

TEXAS CIVIL PROCEDURE:
TRIAL AND APPELLATE
PRACTICE
2016–2017 Edition

TEXAS CIVIL PROCEDURE: TRIAL AND APPELLATE PRACTICE

2016–2017 Edition

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TABLE OF PRACTICE EXERCISES

Practice Exercise #1	29
Practice Exercise #2	38
Practice Exercise #3	45
Practice Exercise #4	89
Practice Exercise #5	93
Practice Exercise #6	102
Practice Exercise #7	130
Practice Exercise #8	202
Practice Exercise #9	260
Practice Exercise #10	320
Practice Exercise #11	347
Practice Exercise #12	376
Practice Exercise #13	436
Practice Exercise #14	445
Practice Exercise #15	487
Practice Exercise #16	524
Practice Exercise #17	610
Practice Exercise #18	630
Practice Exercise #19	713
Practice Exercise #20	736
Practice Exercise #21	744
Practice Exercise #22	773

Table of Contents

	Table of Practice Exercises	iii
	Dedication	xxi
	Introduction	xxiii
Chapter 1	PRETRIAL PREPARATION AND MOTION PRACTICE ...	1
§ 1.01	SCHEDULING THE TRIAL	1
[A]	Setting the Case for Trial in Accordance With Local Rules	1
[1]	Trial Settings	1
[a]	Methods of Setting for Trial	1
[b]	Consequences of Failure to Set Case for Trial	2
[c]	Notice of Setting for Trial	2
[d]	Expedited Trial Settings	3
[e]	Preferential Settings	3
[2]	Announcements at Docket Calls	4
[a]	Generally	4
[b]	Consequences of Failure to Announce	4
[3]	Dismissals for Want of Prosecution	5
	VILLARREAL v. SAN ANTONIO TRUCK & EQUIPMENT	5
	Notes and Questions	8
	SMITH v. BABCOCK & WILCOX CONSTRUCTION CO., INC. ...	11
	Notes and Questions	12
[B]	Continuances	14
[1]	Continuance for Absence of Counsel: The Scheduling Dilemma	14
[a]	Conflicting Engagements	14
	OATES v. OATES	15
	REYNA v. REYNA	16
	Notes and Questions	17
[b]	Withdrawal of Counsel	17
	VILLEGAS v. CARTER	17
	Notes and Questions	19
[2]	Continuance for Want of Testimony (Missing Witness)	20
	BURKE v. SCOTT	20
	Notes and Questions	22
[3]	Continuance for Absence of a Party	25
	Notes and Questions	25
[4]	Legislative Continuance	27
	PRACTICE EXERCISE #1	29

Table of Contents

[5]	Expedited Actions	30
§ 1.02	OBTAINING A TRIAL BY JURY	30
[A]	The Right to a Jury Trial in Texas	30
	STATE OF TEXAS v. CREDIT BUREAU OF LAREDO, INC.	30
	STATE v. LANDRY	34
	Notes and Questions	36
	PRACTICE EXERCISE #2	38
[B]	Jury Fee, Demand, and Waiver	39
	HALSELL v. DEHOYOS	40
	SIX FLAGS OVER TEXAS, INC. v. PARKER	41
	Notes and Questions	43
[C]	Do You Really Want to Demand a Jury? The Choice Between Trial by Jury and Trial to the Court	43
	WILLIAM V. DORSANEO III, TEXAS LITIGATION GUIDE	44
	PRACTICE EXERCISE #3	45
§ 1.03	THE MOTION <i>IN LIMINE</i> AND OTHER MOTIONS ON THE EVE OF TRIAL	45
[A]	Nature and Use of the Motion <i>in Limine</i>	45
	WILLIAM V. DORSANEO III, TEXAS LITIGATION GUIDE	45
	ACORD v. GENERAL MOTORS CORP.	47
	TEMPO TAMERS, INC. v. CROW-HOUSTON FOUR, LTD.	47
	Notes and Questions	48
[B]	Practical Use of the Motion <i>in Limine</i>	50
[1]	Deciding Upon Subjects of the Motion; Opposing the Motion	50
	WILLIAM V. DORSANEO III, TEXAS LITIGATION GUIDE	50
[2]	Drafting the Motion	52
	WILLIAM V. DORSANEO III, TEXAS LITIGATION GUIDE	52
	Notes and Questions	54
[C]	Other Motions on the Eve of Trial	55
	Note	55
	APPENDIX — JURY TRIALS, TRIAL SETTINGS, CONTINUANCES, MOTIONS IN LIMINE AND THE TEXAS BAR EXAM	56
Chapter 2	JURY SELECTION	63
§ 2.01	SELECTION OF JURY PANEL	70
[A]	Jury Wheel System	70
[B]	Mechanical or Electronic System	64
[C]	Summoning Jurors	64
[D]	Empaneling the Jury	65
[1]	Number of Jurors; Panel Selection	65

Table of Contents

	[2]	Qualifications	66
	[3]	Exemptions	67
	[E]	Assignment for Service	68
	[1]	Interchangeable Juries	68
	[2]	Juries in Other Counties	69
§ 2.02		<i>VOIR DIRE</i> EXAMINATION	69
	[A]	Purpose and Scope of Examination	69
		HYUNDAI MOTOR CO. v. VASQUEZ	69
		IN RE COMMITMENT OF HILL	84
		Notes and Questions	86
		PRACTICE EXERCISE #4	89
	[B]	Challenges for Cause	90
	[1]	Statutory Disqualification Grounds	90
		PRACTICE EXERCISE #5	93
	[2]	Bias or Prejudice	94
		CORTEZ ex rel. PUENTES v. HCCI-SAN ANTONIO, INC.	94
		EL HAFI v. BAKER	100
		PRACTICE EXERCISE #6	102
	[3]	Preservation of Error	102
		HALLETT v. HOUSTON NORTHWEST MEDICAL CENTER	102
		Notes and Questions	104
	[C]	Peremptory Challenges	105
	[1]	Properly Allocating the Number of Peremptory Strikes	105
		TAMBURELLO v. WELCH	105
		PATTERSON DENTAL COMPANY v. DUNN	108
		Notes	113
	[2]	Constitutionally Flawed Peremptory Challenges	115
	[a]	Impermissible Bases for Exercising Peremptory Strikes	115
		POWERS v. PALACIOS	115
		Notes and Questions	116
		DAVIS v. FISK ELECTRIC CO.	118
		Notes and Questions	127
	[b]	Procedures for Urging <i>Batson</i> Challenges and Burden of Proof	127
		Notes and Questions	130
		PRACTICE EXERCISE #7	130
§ 2.03		JURY SELECTION IN PRACTICE	131
	[A]	The Conduct of the <i>Voir Dire</i> Examination in Practice	131
		D. CRUMP, ATTORNEYS' GOALS AND TACTICS IN <i>VOIR DIRE</i> EXAMINATION	131
		A SAMPLE <i>VOIR DIRE</i> EXAMINATION: EXAMINATION BY	

Table of Contents

	JOSEPH D. JAMAIL IN <i>ASPRONTE</i> v. <i>GENERAL MOTORS</i> . . .	136
	Notes and Questions	157
[B]	The Exercise of Peremptory Challenges	158
	SAMPLE JURY INFORMATION FORMS AND JURY STRIKES: D. CRUMP, <i>THE ANATOMY OF A CIVIL SUIT: OBIEDIO</i> v. <i>J.</i> <i>WEINGARTEN, INC.</i>	158
	Notes and Questions	168
	APPENDIX — JURY SELECTION AND THE TEXAS BAR EXAM	170
Chapter 3	THE TRIAL	175
§ 3.01	THE ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS IN A JURY TRIAL	175
[A]	The Events in a Trial	175
[1]	Empaneling the Jury	175
[2]	Opening Statements	176
[3]	“The Rule”	176
[4]	Order and Nature of Proof	176
[5]	The Motion for Instructed Verdict	178
[6]	The Jury Charge	178
[7]	Jury Argument	179
[8]	Jury Deliberations and Receipt of Verdict	179
[9]	Judgment and New Trial	179
[10]	Summary	180
[B]	The Right to Open and Close	180
	<i>MONTOYA</i> v. <i>NUECES VACUUM SERVICE, INC.</i>	180
	Notes and Questions	188
§ 3.02	OPENING STATEMENTS	194
	<i>RANGER INSURANCE CO. v. ROGERS</i>	194
	Notes and Questions	193
§ 3.03	INVOKING “THE RULE”	193
	<i>DRILEX SYSTEMS, INC. v. FLORES</i>	193
	PRACTICE EXERCISE #8	202
§ 3.04	THE MECHANICS OF PRESENTING PROOF	202
[A]	Exhibits: Presenting and Excluding Evidence	202
	<i>GUETERSLOH</i> v. <i>C.I.T. CORP.</i>	202
	Notes and Questions	204
	<i>DORSANEO & JOHNSON, TEXAS CIVIL TRIAL GUIDE</i>	204
[B]	Stipulations	208
	<i>JACKSON</i> v. <i>LEWIS</i>	208
[C]	Direct Examination of Witnesses: The Format of Making One’s Proof	212

Table of Contents

	D. CRUMP, SOME PROBLEMS OF DIRECT EXAMINATION AND THEIR SOLUTIONS	212
	INTRODUCTION TO SAMPLE DIRECT EXAMINATION OF PLAINTIFF AS WITNESS IN <i>OBIEDIO v. J. WEINGARTEN, INC.</i>	216
	A SAMPLE WITNESS EXAMINATION: EXCERPTS FROM TESTIMONY OF THE PLAINTIFF, RECORD AT 81–94, <i>OBIEDIO v. J. WEINGARTEN, INC.</i> ,	217
	Notes and Questions	227
[D]	The Relationship Between the Evidence and Instructed Verdict	227
	NOTE ON INSTRUCTED VERDICT	227
	J. WEINGARTEN, INC. v. OBIEDIO	228
[E]	Cross-Examination and Examination of Adverse Parties	232
	KIEL v. TEXAS EMPLOYERS INSURANCE ASSOCIATION	232
	Note	233
	TRUCO PROPERTIES, INC. v. CHARLTON	234
[F]	Use of Discovery Materials at Trial	235
[G]	Use of Opinion Testimony at Trial	235
[1]	Overview: Lay and Expert Testimony	235
	DORSANEO & JOHNSON, TEXAS CIVIL TRIAL GUIDE	235
[2]	The Texas Supreme Court Applies Daubert/Robinson	239
	GAMMILL v. JACK WILLIAMS CHEVROLET, INC.	239
	Notes and Questions	250
[H]	Control by the Court of the Presentation of Proof: Comments, Rulings, and Preservation of Error	252
[1]	Prejudicial Comments; Preserving Error as to Excluded Evidence	252
	J. POPE AND C.E. HAMPTON, PRESENTING AND EXCLUDING EVIDENCE	252
	TEXAS EMPLOYERS’ INSURANCE ASSOCIATION v. GARZA	255
[2]	Preserving Error as to Admitted Evidence	259
	HARLOW v. SWIFT AND CO.	259
	PRACTICE EXERCISE #9	260
§ 3.05	TRIAL MOTION PRACTICE	261
	WILLIAM V. DORSANEO III, TEXAS LITIGATION GUIDE	261
	APPENDIX — INVOKING THE RULE, EXPERT TESTIMONY, AND THE TEXAS BAR EXAM	264
Chapter 4	THE JURY CHARGE	269
§ 4.01	THE JURY CHARGE — BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW	269
[A]	The Purpose of the Jury Charge	269

Table of Contents

[B]	A Sample Texas Jury Charge	270
[1]	Broad Form Submission	270
	Notes and Questions	275
[2]	Separate and Distinct Submission	276
	Notes and Questions	277
[C]	Historical Development and Pervasive Issues	277
[1]	Pre-1973: Specific Questions (Special Issues)	277
[2]	The Transition Period: 1973–1988	278
[3]	Treatment of the Inferential Rebuttal Defense	279
[4]	Variance Problems	282
	BROWN v. AMERICAN TRANSFER AND STORAGE CO.	283
	Notes and Questions	285
[5]	The Court Commits to Broad Form	286
	ISLAND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORP. v. REPUBLIC OF TEXAS SAVINGS ASSOCIATION	286
	Notes and Questions	292
§ 4.02	MANDATORY BROAD-FORM SUBMISSION: THE CURRENT SYSTEM	293
[A]	Question Format	293
	TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES v. E.B.	293
	KEETCH v. KROGER CO.	295
	H.E. BUTT GROCERY CO. v. WARNER	298
	CROWN LIFE INSURANCE CO. v. CASTEEL	299
	Notes and Questions	305
	HARRIS COUNTY v. SMITH	307
	Notes and Questions	316
	PRACTICE EXERCISE #10 (JURY QUESTIONS)	320
[B]	The Relationship of Explanatory Instructions and Definitions to the Jury Questions	321
[1]	Historical Development and Overview	321
[2]	Relating Instructions and Definitions to “Jury Questions”	321
	DIAMOND OFFSHORE MANAGEMENT CO. v. GUIDRY	321
	Note	323
[3]	When Instructions are “Proper”	323
	BRANDON v. COOPER	323
	Notes and Questions	325
[4]	Improper Judicial Comments: Instructions that Nudge the Jury, Comment on the Weight of the Evidence, or Inform the Jury of the Effect of its Answers	327
	ACORD v. GENERAL MOTORS CORP.	327
	MADDOX v. DENKA CHEMICAL CORP.	330

Table of Contents

	LONE STAR GAS CO. v. LEMOND	332
	Notes and Questions	333
[5]	Submission of Inferential Rebuttal Instructions	334
	DILLARD v. TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE	334
[6]	Informing Jurors of Effect of Answers on Judgment	339
	H.E. BUTT GROCERY CO. v. BILOTTO	339
	Notes and Questions	345
	PRACTICE EXERCISE #11 (INSTRUCTIONS AND DEFINITIONS)	347
§ 4.03	REQUESTS TO CHARGE AND OBJECTIONS TO THE CHARGE	347
[A]	Preservation of Charge Complaints	347
[1]	Traditional Rules	348
	WILLIAM V. DORSANEO, III, REVISION AND RECODIFICATION OF THE TEXAS RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE CONCERNING THE JURY CHARGE	348
	LYLES v. TEXAS EMPLOYERS' INSURANCE ASSOCIATION	349
	Notes and Questions	350
[2]	The Texas Supreme Court's New Approach	350
	STATE DEP'T OF HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSP. v. PAYNE	350
	Notes and Questions	356
[B]	The Timing of Objections and Requests	359
	MISSOURI PACIFIC RAILROAD CO. v. CROSS	359
	Notes and Questions	364
[C]	The Manner of Making Requests to Charge and Objections to the Court's Proposed Charge	365
[1]	Making Objections	365
	MONSANTO COMPANY v. MILAM	365
[2]	Making Requests	368
	DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES v. HINDS	368
	DALLAS MARKET CENTER DEVELOPMENT v. LIEDEKER	372
	Notes and Questions	374
	PRACTICE EXERCISE #12 (OBJECTIONS AND REQUESTS)	376
[D]	The Consequences of Failure to Object	376
[1]	Waiver of Substantive Legal Theory	376
	BARFIELD v. BROGDON	376
	HOLLAND v. WAL-MART STORES, INC.	380
	Notes and Questions	383
[2]	Deemed Elements	384
	HAWES v. CENTRAL TEXAS PRODUCTION CREDIT	

Table of Contents

	ASSOCIATION	384
[3]	Waived Grounds	386
	SUDDERTH v. HOWARD	386
	Notes and Questions	388
	APPENDIX A — THE JURY CHARGE AND THE TEXAS BAR EXAM	390
Chapter 5	JURY ARGUMENT	393
§ 5.01	THE LEGITIMATE FUNCTIONS OF ARGUMENT TO THE JURY	393
	STANDARD FIRE INSURANCE CO. v. REESE	393
	Notes and Questions	401
	McINNES v. YAMAHA MOTOR CORP., U.S.A.	402
	Notes and Questions	403
§ 5.02	HOW JURY ARGUMENT WORKS IN PRACTICE	405
	CRUMP, EFFECTIVE JURY ARGUMENT: THE ORGANIZATION . .	405
	Notes and Questions	407
	COURT’S CHARGE IN PENNZOIL CO. v. TEXACO, INC.	408
	EXCERPTS FROM JURY ARGUMENTS OR SUMMATIONS IN <i>PENNZOIL CO. v. TEXACO, INC.</i>	410
§ 5.03	PROPER AND IMPROPER TYPES OF JURY ARGUMENT	415
[A]	Appeals to Passion and Prejudice	415
	MATTER OF MARRIAGE OF KNIGHTON	415
	TEXAS EMPLOYERS’ INSURANCE ASSOCIATION v. GUERRERO	418
	Notes and Questions	423
[B]	Evidence, Remarks Outside the Record, and Inferences from the Evidence	424
	YOUNGER BROTHERS, INC. v. MYERS	424
	Notes and Questions	426
[C]	Arguments About the Law and Arguments Diverting the Jury from its Duty	428
	Notes and Questions	430
[D]	Personal Invective and Accusations of Misconduct	431
	AMERICAN PETROFINA, INC. v. PPG INDUSTRIES, INC.	431
	Notes and Questions	433
[E]	The “Open Door” or “Invited Argument” Doctrine	433
	FULMER v. THOMPSON	433
	Notes and Questions	436
	PRACTICE EXERCISE #13	436
	APPENDIX — JURY ARGUMENT AND THE TEXAS BAR	

Table of Contents

	EXAM	437
Chapter 6	JURY DELIBERATIONS AND THE VERDICT	439
§ 6.01	INTRODUCTION	439
§ 6.02	CONDUCT OF JURY DURING DELIBERATIONS	439
[A]	The Jury’s “Code of Conduct”	439
	PRACTICE EXERCISE #14	445
	Notes and Questions	446
[B]	Misconduct During Deliberation and the Harmless Error Rule	447
	PHARO v. CHAMBERS COUNTY	447
	GOLDEN EAGLE ARCHERY, INC. v. JACKSON	452
	Notes and Questions	464
§ 6.03	THE CONDUCT OF THE COURT: POST-DELIBERATION COMMENCEMENT COMMUNICATIONS	466
[A]	Responding to Communications From the Jurors	466
	GARZA v. SAN ANTONIO LIGHT	466
	Notes and Questions	469
[B]	The Use of Verdict-Urging Instructions	469
§ 6.04	RECEIPT OF VERDICT	470
[A]	The “Duty” to Receive the Verdict and Render Judgment	470
	McCAULEY v. CHARTER OAK FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY ..	471
	Notes and Questions	474
[B]	The Partial Verdict; Consequences of Failure to Insist on a Complete Verdict	475
	FLEET v. FLEET	475
	ELLIOTT v. HAMILTON	477
	GARCIA v. SPOHN HEALTH SYSTEM	479
	Notes and Questions	482
[C]	Conflicting Findings	483
	FIRST NAT. BANK AT LUBBOCK v. J.E. MITCHELL CO.	483
	Note	487
	PRACTICE EXERCISE #15	487
	LITTLE ROCK FURNITURE MFG. CO. v. DUNN	488
	Notes and Questions	493
	APPENDIX — JURY DELIBERATIONS, THE JURY VERDICT AND THE TEXAS BAR EXAM	495
Chapter 7	NONJURY TRIAL	499
§ 7.01	CHARACTERISTICS OF A NONJURY TRIAL	499
[A]	Differences from Jury Trial: Consideration of Evidence	499

Table of Contents

[B]	Order of Trial Proceedings	500
[C]	Motion for Judgment	500
[D]	Trial by Consent	500
[E]	The Function of Express Findings and Conclusions	501
[1]	Presumption of Implied Findings	501
[2]	Effect of Trial Judge’s Express Findings	502
[F]	The Procedure for Requesting Findings and Conclusions	503
	Notes and Questions	503
[G]	Effect of Requests for Findings on Appellate Timetable	504
	IKB INDUSTRIES v. PRO-LINE CORP.	504
	Notes and Questions	508
[H]	The Consequences of a Trial Court’s Failure to Make Findings	509
[1]	Interference with the Proper Presentation of the Appeal	509
	FRASER v. GOLDBERG	509
	TEXAS EASTERN TRANSMISSION CORPORATION v. SEALY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	511
	Notes and Questions	512
[2]	Omitted and Presumed Findings	514
	STRETCHER v. GREGG	514
	Note	520
[I]	Additional Findings of Fact	521
	HOOD v. ADAMS	521
	WESTERN STEEL CO. v. COAST INVESTMENT CORP.	523
	Notes and Questions	524
	PRACTICE EXERCISE #16	524
§ 7.02	BASES FOR CHALLENGING TRIAL COURT’S FINDINGS OF FACT . .	525
	McGALLIARD v. KUHLMANN	525
	Notes and Questions	528

**Chapter 8 TAKING THE CASE AWAY FROM THE JURY:
 INSTRUCTED VERDICT AND POST-TRIAL MOTIONS . 529**

§ 8.01	THE STANDARDS FOR GRANTING MOTIONS FOR INSTRUCTED VERDICT AND POST-TRIAL MOTIONS	534
§ 8.02	MOTION FOR INSTRUCTED VERDICT	533
[A]	The Standards for Granting an Instructed Verdict	533
[1]	No Evidence: The Standard for Instructing a Verdict in Favor of the Party Without the Burden of Persuasion	533
	KINDRED v. CON/CHEM, INC.	533
	WAL-MART STORES, INC. v. GONZALEZ	537
	Notes and Questions	541

Table of Contents

[2]	Matter of Law: The Standard for Directing a Verdict in Favor of the Party With the Burden of Persuasion	548
	COLLORA v. NAVARRO	548
	Notes and Questions	550
[3]	Judicial Admissions and Contradictory Testimony	551
[4]	Credibility Determinations; Disbelief of Testimony	552
	Notes and Questions	552
	OBIEDIO v. J. WEINGARTEN, INC. RECORD AT 94–98	553
	Notes and Questions	553
[5]	The Clear and Convincing Evidence Standard	554
	IN RE J.F.C.	555
[B]	Procedure for Moving for, and Granting, an Instructed Verdict	557
[1]	The Motion Itself: Statement of Grounds	557
	Notes and Questions	558
[2]	Timing of the Motion for Instructed Verdict	559
[3]	Effect of Defective Pleadings or Evidence	560
§ 8.03	THE MOTION FOR JUDGMENT NOTWITHSTANDING THE VERDICT OR TO DISREGARD JURY FINDINGS	560
	EQUISTAR CHEMICALS, L.P. v. DRESSER-RAND CO.	560
	Notes and Questions	564
§ 8.04	THE MOTION FOR JUDGMENT ON THE VERDICT	570
	LITTON INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS v. GAMMAGE	570
	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BEEVILLE v. FOJTIK	569
	Note	569
§ 8.05	THE MOTION FOR NEW TRIAL	569
[A]	Nature and Purpose of the Motion	569
[B]	Procedural Grounds for New Trial	571
[1]	New Trial Because of Misconduct of Jury, Party, Attorney, Court Officer, or Third Party	571
	NOTE ON PRESENTING MATTERS NOT YET IN THE RECORD BY THE MOTION FOR NEW TRIAL	571
[2]	New Trial Because of Newly Discovered Evidence	573
	JACKSON v. VAN WINKLE	573
	Notes and Questions	578
[3]	A New Trial on Equitable Grounds or for Related Reasons	578
	BANK ONE, TEXAS, N.A. v. MOODY	578
	Notes and Questions	583
[C]	New Trial Because of Factual Issues	585
[1]	Insufficient Evidence; Great Weight and Preponderance	585
	COOPER v. ARGONAUT INSURANCE CO.	585
	Notes and Questions	588

Table of Contents

[2]	Excessive or Inadequate Damages; Remittitur	588
	LARSON v. CACTUS UTILITY CO.	588
	Notes and Questions	591
§ 8.06	MODIFICATION OF THE TRIAL COURT’S JUDGMENT; PLENARY POWER	592
[A]	Motions to Modify the Trial Court’s Judgment	592
	BRAZOS ELEC. POWER CO-OP, INC. v. CALLEJO	592
	Notes	595
[B]	“Plenary Power” and the Effect of Post-Judgment Motions	595
	LANE BANK EQUIP. CO. v. SMITH SOUTHERN EQUIP., INC.	595
	HISTORICAL NOTE	601
	Notes and Questions	602
	MORITZ v. PREISS	603
	Notes and Questions	605
	LEVIT v. ADAMS	605
	Note	607
[C]	Judgments “Nunc Pro Tunc”	608
	ESCOBAR v. ESCOBAR	608
	Notes and Questions	610
	PRACTICE EXERCISE #17	610
[D]	The Equitable Bill of Review	611
	APPENDIX — SUFFICIENCY OF THE EVIDENCE, MOTIONS FOR NEW TRIAL, MOTIONS FOR JUDGMENT N.O.V. AND THE TEXAS BAR EXAM	616
Chapter 9	REVIEW OF FINAL AND INTERLOCUTORY ORDERS IN THE APPELLATE COURTS	623
§ 9.01	APPEALABLE ORDERS: THE REQUIREMENT OF FINALITY AND ITS EXCEPTIONS	623
	PRACTICE EXERCISE #18	630
§ 9.02	“WHAT IS A FINAL JUDGMENT”	631
[A]	A Series of Orders Disposing of All Claims	631
	WEBB v. JORNS	631
	Notes	632
[B]	Overlooked Claims and the Mother Hubbard Clause	634
[1]	Summary Judgments Not Purporting to be Final	634
	MAHAN v. BOST	635
[2]	The <i>Aldridge</i> Presumption and the Birth of Mother Hubbard	635
[3]	Mother Hubbard’s Replacement: Current Law	638
	LEHMANN v. HAR-CON CORP.	638

Table of Contents

	M.O. DENTAL LAB v. RAPE	646
	Notes and Questions	649
	APPENDIX — APPELLATE REVIEW OF FINAL JUDGMENTS AND INTERLOCUTORY ORDERS	653
Chapter 10	THE COURT OF APPEALS	655
§ 10.01	THE SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION OF THE COURT OF APPEALS IN CIVIL CASES	655
[A]	Amount in Controversy & Geographical Restrictions	655
	TUNE v. TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	656
	Notes and Questions	662
[B]	General Final Judgment Requirement	662
[C]	Duty to Exercise Jurisdiction	663
§ 10.02	APPELLATE PREREQUISITES AND PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS	663
[A]	Trial Court Complaint: Preservation of the Right to Complain	663
	CECIL v. SMITH	663
	Notes and Questions	665
[B]	Suspending Enforcement of the Judgment Pending Appeal	667
	IN RE SMITH	667
	Notes and Questions	671
[C]	Frivolous Appeals	675
	BRIDGES v. ROBINSON	675
	Note	681
§ 10.03	INTRODUCTION TO THE APPELLATE PROCESS	681
§ 10.04	COMMENCEMENT AND MODIFICATION OF THE APPELLATE PROCESS AND TIMETABLES	682
[A]	Effect of Modified Trial Court Judgment	683
	CHECK v. MITCHELL	683
	Notes and Questions	684
[B]	No Notice of Trial Court’s Judgment	686
	ST. LOUIS FEDERAL SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION v. SUMMERHOUSE JOINT VENTURE	686
	Note	686
§ 10.05	PROCEDURES FOR PROSECUTING ORDINARY APPEAL	687
[A]	Perfection of the Appeal	687
[1]	Preparation and Filing of Notice of Appeal	687
[2]	Motion for Extension of Time to File Notice of Appeal	688
	GARCIA v. KASTNER FARMS, INC.	688
	VERBURGT v. DORNER	690

Table of Contents

	Notes and Questions	694
[B]	Preparation and Filing of Appellate Record	695
[1]	Reporter’s Record	695
	CMM GRAIN CO., INC. v. OZGUNDUZ	696
	Notes and Questions	698
[2]	Clerk’s Record	699
[3]	Filing the Clerk’s and Reporter’s Records	699
[C]	Preparation and Filing of Appellate Briefs	700
[1]	Timetable for Extension of Time to File Briefs	700
[2]	Contents of Appellant’s Brief	700
	LANG v. HARWOOD	701
[3]	Contents of the Appellee’s Brief: Reply Points and Cross-Points	704
[4]	Appellant’s Reply Brief	705
[5]	Amended or Supplemental Briefs	706
§ 10.06	PROCEDURES FOR PROSECUTING ACCELERATED AND RESTRICTED APPEALS	707
[A]	Accelerated Appeals	707
[B]	Restricted Appeals	708
	DAVENPORT v. SCHEBLE	709
	Note	713
	PRACTICE EXERCISE #19	713
§ 10.07	ORAL ARGUMENT	719
§ 10.08	JUDGMENT MAKING IN THE COURT OF APPEALS	718
[A]	Rendition or Remand?	718
	Notes and Questions	720
[B]	Partial Remand	720
§ 10.09	MOTIONS FOR REHEARING AND EN BANC RECONSIDERATION	721
[A]	Motion for Rehearing	721
[B]	En Banc Reconsideration	722
	APPENDIX — INVOKING APPELLATE JURISDICTION AND SUSPENDING JUDGMENT ENFORCEMENT AND THE TEXAS BAR EXAM	723
Chapter 11	APPELLATE PROCEEDINGS IN THE TEXAS SUPREME COURT	725
§ 11.01	JURISDICTION	725
[A]	Appeals From Courts of Appeals	725
	POOL v. FORD MOTOR CO.	727
	Notes and Questions	730
	GONZALEZ v. AVALOS	733

Table of Contents

	Notes and Questions	735
	PRACTICE EXERCISE #20	736
[B]	Direct Appeals From Trial Court	737
	TEXAS WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION v. GARCIA	737
	Notes and Questions	738
§ 11.02	SECURING APPELLATE REVIEW ON THE MERITS	739
[A]	Appellate Process and Timetable	739
	CITY OF SAN ANTONIO v. HARTMAN	741
	Note	743
	PRACTICE EXERCISE #21	744
[B]	Obtaining Relief in Texas Supreme Court	744
[C]	Certified Questions From United States Courts	745
	AMBERBOY v. SOCIETE de BANQUE PRIVEE	745
[D]	Supreme Court Briefing	749
	WILLIAMS v. KHALAF	749
	Notes	750
[E]	Rehearing	751
Chapter 12	ORIGINAL PROCEEDINGS IN APPELLATE COURTS . .	753
§ 12.01	CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR ORIGINAL PROCEEDINGS	753
[A]	Comparison to Appeals	753
[B]	Constitutional and Statutory Authority for Original Proceedings	753
§ 12.02	MANDAMUS PROCEEDINGS	755
[A]	Mandamus Jurisdiction: Shared Jurisdiction With the Courts of Appeals	755
	LESIKAR v. ANTHONY	755
	WELDER v. FRITZ	757
	Notes and Questions	758
[B]	Conditions for Granting the Writ of Mandamus	759
	IN RE THE PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE CO. OF AMERICA	760
	IN RE COLUMBIA MEDICAL CENTER OF LAS COLINAS	767
	Note	772
	PRACTICE EXERCISE #22	773
	Notes and Questions	774
[C]	Mandamus Procedure: The Petition, its Consideration, and the Response	775
	WRIGHT v. VALDERAS	775
	PACKER v. FIFTH COURT OF APPEALS	776
	Notes and Questions	777
§ 12.03	HABEAS CORPUS PROCEEDINGS	778

Table of Contents

EX PARTE MCDONALD	778
EX PARTE BARNETT	779
Notes and Questions	783
§ 12.04 OTHER ORIGINAL PROCEEDINGS IN THE APPELLATE COURTS ...	784

Table of Cases	TC-1
-----------------------------	-------------

Index	I-1
--------------------	------------

Dedication

To our families: Des, Julie, Bill, Charley, Thomas, Andrew and Peter Dorsaneo; Bob and Courtney Carlson; Jill, Catherine, Carolyn, John David and Caitlin Crump; and John and Kate Thornburg.

Introduction

This book is the second in a series of textbooks that explains how lawsuits should be handled in Texas courts. It covers the methods for obtaining trial settings and continuances, dismissal for want of prosecution and procedures for reinstatement, the right to jury trial, jury selection procedures, trial procedures and presentation of evidence, submission of the case to the jury, jury argument, non-jury trial practice, postverdict and postjudgment motion practice, judgments and other appealable orders, as well as appellate court jurisdiction, appellate practice and original proceedings in the courts of appeals and in the Texas Supreme Court. The coverage of each of these subjects provides both theoretical and practical guidance concerning standard procedures that practicing lawyers must use in handling cases in Texas courts.

The book is both comprehensible and comprehensive, providing a sophisticated overview of the process of adjudication in Texas Courts. It includes integrated coverage of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, the Texas Rules of Evidence, the Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure, the Civil Practice and Remedies Code and the Government Code provisions governing civil litigation as well as an up-to-date case law interpretation of applicable rules and statutes.

The book is designed to provide a fundamental theoretical and practical appreciation of the relationship between trial judges, jurors and reviewing courts. It makes plain that the right to jury trial involves not merely whether a party is entitled to a jury, but also illuminates the more fundamental character of the right to jury trial by examining what roles judges and juries play in the litigation process in relation to one another.

The book also contains supplementary information including background and historical information, detailed textual explanation of important issues and concepts and notes and questions that are designed to facilitate and extend comprehension of the material.

Many chapters also contain or are supplemented with detailed practice exercises demonstrating the context for and the application of principles explained and discussed in the cases. Several chapters are followed by appendices containing Texas bar examination questions, which should be helpful in preparation for the Texas Procedure and Evidence portion of the Texas bar examination.

We hope you will enjoy using the book. We know that you will find it to be challenging and informative.