



# FAMILY LAW APPEALS

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Annual Statistical Report for the Texas Judiciary

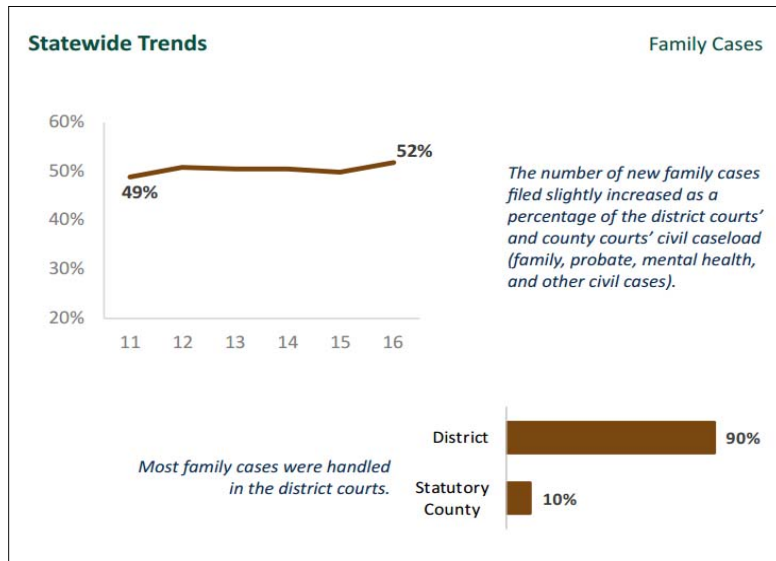


Fiscal Year  
2016

Office of Court Administration  
A Message from the Administrative Director

A recent national survey by the National Center for State Courts found that the majority of those surveyed felt that the state courts, despite their traditional role in protecting constitutional rights and serving as a check on the other branches of government, must be innovative in responding to its customer needs.<sup>1</sup> This challenge is one that the Texas courts have fully embraced this year.

**...state courts  
must be  
innovative...**



**Personal Liberties  
Must be Protected**



**"The Constitution promises liberty to all within its reach, a liberty that includes certain specific rights that allow persons, within a lawful realm, to define and express their identity."**

*Oberfegell v. Hodges*, 135 S.Ct. 2584, 2593 (2015)

Justice Kennedy, for the majority

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27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on State and Federal Appeals session  
"Family Law Appeals"