

SUCCESSION OF DISTRICT JUDGES OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS (1879—2007)

The Northern District's first district judgeship was created in February 1879. In February 1898, a temporary judgeship was authorized for the Northern District, with the provision that any vacancy in the existing judgeship would not be filled. In February 1919, one additional judgeship was authorized for the Northern District. Another temporary judgeship was authorized in September 1922. This temporary judgeship was made permanent in August 1935. In May 1961, two new judgeships were created for the Northern District. One additional judgeship was authorized in June 1970. In October 1978, three new judgeships were created for the Northern District, and in July 1984, one additional judgeship was authorized. The last two new district judgeships for the Northern District were authorized in December 1990, bringing the total number of active district judges in the Northern District to twelve.

The Constitution gives Congress the power to create federal courts—other than the Supreme Court—and to decide how many judges there will be and where their duty stations will be. Each statute establishing a district judgeship in the Northern District of Texas is listed below, followed by the name of each judge who has held or holds the judgeship established by that statute.

ACT OF FEB. 24, 1879, 20 STAT. 318

1. McCormick, Andrew P. (1879-1892)
2. Rector, John B. (1892-1898)

ACT OF FEB. 9, 1898, 30 STAT. 240

1. Meek, Edward R. (1898-1935)
2. Davidson, T. Whitfield (1936-1965)
3. Taylor, William M., Jr. (1966-1979)
4. Buchmeyer, Jerry (1979-2003)
5. Boyle, Jane J. (2004-present)

ACT OF FEB. 26, 1919, 40 STAT. 1183

1. Wilson, James C. (1919-1947)
2. Dooley, Joe B. (1947-1966)
3. Woodward, Halbert O. (1968-1986)
4. Cummings, Sam R. (1987-present)

ACT OF SEPT. 14, 1922, 42 STAT. 837

1. Atwell, William H. (1923-1954)
2. Estes, Joe Ewing (1955-1972)
3. Mahon, Eldon B. (1972-1989)
4. McBryde, John H. (1990-present)

ACT OF MAY 19, 1961, 75 STAT. 80 (Two Judgeships)

1. Hughes, Sarah T. (1961-1975)
2. Higginbotham, Patrick E. (1975-1982)
3. Fish, A. Joe (1983-present)

1. Brewster, Leo (1961-1973)
2. Porter, Robert W. (1974-1990)
3. Solis, Jorge A. (1991-present)

ACT OF JUNE 2, 1970, 84 STAT. 294

1. Hill, Robert M. (1970-1984)
2. Fitzwater, Sidney A. (1986-present)

ACT OF OCT. 20, 1978, 92 STAT. 1629 (Three Judgeships)

1. Belew, David O., Jr. (1979-1990)
 2. Means, Terry R. (1991-present)
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1. Sanders, H. Barefoot, Jr. (1979-1996)
 2. Lynn, Barbara M.G. (2000-present)
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1. Robinson, Mary Lou (1979-present)

ACT OF JULY 10, 1984, 98 STAT. 333

1. Maloney, Robert B. (1985-2000)
2. Godbey, David C. (2002-present)

ACT OF DEC. 1, 1990, 104 STAT. 5089 (Two Judgeships)

1. Kendall, Elton Joe (1992-2002)
 2. Kinkeade, James Edgar (2002-present)
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1. Lindsay, Sam A. (1998-present)