

Remote Court Proceedings: Are They Ever Going Away?

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Why Am I Covering this Topic?

- SCOTX Remote Proceedings Task Force – Vice Chair
- Texas Judicial Council – Chair, Civil Justice Committee
- Supreme Court Advisory Committee
- District Court judge – 7 years experience
 - 1st Zoom hearing in pandemic
 - 1st remote bench trial
 - 1st remote jury trial
 - 300+ remote trials

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DISTRICT COURTS 2019 (pre-pandemic)	TOTAL NON-CRIMINAL	CIVIL	FAMILY
Cases Disposed	488,674	145,721	342,953
By Trials	100,539	8,706	91,833
Bench Trials	99,362	7,654	91,708
Jury Verdicts	1,177	1,052	125

<https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1445760/fy-19-annual-statistical-report.pdf>

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Pandemic – Year One

March 2020 to February 2021:

- 1+ million court hearings
- 2,100+ judges
- 3+ million participants
- 2.4 million Zoom hours
- 1,300+ court YouTube channels

<https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1451689/media-release-texas-judiciary-marks-one-million-virtual-court-hearings.pdf>



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Access to Justice

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Digital Divide / Transportation Divide

- 85% of Americans have a smartphone
- 77% have home broadband
- >20% of Americans 65+ don't drive
- 21% of households <\$51k have no vehicle
- 45% of Americans have no access to public transit
- 25.5m Americans have travel-limiting disabilities

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[2022 eConference on State and Federal Appeals](#)

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