

In the 240th, 268th, 400th, 434th and 458th District Court
Of Fort Bend County, Texas

AGREEMENT REGARDING THE EXCHANGE OF BENCHES

Pursuant to §11 of the Texas Constitution, § 24.003; TRANSFER OF CASES; EXCHANGE OF BENCHES and § 74.094; HEARING CASES of the Texas Government Code: and the applicable rules governing the administration of justice, it is necessary for the orderly and efficient disposition of cases to facilitate by agreement the exchange of benches and hearing of cases for the respective District Courts within Fort Bend County, Texas.

WHEREAS, the Judges of the 240th, 268th, 400th, 434th and 458th District Courts find it necessary and appropriate to enter into this Agreed Order to balance dockets, address conflicts and ensure the prompt and efficient administration of justice.

IT IS HEREBY AGREED THAT:

The Honorable Surendran Pattel of the 240th District Court, the Honorable Steve Rogers of the 268th District Court, the Honorable Edward Krenak of the 400th District Court, the Honorable Christian Becerra of the 434th District Court and the Honorable Maggie Jaramillo for the 458th District Court shall exchange benches of their respective Courts and may hold court for each other at all times deemed expedient.

Each district judge may, if agreed by involved Judges:

- (1) transfer any civil or criminal case or proceeding on the court's docket, other than a case governed by Chapter 155, Family Code, to the docket of another district court in the county;
- (2) hear and determine any case or proceeding pending in another district court in the county without having the case transferred;
- (3) sit for another district court in the county and hear and determine any case or proceeding pending in that court;
- (4) temporarily exchange benches with the judge of another district court in the county;
- (5) try different cases in the same court at the same time; and

(6) occupy the judge's own courtroom or the courtroom of another district court in the county.

(7) If a district judge in the county is sick or otherwise absent, another district judge in the county may hold court for the judge.

The District Clerk shall ensure that notice of this Agreement is provided to all parties and counsel of record in cases that are transferred pursuant to this Agreement.

This order shall take effect immediately upon execution and shall remain in effect until further order or agreement of the respective courts.

SIGNED AND ENTERED this the 16 day of April, 2025.


240th Presiding Judge


268th Presiding Judge


400th Presiding Judge


434th Presiding Judge


458th Presiding Judge