



Bureau of Justice Statistics

State Court Organization 1998

Courts and judges

Judicial selection and service

Judicial branch

Appellate courts

Trial courts

The jury

The sentencing context

Court structure

PART II: Judicial selection and service

How judges are selected and their terms of service on the bench differ sharply between the federal and state courts, and the differences among states are often nearly as significant. All federal judges are nominated by the President and serve “during good behavior” once confirmed by the U.S. Senate unless they resign or are impeached and convicted by the U.S. Congress. State court judges are likely to face an election as a part of their selection process and to serve fixed terms, which for COLR justices range between six and 14 years (15 years in the District of Columbia). Only Rhode Island offers appellate judges lifetime appointments, while the judges of the New Hampshire and Massachusetts Supreme Courts serve until age 70.

Judicial selection occurs for three purposes in the state courts: to fill an unexpired term upon the retirement, resignation, or death of an incumbent judge; to select for a full term (often referred to as the initial selection); and at the end of a term. Table 4 describes the various ways in which appellate justices and judges are selected, while Table 7 describes procedures for selecting trial court judges. The resulting national picture can be summarized by reference to the nature of the selection process for general jurisdiction judges shown below.¹

| Initial Term | Subsequent Terms |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Appointment: 648 (52.1%) | Appointment: 199 (16.4%) |
| Partisan Election: 421 (33.9%) | Partisan Election: 326 (26.7%) |
| Non-partisan Election: 174 (14.0%) | Non-partisan Election: 174 (14.3%) |
| | Retention Elections Only: 518 (42.6%) |

One marker for examining the diverse selection methods adopted by the states is the “Missouri Plan.” In 1940 the State of Missouri amended its constitution to establish a statewide nominating committee for appellate judgeships and circuit-level commissions for general jurisdiction trial court judgeships. A judge, representatives of the state bar association, and nonlawyers appointed by the governor make up the commissions. The governor must appoint one of a commission’s three nominees to fill a vacancy. The new appointee then faces a retention election in one year’s time, running against his or her own record, and then further retention elections at 12-year intervals. Thirty-nine states use some form of judicial nominating commission in judicial selection, which became popular in the 1970s (Table 9), although only 16 combine such a commission with retention elections on the Missouri model.

¹ American Bar Association, *Report and Recommendations of the Task Force on Lawyers’ Political Contributions: Part Two*. Washington, DC: ABA, 1998.

All appellate courts and most trial courts have a chief judge. Table 4 explains how chief justices and chief judges of COLRs and IACs are selected in each state. The length of their term in office and whether they can succeed themselves can be found in Table 5. How trial court chief judges (sometimes styled presiding judges) are selected is also detailed in Table 5. The judges in a district or circuit typically select one of their peers to serve as the chief judge for a fixed number of years, but the appointment may be made at the state level by the governor, Chief Justice of the COLR, or the COLR collectively. In some instances a specific individual is elected or appointed as the chief judge and holds that title throughout his or her tenure. In other trial courts, seniority establishes who is the chief judge.

Qualifications for service as a judge are stated in the constitutions and statutes of the various states. Tables 6 and 8 indicate the qualifications in terms of residency, age, and legal credentials that are mandated for appellate and trial court judgeships, respectively. In addition to specifying the legal credentials, if any, necessary to qualify for judicial selection, many states require judges to participate in some form of legal education beyond the Continuing Legal Education expected of all members of the state bar. Mandatory judicial education is accomplished through a wide range of judicial branch and private entities and is paid for by a variety of funding sources (Table 10).

Eighteen states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Navajo Nation make formal provisions for an ongoing evaluation of judicial performance. States with retention elections for judges are the most likely to evaluate performance, but states with nonpartisan elections do so as well (Michigan, Minnesota, and Tennessee), as do many with a system of judicial appointments (Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Vermont). Table 11 indicates for these and other states with performance evaluation structures the implementing authority, the body responsible for operating the program, the evaluation procedures, the evaluating committee duties, and evaluation committee membership.

Formal judicial discipline is accomplished through regional judicial councils in the federal system (under The Judicial Councils Reform and Judicial Conduct and Disability Act of 1980). The Councils investigate complaints of any “conduct prejudicial to the effective and expeditious administration of the business of the courts.” However, the Councils’ disciplinary powers stop short of removal from office. Removal is the sole

prerogative of the U.S. Congress. A Council can certify a finding that impeachment is warranted to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Judicial conduct organizations are the main arbiters of what constitutes judicial misconduct and disability in the states. Conduct organizations investigate complaints against members of the judiciary, and typically include a mix of judges, lawyers, and ordinary citizens. The adjudicatory function is usually exercised by the COLR, although sometimes the original conduct organization both investigates and adjudicates complaints. In such instances there is a right of appeal to the state's COLR. The name and composition of the states' conduct organizations are shown in Table 12. The table also indicates which court or other entity adjudicates complaints, hears appeals, has final disciplinary authority, and at what point reprimands are made public.

Select Bibliography:

- American Bar Association, *Report and Recommendations of the Task Force on Lawyers' Political Contributions: Part Two*. Washington, DC: ABA, 1998.
- Philip J. Dubois, *From Ballot to Bench: Judicial Elections and the Quest for Accountability*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 1980.
- Doris Marie Provine, *Judging Credentials: Nonlawyer Judges and the Politics of Professionalism*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1986.
- Judith Rosenbaum, *Practices and Procedures of State Judicial Conduct Organizations*, Chicago: American Judicature Society, 1990.
- Lyle Warrick, *Judicial Selection in the United States: A Compendium of Provisions, Second Edition*, Chicago: American Judicature Society, 1993.
- Mary Volcansek, *Judicial Impeachment: None Called for Justice*, Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1993 [offers a general historical account, but focuses on federal impeachment proceedings during the 1980s and its relationship to judicial discipline in the federal court system].

Table 11:

- Susan Keilitz and Judith White McBride, "Revised Chart for 'Judicial Performance Evaluation Comes of Age,'" *State Court Journal* Vol. 16, No. 3, Summer, 1992. [Supporting text can be found in the *State Court Journal*, Vol. 16, No. 1, Winter, 1992.]

Table 4. Selection of Appellate Court Judges

| | Method of selection for unexpired term | Method of selection for full term | Method of retention | Geographic basis for selection |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| Alabama Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeals, Court of Civil Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment | Partisan election | Partisan election | Statewide |
| Alaska Supreme Court, Court of Appeals | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Retention election ¹ | Statewide |
| Arizona Supreme Court, Court of Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Retention election | Statewide (Supreme Court) County/region within division (Court of Appeals) |
| Arkansas Supreme Court, Court of Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment | Partisan election | Partisan election | Statewide (Supreme Court) District (Court of Appeals) |
| California Supreme Court, Court of Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment | Unopposed retention election | Unopposed retention election | Statewide (Supreme Court) District (Courts of Appeal) |
| Colorado Supreme Court, Court of Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Retention election | Statewide |
| Connecticut Supreme Court, Appellate Court | Legislative appointment ² | Legislative appointment ² | Legislative appointment ² | Statewide |
| Delaware Supreme Court | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of senate | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of senate | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of senate | Statewide |
| District of Columbia Court of Appeals | Presidential appointment from judicial nominating commission with senate confirmation | Presidential appointment from judicial nominating commission with senate confirmation | Judicial nominating commission or Presidential appointment with senate confirmation | District of Columbia |
| Florida Supreme Court, District Courts of Appeal | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Retention election | Regional (5) Statewide (2) Regional based on District Courts of Appeal (Supreme Court) District (District Courts of Appeal) |
| Georgia Supreme Court, Court of Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | Statewide |
| Hawaii Supreme Court, Intermediate Court of Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of senate for a full term | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of senate | Judicial nomination commission reappoints | Statewide |
| Idaho Supreme Court, Court of Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | Statewide |

Table 4. Selection of Appellate Court Judges

| | Method of selection for unexpired term | Method of selection for full term | Method of retention | Geographic basis for selection |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| Illinois Supreme Court, Appellate Court | Court selection (Supreme Court) COLR selection (Appellate Court) | Partisan election | Retention election | District |
| Indiana Supreme Court, Tax Court, Court of Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Retention election | Statewide (Supreme Court, Tax Court) District (Court of Appeals) |
| Iowa Supreme Court, Court of Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Retention election | Statewide |
| Kansas Supreme Court, Court of Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Retention election | Statewide |
| Kentucky Supreme Court, Court of Appeals | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | District |
| Louisiana Supreme Courts, Court of Appeals | Supreme Court selection ³ | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | District |
| Maine Supreme Judicial Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Gubernatorial appointment | Gubernatorial reappointment | Statewide |
| Maryland Court of Appeals, Court of Special Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of senate | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of senate | Retention election | Circuit |
| Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, Appeals Court | ⁴ | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with approval by Governor's council ⁵ | ⁶ | Statewide |
| Michigan Supreme Court, Court of Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | Statewide (Supreme Court) District (Court of Appeals) |
| Minnesota Supreme Court, Court of Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | Statewide |
| Mississippi Supreme Court, Court of Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | District |
| Missouri Supreme Court, Court of Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Retention election | Statewide (Supreme Court) District (Court of Appeals) |
| Montana Supreme Court | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election (if unopposed, retention election) | Statewide |

Table 4. Selection of Appellate Court Judges

| | Method of selection for unexpired term | Method of selection for full term | Method of retention | Geographic basis for selection |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| Nebraska Supreme Court, Court of Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Retention election | Statewide: chief justices; district: associate justices (Supreme Court) All by district (Court of Appeals) |
| Nevada Supreme Court | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | Statewide |
| New Hampshire Supreme Court | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment with approval of elected executive council | Gubernatorial reappointment | Statewide |
| New Jersey Supreme Court, Superior Court-Appellate Division | Gubernatorial appointment | Gubernatorial appointment with consent of senate (Supreme Court) Chief Justice designation of Superior court judge (Superior Court, Appellate Division) | Gubernatorial reappointment with consent of senate (Supreme Court) Annual assignment by the Chief Justice (Superior Court, Appellate Division) ⁷ | Statewide |
| New Mexico Supreme Court, Court of Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment ⁸ | Partisan election | Nonpartisan retention election | Statewide |
| New York Court of Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Gubernatorial reappointment with consent of senate | Statewide |
| Supreme Court, Appellate Divisions | Gubernatorial appointment | Gubernatorial appointment | Gubernatorial reappointment | Statewide ⁹ |
| North Carolina Supreme Court, Court of Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment | Partisan election | Partisan election | Statewide |
| North Dakota Supreme Court | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission or elections ¹⁰ | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | Statewide |
| Ohio Supreme Court, Court of Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | Statewide (Supreme Court) Appellate District (Court of Appeals) |
| Oklahoma Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeals, Court of Civil Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Retention election | See full term | District |
| Oregon Supreme Court, Court of Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | Statewide |
| Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Superior Court, Commonwealth Court | Gubernatorial appointment with consent of senate | Partisan election | Retention election | Statewide |
| Rhode Island Supreme Court | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Life tenure | Life tenure | Statewide |

Table 4. Selection of Appellate Court Judges

| | Method of selection for unexpired term | Method of selection for full term | Method of retention | Geographic basis for selection |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| South Carolina Supreme Court, Court of Appeals | Legislative election | Legislative election | Legislative election (Supreme Court) Legislative reelection (Court of Appeals) | Statewide |
| South Dakota Supreme Court | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Retention election | Retention election | Initial District Retention-Statewide |
| Tennessee Supreme Court, Court Appeals, Court of Criminal Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Retention election | Nonpartisan election | Statewide |
| Texas Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeals, Court of Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment | Partisan election | Partisan election | Statewide (Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeals) District (Courts of Appeals) |
| Utah Supreme Court, Court of Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of senate | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of senate | Retention election | Statewide |
| Vermont Supreme Court | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of senate | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of senate | Legislative election | Statewide |
| Virginia Supreme Court, Court of Appeals | Legislative appointment | Legislative appointment | Legislative appointment | Statewide |
| Washington Supreme Court, Courts of Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | Statewide (Supreme Court) District (Courts of Appeals) |
| West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment ¹¹ | Partisan election | Partisan election | District |
| Wisconsin Supreme Court, Court of Appeals | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | Statewide (Supreme Court) District (Court of Appeals) |
| Wyoming Supreme Court | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Retention election | Statewide |
| Federal U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Courts of Appeals | Nominated and appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate | Nominated and appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate | – | United States (U.S. Supreme Court) Circuit (U.S. Courts of Appeals) |

Table 4. Selection of Appellate Court Judges

FOOTNOTES:

Alaska:

¹Judge must run for retention election at the next general election, immediately following the third year from the time of initial appointment.

Connecticut:

²Governor nominates from candidates submitted by the Judicial Selection Commission.

Louisiana:

³Person selected by the supreme court is prohibited for running for that judgeship; election held within one year to serve remainder of term.

Massachusetts:

⁴There are no unexpired judicial terms. A judicial term expires upon the death, resignation, retirement or removal of an incumbent.

⁵The governor's council is made up of nine people elected by geographical area and presided over by the lieutenant governor.

⁶There is no retention process. Judges serve during good behavior to age 70.

New Jersey:

⁷All superior court judges, including appellate division judges, are subject to gubernatorial reappointment and consent by the senate after an initial 7-year term.

New Mexico:

⁸The governor shall select a candidate from a list submitted by the appellate judges' nominating commission created by the constitution.

New York:

⁹Presiding justice of each appellate division must be a resident of the department.

North Dakota:

¹⁰The governor may appoint from a list of names or call a special election at his discretion.

West Virginia:

¹¹Appointment effective only until the next election year; appointee must run for election to any remaining portion of the unexpired term.

Table 5. Terms of Appellate Court Judges

| | Length of term | Selection of chief justice/judge | Term of office for chief justice/judge | Chief justices/judges—can they succeed themselves? |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---|--|--|
| Alabama | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 6 years | Popular election | 6 years | Yes |
| Court of Criminal Appeals | 6 years | Court selection | Indefinite | Yes |
| Court of Civil Appeals | 6 years | Seniority | Indefinite | Yes |
| Alaska | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 10 years | Court selection | 3 years | No |
| Court of Appeals | 8 years | Supreme court, chief justice appointment | 2 years | Yes |
| Arizona | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 6 years | Court selection | 5 years | Yes |
| Court of Appeals | 6 years | Court selection | 1 year | Yes |
| Arkansas | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 8 years | Popular election | 8 years | Yes |
| Court of Appeals | 8 years | Supreme court, chief justice appoints | 4 years | Yes |
| California | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 12 years | Gubernatorial appointment | 12 years | Yes |
| Courts of Appeal | 12 years | Gubernatorial appointment | 12 years | Yes |
| Colorado | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 10 years | Court selection | Indefinite | Yes |
| Court of Appeals | 8 years | Supreme court, chief justice appoints | At pleasure | Yes |
| Connecticut | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 8 years | Legislative appointment ¹ | 8 years | Yes |
| Appellate Court | 8 years | Supreme court's chief justice appoints | Indefinite | Yes |
| Delaware | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 12 years | Gubernatorial appointment | 12 years | Yes |
| District of Columbia | | | | |
| Court of Appeals | 15 years | Judicial nominating commission appointment | 4 years | Yes |
| Florida | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 6 years | Court selection | 2 years | Yes |
| District Courts of Appeal | 6 years | Court selection | 2 years | Yes |
| Georgia | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 6 years | Court selection | 4 years | No |
| Court of Appeals | 6 years | Rotate by seniority | 2 years | Yes |
| Hawaii | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 10 years | Judicial Selection Commission nominates, governor appoints with consent of senate | 10 years | Yes |
| Intermediate Court of Appeals | 10 years | Judicial Selection Commission nominates, governor appoints with consent of senate | 10 years | Yes |
| Idaho | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 6 years | Court selection | 4 years | Yes |
| Court of Appeals | 6 years | Supreme court, Chief Justice appointment | 2 years | Yes |
| Illinois | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 10 years | Court selection | 3 years | Yes |
| Appellate Court | 10 years | Court selection | 1 year | Yes |

Table 5. Terms of Appellate Courts Judges

| | Length of term | Selection of chief justice/judge | Term of office for chief justice/judge | Chief justices/judges—can they succeed themselves? |
|--------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Indiana | | | | |
| Supreme Court | Initial=2 yrs Retention=10 yrs | Judicial nominating commission appointment | 5 years | Yes |
| Court of Appeals | Initial=2 yrs Retention=10 yrs | Chief judge by full court selection | 3 years | Yes |
| Tax Court | Initial=2 yrs Retention=10 yrs | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Iowa | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 8 years | Court selection | 8 years or duration of term | Yes |
| Court of Appeals | 6 years | Court selection | 2 years | Yes |
| Kansas | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 6 years | Rotation by seniority | Indefinite | Yes |
| Court of Appeals | 4 years | Supreme court appointment | Indefinite | Yes |
| Kentucky | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 8 years | Court selection | 4 years | Yes |
| Court of Appeals | 8 years | Court selection | 4 years | Yes |
| Louisiana | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 10 years | Seniority | Duration of service | Yes |
| Courts of Appeal | 10 years | Seniority | Duration of service | Yes |
| Maine | | | | |
| Supreme Judicial Court | 7 years | Gubernatorial appointment | 7 years | Yes |
| Maryland | | | | |
| Court of Appeals | 10 years | Gubernatorial appointment | Indefinite | Yes |
| Court of Special Appeals | 10 years | Gubernatorial appointment | Indefinite | Yes |
| Massachusetts | | | | |
| Supreme Judicial Court | Until age 70 | ² | To age 70 | ~ |
| Appeals Court | Until age 70 | ² | To age 70 | ~ |
| Michigan | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 8 years | Court selection | 2 years | Yes |
| Court of Appeals | 6 years | Appointed by supreme court | 2 years | Yes |
| Minnesota | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 6 years | Popular election | 6 years | Yes |
| Court of Appeals | 6 years | Gubernatorial appointment | 3 years | Yes |
| Mississippi | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 8 years | Seniority | Duration of service | Yes |
| Court of Appeals | 8 years | Appointment by Supreme Court Chief Justice | 4 years | Yes |
| Missouri | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 12 years | Court selection | 2 years | Yes ³ |
| Court of Appeals | 12 years | Court selection | 2 years ⁴ | Yes |
| Montana | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 8 years | Popular election | 8 years | Yes |
| Nebraska | | | | |
| Supreme Court | More than 3 years for first election; every 6 years thereafter | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Duration of service | Yes |
| Court of Appeals | More than 3 years for first election; every 6 years thereafter | IAC by majority vote; upon ratification of selection by Supreme Court | 2 years as presiding | Yes |

Table 5. Terms of Appellate Court Judges

| | Length of term | Selection of chief justice/judge | Term of office for chief justice/judge | Chief justices/judges—can they succeed themselves? |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| Nevada Supreme Court | 6 years | Rotation | 2 years | ⁵ |
| New Hampshire Supreme Court | Until age 70 | Gubernatorial appointment with approval of elected executive council | Until age 70 | ~ |
| New Jersey Supreme Court | 7 years, followed by tenure | Gubernatorial appointment with consent of senate | Duration of service | Yes |
| Superior Court, Appellate Division | Annual assignment by Chief Justice ⁶ | Designation by Chief Justice | At the pleasure of the Chief Justice | ~ |
| New Mexico Supreme Court | 8 years | Court selection | 2 years | Yes |
| Court of Appeals | 8 years | Court selection | 2 years | Yes |
| New York Court of Appeals | 14 years | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | 14 years | Yes |
| Supreme Court, Appellate Divisions | 5 years or duration | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial screening commission | Duration of service | Yes |
| North Carolina Supreme Court | 8 years | Popular election | 8 years | -- |
| Court of Appeals | 8 years | Supreme court, chief justice appointment | At the pleasure of the chief justice of the Supreme court | ~ |
| North Dakota Supreme Court | 10 years | Selection by the judges of the supreme and district courts | 5 years or until term expires, whichever occurs first | Yes |
| Ohio Supreme Court | 6 years | Popular election | 6 years | Yes |
| Courts of Appeals | 6 years | Selected by Judges of District | Calendar year | Yes |
| Oklahoma Supreme Court | 6 years | Court selection | 2 years | Yes |
| Criminal Appeals | 6 years | Court selection | 2 years | Yes |
| Court of Civil Appeals | 6 years | Court selection | 1 year | Yes |
| Oregon Supreme Court | 6 years | Court selection | 6 years | Yes |
| Pennsylvania Supreme Court | 10 years | Rotation by seniority | Duration of term | — |
| Superior Court | 10 years | Court selection | 5 years | No |
| Commonwealth Court | 10 years | Court selection | 5 years | No |
| Rhode Island Supreme Court | Life | Gubernatorial appointment from the judicial nominating commission | Life | ~ |
| South Carolina Supreme Court | 10 years | Legislative election | 10 years | Yes |
| Court of Appeals | 6 years | Legislative election | 6 years | Yes |
| South Dakota Supreme Court | 8 years | Court selection | 4 years | Yes |
| Tennessee Supreme Court | 8 years | Court selection | 4 years | Yes |
| Courts of Appeal | 8 years | Court selection | 1 term | Yes |
| Court of Criminal Appeals | 8 years | Court selection | 1 term | Yes |

Table 5. Terms of Appellate Courts Judges

| | Length of term | Selection of chief justice/judge | Term of office for chief justice/judge | Chief justices/judges—can they succeed themselves? |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Texas | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 6 years | Partisan election | 6 years | Yes |
| Court of Criminal Appeals | 6 years | Partisan election | 6 years | Yes |
| Courts of Appeals | 6 years | Partisan election | 6 years | Yes |
| Utah | | | | |
| Supreme Court | Initial=3 yrs; Retention=10 yrs | Court selection | 4 years | Yes |
| Court of Appeals | Initial=3 yrs; Retention=6 yrs | Court selection | 2 years | Yes ⁷ |
| Vermont | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 6 years | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of senate | 6 years | Yes |
| Virginia | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 12 years | Seniority | Indefinite | ~ |
| Court of Appeals | 8 years | Court selection | 4 years | Yes |
| Washington | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 6 years | Court selection Presiding chief judge by court selection | 4 years | Yes |
| Courts of Appeals | 6 years | selection; however, position rotates among the 3 divisions; chief judge by division judges | 1 year for presiding judge and 2 years for chief judge | Not the presiding judge |
| West Virginia | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 12 years | Rotation by seniority | 1 year | No |
| Wisconsin | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 10 years | Seniority | Until declined | ~ |
| Court of Appeals | 6 years | Supreme court appointment | 3 years | Yes |
| Wyoming | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 8 years | Court selection | At the pleasure of the court | ~ |
| Federal | | | | |
| U.S. Supreme Court | Life | Nominated and appointed by the President with advice and consent of Senate | Life | ~ |
| U.S. Courts of Appeals | Life | Seniority ⁸ | 7 years or until age 70 | No |
| U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals | 15 years | Nominated and appointed by president with advice and consent of Senate | 15 years | Yes |

FOOTNOTES:

Connecticut:

¹Governor nominates from candidates submitted by Judicial Selection Commission.

Massachusetts:

²Chief Justice, in the appellate courts, is a separate judicial office from that of an Associate Justice. Chief Justices are appointed, until age 70, by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Executive (Governor's) Council.

Missouri:

³Selection is typically rotated among the judges.

⁴Two years in western and southern districts; one year in eastern district.

Nevada:

⁵Not immediately; later, as part of rotation.

New Jersey:

⁶All Superior Court judges, including Appellate Division judges, are subject to gubernatorial reappointment and consent by the senate after an initial 7-year term.

Utah:

⁷Presiding judge can serve no more than two successive terms.

Federal:

⁸The chief judge is the active circuit judge who is senior of those judges who (1) are 64 years or under, (2) have served for one or more years as a circuit judge, and (3) have not served previously as chief judge. Per 28 U.S.C. § 45(a).

Table 6. Qualifications to Serve as an Appellate Court Judge

| | Local residency | State residency | Minimum age | Maximum age | Legal credentials |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|--|
| Alabama | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | 1 year | N/S | 70 ¹ | Licensed attorney |
| Court of Criminal Appeals | N/S | 1 year | N/S | 70 | Licensed attorney |
| Court of Civil Appeals | N/S | 1 year | N/S | 70 | Licensed attorney |
| Alaska | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | 5 years | N/S | 70 | 8 years practice |
| Court of Appeals | N/S | 5 years | N/S | 70 | 8 years practice |
| Arizona | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | 10 years | N/S | 70 | 10 years state bar |
| Court of Appeals | Yes | 5 years | 30 | 70 | 5 years state bar |
| Arkansas | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | 2 years | 30 | N/S | 8 years practice |
| Court of Appeals | Yes | 2 years | 30 | N/S | 8 years practice |
| California | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S | 10 years state bar |
| Courts of Appeal | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S | 10 years state bar |
| Colorado | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | Yes | N/S | N/S | 5 years state bar |
| Court of Appeals | N/S | Yes | N/S | N/S | 5 years state bar |
| Connecticut | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | No | Yes | N/S | 70 | 10 years state bar |
| Appellate Court | No | Yes | N/S | 70 | 10 years state bar |
| Delaware | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | No | Yes | N/S | N/S | "Learned in law" |
| District of Columbia | | | | | |
| Court of Appeals | 90 days | District | N/S | 74 | 5 years state bar |
| Florida | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | - ² | Yes | N/S | 70 | 10 years state bar |
| District Courts of Appeal | - ² | Yes ³ | N/S | 70 | 10 years state bar |
| Georgia | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | Yes | N/S | N/S ⁴ | 7 years state bar |
| Court of Appeals | N/S | Yes | N/S | N/S ⁴ | 7 years state bar |
| Hawaii | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | Yes | N/S | 70 | 10 years state bar |
| Intermediate Court of Appeals | N/S | Yes | N/S | 70 | 10 years state bar |
| Idaho | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | 2 years | 30 | N/S | 10 years state bar |
| Court of Appeals | N/S | 2 years | 30 | N/S | 10 years state bar |
| Illinois | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | Yes | Yes | N/S | 75 | Licensed attorney |
| Appellate Court | Yes | Yes | N/S | 75 | Licensed attorney |
| Indiana | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 75 | 10 years state bar ⁵ |
| Court of Appeals | Yes | N/S | N/S | 75 | 10 years state bar ⁵ |
| Tax Court | N/S | Yes | N/S | N/S | 5 years state bar |
| Iowa | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 72 | Licensed attorney |
| Court of Appeals | N/S | N/S | N/S | 72 | Licensed attorney |
| Kansas | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | N/S | 30 | 70 ⁶ | 10 years active and continuous practice ⁷ |
| Court of Appeals | N/S | N/S | 30 | 70 ⁶ | 10 years active and continuous practice ⁷ |

Table 6. Qualifications to Serve as an Appellate Court Judge

| | Local residency | State residency | Minimum age | Maximum age | Legal credentials |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------|---|
| Kentucky | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 2 years | 2 years | N/S | N/S | 8 years state bar/licensed attorney |
| Court of Appeals | 2 years | 2 years | N/S | N/S | 8 years state bar/licensed attorney |
| Louisiana | | | | | |
| Supreme Courts | 2 years | 2 years | N/S | 70 ⁸ | 5 years state bar |
| Courts of Appeal | 2 years | 2 years | N/S | 70 | 5 years state bar |
| Maine | | | | | |
| Supreme Judicial Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S | "Learned in law" |
| Maryland | | | | | |
| Court of Appeals | 6 months | 5 years | 30 | 70 | State bar member |
| Court of Special Appeals | 6 months | 5 years | 30 | 70 | State bar member |
| Massachusetts | | | | | |
| Supreme Judicial Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 | N/S |
| Appeals Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 | N/S |
| Michigan | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 | State bar member, practice at least 5 years |
| Court of Appeals | Reside within district | N/S | N/S | 70 | State bar member |
| Minnesota | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 | State bar member |
| Court of Appeals | Varies | N/S | N/S | 70 | State bar member |
| Mississippi | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | District Resident | 5 years | 30 | N/S | 5 years state bar |
| Court of Appeals | District Resident | 5 years | 30 | N/S | 5 years state bar |
| Missouri | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | State voter for 9 years | 30 | 70 | State bar member |
| Court of Appeals | Yes | State voter for 9 years | 30 | 70 | State bar member |
| Montana | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | 2 years | N/S | N/S | 5 years state bar |
| Nebraska | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | Yes | 3 years | 30 | N/S | 5 years practice |
| Court of Appeals | Yes | N/S | 30 | N/S | 5 years practice |
| Nevada | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | 2 years | 25 | N/S | State bar member |
| New Hampshire | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 | N/S |
| New Jersey | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 | Admitted to practice in state for at least 10 years. |
| Superior Court, Appellate Division | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 | Admitted to practice in state for at least 10 years. |
| New Mexico | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | 3 years | 35 | N/S | 10 years active practice and/or judgeship in any court of the state |
| Court of Appeals | N/S | 3 years | 35 | N/S | 10 years active practice and/or judgeship in any court of the state |
| New York | | | | | |
| Court of Appeals | N/S | Yes | N/S | 70 | 10 years state bar |
| Supreme Court, Appellate Divisions | Yes, for presiding judge | Yes | 18 | 70 ⁹ | 10 years state bar |

Table 6. Qualifications to Serve as an Appellate Court Judge

| | Local residency | State residency | Minimum age | Maximum age | Legal credentials |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| North Carolina | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 72 | State bar member |
| Court of Appeals | N/S | N/S | N/S | 72 | State bar member |
| North Dakota | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | Yes | N/S | N/S | License to practice law |
| Court of Appeals | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S | License to practice law |
| Ohio | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | No | Yes | N/S | 70 | 6 years practice |
| Courts of Appeals | District | N/S | N/S | 70 | 6 years practice |
| Oklahoma | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 1 year | N/S | 30 | N/S | 5 years state bar |
| Court of Criminal Appeals | 1 year | N/S | 30 | N/S | 5 years state bar |
| Court of Civil Appeals | ⁻¹⁰ | N/S | N/S | N/S | ⁻¹¹ |
| Oregon | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | 3 years | N/S | 75 | State bar member |
| Court of Appeals | N/S | 3 years | N/S | 75 | State bar member |
| Pennsylvania | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | No | 1 year | N/S | 70 | State bar member |
| Superior Court | No | 1 year | N/S | 70 | State bar member |
| Commonwealth Court | No | 1 year | N/S | 70 | State bar member |
| Puerto Rico | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | 5 years | N/S | 70 | 10 years state bar |
| Court of Appeals | N/S | 5 years | N/S | 70 | 10 years state bar |
| Rhode Island | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | N/S | 21 | N/S | License to practice law |
| South Carolina | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | 5 years | 32 | 72 | 8 years state bar |
| Court of Appeals | N/S | 5 years | 32 | 72 | 8 years state bar |
| South Dakota | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | Yes | Yes | N/S | 70 | State bar member |
| Tennessee | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | Yes ¹² | 5 years | 35 | N/S | Qualified to practice law |
| Court of Appeals | Yes ¹³ | 5 years | 30 | N/S | Qualified to practice law |
| Court of Criminal Appeals | Yes ¹³ | 5 years | 30 | N/S | Qualified to practice law |
| Texas | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | Yes | 35 | 75 | ⁻¹⁴ |
| Court of Criminal Appeals | N/S | Yes | 35 | 75 | ⁻¹⁴ |
| Courts of Appeals | Yes | Yes | 35 | 75 | ⁻¹⁴ |
| Utah | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | 5 years | 30 | 75 | State bar member |
| Court of Appeals | N/S | 3 years | 25 | 75 | State bar member |
| Vermont | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | 5 years | N/S | 70 | 5 years state bar |
| Virginia | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 ¹⁵ | 5 years state bar |
| Court of Appeals | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 ¹⁶ | 5 years state bar |
| Washington | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 1 year | 1 year | N/S | 75 | State bar member |
| Courts of Appeals | 1 year | 1 year | N/S | 75 | 5 years state bar |
| West Virginia | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | 5 years | 30 | N/S | 10 years state bar |
| Wisconsin | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | 10 days | 10 days | N/S | N/S | 5 years state bar |
| Court of Appeals | 10 days | 10 days | N/S | N/S | 5 years state bar |
| Wyoming | | | | | |
| Supreme Court | N/S | 3 years | 30 | 70 | 9 years state bar |

Table 6. Qualifications to Serve as an Appellate Court Judge

| | Local residency | State residency | Minimum age | Maximum age | Legal credentials |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Federal | | | | | |
| U.S. Supreme Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S |
| U.S. Courts of Appeals | - ¹⁷ | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S |
| U.S. Court for Veterans Claims | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | State or federal bar |

FOOTNOTES:

Alabama:

¹The age prohibition of §6.16 is not a qualification for office, but only deals with retirement.

Florida:

²Initial appointment: must be resident of district at the time of original appointment.
³Must reside within the territorial jurisdiction of the court.

Georgia:

⁴There is a maximum retirement age in order to be eligible for certain benefits.

Indiana:

⁵In the supreme court and court of appeals, 5 years' service as a general jurisdiction judge may be substituted.

Kansas:

⁶May complete term in which age 70 is attained.
⁷Relevant legal experience, such as being a member of a law faculty or sitting as a judge, may qualify under the 10-year requirement.

Louisiana:

⁸75 for judges who began serving under old constitution.

New York:

⁹Up to 76 if certified for continuing service.

Oklahoma:

¹⁰Must be a qualified elector in district.
¹¹Appellate judges must be member of the state bar and have at least 4 years' experience as a practicing attorney or as judge of a court of record.

Tennessee:

¹²One justice from each of three divisions and two seats at large.
¹³Must reside in the grand division served.

Texas:

¹⁴Ten years practicing law or a lawyer and judge of a court of record at least 10 years.

Virginia:

¹⁵Applies only to those justices elected or appointed to an original or subsequent term commencing after July 1, 1993.
¹⁶Unless 'grandfathered.'

Federal:

¹⁷Circuit residency is required 28 U.S.C. § 44(c), except in D.C. Judges in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the federal circuit must reside within 50 miles of D.C.

Table 7. Selection and Terms of Trial Court Judges

| Court type: G=general jurisdiction L=limited jurisdiction | Method of Selection to Fill Unexpired Term | Method of Selection for Full Term | Method of Retention | Geographic Basis for Selection | Length of Term | Administrative Judges | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--------------------------------|----------------------|--|----------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | | Method of Selection | Term of Office | Can each Succeed Himself? | Do they have Administrative Authority? | What is their source of authority? |
| Alabama | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | Gubernatorial appointment ¹ | Partisan election | Partisan election | Circuit | 6 yrs | Majority vote of circuit judges ² | 3 yrs | Yes | Yes | Statutes and administrative rules |
| L District Court | Gubernatorial appointment ² | Partisan election | Partisan election | County | 6 yrs | Administrative circuit judge w/ advice and consent of majority of circuit court judges | 1 yr | Yes | Yes | Statutes and administrative rules |
| L Municipal Court | Governing municipal body appointment | Governing municipal body appointment | Re-appointment | Municipality | 4 yrs ³ | Mayor | At pleasure | Yes | Yes | Statutes and administrative rules |
| L Probate Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Partisan election | Partisan election | County | 6 yrs | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Alaska | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission ⁴ | Retention election | District ⁶ | 6 yrs | Chief Justice appointment | 1 yr | Yes | Yes | Statutes, Administrative Rules |
| L District Court | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission ⁵ | Retention election | District ⁷ | 4 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| ~ Magistrates | Same as full term | Administrative judge appoints in each judicial district | Same as full term | District | At pleasure | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Arizona | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | Gubernatorial appointment ⁸ | Non-partisan elections ⁹ | Non-partisan elections/Retention elections ¹⁰ | County | 4 yrs | Supreme Court appointment | 5 yrs | Yes | Yes | Constitution, Court Rules, Admin. Order of Supreme Court |
| L Justice of the Peace | County board appointment | Partisan election | Partisan election | Precinct | 4 yrs | ¹⁰ | 2 yrs | Yes | Yes | Administrative Order of Supreme Court |
| L Municipal Court | Varies | Varies | Varies | Municipality | Varies—2 yr. minimum | Court selection | Locally decided | Locally decided | Yes | Administrative Order and Local Delegation |
| Arkansas | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | Gubernatorial appointment ¹¹ | Partisan election | Partisan election | District | 4 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| G Chancery/Probate Court | Gubernatorial appointment ¹¹ | Partisan election | Partisan election | District | 6 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Municipal Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan | County | 4 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L County Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Partisan election | Partisan election | County | 2 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Police Court | City council | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan | City | 4 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Court of Common Pleas | Gubernatorial appointment | Partisan election | Partisan election | County | 2 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L City Court | Locally determined | Locally determined | Locally determined | City | 2 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| California | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election ¹² | County | 6 yrs | Court selection | Not less than 1 year | Yes | Yes | Statute and Rules of Court |
| L Municipal Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election ¹² | District | 6 yrs | Court selection | 1 year | Yes | Yes | Statute and Rules of Court |

Table 7. Selection and Terms of Trial Court Judges

| Court type: G=general jurisdiction L=limited jurisdiction | Method of Selection to Fill Unexpired Term | Method of Selection for Full Term | Method of Retention | Geographic Basis for Selection | Length of Term | Method of Selection | Administrative Judges | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | | Term of Office | Can each Succeed Himself? | Do they have Administrative Authority? | What is their source of authority? |
| Colorado | | | | | | | | | | |
| G District Court | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Retention election | County | 6 yrs | Court selection | Generally 1 yr | Varies | Yes | Chief Justice |
| G Denver Probate Court | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Retention election | District | 6 yrs | Supreme court, Chief Justice appointment | At pleasure | Yes | Yes | Chief Justice |
| G Denver Juvenile Court | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Retention election | District | 6 yrs | Supreme court, Chief Justice appointment | At pleasure | Yes | Yes | Chief Justice |
| G Water Court | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Retention election | District | 6 yrs | Supreme court, Chief Justice appointment | At pleasure | Yes | Yes | Chief Justice |
| L County Court | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission ¹³ | Retention election | County | 4 yrs | District court judges appointment | At pleasure | Yes | No | Chief Justice |
| L Municipal Court | Same as full term | Governing municipal body appointment | Re-appointment | Municipality | Varies | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Connecticut | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | Legislative appointment ¹⁴ | Legislative appointment ¹⁴ | Legislative appointment ¹⁴ | State | 8 yrs | Chief Court Administrator appointment | At pleasure | Yes | No ¹⁴ | ¹⁵ |
| L Probate Court | Partisan election | Partisan election | Partisan election | District | 8 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Delaware | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Court of Chancery | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of senate | Gubernatorial reappointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of senate | State | 12 yrs | Gubernatorial appointment | 12 yrs | Yes | Yes | Constitution |
| G Superior Court | Same as Court of Chancery | Same as Court of Chancery | Same as Court of Chancery | Resident: County; State County | 12 yrs | Gubernatorial appointment | 12 yrs | Yes | Yes | Constitution |
| L Justice of the Peace Court | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment from Magistrate Screening Commission with consent of senate | Same as Court of Chancery re-appointment by governor | County | 4yrs; reappoint. 6 yr term | Gubernatorial appointment | 4 yrs | Yes | Yes | Constitution |
| L Family Court | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of senate | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of senate | Same as Superior Court | County (Chief Judge statewide) | 12 yrs. | Gubernatorial appointment | 12 yrs | Yes | Yes | Constitution |
| L Court of Common Pleas | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of senate | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of senate | Same as Superior Court | County | 12 yrs | Gubernatorial appointment | 12 yrs | Yes | Yes | Constitution |
| L Alderman's Court | Varies | Town Council selection | Varies | Town | Varies | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |

District of Columbia

Legend: ~ = Not Applicable

Table 7. Selection and Terms of Trial Court Judges

| Court type: G=general jurisdiction L=limited jurisdiction | Method of Selection to Fill Unexpired Term | Method of Selection for Full Term | Method of Retention | Geographic Basis for Selection | Length of Term | Administrative Judges | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------|---------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | Method of Selection | Term of Office | Can each Succeed Himself? | Do they have Administrative Authority? | What is their source of authority? |
| G Superior Court | Same as full term | Presidential appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of senate | ¹⁶ | District of Columbia | 15 yrs | Chief judge appointment | 4 yrs | Yes | Yes | Appointment of the Chief Judge |
| Florida | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | Circuit | 6 yrs | Circuit and county court selection | 2 yrs | Yes | Yes | Statute & Florida Rules of Court |
| L County Court | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | County | 4 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Georgia | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | Circuit | 4 yrs | Court selection | Varies | Varies | Yes | Local Court Rules |
| L Juvenile Court ¹⁷ | Superior Court judge appointment | Superior Court judge appointment | Superior Court judge appointment | County/circuit | 4 yrs | Varies | Varies | Varies | Varies | Local Court Rules |
| L Civil Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Partisan election | Partisan election | County | 4 yrs | Seniority | Varies | Varies | ~ | ~ |
| L State Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | County | 4 yrs | Seniority | Varies | Yes | ~ | ~ |
| L Probate Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Partisan election ¹⁸ | Partisan election ¹⁸ | County | 4 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Magistrate Court | Varies | Varies | Varies | County | 4 yrs | Most are elected | 4 yrs | Yes | Yes | ~ |
| L Municipal Court of Columbus | Mayoral Appointment | Elected | Elected | Municipality | 4 yrs | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L County Recorder's Ct. | Varies | Varies | Varies | County | Varies | Seniority | Seniority | Yes | ~ | ~ |
| L Municipal Courts and City Court of Atlanta | Appointed by municipal authority | Appointed by municipal authority | Appointed by municipal authority | Municipality | At pleasure | Generally no administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Hawaii | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court ¹⁹ | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of senate | Judicial nominating commission reappoints | Circuit | 10 yrs | Chief Justice appointment | At pleasure | Yes | Yes | Hawaii revised statutes/org. charts |
| L District Court ¹⁹ | Same as full term | Appointment by Chief Justice from judicial nominating commission and consent of senate | Judicial nominating commission reappoints | District | 6 yrs | Chief Justice appointment | At pleasure | Yes | Yes | Sup. Ct. Rules and HRS 604-1 |
| Idaho | | | | | | | | | | |
| G District Court | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | District | 4 yrs | Majority of other district judges within the district judges or majority of supreme court justices | Varies ¹⁹ | Yes | ~ | ~ |
| Magistrate Division | Magistrate Commission appointment ²⁰ | Magistrate Commission appointment ²⁰ | Retention election | District | 4 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Illinois | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | COLR selection | Partisan election | Retention election | Circuit/County ²¹ | 6 years (associate judges 4 yrs) | Court selection | Varies | Yes | Yes | State Constitution |

Table 7. Selection and Terms of Trial Court Judges

| Court type: G=general jurisdiction L=limited jurisdiction | Method of Selection to Fill Unexpired Term | Method of Selection for Full Term | Method of Retention | Geographic Basis for Selection | Length of Term | Method of Selection | Administrative Judges | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--------------------------------|----------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | | | Term of Office | Can each Succeed Himself? | Do they have Administrative Authority? | What is their source of authority? |
| Indiana | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | Supreme Court appointment ²² | Partisan election ²³ | Partisan election ²³ | County | 6 yrs | Varies | Varies | Varies | Varies | Varies |
| G Circuit Court | Supreme Court appointment ²² | Partisan election ²³ | Partisan election ²³ | County | 6 yrs | Varies | Varies | Varies | Varies | Varies |
| G Probate Court | Supreme Court appointment ²² | Partisan election | Partisan election | County | 6 yrs | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L County Court | Supreme Court appointment ²² | Partisan election | Partisan election | County | 6 yrs | Varies | Varies | Varies | Varies | Varies |
| L City Court | Supreme Court appointment ²² | Partisan election | Partisan election | Municipality | 4 yrs | Varies | Varies | Varies | Varies | Varies |
| L Town Court | Supreme Court appointment ²² | Partisan election | Partisan election | Municipality | Varies | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Small Claims Court of Marion County | Supreme Court appointment ²² | Partisan election | Partisan election | Township | 4 Years | Varies | Varies | Varies | ~ | ~ |
| Iowa | | | | | | | | | | |
| G District Court | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Retention election | District | 6 yrs | Chief Justice appointment with Supreme Court approval ²⁶ | 2 yrs | Yes | Yes | Statutory and Rule |
| L District Associate | Same as full term | District judge appointment ²⁴ | Retention election | District | 4 yrs | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Magistrates | Same as full term | County judicial magistrate appointment commission ²⁵ | Reappointed by county. Judicial magistrate commission | County | 2 yrs | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Kansas | | | | | | | | | | |
| G District Court | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission in 17 districts; gubernatorial appointment in 14 districts | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission in 17 districts; partisan election in 14 districts | Retention election in 17 districts; partisan election in 14 districts | District | 4 yrs | Supreme Court appointment | 2 yrs | Yes | Yes | Statute; Supreme Court Rules; District Court Rules |
| L Municipal Court | Local governing body appointment ²⁷ | Local governing body appointment ²⁷ | Local governing body re-appointment ²⁷ | City | Varies | Local governing body appointment | At pleasure | Yes | Yes | Appointing authority |
| Kentucky | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | Circuit | 8 yrs | Circuit Court selection ²⁸ | Generally 2 yrs | Yes | Yes | Court Rule |
| L District Court | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | District | 4 yrs | District Court selection ²⁸ | Generally 2 yrs | Yes | Yes | Court Rule |

Legend: ~ = Not Applicable

Table 7. Selection and Terms of Trial Court Judges

| Court type: G=general jurisdiction L=limited jurisdiction | Method of Selection to Fill Unexpired Term | Method of Selection for Full Term | Method of Retention | Geographic Basis for Selection | Length of Term | Administrative Judges | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--------------------------------|----------------|--|------------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | | | | Method of Selection | Term of Office | Can each Succeed Himself? | Do they have Administrative Authority? | What is their source of authority? | |
| Louisiana | | | | | | | | | | | |
| G District Court | Supreme Court selection ²⁹ | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | District | 6 yrs | Varies | Varies | Varies | Varies | Varies | Court Rule (Local Rule) |
| L Justice of the Peace | Supreme Court selection ²⁹ | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | Wards | 6 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Mayor's Court | (Mayor or mayor pro temp) | Nonpartisan election | (Mayor serves as judge) | City | 4 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L City and Parish Courts | Supreme Court selection ²⁹ | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | City or parish | 6 yrs | Varies | Varies | Varies | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Maine | | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | Re-appointment by governor with consent of senate | Re-appointment by governor with consent of senate | Re-appointment by governor with consent of senate | Statewide | 7 yrs | Supreme Court, Chief Justice appointment | At pleasure of Chief Justice | Yes | No | ~ | ~ |
| L District Court | Re-appointment by governor; confirmed by legislature | Re-appointment by governor; confirmed by legislature | Re-appointment by governor; confirmed by legislature | State & District ³⁰ | 7 yrs | Supreme Court, Chief Justice appointment | At pleasure of Chief Justice | Yes | No | ~ | ~ |
| L Probate Court | appointment by governor | Partisan election | Partisan election | County | 7 yrs | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Administrative Court | Re-appointment by governor; confirmed by legislature | Re-appointment by governor; confirmed by legislature | Re-appointment by governor; confirmed by legislature | State | 7 yrs | Gubernatorial appointment with consent of senate | 7 yrs | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Maryland | | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of senate and contested election 1 year later | Contested election | Circuit | 15 yrs | Chief Judge – by seniority; Circuit/County Administrative Judge appointment by Supreme Court's Chief Justice | At pleasure | ~ | ³² | ~ | ~ |
| L District Court | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of senate | Mandatory gubernatorial re-appointment with consent of senate | District | 10 yrs | Chief Judge appointment by Supreme Court's Chief Justice ³¹ | At pleasure | ~ | ³² | ~ | ~ |
| L Orphan's Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Partisan election | Partisan election | Orphans | 4 yrs | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | ³² | ~ | ~ |
| Massachusetts | | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | There are no unexpired judicial terms. | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission approved by Governor's Council | No retention process. | State | Age 70 | Appointed by Supreme Judicial Court ³³ | 5 yrs | Yes | Yes | ~ | Statutes/court rules |
| L District Court | There are no unexpired judicial terms. | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission approved by Governor's Council | No retention process. | State | Age 70 | Appointed by Supreme Judicial Court ³³ | 5 yrs | Yes | Yes | ~ | Statutes/court rules |

Table 7. Selection and Terms of Trial Court Judges

| Court type: G=general jurisdiction L=limited jurisdiction | Method of Selection to Fill Unexpired Term | Method of Selection for Full Term | Method of Retention | Geographic Basis for Selection | Length of Term | Method of Selection | Administrative Judges | | | |
|---|---|--|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | | Term of Office | Can each Succeed Himself? | Do they have Administrative Authority? | What is their source of authority? |
| L Boston Municipal Court | There are no unexpired judicial terms. | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission approved by Governor's Council | No retention process. | State | Age 70 | Appointed by Supreme Judicial Court ³³ | 5 yrs | Yes | Yes | Statutes/court rules |
| Massachusetts, continued | | | | | | | | | | |
| L Juvenile Court | There are no unexpired judicial terms. | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission approved by Governor's Council | No retention process. | State | Age 70 | Appointed by Supreme Judicial Court ³³ | 5 yrs | Yes | Yes | Statutes/court rules |
| L Housing Court | There are no unexpired judicial terms. | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission approved by Governor's Council | No retention process. | State | Age 70 | Appointed by Supreme Judicial Court ³³ | 5 yrs | Yes | Yes | Statutes/court rules |
| L Land Court | There are no unexpired judicial terms. | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission approved by Governor's Council | No retention process. | State | Age 70 | Appointed by Supreme Judicial Court ³³ | 5 yrs | Yes | Yes | Statutes/court rules |
| L Probate and Family Court | There are no unexpired judicial terms. | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission approved by Governor's Council | No retention process. | State | Age 70 | Appointed by Supreme Judicial Court ³³ | 5 yrs | Yes | Yes | Statutes/court rules |
| Michigan | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court (includes Court of Claims and Family Division) | Gubernatorial appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | District | 6 yrs | Court selection | 2 yrs | Yes | Yes | Michigan Court Rule 8/110 |
| L District Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | District | 6 yrs | Court selection | 2 yrs | Yes | Yes | ~ |
| L Probate Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | District | 6 yrs | Court selection | 2 yrs | Yes | Yes | ~ |
| L Municipal Court | Governing municipal body appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | District | 4 yrs | Court selection | 2 yrs | Yes | Yes | ~ |
| Minnesota | | | | | | | | | | |
| G District Court | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | District | 6 yrs | Court selection | 2 yrs | Yes | ³⁴ | ³⁴ |
| Mississippi | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | District | 4 yrs | Seniority | Duration of term | ~ | Yes | Statutory |
| L Chancery Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | District | 4 yrs | Seniority | Duration of term | ~ | Yes | Statutory |
| L County Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | County | 4 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Family Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | County | 4 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Municipal Court | Locally determined | Locally determined | Locally determined | Municipality | Locally determined | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Justice Court | Locally determined | Partisan election | Partisan election | District in county | 4 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |

Legend: ~ = Not Applicable

Table 7. Selection and Terms of Trial Court Judges

| Court type: G=general jurisdiction L=limited jurisdiction | Method of Selection to Fill Unexpired Term | Method of Selection for Full Term | Method of Retention | Geographic Basis for Selection | Length of Term | Administrative Judges | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--------------------------------|---------------------|---|----------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | Method of Selection | Term of Office | Can each Succeed Himself? | Do they have Administrative Authority? | What is their source of authority? |
| Missouri | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | Gubernatorial appointment in partisan circuits (40) Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission in nonpartisan circuits (5) | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission in counties with nonpartisan election (5 metropolitan circuits) Partisan election in 40 circuits | Retention election for 5 metropolitan circuits, partisan election in 40 circuits | Circuit | 6 yrs | Court selection | 2 yrs | Yes | Yes | Constitution |
| ~ Associate Circuit Court | Gubernatorial appointment in partisan circuits (40) Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission in nonpartisan circuits (5) | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission in counties with nonpartisan election (5 metropolitan circuits) Partisan election in 40 circuits | Retention election for 5 metropolitan circuits, partisan election in 40 circuits | County | 4 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Municipal Court | Locally determined | Locally determined | Locally determined | City | Varies | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Montana | | | | | | | | | | |
| G District Court | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | District | 6 yrs | Varies | Varies | Varies | Yes - Limited | Constitution |
| G Workers' Compensation Court | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | State | 6 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| G Water Court | Chief Justice appointment from judicial nominating commission | Chief Justice appointment from judicial nominating commission | Chief Justice reappointment from judicial nominating commission | State | 4 yrs | Chief Justice appointment from judicial nominating commission | 4 yrs | Yes | Yes - Limited | Statute |
| L Justice of the Peace Court | County commission appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | County | 4 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Municipal Court | Local governing body appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | City | 4 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L City Court | City commission appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | City | 4 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Nebraska | | | | | | | | | | |
| G District Court | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Retention election | District | 6 yrs ³⁵ | Court selection | 1 yr | Yes | ~ | ~ |
| L Separate Juvenile Court | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Retention election | District | 6 yrs ³⁵ | Court selection | 1 yr | Yes | ~ | ~ |

Table 7. Selection and Terms of Trial Court Judges

| Court type: G=general jurisdiction L=limited jurisdiction | Method of Selection to Fill Unexpired Term | Method of Selection for Full Term | Method of Retention | Geographic Basis for Selection | Length of Term | Administrative Judges | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--------------------------------|---------------------|---|----------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | Method of Selection | Term of Office | Can each Succeed Himself? | Do they have Administrative Authority? | What is their source of authority? |
| Nebraska, continued | | | | | | | | | | |
| L Worker's Compensation | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Retention election | District | 6 yrs ³⁵ | Court selection | 1 yr | Yes | Yes | Court Rule |
| L County Court | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Retention election | District | 6 yrs ³⁵ | Court selection | 1 yr | Yes | Yes | Court Rule |
| Nevada | | | | | | | | | | |
| G District Court | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | District | 6 yrs | Varies | Varies | Varies | Yes | Statute (NRS 3.025) |
| L Justice Court | County commission appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | Township | 6 yrs | Elected by Justices of the Peace in individual townships having three or more Justices of the Peace | 1 year | Yes | Yes | Statute (JC RCP 84) |
| L Municipal Court | City council appointment | Nonpartisan election or appointment | Nonpartisan election or appointment | City | Varies | Varies | Varies | Yes | Varies | Individual City Charters |
| New Hampshire | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment subject to approval by executive council | ~ | State | Until age 70 | Gubernatorial appointment subject to approval by executive council | Age 70 | ~ | Yes | Chief Justice |
| L District Court | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment subject to approval by executive council | ~ | District | Until age 70 | Gubernatorial appointment subject to approval by executive council | Age 70 | ~ | Yes | Law |
| L Municipal Court | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment subject to approval by executive council | ~ | District/Municipality | Until age 70 | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Probate Court | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment subject to approval by executive council | ~ | County | Until age 70 | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| New Jersey | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment with consent of senate | Re-appointment by governor with consent of senate | State | 7 ³⁸ | Chief Justice appointment | At pleasure | ~ | Yes | Court Rule |
| L Tax Court | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment with consent of senate | Re-appointment by governor with consent of senate | State | 7 ³⁸ | Chief Justice appointment | At pleasure | ~ | Yes | Statute |
| L Municipal Court | Same as full term | Appointment by mayor or governing body of municipality ³⁶ | Re-appointment by mayor or governing body of municipality ³⁷ | Municipality/Municipality | 3 yrs | Governing body ³⁷ | 3 yrs | Yes | ³⁹ | ³⁹ |

Table 7. Selection and Terms of Trial Court Judges

| Court type: G=general jurisdiction L=limited jurisdiction | Method of Selection to Fill Unexpired Term | Method of Selection for Full Term | Method of Retention | Geographic Basis for Selection | Length of Term | Administrative Judges | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | | Method of Selection | Term of Office | Can each Succeed Himself? | Do they have Administrative Authority? | What is their source of authority? | |
| New Mexico | | | | | | | | | | | |
| G District Court | Gubernatorial appointment ⁴⁰ | Partisan election | Nonpartisan retention election | District | 6 yrs | Election by district judges | 3 yrs | Yes | Yes | Statute | |
| L Magistrate Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Partisan election | Partisan election | County | 4 yrs | Director of AOC appointment | Varies | Yes | Yes | Policy Directive | |
| L Bernalillo County | Gubernatorial appointment ⁴⁰ | Partisan election | Nonpartisan retention election | County | 4 yrs | Election by metropolitan judges | 3 yrs | Yes | Yes | Statute | |
| L Municipal Court | Appointment by governing body | Partisan election | Partisan election | City | 4 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | |
| L Probate Court | County commission appointment | Partisan election | Partisan election | County | 4 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | |
| New York | | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Supreme Court | Gubernatorial appointment with consent of senate | Partisan election | Partisan election | District | 14 yrs | No Administrative Judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | |
| G County Court | Gubernatorial appointment with consent of senate | Partisan election | Partisan election | County | 10 yrs | No Administrative Judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | |
| L District Court | ⁴¹ | Partisan election | Partisan election | District | 6 yrs | Partisan election | 6 yrs | Yes | No | ~ | |
| L City Court | Varies—most elected | Varies--most elected | Locally determined | City(with some exceptions) | 10 yrs | No Administrative Judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | |
| L Criminal Court of NYC | Mayoral appointment | Mayoral appointment | Mayoral appointment | City | 10 yrs | No Administrative Judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | |
| L Civil Court of NYC | Mayoral appointment ⁴² | Partisan election | Partisan election | City | 10 yrs ⁴² | No Administrative Judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | |
| L Town and Village | Town board/village mayoral appointment | Partisan election | Partisan election | Town or village | 4 yrs | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | |
| L Court of Claims | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial screening committee with consent of senate | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial screening committee with consent of senate | Re-appointment by governor | State | 9 yrs | Gubernatorial appointment | Balance of term | Yes | Yes | Inherent | |
| L Surrogates' Court | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial screening committee with consent of senate | Partisan election | Partisan election | County | 10 yrs (except NYC is 14) | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | |
| L Family Court | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial screening committee with consent of senate/By mayor in New York City | Partisan election/appointment by mayor in New York City | Partisan election/reappointment by mayor in New York City | County outside NYC | 10 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | |

Table 7. Selection and Terms of Trial Court Judges

| Court type: G=general jurisdiction L=limited jurisdiction | Method of Selection to Fill Unexpired Term | Method of Selection for Full Term | Method of Retention | Geographic Basis for Selection | Length of Term | Method of Selection | Administrative Judges | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | | Term of Office | Can each Succeed Himself? | Do they have Administrative Authority? | What is their source of authority? |
| North Carolina | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | Gubernatorial appointment | ⁴³ | As of 1998, Nonpartisan election | State | 8 (resident), 4 (special) | Seniority of service within district | 8 yrs | Yes | Yes | Statute |
| L District Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Partisan election | Partisan election | District | 4 yrs | Chief Justice appointment | At pleasure | Yes | Yes | Statute |
| North Dakota | | | | | | | | | | |
| G District Court | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | District | 6 yrs | Elected by district judges | 3 yrs | Yes | Yes | Law |
| L Municipal Court | Mayoral appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | City | 4 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Ohio | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Court of Common Pleas | Gubernatorial appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | County | 6 yrs | Elected by court judges | 1 year | Yes | Yes | Statute and rules of superintendence |
| L Municipal Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | County/city / part of county | 6 yrs | Elected by court judges | 1 year | Yes | Yes | Statute and rules of superintendence |
| L County Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | County/ part of county | 6 yrs | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Court of Claims | Chief Justice assignment | Chief Justice assignment | Chief Justice appointment | ~ | 44 | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Mayors Court | Varies; usually elected | Partisan election | Partisan election | City/Village | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Oklahoma | | | | | | | | | | |
| G District Court | Gubernatorial appointment from Judicial Nominating Commission | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | District | 4 yrs | Selected by District and Associate District judges within each judicial administrative district | Varies | Yes | Yes | Statute |
| ~ Associate | Gubernatorial appointment from Judicial Nominating Commission | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | District | 4 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| ~ Special | Selection by District Court Judge in each Judicial Nominating Commission | Same as unexpired term | Same as unexpired term | District | At pleasure | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Municipal Court Not of Record | City governing body appointment | City governing body appointment | City governing body appointment | Municipality | 2 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Municipal Criminal Court of Record | City governing body appointment | City governing body appointment | City governing body appointment | Municipality | 2 yrs | City governing body appointment | Varies | Unknown | ~ | ~ |
| L Workers' Compensation Court | Gubernatorial appointment from Judicial Nominating Commission | Gubernatorial appointment from Judicial Nominating Commission | Re-appointment by governor from Judicial Nominating Commission | State | 6 yrs | Gubernatorial appointment | 2 yrs | Yes | ~ | ~ |

Legend: ~ = Not Applicable

Table 7. Selection and Terms of Trial Court Judges

| Court type: G=general jurisdiction L=limited jurisdiction | Method of Selection to Fill Unexpired Term | Method of Selection for Full Term | Method of Retention | Geographic Basis for Selection | Length of Term | Administrative Judges | | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|--|----------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | Method of Selection | Term of Office | Can each Succeed Himself? | Do they have Administrative Authority? | What is their source of authority? |
| Oklahoma, continued | | | | | | | | | | |
| L Court of Tax Review | Supreme Court appointment | Supreme Court appointment | Supreme Court appointment | Judicial District | Term is for remainder of service as District Court judge | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Oregon | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | Circuit | 6 yrs | Chief Justice appointment | 2 yrs | Yes | Yes | Statute |
| G Tax Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | State | 6 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L County Court | County commission appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | County | 4 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Justice Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | County | 6 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Municipal Court | City council appointment | City council appointment | City council re-appointment | Municipality | Varies | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Pennsylvania | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Court of Common Pleas | Gubernatorial appointment from Judicial Advisory Commission with consent of senate | Partisan election | Retention election | County | 10 years | Seniority (if 8 or more judges, court selection) | 5 yrs | No | Yes | Statute 42 Pa.C.S. §325 |
| L Philadelphia Municipal | Gubernatorial appointment from Judicial Advisory Commission with consent of senate | Partisan election | Retention election | County | 10 years | Seniority (if 8 or more judges, court selection) | 5 yrs | No | Yes | Statute 42 Pa.C.S. §325 |
| L District Justice Court | Gubernatorial appointment from Judicial Advisory Commission with consent of senate | Partisan election | Partisan election | Magisterial District | 6 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | Statute 42 Pa.C.S. §325 |
| L Philadelphia Traffic | Gubernatorial appointment from Judicial Advisory Commission with consent of senate | Partisan election | Partisan election | County | 6 yrs | Gubernatorial appointment | 5 yrs | Yes | Yes | Statute 42 Pa.C.S. §325 |
| L Pittsburgh City Magistrates | Mayoral appointment with city council's consent | Mayoral appointment | Mayoral appointment | City of Pittsburgh | 4 yrs | Mayoral appointment | 1 yr | Yes | Yes | Statute 42 Pa.C.S. §325 |
| Puerto Rico | | | | | | | | | | |
| Court of First Instance: G Superior Court | Gubernatorial appointment w/senate confirmation | Gubernatorial w/senate confirmation | Gubernatorial reappointment w/senate confirmation | Statewide | 12 yrs | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |

Table 7. Selection and Terms of Trial Court Judges

| Court type: G=general jurisdiction L=limited jurisdiction | Method of Selection to Fill Unexpired Term | Method of Selection for Full Term | Method of Retention | Geographic Basis for Selection | Length of Term | Administrative Judges | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--------------------------------|---------------------|---|----------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | Method of Selection | Term of Office | Can each Succeed Himself? | Do they have Administrative Authority? | What is their source of authority? |
| Puerto Rico, continued | | | | | | | | | | |
| G District Court ⁵² | ~ | ~ | ~ | Statewide | 8 yrs ⁵² | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| G Municipal Court | Gubernatorial appointment w/senate confirmation | Gubernatorial appointment w/senate confirmation | Gubernatorial reappointment w/senate confirmation | Statewide | 8 yrs | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Rhode Island | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | Gubernatorial appointment with consent of senate | Gubernatorial appointment with consent of senate | ~ | State | Life | Gubernatorial appointment | Life | ~ | Yes | Statute |
| L District Court | Gubernatorial appointment with consent of senate | Gubernatorial appointment with consent of senate | ~ | State | Life | Gubernatorial appointment | Life | ~ | Yes | Statute |
| L Family Court | Gubernatorial appointment with consent of senate | Gubernatorial appointment with consent of senate | ~ | State | Life | Gubernatorial appointment | Life | ~ | Yes | Statute |
| L Probate Court | Town Council Appointed | Town council reappointed | Town Council Reappointed | Town | Varies | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Municipal Court | City council appointed | Locally determined | Locally determined | Town | 2 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Administrative Adjudication Court | Gubernatorial appointment with consent of senate | Gubernatorial appointment with consent of senate | ~ | State | Varies | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| South Carolina | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | Legislative election | Legislative election | Legislative election | Circuit | 6 yrs | Chief Justice appointment | 6 months | Yes | Yes | Chief Justice |
| L Family Court | Legislative election | Legislative election | Legislative election | Circuit | 6 yrs | Chief Justice appointment | 6 months | Yes | Yes | Chief Justice |
| L Magistrate Court | Gubernatorial appointment with consent of senate | Gubernatorial appointment with consent of senate | Gubernatorial appointment with consent of senate | County | 4 yrs | Chief Justice appointment | 6 months | Yes | Yes | Chief Justice |
| L Probate Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Partisan election | Partisan election | County | 4 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Municipal Court | Council appointment | Council appointment | Council appointment | District | 2-4 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| South Dakota | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | Circuit | 8 yrs | Chief Justice appointment ⁴⁵ | At pleasure | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| ~ Law Magistrates | Same as full term | Appointment by Circuit Court administrative judge with approval of Supreme court | Re-appointment by Circuit Court administrative judge with approval of Supreme Court | Circuit | 4 yrs | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| ~ Clerk/Magistrates | Division of Circuit Court | ~ | ~ | Circuit | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |

Legend: ~ = Not Applicable

Table 7. Selection and Terms of Trial Court Judges

| Court type: G=general jurisdiction L=limited jurisdiction | Method of Selection to Fill Unexpired Term | Method of Selection for Full Term | Method of Retention | Geographic Basis for Selection | Length of Term | Administrative Judges | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--------------------------------|--------------------|---|---------------------|---------------------------|--|---|
| | | | | | | Method of Selection | Term of Office | Can each Succeed Himself? | Do they have Administrative Authority? | What is their source of authority? |
| Tennessee | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Partisan election | Partisan election | District | 8 yrs | Court selection | 1 yr | Yes | ~ | ~ |
| G Chancery Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Partisan election | Partisan election | District | 8 yrs | Court selection | 1 yr | Yes | ~ | ~ |
| G Criminal Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Partisan election | Partisan election | District | 8 yrs | Court selection | 1 yr | Yes | ~ | ~ |
| G Probate Court | Established by special legislative act | Partisan election | Partisan election | Varies | Locally determined | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Juvenile Court | Established by special legislative act | Partisan election | Partisan election | County | 8 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Municipal Court | Locally determined | Established by ordinance | Established by ordinance | Municipality | 8 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L General Sessions Court | Local legislative body appointment | Partisan election | Partisan election | County | 8 yrs | Varies | Varies | Varies | ~ | ~ |
| Texas | | | | | | | | | | |
| G District Courts | Gubernatorial appointment with consent of senate | Partisan election | Partisan election | District | 4 yrs | Varies | 2 yrs | Yes | Yes | Texas Govt. code §74.092 |
| L Constitutional County Court and County Courts at Law | Appointment by county commissioners | Partisan election | Partisan election | County | 4 yrs | Varies ⁴⁶ | 2 yrs | Yes | Yes | Texas Govt. code §74.092 |
| L Justice of the Peace Court | Appointment by county commissioners | Partisan election | Partisan election | Precinct | 4 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Municipal Court | Appointment by city council | Varies | Varies | None | Varies | Varies | Varies | Yes | Varies | Varies |
| Utah | | | | | | | | | | |
| G District Court | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of senate ⁴⁷ | Retention election | District | 6 yrs | Court selection | Presumptively 2 yrs | Yes | Yes | Utah Code Ann. 7878-3-29 Code of Judicial Admin 3-104 |
| L Justice Court | Same as full term | Appointment by local government executive with confirmation by local government legislative body. | County: Retention election Municipal: Reappointment by city executive | County/Municipality | 4 years | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Juvenile Court | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of senate ⁴⁷ | Retention election | District | 6 yrs | Court selection | Presumptively 2 yrs | Yes | Yes | Utah Code Ann. 7878-3-29 Code of Judicial Admin 3-104 |
| Vermont | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of senate | Legislative election | State | 6 yrs | Supreme Court appointment ⁴⁸ | 4 yrs | Yes | Yes | Statute & Supreme Court Admin. Order |

Table 7. Selection and Terms of Trial Court Judges

| Court type: G=general jurisdiction L=limited jurisdiction | Method of Selection to Fill Unexpired Term | Method of Selection for Full Term | Method of Retention | Geographic Basis for Selection | Length of Term | Method of Selection | Administrative Judges | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | | Term of Office | Can each Succeed Himself? | Do they have Administrative Authority? | What is their source of authority? |
| Vermont, continued | | | | | | | | | | |
| G District Court | Same as full term | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of senate | Legislative election | State | 6 yrs | Supreme Court appointment ⁴⁸ | ~ | One administrative judge for Superior, District, and family court | ~ | ~ |
| G Family Court | Superior/District judges | Serve as Family Court judges | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Probate Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Partisan election | Partisan election | District | 4 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Virginia | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | Interim appointments Governor appointment | Legislative appointment | Legislative appointment | Circuit | 8 yrs | Court selection | 2 yrs | Yes | Limited | Statute |
| L District Court | Circuit court judge appointment | Legislative appointment | Legislative appointment | District | 6 yrs | Court selection | 2 yrs | Yes | Limited | Statute |
| Washington | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | Superior | 4 yrs | Varies | Varies | Varies | Yes | Court Rule |
| L District Court | County appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | District | 4 yrs | Court selection | Max: 1 yr | Yes | Yes | Court Rule |
| L Municipal Court | City appointment | Mayoral/city council appointed | Mayoral/city council appointed Full time Municipal Court judges must stand for nonpartisan election | Municipality | 4, unless mayor changes | Court selection | Max: 1 yr | Yes | Yes | Court Rule |
| West Virginia | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Partisan election | Partisan election | District | 8 yrs | Court selection | At pleasure | Yes | ~ | ~ |
| L Magistrate Court | Supervising judge appointment | Partisan election | Partisan election | County | 4 yrs | Supervising judge appointment | At pleasure | Yes | ~ | ~ |
| L Municipal Court | Locally determined | Locally determined | Locally determined | Municipality | Locally determined | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Wisconsin | | | | | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | Gubernatorial appointment | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | County | 6 yrs | COLR appointment ⁴⁹ | 2 yrs | Yes ⁵⁰ | Yes | Supreme Court Rule |
| L Municipal Court | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | Municipality | Not less than 2 or more than 4 years | Locally determined ⁵¹ | Locally determined | Locally determined | Locally determined | Locally determined |
| Wyoming | | | | | | | | | | |
| G District Court | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Retention election | District | 6 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Justice of the Peace Court | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | Nonpartisan election | County | 4 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Municipal Court | Mayoral appointment | Mayoral appointment | Locally determined | Municipality | Varies | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |

Legend: ~ = Not Applicable

Table 7. Selection and Terms of Trial Court Judges

| Court type: G=general jurisdiction L=limited jurisdiction | Method of Selection to Fill Unexpired Term | Method of Selection for Full Term | Method of Retention | Geographic Basis for Selection | Length of Term | Administrative Judges | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|----------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | Method of Selection | Term of Office | Can each Succeed Himself? | Do they have Administrative Authority? | What is their source of authority? |
| Wyoming, continued | | | | | | | | | | |
| L County Court | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission | Retention election | County | 4 yrs | No administrative judge | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Federal | | | | | | | | | | |
| US District Court | Same as full term | Presidential appointment subject to Senate confirmation | ~ | District | Life | Seniority ⁶⁵ | 7 yrs | No | ~ | ~ |
| US Magistrate | Same as full term | Appointed by US District Court Panels | Circuit Judicial Council recall ⁶³ | District | 8 yrs full-time, 4 yrs part-time | ⁶⁶ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| US Bankruptcy | Same as full term | Appointed by US Appellate Court Panels | Ad hoc recall ⁶⁴ | | 14 yrs | Designated by a majority of the District judges of the courts | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |

FOOTNOTES:

Alabama:

¹The counties of Baldwin, Jefferson, Madison, Mobile and Tuscaloosa use gubernatorial appointment from the recommendations of judicial nominating commission.

²If court cannot agree, Supreme Court decides.

³Length of term is 2 years, if position is part-time.

Alaska:

⁴Judge must run for retention at next general election immediately following the third year from time of initial appointment.

⁵Judges must run for retention at first general election held more than one year after appointment.

⁶Judges selected on a statewide basis but run for retention on a district-wide basis.

⁷Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission. The judge must run for retention at first general election held more than one year after appointment.

Arizona:

⁸In the two most populous counties (Maricopa and Pima), such appointments are from a list submitted by the Judicial Nominating Commission. The method for submitting names for the other 13 counties varies.

⁹Maricopa and Pima counties use the Gubernatorial appointment process for all vacancies. The other 13 counties hold non-partisan elections.

¹⁰There is one justice of the peace per precinct. In counties having four or more justices of the peace, a presiding justice of the peace is chosen by a vote of the justices of the peace in that county, with the advice and consent of the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court in that county.

Arkansas:

¹¹In circuit and chancery courts the office can be held till December 31 following the next general election, and then partisan election for remainder of term.

California:

¹²If unopposed for reelection, incumbent's name does not appear on ballot unless a petition was filed 83 days before the election date requesting the name to appear. An unopposed incumbent is not declared elected until the election date. This is for the general election. Different timing for primary elections. See Elec. Code §8203.

Colorado:

¹³The mayor appoints Denver County Court judges.

Connecticut:

¹⁴Governor nominates from candidates submitted by Judicial Selection Commission.

¹⁵The Chief Court Administrator appoints an Administrative Judge for each Judicial District. The Administrative Judges serve at the pleasure of the Chief Court Administrator and may succeed themselves. Sec. 51-5a(3) of the Connecticut General Statutes is the source of the authority for their appointment. Their jurisdiction is the Judicial District.

District of Columbia:

¹⁶Judicial Nomination Commission nominates for presidential appointment. If the Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure evaluates a sitting judge as "well qualified" the judge is automatically reappointed for a new term of 15 years. If the commission evaluates the judge as "qualified" the President may renominate him/her subject to Senate confirmation; if the commission evaluates the judge unqualified the judge is ineligible for reappointment. (Please note: There are two entities involved in judicial appointments and reappointments in D.C.: The Judicial Nomination Commission and the Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure.)

Georgia:

¹⁷In one county election. Associate judges (formerly referees) must be a member of the state bar or a law school graduate. They serve at the pleasure of the judge(s). Most juvenile courts have only one judge, therefore no presiding judge. Otherwise, seniority.

¹⁸In 29 of 159 counties probate judges are selected in non-partisan elections.

Hawaii:

¹⁹The family courts are a division of circuit courts. Family court judges are either circuit court judges assigned to the family court or are district court-level judges (district/family judges).

Idaho:

¹⁹The Supreme Court appoints the administrative judge for up to two years if District Court judges unable to elect.

²⁰The Magistrate Commission consists of the administrative judge, 3 mayors and 2 electors appointed by the Governor; and 2 attorneys, nominated by the District Bar and appointed by the State Bar. There is one commission in each district.

Illinois:

²¹Unit less than county in Cook County.

Table 7. Selection and Terms of Trial Court Judges

Indiana:

²²Until gubernatorial appointment or next general election.

²³Nominating commissions are used in Superior Courts in Allen and St. Joseph counties. Non-partisan elections in Vanderburgh and in some Lake county courts.

Iowa:

²⁴The District Court chief judge serves the entire court, including the District Associate judges and the judicial magistrates.

²⁵The county judicial magistrate appointing commission consists of 3 members appointed by county board and 2 elected by county bar, presided over by a District Court judge.

²⁶Shall supervise all judicial officers and court employees serving within the district. Fix the times and places of holding court, and shall designate the respective presiding judges, supervise the performance of all administrative and judicial business of the district, allocate the workloads of District Associate judges and magistrates, and conduct judicial conferences to consider, study, and plan for improvement of the administration of justice.

Kansas:

²⁷In two counties the municipal court judges are selected and appointed by the District Court judges.

Kentucky:

²⁸In addition, there are 16 chief regional judges (8 circuit, 8 district), selected by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court for regional administration of cases.

Louisiana:

²⁹Depending upon the amount of time remaining, selection may be by nonpartisan election following Supreme Court appointment.

Maine:

³⁰At least one judge must be appointed from each of the thirteen districts who is a resident of the county in which the district lies.

Maryland:

³¹Administrative judges are appointed by the Chief Justice of District Court with the approval of the Chief Justice of Court of Appeals.

³²Presiding judge for trial assigned by county administrative judge. Unsure whether "presiding" judge is administrative position. Maryland has 3 chief judges (COA; CSA; District Court). Chief judges by seniority and circuit/county administrative judges.

Massachusetts:

³³The administrative head of the trial court is the "Chief Justice for Administration and Management." Each department has a Chief Justice appointed by the "CJAM" to a 5 year term.

Minnesota:

³⁴In each judicial district, the Chief Judge, subject to the authority of the Chief Justice, shall exercise general administrative authority over the courts within the judicial district. The Chief Judge shall make assignments of judges to serve on the courts within the judicial district, and assignments may be made without the consent of the judges affected. The Chief Judge may assign any judge of any court within the judicial district to hear any matter in any court of the judicial district. When a judge of a court is assigned to another court the judge is vested with the powers of a judge of the court of assignment. A judge may not be assigned to hear matters outside the judge's judicial district pursuant to this subdivision.

Nebraska:

³⁵The initial term is for at least 3 but not more than 5 years.

New Jersey:

³⁶In multimunicipality joint or countywide municipal courts, selection is by governor with senate's consent.

³⁷In municipalities with more than one judge, the governing body may appoint a "chief" judge. Regional Presiding Judges (Superior or Municipal Court Judges) are selected by the Chief Justice to assist in the administrative operations of the municipal courts in any of the 15 judicial administrative districts (i.e., vicinages). There are currently 9 Presiding Judges-Municipal Courts representing 12 the state's 15 vicinages.

³⁸On reappointment till age 70.

³⁹The position of Presiding Judge-Municipal Court is established by Statute (N.J.S.A. 2B:12-9). Presiding Judges exercise the powers delegated to them by the Chief Justice and the Rules of Court.

New Mexico:

⁴⁰The Governor must select a candidate from a list submitted by the district or metropolitan judges committee created by the constitution.

New York:

⁴¹Appointment by Chief Executive Officer of county with confirmation by Board of Supervisors of district.

⁴²Housing judges are appointed for five year terms by the chief administrator of the courts.

North Carolina:

⁴³Partisan election (resident judges), gubernatorial appointment (special judges).

Ohio:

⁴⁴Temporary assignment by chief justice of Supreme Court.

South Dakota:

⁴⁵The circuit court presiding judge serves the entire court, including the law magistrates division.

Texas:

⁴⁶There is a local administrative judge for statutory county courts (CCL) but no Constitutional County courts.

Utah:

⁴⁷Initial term of appointment is until the next general election, immediately following the third year from the time of initial appointment.

Vermont:

⁴⁸Administrative Judge for trial courts.

Wisconsin:

⁴⁹The chief judge of a district can appoint a presiding judge in each multi-judge circuit.

⁵⁰Restricted to three successive terms.

⁵¹There is only 1 multi-judge Municipal Court.

Puerto Rico:

⁵²The 1994 Judiciary Act states that upon expiration of a district court judge term the position becomes a superior court judge position.

Federal:

⁵³May be recalled by the Circuit Judicial Council with consent of the Chief Justice for a maximum of up to one year.

⁵⁴Ad hoc recall may be for a fixed (renewable) period of three years.

⁵⁵The office is filled by the judge in regular active service who, at the time of vacancy: (1) is senior in commission, (2) is under the age of 65, (3) has served at least one year as a District judge, and (4) who has not previously served as chief judge.

⁵⁶A "chief" or "administrative" magistrate judge position has not been formally established by statute or regulation.

Table 8. Qualifications to Serve as a Trial Court Judge

| Court Type G = General jurisdiction L = Limited jurisdiction | Local Residency | State Residency | Minimum Age | Maximum Age | Law Degree | Other Legal Qualifications |
|--|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| Alabama | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | 1 yr | 1 yr | N/S | 70 ¹ | Yes | Licensed attorney |
| L District Court | 1 yr | 1 yr | N/S | 70 | Yes | Licensed attorney |
| L Municipal Court | Yes | 1 yr | 18 | 70 | Yes | Licensed attorney |
| L Probate Court | 1 yr ² | Citizen ² | N/S ² | 70 | No ² | N/S |
| Alaska | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | N/S | 5 yrs | N/S | 70 | Yes | 5 yrs practice |
| L District Court | N/S | 5 yrs | 21 | 70 | Yes | ~ ³ |
| ~ Magistrates ⁴ | N/S | 6 mos | 21 | N/S | No | N/S |
| Arizona | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court ⁵ | 1 yr | 5 yrs | 30 | 70 | Yes | Admitted to the practice of law in Arizona 5 years |
| L Justice of the Peace Court | Yes | Yes | 18 | 70 | No | N/S |
| L Municipal Court | Varies | Varies | Varies | Varies | Varies | Varies |
| Arkansas | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | N/S | 2 yrs | 28 | N/S | Yes | 6 yrs practice/bench |
| G Chancery/Probate Court | N/S | 2 yrs | 28 | N/S | Yes | 6 yrs practice/bench |
| L Municipal Court | Yes | 2 yrs | 25 | N/S | Yes | 3 yrs practice/bench |
| L County Court | Yes | N/S | 25 | N/S | No | N/S |
| L Police Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S | Yes | N/S |
| L Court of Common Pleas | Yes | N/S | 25 | N/S | No | N/S |
| L City Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S | No | N/S |
| L Justice of the Peace Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S | No | N/S |
| California | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S | Yes | 10 yrs state bar |
| L Municipal | 54 days | Yes | N/S | N/S | Yes | 5 yrs state bar |
| Colorado | | | | | | |
| G District Court | Yes | Yes | N/S | 72 | Yes | 5 yrs state bar |
| G Denver Probate Court | Yes | N/S | N/S | 72 | Yes | 5 yrs state bar |
| G Denver Juvenile Court | Yes | N/S | N/S | 72 | Yes | 5 yrs state bar |
| G Water Court | Yes | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S |
| L County Court | Yes | N/S | N/S | 72 | No ⁶ | N/S |
| L Municipal Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 72 | No | N/S |
| Connecticut | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | No | Yes | N/S | 70 | Yes | Member of the bar |
| L Probate Court | Yes ⁷ | Yes | 18 | 70 | No | No |
| Delaware | | | | | | |
| G Court of Chancery | No | Yes | N/S | N/S | Yes | "Learned in Law" |
| G Superior Court | Yes | Yes | N/S | N/S | Yes | "Learned in Law" |
| L Justice of the Peace Court | Yes | Yes | N/S | N/S | No | N/S |
| L Family Court | Yes ⁸ | 5 yrs | N/S | N/S | Yes | 5 yrs state bar |
| L Court of Common Pleas | Yes | Yes | N/S | N/S | Yes | 5 yrs state bar |
| L Alderman's Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S | No ⁹ | No |
| District of Columbia | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | 90 days | District residency | N/S | 74 | Yes | 5 yrs state bar ¹⁰ |
| Florida | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | Yes ¹¹ | Yes | N/S | 70 | Yes | 5 yrs state bar |
| L County Court | Yes ¹² | Yes | N/S | 70 | Yes | 5 yrs state bar |

Table 8. Qualifications to Serve as a Trial Court Judge

| Court Type | Local Residency | State Residency | Minimum Age | Maximum Age | Law Degree | Other Legal Qualifications |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Georgia | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | N/S | 3 yr | 30 | N/S ¹³ | Yes | 7 yrs state bar |
| L Juvenile Court | N/S | 3 yr | 30 | N/S | Yes | 5 yrs state bar |
| L Civil Court | Varies | Varies | Varies | N/S | Yes | Varies |
| L State Court | Yes | 3 yr | 25 | N/S ¹⁴ | Yes | 5 yrs state bar |
| L Probate Court | 2 yrs | N/S | 25 ¹⁵ | N/S | Varies | Not required of all ¹⁶ |
| L Magistrate Court | 1 yr | N/S | 25 | N/S | No | N/S ¹⁷ |
| L Municipal Court of Columbus | Yes | N/S | 25 | N/S | Yes | 5 yrs state bar |
| L County Recorder's Courts | Varies | Yes | Varies | N/S | Yes | Varies |
| L Municipal and City Courts of Atlanta | Varies | N/S | Varies | Varies | Varies | Varies |
| Hawaii | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | N/S | Yes | N/S | 70 | Yes | 10 yrs state bar |
| L District Court | N/S | Yes | N/S | 70 | Yes | 5 yrs state bar |
| Idaho | | | | | | |
| G District Court | N/S | 1 yr | N/S | N/S | Yes | 10 yrs state bar |
| ~ Magistrates Division | N/S | 1 yr | 30 | N/S | Yes | 5 yrs state bar |
| Illinois | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | Yes | Yes | N/S | 75 | Yes | N/S |
| Indiana | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | Yes | 1 yr | N/S | N/S | Yes | N/S |
| G Circuit Court | Yes | 1 yr | N/S | N/S | Yes | N/S |
| G Probate Court | Yes | 1 yr | N/S | N/S | Yes | N/S |
| L County Court | Yes | 1 yr | N/S | N/S | Yes | N/S |
| L City Court | Yes | N/S | N/S | N/S | No | N/S |
| L Town Court | Yes | N/S | N/S | N/S | No | N/S |
| L Small Claims Court of Marion County | Yes | N/S | N/S | N/S | Yes ¹⁸ | N/S |
| Iowa | | | | | | |
| G District Court | Yes | N/S | N/S | 72 | Yes | N/S |
| ~ Magistrates | Yes | N/S | 18 | 72 | No | N/S |
| Kansas | | | | | | |
| G District Court | Yes | N/S | N/S | 70 ¹⁹ | Yes ²⁰ | 5 yrs state bar |
| L Municipal Court | N/S | N/S | 18 | N/S | Varies ²¹ | N/S |
| Kentucky | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | 2 yrs | 2 yrs | N/S | N/S | Yes | 8 yrs state bar |
| L District Court | 2 yrs | 2 yrs | N/S | N/S | Yes | 2 yrs state bar |
| Louisiana | | | | | | |
| G District Court | 2 yrs | 2 yrs | N/S | 70 | Yes | 5 yrs state bar |
| G Family and Juvenile Court | 2 yrs | 2 yrs | N/S | 70 | Yes | 5 yrs state bar |
| L Justice of the Peace Court | 2 yrs | 2 yrs | N/S | 70 | No | N/S |
| L Mayor's Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S | No | N/S |
| L City and Parish Courts | 2 yrs | 2 yrs | N/S | 70 | Yes | 5 yrs state bar |
| Maine | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S | No | "Learned in the Law" |
| L District Court | N/S | Yes | N/S | N/S | Yes | State bar member |
| L Probate Court | N/S | Yes | N/S | N/S | Yes | State bar member |
| L Administrative Court | N/S | Yes | N/S | N/S | Yes | State bar member |
| Maryland | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | 6 mos | 5 yrs | 30 | 70 | Yes | State bar member |
| L District Court | 6 mos | 5 yrs | 30 | 70 | Yes | State bar member |
| L Orphan's Court | 1 yr | N/S | N/S | N/S | No | N/S |

Table 8. Qualifications to Serve as a Trial Court Judge

| Court Type | Local Residency | State Residency | Minimum Age | Maximum Age | Law Degree | Other Legal Qualifications |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------|---|
| Massachusetts | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 | No | N/S |
| L District Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 | No | N/S |
| L Boston Municipal Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 | No | N/S |
| L Juvenile Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 | No | N/S |
| L Housing Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 | No | N/S |
| L Land Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 | No | N/S |
| L Probate and Family Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 | No | N/S |
| Michigan | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 | Yes | State bar member |
| G Court of Claims | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 | Yes | State bar member |
| L District Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 | Yes | State bar member |
| L Probate Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 | Yes | State bar member |
| L Municipal Court | Yes | N/S | N/S | 70 | Yes | State bar member |
| Minnesota | | | | | | |
| G District Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 | Yes | State bar member |
| Mississippi | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | N/S | 5 yrs | 26 | N/S | Yes | 5 yrs practice |
| G Chancery Court | N/S | 5 yrs | 26 | N/S | Yes | 5 yrs practice |
| L County Court | Yes | 5 yrs | 26 | N/S | Yes | 5 yrs practice |
| L Family Court | N/S | 5 yrs | 26 | N/S | Yes | 5 yrs practice |
| L Municipal Court | Yes | Yes | N/S | N/S | Yes ²² | N/S |
| L Justice Court | Yes | Yes | 18 | N/S | No | N/S |
| Missouri | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | Circuit | State votes for 3 yrs | 30 | 70 | Yes | State bar member |
| ~ Associates | County | Yes | 25 | 70 | Yes | State bar member |
| L Municipal Court | Determined by municipality | Yes | 21 | 75 ²³ | Varies | State bar member if population of 7,500 or more ²⁴ |
| Montana | | | | | | |
| G District Court | N/S | 2 yrs | N/S | N/S | Yes | 5 yrs state bar |
| G Workers' Compensation Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S | Yes | N/S |
| G Water Court | N/S | 2 yrs | N/S | N/S | Yes | 5 yrs state bar |
| L Justice of the Peace Court | 1 yr | N/S | N/S | N/S | No ²⁵ | N/S |
| L Municipal Court | Yes | N/S | N/S | N/S | Yes | 2 yrs state bar |
| L City Court | County | N/S | N/S | N/S | No | N/S |
| Nebraska | | | | | | |
| G District Court | Yes | N/S | 30 | N/S | Yes | 5 yrs practice |
| L Separate Juvenile Court | Yes | N/S | 30 | N/S | Yes | 5 yrs practice |
| L Worker's Compensation Court | Yes | N/S | 30 | N/S | Yes | 5 yrs practice |
| L County Court | Yes | N/S | 30 | N/S | Yes | 5 yrs practice |
| Nevada | | | | | | |
| G District Court | N/S | 2 yrs | 25 | N/S | Yes | N/S |
| L Justice Court | 30 days | 6 months | N/S | N/S | Varies | Varies |
| L Municipal Court | Varies | Varies | N/S | N/S | Varies | Varies |
| New Hampshire | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 | N/S | N/S |
| L District Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 | Yes | State bar member |
| L Municipal Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 | Yes | State bar member |
| L Probate Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 | N/S | N/S |
| New Jersey | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | 26 | 26 | N/S | 70 | Yes | 10 yrs practice law |
| L Tax Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 | Yes | 10 yrs practice law |
| L Municipal Court | N/S | Yes | N/S | N/S | Yes | 5 yrs practice law |

Table 8. Qualifications to Serve as a Trial Court Judge

| Court Type | Local Residency | State Residency | Minimum Age | Maximum Age | Law Degree | Other Legal Qualifications |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------|--|
| New Mexico | | | | | | |
| G District Court | Yes | 3 yrs | 35 | N/S | Yes | 6 yrs active practice |
| L Magistrate Court | Yes | Yes | 18 | N/S | No | N/S |
| L Bernalillo County Metropolitan | Yes | 3 yrs | N/S | N/S | Yes | 3 yrs active practice and state bar member |
| L Municipal Court | Yes | Yes | 18 | N/S | No | N/S |
| L Probate Court | Yes | Yes | 18 | N/S | No | N/S |
| New York | | | | | | |
| G Supreme Court | N/S | Yes | 18 | 70 ²⁷ | Yes | 10 yrs state bar |
| G County Court | County | Yes | 18 | 70 | Yes | 5 yrs state bar |
| L District Court | Yes | Yes | 18 | 70 | Yes | 5 yrs state bar |
| L City Court | Yes | Yes | 18 | 70 | Yes | 5 yrs state bar |
| L Criminal Court of NYC | Yes | Yes | 18 | 70 | Yes | 10 yrs state bar |
| L Town and Village | Yes | Yes | 18 | N/S | No | N/S |
| L Court of Claims | N/S | Yes | 18 | 70 | Yes | 10 yrs state bar |
| L Surrogates' Court | County | Yes | 18 | 70 | Yes | 10 yrs state bar |
| L Family Court | Yes | Yes | 18 | 70 | Yes | 10 yrs state bar |
| North Carolina | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | ~ ²⁸ | ~ | N/S | 72 | ~ ²⁹ | State bar member |
| L District Court | Yes | ~ | N/S | 72 | ~ ²⁹ | State bar member |
| North Dakota | | | | | | |
| G District Court | Yes | N/S | N/S | N/S | Yes | State bar member |
| L Municipal Court | Yes | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S ³⁰ | N/S ³⁰ |
| Ohio | | | | | | |
| G Court of Common Pleas | County | Yes | N/S | 70 | Yes | 6 yrs practice |
| L Municipal Court | Territorial | Yes | N/S | 70 | Yes | 6 yrs practice |
| L County Court | Territorial | Yes | N/S | 70 | Yes | 2 yrs practice |
| L Court of Claims | N/S | Yes | N/S | No | Yes | ~ ³¹ |
| L Mayors Court | N/S | Yes | N/S | No | No | N/S |
| Oklahoma | | | | | | |
| G District Court | District | 6 mos, if elected | N/S | N/S | Yes | ~ ³² |
| Associate | County | 6 mos, if elected | N/S | N/S | Yes | ~ ³³ |
| Special | N/S | Yes | N/S | N/S | No | N/S |
| L Municipal Criminal Court | N/S | Yes | N/S | N/S | No | ~ ³³ |
| L Municipal Court Not of Record | N/S | Yes | N/S | N/S | Yes | N/S |
| L Workers' Compensation Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S | Yes | N/S |
| L Court of Tax Review | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S | Yes | N/S |
| Oregon | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | Yes | Yes | N/S | 75 | Yes | State bar member |
| G Tax Court | N/S | 3 yrs | N/S | 75 | Yes | 3 yrs state bar |
| L County Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 75 | No | N/S |
| L Justice Court | 1 yr | 3 yrs | N/S | 75 | No | N/S |
| L Municipal Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 75 | No | N/S |
| Pennsylvania | | | | | | |
| G Court of Common Pleas | Yes | 1 yr | N/S | 70 | Yes | State bar member |
| L Philadelphia Municipal Court | Yes | 1 yr | N/S | 70 | Yes | State bar member |
| L District Justice Court | Yes | 1 yr | N/S | 70 | No | Not required |
| L Philadelphia Traffic Court | Yes | 1 yr | N/S | 70 | No | Not required |
| L Pittsburgh City Magistrates | Yes | Yes | N/S | 70 | No | Not required |
| Puerto Rico | | | | | | |
| Court of First Instance: | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 | Yes | 7 yrs state bar |
| L District Court ³⁴ | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 | Yes | ~ ³⁴ |
| L Municipal Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | 70 | Yes | 3 yrs State bar member |

Table 8. Qualifications to Serve as a Trial Court Judge

| Court Type | Local Residency | State Residency | Minimum Age | Maximum Age | Law Degree | Other Legal Qualifications |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|---|
| Rhode Island G = General jurisdiction L = Limited jurisdiction | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S | Yes | State bar member |
| L District Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S | Yes | State bar member |
| L Family Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S | Yes | State bar member |
| L Probate Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S | Yes | State bar member |
| L Municipal Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S | Yes | State bar member |
| L Workers' Compensation Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S | Yes | State bar member |
| L Administrative Adjudication Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S | Yes | State bar member |
| South Carolina | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | N/S | 5 yrs | 32 | 72 | Yes | 8 yrs state bar |
| L Family Court | N/S | 5 yrs | 32 | 72 | Yes | 8 yrs state bar |
| L Magistrate Court | N/S | 5 yrs | 21 | 72 | No | No |
| L Probate Court | County elector | Citizen | 21 | N/S | No | No |
| L Municipal Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S | No | No |
| South Dakota | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | Yes | Yes | N/S | 70 | Yes | State bar member |
| ~ Law Magistrates | Yes | Yes | N/S | N/S | Yes | State bar member |
| ~ Lay Magistrates | Yes | Yes | N/S | N/S | No | H.S. graduate or GED |
| ~ Clerk/Magistrates | Yes | Yes | N/S | N/S | No | H.S. graduate or GED |
| Tennessee | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | 1 yr | 5 yrs | 30 | N/S | Yes | Qualified to practice law |
| G Chancery Court | 1 yr | 5 yrs | 30 | N/S | Yes | Qualified to practice law |
| G Criminal Court | 1 yr | 5 yrs | 30 | N/S | Yes | Qualified to practice law |
| G Probate Court | 1 yr | 5 yrs | 30 | N/S | Yes | Qualified to practice law |
| L Juvenile Court | 1 yr | 5 yrs | 30 | N/S | Yes | Qualified to practice law w/grandfathering provisions |
| L Municipal Court | 1 yr | 5 yrs | 30 | N/S | Yes | Qualified to practice law w/grandfathering provisions |
| L General Sessions Court | 1 yr | 5 yrs | 30 | N/S | Yes | Qualified to practice law w/grandfathering provisions |
| Texas | | | | | | |
| G District Courts | 2 yrs | N/S | 25 | 75 | Yes | Yes ³⁵ |
| L Constitutional County Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S | No | No |
| L County Courts at Law | 2 yrs | N/S | 25 | N/S | Yes | Yes ³⁶ |
| L Justice of the Peace Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S | No | No |
| L Municipal Court | Varies | N/S | Varies | Varies | Varies | Varies |
| Utah | | | | | | |
| G District Court | Yes | 3 yrs | 25 | 75 | Yes | State bar member |
| L Justice Court | 6 mos | 3 yrs | 25 | 75 | No | N/S |
| L Juvenile Court | Yes | 3 yrs | 25 | 75 | Yes | State bar member |
| Vermont | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | N/S ³⁸ | 5 yrs | N/S | 70 | Yes ³⁷ | 5 yrs state bar |
| G District Court | ³⁸ | 5 yrs | N/S | 70 | Yes | 5 yrs state bar |
| G Family Court | ³⁹ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| L Probate Court | N/S | 1 yr | N/S | 70 | No | N/S |
| L Environmental Court | N/S | 5 yrs | N/S | 70 | Yes | 5 yrs state bar |
| Virginia | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | Yes | Yes | N/S | 70 | Yes ⁴⁰ | 5 yrs state bar |
| L District Court | Yes | Yes | N/S | 70 | Yes ⁴⁰ | 5 yrs state bar |
| Washington | | | | | | |
| G Superior Court | 1 yr | 1 yr | N/S | 75 | Yes | State bar member |
| L District Court | 1 yr | 1 yr | N/S | 75 | Yes ⁴¹ | N/S |
| L Municipal Court | County | N/S | N/S | N/S | Yes ⁴¹ | N/S |
| West Virginia | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | Yes | Yes | 30 | N/S | Yes | 5 yrs state bar |
| L Magistrate Court | Yes | Yes | 21 | N/S | ⁴² | N/S |
| L Municipal Court | No | Yes | N/S | N/S | No | N/S |

Table 8. Qualifications to Serve as a Trial Court Judge

| Court Type G = General jurisdiction L = Limited jurisdiction | Local Residency | State Residency | Minimum Age | Maximum Age | Law Degree | Other Legal Qualifications |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Wisconsin | | | | | | |
| G Circuit Court | 10 days | 10 days | N/S | N/S | Yes | 5 yrs state bar |
| L Municipal Court | 10 days | 10 days | N/S | N/S | Locally determined | Locally determined |
| Wyoming | | | | | | |
| G District Court | N/S | 2 yrs | 28 | 70 | Yes | N/S |
| L Justice of the Peace Court | N/S | Yes | N/S | N/S | No | N/S |
| L Municipal Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S | No | N/S |
| L County Court | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S | Yes | N/S |
| Federal | | | | | | |
| US District Court Judges | Yes ⁴³ | ~ | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S |
| US Magistrate Judges | ~ | ~ | N/S | 70 ⁴⁴ | N/S | 5 yrs state bar ⁴⁵ and 5 yrs practice |
| US Bankruptcy Judges | Yes ⁴³ | ~ | N/S | N/S | N/S | N/S |

FOOTNOTES:

Alabama:

¹The age prohibition of §6.16 is not a qualification for office, but only deals with retirement.

²One of probate judgeships in Jefferson County requires that judge be learned in the law, a minimum age of 25 and resident of county for one year.

Alaska:

³District Court: trial judge must have three years practice or have served as a magistrate for seven years.

⁴Magistrates serve in district court.

Arizona:

⁵The tax court is a department of the Superior Court; it is not a separate court.

Colorado:

⁶County Court: a law degree is required in metropolitan areas.

Connecticut:

⁷Probate Court: must be an elector of a town within the district.

Delaware:

⁸There are local residency requirements for the Chief Judge of family court.

⁹Alderman's Court: in the city of Newark, a law degree is required.

District of Columbia:

¹⁰Superior court: judge must also be an active member of the unified District of Columbia bar and have been engaged, during the five years immediately preceding the judicial nomination, in the active practice of law in the District, or the faculty of a law school in the District, or employed as an attorney by the United States, or District of Columbia government.

Florida:

¹¹Circuit court: must reside within the territorial jurisdiction of the court.

¹²County court: judges must reside within the territorial jurisdiction of the court.

Georgia:

¹³Superior court: there is no maximum age stated; however, judges who are members of the 1976 retirement plan and serve beyond age 75 may not be eligible for retirement benefits.

¹⁴State court: no maximum age stated; however, if a member of the Trial Judges Retirement Plan after 1/1/80 and serves beyond age 70, benefits are forfeited.

¹⁵The minimum age requirement for probate judges is 25. If law practice is required, the minimum age is 30.

¹⁶Where the population exceeds 96,000, the probate judge must have practiced law for seven years.

¹⁷Magistrate court: the laws of local application may provide for additional legal qualifications.

Indiana:

¹⁸Small Claims Court of Marion County: a law degree is required unless a non-attorney judge has been grandfathered in.

Kansas:

¹⁹Judge may complete term in which he/she attains age 70.

²⁰District court: a law degree is required for 149 of 218 judgeships. The remaining sixty-nine judgeships are district magistrate judges, not required to have a law degree, but must be certified by the supreme court if not an attorney.

²¹Municipal courts require admission to practice law in Kansas in first class cities (24); other municipal judges and district magistrate judges are required to be certified as qualified to serve by the supreme court, if not admitted to practice law in Kansas.

Mississippi:

²²For cities over 10,000 population.

Missouri:

²³Maximum age reduced to 70 effective 8/28/93.

²⁴If not an attorney, must complete course prescribed by supreme court.

Montana:

²⁵Justice of the peace court: although a law degree is not required, the judges may be attorneys, must have served in judicial capacity for at least 5 years; and passed the certification exam (the requirement of passing the certification exam may be waived by the supreme court).

New Jersey:

²⁶Superior court: out of a total of 416 authorized judgeships (including thirty-three in the appellate division), there are 274 restricted superior court judgeships that require residence within the particular county of assignment at time of appointment and reappointment; there are 142 unrestricted judgeships for which assignment of county is made by the chief justice.

New York:

²⁷Supreme court: the maximum age of 70 may be extended up to three intervals of two years each.

North Carolina:

²⁸Yes, resident judges. No, special judges.

²⁹Law degree not required if elected prior to January 1, 1981.

North Dakota:

³⁰Municipal court: a law degree and state bar membership is required in cities with over 3,000 population.

Ohio:

³¹Must be incumbent or retired judges, justices of supreme court, court of appeals, or court of common pleas.

Oklahoma:

³²District court: judges must be a state bar member for four years or a judge of court of record.

³³Associate judges and municipal court of records: judges must be a state bar member for two years or a judge of court record.

Table 8—Qualifications to Serve as a Trial Court Judges

Puerto Rico:

³⁴The 1994 Judiciary Act states that upon expiration of a district judge term the position turns into a superior court judge until district court judges positions are all converted into superior judges positions.

Texas:

³⁵District court: judges must have been a practicing lawyer or a judge of a court in this state, or both combined, for four years.

³⁶County court at law: judges must be a licensed attorney in this state who has practiced law or served as a judge at a court in this state, or both combined, for at least four years, unless otherwise provided for by law.

Vermont:

³⁷Required only for superior court judges; not for assistant judges.

³⁸Must reside in geographic unit.

³⁹Superior or district court judges are assigned to serve as family court judges; qualifications are the same.

Virginia:

⁴⁰Circuit/district courts: judges must have a law degree or have completed an approved three-year course of study under the supervision of a practicing attorney.

Washington:

⁴¹Statute allows non attorneys to serve in districts less than 5,000 population, after being certified on a qualifying examination.

West Virginia:

⁴²Magistrate court: all magistrates must take a course in rudimentary principles of law before assuming duties.

Federal:

⁴³District residency is required, except in the District of Columbia, and the Southern and Eastern Districts of NY.

⁴⁴For initial appointment, must not be 70 years or older. However, a magistrate judge may continue to serve and be reappointed after age 70 upon a majority vote of the active district judges of the court, which is taken when the judge reaches age 70 and upon each anniversary thereafter.

⁴⁵The bar requirement may be waived for a part-time magistrate judge if the appointing court and the Judicial Conference of the US determine that no qualified individual who is a member of the bar is available to serve at a specific location.

Table 9. Judicial Nominating Commissions

| | Name of Commission | Offices Encompassed | Authorization | Year Established | Interim | Full | Retention |
|----------------------|--|---|---|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Alabama | Judicial Commission | Jefferson County Circuit Court, Madison County Circuit and District Court, Tuscaloosa County Circuit and District Court, Mobile County Circuit and District Court | Jefferson County Authorization: 2 Constitutional Amendments; Madison County Authorization: Constitutional Amendments and Local Act; Mobile County Authorization: Constitutional Amendment; Tuscaloosa County Authorization: Local Act | Jefferson County, 1950; Madison County, 1973; Mobile County, 1982; Tuscaloosa County, 1990 | Yes | No | No |
| Alaska | Judicial Council | Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Superior Court, and District Court | Constitutional and Statutory | 1959 | ~ | Yes | No |
| Arizona | Commission on Appellate Court Appointments, Maricopa County Commission on Trial Court Appointments; Pima County Commission on Trial Court Appointments | Arizona Supreme Court Court of Appeals Superior Court in Maricopa County Superior Court in Pima County | Constitutional | 1974 | Yes | Yes | No |
| Colorado | Appellate Court Nominating Commission, Judicial District Nominating Commission | Appellate Court Nominating Committee: Supreme Court and Court of Appeals; Judicial District Nominating Committee: District and County Courts (except Denver County Court) | Constitutional | 1966 | ~ | Yes | No |
| Connecticut | Judicial Selection Commission | Supreme, Appellate, and Superior Courts | Constitutional | 1986 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Delaware | Judicial Nominating Committee Magistrates Screening Committee | Judicial Nominating Committee: All, including Chief Magistrate (not JOP); Magistrate Screening Committee: Justices of the Peace (except Chief Magistrate) | Executive order | 1979 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| District of Columbia | Judicial Nomination Commission | Court of Appeals and Superior Court | Statutory | 1973 | ~ | Yes | Yes |
| Florida | Supreme Court Nominating Committee; District Courts of Appeal Nominating Committee; Circuit Judicial Nominating Committee | Appellate Court Nominating Committee, Supreme Court and District Court of Appeal Circuit, County Court Nominating Committee Circuit Judicial | Appellate: Constitutional; Circuit Constitutional | Appellate: 1973; Circuit: 1973 | Appellate: Yes; Circuit: Yes | Appellate: Yes; Circuit: No | Appellate: No; Circuit: No |
| Georgia | Judicial Nominating Commission | Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Superior, State Court: All where Governor appoints or fills vacancies | Executive Order | 1973 | Yes | No ¹ | No |
| Hawaii | Judicial Selection Commission | Supreme Court, Intermediate Court of Appeals, Circuit, Family, and District Courts | Constitutional | 1978 | ~ | Yes | Yes |
| Idaho | Judicial Council | Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and District Court Judges | Statutory | 1967 | Yes | No ² | No |

Legend: ~ = Not applicable

Table 9. Judicial Nominating Commissions

| | Name of Commission | Offices Encompassed | Authorization | Year Established | Interim | Full | Retention |
|---------------|--|--|--|--|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Indiana | Judicial Nominating Commission | Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and Tax Court | Constitutional | 1970 | ~ | Yes | No |
| Iowa | Judicial Nominating Commission and District Judicial Nominating Commission | JNC: Supreme Court and Court of Appeals; DJNC: District Court | JNC: Constitutional, DJNC: Constitutional and statutory | 1962 | Yes | Yes | No |
| Kansas | Appellate: Supreme Court and Court of Appeals Nominating Commissions; Trial Court: District Judicial Nominating Commission | Appellate: Supreme Court and Court of Appeals; DJNC: District Court | Both: Constitutional and Statutory, Statutory (IAC) and Trial Courts | Appellate: 1959 (Supreme Ct), 1976 (Court of Appeals); Trial Court: 1975 | Appellate: Yes; Trial Court: Yes | Appellate: Yes; Trial Court: Yes | Both: No |
| Kentucky | Judicial Nominating Commission | Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Circuit Court, and District Court | Constitutional | Ratified: Nov. 1975 Effective: 1/76 | Yes | No | No |
| Maryland | Appellate Judicial Nominating Commission and Trial Courts Judicial Nominating Commission | Appellate Court Nominating Commission: Judges of the Court of Appeals and Court of Special Appeals; Trial Courts Judicial Nominating Commission: Judges of the Circuit Courts and the District Court | Executive order | 1970 ³ | Yes | Appellate: Yes; Trial: Yes | Appellate: No; Trial: No; Circuit: Yes; District: No |
| Massachusetts | Judicial Nominating Commission | Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, Appeals Court, and Trial Court of the Commonwealth; some clerk-magistrates | Executive order | Temporarily 1972 Permanently 1975 | ~ | Yes | ~ |
| Minnesota | Judicial Nominating Committee | District Court | Statutory | ~ | Yes | No ⁴ | No |
| Missouri | Appellate Judicial Commission; and Circuit Judicial Commission | Appellate: Supreme Court and Court of Appeals; Circuit: Circuit Court | Constitutional | Appellate: 1940; Circuit: varies | ~ | Yes | No |
| Montana | Judicial Nominating Committee | Supreme Court, District Court, Workers' Compensation Court, and Water Court | Statutory (from earlier survey) | 1973 | Yes | Yes, Workers' Compensation Court and Water Court only | Yes, Workers' Compensation Court and Water Court only |
| Nebraska | Judicial Nominating Commission | All Nebraska courts | Constitutional | 1962 | ~ | Yes | No |
| Nevada | Commission on Judicial Selection | Supreme Court and District Court | Constitutional | 1976 | Yes | No | No |
| New Mexico | Appellate Judges Nominating Commission; District Judges Nominating Committee; Metropolitan Court Judges Nominating Committee | Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, District Courts, and Metropolitan Court | Constitutional | 1988 | Yes | Yes | No |
| New York | Court of Appeals Nominating Commission | Court of Appeals | Constitutional and Statutory | 1978 | No | Yes | No |
| | State Judicial Screening Committee | Court of Claims | Executive Order | 1983 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| | Departmental Judicial Screening Committee | Appellate Divisions of Supreme Court and Supreme Court | Executive Order | 1983 | Supreme Court only | Appellate Division only | Yes |

Table 9. Judicial Nominating Commissions

| | Name of Commission | Offices Encompassed | Authorization | Year Established | Interim | Full | Retention |
|---------------------|---|---|---|------------------|---|-----------------------------|-----------|
| New York, continued | County Judicial Screening Committee | County, Surrogates', and Family (outside NYC) Courts | Executive Order | 1983 | County, Surrogates', Family (outside NYC) | No | Yes |
| | Mayor's Committee on the Judiciary | Criminal, Civil, and Family Courts | Executive Order (mayor) | ~ | Yes | Yes (Criminal, Family only) | No |
| North Dakota | Judicial Nominating Committee | Supreme and District Courts | Constitutional: Supreme Court and District Courts | 1981 | Yes | No | No |
| Oklahoma | Judicial Nominating Committee | Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Court of Criminal Appeals, District Court, and Workers' Compensation Court | Constitutional: Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals; Statutory: Court of Appeals, District Court, and Workers' Compensation Court | 1967 | Yes | No | No |
| Pennsylvania | Office of General Counsel for Governor Judicial Advisory Commission | Office of General Counsel Appellate Court Judges Judicial Advisory Commission Trial Court Judges | Executive Order 1995-1 (dated 2/27/95) | When need arises | Yes | No | No |
| Rhode Island | Judicial Nominating Commission | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| South Carolina | Judicial Merit Selection Commission | Supreme Court of Appeals, Circuit and Family | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| South Dakota | Judicial Qualifications Committee | Supreme and Circuit Courts | Constitutional | 1980 | Yes | No | No |
| Tennessee | Judicial Section | Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Court of Criminal Appeals | Statutory | 1971 | Yes | No | No |
| Utah | Appellate Court Nominating Commission, Trial Court Nominating Commission ⁵ | Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, District Court, and Juvenile Court | Constitutional (statutory for composition) | 1984 | Yes | Yes | No |
| Vermont | Judicial Nominating Commission | Supreme, Superior, District, and Environmental Courts and Family Court magistrates | Constitutional and Statutory | 1967 | Yes | Yes | No |
| Wisconsin | Governor's Advisory Committee on Judicial Selection | Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and Circuit Court | Executive Order | ~ | Yes | No | No |
| Wyoming | Judicial Nominating Committee | Supreme, District, and County Court | Constitutional | 1972 | Yes | Yes | No |

Note: Only those states with Judicial Nominating Commissions appear on this table.

FOOTNOTES:

Georgia:

¹Frequently the governor makes an initial appointment for a new judgeship, dependent upon the legislation.

Idaho:

²If a new position is created, applicants are screened by the judicial council.

Maryland:

³The first nominating commissions were established in 1970; however, additional commissions have been instituted since that time and the commissions restructured.

Minnesota:

⁴If a new position is created, applicants are screened by the judicial council.

Utah:

⁵There is a trial court nominating commission for each of eight judicial districts.

Table 10. Provisions for Mandatory Judicial Education

| | General Jurisdiction Judges | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| | Initial/Pre-Bench Education | | | Continuing Education | | |
| | Required | Mandated Hours | Sources of Funding | Required | Annual Mandated Hours | Sources of Funding |
| Alabama | ■ | None | S | ■ | None | S |
| Alaska | | None | S | ■ | None | S ¹ |
| Arizona | ■ | 60 ³ | S/M/T | ■ | 16 | S/M/T |
| Arkansas | 6 | None | S | ■ | 12 | S |
| California | ■ | 168 | S | | None | S/M |
| Colorado | ■ ⁷ | None | S | ■ ⁸ | 15 | S |
| Connecticut | ■ | 101 ⁹ | S | ■ | 24 ⁹ | S |
| Delaware | 13 | None | ~ | ■ | 30 | S |
| District of Columbia | | None | ~ | | None | ~ |
| Florida | ■ | 80 | F | ■ | 10 | S/F |
| Georgia | ■ | 12 | S | ■ | 12 | S |
| Hawaii | | None | ~ | ■ | 32 | S |
| Idaho | | None | ~ | ■ | None | S |
| Illinois | ■ | None | S | | None | ~ |
| Indiana | 16 | None | S | ■ | 36 | S/M/T |
| Iowa | 17 | None | S | ■ | 15 | S |
| Kansas | ■ | None | S | ■ | 12 | S/F |
| Kentucky | ■ | 25 | S | ■ | 25 ¹⁸ | S |
| Louisiana | 19 | None | ~ | ■ | 15 | T |
| Maine | 20 | None | ~ | 20 | None | ~ |
| Maryland | ■ | None | S | ■ | 28 | S |
| Massachusetts | 21 | None | S | 21 | None | S |
| Michigan | ■ | 56 | S | ■ | 12 | S |
| Minnesota | ■ | None | S | ■ | 15 | S |
| Mississippi | ■ | N/S | F | ■ | 12 | S/F |
| Missouri | | None | S | | 15 | S |
| Montana | | None | ~ | ■ | 15 | S |
| Nebraska | | None | S | | None | S |
| Nevada | ■ | 120 | F | ■ | 12 | M/F |
| New Hampshire | ■ | None | S | ■ | 12 | S |
| New Jersey | ■ | 70 | S | ■ | 15 | S |
| New Mexico | | None | ~ | ■ | 15 | S/F/T |
| New York | ■ | 35 | N/S | ■ | 12 ²² | S |
| North Carolina | ■ | 15 ²³ | S | ■ | 15 ²⁴ | S |
| North Dakota | ■ | 40 | S | ■ | 15 | S |
| Ohio | | None | S | ■ | 20 | S/M/T |
| Oklahoma | | None | ~ | ■ | 12 | S |
| Oregon | | None | ~ | ■ | 45 ²⁵ | ~ |
| Pennsylvania | ■ | 40 | S | | None | ~ |
| Puerto Rico | ■ | None | S | ■ | None | S |
| Rhode Island | ■ ²⁸ | None | S | ■ | 10 | S |
| South Carolina | ■ | 17 | S | ■ | 15 ²⁹ | S/T |
| South Dakota | | None | ~ | ■ | None | S |
| Tennessee | | None | S | ■ | 15 | S |
| Texas | | 30 | S ³⁰ | ■ | 16 | S/M ³⁰ |
| Utah | ■ | None | S | ■ | 30 | S |
| Vermont | ■ | 100 | S | ■ | 64 | S |
| Virginia | ■ | 86 | S | ■ | 12 | S |
| Washington | ■ ³² | None | S | ■ ³² | 15 | S |
| West Virginia | ■ | None | S | ■ | 15 | S |
| Wisconsin | ■ | 30 | S | ■ | 30 | S |
| Wyoming | | None | ~ | ■ | 15 | S |

Legend: ~ = Not Applicable, N/S = None Stated, S = State, M = Local, F = Fees, T = Tuition, ■ = Yes

Table 10. Provisions for Mandatory Judicial Education

| | Limited Jurisdiction Judges | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| | Initial/Pre-Bench Education | | | Continuing Education | | |
| | Required | Mandated Hours | Sources of Funding | Required | Annual Mandated Hours | Sources of Funding |
| Alabama | ■ | None | S | ■ | None | S |
| Alaska | | None | S | ■ | None | S ² |
| Arizona | ■ | 75 ⁴ | S/M/T | ■ | 16 | S/M/T |
| Arkansas | | None | S | ■ | 12 | S |
| California | ■ | 168 | S | ■ | None | S/M |
| Colorado | ■ ⁷ | None | S | ■ ⁸ | 15 | S |
| Connecticut | ■ | 20 | ~ ¹⁰ | ■ | 15 | ~ ¹⁰ |
| Delaware | ■ | 375 | S | ■ | 30 | S |
| District of Columbia | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Florida | ■ | 80 | F | ■ | 10 | M/F |
| Georgia | ■ | N/S ¹⁵ | S/M/F | ■ | N/S ¹⁵ | S/M/F |
| Hawaii | | None | ~ | ■ | 32 | S |
| Idaho | | None | ~ | ■ | None | S |
| Illinois | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Indiana | ~ ¹⁶ | None | S/M | ■ | 36 | S/M/T |
| Iowa | ■ | 13 | S | ■ | 15 | S |
| Kansas | ■ | None | S | ■ | 12 | S |
| Kentucky | ■ | 25 | S | ■ | 25 ¹⁸ | S |
| Louisiana | | None | ~ | ■ | 15 | T |
| Maine | ~ ²⁰ | None | ~ | ~ ²⁰ | None | ~ |
| Maryland | ■ | None | S | ■ | 28 | S |
| Massachusetts | ~ ²¹ | None | S | ~ ²¹ | None | S |
| Michigan | ■ | 56 | S | ■ | 12 | S |
| Minnesota | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Mississippi | ■ | 32 | F | ■ | 18 | F |
| Missouri | | None | S | ■ | 15 | S |
| Montana | | None | ~ | ■ | None | M |
| Nebraska | | None | S | | None | S |
| Nevada | ■ | 80 | F | ■ | 1 | M/F |
| New Hampshire | ■ | None | S | ■ | 12 | S |
| New Jersey | ■ | 24 | S/M | ■ | 6 | S/M |
| New Mexico | ■ | 40 | S/F | ■ | 15 | S/F |
| New York | ■ | 35 | S | ■ | 12 ²² | S |
| North Carolina | ■ | 15 ²³ | S | ■ | 15 ²⁴ | S |
| North Dakota | ■ | 16 | M | ■ | 8 | M |
| Ohio | | None | S | ■ | 20 | S/M/T |
| Oklahoma | | None | ~ | | None | ~ |
| Oregon | ~ ²⁶ | None | ~ | | None | ~ |
| Pennsylvania | ■ | 160 ²⁷ | S | | 32 | S |
| Puerto Rico | ■ | None | S | ■ | None | S |
| Rhode Island | ■ ²⁸ | None | S | ■ | 10 | S |
| South Carolina | ■ | 22 | S | ■ | 15 ²⁹ | S/T |
| South Dakota | | None | ~ | ■ | None | S |
| Tennessee | | None | S/M | ■ | 15 | S/M |
| Texas | | 30 | S ³⁰ | ■ | 16 | S/M ³⁰ |
| Utah | ■ | None | S | ■ | 30 | S/T |
| Vermont | ■ | 100 | S | ■ | 64 | S |
| Virginia | ■ | 86 | S | ■ | 12 | S |
| Washington | ■ ³² | None | S | ■ ³² | 15 | S |
| West Virginia | ■ | None | S | ■ | None | S |
| Wisconsin | ■ | 12 | M | ■ | 12 | M |
| Wyoming | | None | ~ | ■ | 15 | S |

Legend: ~ = Not Applicable, N/S = None Stated, S = State, M = Local, F = Fees, T = Tuition, ■ = Yes

Table 10. Provisions for Mandatory Judicial Education

| | Appellate Court Judges | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| | Initial/Pre-Bench Education Mandated | | | Continuing Education Annual Mandated | | |
| | Required | Hours | Sources of Funding | Required | Hours | Sources of Funding |
| Alabama | | None | ~ | | None | ~ |
| Alaska | | None | S | ■ | None | S |
| Arizona | ■ | ~ ⁵ | ~ | ■ | 16 | S/T |
| Arkansas | 6 | None | S | ■ | 12 | S |
| California | ■ | None | S | | None | S |
| Colorado | 7 | None | ~ | ■ ⁸ | 15 | S |
| Connecticut | 11 | None | ~ | | None | ~ |
| Delaware | 13 | None | ~ | ■ | 30 | S |
| District of Columbia | 14 | None | ~ | 14 | None | ~ |
| Florida | ■ | 40 | F | ■ | 10 | F |
| Georgia | | None | ~ | ■ | 12 | S |
| Hawaii | | None | ~ | | None | ~ |
| Idaho | | None | ~ | ■ | None | S |
| Illinois | | None | ~ | | None | ~ |
| Indiana | 16 | None | S | ■ | 36 | S/T |
| Iowa | | None | ~ | ■ | 15 | S |
| Kansas | | None | S | ■ | 12 | S |
| Kentucky | | None | ~ | ■ | 25 ¹⁸ | S |
| Louisiana | | None | ~ | ■ | 15 | T |
| Maine | 20 | None | ~ | 20 | None | ~ |
| Maryland | ■ | None | S | ■ | 28 | S |
| Massachusetts | 21 | None | S | | None | S |
| Michigan | | None | ~ | ■ | 12 | S |
| Minnesota | | None | S | ■ | 15 | S |
| Mississippi | ■ | None | S/F | ■ | 12 | S/F |
| Missouri | | None | S | | 15 | S |
| Montana | | None | ~ | ■ | 15 | S |
| Nebraska | | None | S | | None | S |
| Nevada | | None | ~ | ■ | 12 | S |
| New Hampshire | | None | ~ | ■ | 12 | S |
| New Jersey | | None | ~ | ■ | 15 | S |
| New Mexico | | None | ~ | ■ | 15 | S/F/T |
| New York | | None | ~ | ■ | 12 ²² | S |
| North Carolina | | None | ~ | ■ | 15 ²⁴ | S |
| North Dakota | | None | ~ | ■ | 15 | S |
| Ohio | | None | S | ■ | 20 | S/M/T |
| Oklahoma | | None | ~ | | 12 | S |
| Oregon | | None | ~ | ■ | 45 | T |
| Pennsylvania | | None | ~ | | None | ~ |
| Puerto Rico | ■ | None | S | ■ | None | S |
| Rhode Island | ■ ²⁸ | None | S | ■ | 10 | S |
| South Carolina | ■ | 6 | S | ■ | 15 ²⁹ | S/T |
| South Dakota | | None | ~ | ■ | None | S |
| Tennessee | | None | S | ■ | 15 | S |
| Texas | | 30 | S | ■ | 16 | S/M |
| Utah | | None | ~ | ■ | 30 | S |
| Vermont | ■ | 50 | S | ■ ³¹ | 64 | S |
| Virginia | | None | ~ | ■ | 12 | S |
| Washington | | None | S | | None | S |
| West Virginia | | None | ~ | | None | ~ |
| Wisconsin | | None | S | ■ | 30 | S |
| Wyoming | | None | ~ | ■ | 15 | S |

Legend: ~ = Not Applicable, N/S = None Stated, S = State, M = Local, F = Fees, T = Tuition, ■ = Yes

Table 10. Provisions for Mandatory Judicial Education

FOOTNOTES:

Alaska:

¹Court conducts annual judicial training at the Judicial Conference—Mandatory. CLE credits given if curriculum is co-developed with Alaska Bar Association. New judges are sent to National Judicial College, if funding is available, in first year of appointment to the bench.

²Magistrates have in-state training course and annual conference.

Arizona:

³One program—several days.

⁴One program—several days.

⁵Done individually—varies.

Arkansas:

⁶AOC provides pre-bench training and all judges attend, but it is not required.

Colorado:

⁷Initial/pre-bench education is a one-time training.

⁸Continuing education is the requirement of the Colorado Bar Association, which requires forty-five hours every three years for all members.

Connecticut:

⁹There is no credit based requirement in Connecticut.

¹⁰Funding comes from a probate administration fund. This is public money.

¹¹Although not mandatory, many new appellate judges participate in initial appellate conferences/seminars.

¹²Although not mandatory, many of the appellate judges attend the annual New England Appellate Judges Conference.

Delaware:

¹³Delaware is currently developing a pre-bench orientation program for newly appointed judges.

District of Columbia:

¹⁴By statute, the Chief Judge of the Appellate Court is required to hold an annual judicial training conference.

Georgia:

¹⁵Varies.

Indiana:

¹⁶Initial or pre-bench education is not required, but is provided through the Indiana Judicial Center.

Iowa:

¹⁷Offered but not required by law or rule. Most all new judges attend the two-day in-state program and a three-week course at the National Judicial College.

Kentucky:

¹⁸In a two-year period.

Louisiana:

¹⁹Strongly encouraged, but not mandatory.

Maine:

²⁰Although neither pre-bench or continuing education is required, our Judicial Education Committee budgets for our judges to attend courses at the National Judicial College and elsewhere and offers a number of seminars for the education of judges.

Massachusetts:

²¹The Judicial Institute, a statutory body integrated into the organization of the Administrative Office of the Trial Court, conducts educational and training programs. The Judicial Institute is funded by state appropriations. The Flaschner Institute, a non-governmental charitable corporation supported by contributions, grants and contracts, also conducts educational programs for MA judges. While no requirement for on-going judicial education exists, judges are mandated to participate in specified programs and courses developed and identified on the basis of current and future needs of the system. The number of mandated programs varies each year.

New York:

²²Biannual cycle—24 hours are required every two years.

North Carolina:

²³Every judge in the general jurisdiction court and the limited jurisdiction court is required to attend a course of instructional orientation for new judges within the first year after appointment or election, which counts toward the thirty-hour biennial continuing education requirements.

²⁴Every justice or judge is required to complete thirty hours biennially of continuing legal or judicial education and at least twenty hours of it shall be judicial education.

Oregon:

²⁵Same for all lawyers/judges: a mandatory CLE requirement through state bar and rules approved by state Supreme Court. No separate "judge" CLE requirement.

²⁶No, none mandatory; but AOC offers a two-week "New Judge Orientation" program that is strongly encouraged and most attend.

Pennsylvania:

²⁷Four-week certification course and test must be completed. Members of the Pennsylvania Bar are exempt from the course and the test.

Rhode Island:

²⁸The pre-bench requirement is attendance at the National Judicial College.

South Carolina:

²⁹Annual Judicial Conference (8 hours).

Texas:

³⁰There is a \$1.00 assessment in all criminal convictions. This money goes into a fund, Fund 540, which is specifically allocated for Judicial and Court Support Personnel Training. The Court of Criminal Appeals includes in its appropriations request to the legislature, a line item for Fund 540. These funds are then available, through a grant application process, to various judicial education entities in the state.

Vermont:

³¹Continuing education for appellate court judges, while not mandated, is available and provided on an as-needed basis.

Washington:

³²Education requirements are set forth in judicial association by-laws. No sanctions exist for non-compliance.

Table 11. Judicial Performance Evaluation

| | Name/ Authorization | Evaluation Procedures | Evaluation Committee | |
|----------------------|---|---|---|--|
| | | | Duties | Membership |
| Alaska | Alaska Judicial Council/ Statutes: §22.05.100 §22.07.060 §22.10.150 §22.15.155 | Uses evaluation forms completed by court participants. Only judges up for retention election are evaluated. | The judicial council will conduct an evaluation of each judge in time for inclusion in the election pamphlet when a judge is up for retention election. These pamphlets are mailed to every registered Alaskan voter. | 7 members: 3 state bar appointed attorneys; 3 non-attorneys, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. |
| Arizona | Arizona Const. Art.6, Section 42 | Anonymous survey forms distributed to court participants seeking evaluation of a judge's abilities and skills (includes anonymous narrative comments). Also public comment and hearings, all of which result in a factual report issued in the judge's election year. | Develop, review, and recommend written performance standards by which judicial performance is to be evaluated. Create and supervise a system of periodic review of judges. Identify areas in need of improvement. Request public comment on performance of all judges. Prepare a report for voters. | 30 members: includes the public, lawyers, and judges. |
| Colorado | State Commission on Judicial Performance/ §13-5.5-101 | State Commission (for appellate judges) or District Commission (for trial judges) prepares evaluation profile on each judge standing for re-election and provides this to the public. | Develops techniques, guidelines, and forms for judicial evaluation and dissemination of information to public; develops and distributes surveys to court participants, and promulgates rules for effectuating duties. Performs judicial evaluations. Colo. Rev. Stat. §§13-5.5-103, 105. | 10 members each: 4 attorneys, 6 non-attorneys. 4 year terms. |
| Connecticut | Judicial Selection Commission/ §51-44a | Investigation and interview of judge's skills resulting in a recommendation for reappointment or a hearing to further examine judge's abilities. | Seeks qualified candidates for the Governor to consider nomination; evaluates incumbent judges who seek reappointment. | 12 members; six attorneys and six non-attorneys appointed by legislative leaders. |
| District of Columbia | D.C. Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure/Title 11 Appx. IV433 | Written evaluation when active associate judge declares himself/herself a candidate, and requests reappointment to another fifteen year term. Committee must determine if he/she is well qualified (automatic reappointment); qualified (subject to nomination and approval); or unqualified. | The Commission's jurisdiction embraces four areas: (1) a judge's conduct warranting disciplinary action, (2) involuntary retirement of a judge due to a physical or mental disability, (3) evaluation of a judge at the end of his/her term and who seeks reappointment to another term, (4) fitness review of a judge who retires and wishes to continue his/her judicial service as a senior judge. | 7 members. All serve 6 year terms except the President's appointee who serves a 5 year term. 1 member is appointed by the President of the U.S.; 2 are appointed by the Mayor, 1 of which must be an attorney; 1 is appointed by the City Council of D.C.; and 1 is appointed by the Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for D.C. All must be residents of D.C. |
| Florida | Joint project of the state judiciary and the Florida Bar; authorized by the supreme court | A confidential means by which attorneys can communicate perceived strengths and weaknesses of judicial performance, thereby assisting the judges in eliminating weaknesses and enhancing strengths. Participation is voluntary | Committee developed the process only. The evaluation forms go directly to the judge, no committee reviews the evaluations. The evaluations are confidential under Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.051(c)(4). | ~ |
| Hawaii | Judicial Performance Committee (Supreme Court, Rule 19) | Confidential attorney-completed questionnaires. | To improve individual judges' performance; to provide information for retention and appointment decisions; to facilitate the effective assignment of judges; to improve judicial education programs; to help the chief justice with administrative responsibilities. | Supreme Court special committee on judicial performance; 13 members appointed by the chief justice. |

Table 11. Judicial Performance Evaluation

| | Name/ Authorization | Evaluation Procedures | Evaluation Committee | |
|---------------|--|---|--|--|
| | | | Duties | Membership |
| Illinois | Planning and Oversight Committee for a Judicial Performance Evaluation Program/SCR58 | Must be confidential. Details of evaluation procedure determined by contractee (currently Loyola University). | Improvement of Judiciary as a whole through confidential evaluation. Contracts out actual evaluation (currently Loyola University). | N/S |
| Maryland | Judicial Administration Section Council/ State Bar Association | Exit polling of attorneys | Development and Implementation of an evaluation process | Eighteen members of the State Bar Association |
| Massachusetts | Supreme Judicial Court/ 211§26 to 26b | Anonymous questionnaires given to court participants in a representative sample of cases. Completed evaluation shall be available to judge and discussed with him. | Design and implement program for performance evaluation of judges. Evaluate judges with 4 years experience once every 12-18 months, evaluate judges with > 4 years experience every 18-36 months. Design programs for judges who do not meet standards. | Supreme Judicial Court and Chief Justice for administration and management. |
| Michigan | Supreme Court/ §600.238 | Trial Court Performance Standards Commission appointed by Supreme Court to develop performance standards. | Develop standards for evaluating courts. | N/S |
| Minnesota | Joint Supreme Court, Conference of Chief Judges, and Minnesota District Judges Association Committee | Each judicial district has developed an individualized process with varying procedures. All processes are voluntary. The Appellate Court review process is expected to be implemented in July 1999. | The joint committee offers technical assistance to judges and districts. | Trial and appellate court judges |
| Nebraska | State Bar Association | Survey of attorneys | N/S | N/S |
| New Hampshire | Trial Court Administrative Judge | Anonymous questionnaires given to court staff and constituents supplemented with self-assessment questionnaires. Administrative Judge reviews results with Judge being evaluated. | Design and implement periodic judicial performance evaluations; confer with evaluated judge, including recommended changes, training, and education | Administrative Judge |
| New Jersey | Judicial Performance Committee/ RGA 1:35A-1 | During review period for a judge (about 9 months), anonymous surveys are sent to all attorneys who appeared before that judge and to appellate judges who have heard a case from that judge. | Administer the Judicial Performance Program; evaluate judges and educational programs to enable judges to improve their performance. | At least 6 judges, 3 attorneys, 2 members of public with additional number of people fixed by Supreme Court 3-year terms. |
| Puerto Rico | Judicial Evaluation Commission | Evaluates judges every 3 years. | Performs evaluations; surveys attorneys, peers, jurors, presiding judge, self-evaluation. Report is discussed with judge. Report submitted to judge and used for self-improvement. Makes recommendations on renomination, promotion to the Governors, and continuing education of judges. Evaluates the work, productivity and judiciary load of the courts. | 9 members: supreme court judge; 1 member experienced in administrative/ managerial matters; and at least 1 non-attorney; 3 year terms. |
| Rhode Island | Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee | All judges evaluated biannually employing "acceptable, professionally recognized methods of data collection." | Implement and administer the judicial performance evaluation program. Goals are to improve judiciary and judicial education programs. | 6 judges; 3 members of state bar; 2 members of public familiar with judicial system; 2-year terms. |

Table 11. Judicial Performance Evaluation

| | Name/ Authorization | Evaluation Procedures | Evaluation Committee | |
|-----------|--|--|---|--|
| | | | Duties | Membership |
| Tennessee | Judicial Evaluation Commission expires 6/30/2002/ §17-4-201; §4-29-223 | All appellate judges evaluated using results of evaluation surveys, personal information in a self-reporting form, and any other comments/information. Final report of less than 600 words per judge published not less than 180 days before the qualifying deadline in a general circulation daily newspaper in specified parts of the state. Trial judges evaluated for self-improvement only. | Perform evaluations; submit reports to public; conduct public interviews; submit copies of evaluations to judges and allow response. | 12 members: 4 state court judges; 2 non-lawyers; 3 members appointed by speaker of senate; 3 members appointed by speaker of house of representatives |
| Utah | Utah Judicial Council with Standing Committee on Judicial Performance Evaluation/ CJA R3-111 CJA R3-110 §78-3-21 | Surveys attorneys and jurors, combines results with case under advisement, rating compliance with education standards, the code of judicial conduct and the code of judicial administration, as well as physical and mental competency to produce evaluation for certification. | Determine if each judge meets standards of performance, certify each judge who is entitled; notify judges not entitled to certification; hold hearings with requesting judges provide information to Office of Lt. Governor for publication in voter information pamphlet; provide information to appointing authority for municipal judges. Certify commissioners and remove those not entitled from office; Administer Judicial Evaluation Program. | 14 members: Chief Justice of Supreme Court; 12 members to be elected by judges of various courts; and 1 member of Board of Commissioners. 3-year terms. ¹ |
| Vermont | Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee/ Supreme Court charge and designation | Under development ^{2,3} | 2 | 2 |

Note: Only those states with judicial performance evaluation appear on this table.

FOOTNOTES:

Utah:

¹The evaluation of judges and court commissioners is conducted by the Utah Judicial Council. The Standing Committee on Judicial Performance Evaluation (SCJPE) administers the program and recommends policies and procedures for the program. The membership of the SCJPE is 2 lawyers, one of whom serves as chair, 3 members of the public, 1 court commissioner and one judge from each of five levels of court.

Vermont

²A pilot program was implemented. The Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee is now reviewing the results of the pilot program.

³The pilot program used attorney questionnaires, litigant exit surveys, self-assessment, and caseload management reports.

Table 12. Judicial Discipline: Investigating and Adjudicating Bodies

| | Investigating Body | Number of: | | | Adjudicating Body | Appeals from Adjudication Are Filed with: | Name of Final Disciplining Body | Point at Which Reprimands Are Made Public |
|----------------------|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|---|--|---|--|
| | | Judges | Lawyers | Lay Persons | | | | |
| Alabama | Judicial Inquiry Committee | 3 | 2 | 2 | Court of the Judiciary | Supreme Court | Court of the Judiciary | Filing of complaint with Court of the Judiciary |
| Alaska | Committee on Judicial Conduct | 3 | 3 | 3 | Supreme Court | ~ | Supreme Court | Filing of recommendation with Supreme Court |
| Arizona | Commission on Judicial Conduct | 6 | 2 | 3 | Commission on Judicial Conduct | No appeal | Supreme Court | Commission on Judicial Conduct determines if there is probable cause to bring formal charges. |
| Arkansas | Judicial Discipline and Disability Committees | 3 | 3 | 3 | Commission | Supreme Court | Supreme Court | At disposition of case |
| California | Committee on Judicial Performance | 5 | 2 | 2 | Supreme Court | No appeal | Supreme Court | Upon filing of record by committee with Supreme Court |
| Colorado | Committee on Judicial Discipline | 4 | 2 | 4 | Commission on Judicial Discipline | No appeal | Supreme Court | Adjudication |
| Connecticut | Judicial Review Council | 3 | 3 | 6 | Judicial Review Council; Supreme Court | Supreme Court | Supreme Court | Public censure is issued at least 10 days after notice to the judge, provided that if the judge appeals, there is an automatic stay of disclosure. |
| | Council on Probate Judicial Conduct | 2 | 1 | 2 | Council on Probate Judicial Conduct | Supreme Court | Supreme Court | |
| Delaware | Preliminary Committee of the Court on the Judiciary | 0 | 4 | 2 | Court on the Judiciary | No appeal | Court on the Judiciary | Upon issuance of opinion and imposition of sanction |
| | Investigatory Committee of the Court on the Judiciary | 7 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| District of Columbia | Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure | 1 ¹ | 4 ¹ | 2 ¹ | Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure | Federal judge panel 3 appointments by chief justice of Supreme Court | Committee on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure | Filing of order with D.C. Court of Appeals ² |
| Florida | Judicial Qualifications Commission | 6 ³ | 2 | 5 | Judicial Qualifications Commission ⁴ | No appeal | Supreme Court ⁵ | Filing of formal charges by Committee with Supreme Court Clerk |
| Georgia | Judicial Qualifications Commission | 2 | 3 | 2 | Supreme Court | No appeal | Supreme Court | Formal Hearing |

Legend: ~=Not applicable

Table 12. Judicial Discipline: Investigating and Adjudicating Bodies

| | Investigating Body | Number of: | | | Adjudicating Body | Appeals from Adjudication Are Filed with: | Name of Final Disciplining Body | Point at Which Reprimands Are Made Public |
|---------------|---|------------|---------|-------------|--|---|--|---|
| | | Judges | Lawyers | Lay Persons | | | | |
| Hawaii | Commission on Judicial Conduct | 0 | 3 | 4 | Supreme Court | ~ | Supreme Court | Imposition of public discipline by Supreme Court |
| Idaho | Judicial Council | 2 | 2 | 3 | Supreme Court | No appeal | Supreme Court | Filing with Supreme Court |
| Illinois | Judicial Inquiry Board | 2 | 3 | 4 | Courts Commission | No appeal | Courts Commission | Filing of complaint by Judicial Inquiry Board to Courts Commission |
| Indiana | Judicial Qualifications Committee | 1 | 3 | 3 | Supreme Court | ~ | Supreme Court | Institution of Formal Proceedings |
| Iowa | Commission on Judicial Qualifications | 1 | 2 | 4 | Supreme Court | ~ | Supreme Court | Application by the commission to the Supreme Court |
| Kansas | Commission on Judicial Qualifications | 4 | 3 | 2 | Supreme Court | Supreme Court | Supreme Court | Reprimand is published by Supreme court if approved by Supreme Court. |
| Kentucky | Judicial Retirement and Removal Commission | 3 | 1 | 2 | Judicial Retirement and Removal Commission | Supreme Court | Judicial Retirement and Removal Commission | Application of judge under investigation |
| Louisiana | Judiciary Commission | 3 | 3 | 3 | Supreme Court | No appeal | Supreme Court | After final disposition by Supreme Court |
| Maine | Committee on Judicial Responsibility and Disability | 2 | 2 | 3 | Supreme Judicial Court | No appeal | Supreme Judicial Court | Filing of report to Supreme Judicial Court |
| Maryland | Commission on Judicial Disabilities | 4 | 2 | 1 | Court of Appeals | ~ | Court of Appeals | Filing of record by Committee to Court of Appeals |
| Massachusetts | Commission on Judicial Conduct | 3 | 3 | 3 | Supreme Judicial Court | ~ | Supreme Judicial Court | After final disposition of complaint |
| Michigan | Judicial Tenure Commission | 5 | 2 | 2 | Supreme Court | Supreme Court | Supreme Court | Filing of formal complaint by commission with Supreme Court |
| Minnesota | Board of Judicial Standards | 3 | 2 | 4 | Supreme Court | No appeal | Supreme Court | Filing of formal charges by Committee with Supreme Court |
| Mississippi | Commission on Judicial Performance | 4 | 1 | 2 | Supreme Court | ~ | Supreme Court | Recommendation of Commission to Supreme Court |

Table 12. Judicial Discipline: Investigating and Adjudicating Bodies

| | Investigating Body | Number of: | | | Adjudicating Body | Appeals from Adjudication Are Filed with: | Name of Final Disciplining Body | Point at Which Reprimands Are Made Public |
|----------------|--|-------------|---------|-------------|--|---|---|--|
| | | Judges | Lawyers | Lay Persons | | | | |
| Missouri | Commission on Retirement, Removal and Discipline | 2 | 2 | 2 | Commission on Retirement, Removal and Discipline | Supreme Court | Supreme Court | Filing of recommendation by Committee to Supreme Court |
| Montana | Judicial Standards Commission | 2 | 1 | 2 | Supreme Court | No appeal | Supreme Court | Filing of record by Committee with Supreme Court |
| Nebraska | Commission on Judicial Qualification | 4 | 3 | 3 | Supreme Court | No appeals | Supreme Court | Filing of complaint instigating formal hearing |
| Nevada | Commission on Judicial Discipline | 2 | 2 | 3 | Commission on Judicial Discipline | Supreme Court | Commission on Judicial Discipline | Upon filing of report by Committee and service upon judge |
| New Hampshire | Committee on Judicial Conduct | 4 | 2 | 3 | Supreme Court | ~ | Supreme Court | Final written opinion and judgment ordering disciplinary action or if subject of the complaint has received a total of three or more private reprimands, or other informal adjustments during the four years preceding the filing of the most recent complaint |
| New Jersey | Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct | 2 (retired) | 3 (min) | 4 (max) | Supreme Court | ~ | Supreme Court | Filing of presentment by Committee with Supreme Court |
| New Mexico | Judicial Standards Commission | 2 | 2 | 5 | Supreme Court | ~ | Supreme Court | Filing of record by Commission with Supreme Court |
| New York | Commission on Judicial Conduct | 4 | 1 | 2 | Commission on Judicial Conduct | Court of Appeals | Commission on Judicial Conduct and Court of Appeals | Completion of service of record on respondent |
| North Carolina | Judicial Standards Commission | 3 | 2 | 2 | Supreme Court | No appeals | Supreme Court | Upon recommendation of Commission to Supreme Court |
| North Dakota | Commission on Judicial Conduct | 2 | 1 | 4 | Supreme Court | ~ | Supreme Court | At formal hearing |

Table 12. Judicial Discipline: Investigating and Adjudicating Bodies

| | Investigating Body | Number of: | | | Adjudicating Body | Appeals from Adjudication Are Filed with: | Name of Final Disciplining Body | Point at Which Reprimands Are Made Public |
|----------------|---|------------------------------|---------|----------------|---|---|---|---|
| | | Judges | Lawyers | Lay Persons | | | | |
| Ohio | Board of Commissioners on Grievance and Discipline ⁶ | 7 | 17 | 4 | Board of Commissioners on Grievance and Discipline | Supreme Court | Supreme Court | Adjudication |
| Oklahoma | Court on the Judiciary Trial Division Council | 8 | 1 | 0 | Court on the Judiciary Trial Division | Court on the Judiciary Division | Court on the Judiciary Appellate Division | Filing with clerk of the Appellate Court |
| | Council on Judicial Complaints | 0 | 2 | 1 | Council on Judicial Complaints | no appeal | | |
| Oregon | Commission of Judicial Fitness and Disability | 3 | 3 | 3 | Commission on Judicial Fitness and Disability | Supreme Court | Commission on Judicial Fitness and Disability w/Supreme Court | Recommended by Commission to Supreme Court |
| Pennsylvania | Judicial Inquiry and Review Board | 3 | 1 | 1 | Judicial Inquiry and Review Board | Supreme Court | Supreme Court | Recommended by Judicial Inquiry and Review Board |
| Puerto Rico | Disciplinary and Service Commission | ~ | 5 | 1 | Supreme Court | ~ | Supreme Court | Filing of formal complaint by Attorney General with Discipline Commission |
| Rhode Island | Commission on Judicial Tenure and Discipline | 4 (+3 from General Assembly) | 3 | 3 | Supreme Court | No appeals | Supreme Court | When Supreme Court affirms a recommendation for reprimand or removal |
| South Carolina | Board of Commissioners on Judicial Standards | 8 | 2 | 2 | Supreme Court | ~ | Supreme Court | Adjudication |
| South Dakota | Judicial Qualifications Commission | 2 | 3 | 2 | Supreme Court | No appeals | Supreme Court | Filing with the Supreme Court |
| Tennessee | Court of the Judiciary | 9 | 3 | 2 | Court of the Judiciary | Supreme Court, then General Assembly | Court of the Judiciary | Filing of complaint in Appellate Court Clerk's office |
| Texas | State Commission on Judicial Conduct | 5 | 2 | 4 | Supreme Court, Commission on Judicial Conduct, or review tribunal consisting of Justices of Courts of Appeals | Supreme Court | Supreme Ct. Committee on Judicial Conduct, or review tribunal consisting of Justices of the Courts of Appeals | Convening of formal hearing by the Commission on Judicial Conduct |
| Utah | Judicial Conduct Commission | 1 | 3 | 2 ⁷ | Supreme Court | No appeal | Supreme Court | After final disposition |
| Vermont | Judicial Conduct Board | 2 | 2 | 3 | Supreme Court | Supreme Court | Supreme Court | Filing of formal charges by Board with Supreme Court |

Table 12. Judicial Discipline: Investigating and Adjudicating Bodies

| | Investigating Body | Number of: | | | Adjudicating Body | Appeals from Adjudication Are Filed with: | Name of Final Disciplining Body | Point at Which Reprimands Are Made Public |
|---------------|---|--|---------|-------------|---|--|--|--|
| | | Judges | Lawyers | Lay Persons | | | | |
| Virginia | Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission | 3 | 2 | 2 | Supreme Court | Supreme Court | Supreme Court | Filing of formal complaint by Committee with Supreme Court |
| Washington | Commission on Judicial Conduct | 3 | 2 | 6 | Supreme Court | No appeal | Committee on Judicial Conduct or Supreme Court | Beginning of fact finding hearing by Committee |
| West Virginia | Judicial Investigation Committee and Judicial Hearing Board | 2 (+ one magistrate + one family law master) | 2 | 3 | Judicial Hearing Board (JHB) | JHB recommends to SCA ⁹ | Supreme Court of Appeals ⁸ | Upon decision by Supreme Court of Appeals |
| Wisconsin | Judicial Commission | 2 | 2 | 5 | Supreme Court ⁹ | No appeal | Supreme Court | Filing of petitioner formal complaint by Judicial Commission w/Supreme Court |
| Wyoming | Judicial Supervisory Commission | 2 | 2 | 3 | Supreme Court | ~ | Supreme Court | Filing with Supreme Court |
| Federal | Chief judges and judicial councils of respective circuits ¹⁰ | Varies | 0 | 0 | Chief judges and judicial councils of respective circuits ¹⁰ | Judicial councils of respective circuits and judicial conference of US ¹⁰ | Judicial councils of respective circuits and judicial conference of US ¹⁰ | After final disposition(a) |

FOOTNOTES

District of Columbia:

¹Plus 3 alternates, 1 from each category.

²Only in cases involving removal or suspension wherein the Chief Justice appoints a 3 member federal judge panel to review commission's recommendations.

Florida:

³Two judges of each of the District Courts of Appeal, Circuit, and County courts.

⁴The Judicial Qualifications Commission investigates and recommends to the Supreme Court for discipline or removal.

⁵The Supreme Court power of removal is alternative and cumulative to the power of impeachment and suspension by the Governor and senate.

Ohio:

⁶Initial review by panel of 3 commissioners.

Utah:

⁷Supreme Court, at its discretion, may include 2 members of House, and 3 special members.

West Virginia:

⁸Same for both the Commission and Judicial Hearing Board.

Wisconsin:

⁹The Judicial Conduct and Disability Panel, through an ad hoc 3-judge panel (2 must be Court of Appeals, 1 can be a retired, reserve judge or Court of Appeals judge) appointed as a hearing examiner, makes a report to the Supreme Court.

Federal:

¹⁰The Chief Judge of the federal judicial circuit renders the initial determination whether a complaint will be dismissed or investigated. The judicial council for the circuit reviews chief judge dismissals and adjudicates whether and what discipline is appropriate regarding an investigated complaint. The Judicial Conference of the United States, through a standing committee, reviews circuit judicial council resolutions following investigation.