case is filed in which there is a substantial identity of parties and causes of action in a previously non-suited case, the later case shall be assigned to the court where the prior case was pending.

D. Consolidation

A motion to consolidate cases shall be heard in the court where the lowest numbered case is pending. If the motion is granted, the consolidated case will be given the number of the lowest numbered case and assigned to that court.

E. Severance

If a severance is granted, the new case will be assigned to the court where the original case is pending; however, a new file date and a new cause number will be assigned to the severed case.

F. Presiding for Another Judge

In all cases where a judge presides for another court, the case shall remain pending in the original court.

G. Fair Distribution

The Administrative County Court at Law Judge may transfer cases between courts if he/she finds that a court has an inequitable burden due to illness, complex litigation, trial schedule, or other sufficient reasons.

H. Recusal

All motions to recuse shall be governed by the provisions of Rule 18 (a) & (b) of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.

I. Reassignment to District Court

A case which has been assigned to a County Court at Law in error because the subject matter is within the exclusive jurisdiction of the District Courts will be returned to the District Clerk for reassignment to a District Court.

Rule 3.5 Docket Settings

A. Court Coordinator/Administrator

Each court shall appoint a court coordinator/administrator. It shall be the duty of each court coordinator/administrator to:

1. Establish procedures for setting cases for trial and hearings;
2. Notify all counsel of settings and rulings of the court as provided by these rules or at the direction of the court;
3. Prepare scheduling orders for all cases assigned to their court at the direction of the court;
4. Coordinate all setting requests; and
5. Coordinate with the Juror Coordinator of the District Clerk's office concerning jury trials and juror requirements.

B. Setting Requests

1. Cases filed with County Clerk
Requests for hearings shall be made in writing to the County Clerk, and the attorneys making such request shall serve all counsel and parties appearing pro se with notice of the hearing.
2. Cases filed with District Clerk
Requests for hearings shall be made in writing to the court in which the matter is pending in accordance with these rules or the scheduling order of the court, and the attorneys making such request shall serve all counsel and parties appearing pro se with notice of the hearing.

C. Docket Control Orders

Each court shall generate docket control orders for each civil case pending, at the direction of the court. The order shall contain a trial setting, cut off date for discovery, pretrial conference date and any other requirements as established by each individual court.

D. Trial Settings

Cases shall be set for trial by order of the court, upon request of a party, on the court's own motion or by a docket control order.

1. All requests for nonjury trials before the court shall be set by the court at the earliest possible trial date on those dates established by the court for nonjury weeks. The request shall be in writing and copies of said request served upon all attorneys and parties pro se involved in the case. The court shall have sole discretion as to which nonjury trial week the case will be assigned. The party obtaining the setting shall notify all counsel and parties appearing pro se of the setting.
2. All requests for jury trials shall be in writing and copies of said request served upon all attorneys and parties pro se involved in the case. The court shall have sole discretion as to which jury trial week the case will be assigned. The party obtaining the setting shall notify all counsel and parties appearing pro se of the setting.
3. If a case is not tried the week it is assigned, the court shall reset the case to a date certain.
4. All requests for preferential trial settings shall be made in writing with notice to all counsel and parties appearing pro se. The court shall set the matter for a hearing on the earliest possible date.

Rule 3.6 Dismissal Docket; Involuntary Dismissals

A. Dismissal Dockets

All cases not prosecuted with diligence shall be placed on the dismissal docket by the Court.

B. Notice

When a case has been placed on the dismissal docket, the court shall promptly send notice of the court's intention to dismiss for want of prosecution to each attorney of record and pro se party whose address is shown in the clerk's file. A copy of such notice shall be filed with the papers of the cause.

C. Motion to Retain

Unless a written motion to retain has been filed prior to the dismissal date as set forth in the notice of intention to dismiss, such case shall be dismissed. Notice of the signing of the order of dismissal shall be given as required by Rule 165 (a) of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure. Failure to mail notices as set out above shall not affect any of the periods mentioned in Rule 306 (a) of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure except as provided in that rule.

D. Motion for Reinstatement

A motion for reinstatement after dismissal shall follow the procedure and be governed by the provisions of Rule 165 (a) of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure relating to reinstatement.

Rule 3.7 Hearings on Pre-Trial Motions

A. Form

Motions and responses shall be in writing and shall be accompanied by a proposed order granting or denying the relief sought. The proposed order shall be a separate instrument.

B. Submission

Motions shall state a date of submission which shall be at least 10 days from filing, except on leave of court. The motion will be submitted to the court upon that date.

C. Response

Responses shall be in writing. Responses shall be filed at least two working days before the submission date. Failure to file a response may be considered a representation of no opposition.

D. Oral Argument

The motion or response may include a request for oral argument. Said request shall be in writing and set forth reasons for the necessity of such hearing. It is in the sound discretion of the court whether to grant the request for oral hearing. A request for an oral argument is not a response under Rule 3.7 (C).

E. Certificate of Conference

Opposed motions and responses shall contain a Certificate of Conference indicating that the counsel involved have attempted to resolve the dispute prior to filing of the motion or response, the date of such attempt and the manner of communication of such an attempt, or any other requirement of the court.

Rule 3.8 Continuances

Any motion for continuance of the trial setting shall be presented to the court pursuant to the docket control order, or the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure. The order granting or denying such motion shall contain an order resetting the case for trial for a specific date and time.

Rule 3.9 Alternate Dispute Resolution and Mediation

A. Alternate Dispute Resolution

In order to encourage the early settlement of disputes and to carry out the responsibilities of the courts set out in Chapter 154 of the Texas Civil Practices and Remedies Code, appropriate alternative dispute resolution procedures will be encouraged and utilized.

B. Mediation

The courts encourage mediation in order to facilitate the settlement of disputes and litigation. Each court shall adopt a procedure for the use of mediation in all civil cases. It is in the sound discretion of the trial court whom to use as a mediator and the procedures for same.

Rule 3.10 Settlements

All trial counsel are required to make a bona fide effort to settle cases at the earliest possible date before trial. The court will expect counsel to confer with his/her client and with opposing counsel concerning settlement offers. When an attorney settles or dismisses a case which is set for trial, he shall give notice to the court as soon as possible.

Rule 3.11 Jury Charge Questions and Instructions

Each party shall prepare in proper written form and present to the court in accordance with a docket control order, or, if none, prior to trial or the jury selection all jury charge questions and instructions which are raised by the pleadings and evidence and upon which the party has an affirmative burden. The charge shall be provided in both written form and on a 3.25 computer disc.

Rule 3.12 Guardians and Attorneys Ad Litem

When it is necessary for the court to appoint a guardian ad litem for minor or incompetent parties or an attorney ad litem for absent parties, independent counsel, not suggested by any of the parties or their counsel, will be appointed. However, the court may appoint an attorney who is already counsel of record for one of the parties if the court finds that no conflict of interest or other circumstances exist which would prevent such attorney from providing adequate representation for such minor, incompetent or absent parties.

Rule 3.13 Entry of Interim Orders

An interim order is any temporary order entered by the court during the pendency of the suit. In the event that the court renders an oral interim order, the court shall require a party to prepare a written order complying with the court's rendition and set a hearing date for entry. The party preparing the order shall obtain approval as to form from the opposing counsel or pro se litigant. Unreasonable refusal may result in sanctions imposed by the court.

Rule 3.14 Entry of Final Orders

In the event that the court renders an oral final order, the court shall require a party to prepare a written final order complying with the court's ruling and set a hearing date for entry. The party preparing the order shall obtain approval as to form from the opposing counsel or pro se litigant. Unreasonable refusal may result in sanctions imposed by the court.

Rule 3.15 Requests of the District Clerk or County Clerk

A. Written Requests

All parties desiring copies of documents from the District or County Clerk shall furnish the clerk return envelopes properly addressed and stamped. Except as provided elsewhere in these rules, no conformed copies shall be made or furnished nor shall searches or research be performed for counsel or the public, free of charge. All mail received with postage due will be returned to sender.

B. Telephone Requests of the District Clerk

The District Clerk shall limit response to telephone requests for information to the following:

1. Whether answer has been filed.
2. Existence and setting of a case.
3. Return of service and date.
4. Correct style of case when correct case number is supplied.
5. Whether an order has been signed.

C. Telephone Requests of the County Clerk

The County Clerk shall limit response to telephone requests for information to the following:

1. To the litigant(s) or attorney(s) of record.
2. Any person who is not a party to the suit shall be required to submit a written request for information with the appropriate fee for such service, or they may use the public information computer terminal located in the Clerk's Office for research purposes.

Rule 3.16 Filing of Pleadings

All pleadings, motions, orders and other papers, including exhibits attached thereto, when offered for filing or entry, shall be on 8-1/2" x 11" paper, descriptively titled, and punched at the top of the page to accommodate clerk's 2.75" center-to-center flat-filing system. Each page of each instrument shall on the lower right-hand margin thereof be numbered and titled, i.e., "Plaintiff's Original Petition Page 2." Orders and Judgments shall be separate documents completely separated from all other papers. If documents not conforming to this rule are offered, the clerk shall return the documents to the counsel or party unfiled. Counsel shall furnish the clerk with sufficient copies to perfect service or notice.

Rule 3.17 Service of Process

The Courts have adopted a blanket order permitting private process of service pursuant to Rule 103 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure. Applications for approval shall be presented to the presiding Administrative District Judge.

**Rule 3A
Probate Cases**

Rule 3A.1

All probate cases will be filed in the County Clerk's office.

Rule 3A.2 Assignment

All probate cases shall be assigned to the County Courts at Law on a rotating basis so that each court receives an equal number of cases. Each case shall remain in the court assigned unless transferred.

Rule 3A.3 Ad litem in Heirship Cases

A. Each court shall adopt rules regarding the appointment of an attorney ad litem to represent known heirs whose whereabouts are unknown, unknown heirs, and incapacitated heirs.

B. An order for the appointment of an attorney ad litem must accompany each application for heirship filed.

Rule 3A.4 Ad litem in Guardianship Cases

A. An attorney shall be appointed by the court as attorney ad litem for the proposed ward in guardianship cases. Such ad litem's duty ceases upon establishment of the guardianship unless specifically extended by the court.

B. An order for the appointment of an attorney ad litem must accompany each application for guardianship.

Rule 3A.5 Successor Guardians - Necessity for Ad litem

The necessity of an attorney ad litem in an application for successor guardian is in the discretion of the court.

Rule 3A.6 Service in Decedent's Estates

In each case where a will is offered for probate, service shall be in the identical name of the deceased contained in the will.

Rule 3A.7 Bonds

A. Whenever a surety bond is required in a decedent's estate or guardianship, only authorized corporate sureties will be allowed.

B. In a guardianship where the ward is incapacitated and the estate is negligible or nonexistent, personal sureties may be allowed, in the court's discretion.

Rule 3A.8 Notification of Ad litem

The applicant's lawyer shall notify, without delay, an ad litem of the appointment and any setting. Each party shall furnish copies of pleadings, orders, and other documents filed to the ad litem.

Rule 3A.9 Closing Dependent Estates

The following procedure must be followed in closing dependent estates:

1. File proper final accounts with necessary service.
2. Obtain court approval.
3. File application to distribute assets if assets remain in estate.
4. Steps 1 and 3 may be combined.
5. File application to close estate and release bond with attached distribution receipts.
6. Obtain court ruling.
7. If no property remains to be distributed, steps 1, 2, 5 and 6 may be combined in one proceeding.

Rule 3A.10 Sales of Real Property

In addition to all requirements of law for sale of real property, the following shall be strictly observed:

1. Upon the application of sale being filed, the judge must designate, in writing, a time and date for the hearing. A form for this setting is available from the Court or probate assistant.
2. Before ordering the sale, the court must find that the bond, if required, is adequate without considering the receipt of proceeds of the sale.
3. After report of sale is filed and before the court confirms the sale, the court must find that the bond is adequate to protect the general estate and the proceeds of the sale.

4. Before confirming the sale the court shall require written competent evidence of the fair market value of property sold.
5. Two separate hearings are required, neither can be waived, and they may not be combined.

Rule 3A.11 Attorney of Record Duration

Each attorney of record remains attorney of record until the case is closed, unless allowed to withdraw by order of the court.

Rule 3B

Mental Health Code Procedures

The County Courts at Law will establish rules regarding assignment, appointment of ad litem, compensation of ad litem, and other necessary rules regarding proceedings under the Mental Health Code.

Rule 4

Family Law Cases

Rule 4.1 General

The filing, assignment, and transfer of cases under the Family Code shall be filed in accordance with Rule 1 of these rules. All cases filed pursuant to the Family Code with the exception of Title 3 of the Family Code shall be governed by Rule 3 of these rules.

Rule 4.2 Time Standards for Family Law Case Disposition

As far as reasonably possible, cases shall be tried or dismissed within 6 months from the appearance date or within 6 months from the expiration of the waiting period provided by the Family Code where such is required, whichever is later.

Rule 4.3 Juvenile Disposition

Rules for the disposition of juvenile cases will be adopted by the Juvenile Court in conformity with Rule 1 of the Second Administrative Judicial Region of Texas Regional Rules of Administration and Title 3 of the Texas Family Code.

Rule 4.4 Department of Regulatory Services Cases

Disposition of Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services cases shall be in conformity with those provisions set forth in Title 5 of the Texas Family Code.

Rule 4.5 Inventories and Financial Information Statements

A. Initial Filing

Inventories and Financial Information Statements shall be filed in all domestic relations cases related to divorce. Financial Information Statements shall be filed in all cases involving modification of conservatorship, support or periods of possession.

B. Temporary Orders

In any hearing for temporary orders in which child support or spousal support is an issue, completion and exchange of Financial Information Statements is required prior to commencement of the hearing.

C. Trial

A party's final Inventory, Financial Information Statement and financial information required under the Family Code, as well as suggested findings regarding child support and a proposed division of property shall be exchanged no later than thirty (30) days before trial, or as required by the docket control order, and filed with the court before the commencement of trial. If children are involved in the proceeding, the inventory shall contain sufficient information so the court may render a qualified medical child support order regarding health insurance for such children.

D. Failure to file Financial Information Statements and Inventories

Failure of either party to file Financial Information Statements or Inventories will result in the court adopting as stipulated the information filed by the complying party. The noncomplying party will be prohibited from contesting the accuracy of the information presented by the complying party. If both parties fail to comply with these rules, the court may strike the case from the docket.

Rule 4.6 Parent Education and Counseling

In suits affecting the parent-child relationship, referral shall be made requiring the parents' attendance at an educational program for divorcing parents, except for good cause shown. In the discretion of the court, such a referral may also be made for parents involved in modification or enforcement litigation. Counseling may also be ordered in appropriate cases as authorized by the Family Code, including referral to a family violence program pursuant to a protective order under Chapter 71 of the Family Code.

Rule 4.7 Ex Parte Restraining Orders, Protective Orders and Temporary Orders

A. Ex Parte Restraining Orders and Protective Orders

Ex Parte Restraining Orders and Protective Orders shall be presented to the court in which it has been assigned. If the presiding judge of said court is not available, then the Ex Parte Order or Protective Order may be presented to any sitting District or County Court at Law Judge available. In all cases, only the court coordinator/administrator of the court to which the case is assigned may set the hearing.

B. Temporary Orders Entry

All temporary orders shall be presented to the court for entry within ten (10) days after the hearing or at the entry date set by the court. Failure to comply could subject the case to dismissal.

Rule 4.8 Discovery

A. Mandated Discovery

In all cases the following items shall be exchanged without objection upon a written request of counsel.

1. Parties or individual income tax returns for two years preceding the year of the request.

2. Copies of all insurance policies, including home, auto, life and medical.
3. Copies of all promissory notes, deeds of trust and deeds evidencing ownership of real estate, including contract for deeds and time sharing contracts.
4. Copies of all stocks, mutual fund participation and investment portfolios held by the parties, in the name of the parties, or for the benefit of the parties.
5. Copies of all documents concerning employee benefits, retirement benefits and pension funds.
6. The preceding six (6) months statements for all credit card accounts in the name of the parties, or either party.
7. Wage statements or statement showing year to date earnings of the party.

4.9 Child Support Local Registry

Pursuant to §154.241 of the Texas Family Code, the District Clerk of Montgomery County is designated as the Local Registry to receive a court ordered child support payment or payment otherwise authorized by law.

Rule 5 Criminal Cases

Rule 5.1 Filings/Return of Informations

A. Assignment of Cases After Information

Except as otherwise provided in this Rule, the County Clerk shall distribute equally criminal cases among the County Courts at Law.

B. New Cases After Assignment

After assignment but while pending, the clerk shall assign any new cases against a defendant to the same court, or any new case will be transferred to the same court.

C. Re-filings

The clerk shall assign any re-filings of the same defendant to the same court in which the prior case was assigned.

Rule 5.2 Post Conviction Proceedings

The clerk shall file any motion to revoke probation or any post-conviction application for writ of habeas corpus in the court having granted probation or entered the judgment in the case.

Rule 5.3. Time Standards for Criminal Cases

Criminal cases, as far as reasonably possible, must be brought to trial within six months of arrest or of filing of the information, whichever is earlier

Rule 5.4 Reset Rules

Each court shall adopt rules for resetting of cases. These rules must be published and available to clerks, attorneys, defendants, and to the public.

5.5 Motions for Continuance

All motions for continuance, whether filed by the State or the Defendant, must comply with the applicable law contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure and must be presented to and considered by the court. Except for good cause shown and compliance with these rules, the court shall not consider any motion for continuance on the scheduled trial date.

Rule 5.6. Standard Discovery Orders

Each court shall adopt a standard discovery order to be entered in each case at time of arraignment. The discovery order shall set forth procedures for the exchange of information, evidence inspection, expert designations and deadlines to conform with the discovery order.

**Rule 6
Electronic Filing**

(Reserved for expansion.)

**Rule 7
Board of Judges**

The Board of Judges shall consist of all the District Judges and County Courts at Law Judges that serve Montgomery County. The Board of Judges shall meet to discuss and adopt resolutions on those matters which are of common concern of all the judges. The meeting shall be called by either the Administrative Judge of the District Courts or the Administrative Judge of the County Courts at Law. The chair of the meeting shall be the Senior judge in attendance.

**Rule 8
Previous Rules**

All previous local rules in the County Courts at Law of Montgomery County are hereby repealed.

**Rule 9
Lawyer's Creed Applicable**

The Texas Lawyer's Creed shall be observed in all proceedings before the courts.

**Rule 10
Conflicting Trial and Ancillary Settings**

A. Conflicting Trial Settings

It is the duty of an attorney to notify all courts in which an attorney has conflicting settings as soon as practicable. Judges should attempt to agree on which case has priority; otherwise, the following priorities shall be observed by the Judges of the respective courts:

1. Mental Health Code proceedings.
2. Juvenile cases.
3. Criminal cases.
4. Cases given preference by statute.
5. Preferentially set cases.

- 6 Cases with lowest file number.
- 7 Cases with earliest setting request date.

B. Conflicting Ancillary Hearings

It is the duty of an attorney with conflicting ancillary settings to notify opposing counsel of the conflict immediately upon learning of same. The attorney shall inform the court prior to docket call of the location of counsel, the court or courts where counsel is appearing, the matter being heard and the estimated time of appearance. Failure to notify the court of such conflict may result in a default on the matter before the court, or sanctions.

C. Designation of Attorney in Charge

Every case shall have a designation of attorney in charge.

Rule 11

Attorney Vacations

Each attorney who desires to assure himself/herself a vacation for a period not to exceed four weeks may do so automatically by complying with the Rule 11 of the Second Administrative Region of Texas Regional Rules of Administration.

Rule 12

Adoption, Approval and Notice

Rule 12.1 Adoption

These rules are adopted by the County Courts at Law Judges for all purposes and by the District Judges for those provisions that effect the concurrent jurisdiction of the district courts.

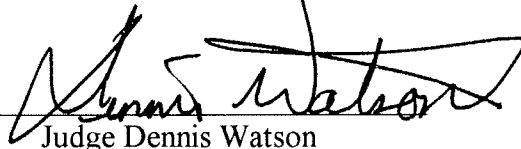
Rule 12.2 Approval

Upon approval by the Judge of the Second Administrative Region and the Supreme Court of Texas, these rules shall become effective immediately, and so long thereafter until amended, repealed or modified. Each numbered or lettered paragraph of these rules shall be considered to be separate and distinct from all other portions hereof, and if any portion should be declared by a higher court to be improper, such declaration will not affect any other portion not so declared to be improper.

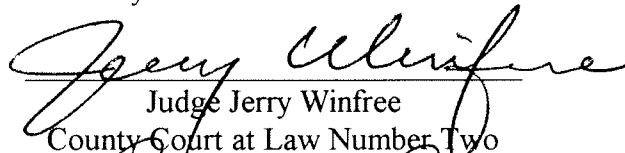
Rule 12.3. Notice

The District Clerk is directed to furnish a copy of these rules to the Supreme Court of Texas pursuant to Rule 3 (a) of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure and to record these Rules in the Civil Minutes of the 9th, 221st, 284th, the 359th and 410th District Courts and the County Courts at Law Numbers One, Two and Three, and any additional District Courts or County Courts at Law hereinafter created.

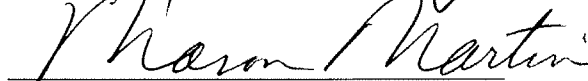
Adopted the 9 day of Nov, of the year 2000 to become effective upon approval by the Supreme Court of Texas. **Adoption**



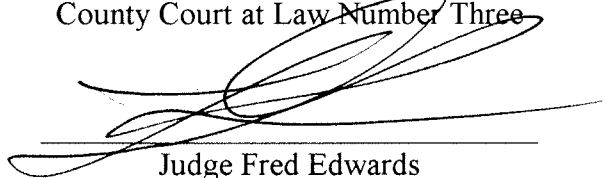
Judge Dennis Watson
County Court at Law Number One



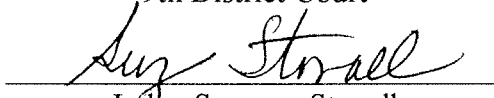
Judge Jerry Winfree
County Court at Law Number Two



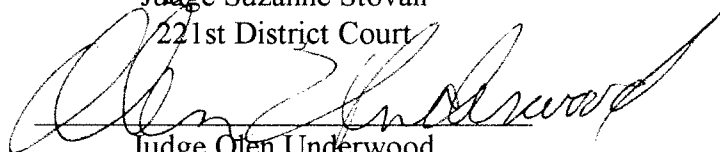
Judge Mason Martin
County Court at Law Number Three



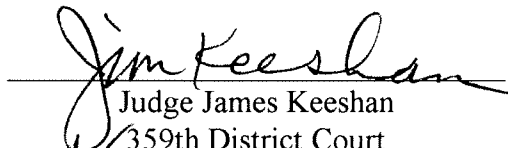
Judge Fred Edwards
9th District Court



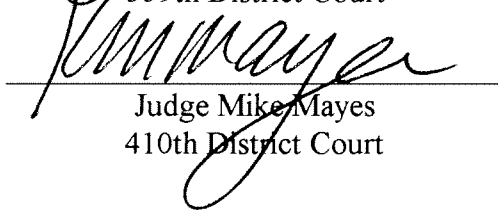
Judge Suzanne Stovall
221st District Court



Judge Olen Underwood
284th District Court



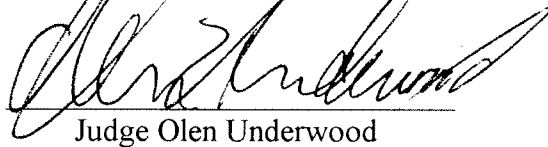
Judge James Keeshan
359th District Court



Judge Mike Mayes
410th District Court

Approval by the Second Administrative Regional Judge

Approved on the 9 day of Nov, of the year 2000, by Judge Olen Underwood, Regional Judge for the Second Administrative Judicial Region of the State of Texas.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Olen Underwood", written over a horizontal line.

Judge Olen Underwood

Presiding Judge of the Second Administrative Judicial Region of the State of Texas