



Bureau of Justice Statistics

State Court Organization 1998

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Part I: Courts and judges

Coming to grips with the number and variety of courts is the essential starting point for anyone interested in court organization. The fundamental distinction is between trial courts, which are courts of first instance that decide a dispute by examining the facts, and appellate courts, which review the trial court's application of law to those facts.

How many appellate courts have been established in the United States? Table 1 provides the answer. There are two basic kinds of appellate courts. Courts of last resort (COLR) have final jurisdiction over appeals. Each state has a COLR. Oklahoma and Texas split final appellate review between separate civil and criminal COLRs. Intermediate appellate courts (IAC) hear initial appeals, the outcome of which is subject to further review by the state's COLR. Courts of last resort typically were established in the state's constitution and sit in one location, the state capital. Intermediate appellate courts, a more contemporary institution, have multiple locations in 21 states. In 10 states, each location serves a region within the state and has its own chief judge and a permanently assigned complement of judges (Table 1). Other state appellate courts travel *en banc* to various locations, while still other courts travel in smaller panels. How many judges are authorized to serve and were actually serving, as of July 1, 1998, on each court? The number of appellate judgeships, authorized and serving, for the state and federal courts is shown in Table 2. The combined full-time federal and state appellate bench has 1,474 members. Most appellate judges serve on intermediate appellate courts (1,108).

The allocation of judgeships to appellate courts illustrates the divergence between the federal and state courts, as well as state court diversity. All COLRs are established with an odd number of justices, in contrast to the structure of the jury as a decision-making institution, which usually entails an even number of jurors. This follows the federal model. However, state COLRs have fewer justices than the U.S. Supreme Court. The most common arrangement is a seven judge COLR, found in 27 states and Puerto Rico. Five justices serve on COLRs in 18 state courts, including the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals. Seven courts, including both Texas COLRs and the Oklahoma Supreme Court (Civil COLR), follow the federal nine-justice model (as does the District of Columbia).

Intermediate appellate courts often undertake review through panels of three or more judges rather than by the full court sitting *en banc* (see Table 23). California has the largest state IAC, with 93 authorized judgeships. This court is divided into nine divisions. (Table 1) There are 179 authorized judgeships for the 13 circuits of the U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeal. Three judge IACs are

found in Alabama (Court of Civil Appeals), Alaska, Hawaii, and Idaho.

Trial courts are listed state by state in Table 3, distinguishing between courts of general jurisdiction (GJ) and courts of limited (or special) jurisdiction (LJ). General jurisdiction trial courts are always the highest trial court in a state where felony criminal cases and high stakes civil suits are adjudicated. They often exercise some form of appellate review over outcomes in limited jurisdiction courts or decisions by administrative agencies, exercising what is termed incidental appellate jurisdiction (Table 29).

A limited jurisdiction trial court, one or more of which is to be found in all but five states and the District of Columbia, typically holds preliminary hearings in felony cases and typically has jurisdiction over misdemeanor and ordinance violation cases (Table 45 details the jurisdiction over felony cases by courts of limited jurisdiction). Civil jurisdiction is restricted to a fixed maximum amount, and typically includes a separate category of small claims cases for which simplified procedures are established. Juvenile, domestic relations, and drug cases are typically heard in a court of general jurisdiction, however, there is a trend to create special courts reserved for special dockets for these case types. See Table 33 and 34 detailing the use of family and drug courts.

Table 3 also indicates the number of judges authorized for and serving on each trial court statewide. Some courts use part-time or senior judges to help with caseloads, the resulting judicial power is therefore expressed as full-time equivalent positions. Courts typically also make use of quasi-judicial staff to hear cases as referees, commissioners, or hearing officers. Quasi-judicial officers are usually appointed by the trial bench for a fixed period of time and can be dismissed by that bench. General jurisdiction trial courts are usually divided into circuits or districts. In some states (e.g., California) the county serves as the judicial district. Most states, however, construct judicial districts that embrace a number of counties. Limited jurisdiction trial courts vary in whether they possess jurisdiction across a county or serve a specific local government unit, such as a city or village. Jurisdiction beyond a specific county is rare; exceptions are for those courts with special jurisdiction that applies statewide (water courts and workers' compensation courts are examples).

The information contained in this section is basic because there is no generic court system in the United States. Even the nomenclature varies. Supreme Courts are usually courts of last resort, but in New York the designation "supreme" is assigned to the main trial court,

while The Court of Appeals is the state's court of last resort. Justices and a Chief Justice usually serve on courts of last resort, but a number of COLRs have judges and a chief judge. Judge is the standard title for those serving on intermediate appellate courts.

The closest to a generic form of court structure in the United States is a court system with two appellate courts, one a court of last resort and one an intermediate appellate court, and two or more trial courts. But many states, and the federal courts, do not neatly fit that pattern, and even those states that do add diversity in how the allocation of subject matter jurisdiction to courts is made, how appellate review is designated as being on a mandatory (appeal of right) or discretionary (through a petition) basis, and in the use made of quasi-judicial officers.

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Table 1. Appellate Courts in the United States

	Number of court locations that have:		Place of session
	Separate administrative rules	Chief justice/judge	
Alabama			
Supreme Court	1	1	Montgomery ¹
Court of Civil Appeals	1	1	Montgomery ¹
Court of Criminal Appeals	1	1	Montgomery ¹
Alaska			
Supreme Court	1	1	Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau ²
Court of Appeals	1	1	Anchorage
Arizona			
Supreme Court	1	1	Phoenix
Court of Appeals	2	2	Phoenix (16 judges) Tucson (6 judges)
Arkansas			
Supreme Court	1	1	Little Rock
Court of Appeals	0	1	Little Rock
California			
Supreme Court	–	1	3 cities
Courts of Appeal	–	9 ³	6 districts ⁴ , 9 locations
Colorado			
Supreme Court	1	1	Denver ⁵
Court of Appeals	1	1	Denver
Connecticut			
Supreme Court	1	1	Hartford ⁶
Appellate Court	1	1	Hartford ⁶
Delaware			
Supreme Court	0	1	Dover
District of Columbia			
Court of Appeals	1	1	Washington DC
Florida			
Supreme Court	1	1	Tallahassee ⁷
District Courts of Appeal	0	5 ⁸	Varies by district ⁹
Georgia			
Supreme Court	1	1	Atlanta
Court of Appeals	1	1	Atlanta ¹⁰
Hawaii			
Supreme Court	1	1	Honolulu
Intermediate Court of Appeals	1	1	Honolulu
Idaho			
Supreme Court	1	1	Varies ¹¹
Court of Appeals	1	1	Varies ¹²
Illinois			
Supreme Court	1	1	Springfield
Appellate Court	5	5	5 cities or districts ¹³
Indiana			
Supreme Court	1	1	Indianapolis
Court of Appeals	1	1	Indianapolis
Tax Court	1	– ¹⁴	
Iowa			
Supreme Court	1	1	Des Moines
Court of Appeals	1	1	Des Moines
Kansas			
Supreme Court	1 ¹⁵	1	Topeka
Court of Appeals	1 ¹⁵	1	– ¹⁶
Kentucky			
Supreme Court	1	1	Frankfort
Court of Appeals	1	1	Varies

Table 1. Appellate Courts in the United States

	Number of court locations that have:		Place of session
	Separate administrative rules	Chief justice/judge	
Louisiana			
Supreme Courts	1	1	New Orleans
Courts of Appeal	5	5	Varies by circuit ¹⁷
Maine			
Supreme Judicial Court	1	1	Portland ¹⁸
Maryland			
Court of Appeals	1	1	Annapolis
Court of Special Appeals	1	1	Annapolis
Massachusetts			
Supreme Judicial Court	1	1	Boston
Appeals Court	1	1	Boston
Michigan			
Supreme Court	1	1	Lansing
Court of Appeals	1	1	4 designated cities ¹⁹
Minnesota			
Supreme Court	1	1	St. Paul
Court of Appeals	1	1	Hennepin and Ramsey Counties
Mississippi			
Supreme Court	1	1	Jackson
Court of Appeals	1	1	Jackson
Missouri			
Supreme Court	1	1	Jefferson City
Court of Appeals	3	3	Varies ²⁰
Montana			
Supreme Court	1	1	Helena
Nebraska			
Supreme Court	1	1	Lincoln
Court of Appeals	1	1	Lincoln
Nevada			
Supreme Court	1	1	Carson City ²¹
New Hampshire			
Supreme Court	1	1	Concord
New Jersey			
Supreme Court	1	1	Trenton
Superior Court, Appellate Division	1	1	Varies ²²
New Mexico			
Supreme Court	1	1	Santa Fe
Court of Appeals	1	1	Varies ²³
New York			
Court of Appeals	1	1	Albany
Supreme Court, Appellate Div.	4	4	Varies ²⁴
North Carolina			
Supreme Court	1	1	Raleigh
Court of Appeals	1	1	Raleigh
North Dakota			
Supreme Court	1	1	Bismarck ²⁵
Ohio			
Supreme Court	1	1	Columbus
Courts of Appeals	12	12	Varies ²⁶
Oklahoma			
Supreme Court	1	1	Oklahoma City
Court of Criminal Appeals	1	1	Oklahoma City
Court of Civil Appeals	1	1	Oklahoma City and Tulsa (divisions of 3)

Table 1. Appellate Courts in the United States

	Number of court locations that have:		Place of session
	Separate administrative rules	Chief justice/judge	
Oregon			
Supreme Court	1	1	Salem
Court of Appeals	1	1	Salem
Pennsylvania			
Supreme Court	1	1	Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, and Philadelphia
Superior Court	1	1	"Ride circuit" throughout the state ²⁷
Commonwealth Court	1	1	"Ride circuit" throughout the state ²⁸
Puerto Rico			
Supreme Court	1	1	San Juan
Court of Appeals	1	1	San Juan and throughout the island
Rhode Island			
Supreme Court	1	1	Providence
South Carolina			
Supreme Court	1	1	Columbia
Court of Appeals	1	1	Columbia
South Dakota			
Supreme Court	1	1	Pierre
Tennessee			
Supreme Court	1	1	Knoxville, Nashville, and Jackson
Court of Appeals	1	1	Varies ²⁹
Court of Criminal Appeals	1	1	Varies ²⁹
Texas			
Supreme Court	1	1	Austin
Court of Criminal Appeals	1	1	Austin
Courts of Appeals	14	14	Designated for each of the 14 IACs ³⁰
Utah			
Supreme Court	1	1	Salt Lake City
Court of Appeals	1	1	Salt Lake City
Vermont			
Supreme Court	1	1	Montpelier ³¹
Virginia			
Supreme Court	1	1	Richmond
Court of Appeals	1	0	Richmond, Norfolk, Salem, and Alexandria
Washington			
Supreme Court	1	1	Olympia
Courts of Appeals	3 ³⁴	3 ³²	Varies by division ³³
West Virginia			
Supreme Court of Appeals	1	1	Charleston
Wisconsin			
Supreme Court	1	1	Madison ³⁴
Court of Appeals	1	1	Milwaukee, Waukesha, Wausau, and Madison
Wyoming			
Supreme Court	1	1	Cheyenne ³⁵
Federal ³⁸			
U.S. Supreme Court	1	1	Washington DC
U.S. Courts of Appeals	1	14	Each of the 14 courts of appeal has a designated city to conduct court

FOOTNOTES:

Alabama:

¹Sometimes sessions for oral argument are held in other cities.

Alaska:

²The supreme court holds regular sessions in other cities occasionally.

California:

³There are ninety-three authorized judgeships. As of June 1998, ninety judgeships are filled. There is an administrative presiding judge in each of the

Table 1. Appellate Courts in the United States

three multi-division districts, and the presiding judges serve this function in the other three districts.

⁴District One—San Francisco; District Two—Los Angeles, Ventura; District Three—Sacramento; District Four—San Diego, San Bernadino, Santa Ana; District Five—Fresno; District Six—San Jose.

Colorado:

⁵Twice each year the court will travel and hold arguments at a public school as part of a public education program.

Connecticut:

⁶One day each year the court meets at a Connecticut law school or university.

Florida:

⁷The supreme court facility for all seven justices is located in the state capital.

⁸There are five district courts of appeal (DCA) that are located in five different judicial districts throughout the state. The first district has fifteen judges; the second, fourteen; the third, eleven; the fourth, twelve, and the fifth, nine. The chief judge for each DCA is chosen by a majority of the court, and if there is no majority, by the chief justice.

⁹District One—Tallahassee; District Two—Tampa; District Three—Miami; District Four—West Palm Beach; District Five—Daytona Beach.

Georgia:

¹⁰Court may sit outside Atlanta by special court order.

Idaho:

¹¹Boise, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Falls, Lewiston, Moscow, Pocatello, and Twin Falls.

¹²Boise, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Falls, Lewiston, Moscow, Pocatello, Twin Falls, Blackfoot, and Hailey.

Illinois:

¹³Court sits in Chicago, Elgin, Ottawa, Springfield and Mount Vernon.

Indiana:

¹⁴Tax court does not have a chief judge; but one permanently assigned judge.

Kansas:

¹⁵Both the COLR and IAC operate under the same rules of appellate practice although each court drafts its own internal operating procedures.

¹⁶Judges are authorized to sit in any courthouse in the state.

Louisiana:

¹⁷First Circuit—Baton Rouge, LA; Second Circuit—Shreveport, LA; Third Circuit—Lake Charles, LA; Fourth Circuit—New Orleans, LA; Fifth Circuit—Jefferson, LA

Maine:

¹⁸The justices have permanent chambers in the superior courthouse near their residence. The supreme court is not lodged in its own building.

Michigan:

¹⁹All IAC judges rotate throughout court locations in the state, although there are four designated election districts (1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th).

Missouri:

²⁰Eastern District—St. Louis; Western District—Kansas City; Southern District—Springfield.

Nevada:

²¹Court sits in Las Vegas three times a year. (In January 1999, court will expand to seven justices and will commence to meet in panels.)

New Jersey:

²²Judges not assigned to permanent locations.

New Mexico:

²³Oral argument often scheduled in different locations.

New York:

²⁴First Department—New York City; Second Department—Brooklyn; Third Department—Albany; Fourth Department—Rochester.

North Dakota:

²⁵Court sits in special session at the law school.

Ohio:

²⁶District One—Cincinnati; District Two—Dayton; District Three—Lima; District Four—Portsmouth; District Five—Canton; District Six—Toledo; District Seven—Youngstown; District Eight—Cleveland; District Nine—Akron; District Ten—Columbus; District Eleven—Warren; District Twelve—Middleton.

Pennsylvania:

²⁷One set of rules for three locations.

²⁸Commonwealth court usually meets in Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, and Philadelphia, with one en banc session per argument week.

Tennessee:

²⁹Eastern Section—Knoxville; Middle Section—Nashville; Western Section—Jackson.

Texas:

³⁰District One—Houston; District Two—Fort Worth; District Three—Austin; District Four—San Antonio; District Five—Dallas; District Six—Texarkana; District Seven—Amarillo; District Eight—El Paso; District Nine—Beaumont; District Ten—Waco; District Eleven—Eastland; District Twelve—Tyler; District Thirteen—Corpus Christi; District Fourteen—Houston.

Vermont:

³¹Special court sessions are held at Vermont Law School and at trial courts.

Washington:

³²There is one presiding judge over all divisions, as well as a chief judge in each of the three divisions. All have local administrative rules in addition to general administrative rules.

³³Division I—Seattle; Division II—Tacoma; Division III—Spokane.

Wisconsin:

³⁴Although it is not customary, in October of 1993 the court sat in Green Bay as part of a more general public information/education program. The court has continued this practice, traveling to selected sites in Wisconsin approximately once a year.

Wyoming:

³⁵On occasion the court sits at the Wyoming Law School and various community colleges and high schools.

Federal:

³⁶The federal military appeals system, established primarily by federal legislation, Articles 66 and 67 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, 10 U.S.C. §§ 866, 867, created four intermediate appellate courts and one court of last resort, whose decisions are subject to review by the U.S. Supreme Court. The intermediate courts are: the U.S. Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals, U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals, U.S. Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals, and the U.S. Coast Guard Court of Criminal Appeals. The court of last resort is the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. While the courts of criminal appeals are governed by joint rules issued by the Judge Advocates General of the respective services (General Counsel of the Department of Transportation for the Coast Guard), the chief judge of each court is authorized to issue internal rules for that court. Accordingly, the internal rules vary according to service needs.

Table 2. Number of Appellate Court Justices

	Number of Court of Last Resort (COLR) justices		Number of Intermediate Appellate Court (IAC) justices	
	Authorized	Serving	Authorized	Serving
Alabama	9	9	10 ¹	10 ¹
Alaska	5	5	3	3
Arizona	5	5	22	22
Arkansas	7	7	12	12
California	7	7	93	93
Colorado	7	7	16	16
Connecticut	7	7 ²	9	9 ²
Delaware	5	5	~	~
District of Columbia	9	9	~	~
Florida	7	7	61	61
Georgia	7	7	10	10
Hawaii	5	5	4	4
Idaho	5	5	3	3
Illinois	7	7	53	53
Indiana	5	5	16 ³	16 ³
Iowa	9	9	6	6
Kansas	7	7	10	10
Kentucky	7	7	14	14
Louisiana	7	8 ⁴	55	54 ⁴
Maine	7	7	~	~
Maryland	7	7	13	13
Massachusetts	7	7	14	16 ⁵
Michigan	7	7	28	28
Minnesota	7	7	16	16
Mississippi	9	9	10	10
Missouri	7	7	32	32
Montana	7	7	~	~
Nebraska	7	7	6	6
Nevada	5	5	~	~
New Hampshire	5	5	~	~
New Jersey	7	7	32	32
New Mexico	5	5	10	10
New York	7	7	71 ⁶	63 ⁶
North Carolina	7	7	12	12
North Dakota	5	5	~	~
Ohio	7	7	66	66
Oklahoma	14 ⁷	14 ⁷	12	12
Oregon	7	7	10	10
Pennsylvania	7	7	24 ⁸	24 ⁸
Puerto Rico	7	7	33	33
Rhode Island	5	5	~	~
South Carolina	5	5	9	9
South Dakota	5	5	~	~
Tennessee	5	5	24 ⁹	24 ⁹
Texas	18 ¹⁰	18 ¹⁰	80	80
Utah	5	5	7	7
Vermont	5	5	~	~
Virginia	7	7	10	10
Washington	9	9	23	21
West Virginia	5	5	~	~
Wisconsin	7	7	16	16
Wyoming	5	5	~	~
Federal:				
US Supreme Court	9	9	~	~
US Courts of Appeals	~	~	179	153 ¹¹

Legend: ~ = Not applicable

Table 2. Number of Appellate Court Justices

Note: Information is current as of July 1, 1998.

FOOTNOTES:

Alabama:

¹Five judges on court of criminal appeals; five judges on court of civil appeals.

Connecticut:

²Figure does not include senior justice in supreme court or senior judge in appellate court.

Indiana:

³One judge in the Indiana Tax Court.

Louisiana:

⁴One judge elected to a temporary judgeship on the courts of appeal was assigned, effective 1/1/93 to sit on the supreme court. Appointment will expire on or before December 31, 2000.

Massachusetts:

⁵Figure includes three recall justices.

New York:

⁶Figure includes fifty-six justices on appellate divisions of supreme court and fifteen on appellate terms of supreme court.

Oklahoma:

⁷Figure includes 9 justices in the supreme court and 5 justices in the court of criminal appeals

Pennsylvania:

⁸Figure includes 15 justices in the superior court and 9 in the commonwealth court.

Tennessee:

⁹Figure includes twelve judges on the court of appeals; twelve judges on the court of criminal appeals.

Texas:

¹⁰Figure includes nine justices in the supreme court and nine justices in the court of criminal appeals.

Federal:

¹¹Figure includes the court of appeals for the federal circuit. Information is current as of June 1, 1997.

Table 3. Trial Courts and Trial Court Judges of the United States

Court Type	Full-time Authorized Judges
G = General jurisdiction	
L = Limited jurisdiction	
Alabama	
G Circuit Court	131
L District Court	99
L Municipal Court	242
L Probate Court	68
Alaska	
G Superior Court	32
L District Court	17
~ Magistrates Division	67
Arizona	
G Superior Court ¹	134
L Justice of the Peace Court	84
L Municipal Court	84
Arkansas	
G Circuit Court	30 ²
G Chancery and Probate Court	33 ²
L Municipal Court	110
L City Court	81
L Police Court	4
L Court of Common Pleas	4
L County Court	75
L Justice of the Peace	55
California	
G Superior Court	807
L Municipal Court	673
Colorado	
G District Court	115 ₃
G Denver Probate Court	
G Denver Juvenile Court	4 ⁴
G Water Court	5 ⁵
L County Court	47 ⁶
L Municipal Court	250 ⁶
Connecticut	
G Superior Court	89 ⁷
L Probate Court	133
Delaware	
G Court of Chancery	5
G Superior Court	17
L Justice of the Peace Court	57
L Family Court	13
L Court of Common Pleas	7
L Alderman's Court	8
District of Columbia	
G Superior Court	59
Florida⁸	
G Circuit Court	468
L County Court	263

Court Type	Full-time Authorized Judges
G = General jurisdiction	
L = Limited jurisdiction	
Georgia	
G Superior Court	169
L Juvenile Court	28
L Civil Court	3
L State Court	51
L Probate Court	159
L Magistrate Court	~
L Municipal Court of Columbus	1
L County Recorder's Court	9
L Municipal/City Courts of Atlanta	307
Hawaii	
G Circuit Court	27 ⁹
G Family Court	15 ¹⁰
L District Court	22
Idaho	
G District Court	37
~ Magistrate's Division	81
Illinois	
G Circuit Court	865
Indiana	
G Superior Court	182
G Circuit Court	96
G Probate Court	1
L County Court	13
L City Court	47
L Town Court	25
L Small Claims Court of Marion County	9
Iowa	
G District Court	179 ¹¹
Kansas	
G District Court	156
L Municipal Court	259
Kentucky	
G Circuit Court	97
L District Court	126
Louisiana	
G District Court	204
G Juvenile & Family Courts	18
L Justice of the Peace Court	390
L Mayor's Court	250
L City and Parish Courts	73
Maine	
G Superior Court ¹²	16
L District Court ¹³	27 ¹⁴
L Probate Court	
L Administrative Court	2
Maryland	
G Circuit Court	140
L District Court	101
L Orphan's Court	66

Table 3. Trial Courts and Trial Court Judges of the United States

Court Type	Full-time Authorized Judges
G = General jurisdiction	
L = Limited jurisdiction	
Massachusetts	
G Superior Court	80
L District Court	172
L Probate/Family Court	49
L Juvenile Court	37
L Housing Court	9
L Boston Municipal Court	11
L Land Court	4
Michigan¹⁵	
G Circuit Court	210 ¹⁶
L Court of Claims	~
L District Court	259 ¹⁷
L Probate Court	92
L Municipal Court	6
Minnesota	
G District Court	254
Mississippi	
G Circuit Court	49
L Chancery Court	45
L County Court	24
L Family Court	1
L Municipal Court	215
L Justice Court	191
Missouri	
G Circuit Court	310 ¹⁸
L Municipal Court	331 ¹⁹
Montana	
G District Court	37
G Workers' Compensation Court	1
G Water Court	1
L Justice of the Peace Court	73
L Municipal Court	3
L City Court	36 ²⁰
Nebraska	
G District Court	53 ²¹
L Separate Juvenile Court	8 ²²
L County Court	59
L Workers' Compensation Court	7
Nevada	
G District Court	48 ²³
L Justice Court	67 ²⁴
L Municipal Court	18 ²⁵
New Hampshire	
G Superior Court	28
L District Court	14
L Municipal Court	0 ²⁶
L Probate Court	4
New Jersey	
G Superior Court	384 ²⁷
L Tax Court	12
L Municipal Court	40 ²⁸

Court Type	Full-time Authorized Judges
G = General jurisdiction	
L = Limited jurisdiction	
New Mexico	
G District Court	72
L Magistrate Court	59
L Metropolitan Court	15
L Municipal Court	85
L Probate Court	33
New York	
G Supreme Court	369 ²⁹
G County Court	127
L Court of Claims	72 ³⁰
L Surrogates' Court	~
L Family Court	124
L District Court	50
L City Court	158
L NYC Civil Court	120
L NYC Criminal Court	107
L Town and Village Justice Court	2,300
North Carolina	
G Superior Court ³¹	99
L District Court	204 ³²
North Dakota	
G District Court	44 ³³
L Municipal Court	79
Ohio	
G Court of Common Pleas	372
L Municipal Court	202
L County Court	55
L Court of Claims ³⁴	~
L Mayors Court	428 ³⁵
Oklahoma	
G District Court	223
L Municipal Court Not of Record	350
L Municipal Court of Record	23
L Worker's Compensation Court	9
L Court of Tax Review	3
Oregon	
G Circuit Court	160 ³⁶
G Tax Court	1 ³⁷
L County Court	7
L Justice Court	30
L Municipal Court	141
Pennsylvania	
G Court of Common Pleas	386
L Philadelphia Municipal Court	25
L District Justice Court	549
L Philadelphia Traffic Court	7
L Pittsburgh City Magistrates	6
Puerto Rico	
G Superior Court	168
L District Subsection ³⁸	42
L Municipal Court	105

Table 3. Trial Courts and Trial Court Judges of the United States

Court Type G = General jurisdiction L = Limited jurisdiction	Full-time Authorized Judges	Court Type G = General jurisdiction L = Limited jurisdiction	Full-time Authorized Judges
Rhode Island		Vermont	
G Superior Court	22	G Superior Court	12
L Workers' Compensation Court	10	G District Court	17
L District Court	13	G Family Court	~ ⁴²
L Family Court	12	L Probate Court	~
L Probate Court	39	L Environmental Court	1
L Municipal Court	21	Virginia	
South Carolina		G Circuit Court	147
G Circuit Court	46	L District Court	222
L Family Court	52	Washington	
L Magistrate Court	300	G Superior Court	167 ⁴³
L Probate Court	46	L District Court	113
L Municipal Court	300	L Municipal Court	102
L Administrative Law Division	6	West Virginia	
South Dakota		G Circuit Court	62
G Circuit Court	37	L Magistrate Court	156
Tennessee		L Municipal Court ⁴⁴	~
G Circuit Court	85	Wisconsin	
G Chancery Court	33	G Circuit Court ⁴⁵	234
G Criminal Court	31	L Municipal Court ⁴⁶	217
G Probate Court	2	Wyoming	
L Juvenile Court	16	G District Court	17
L Municipal Court	231 ³⁹	L Justice of the Peace Court	0 ⁴⁷
L General Sessions Court	156 ⁴⁰	L Municipal Court	2 ⁴⁸
Texas		L County Court	19
G District Courts	396	Federal⁴⁹	
L Constitutional County Court	254	U.S. District Court	642
L County Courts at Law	181	U.S. Magistrate	436
L Justice of the Peace Court	842	U.S. Bankruptcy	326
L Municipal Court	1,122		
L Statutory Probate	16		
Utah			
G District Court	70		
L Justice Court	128 ⁴¹		
L Juvenile Court	22		

Note: Information is current as of July 1, 1998.

Note: See the court structure charts in section eight of this volume for data on commissioners, referees, magistrates, and other quasi-judicial officers and part-time judges.

FOOTNOTES:

Arizona:

¹Total includes the superior court judge/judges who also serve on the tax court.

Arkansas:

²In addition to 30 circuit judges and 33 chancery/probate judges, 43 judges have the statutory authority to hear cases in both Circuit and Chancery Courts. The total number of general jurisdiction judges in the state is 106.

Colorado:

³The Denver probate court has 1 district court judge serving and 1 magistrate.

⁴The Denver juvenile court has 3 district court judges serving and 3 magistrates.

⁵The water court is served by 7 judges from the district court, full-time referee and 6 part-time water referees.

⁶Denver County Court and Municipal Court are not part of the state judicial system.

Connecticut:

⁷There are also 61 trial referees and 17 superior court senior judges.

Florida:

⁸The court system uses retired judges on a part-time basis. County judges are assigned to serve on the circuit bench by administrative order of the Supreme Court.

Hawaii:

⁹Total number of circuit court judges equals 29, however 2 judges are assigned to the family court.

¹⁰District family court judges.

Iowa:

¹¹Includes 112 authorized district judges, 54 district associate judges, 12 associate juvenile judges, and one associate probate judge.

Maine:

¹²Active retired justices of the Superior Court serve as senior judges.

¹³Active retired judges of the District Court serve as senior judges.

¹⁴All are part-time judges.

Table 3. Trial Courts and Trial Court Judges of the United States

Michigan:

¹⁵Michigan has a family court division that became operational on January 1, 1998, but data is not yet available.

¹⁶The court of claims operates within the 30th Circuit Court.

¹⁷There are 14 part-time judges with a full-time equivalency of approximately seven FTE.

Missouri:

¹⁸334 total: 135 circuit judges, 175 associate circuit judges, 15 family court commissioners, one family court referee, one family court hearing officer, one drug commissioner, 3 probate and 3 deputy probate commissioners.

¹⁹This number represents the established municipal courts.

Montana:

²⁰Also, 41 justices of the peace who also serve as city court judges.

Nebraska:

²¹The district court has 53 judges as of 7/1/98 to be increased to 54 by 7/1/2000.

²²The separate juvenile court has 8 judges as of 7/1/98 to be increased to 9 by 7/1/2000.

Nevada:

²³3 additional district judges January 1999 (will be 51).

²⁴2 additional justices of the peace January 1999 (will be 69).

²⁵Also served by 11 justices of the peace.

New Hampshire:

²⁶The municipal court has 2 part-time judges.

New Jersey:

²⁷Excludes appellate division judges.

²⁸40 of the current 390 municipal court judges serve full-time. The remaining judges sit part-time. Also, many municipal court judges sit in more than one court.

New York:

²⁹Also has 50 "acting" supreme court judges and 12 quasi-judicial staff. The court also uses full-time certified retired justices of supreme court.

³⁰50 court of claims judges also sit on the supreme court.

North Carolina:

³¹There is statutory authority for use of emergency and retired judges. This authority is used regularly, as justified by need, although unable to translate for any typical year how many "FTE" positions such use incurs.

³²District court also has 696 magistrates of which 32 are part-time.

North Dakota:

³³Number of authorized judges drops to 43 effective 1/1/99, and may be reduced to 42 by the year 2001.

Ohio:

³⁴Judges are assigned by supreme court.

³⁵These are mayors.

Oregon:

³⁶160 as of 1/1/98; the total will change to 163 effective 1/1/99. There are 94 senior (retired) judges who serve as needed and when available.

³⁷Tax court has 1 judge and 5 magistrates.

Puerto Rico:

³⁸The Judicial Reform Act of 1994 establishes the eventual abolition of the district subsection. The superior division has concurrent jurisdiction with the district subsection during the process of its abolition.

Tennessee:

³⁹Municipal court number is estimated, number is unknown.

⁴⁰Some judges serve in another capacity so juvenile judge numbers overlap in juvenile and general sessions courts.

Utah:

⁴¹Justice courts are formed at the option of local governments, therefore no specific number of judges is fixed by statute or rule.

Vermont:

⁴²District and superior court judges are assigned to preside in family court.

Washington:

⁴³Authorized number. May be higher than judges actually seated.

West Virginia:

⁴⁴No full-time and 22 part-time judges.

Wisconsin:

⁴⁵Reserve judges are retired judges who serve as needed and when available. FTE reserve judge service estimate includes case-specific assignments (calculated at an average of 2.5 days per assignment) and general assignments.

⁴⁶Municipal courts are local option, and locally funded and administered. In the event of a municipal judicial vacancy, for whatever reason, the chief judge of the district must either assign another municipal judge or transfer pending municipal cases to circuit court. (SCR-70.24)

Wyoming:

⁴⁷There are 10 justices of the peace (part-time).

⁴⁸Also has 73 part-time judges.

Federal:

⁴⁹As of January 1, 1999.