

# 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
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Zoom hearing in pandemic
  - 1<sup>st</sup> remote bench trial
  - 1<sup>st</sup> 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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## Title search: Remote Court Proceedings: Are They Ever Going Away?

Also available as part of the eCourse

[eSupplement to the 17th Annual Advanced Texas Administrative Law Seminar](#)

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32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference on State and Federal Appeals session  
"Remote Court Proceedings: Are They Ever Going Away? "