

1-1 By: Uresti S.B. No. 1740
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 10, 2009; March 20, 2009, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Jurisprudence;
1-4 April 23, 2009, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 4,
1-5 Nays 0; April 23, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to the creation of three additional county courts at law in
1-9 Bexar County.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
1-11 SECTION 1. Subsection (b), Section 25.0171, Government
1-12 Code, is amended to read as follows:

1-13 (b) Bexar County has the following county courts at law:
1-14 (1) County Court at Law No. 1 of Bexar County, Texas;
1-15 (2) County Court at Law No. 2 of Bexar County, Texas;
1-16 (3) County Court at Law No. 3 of Bexar County, Texas;
1-17 (4) County Court at Law No. 4 of Bexar County, Texas;
1-18 (5) County Court at Law No. 5 of Bexar County, Texas;
1-19 (6) County Court at Law No. 6 of Bexar County, Texas;
1-20 (7) County Court at Law No. 7 of Bexar County, Texas;
1-21 (8) County Court at Law No. 8 of Bexar County, Texas;
1-22 (9) County Court at Law No. 9 of Bexar County, Texas;
1-23 (10) County Court at Law No. 10 of Bexar County, Texas;
1-24 (11) County Court at Law No. 11 of Bexar County, Texas;

1-25 [~~and~~]

1-26 (12) County Court at Law No. 12 of Bexar County, Texas;
1-27 (13) County Court at Law No. 13 of Bexar County, Texas;
1-28 (14) County Court at Law No. 14 of Bexar County, Texas;

1-29 and

1-30 (15) County Court at Law No. 15 of Bexar County, Texas.

1-31 SECTION 2. Section 25.0172, Government Code, is amended by
1-32 adding Subsection (c-1) and amending Subsections (d), (l), (n),
1-33 (o), (u), and (v) to read as follows:

1-34 (c-1) The County Court at Law No. 13 of Bexar County, Texas,
1-35 shall give preference to cases prosecuted under:

1-36 (1) Section 22.01, Penal Code, in which the victim is a
1-37 person whose relationship to or association with the defendant is
1-38 described by Chapter 71, Family Code; and

1-39 (2) Section 25.07, Penal Code.

1-40 (d) The County Courts at Law Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11,
1-41 [and] 12, 13, 14, and 15 have six terms of court beginning on the
1-42 first Mondays in January, March, May, July, September, and
1-43 November. The County Court at Law No. 2 has six terms of court
1-44 beginning on the first Mondays in February, April, June, August,
1-45 October, and December.

1-46 (l) If the judge of the County Court at Law No. 4, 6, 7, 8, 9,
1-47 10, 11, ~~or~~ 12, 13, 14, or 15 is absent, disabled, or disqualified
1-48 from presiding, a special judge may be appointed or elected in the
1-49 manner provided by law for the appointment or election of a special
1-50 county judge. A special judge must take the oath of office required
1-51 by law for the regular judge. A special judge has the power and
1-52 jurisdiction of the court and of the regular judge for whom the
1-53 special judge is sitting and may sign orders, judgments, decrees,
1-54 and other process of any kind as "Judge Presiding." A special judge
1-55 is entitled to receive for services performed the same amount of
1-56 compensation as the regular judge, to be paid out of county funds.
1-57 The compensation paid a special judge may not be deducted from the
1-58 salary of the regular judge.

1-59 (n) The criminal district attorney shall attend the County
1-60 Court at Law No. 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, ~~or~~ 12, 13, 14, or 15 as
1-61 required by the judge. The criminal district attorney serves the
1-62 county courts at law as provided by Section 25.0010(b).

1-63 (o) The judge of the County Court at Law No. 4 or 6 may
1-64 appoint a court coordinator or administrative assistant for the

2-1 court. The judge of the County Court at Law No. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11,
2-2 [~~or~~] 12, 13, 14, or 15 may, with the approval of the commissioners
2-3 court, appoint a court coordinator or administrative assistant for
2-4 the court. A court coordinator or administrative assistant
2-5 performs the duties prescribed by the judge and cooperates with the
2-6 administrative judges and state agencies for the uniform and
2-7 efficient operation of the courts and the administration of
2-8 justice. The court coordinator or administrative assistant is
2-9 entitled to be paid from county funds the compensation, fees, and
2-10 allowances that are set by the commissioners court or as otherwise
2-11 provided by law. These provisions are in addition to the provisions
2-12 in Subchapter F, Chapter 75.

2-13 (u) The official court reporter of a county court at law is
2-14 entitled to receive an annual salary set by the judge and approved
2-15 by the commissioners court at an amount not less than \$35,256. The
2-16 official court reporter's fee shall be taxed as costs in civil
2-17 actions in County Courts at Law Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11,
2-18 [~~and~~] 12, 13, 14, and 15 in the same manner as that fee is taxed in
2-19 district court. In County Court at Law No. 2, the clerk collects
2-20 the official court reporters' fee of \$3 and pays it into the county
2-21 treasury in the same manner as district clerks are required to
2-22 collect and pay costs.

2-23 (v) Section 25.0006(a) does not apply to County Courts at
2-24 Law Nos. 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, [~~and~~] 12, 13, 14, and 15 of Bexar
2-25 County. Section 25.0006(b) does not apply to County Courts at Law
2-26 Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, [~~and~~] 12, 13, 14, and 15 of Bexar
2-27 County.

2-28 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding Subsection (b), Section
2-29 25.0171, Government Code, as amended by this Act, the County Court
2-30 at Law No. 13 of Bexar County, Texas, is created September 1, 2009,
2-31 or on an earlier date determined by the Commissioners Court of Bexar
2-32 County by an order entered in its minutes.

2-33 SECTION 4. Notwithstanding Subsection (b), Section
2-34 25.0171, Government Code, as amended by this Act, the County Court
2-35 at Law No. 14 of Bexar County, Texas, is created September 1, 2009,
2-36 or on an earlier date determined by the Commissioners Court of Bexar
2-37 County by an order entered in its minutes.

2-38 SECTION 5. Notwithstanding Subsection (b), Section
2-39 25.0171, Government Code, as amended by this Act, the County Court
2-40 at Law No. 15 of Bexar County, Texas, is created September 1, 2009,
2-41 or on an earlier date determined by the Commissioners Court of Bexar
2-42 County by an order entered in its minutes.

2-43 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-44 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-45 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-46 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-47 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

2-48 * * * * *