

# ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTERS

## SUMMARY OF REPORTED ACTIVITY FOR YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 1997

The Alternative Dispute Resolution Centers of Texas were reauthorized and expanded in scope in 1987 by the 70th Legislature "to encourage the peaceable resolution of disputes, with special consideration given to disputes involving the parent-child relationship, . . . and the early settlement of pending litigation through voluntary settlement procedures." (Acts 1987, 70th Legislature, Chapter 1121, Section 1.) Alternative Dispute Resolution Centers provide an opportunity to resolve conflicts creatively and effectively outside the courtroom using a variety of mechanisms including mediation, arbitration, negotiation, and moderated settlement conferences.

Twelve centers submitted reports for the period September 1, 1996, through August 31, 1997. Of the activity reported, 23,966 cases were received during the reporting period, 23,933 were closed, and 2,641 cases were pending at the end of the reporting period.

This summary is based on reports from alternative dispute resolution centers. It does not include information from judges and court clerks, nor from numerous private groups and other organizations which actively employ alternative dispute resolution procedures which are not reported.

<b>MEDIATION SECTION</b>						
<b>CENTERS</b>	<b>CATEGORIES OF DISPUTE</b>					<b>Total</b>
	<u>Neighbors, Friends, &amp; Relatives</u>	<u>Employer- Employee</u>	<u>Landlord- Tenant</u>	<u>Business Consumer- Merchant</u>	<u>Other</u>	
<b>AMARILLO - DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER</b>						
Cases Pending September 1, 1996	15	0	0	13	12	40
Cases Received During Year	313	6	101	169	82	671
Cases Closed During Year						
Resolved Prior to Hearing	160	6	98	83	72	419
Cases in Which Hearing Held	135	0	2	22	12	171
Cases Unresolved but Closed	19	0	1	75	5	100
Total Cases Closed During Year	314	6	101	180	89	690
Cases Pending August 31, 1997	14	0	0	2	5	21
<b>AUSTIN - DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER OF TRAVIS COUNTY</b>						
Cases Pending September 1, 1996	--	--	--	--	--	183
Cases Received During Year	--	--	--	--	--	1,423
Cases Closed During Year						
Resolved Prior to Hearing	--	--	--	--	--	97
Cases in Which Hearing Held	--	--	--	--	--	889
Cases Unresolved but Closed	--	--	--	--	--	538
Total Cases Closed During Year	--	--	--	--	--	1,524
Cases Pending August 31, 1997	--	--	--	--	--	82
<b>BEAUMONT - MEDIATION CENTER OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, INC.</b>						
Cases Pending September 1, 1996	2	1	2	14	5	24
Cases Received During Year	371	58	122	641	743	1,935
Cases Closed During Year						
Resolved Prior to Hearing	289	44	106	515	364	1,318
Cases in Which Hearing Held	48	7	7	76	329	467
Cases Unresolved but Closed	33	8	11	54	44	150
Total Cases Closed During Year	370	59	124	645	737	1,935
Cases Pending August 31, 1997	3	0	0	10	11	24
<b>CONROE - DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, INC.</b>						
Cases Pending September 1, 1996	0	0	0	13	0	13
Cases Received During Year	18	5	7	39	264	333
Cases Closed During Year						
Resolved Prior to Hearing	3	1	0	8	32	44
Cases in Which Hearing Held	13	1	7	27	184	232
Cases Unresolved but Closed	2	3	0	13	38	56
Total Cases Closed During Year	18	5	7	48	254	332
Cases Pending August 31, 1997	0	0	0	4	10	14

<sup>1</sup>Case dispositions were not reported by category.

# ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTERS

## SUMMARY OF REPORTED ACTIVITY FOR YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 1997

### MEDIATION SECTION (CONT.)

CENTERS	CATEGORIES OF DISPUTE					Total
	Neighbors, Friends, & Relatives	Employer- Employee	Landlord- Tenant	Business Consumer- Merchant	Other	
<b>CORPUS CHRISTI - NUECES COUNTY DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER</b>						
Cases Pending September 1, 1996	13	1	1	15	202	232
Cases Received During Year	220	27	57	316	448	1,068
Cases Closed During Year						
Resolved Prior to Hearing	17	0	5	47	15	84
Cases in Which Hearing Held	104	4	20	84	257	469
Cases Unresolved but Closed	88	21	31	191	303	634
Total Cases Closed During Year	209	25	56	322	575	1,187
Cases Pending August 31, 1997	24	3	2	9	75	113
<b><sup>1</sup>DALLAS - DISPUTE MEDIATION SERVICE, INC.</b>						
Cases Pending September 1, 1996	--	--	--	--	--	828
Cases Received During Year	--	--	--	--	--	1,532
Cases Closed During Year						
Resolved Prior to Hearing	--	--	--	--	--	317
Cases in Which Hearing Held	--	--	--	--	--	921
Cases Unresolved but Closed	--	--	--	--	--	411
Total Cases Closed During Year	--	--	--	--	--	1,649
Cases Pending August 31, 1997	--	--	--	--	--	711
<b>EL PASO - EL PASO COUNTY DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER</b>						
Cases Pending September 1, 1996	61	27	10	54	78	230
Cases Received During Year	268	45	82	290	358	1,043
Cases Closed During Year						
Resolved Prior to Hearing	8	9	1	11	29	58
Cases in Which Hearing Held	51	17	6	40	218	332
Cases Unresolved but Closed	199	9	61	215	109	593
Total Cases Closed During Year	258	35	68	266	356	983
Cases Pending August 31, 1997	71	37	24	78	80	290
<b>FORT WORTH - DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICES OF TARRANT COUNTY, INC.</b>						
Cases Pending September 1, 1996	147	1	4	254	72	478
Cases Received During Year	1,005	86	152	920	1,071	3,234
Cases Closed During Year						
Resolved Prior to Hearing	404	57	136	326	281	1,204
Cases in Which Hearing Held	450	12	4	431	353	1,250
Cases Unresolved but Closed	98	8	8	213	107	434
Total Cases Closed During Year	952	77	148	970	741	2,888
Cases Pending August 31, 1997	200	10	8	204	402	824
<b>HOUSTON - DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER</b>						
Cases Pending September 1, 1996	116	7	7	60	86	276
Cases Received During Year	1327	98	236	1,113	592	3,366
Cases Closed During Year						
Resolved Prior to Hearing	152	8	25	129	145	459
Cases in Which Hearing Held	774	42	124	660	357	1,957
Cases Unresolved but Closed	425	50	88	329	62	954
Total Cases Closed During Year	1,351	100	237	1,118	564	3,370
Cases Pending August 31, 1997	92	5	6	55	114	272
<b><sup>1</sup>LEWISVILLE - CENTER FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION OF DENTON CO., INC.</b>						
Cases Pending September 1, 1996	--	--	--	--	--	50
Cases Received During Year	--	--	--	--	--	1,859
Cases Closed During Year						
Resolved Prior to Hearing	--	--	--	--	--	1,109
Cases in Which Hearing Held	--	--	--	--	--	492
Cases Unresolved but Closed	--	--	--	--	--	237
Total Cases Closed During Year	--	--	--	--	--	1,838
Cases Pending August 31, 1997	--	--	--	--	--	71

<sup>1</sup>Case dispositions were not reported by category.

# ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTERS

## SUMMARY OF REPORTED ACTIVITY FOR YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 1997

### MEDIATION SECTION (CONT.)

CENTERS	CATEGORIES OF DISPUTE					Total
	<u>Neighbors, Friends, &amp; Relatives</u>	<u>Employer- Employee</u>	<u>Landlord- Tenant</u>	<u>Business Consumer- Merchant</u>	<u>Other</u>	
<b>LUBBOCK - SOUTH PLAINS DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER</b>						
Cases Pending September 1, 1996	56	14	2	14	1	87
Cases Received During Year	967	25	404	310	80	1,786
Cases Closed During Year						
Resolved Prior to Hearing	239	9	18	74	13	353
Cases in Which Hearing Held	419	8	35	111	4	577
Cases Unresolved but Closed	363	16	349	116	60	904
Total Cases Closed During Year	1,021	33	402	301	77	1,834
Cases Pending August 31, 1997	2	6	4	23	4	39
<b>SAN ANTONIO - BEXAR COUNTY DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER</b>						
Cases Pending September 1, 1996	48	3	5	23	0	79
Cases Received During Year	3,431	282	674	1,027	0	5,414
Cases Closed During Year						
Resolved Prior to Hearing	2,785	252	563	815	0	4,415
Cases in Which Hearing Held	385	11	20	95	0	511
Cases Unresolved but Closed	267	19	31	116	0	433
Total Cases Closed During Year	3,437	282	614	1,026	0	5,359
Cases Pending August 31, 1997	42	3	65	24	0	134
<b>*MEDIATION SECTION TOTALS</b>						
Cases Pending September 1, 1996	--	--	--	--	--	2,520
Cases Received During Year	--	--	--	--	--	23,664
Cases Closed During Year						
Resolved Prior to Hearing	--	--	--	--	--	9,877
Cases in Which Hearing Held	--	--	--	--	--	8,268
Cases Unresolved but Closed	--	--	--	--	--	5,444
Total Cases Closed During Year	--	--	--	--	--	23,589
Cases Pending August 31, 1997	--	--	--	--	--	2,595

### MODERATED SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE SECTION

CENTERS	CATEGORIES OF DISPUTES							Total
	<u>Injury or Damage Involving Motor Vehicle</u>	<u>Injury or Damage Other Than Motor Vehicle</u>	<u>Workers' Compensation</u>	<u>Tax Cases</u>	<u>Condemnation</u>	<u>Accounts, Contracts, Notes</u>	<u>Other Civil Cases</u>	
<b>AMARILLO - DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER</b>								
Cases Pending September 1, 1996	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cases Received During Year	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Cases Closed During Year								
Resolved Prior to Hearing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cases in Which Hearing Held	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Cases Unresolved but Closed	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total Cases Closed During Year	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
Cases Pending August 31, 1997	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup>Case dispositions were not reported by category.

\*Total by category cannot be indicated because case dispositions by category were not reported by Austin, Dallas, Lewisville, and Plano.

# ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTERS

## SUMMARY OF REPORTED ACTIVITY FOR YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 1997

### MODERATED SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE SECTION (CONT.)

CENTERS	CATEGORIES OF DISPUTES							Total
	Injury or Damage Involving <u>Motor Vehicle</u>	Injury or Damage Other Than <u>Motor Vehicle</u>	Workers' <u>Compensation</u>	Tax <u>Cases</u>	<u>Condemnation</u>	Accounts, Contracts, <u>Notes</u>	Other Civil <u>Cases</u>	
<b>'AUSTIN - DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER OF TRAVIS COUNTY</b>								
Cases Pending September 1, 1996	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0
Cases Received During Year	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	14
Cases Closed During Year								
Resolved Prior to Hearing	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0
Cases in Which Hearing Held	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	14
Cases Unresolved but Closed	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0
Total Cases Closed During Year	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	14
Cases Pending August 31, 1997	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0
<b>CORPUS CHRISTI - NUECES COUNTY DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER</b>								
Cases Pending September 1, 1996	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cases Received During Year	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Cases Closed During Year								
Resolved Prior to Hearing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cases in Which Hearing Held	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Cases Unresolved but Closed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Cases Closed During Year	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Cases Pending August 31, 1997	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>EL PASO - EL PASO COUNTY DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER</b>								
Cases Pending September 1, 1996	12	35	3	1	0	0	22	73
Cases Received During Year	77	45	18	0	0	0	33	173
Cases Closed During Year								
Resolved Prior to Hearing	6	3	1	0	0	0	3	13
Cases in Which Hearing Held	51	38	11	0	0	0	21	121
Cases Unresolved but Closed	23	37	2	1	0	0	19	82
Total Cases Closed During Year	80	78	14	1	0	0	43	216
Cases Pending August 31, 1997	9	2	7	0	0	0	12	30
<b>HOUSTON - DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER</b>								
Cases Pending September 1, 1996	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Cases Received During Year	18	5	0	5	2	0	0	30
Cases Closed During Year								
Resolved Prior to Hearing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cases in Which Hearing Held	19	5	0	1	1	0	0	26
Cases Unresolved but Closed	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total Cases Closed During Year	20	5	0	1	1	0	0	27
Cases Pending August 31, 1997	7	0	0	4	1	0	0	12
<b>LUBBOCK - SOUTH PLAINS DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER</b>								
Cases Pending September 1, 1996	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Cases Received During Year	42	2	0	0	0	0	25	69
Cases Closed During Year								
Resolved Prior to Hearing	10	1	0	0	0	0	12	23
Cases in Which Hearing Held	27	1	0	0	0	1	8	37
Cases Unresolved but Closed	5	0	0	0	0	0	4	9
Total Cases Closed During Year	42	2	0	0	0	1	24	69
Cases Pending August 31, 1997	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
<b>*MODERATED SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE SECTION TOTALS</b>								
Cases Pending September 1, 1996	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	84
Cases Received During Year	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	287
Cases Closed During Year								
Resolved Prior to Hearing	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	36
Cases in Which Hearing Held	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	199
Cases Unresolved but Closed	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	92
Total Cases Closed During Year	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	327
Cases Pending August 31, 1997	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	44

<sup>1</sup>Case dispositions were not reported by category.

\*Total by category cannot be indicated because case dispositions by category were not reported by Austin.

# ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTERS

## SUMMARY OF REPORTED ACTIVITY FOR YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 1997

### COURT-ANNEXED ARBITRATION SECTION

CENTERS	CATEGORIES OF DISPUTES							Total
	Injury or Damage Involving <u>Motor Vehicle</u>	Injury or Damage Other Than <u>Motor Vehicle</u>	Workers' Compensation, Tax or <u>Condemnation</u>	Deceptive Trade Practices <u>Act</u>	<u>Divorce</u>	Accounts, Contracts, <u>Notes</u>	Other Civil <u>Cases</u>	
<b>HOUSTON - DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER</b>								
Cases Pending September 1, 1996	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Cases Received During Year	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Cases Closed During Year								
Resolved Prior to Hearing	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cases in Which Hearing Held	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Cases Unresolved but Closed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Cases Closed During Year	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Cases Pending August 31, 1997	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
<b>LUBBOCK - SOUTH PLAINS DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER</b>								
Cases Pending September 1, 1996	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Cases Received During Year	0	6	0	0	0	0	1	7
Cases Closed During Year								
Resolved Prior to Hearing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cases in Which Hearing Held	0	6	0	0	0	0	1	7
Cases Unresolved but Closed	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Total Cases Closed During Year	0	6	0	0	0	0	3	9
Cases Pending August 31, 1997	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>COURT-ANNEXED ARBITRATION SECTION TOTALS</b>								
Cases Pending September 1, 1996	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	4
Cases Received During Year	8	6	0	0	0	0	1	15
Cases Closed During Year								
Resolved Prior to Hearing	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cases in Which Hearing Held	7	6	0	0	0	0	1	14
Cases Unresolved but Closed	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Total Cases Closed During Year	8	6	0	0	0	0	3	17
Cases Pending August 31, 1997	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2