



Press Release

For Immediate Release

Three new civil district courts opened Sept. 1 as part of the Harris County judicial expansion

Sept. 8, 2026 — The Harris County District Courts welcome Judge Jacqueline Franklin, Judge Michael Landrum and Judge Shawn Nicole Thierry to the bench as three newly created civil district courts opened Sept. 1, with appointments set to expire Dec.31, 2028.

“We are excited to welcome our judges to the Harris County District Courts as we mark this important expansion of our civil judiciary,” said Judge Gloria E. López, Local Administrative District Judge and presiding judge of the 308th District Court. “We are grateful to the Texas Legislature for its commitment to Harris County and for providing additional resources to help our courts meet the needs of our wonderful community.”

Judge Jacqueline Franklin, 513th District Court

Judge Jacqueline Franklin is an attorney with Fanaff, Gonzales, Baldwin & Cunningham and previously served as an assistant district attorney for the 105th Judicial District in Nueces County. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Arizona and her Juris Doctorate from Thurgood Marshall School of Law.

Judge Michael Landrum, 514th District Court

Judge Michael Landrum is a practicing attorney and arbitrator who previously served as judge over Harris County’s 113th and 164th District Courts. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of St. Thomas and his Juris Doctorate from The University of Texas School of Law.

Judge Shawn Nicole Thierry, 515th District Court

Judge Shawn Nicole Thierry served as executive director of Policy in the Office of General Counsel at Texas Southern University and previously represented Texas House District 146 in the Texas House of Representatives. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Howard University and her Juris Doctorate from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law.

Created by the Texas Legislature to alleviate caseloads and wait times, these courts represent the first phase of the addition of five civil district courts in Harris County. The 516th and 517th District Courts are scheduled to open on October 1.

About the Harris County Civil District Courts:

The 27 Harris County Civil District Courts are dedicated to resolving civil disputes efficiently and fairly. These courts address a broad spectrum of issues like malpractice, damages, breach of contract, personal injury, and multi-district litigation. In Texas, district courts have original jurisdiction over civil matters in which a party is seeking equitable relief, injunctive relief, or where the amount in question is \$500 or more. This includes cases involving land titles, election contests, and other civil disputes.

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