

New Programs & Services Instituted:

- Let's All Rise to the Challenge

This program was instituted in October of 2007 aimed at early intervention for teenagers at risk of drug addiction. Recovering teenagers or young adults who have gone through the court system are ordered to speak to students about the dangers of drug abuse. For more information on this program, please contact , Ms. Leticia Aye, at (956) 523-4958

- 406th Drug Court Program

The first Webb County Adult Drug Court with an emphasis on rehabilitation of nonviolent drug offenders was implemented June 24, 2009, by Judge Oscar J. Hale, Jr. The Drug Court handles cases through intensive supervision, drug testing, treatment services, as well as, immediate sanctions and incentives.

- Counseling Services Coordinator

To aid the Court in various counseling needs of the parties who appear before the Court, a counselor was added to the 406th District Court staff.

- Adoption Day

Due to adoptions being handled with the numerous criminal & civil dockets, one special day is now set aside every month to celebrate all adoption proceedings.

- Warrant Enforcement Division

A Warrant Enforcement Division was created to aid the Courts in enforcing warrants issued.

- Video Conferencing

The 406th District Court can provide facilities on-location in other cities via Remote Broadcasting. Magistrations, arraignments and child victims' testimony can take place before the Court through video conferencing, without having to be physically present in the courtroom itself, saving the taxpayers on transportation costs from the various state jail facilities while benefiting the child victims who can also testify before the Court in a remote location, in a familiar setting, and from different locations elsewhere in the city.



Webb County Justice Center

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Oscar J. Hale, Jr.
State District Judge Presiding
406th Judicial District Court



Court Information & Statistics:

On November 2, 2004, the Honorable Oscar J. Hale, Jr., was elected by the citizens of Webb County to serve as only the second judge of the 406th Judicial District Court. Judge Hale took office on January 1, 2005. Judge Hale was re-elected to the bench on November 4, 2008, and will serve his second term through 2012.

The 406th District Court was created in 1999 by the Texas Legislature to serve the County of Webb. It was created as a special district court to give preference to cases involving domestic violence and cases under the Family Code and Health and Safety Code. The Court began operations in January of 2001

Subsequently, the Board of Judges agreed to have the 406th District Court handle all the family law matters that were filed in the district court, along with all of the protective orders.

Upon taking office in January 2005, Judge Hale agreed to handle all of the newly filed felony drug cases in order to help equalize the dockets of the district courts.

Also, in March 2005, Judge Hale impaneled the first Grand Jury for the 406th Judicial District Court. Consequently, this court now handles 75 percent of the felony drug cases and about 1/3 of all the felony criminal cases, including all the newly filed child abuse cases and felony domestic violence cases.

The 406th District Court also handles 10% of the general civil cases filed in Webb County. Additionally, Judge Hale presides over family law matters including adoptions, divorces, parental terminations, and protective orders. Consequently, the 406th District Court currently has the busiest caseload among the four district courts in Webb County.

By working with our state legislators during the 79th Legislative Session, Judge Hale was successful in expanding the jurisdiction of the 406th District Court to include concurrent jurisdiction with the county courts in certain areas.

The 406th District Court also has jurisdiction over misdemeanor cases and civil cases arising out of the Family Code and/or Health and Safety Code. Judge Hale was also successful in modifying the terms of Court for the 406th Judicial District Court.

Effective September 1, 2005, the new terms of court for the 406th District Court begin on the first Monday in January, April, July, and October. A new Grand Jury is impaneled to serve during each term of court.

Judge Hale also worked on improving the local rules for Webb County. In fact, Judge Hale serves as the Chairperson for the Local Rules Committee. On January 4, 2008, Judge Hale was also elected Local Administrative Judge. As the Local Administrative District Court Judge, Judge Hale is responsible for organizing Board Meetings with the Judges.

The function of the 406th District Court is to resolve legal disputes in Civil, Criminal, and Family Cases.

Types of Cases:

Two basic types of cases are heard in Texas Courts:

Criminal & Civil Cases

Family cases are considered civil cases.

406th Drug Court Program:

A Drug Court is a special court given the responsibility to handle cases involving substance-abuse offenders through intensive supervision, drug testing, and treatment services. The 406th Drug Court Program brings together the efforts of all interveners including: the drug court judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, probation officer, treatment professional, court administrator, and law enforcement officer. This team gives a participant a unique opportunity to deal with his or her substance-abuse issues in a supportive environment. Participants find the Drug Court more challenging than jail or prison, contrary to the thought or idea that Drug Courts are "soft on crime".

Jury Trials

The 406th Judicial District Court, has handled over 59 jury trials (civil, criminal & family) since 2005.

Bench Trials

Judge Hale has also presided over 200 bench trials on family law matters since 2005.

Civic Duty/Jury Service

From January 2005 through January 2010, there have been over 6,000 Webb County residents who have participated in the jury selection process at the 406th District Court, including over 900 Jurors who have served on petit juries and who have directly contributed to the dispensation of justice.

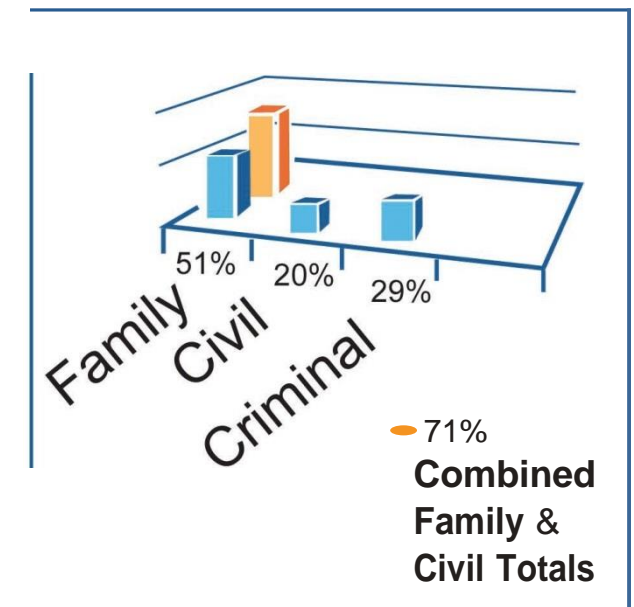
Additionally, there have been over 200 residents who have performed their civic duty by serving on our Grand Juries.

2005 - 2009 *Dispositions 6,210 Cases:

*From Inception to Completion:

Family Cases: 2853
Civil Cases: 1394
Criminal & Drug Cases: 1963

CASE BREAKDOWN IN PERCENTAGES:



In order for our democratic system of Justice to work, we, as residents of Webb County, must continue to do our part by answering the courts' summons and by participating in the jury selection process. For those of you who have served, we thank you for your assistance in the administration of justice.