

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

The court structure charts summarize in a one-page diagram the key features of each state's court organization. The format meets two objectives: (1) it is comprehensive, indicating all court systems in the state and their interrelationships, and (2) it describes the jurisdiction of the court systems, using a standard set of terminology and symbols. The court structure charts employ the common terminology developed by the National Center for State Court's Court Statistics Project for reporting caseload statistics.

The first chart is a prototype. It represents a state court organization in which there is one of each of the four court system levels recognized by the Court Statistics Project: courts of last resort, intermediate appellate courts, general jurisdiction trial courts, and limited jurisdiction trial courts. Routes of appeal from one court to another are indicated by lines, with an arrow showing which court receives the appeal or petition.

The charts also provide basic descriptive information, such as the number of authorized justices, judges, and magistrates (or other judicial officers). Each court system's subject matter jurisdiction is indicated using the Court Statistics Project case types. Information is also provided on the use of districts, circuits, or divisions in organizing the courts within the system and the number of courts.

The case types, which define a court system's subject matter jurisdiction, require the most explanation.

Appellate Courts

The rectangle representing each appellate court contains information on the number of authorized justices; the number of geographic divisions, if any; whether court decisions are made en banc, in panels, or both; and the Court Statistics Project case types that are heard by the court. The case types are shown separately for mandatory and discretionary cases. The case types themselves are defined in other Court Statistics Project publications, especially 1984 State Appellate Court Jurisdiction Guide for Statistical Reporting and State Court Model Statistical Dictionary: 1989 Edition. An appellate court can have both mandatory and discretionary jurisdiction over the same Court Statistics Project case type. This arises, in part, because the Court Statistics Project case types are defined broadly in order to be applicable to every state's courts. There are, for example, only two appellate Court Statistics Project case types for criminal appeals: capital and noncapital. A court may have mandatory jurisdiction over felony cases, but discretionary jurisdiction over misdemeanors. The list of case types would include "criminal" for both mandatory and discretionary jurisdiction. The duplication

of a case type under both headings can also occur if appeals from one lower court for that case type are mandatory, while appeals from another lower court are discretionary. Also, statutory provisions or court rules in some states automatically convert a mandatory appeal into a discretionary petition—for example, when an appeal is not filed within a specified time limit. A more comprehensive description of each appellate court's subject matter jurisdiction can be found in the 1984 State Appellate Court Jurisdiction Guide for Statistical Reporting.

Trial Courts

The rectangle representing each trial court also lists the applicable Court Statistics Project case types. These include civil, criminal, traffic/other violation, and juvenile. Where a case type is simply listed, it means that the court system shares jurisdiction over it with other courts. The presence of exclusive jurisdiction is always explicitly stated.

The absence of a case type from a list means that the court does not have that subject matter jurisdiction. The dollar amount jurisdiction is shown where there is an upper or a lower limit to the cases that can be filed in a court. A dollar limit is not listed if a court does not have a minimum or maximum dollar amount jurisdiction for general civil cases. In criminal cases, jurisdiction is distinguished between "felony," where the court can try a felony case to verdict and sentencing, and "preliminary hearings," which applies to those limited jurisdiction courts that can conduct preliminary hearings that bind a defendant over for trial in a higher court.

Trial courts can have what is termed incidental appellate jurisdiction. The presence of such jurisdiction over the decisions of other courts is noted in the list of case types as either "civil appeals," "criminal appeals," or "administrative agency appeals." A trial court that hears appeals directly from an administrative agency has an "A" in the upper right corner of the rectangle.

For each trial court, the chart states the authorized number of judges and whether the court can impanel a jury. The rectangle representing the court also indicates the number of districts, divisions, or circuits into which the court system is divided. These subdivisions are stated using the court system's own terminology. The descriptions, therefore, are not standardized across states or court systems.

Some trial courts are totally funded from local sources and some receive some form of state funds. Locally funded court systems are drawn with broken lines. A solid line indicates some or all of the funding is derived from state funds.

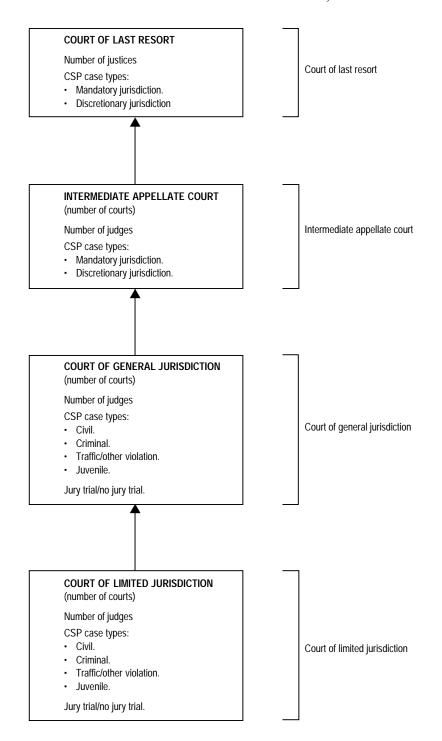
Symbols and Abbreviations

An "A" in the upper right corner of a rectangle, representing either an appellate or a trial court, indicates that the court receives appeals directly from the decisions of an administrative agency. Where "administrative agency appeals" is listed as a case type. it indicates that the court hears appeals from decisions of another court on an administrative agency's actions. It is possible for a court to have both an "A" designation and to have "administrative agency appeals" listed as a case type. Such a court hears appeals directly from an administrative agency ("A") and has appellate jurisdiction over the decisions of a lower court that has already reviewed the decision of the administrative agency.

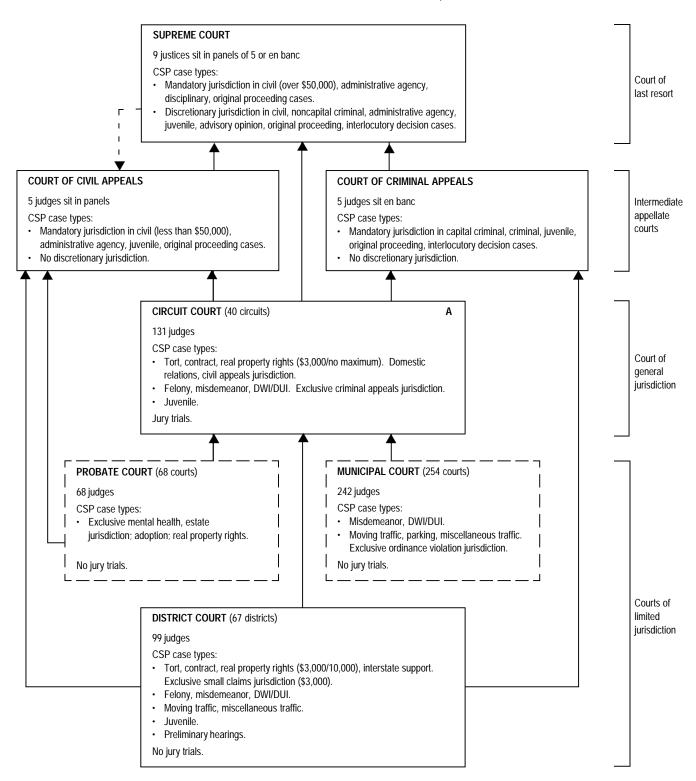
The number of justices or judges is sometimes stated as "FTE." This represents "full-time equivalent" authorized judicial positions. "DWI/DUI" stands for "driving while intoxicated/driving under the influence." The "SC" abbreviation stands for "small claims." The dollar amount jurisdiction for civil cases is indicated in parentheses with a dollar sign. Where the small claims dollar amount jurisdiction is different, it is noted.

The court structure charts are convenient summaries. They do not substitute for the detailed descriptive material contained in the 50 tables of State Court Organization, 1998, Moreover, they are based on the Court Statistics Project's terminology and categories. This means that a state may have established courts that are not included in these charts. Some states have courts of special jurisdiction to receive complaints on matters that are more typically directed to administrative boards and agencies. Since these courts adjudicate matters that do not fall within the Court Statistics Project case types, they are not included in the charts. The existence of such courts, however, is recognized in a footnote to the state's court structure chart.

STATE COURT STRUCTURE PROTOTYPE, 1998

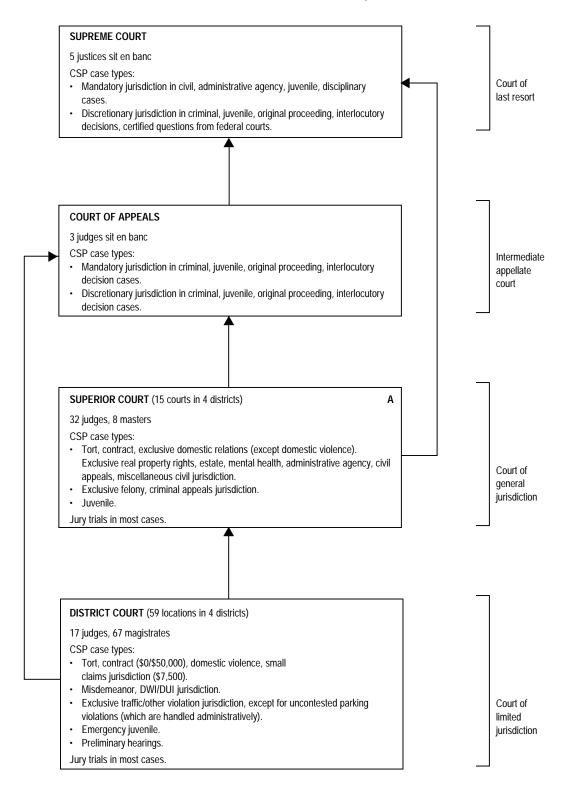


ALABAMA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

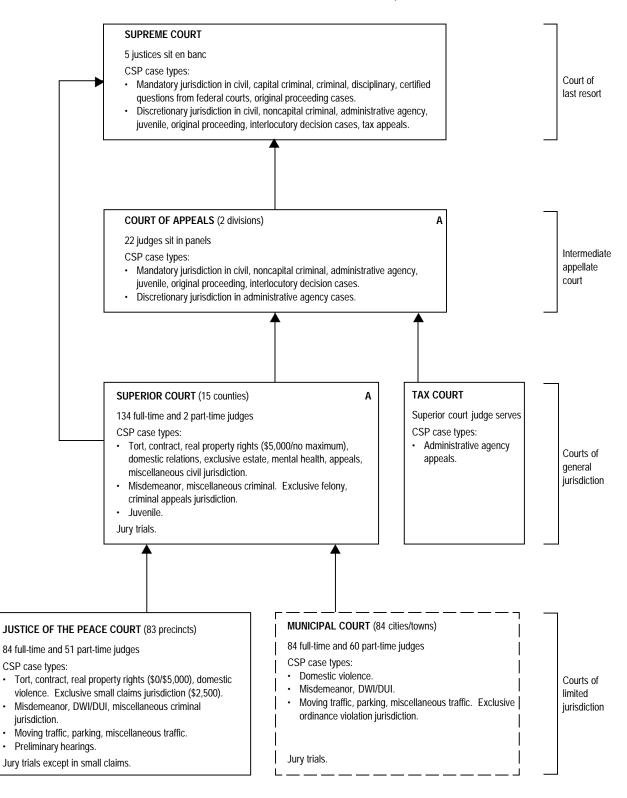


 ^{– –} Indicates assignment of cases.

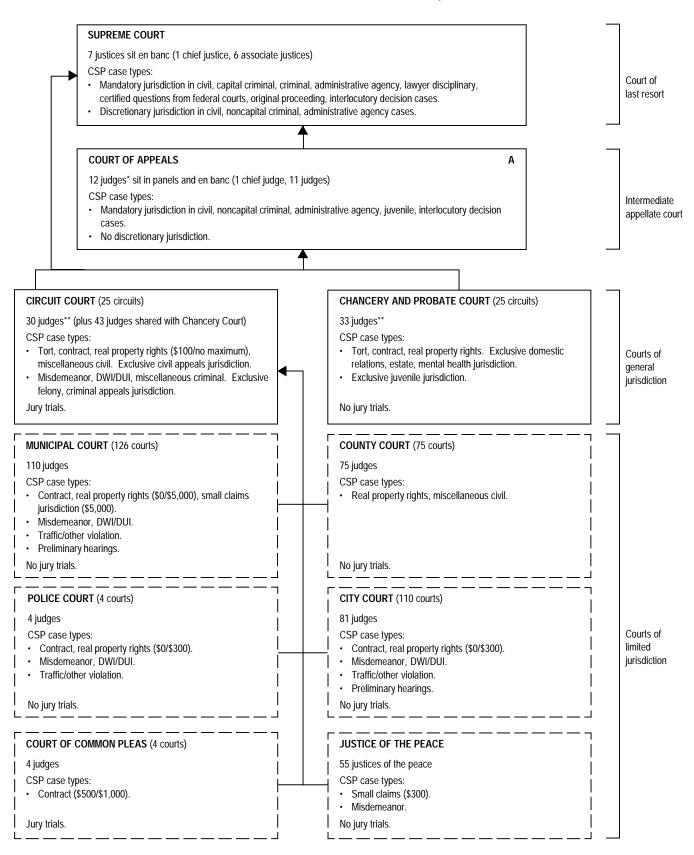
ALASKA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



ARIZONA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



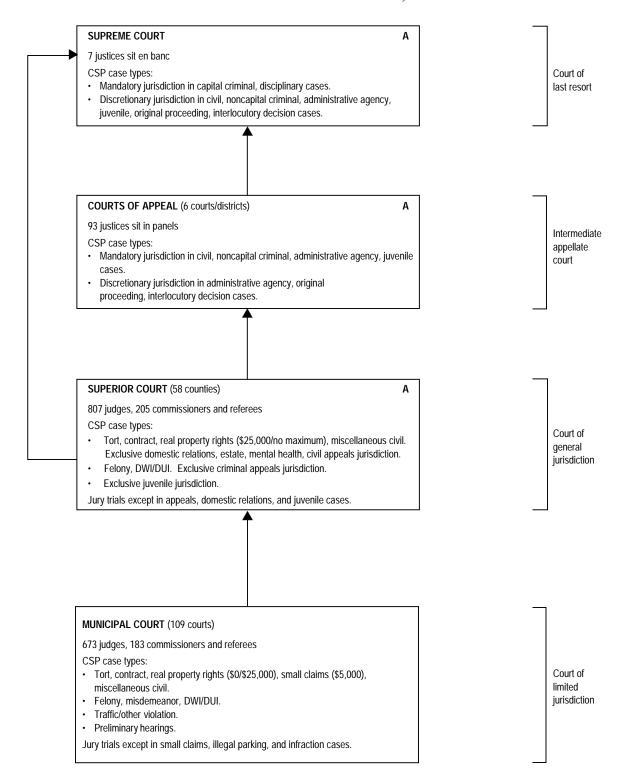
ARKANSAS COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



^{*} Court of Appeals judges increased to 12 effective January 1, 1997.

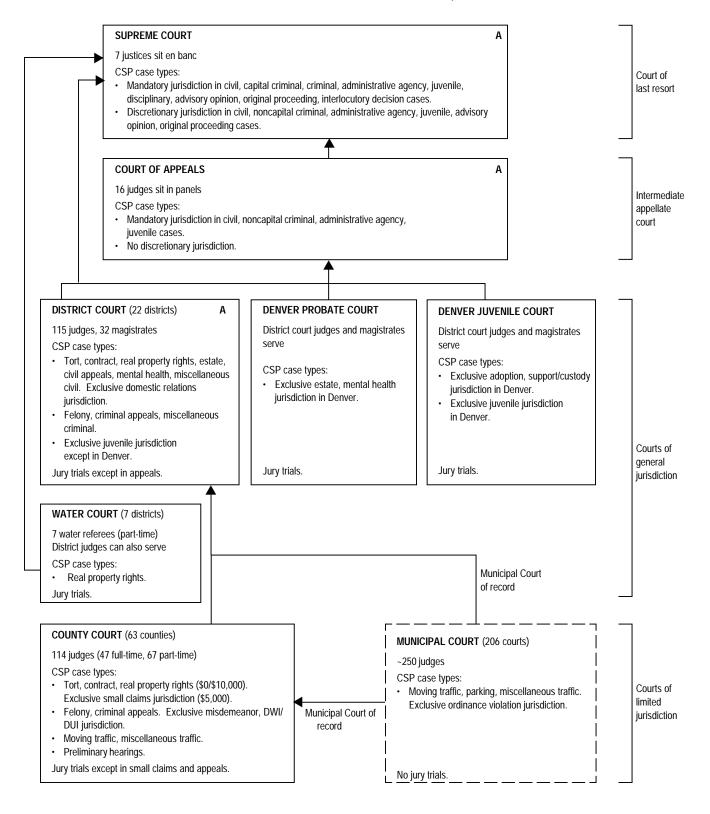
^{**} Forty-three additional judges serve both circuit and chancery courts.

CALIFORNIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

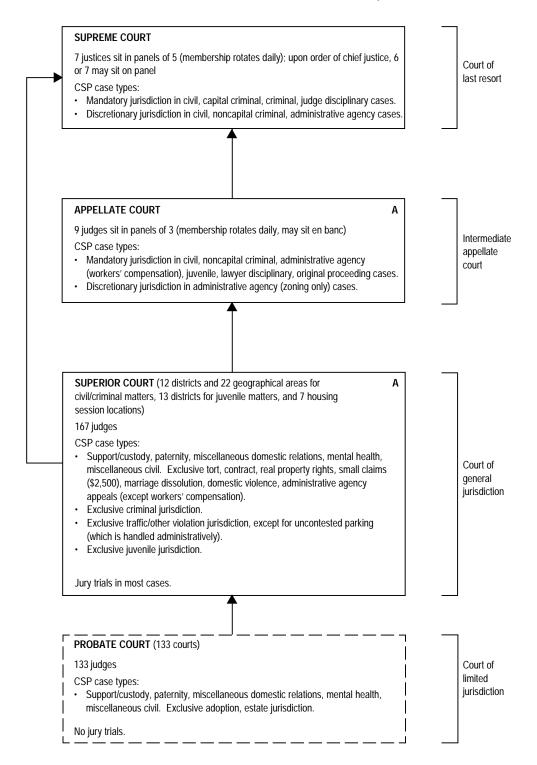


In 1998 Proposition 220 amended the state Constitution by providing for the voluntary unification of the superior (courts of general jurisdiction) and municipal (courts of limited jurisdiction) courts of a county into one countywide superior court. Originating as Senate Constitutional Amendment 4, the measure was passed by the Legislature in June, 1996, appeared as Proposition 220 on a statewide ballot during a primary election on June 2, 1998, and was approved by 64% of the voters. Proposition 220 became effective June 3, 1998.

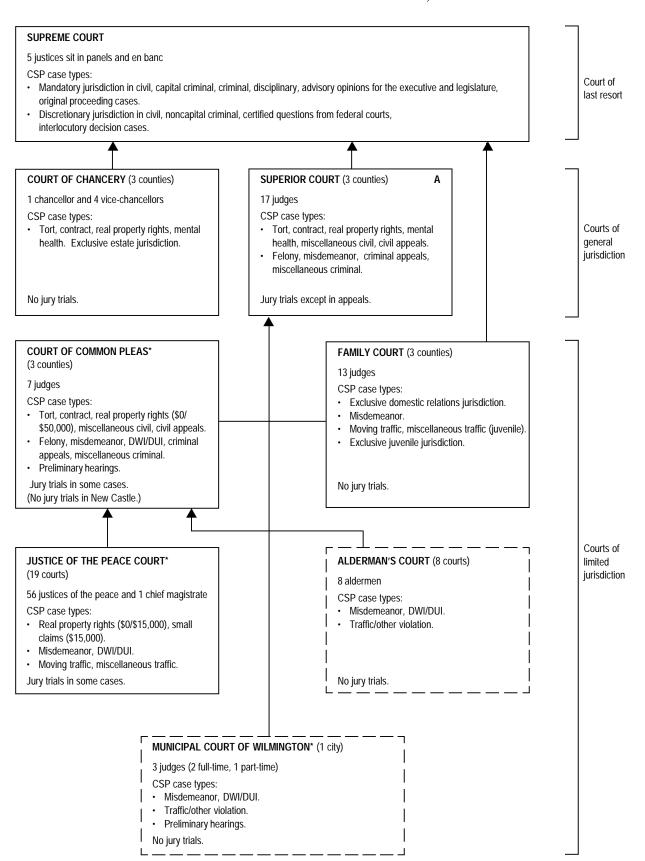
COLORADO COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



CONNECTICUT COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



DELAWARE COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



^{*} The Municipal Court of Wilmington was eliminated effective May 1, 1998, and most of its caseload was absorbed by the Court of Common Pleas and entry-level misdemeanor and simple traffic caseload absorbed by the Justice of the Peace Court. A new Justice of the Peace Court was created in Wilmington effective May 1, 1998.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

COURT OF APPEALS

Α

9 judges sit in panels and en banc

CSP case types:

- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in small claims, minor criminal, original proceeding cases

Court of last resort

SUPERIOR COURT

Α

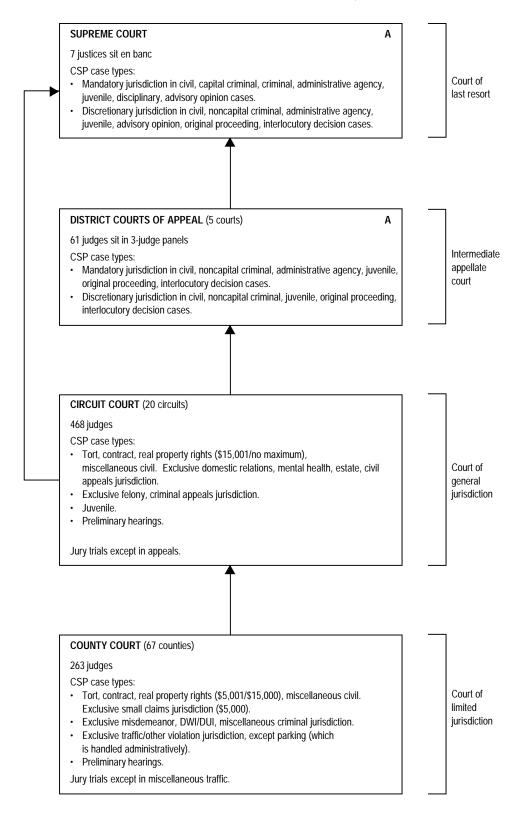
59 judges

CSP case types:

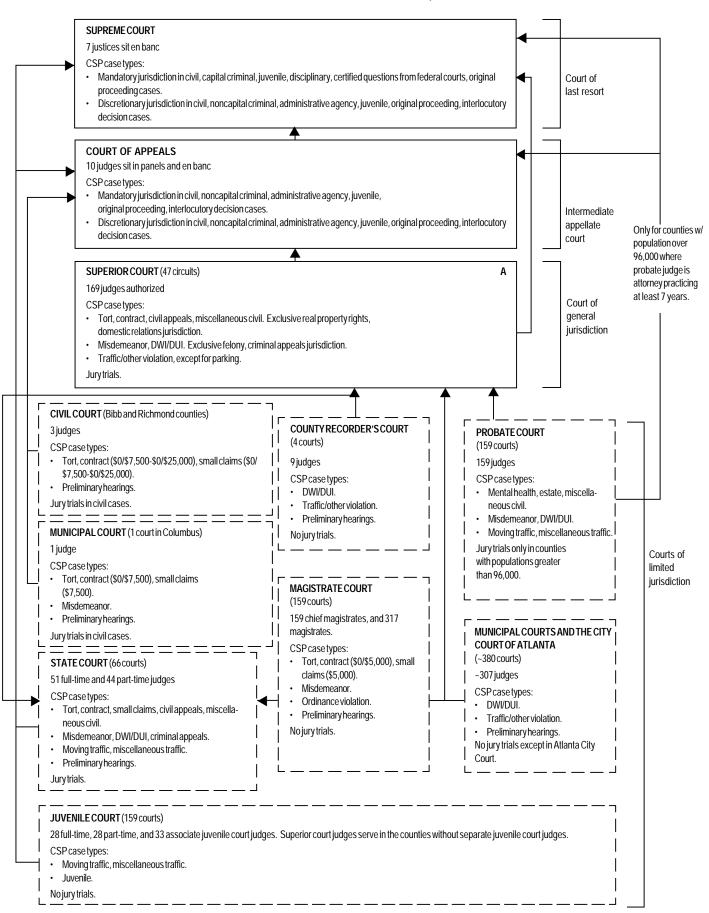
- Exclusive civil jurisdiction (\$5,001/no maximum). Small claims jurisdiction (\$5,000).
- Exclusive criminal jurisdiction.
- Exclusive traffic/other violation jurisdiction, except for most parking cases (which are handled administratively).
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.
- · Preliminary hearings.

Court of general jurisdiction

FLORIDA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



GEORGIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



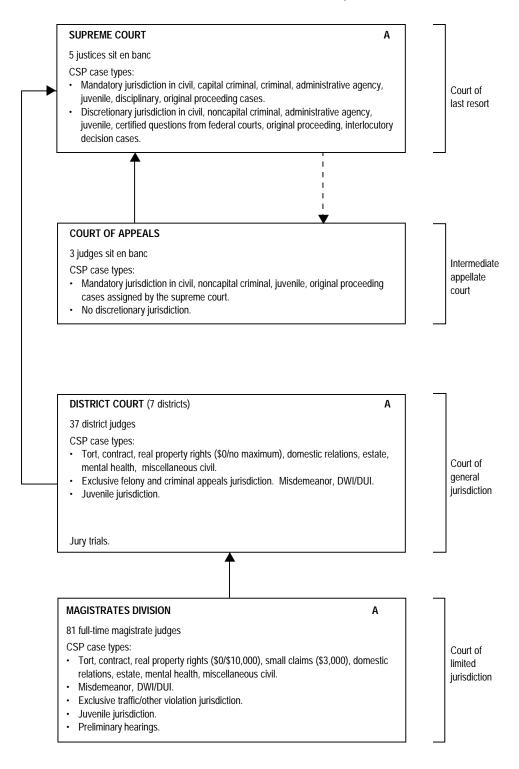
HAWAII COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

SUPREME COURT Α 5 justices sit en banc CSP case types: Court of · Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, certified last resort questions from federal courts, original proceeding cases. Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases. INTERMEDIATE COURT OF APPEALS 4 judges sit en banc Intermediate CSP case types: appellate · Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, court original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases assigned to it by the supreme court. No discretionary jurisdiction. **CIRCUIT COURT AND FAMILY COURT (4 circuits)** 27 circuit judges and 15 district family judges (including 2 circuit judges who serve as district family judges). One first circuit judge hears contested land matters and tax appeals. Court of CSP case types: general • Tort, contract, real property rights, miscellaneous civil (\$10,000/no maximum) jurisdiction [concurrent from \$10,000-\$20,000]. Exclusive domestic relations, mental health, estate, administrative agency appeals jurisdiction. · Felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, miscellaneous criminal. · Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic. · Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction. Jury trials. **DISTRICT COURT** (4 circuits) 22 judges* CSP case types: Court of Tort, contract, real property rights (\$0/\$20,000) [concurrent from \$10,000-\$20,000 (civil) limited nonjury)], miscellaneous civil. Exclusive small claims jurisdiction (\$2,500). jurisdiction · Felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI. Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic. Exclusive parking, ordinance violation jurisdiction. Preliminary hearings. No jury trials.

^{*} Excludes per diem judges.

^{————} Indicates assignment of cases.

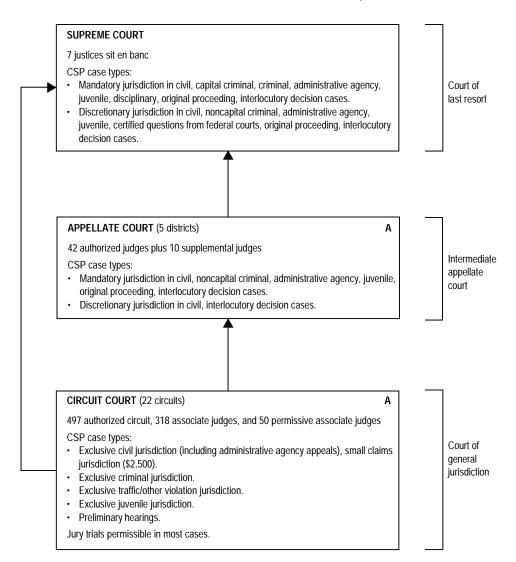
IDAHO COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



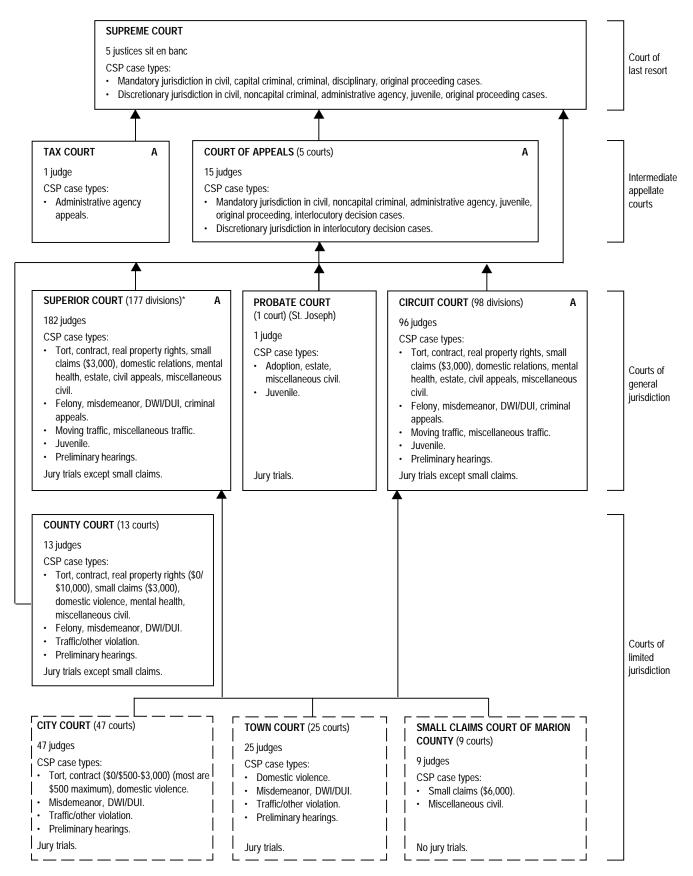
— Indicates assignment of cases.

Note: The Magistrates Division of the District Court functions as a limited jurisdiction court.

ILLINOIS COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



INDIANA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



^{*} Effective January 1, 1996, all Municipal Courts became Superior Courts.

IOWA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

SUPREME COURT

9 justices sit in panels and en banc

CSP case types:

- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

Court of last resort

COURT OF APPEALS

6 judges sit in panels and en banc

CSP case types:

- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases assigned by the supreme court.
- · No discretionary jurisdiction.

Intermediate appellate court

DISTRICT COURT (8 districts in 99 counties)

112 authorized district judges, 54 district associate judges, 7 FTE* senior judges, 12 associate juvenile judges, 135 part-time magistrates, 1 associate probate judge, and 7 alternate district associate judges (part-time)

CSP case types:

- Exclusive civil jurisdiction (including trial court appeals). Small claims jurisdiction (\$4,000)
- Exclusive criminal jurisdiction (including criminal appeals).
- Exclusive traffic/other violation jurisdiction except for uncontested parking.
- · Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.
- · Preliminary hearings.

Jury trials except in small claims, juvenile, equity cases, city and county ordinance violations, mental health cases.

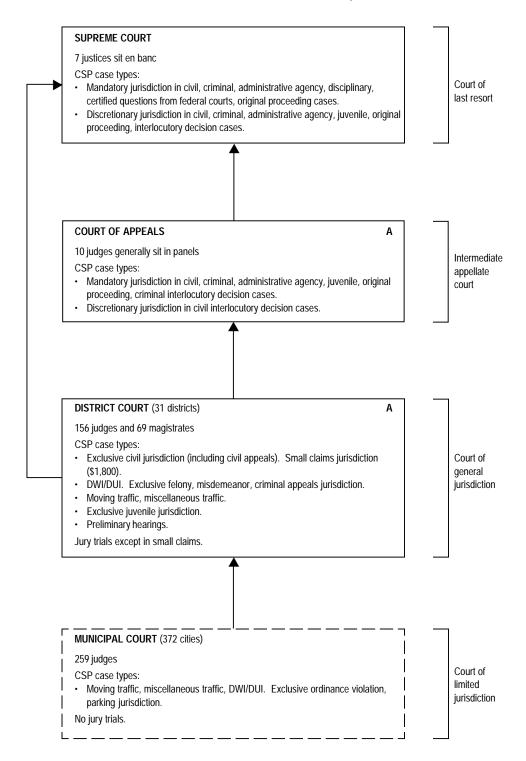
Court of general jurisdiction

Α

 $^{^{\}star}\,$ Includes 28 senior judges who work 1/4 time. (No more than 13 weeks/year)

Indicates assignment of cases.

KANSAS COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



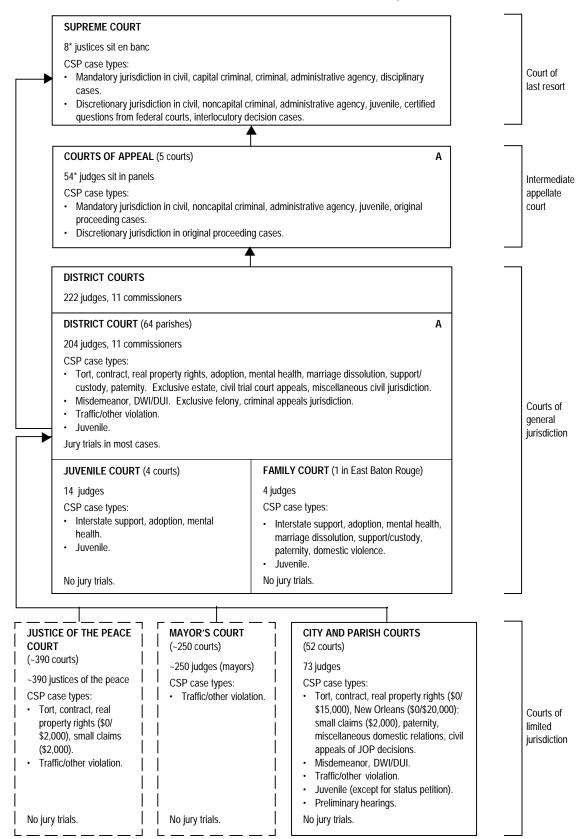
KENTUCKY COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

SUPREME COURT 7 justices sit en banc CSP case types: Mandatory jurisdiction in capital and other criminal (death, life, Court of 20 yr+ sentence), disciplinary, certified questions from federal last resort courts, original proceeding cases. Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases. **COURT OF APPEALS** 14 judges generally sit in panels, but sit en banc in a policy-making capacity. Intermediate CSP case types: appellate Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, original proceeding cases. court Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases. CIRCUIT COURT (56 judicial circuits) 97 judges* CSP case types: Tort, contract, real property rights (\$4,000/no maximum), interstate support, estate. Court of Exclusive marriage dissolution, support/custody, adoption, miscellaneous domestic relations, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil jurisdiction. general Misdemeanor. Exclusive felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction. jurisdiction Jury trials except in appeals. **DISTRICT COURT** (59 judicial districts) 126** judges (plus 70 trial commissioners) CSP case types: • Tort, contract, real property rights (\$0/\$4,000), interstate support, estate. Exclusive paternity, domestic violence, mental health, small claims jurisdiction (\$1,500). Court of Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI jurisdiction. limited Exclusive traffic/other violation jurisdiction. jurisdiction Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction. Preliminary hearings. Jury trials in most cases.

^{*} Increased to 103 effective 7/1/98, 104 for FY 98/99, and 108 effective 9/1/99.

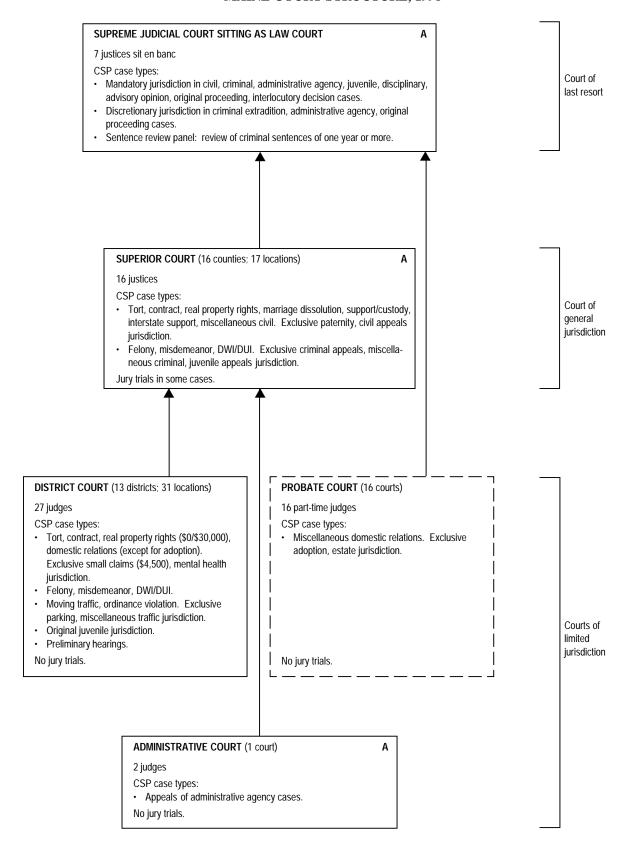
^{**} Increased to 127 effective 7/1/98 and 128 effective 9/1/99

LOUISIANA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

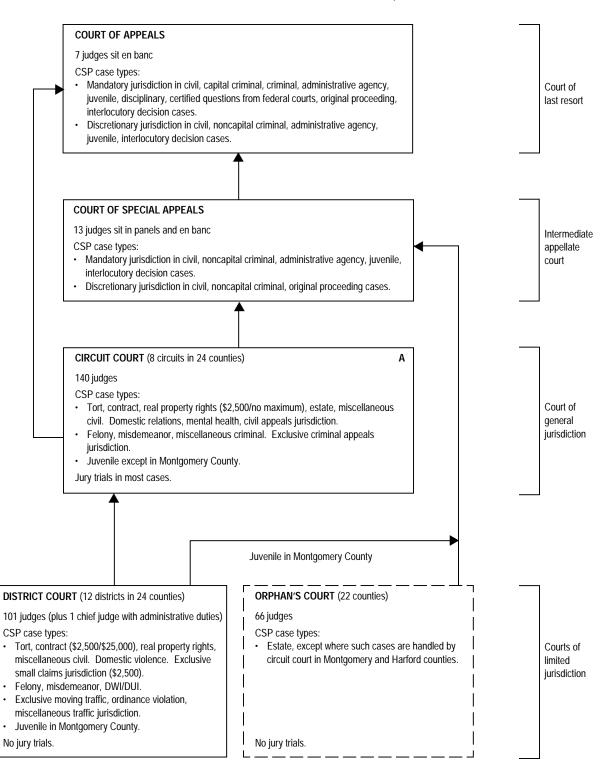


^{*} Supreme court has 7 elected justices and 1 justice assigned from the courts of appeal. The assigned judge would bring the number of courts of appeal judges to 55. (This assignment is by state statute.)

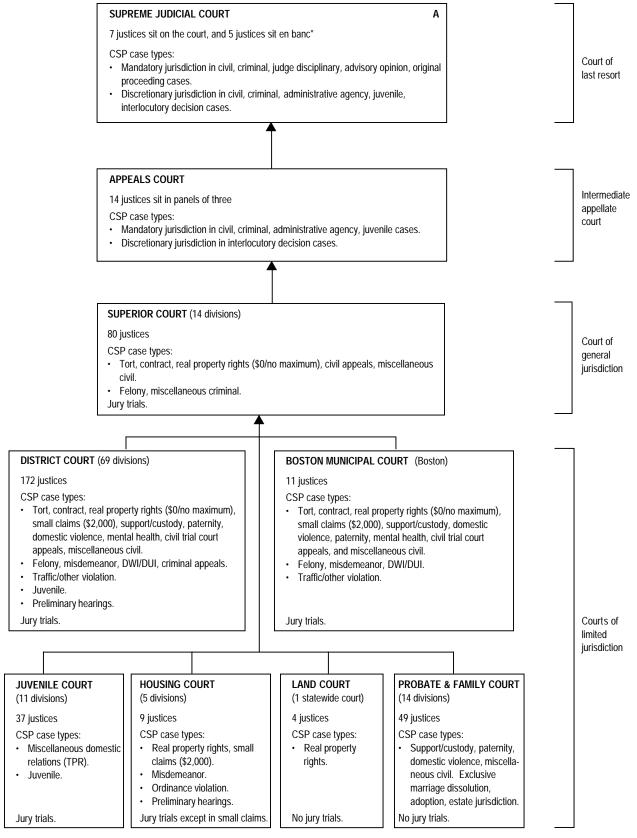
MAINE COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



MARYLAND COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

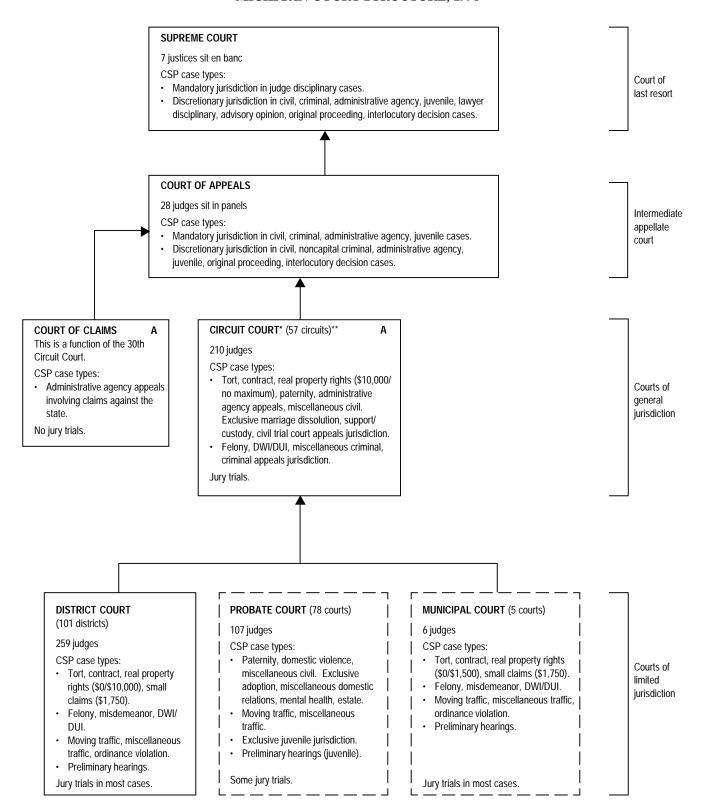


MASSACHUSETTS COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



^{*} The justices also sit individually in the "single justice" side of the court, on a rotating basis.

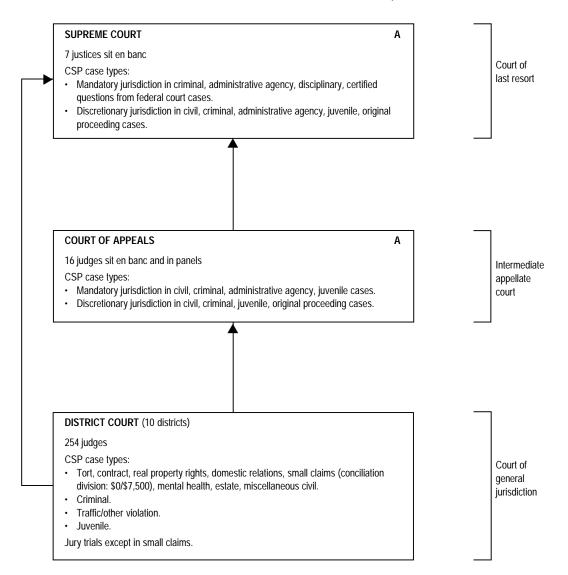
MICHIGAN COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



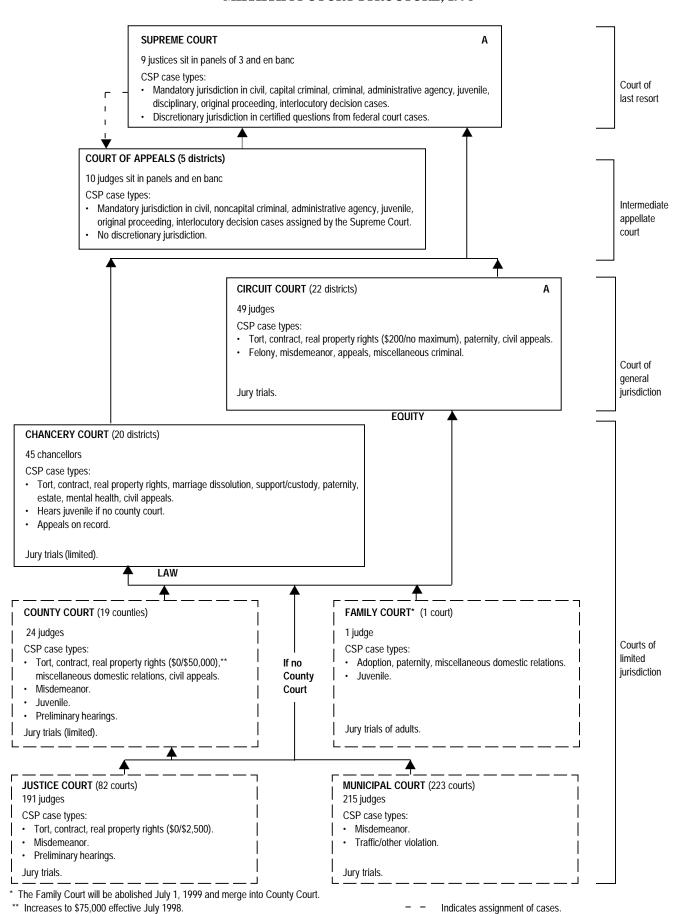
^{*} The Recorder's Court of Detroit merged with the Circuit Court effective October 1, 1997.

^{**} A Family Division of Circuit Court became operational on January 1, 1998.

MINNESOTA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

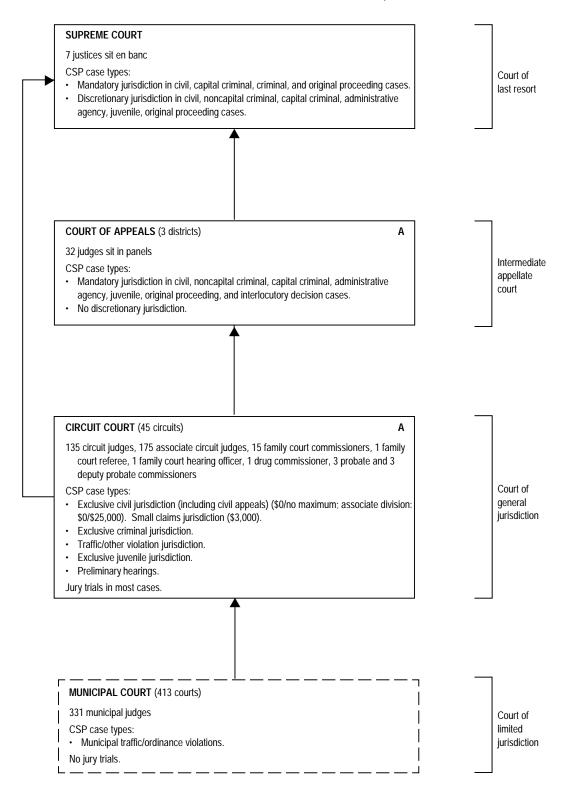


MISSISSIPPI COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

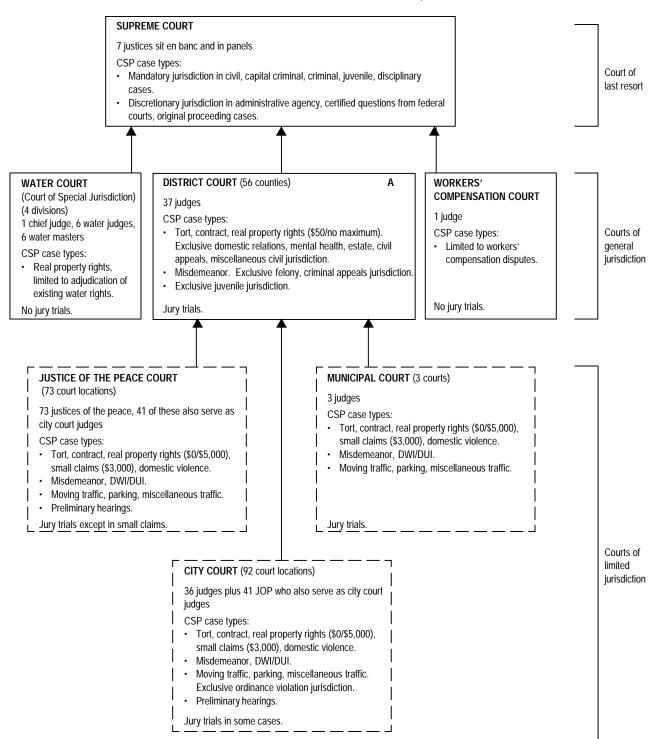


State Court Organization, 1998

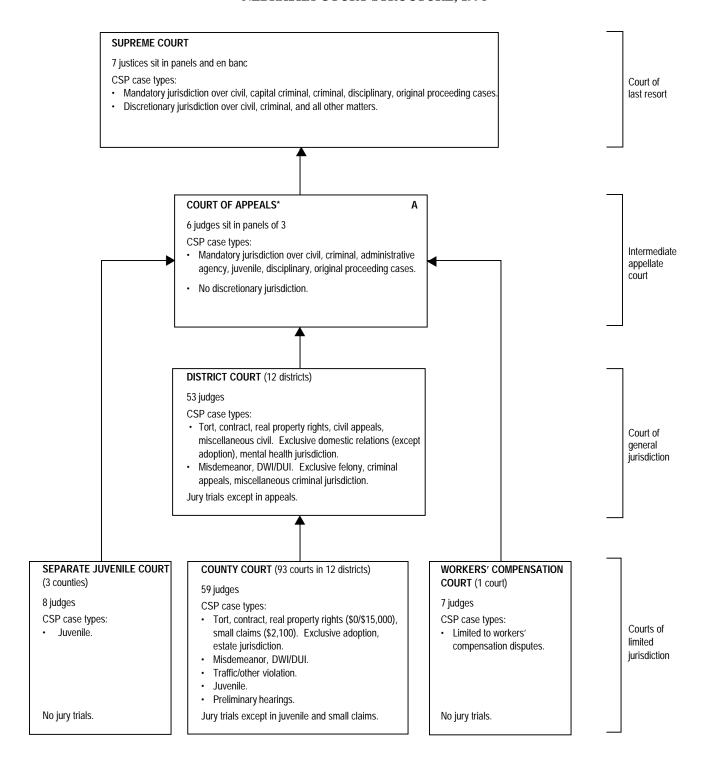
MISSOURI COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



MONTANA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

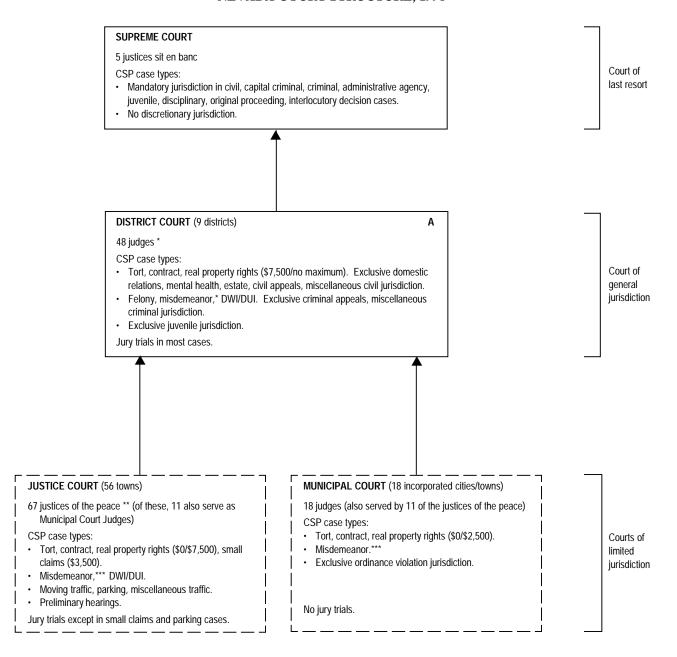


NEBRASKA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



^{*} The Nebraska Court of Appeals was established September 6, 1991.

NEVADA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

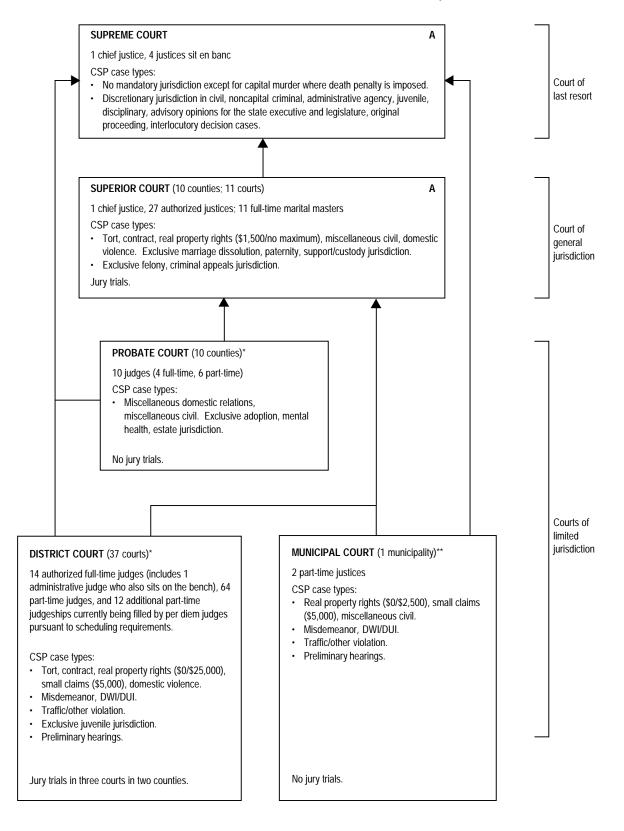


Increases to 51 as of 1/1/99.

^{**} Increases to 69 as of 1/1/99.

^{***} District Court hears gross misdemeanor cases; Justice & Municipal Courts hear misdemeanors with fines under \$1,000 and/or sentence of less than six months.

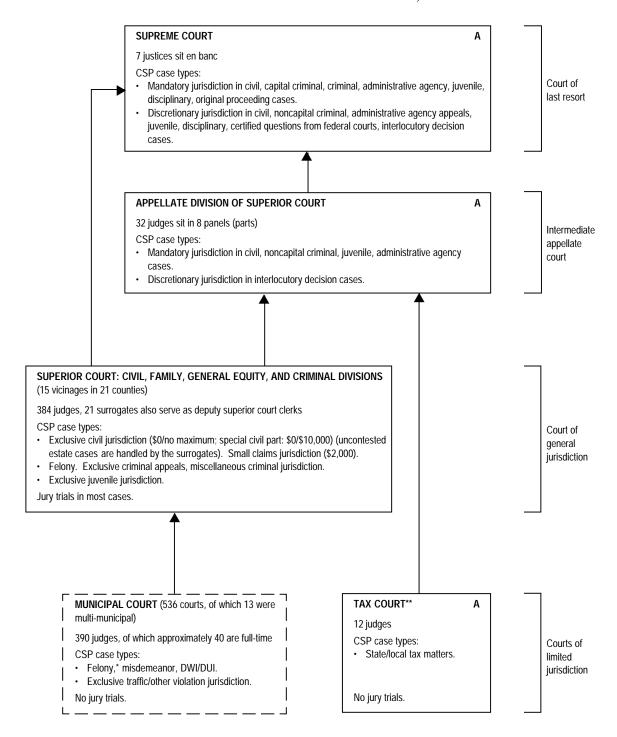
NEW HAMPSHIRE COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



^{*} A Family Division Pilot Program was created by the Legislature in 1995 and operates in six district courts and two probate courts.

^{**} The municipal court is being phased out (by statute) upon retirement and/or resignation of sitting justices.

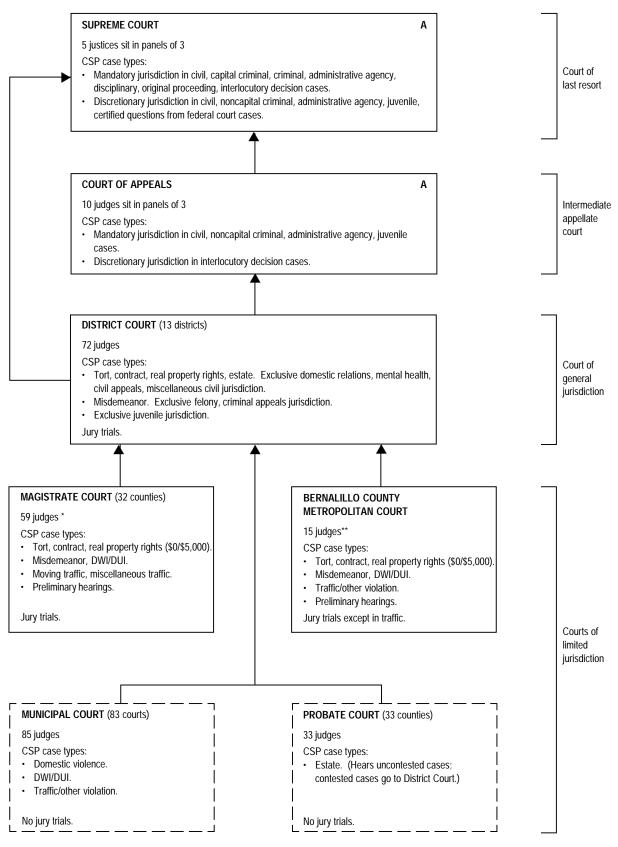
NEW JERSEY COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



^{*} Felony cases are handled on first appearance in the Municipal Courts and then are transferred through the county Prosecutor's office to the Superior Court

^{**} Tax court is considered a limited jurisdiction court because of its specialized subject matter. Nevertheless, it receives appeals from administrative bodies and its cases are appealed to the intermediate appellate court. Tax court judges have the same general qualifications and terms of service as superior court judges and can be cross assigned.

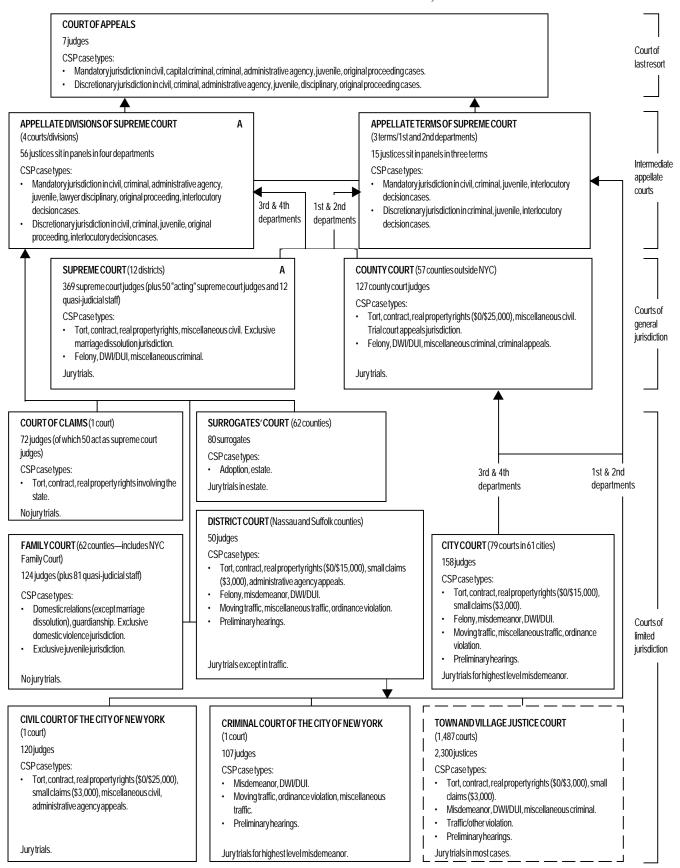
NEW MEXICO COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



^{*} Increases to 61 judges as of 7/1/99.

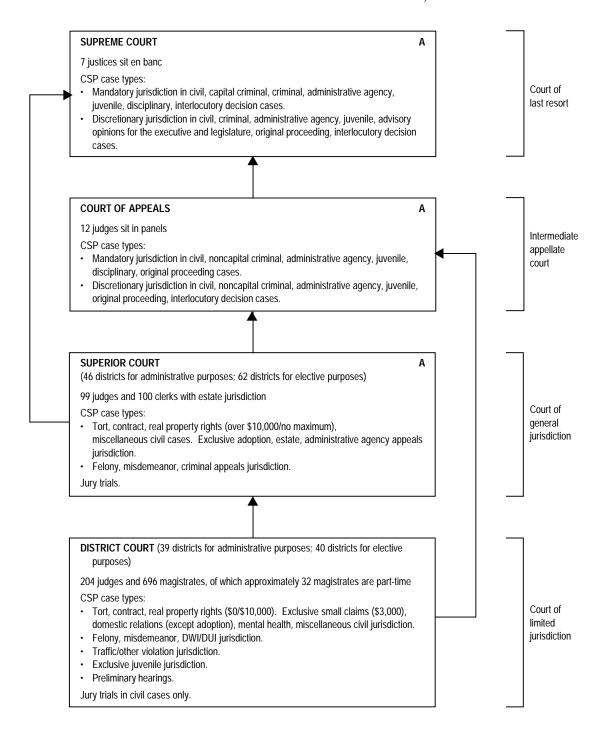
^{**} Increases to 16 judges as of 7/1/99.

NEW YORK COURT STRUCTURE, 1998*



^{*}Unless otherwise noted, numbers reflect statutory authorization. Many judges sit in more than one court so the number of judgeships indicated in this chart does not reflect the actual number of judges in the system.

NORTH CAROLINA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



NORTH DAKOTA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

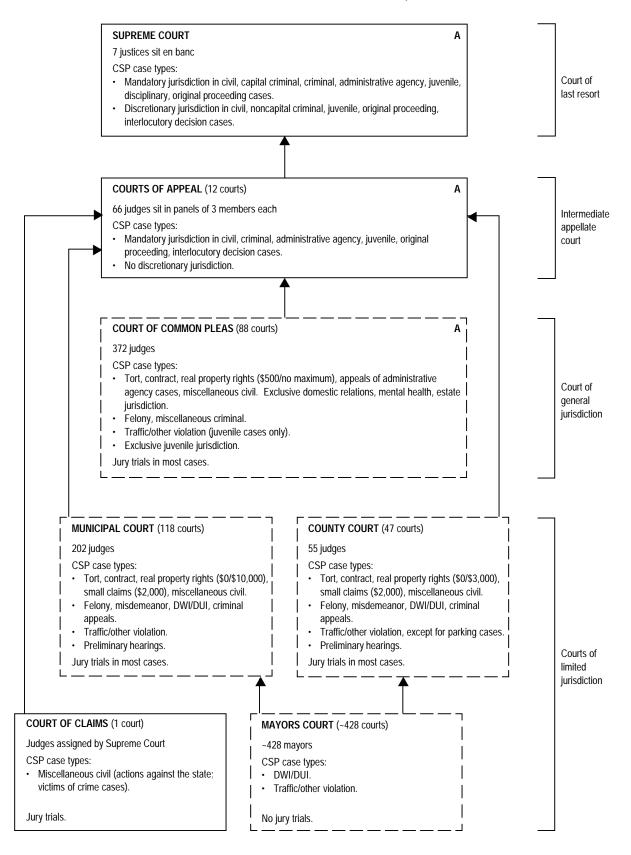
SUPREME COURT* 5 justices sit en banc Court of CSP case types: last resort • Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases. · No discretionary jurisdiction. DISTRICT COURT (7 judicial districts in 53 counties)** 44 judges*** CSP case types: • Exclusive tort, contract, real property rights, small claims (\$5,000), estate, domestic Court of relations, appeals of administrative agency cases, mental health, miscellaneous civil general jurisdiction • Exclusive felony, misdemeanor, miscellaneous criminal jurisdiction. • Moving traffic, ordinance violation, parking, miscellaneous traffic. · Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction. Jury trials in many cases. MUNICIPAL COURT (80 municipalities) 79 judges CSP case types: Court of • DWI/DUI. limited · Moving traffic, ordinance violation, parking, miscellaneous traffic. jurisdiction No jury trials.

^{*} A temporary court of appeals was established July 1, 1987, to exercise appellate and original jurisdiction as delegated by the supreme court. This court does not sit, has no assigned judges, and has heard no appeals. It is currently unfunded.

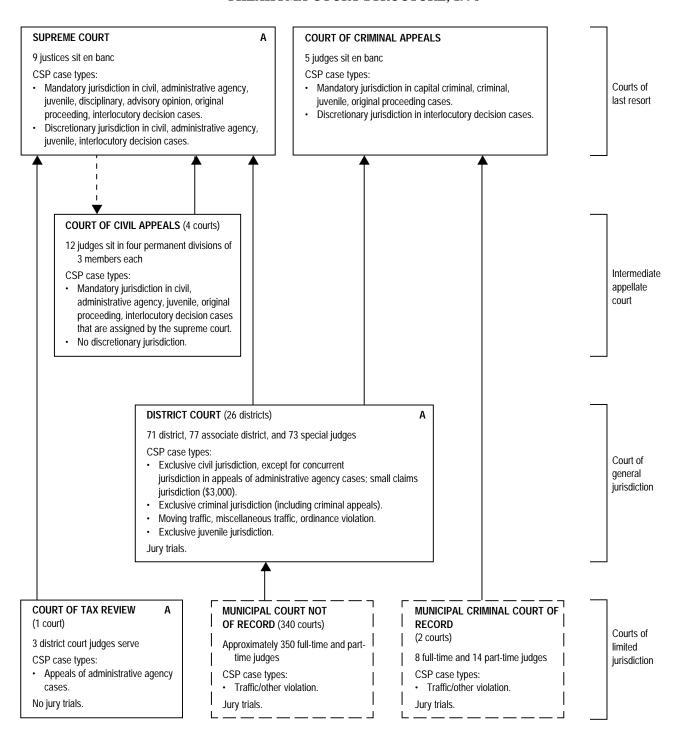
^{**} County Courts were abolished January 1, 1995, with the workload and positions absorbed into the District Court structure.

^{***} Number of authorized judges drops to 43 effective 1/1/99, and must be reduced to 42 by the year 2001.

OHIO COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



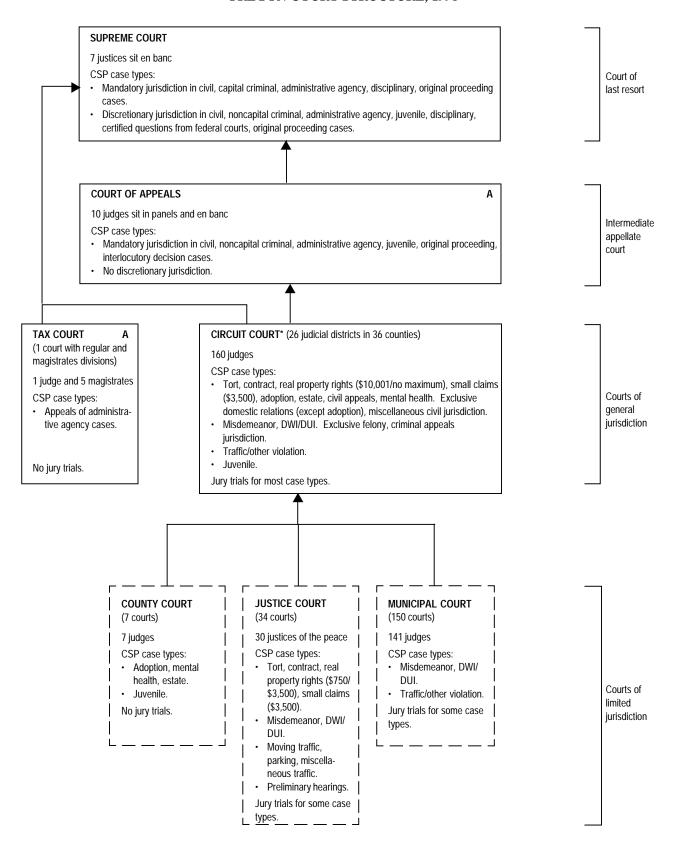
OKLAHOMA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



Note: Oklahoma has a workers' compensation court, which hears complaints that are handled exclusively by administrative agencies in other

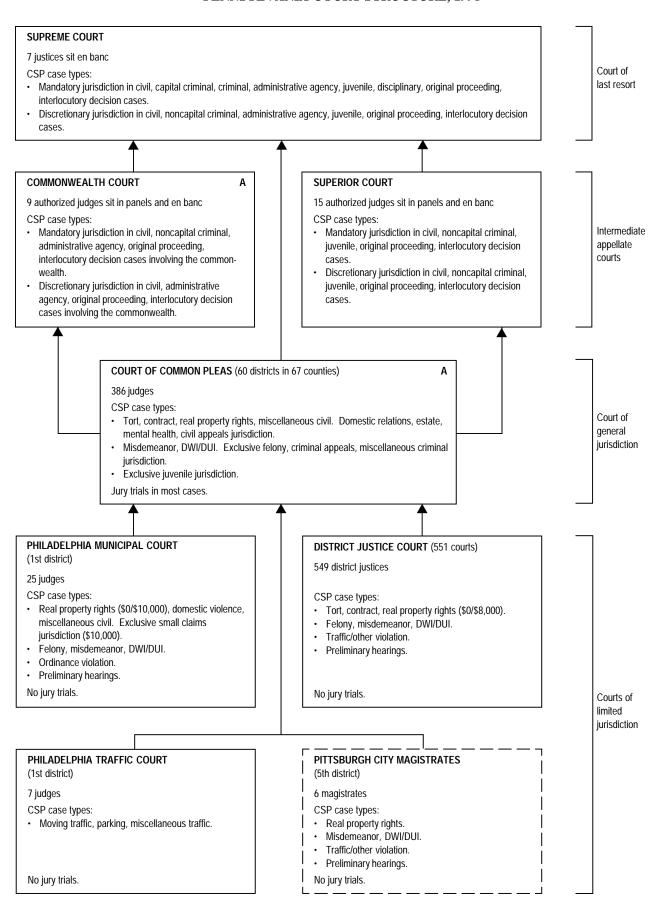
Indicates assignment of cases.

OREGON COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



^{*} Effective January 15, 1998, all District Courts were eliminated and District judges became Circuit judges.

PENNSYLVANIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



PUERTO RICO COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

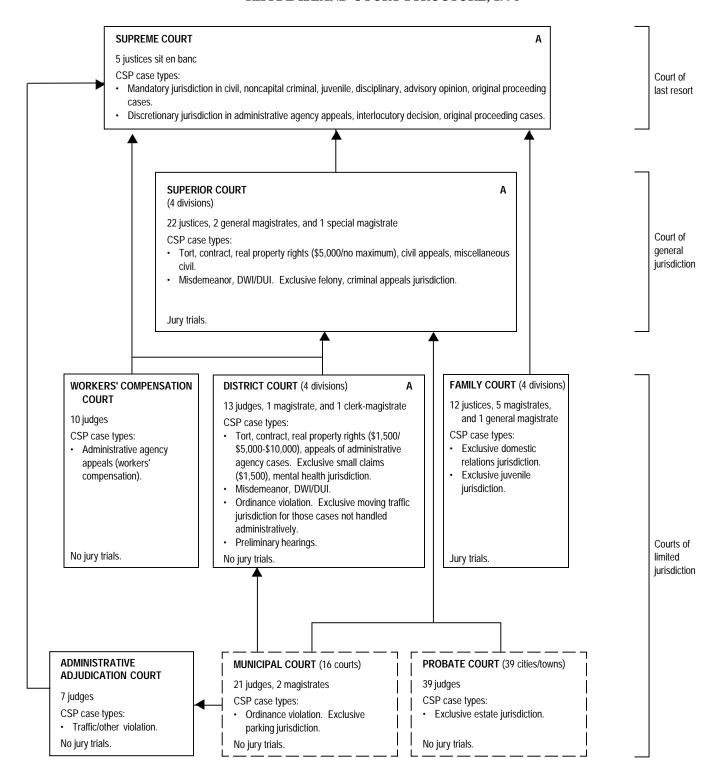
SUPREME COURT 7 justices sit en banc CSP case types: Court of Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, juvenile, administrative agency, disciplinary, last resort original proceeding cases. Review of the rulings by the Registrar of property. Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, certified questions from federal courts, advisory opinion, interlocutory decision cases. **CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS*** 33 judges sit in 3-judge panels Intermediate CSP case types: appellate Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, and juvenile cases. court Discretionary jurisdiction in original proceeding, advisory opinion, and interlocutory decision cases. COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE** 315 judges SUPERIOR DIVISION*** A DISTRICT SUBSECTION*** MUNICIPAL DIVISION 168 judges 42 judges 105 judges CSP case types: CSP case types: CSP case types: Tort, contract, real Tort, contract, real property · Tort, contract, real property rights (\$0/no rights (\$3,001/\$50,000), property rights (\$0/ maximum), domestic domestic relations cases, \$3,000), mental health, relations, estate, administrative agency domestic violence, administrative agency appeals, miscellaneous miscellaneous civil. Court of appeals, miscellaneous civil. · Misdemeanor. general civil. Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI. · Ordinance violation, iurisdiction Exclusive felony · Traffic/other violation. miscellaneous traffic. jurisdiction. · Preliminary hearings. Juvenile jurisdiction. Jury trials in criminal cases. No jury trials. No jury trials.

^{*}Created July 28, 1994; operational January 1, 1995.

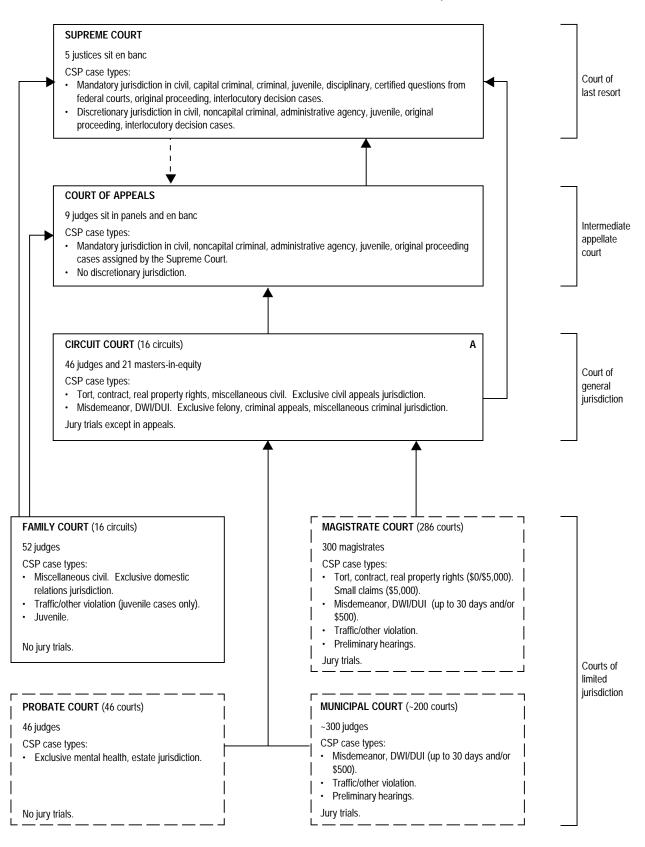
^{**}Created in 1994; operational in 1995.

^{***}The Judicial Reform Act of 1994 establishes the eventual abolition of the District Subsection. The Superior Division has concurrent jurisdiction with the District Subsection during the process of its abolition.

RHODE ISLAND COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



SOUTH CAROLINA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



 [–] Indicates assignment of cases.

SOUTH DAKOTA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

SUPREME COURT

5 justices sit en banc

CSP case types:

- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in advisory opinions for the state executive, interlocutory decision, original proceeding cases.

Court of last resort

CIRCUIT COURT (8 circuits)

Α

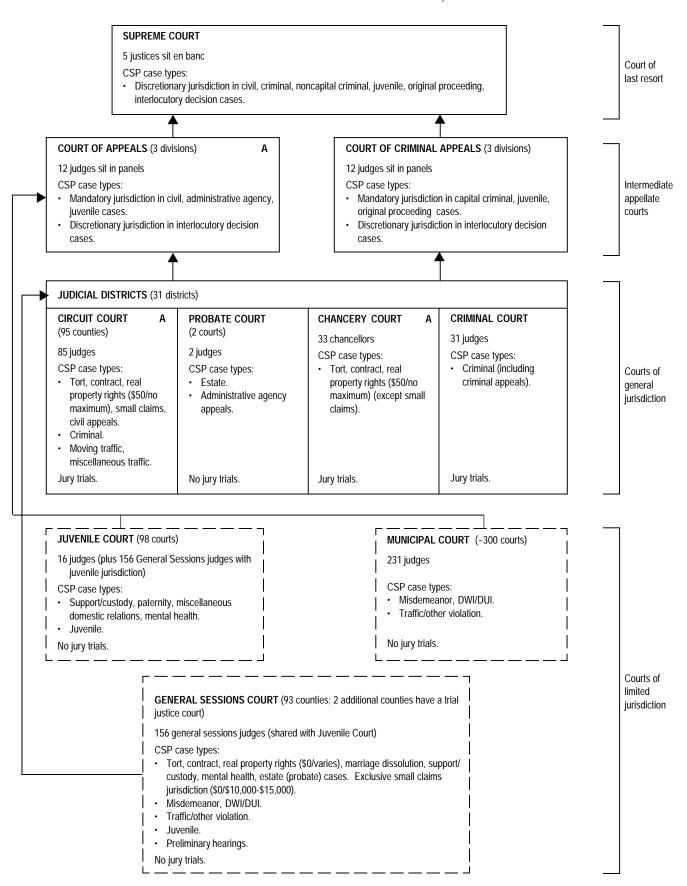
37 judges, 8 full-time and 7 part-time magistrate judges, 2 part-time lay magistrates, 92 full-time clerk/deputy clerk magistrates, and 58 part-time clerk/deputy clerk magistrates CSP case types:

- Exclusive civil jurisdiction (including civil appeals). Small claims jurisdiction (\$4,000).
- Exclusive criminal jurisdiction (including criminal appeals).
- Exclusive traffic/other violation jurisdiction (except for uncontested parking, which is handled administratively).
- · Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.
- · Preliminary hearings.

Jury trials except in small claims.

Court of general jurisdiction

TENNESSEE COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

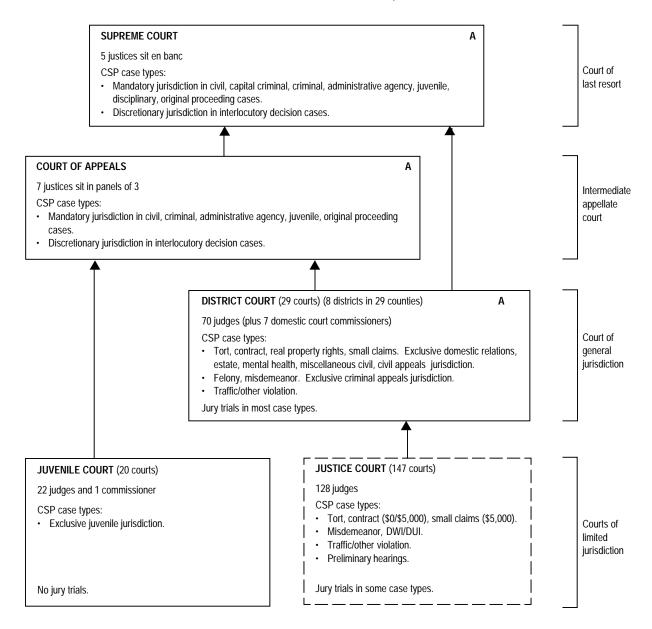


TEXAS COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

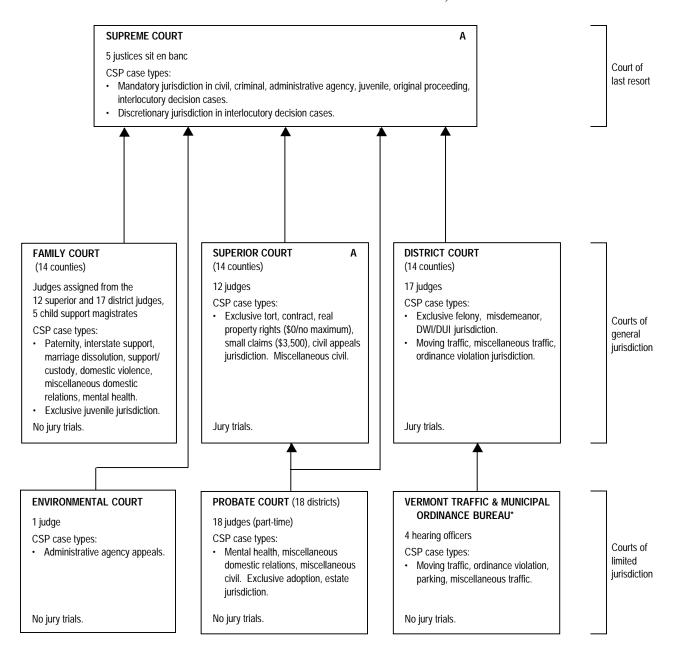
SUPREME COURT **COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS** 9 justices sit en banc 9 justices sit en banc CSP case types: CSP case types: Courts of last resort · Mandatory jurisdiction in civil cases. Mandatory jurisdiction in capital criminal, criminal, · Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, administrative original proceeding cases. Discretionary jurisdiction in noncapital criminal, agency, juvenile, certified questions from federal original proceeding cases and certified questions courts, original proceeding cases. from federal court. **COURTS OF APPEALS (14 courts)** 80 judges sit in panels Intermediate CSP case types: appellate Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original court proceeding, interlocutory decision cases. No discretionary jurisdiction. DISTRICT COURTS (396 courts) 396 judges **DISTRICT COURT (386 courts)** Α CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT (10 courts) 386 judges 10 judges CSP case types: Court of CSP case types: · Tort, contract, real property rights (\$200/no general maximum), domestic relations, estate, · Felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, miscellajurisdiction miscellaneous civil. Exclusive administrative neous criminal cases. agency appeals jurisdiction. Felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, miscellaneous criminal. Juvenile. Jury trials. Jury trials. COUNTY-LEVEL COURTS (451 courts) 451 judges CONSTITUTIONAL COUNTY COURT PROBATE COURT **COUNTY COURT AT LAW (181 courts)** (254 courts) (16 courts) 181 judges 254 judges 16 judges CSP case types: CSP case types: CSP case types: · Tort, contract, real property rights (\$200/ · Tort, contract, real property rights (\$200/ · Estate. varies), estate, mental health, civil trial \$5,000), domestic relations, estate, mental · Mental health. court appeals, miscellaneous civil. health, civil trial court appeals, miscella-Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, criminal appeals. neous civil. Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic. Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, criminal appeals. Juvenile. · Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic. Courts of · Juvenile. limited Jury trials. Jury trials. Jury trials. jurisdiction MUNICIPAL COURT* (850 courts) JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT* (843 courts) 1,122 judges 842 judges CSP case types: CSP case types: · Misdemeanor. · Tort, contract, real property rights (\$0/\$5,000), small claims (\$5,000), mental health. Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic. Exclusive ordinance violation jurisdiction. Misdemeanor. Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic. Preliminary hearings. Preliminary hearings. Jury trials. Jury trials.

^{*} Some municipal and justice of the peace courts may appeal to the district court.

UTAH COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



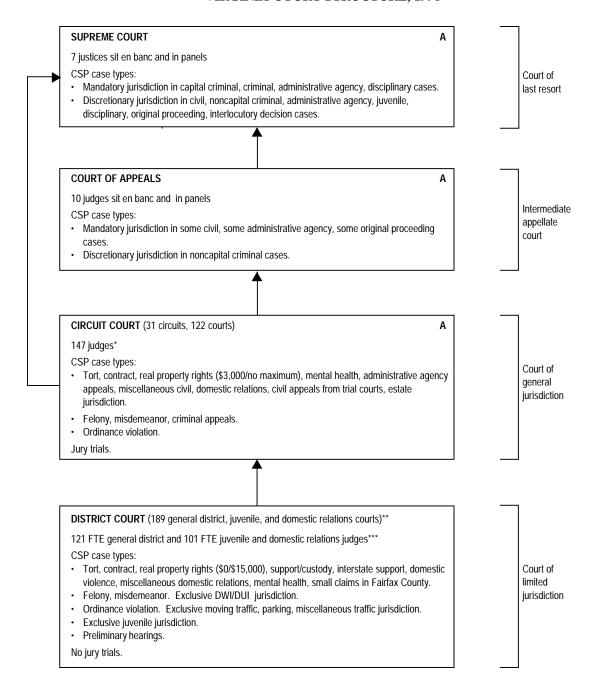
VERMONT COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



Note: An additional 28 assistant judges participate in findings of fact in Superior and Family Court cases. Some assistant judges, after special training, may hear small claims cases and traffic complaints, conduct criminal arraignments, and decide child support, parentage, and uncontested divorce proceedings. These assistant judges (who need not be attorneys) are elected to four-year terms by voters in Vermont's 14 counties.

^{*} Renamed VERMONT JUDICIAL BUREAU as of 7/1/98.

VIRGINIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

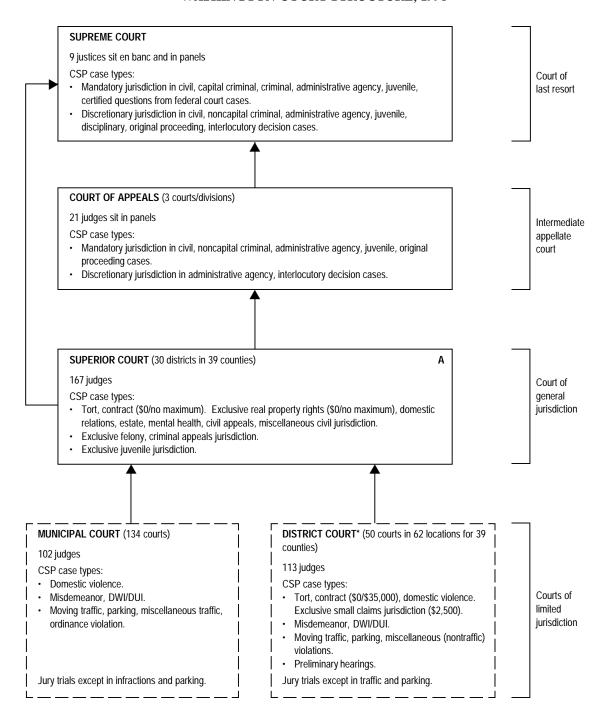


^{*} Increases to 148 effective July 1, 1999.

^{**} The district court is referred to as the juvenile and domestic relations court when hearing juvenile and domestic relations cases and as the general district court for the balance of the cases.

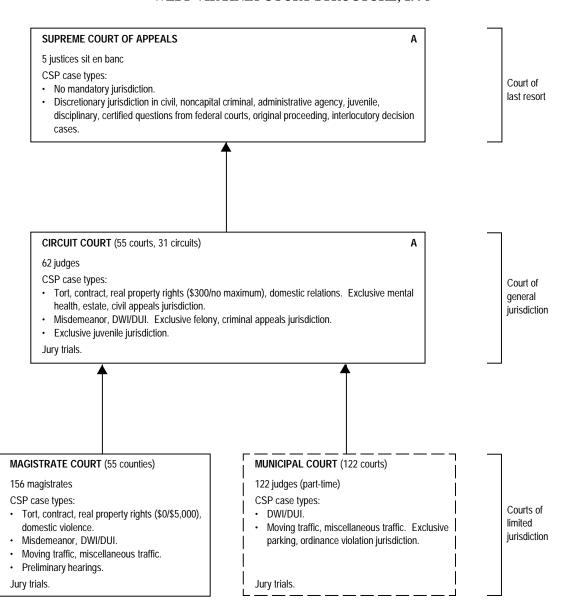
^{***} Increases to 122 general district and 107 juvenile and domestic relations judges effective July 1, 1999.

WASHINGTON COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



^{*} District court provides services to municipalities that do not have a municipal court.

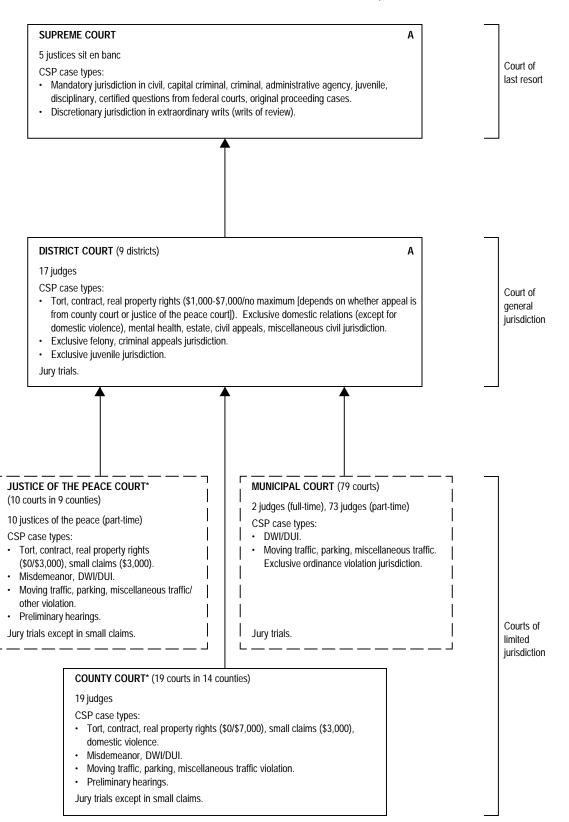
WEST VIRGINIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



WISCONSIN COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

SUPREME COURT 7 justices sit en banc Court of CSP case types: last resort · No mandatory jurisdiction. · Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, disciplinary, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding, juvenile cases. **COURT OF APPEALS** (4 districts) Intermediate 16 judges (two 4-judge districts, one 3-judge district, one 5-judge district) appellate CSP case types: court Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile cases. · Discretionary jurisdiction in interlocutory decision cases. **CIRCUIT COURT (69 circuits)** Α 234 judges CSP case types: • Exclusive civil jurisdiction (including civil appeals). Small claims jurisdiction (\$5,000). Court of · DWI/DUI. Exclusive felony, misdemeanor jurisdiction. general · Contested moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic. Ordinance violations if no municipal jurisdiction court. · Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction. Jury trials in most cases. **MUNICIPAL COURT (215 courts)** 217 judges Court of CSP case types: limited · DWI/DUI (first offense). jurisdiction · Traffic/other violation. No jury trials.

WYOMING COURT STRUCTURE, 1998



^{*} Effective 1/1/99, two of the Justice of the Peace Courts will become County Courts.