



Business Court of Texas

Mid-Year Report

September 2024 - April 2026



Mid-Year Report

Includes

DATA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 AND THE
FIRST PART OF FISCAL YEAR 2026

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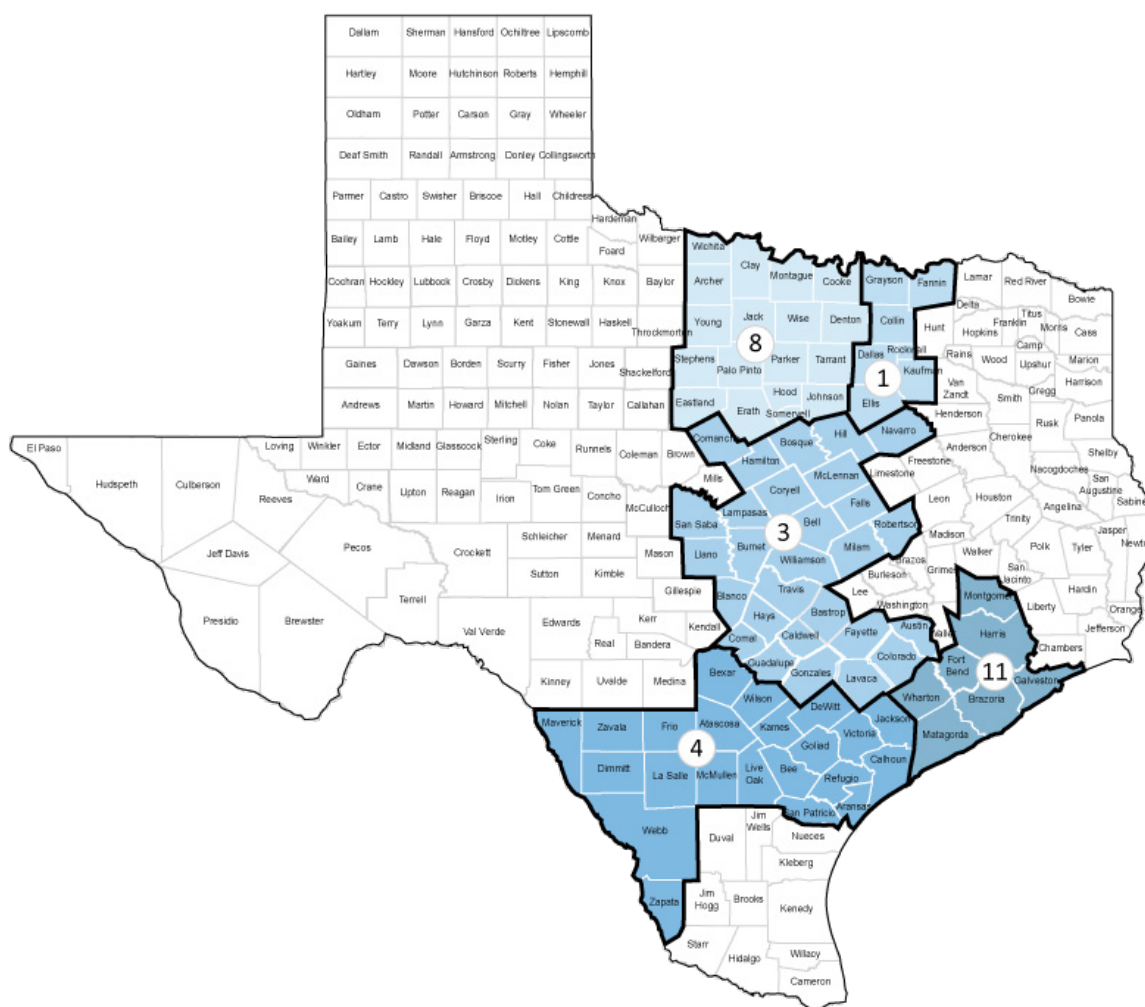
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The Business Court of Texas came into existence on September 1, 2024, under [House Bill 19](#) in the 88th Legislative Session. [Section 25A.0171](#) of the Texas Government Code requires the Office of Court Administration (OCA) to submit to the legislature a report on the case activity of the Business Court in the preceding year. This is a mid-year report and includes data for Fiscal Year 2025 (the first year the court was in operation) and the first part of Fiscal Year 2026.

Background

The Business Court of Texas is a specialized trial court with jurisdiction over certain complex business disputes.

The Business Court has eleven divisions, five of which are currently active. The division map largely tracks the existing eleven Administrative Judicial Regions. The exceptions are Montgomery County, which was moved from the Second Division to the Eleventh Division (the Houston-area Business Court division) on September 1, 2025, and Bastrop County, which was moved from the Second Division to the Third Division (the Austin-area Business Court division) on December 4, 2025. The only divisions with assigned judges are the First (centering on Dallas County), Third (centering on Travis County), Fourth (centering on Bexar County), Eighth (centering on Tarrant County), and Eleventh (centering on Harris County). See the map below.



Court Divisions, Judges and Staff

The five operational divisions of the Business Court are as follows:

- First Business Court Division, with chambers in Dallas and McKinney, TX
- Third Business Court Division, with chambers in Austin, TX
- Fourth Business Court Division, with chambers in San Antonio, TX
- Eighth Business Court Division, with chambers in Fort Worth, TX
- Eleventh Business Court Division, with chambers in Houston, TX

Per statute, the Governor appoints two judges to each division. Each judge's term was effective September 1, 2024, and is set to expire on August 31, 2026. Below is a list of each division and its judges.

Texas Business Court Division		Judge
First Division	Business Court 1A Business Court 1B	Hon. Andrea K. Bouressa Hon. Bill Whitehill
Third Division	Business Court 3A Business Court 3B	Hon. Melissa Andrews Hon. Patrick K. Sweeten
Fourth Division	Business Court 4A Business Court 4B	Hon. Marialyn Barnard Hon. Stacy Rogers Sharp*
Eighth Division	Business Court 8A Business Court 8B	Hon. Jerry D. Bullard Hon. Brian Stagner
Eleventh Division	Business Court 11A Business Court 11B	Hon. Sofia Adrogué Hon. Grant Dorfman*

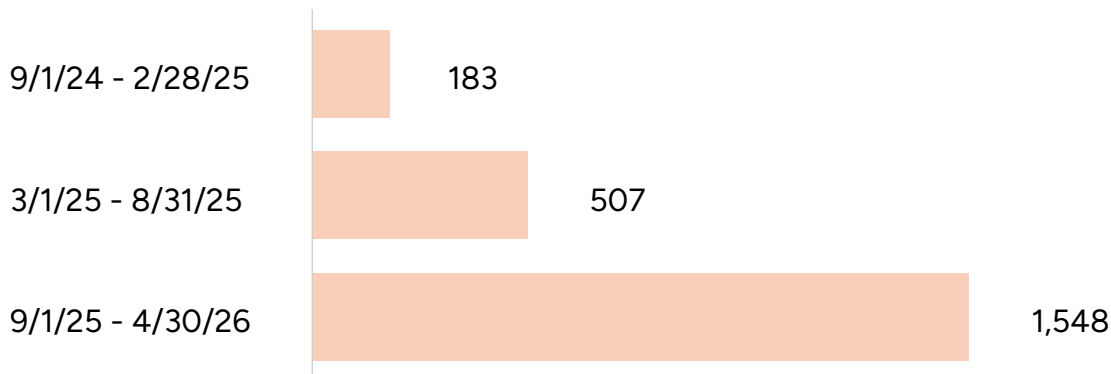
*The Honorable Grant Dorfman was elected Administrative Presiding Judge by vote of all the Business Court judges on September 3, 2024. The Honorable Stacy Sharp was elected Administrative Presiding Judge Pro Tempore by vote of all the Business Court judges on September 4, 2025.

Business Court Case Activity

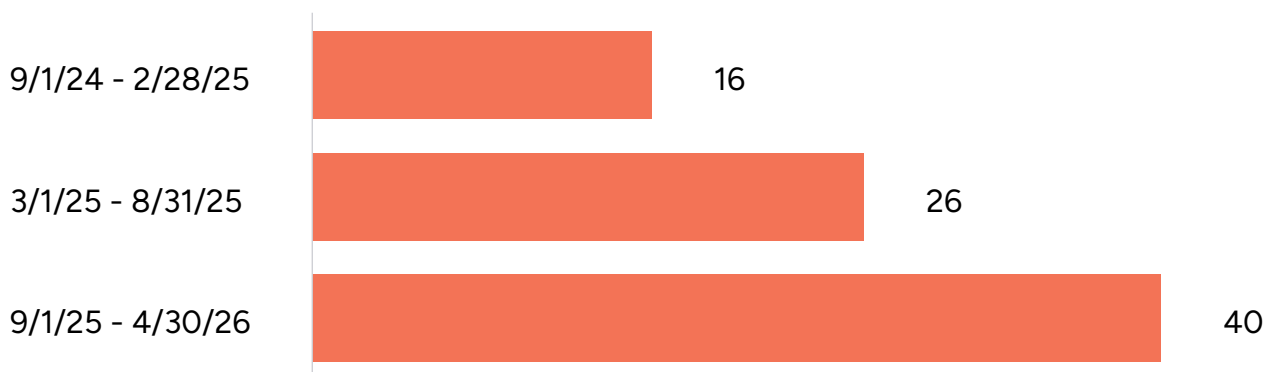
The cases heard by the Business Court are complex commercial cases that often involve large numbers of pretrial motions on procedural and substantive disputes between the parties in preparation for trial. In the reporting period, the Business Court judges issued over 2,200 orders and held over 700 hearings and conferences.

The Business Court's enabling statute also directs the Texas Supreme Court to issue rules concerning the issuance of written opinions. In response, the Supreme Court issued Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 360, which requires the Business Court judges to issue written opinions in specified circumstances and further authorizes the judges to issue a written opinion in connection with any order, at their discretion. Since the Court opened until April 2026, the Business Court judges issued 82 written opinions.

Orders Signed



Opinions Issued



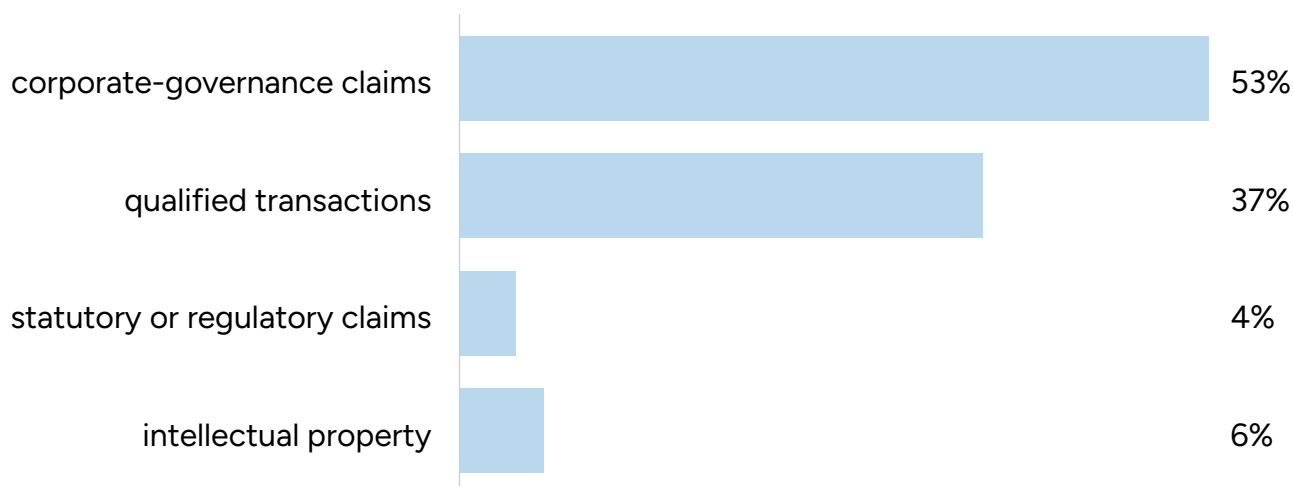
Summary of Caseloads

CASES FILED

By Case Type

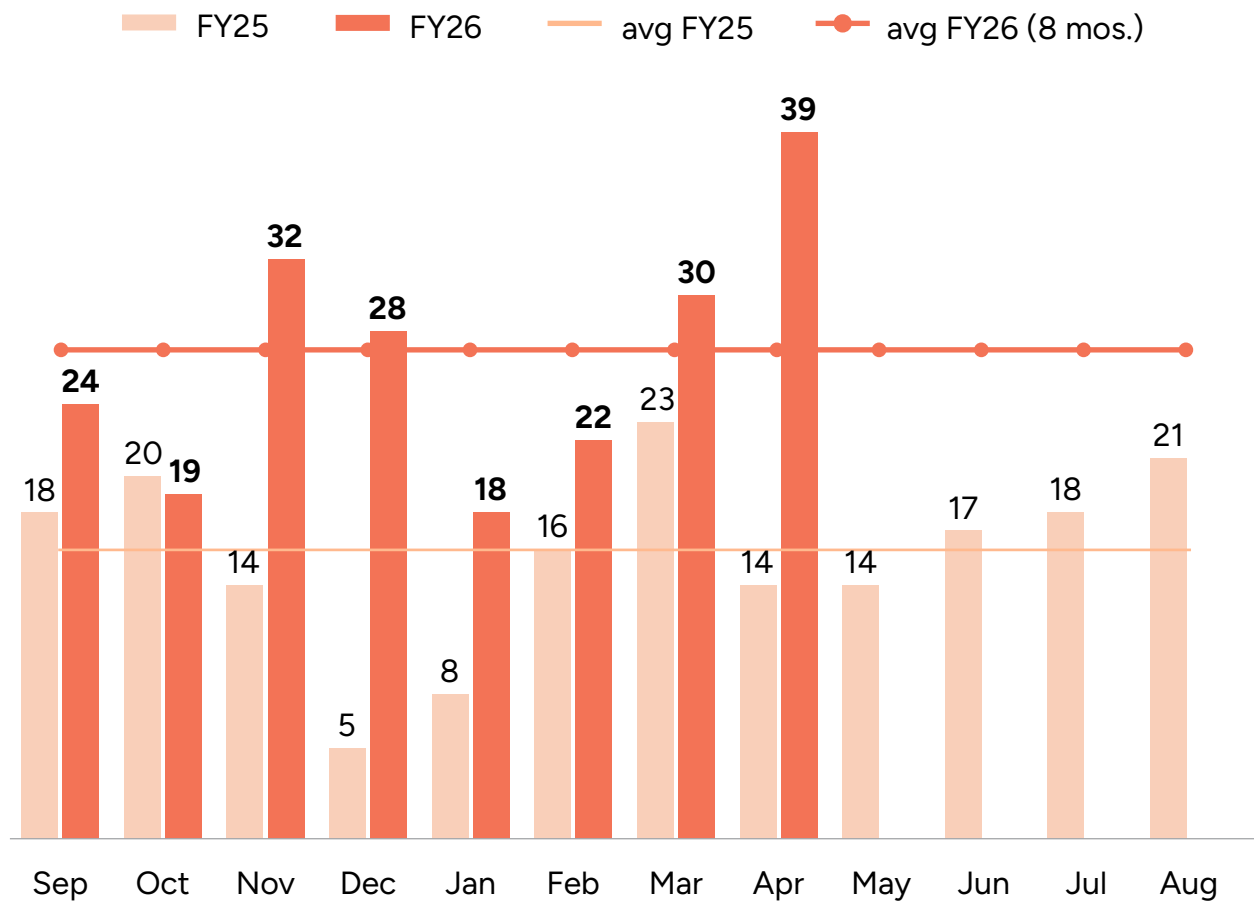
From September 1, 2024 to April 30, 2026, a total of 409 cases were filed in the Business Court, and 221 were active and pending on April 30, 2026. The majority of actions concerned the energy, real estate, or technology industries. These filings include both original petitions filed in the Business Court and cases removed to the Business Court from state district courts.

The visual below shows the percentage distribution of jurisdictional grounds in the originating pleadings. Some suits include multiple jurisdictional grounds pleaded and can be counted more than once.

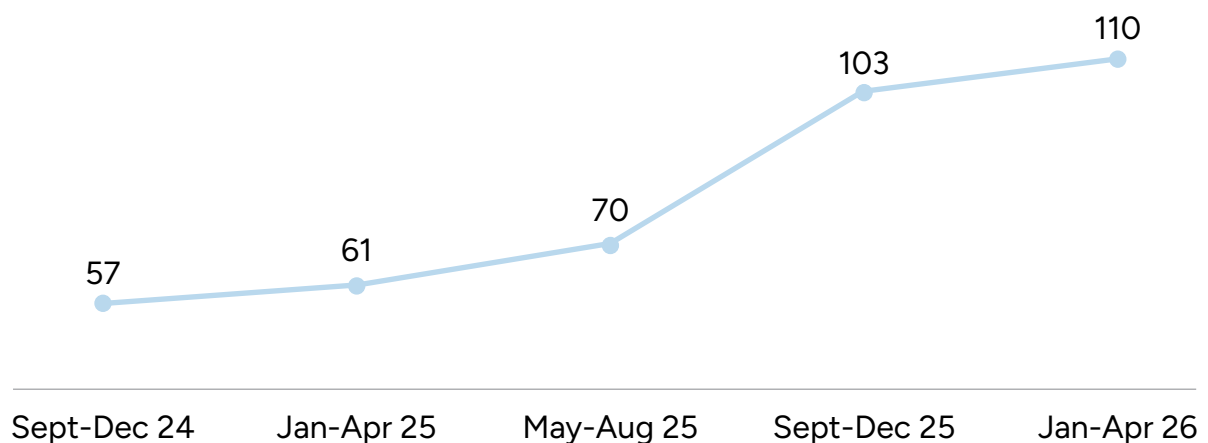


By Month

As of April 30, 2026, there has been an average of 27 cases filed in the Business Court for FY26, compared to an average of 16 cases in FY 25, a 69% increase.



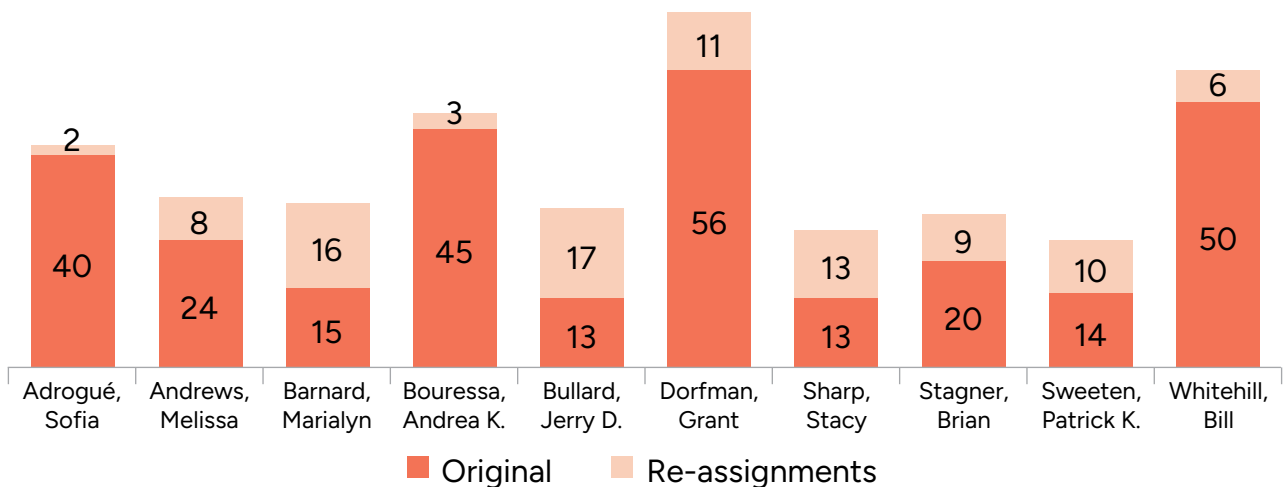
Filings by 4-month period



CASES BY JUDICIAL OFFICER

The following visual represents each judge's caseload based on original cases assigned and cases that have been reassigned from another judge.

Original & Reassigned Cases by Judicial Officer



BUSINESS COURT PROCEEDINGS

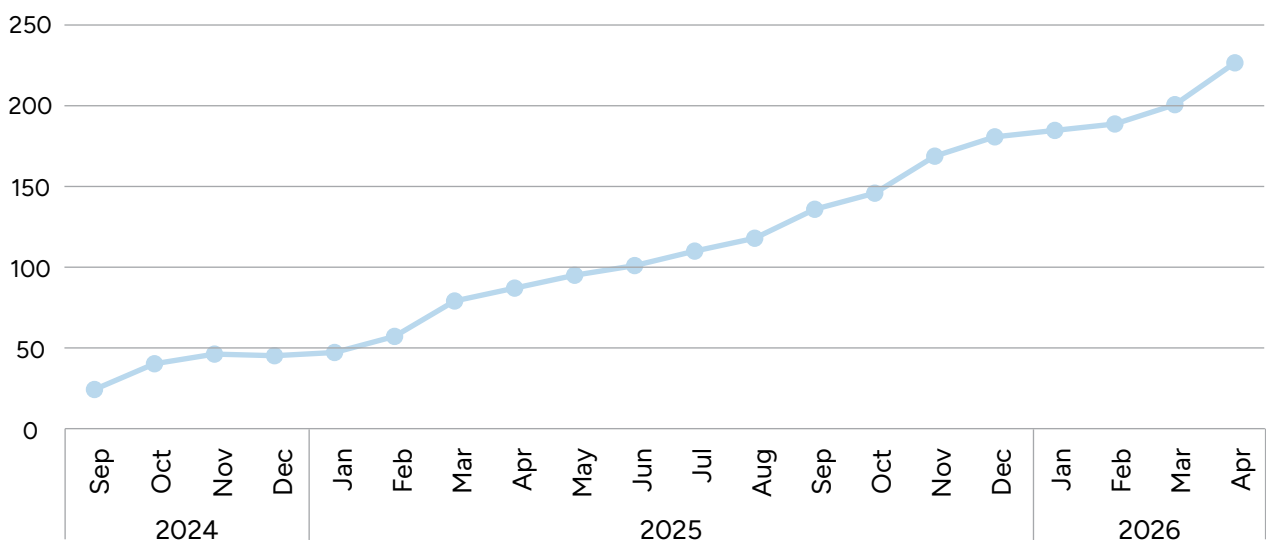
The Business Court held its first trial in November 2025. As of April 30, 2026, the Business Court has had three jury trials and five bench trials. The average time from the defendants' first appearance to trial was twelve months and one day.



ACTIVE PENDING CASES

Active pending cases are cases that the Court has control over and are awaiting disposition.

The active pending case count has continued to steadily increase as the Court's caseload grows.

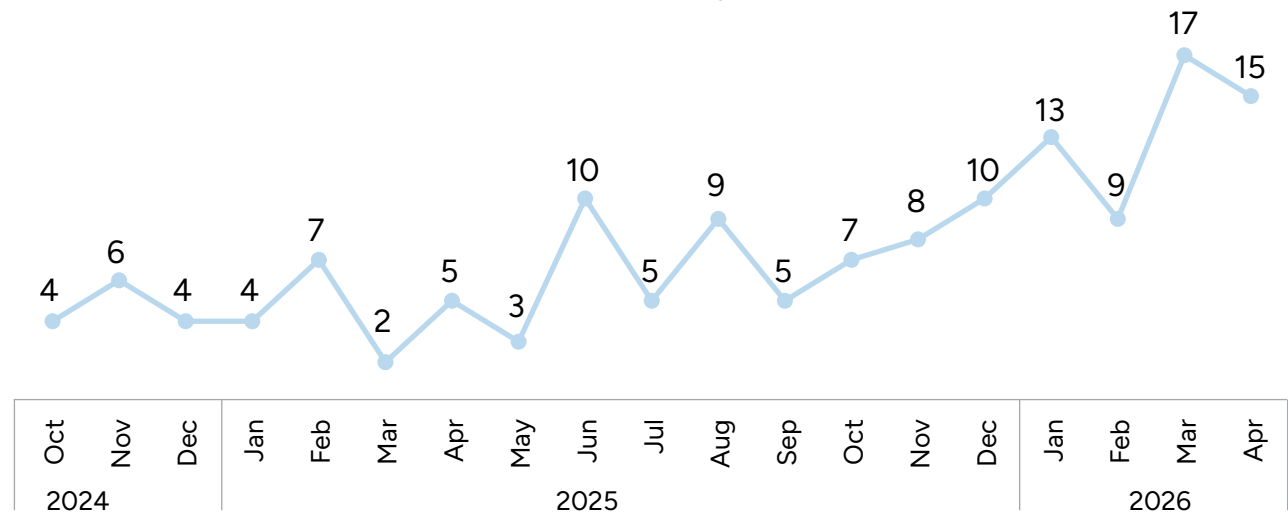


With construction completed in the beginning of the year, Judges Sharp and Barnard stand behind the bench in their new San Antonio courtroom.

DISPOSITIONS

Disposed cases are those cases that have reached a final outcome or resolution. The disposition indicates that the case was concluded, such as through a judgment, dismissal, settlement, or other means. The court has disposed of over one-third of the suits filed during FYs 25 and 26 (Sep-Apr).

Dispositions by Month



Dispositions by Judicial Officer

Judicial Officer	Cases Filed	Cases Disposed	Percentage
Adrogué, Sofia	44	18	41%
Andrews, Melissa	34	11	32%
Barnard, Marialyn	32	14	44%
Bouressa, Andrea K.	50	23	46%
Bullard, Jerry D.	30	12	40%
Dorfman, Grant	68	21	31%
Sharp, Stacy	27	14	52%
Stagner, Brian	29	4	14%
Sweeten, Patrick K.	24	7	29%
Whitehill, Bill	62	19	31%
Total	400	143	36%

THE BUSINESS COURT OF TEXAS 2026



Judge
Andrea Bouressa
Division 1A



Judge
Bill Whitehill
Division 1B



Judge
Melissa Davis Andrews
Division 3A



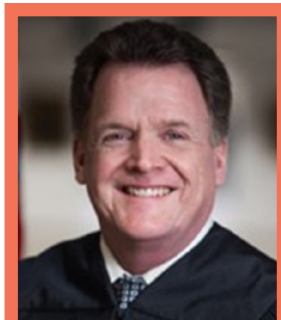
Judge
Patrick Sweeten
Division 3B



Judge
Marialyn Barnard
Division 4A



Judge
Stacy Rogers Sharp
Division 4B and
Administrative Presiding
Judge Pro Tempore



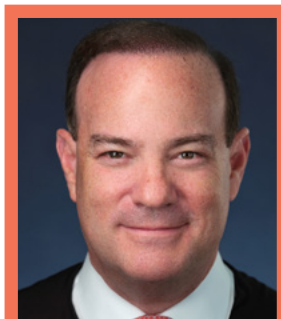
Judge
Jerry Bullard
Division 8A



Judge
Brian Stagner
Division 8B



Judge
Sofia Adrogué
Division 11A



Judge
Grant Dorfman
Division 11B and
Administrative Presiding
Judge

- Texas Business Court Clerk's Office
William P. Clements Building
300 West 15th Street, Suite 606
Austin, Texas 78701

<https://www.txcourts.gov/businesscourt/>

- Office of Court Administration
Tom C. Clark Building
205 W. 14th Street, Suite 600
Austin, Texas 78701

