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

COURT OF LAST RESORT
Number of justices
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction.
• Discretionary jurisdiction

INTERMEDIATE APPELLATE COURT
(number of courts)
Number of judges
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction.
• Discretionary jurisdiction.

COURT OF GENERAL JURISDICTION
(number of courts)
Number of judges
CSP case types:
• Civil.
• Criminal.
• Traffic/other violation.
• Juvenile.
Jury trial/no jury trial.

COURT OF LIMITED JURISDICTION
(number of courts)
Number of judges
CSP case types:
• Civil.
• Criminal.
• Traffic/other violation.
• Juvenile.
Jury trial/no jury trial.
SUPREME COURT
5 justices sit en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in criminal, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decisions, certified questions from federal courts.

COURT OF APPEALS
3 judges sit en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in criminal, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in criminal, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

SUPERIOR COURT (15 courts in 4 districts)
32 judges, 8 masters
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, exclusive domestic relations (except domestic violence).
  Exclusive real property rights, estate, mental health, administrative agency, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil jurisdiction.
• Exclusive felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.
• Juvenile.
  Jury trials in most cases.

DISTRICT COURT (59 locations in 4 districts)
17 judges, 67 magistrates
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract (50/50,000), domestic violence, small claims jurisdiction ($7,500).
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI jurisdiction.
• Exclusive traffic/other violation jurisdiction, except for uncontested parking violations (which are handled administratively).
• Emergency juvenile.
• Preliminary hearings.
  Jury trials in most cases.
ARIZONA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

SUPREME COURT
5 justices sit en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, disciplinary, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases, tax appeals.

COURT OF APPEALS (2 divisions)
22 judges sit in panels
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in administrative agency cases.

SUPERIOR COURT (15 counties)
134 full-time and 2 part-time judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($5,000/no maximum), domestic relations, exclusive estate, mental health, appeals, miscellaneous civil jurisdiction.
• Misdemeanor, miscellaneous criminal. Exclusive felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.
• Juvenile.
Jury trials.

TAX COURT
Superior court judge serves
CSP case types:
• Administrative agency appeals.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT (83 precincts)
84 full-time and 51 part-time judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$5,000), domestic violence. Exclusive small claims jurisdiction ($2,500).
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, miscellaneous criminal jurisdiction.
• Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic.
• Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials except in small claims.

MUNICIPAL COURT (84 cities/towns)
84 full-time and 60 part-time judges
CSP case types:
• Domestic violence.
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic. Exclusive ordinance violation jurisdiction.
Jury trials.
ARKANSAS COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

**SUPREME COURT**
7 justices sit en banc (1 chief justice, 6 associate justices)
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, administrative agency, lawyer disciplinary, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency cases.

**COURT OF APPEALS A**
12 judges* sit in panels and en banc (1 chief judge, 11 judges)
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, interlocutory decision cases.
• No discretionary jurisdiction.

**CIRCUIT COURT (25 circuits)**
30 judges** (plus 43 judges shared with Chancery Court)
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($100/no maximum), miscellaneous civil. Exclusive civil appeals jurisdiction.
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, miscellaneous criminal. Exclusive felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.
Jury trials.

**CHANCERY AND PROBATE COURT (25 circuits)**
33 judges**
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights. Exclusive domestic relations, estate, mental health jurisdiction.
• Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.
No jury trials.

**MUNICIPAL COURT (126 courts)**
110 judges
CSP case types:
• Contract, real property rights ($0/$5,000), small claims jurisdiction ($5,000).
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Traffic/other violation.
• Preliminary hearings.
No jury trials.

**POLICE COURT (4 courts)**
4 judges
CSP case types:
• Contract, real property rights ($0/$300).
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Traffic/other violation.
No jury trials.

**COURT OF COMMON PLEAS (4 courts)**
4 judges
CSP case types:
• Contract ($500/$1,000).
Jury trials.

**COUNTY COURT (75 courts)**
75 judges
CSP case types:
• Real property rights, miscellaneous civil.
No jury trials.

**CITY COURT (110 courts)**
81 judges
CSP case types:
• Contract, real property rights ($0/$300).
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Traffic/other violation.
• Preliminary hearings.
No jury trials.

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE**
55 justices of the peace
CSP case types:
• Small claims ($300).
• Misdemeanor.
No jury trials.

* 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

SUPREME COURT
7 justices sit en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in capital criminal, disciplinary cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

COURTS OF APPEAL (6 courts/districts)
93 justices sit in panels
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in administrative agency, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

SUPERIOR COURT (58 counties)
807 judges, 205 commissioners and referees
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($25,000/no maximum), miscellaneous civil. Exclusive domestic relations, estate, mental health, civil appeals jurisdiction.
• Felony, DWI/DUI. Exclusive criminal appeals jurisdiction.
• Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.
  Jury trials except in appeals, domestic relations, and juvenile cases.

MUNICIPAL COURT (109 courts)
673 judges, 183 commissioners and referees
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$25,000), small claims ($5,000), miscellaneous civil.
• Felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Traffic/other violation.
• Preliminary hearings.
  Jury trials except in small claims, illegal parking, and infraction cases.

Note: 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

SUPREME COURT

- 7 justices sit en banc
- CSP case types:
  - Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, advisory opinion, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
  - Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, advisory opinion, original proceeding cases.

COURT OF APPEALS

- 16 judges sit in panels
- CSP case types:
  - Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile cases.
  - No discretionary jurisdiction.

DISTRICT COURT (22 districts)

- 115 judges, 32 magistrates
- CSP case types:
  - Tort, contract, real property rights, estate, civil appeals, mental health, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive domestic relations jurisdiction.
  - Felony, criminal appeals, miscellaneous criminal.
  - Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction except in Denver.
- Jury trials except in appeals.

DENVER PROBATE COURT

- District court judges and magistrates serve
- CSP case types:
  - Exclusive estate, mental health jurisdiction in Denver.
- Jury trials.

DENVER JUVENILE COURT

- District court judges and magistrates serve
- CSP case types:
  - Exclusive adoption, support/custody jurisdiction in Denver.
  - Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction in Denver.
- Jury trials.

WATER COURT (7 districts)

- 7 water referees (part-time)
- District judges can also serve
- CSP case types:
  - Real property rights.
- Jury trials.

COUNTY COURT (63 counties)

- 114 judges (47 full-time, 67 part-time)
- CSP case types:
  - Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$10,000). Exclusive small claims jurisdiction ($5,000).
  - Felony, criminal appeals. Exclusive misdemeanor, DWI/DUI jurisdiction.
  - Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic.
  - Preliminary hearings.
- Jury trials except in small claims and appeals.

MUNICIPAL COURT (206 courts)

- ~250 judges
- CSP case types:
  - Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic.
  - Exclusive ordinance violation jurisdiction.
- No jury trials.

MUNICIPAL COURT of record

Court of record

Courts of general jurisdiction

Court of last resort

Intermediate appellate court

Courts of limited jurisdiction

Municipal Court of record
CONNECTICUT COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

SUPREME COURT
7 justices sit in panels of 5 (membership rotates daily); upon order of chief justice, 6 or 7 may sit on panel
CSP case types:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, judge disciplinary cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency cases.

APPELLATE COURT
9 judges sit in panels of 3 (membership rotates daily, may sit en banc)
CSP case types:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency (workers' compensation), juvenile, lawyer disciplinary, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in administrative agency (zoning only) cases.

SUPERIOR COURT (12 districts and 22 geographical areas for civil/criminal matters, 13 districts for juvenile matters, and 7 housing session locations)
167 judges
CSP case types:
- Support/custody, paternity, miscellaneous domestic relations, mental health, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive tort, contract, real property rights, small claims ($2,500), marriage dissolution, domestic violence, administrative agency appeals (except workers' compensation).
- Exclusive criminal jurisdiction.
- Exclusive traffic/other violation jurisdiction, except for uncontested parking (which is handled administratively).
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

Jury trials in most cases.

PROBATE COURT (133 courts)
133 judges
CSP case types:
- Support/custody, paternity, miscellaneous domestic relations, mental health, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive adoption, estate jurisdiction.

No jury trials.
DELAWARE COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

SUPREME COURT
5 justices sit in panels and en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, disciplinary, advisory opinions for the executive and legislature, original proceeding cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, certified questions from federal courts, interlocutory decision cases.

COURT OF CHANCERY (3 counties)
1 chancellor and 4 vice-chancellors
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights, mental health. Exclusive estate jurisdiction.
No jury trials.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS*
(3 counties)
7 judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$50,000), miscellaneous civil, civil appeals.
• Felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, criminal appeals, miscellaneous criminal.
• Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials in some cases. (No jury trials in New Castle.)

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT*
(19 courts)
56 justices of the peace and 1 chief magistrate
CSP case types:
• Real property rights ($0/$15,000), small claims ($15,000).
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic.
Jury trials in some cases.

SUPERIOR COURT (3 counties)
17 judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights, mental health, miscellaneous civil, civil appeals.
• Felony, misdemeanor, criminal appeals, miscellaneous criminal.
Jury trials except in appeals.

FAMILY COURT (3 counties)
13 judges
CSP case types:
• Exclusive domestic relations jurisdiction.
• Misdemeanor.
• Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic (juvenile).
• Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.
No jury trials.

ALDERMAN’S COURT (8 courts)
8 aldermen
CSP case types:
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Traffic/other violation.
No jury trials.

MUNICIPAL COURT OF WILMINGTON*
(1 city)
3 judges (2 full-time, 1 part-time)
CSP case types:
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Traffic/other violation.
• Preliminary hearings.
No jury trials.

* 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
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.

SUPERIOR COURT
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.
FLORIDA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

SUPREME COURT

7 justices sit en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, advisory opinion cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, advisory opinion, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

DISTRICT COURTS OF APPEAL (5 courts)

61 judges sit in 3-judge panels
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

CIRCUIT COURT (20 circuits)

468 judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($15,001/no maximum), miscellaneous civil. Exclusive domestic relations, mental health, estate, civil appeals jurisdiction.
• Exclusive felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.
• Juvenile.
• Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials except in appeals.

COUNTY COURT (67 counties)

263 judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($5,001/$15,000), miscellaneous civil. Exclusive small claims jurisdiction ($5,000).
• Exclusive misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, miscellaneous criminal jurisdiction.
• Exclusive traffic/other violation jurisdiction, except parking (which is handled administratively).
• Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials except in miscellaneous traffic.
SUPREME COURT
5 justices sit 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.

INTERMEDIATE COURT OF APPEALS
4 judges sit en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, 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.
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights, miscellaneous civil ($10,000/no maximum) [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:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0-$20,000) [concurrent from $10,000-$20,000 (civil nonjury)], miscellaneous civil. Exclusive small claims jurisdiction ($2,500).
• 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.
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 civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

DISTRICT COURT (7 districts)
37 district judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/no maximum), domestic relations, estate, mental health, miscellaneous civil.
• Exclusive felony and criminal appeals jurisdiction. Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Juvenile jurisdiction.
Jury trials.

MAGISTRATES DIVISION
81 full-time magistrate judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$10,000), small claims ($3,000), domestic relations, estate, mental health, miscellaneous civil.
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Exclusive traffic/other violation jurisdiction.
• Juvenile jurisdiction.
• Preliminary hearings.

Note: The Magistrates Division of the District Court functions as a limited jurisdiction court.
SUPREME COURT
7 justices sit en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

APPELLATE COURT (5 districts)
42 authorized judges plus 10 supplemental judges
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, interlocutory decision cases.

CIRCUIT COURT (22 circuits)
497 authorized circuit, 318 associate judges, and 50 permissive associate judges
CSP case types:
• Exclusive civil jurisdiction (including administrative agency appeals), small claims jurisdiction ($2,500).
• Exclusive criminal jurisdiction.
• Exclusive traffic/other violation jurisdiction.
• Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.
• Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials permissible in most cases.
INDIANA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

SUPREME COURT
5 justices sit en banc
CSP case types:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, disciplinary, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding cases.

TAX COURT A
1 judge
CSP case types:
- Administrative agency appeals.

COURT OF APPEALS (5 courts) A
15 judges
CSP case types:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in interlocutory decision cases.

SUPERIOR COURT (177 divisions)* A
182 judges
CSP case types:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, small claims ($3,000), domestic relations, mental health, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil.
- Felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, criminal appeals.
- Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic.
- Juvenile.
- Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials except small claims.

PROBATE COURT (1 court) (St. Joseph)
1 judge
CSP case types:
- Adoption, estate, miscellaneous civil.
- Juvenile.

CIRCUIT COURT (98 divisions) A
96 judges
CSP case types:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, small claims ($3,000), domestic relations, mental health, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil.
- Felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, criminal appeals.
- Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic.
- Juvenile.
- Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials except small claims.

COUNTY COURT (13 courts)
13 judges
CSP case types:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($0 to $10,000), small claims ($3,000), domestic violence, mental health, miscellaneous civil.
- Felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.
- Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials except small claims.

CITY COURT (47 courts)
47 judges
CSP case types:
- Tort, contract ($0 to $500-$3,000) (most are $500 maximum), domestic violence.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.
- Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials.

TOWN COURT (25 courts)
25 judges
CSP case types:
- Domestic violence.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.
- Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials.

SMALL CLAIMS COURT OF MARION COUNTY (9 courts)
9 judges
CSP case types:
- Small claims ($6,000).
- Miscellaneous civil.
No jury trials.

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 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.

**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.

* Indicates assignment of cases.

Indicates assignment of cases.

* Includes 28 senior judges who work 1/4 time. (No more than 13 weeks/year)
KANSAS COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

SUPREME COURT
7 justices sit en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, disciplinary, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

COURT OF APPEALS
10 judges generally sit in panels
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, criminal interlocutory decision cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil interlocutory decision cases.

DISTRICT COURT (31 districts)
156 judges and 69 magistrates
CSP case types:
• Exclusive civil jurisdiction (including civil appeals). Small claims jurisdiction ($1,800).
• DW/DUI. Exclusive felony, misdemeanor, criminal appeals jurisdiction.
• Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic.
• Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.
• Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials except in small claims.

MUNICIPAL COURT (372 cities)
259 judges
CSP case types:
• Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic, DW/DUI. Exclusive ordinance violation, parking jurisdiction.
No jury trials.
KENTUCKY COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

SUPREME COURT
7 justices sit en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in capital and other criminal (death, life, 20 yr+ sentence), disciplinary, certified questions from federal 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.
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, original proceeding cases.
• 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. Exclusive marriage dissolution, support/custody, adoption, miscellaneous domestic relations, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil jurisdiction.
• Misdemeanor. Exclusive felony, criminal appeals 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).
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI jurisdiction.
• Exclusive traffic/other violation 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
8* justices sit en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, administrative agency, disciplinary cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, certified questions from federal courts, interlocutory decision cases.

COURTS OF APPEAL (5 courts)
54* judges sit in panels
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in original proceeding cases.

DISTRICT COURTS
222 judges, 11 commissioners

DISTRICT COURT (64 parishes)
204 judges, 11 commissioners
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights, adoption, mental health, marriage dissolution, support/custody, paternity. Exclusive estate, civil trial court appeals, miscellaneous civil jurisdiction.
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI. Exclusive felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.
• Traffic/other violation.
• Juvenile.
Jury trials in most cases.

JUVENILE COURT (4 courts)
14 judges
CSP case types:
• Interstate support, adoption, mental health.
• Juvenile.
No jury trials.

FAMILY COURT (1 in East Baton Rouge)
4 judges
CSP case types:
• Interstate support, adoption, mental health, marriage dissolution, support/custody, paternity, domestic violence.
• Juvenile.
No jury trials.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT
(~390 courts)
390 justices of the peace
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$2,000), small claims ($2,000).
• Traffic/other violation.
No jury trials.

MAYOR’S COURT
(~250 courts)
250 judges (mayors)
CSP case types:
• Traffic/other violation.
No jury trials.

CITY AND PARISH COURTS
(52 courts)
73 judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$15,000), New Orleans ($0/$20,000); small claims ($2,000), paternity, miscellaneous domestic relations, civil appeals of JOP decisions.
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Traffic/other violation.
• Juvenile (except for status petition).
• Preliminary hearings.
No jury trials.

* 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

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT SITTING AS LAW COURT
7 justices sit en banc
CSP case types:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, advisory opinion, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in criminal extradition, administrative agency, original proceeding cases.
- Sentence review panel: review of criminal sentences of one year or more.

SUPERIOR COURT (16 counties; 17 locations)
16 justices
CSP case types:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, marriage dissolution, support/custody, interstate support, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive paternity, civil appeals jurisdiction.
- Felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI. Exclusive criminal appeals, miscellaneous criminal, juvenile appeals jurisdiction.
Jury trials in some cases.

DISTRICT COURT (13 districts; 31 locations)
27 judges
CSP case types:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$30,000), domestic relations (except for adoption). Exclusive small claims ($4,500), mental health jurisdiction.
- Felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Moving traffic, ordinance violation. Exclusive parking, miscellaneous traffic jurisdiction.
- Original juvenile jurisdiction.
- Preliminary hearings.
No jury trials.

PROBATE COURT (16 courts)
16 part-time judges
CSP case types:
- Miscellaneous domestic relations. Exclusive adoption, estate jurisdiction.

ADMINISTRATIVE COURT (1 court)
2 judges
CSP case types:
- Appeals of administrative agency cases.
No jury trials.
COURT OF APPEALS
7 judges sit en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, interlocutory decision cases.

COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS
13 judges sit in panels and en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, interlocutory decision cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, original proceeding cases.

CIRCUIT COURT (8 circuits in 24 counties)
140 judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($2,500/no maximum), estate, miscellaneous civil. Domestic relations, mental health, civil appeals jurisdiction.
• Felony, misdemeanor, miscellaneous criminal. Exclusive criminal appeals jurisdiction.
• Juvenile except in Montgomery County. Jury trials in most cases.

DISTRICT COURT (12 districts in 24 counties)
101 judges (plus 1 chief judge with administrative duties)
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract ($2,500/$25,000), real property rights, miscellaneous civil. Domestic violence. Exclusive small claims jurisdiction ($2,500).
• Felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Exclusive moving traffic, ordinance violation, miscellaneous traffic jurisdiction.
• Juvenile in Montgomery County.
No jury trials.

ORPHAN’S COURT (22 counties)
66 judges
CSP case types:
• Estate, except where such cases are handled by circuit court in Montgomery and Harford counties.
No jury trials.

MARYLAND COURT STRUCTURE, 1998
**SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT**

- 7 justices sit on the court, and 5 justices sit en banc*
- CSP case types:
  - Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, judge disciplinary, advisory opinion, original proceeding cases.
  - Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, interlocutory decision cases.

**APPEALS COURT**

- 14 justices sit in panels of three
- CSP case types:
  - Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile cases.
  - Discretionary jurisdiction in interlocutory decision cases.

**SUPERIOR COURT** (14 divisions)

- 80 justices
- CSP case types:
  - Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/no maximum), civil appeals, miscellaneous civil.
  - Felony, miscellaneous criminal.
  - Jury trials.

**DISTRICT COURT** (69 divisions)

- 172 justices
- CSP case types:
  - Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/no maximum), small claims ($2,000), support/custody, paternity, domestic violence, mental health, civil trial court appeals, miscellaneous civil.
  - Felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, criminal appeals.
  - Traffic/other violation.
  - Juvenile.
  - Preliminary hearings.
  - Jury trials.

**BOSTON MUNICIPAL COURT** (Boston)

- 11 justices
- CSP case types:
  - Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/no maximum), small claims ($2,000), support/custody, domestic violence, mental health, civil trial court appeals, and miscellaneous civil.
  - Felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
  - Traffic/other violation.
  - Jury trials.

**HOUSING COURT** (5 divisions)

- 37 justices
- CSP case types:
  - Real property rights, small claims ($2,000).
  - Misdemeanor.
  - Ordinance violation.
  - Preliminary hearings.
  - Jury trials except in small claims.

**LAND COURT** (1 statewide court)

- 4 justices
- CSP case types:
  - Real property rights.
  - No jury trials.

**PROBATE & FAMILY COURT** (14 divisions)

- 49 justices
- CSP case types:
  - Support/custody, paternity, domestic violence, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive marriage dissolution, adoption, estate jurisdiction.
  - No jury trials.

*The justices also sit individually in the “single justice” side of the court, on a rotating basis.
SUPREME COURT
7 justices sit en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in judge disciplinary cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, lawyer disciplinary, advisory opinion, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

COURT OF APPEALS
28 judges sit in panels
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

COURT OF CLAIMS A
This is a function of the 30th Circuit Court.
CSP case types:
• Administrative agency appeals involving claims against the state.
No jury trials.

CIRCUIT COURT* (57 circuits)**
210 judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($10,000/no maximum), paternity, administrative agency appeals, miscellaneous civil.
Exclusive marriage dissolution, support/custody, civil trial court appeals jurisdiction.
• Felony, DWI/DUI, miscellaneous criminal, criminal appeals jurisdiction.
Jury trials.

DISTRICT COURT (101 districts)
259 judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$10,000), small claims ($1,750).
• Felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic, ordinance violation.
• Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials in most cases.

PROBATE COURT (78 courts)
107 judges
CSP case types:
• Paternity, domestic violence, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive adoption, miscellaneous domestic relations, mental health, estate.
• Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic.
• Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.
• Preliminary hearings (juvenile).
Some jury trials.

MUNICIPAL COURT (5 courts)
6 judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$1,500), small claims ($1,750).
• Felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic, ordinance violation.
• Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials in most cases.

* 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

SUPREME COURT
7 justices sit en banc
CSP case types:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in criminal, administrative agency, disciplinary, certified questions from federal court cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding cases.

COURT OF APPEALS
16 judges sit en banc and in panels
CSP case types:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, criminal, juvenile, original proceeding cases.

DISTRICT COURT (10 districts)
254 judges
CSP case types:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, domestic relations, small claims (conciliation division: $0/$7,500), mental health, estate, miscellaneous civil.
- Criminal.
- Traffic/other violation.
- Juvenile.
Jury trials except in small claims.

Court of last resort
Intermediate appellate court
Court of general jurisdiction
SUPREME COURT
9 justices sit in panels of 3 and en banc
CSP case types:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in certified questions from federal court cases.

COURT OF APPEALS (5 districts)
10 judges sit in panels and en banc
CSP case types:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases assigned by the Supreme Court.
- No discretionary jurisdiction.

CIRCUIT COURT (22 districts)
49 judges
CSP case types:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($200/no maximum), paternity, civil appeals.
- Felony, misdemeanor, appeals, miscellaneous criminal.

Jury trials.

CHANCERY COURT (20 districts)
45 chancellors
CSP case types:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, marriage dissolution, support/custody, paternity, estate, mental health, civil appeals.
- Hears juvenile if no county court.
- Appeals on record.

Jury trials (limited).

COUNTY COURT (19 counties)
24 judges
CSP case types:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$50,000),** miscellaneous domestic relations, civil appeals.
- Misdemeanor.
- Juvenile.
- Preliminary hearings.

Jury trials (limited).

JUSTICE COURT (82 courts)
191 judges
CSP case types:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$2,500).
- Misdemeanor.
- Preliminary hearings.

Jury trials.

FAMILY COURT* (1 court)
1 judge
CSP case types:
- Adoption, paternity, miscellaneous domestic relations.
- Juvenile.

Jury trials of adults.

MUNICIPAL COURT (223 courts)
215 judges
CSP case types:
- Misdemeanor.
- Traffic/other violation.

Jury trials.

* The Family Court will be abolished July 1, 1999 and merge into County Court.
** Increases to $75,000 effective July 1998.

Indicates assignment of cases.
MISSOURI COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

SUPREME COURT
7 justices sit en banc
CSP case types:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, and original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, capital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding cases.

COURT OF APPEALS (3 districts)
32 judges sit in panels
CSP case types:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, capital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, and interlocutory decision cases.
- No discretionary jurisdiction.

CIRCUIT COURT (45 circuits)
135 circuit judges, 175 associate circuit judges, 15 family court commissioners, 1 family court referee, 1 family court hearing officer, 1 drug commissioner, 3 probate and 3 deputy probate commissioners
CSP case types:
- Exclusive civil jurisdiction (including civil appeals) ($0/no maximum; associate division: $0/$25,000). Small claims jurisdiction ($3,000).
- Exclusive criminal jurisdiction.
- Traffic/other violation jurisdiction.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.
- Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials in most cases.

MUNICIPAL COURT (413 courts)
331 municipal judges
CSP case types:
- Municipal traffic/ordinance violations.
- No jury trials.
MONTANA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

SUPREME COURT
7 justices sit en banc and in panels
CSP case types:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, juvenile, disciplinary cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in administrative agency, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding cases.

WATER COURT
(Court of Special Jurisdiction)
(4 divisions)
1 chief judge, 6 water judges, 6 water masters
CSP case types:
- Real property rights, limited to adjudication of existing water rights.
No jury trials.

DISTRIBUTION COURT (56 counties)
37 judges
CSP case types:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($50/no maximum).
- Exclusive domestic relations, mental health, estate, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil jurisdiction.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.
Jury trials.

WORKERS’ COMPENSATION COURT
1 judge
CSP case types:
- Limited to workers’ compensation disputes.
No jury trials.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT
(73 court locations)
73 justices of the peace, 41 of these also serve as city court judges
CSP case types:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$5,000), small claims ($3,000), domestic violence.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic.
- Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials except in small claims.

MUNICIPAL COURT (3 courts)
3 judges
CSP case types:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$5,000), small claims ($3,000), domestic violence.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic.
Jury trials.

CITY COURT (92 court locations)
36 judges plus 41 JOP who also serve as city court judges
CSP case types:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$5,000), small claims ($3,000), domestic violence.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic.
- Exclusive ordinance violation jurisdiction.
- Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials in some cases.

State Court Organization, 1998
NEBRASKA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

SUPREME COURT
7 justices sit in panels and en banc
CSP case types:
- Mandatory jurisdiction over civil, capital criminal, criminal, disciplinary, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction over civil, criminal, and all other matters.

COURT OF APPEALS*
6 judges sit in panels of 3
CSP case types:
- Mandatory jurisdiction over civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, original proceeding cases.
- No discretionary jurisdiction.

DISTRICT COURT (12 districts)
53 judges
CSP case types:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil. Exculsive domestic relations (except adoption), mental health jurisdiction.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI. Exclusive felony, criminal appeals, miscellaneous criminal jurisdiction.
Jury trials except in appeals.

COUNTY COURT (93 courts in 12 districts)
59 judges
CSP case types:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$15,000), small claims ($2,100). Exclusive adoption, estate jurisdiction.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violation.
- Juvenile.
- Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials except in juvenile and small claims.

SEPARATE JUVENILE COURT
(3 counties)
8 judges
CSP case types:
- Juvenile.
No jury trials.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT (1 court)
7 judges
CSP case types:
- Limited to workers' compensation disputes.
No jury trials.

* The Nebraska Court of Appeals was established September 6, 1991.
NEVADA 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, interlocutory decision cases.
• No discretionary jurisdiction.

DISTRICT COURT (9 districts)
48 judges *
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($7,500/no maximum). Exclusive domestic relations, mental health, estate, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil jurisdiction.
• Felony, misdemeanor,* DWI/DUI. Exclusive criminal appeals, miscellaneous criminal jurisdiction.
• Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.
Jury trials in most cases.

JUSTICE COURT (56 towns)
67 justices of the peace ** (of these, 11 also serve as Municipal Court Judges)
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$7,500), small claims ($3,500).
• Misdemeanor,*** DWI/DUI.
• Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic.
• Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials except in small claims and parking cases.

MUNICIPAL COURT (18 incorporated cities/towns)
18 judges (also served by 11 of the justices of the peace)
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$2,500).
• Misdemeanor,***
• Exclusive ordinance violation jurisdiction.
No jury trials.

* 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

SUPREME COURT
1 chief justice, 4 justices sit en banc
CSP case types:
• No mandatory jurisdiction except for capital murder where death penalty is imposed.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, advisory opinions for the state executive and legislature, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

SUPERIOR COURT (10 counties; 11 courts)
1 chief justice, 27 authorized justices; 11 full-time marital masters
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($1,500/no maximum), miscellaneous civil, domestic violence. Exclusive marriage dissolution, paternity, support/custody jurisdiction.
• Exclusive felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.
Jury trials.

PROBATE COURT (10 counties)*
10 judges (4 full-time, 6 part-time)
CSP case types:
• Miscellaneous domestic relations, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive adoption, mental health, estate jurisdiction.
No jury trials.

DISTRICT COURT (37 courts)*
14 authorized full-time judges (includes 1 administrative judge who also sits on the bench), 64 part-time judges, and 12 additional part-time judgeships currently being filled by per diem judges pursuant to scheduling requirements.
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$25,000), small claims ($5,000), domestic violence.
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Traffic/other violation.
• Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.
• Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials in three courts in two counties.

MUNICIPAL COURT (1 municipality)**
2 part-time justices
CSP case types:
• Real property rights ($0/$2,500), small claims ($5,000), miscellaneous civil.
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Traffic/other violation.
• Preliminary hearings.
No jury trials.

* 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

SUPREME COURT
7 justices sit en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, original proceeding cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency appeals, juvenile, disciplinary, certified questions from federal courts, interlocutory decision cases.

APPELLATE DIVISION OF SUPERIOR COURT
32 judges sit in 8 panels (parts)
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, juvenile, administrative agency cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in interlocutory decision cases.

SUPERIOR COURT: CIVIL, FAMILY, GENERAL EQUITY, AND CRIMINAL DIVISIONS
(15 vicinages in 21 counties)
384 judges, 21 surrogates also serve as deputy superior court clerks
CSP case types:
• Exclusive civil jurisdiction ($0/no maximum; special civil part: $0/$10,000) (uncontested estate cases are handled by the surrogates). Small claims jurisdiction ($2,000).
• Felony. Exclusive criminal appeals, miscellaneous criminal jurisdiction.
• Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.
Jury trials in most cases.

MUNICIPAL COURT
(536 courts, of which 13 were multi-municipal)
390 judges, of which approximately 40 are full-time
CSP case types:
• Felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Exclusive traffic/other violation jurisdiction.
No jury trials.

TAX COURT**
12 judges
CSP case types:
• State/local tax matters.
No jury trials.

* 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

SUPREME COURT
5 justices sit in panels of 3
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, administrative agency, disciplinary, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, certified questions from federal court cases.

COURT OF APPEALS
10 judges sit in panels of 3
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in interlocutory decision cases.

DISTRICT COURT (13 districts)
72 judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights, estate. Exclusive domestic relations, mental health, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil jurisdiction.
• Misdemeanor. Exclusive felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.
• Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.
Jury trials.

MAGISTRATE COURT (32 counties)
59 judges *
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$5,000).
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic.
• Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials.

BERNALILLO COUNTY METROPOLITAN COURT
15 judges**
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$5,000).
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Traffic/other violation.
• Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials except in traffic.

MUNICIPAL COURT (83 courts)
85 judges
CSP case types:
• Domestic violence.
• DWI/DUI.
• Traffic/other violation.
No jury trials.

PROBATE COURT (33 counties)
33 judges
CSP case types:
• Estate. (Hears uncontested cases; contested cases go to District Court.)
No jury trials.

* Increases to 61 judges as of 7/1/99.
** Increases to 16 judges as of 7/1/99.
NEW YORK COURT STRUCTURE, 1998*

APPELLATE DIVISIONS OF SUPREME COURT
(4 courts/divisions)
56 justices sit in panels in four departments
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

APPELLATE TERMS OF SUPREME COURT
(3 terms/1st and 2nd departments)
15 justices sit in panels in three terms
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, juvenile, interlocutory decision cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in criminal, juvenile, interlocutory decision cases.

SUPREME COURT
(12 districts)
369 supreme court judges (plus 50 "acting" supreme court judges and 12 quasi-judicial staff)
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights, miscellaneous civil.  Exclusive marriage dissolution jurisdiction.
• Felony, DW/DUI, miscellaneous criminal.  Jury trials.

COUNTY COURT
(57 counties outside NYC)
127 county court judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$25,000), miscellaneous civil.  Trial court appeals jurisdiction.
• Felony, DW/DUI, miscellaneous criminal, criminal appeals.  Jury trials.

SURROGATES' COURT
(62 counties)
80 surrogates
CSP case types:
• Adoption, estate.  Jury trials in estate.

DISTRICT COURT
(Nassau and Suffolk counties)
50 judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$15,000), small claims ($3,000), administrative agency appeals.
• Felony, DW/DUI.  Jury trials except in traffic.

COURT OF CLAIMS
(1 court)
72 judges (of which 50 act as supreme court judges)
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights involving the state.  No jury trials.

FAMILY COURT
(62 counties—includes NYC Family Court)
124 judges (plus 81 quasi-judicial staff)
CSP case types:
• Domestic relations (except marriage dissolution), guardianship.  Exclusive domestic violence jurisdiction.
• Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.  No jury trials.

CIVIL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
(1 court)
120 judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$25,000), small claims ($3,000), miscellaneous civil, administrative agency appeals.  Jury trials.

CRIMINAL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
(1 court)
107 judges
CSP case types:
• Misdemeanor, DW/DUI.  Jury trials for highest level misdemeanor.

TOWN AND VILLAGE JUSTICE COURT
(1,487 courts)
2,300 justices
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$3,000), small claims ($3,000), Misdemeanor, DW/DUI, miscellaneous criminal.  Traffic/other violation.  Preliminary hearings.  Jury trials in most cases.

* 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

SUPREME COURT
- 7 justices sit en banc
- CSP case types:
  - Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, interlocutory decision cases.
  - Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, advisory opinions for the executive and legislature, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

COURT OF APPEALS
- 12 judges sit in panels
- CSP case types:
  - Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, original proceeding cases.
  - Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

SUPERIOR COURT
- 99 judges and 100 clerks with estate jurisdiction
- CSP case types:
  - Tort, contract, real property rights (over $10,000/no maximum), miscellaneous civil cases. Exclusive adoption, estate, administrative agency appeals jurisdiction.
  - Felony, misdemeanor, criminal appeals jurisdiction.
  - Jury trials.

DISTRICT COURT
- 204 judges and 696 magistrates, of which approximately 32 magistrates are part-time
- CSP case types:
  - Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$10,000). Exclusive small claims ($3,000), domestic relations (except adoption), mental health, miscellaneous civil jurisdiction.
  - Felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI jurisdiction.
  - Traffic/other violation jurisdiction.
  - Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.
  - Preliminary hearings.
  - Jury trials in civil cases only.
NORTH 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, 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 relations, appeals of administrative agency cases, mental health, miscellaneous civil jurisdiction.
• Exclusive felony, misdemeanor, miscellaneous criminal jurisdiction.
• Moving traffic, ordinance violation, parking, miscellaneous traffic.
• Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

MUNICIPAL COURT (80 municipalities)
79 judges
CSP case types:
• DWI/DUI.
• Moving traffic, ordinance violation, parking, miscellaneous traffic.

Jury trials in many cases.

* 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

SUPREME COURT
7 justices sit en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, original proceeding cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

COURTS OF APPEAL (12 courts)
66 judges sit in panels of 3 members each
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
• No discretionary jurisdiction.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS (88 courts)
372 judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($500/no maximum), appeals of administrative agency cases, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive domestic relations, mental health, estate jurisdiction.
• Felony, miscellaneous criminal.
• Traffic/other violation (juvenile cases only).
• Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.
Jury trials in most cases.

MUNICIPAL COURT (118 courts)
202 judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$10,000), small claims ($2,000), miscellaneous civil.
• Felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, criminal appeals.
• Traffic/other violation.
• Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials in most cases.

COUNTY COURT (47 courts)
55 judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$3,000), small claims ($2,000), miscellaneous civil.
• Felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, criminal appeals.
• Traffic/other violation, except for parking cases.
• Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials in most cases.

COURT OF CLAIMS (1 court)
Judges assigned by Supreme Court
CSP case types:
• Miscellaneous civil (actions against the state; victims of crime cases).
Jury trials.

MAYORS COURT (~428 courts)
~428 mayors
CSP case types:
• DWI/DUI.
• Traffic/other violation.
No jury trials.
Indicates assignment of cases.

Note: Oklahoma has a workers' compensation court, which hears complaints that are handled exclusively by administrative agencies in other states.
OREGON COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

SUPREME COURT
7 justices sit en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, administrative agency, disciplinary, original proceeding cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding cases.

COURT OF APPEALS
10 judges sit in panels and en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
• No discretionary jurisdiction.

COURT OF LAST RESORT
Intermediate appellate court

MUNICIPAL COURT
(150 courts)
141 judges
CSP case types:
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Traffic/other violation.
• Jury trials for some case types.

COUNTY COURT
(7 courts)
7 judges
CSP case types:
• Adoption, mental health, estate.
• Juvenile.
No jury trials.

JUSTICE COURT
(54 courts)
30 justices of the peace
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($750/$3,500), small claims ($3,500).
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic.
• Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials for some case types.

MUNICIPAL COURT
(150 courts)
141 judges
CSP case types:
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Traffic/other violation.
Jury trials for some case types.

TAX COURT
(1 court with regular and magistrates divisions)
1 judge and 5 magistrates
CSP case types:
• Appeals of administrative agency cases.

CIRCUIT COURT*
(26 judicial districts in 36 counties)
160 judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($10,001/no maximum), small claims ($3,500), adoption, estate, civil appeals, mental health. Exclusive domestic relations (except adoption), miscellaneous civil jurisdiction.
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI. Exclusive felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.
• Traffic/other violation.
• Juvenile.
Jury trials for most case types.

* Effective January 15, 1998, all District Courts were eliminated and District judges became Circuit judges.
PENNSYLVANIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

SUPREME COURT
7 justices sit en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

COMMONWEALTH COURT
9 authorized judges sit in panels and en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases involving the commonwealth.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, administrative agency, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases involving the commonwealth.

SUPERIOR COURT
15 authorized judges sit in panels and en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
(60 districts in 67 counties)
386 judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights, miscellaneous civil. Domestic relations, estate, mental health, civil appeals jurisdiction.
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI. Exclusive felony, criminal appeals, miscellaneous criminal jurisdiction.
• Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction. Jury trials in most cases.

PHILADELPHIA MUNICIPAL COURT
(1st district)
25 judges
CSP case types:
• Real property rights ($0/$10,000), domestic violence, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive small claims jurisdiction ($10,000).
• Felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Ordinance violation.
• Preliminary hearings.
No jury trials.

DISTRICT JUSTICE COURT
(551 courts)
549 district justices
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$8,000).
• Felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Traffic/other violation.
• Preliminary hearings.
No jury trials.

PHILADELPHIA TRAFFIC COURT
(1st district)
7 judges
CSP case types:
• Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic.
No jury trials.

PITTSBURGH CITY MAGISTRATES
(5th district)
6 magistrates
CSP case types:
• Real property rights.
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Traffic/other violation.
• Preliminary hearings.
No jury trials.

SUPREME COURT
7 justices sit en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

COMMONWEALTH COURT
9 authorized judges sit in panels and en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases involving the commonwealth.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, administrative agency, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases involving the commonwealth.

SUPERIOR COURT
15 authorized judges sit in panels and en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
(60 districts in 67 counties)
386 judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights, miscellaneous civil. Domestic relations, estate, mental health, civil appeals jurisdiction.
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI. Exclusive felony, criminal appeals, miscellaneous criminal jurisdiction.
• Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction. Jury trials in most cases.

PHILADELPHIA MUNICIPAL COURT
(1st district)
25 judges
CSP case types:
• Real property rights ($0/$10,000), domestic violence, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive small claims jurisdiction ($10,000).
• Felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Ordinance violation.
• Preliminary hearings.
No jury trials.

DISTRICT JUSTICE COURT
(551 courts)
549 district justices
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$8,000).
• Felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Traffic/other violation.
• Preliminary hearings.
No jury trials.

PHILADELPHIA TRAFFIC COURT
(1st district)
7 judges
CSP case types:
• Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic.
No jury trials.

PITTSBURGH CITY MAGISTRATES
(5th district)
6 magistrates
CSP case types:
• Real property rights.
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Traffic/other violation.
• Preliminary hearings.
No jury trials.
PUERTO RICO COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

SUPREME COURT
7 justices sit en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, juvenile, administrative agency, disciplinary, 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
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, and juvenile cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in original proceeding, advisory opinion, and interlocutory decision cases.

COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE**
315 judges

SUPERIOR DIVISION***
168 judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/no maximum), domestic relations, estate, administrative agency appeals, miscellaneous civil.
• Exclusive felony jurisdiction.
• Juvenile jurisdiction.
Jury trials in criminal cases.

DISTRICT SUBSECTION**
42 judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($3,001/$50,000), domestic relations cases, administrative agency appeals, miscellaneous civil.
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Traffic/other violation.
• Preliminary hearings.
No jury trials.

MUNICIPAL DIVISION
105 judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$3,000), mental health, domestic violence, miscellaneous civil.
• Misdemeanor.
• Ordinance violation, miscellaneous traffic.
No jury trials.

**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

SUPREME COURT
5 justices sit en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, juvenile, disciplinary, advisory opinion, original proceeding cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in administrative agency appeals, interlocutory decision, original proceeding cases.

SUPERIOR COURT
(4 divisions)
22 justices, 2 general magistrates, and 1 special magistrate
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($5,000/no maximum), civil appeals, miscellaneous civil.
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI. Exclusive felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.
Jury trials.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT
10 judges
CSP case types:
• Administrative agency appeals (workers' compensation).
No jury trials.

DISTRICT COURT (4 divisions)
13 judges, 1 magistrate, and 1 clerk-magistrate
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($1,500/$5,000-$10,000), appeals of administrative agency cases. Exclusive small claims ($1,500), mental health jurisdiction.
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Ordinance violation. Exclusive moving traffic jurisdiction for those cases not handled administratively.
• Preliminary hearings.
No jury trials.

FAMILY COURT (4 divisions)
12 justices, 5 magistrates, and 1 general magistrate
CSP case types:
• Exclusive domestic relations jurisdiction.
• Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.
Jury trials.

MUNICIPAL COURT (16 courts)
21 judges, 2 magistrates
CSP case types:
• Ordinance violation. Exclusive parking jurisdiction.
No jury trials.

PROBATE COURT (39 cities/towns)
39 judges
CSP case types:
• Exclusive estate jurisdiction.
No jury trials.

ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION COURT
7 judges
CSP case types:
• Traffic/other violation.
No jury trials.
SOUTH CAROLINA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

SUPREME COURT
5 justices sit en banc
CSP case types:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, juvenile, disciplinary, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

COURT OF APPEALS
9 judges sit in panels and en banc
CSP case types:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding cases assigned by the Supreme Court.
- No discretionary jurisdiction.

CIRCUIT COURT (16 circuits)
46 judges and 21 masters-in-equity
CSP case types:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive civil appeals jurisdiction.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI. Exclusive felony, criminal appeals, miscellaneous criminal jurisdiction.
- Jury trials except in appeals.

FAMILY COURT (16 circuits)
52 judges
CSP case types:
- Miscellaneous civil. Exclusive domestic relations jurisdiction.
- Traffic/other violation (juvenile cases only).
- Juvenile.
- No jury trials.

PROBATE COURT (46 courts)
46 judges
CSP case types:
- Exclusive mental health, estate jurisdiction.
- No jury trials.

MAGISTRATE COURT (286 courts)
300 magistrates
CSP case types:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$5,000).
- Small claims ($5,000).
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI (up to 30 days and/or $500).
- Traffic/other violation.
- Preliminary hearings.
- Jury trials.

MUNICIPAL COURT (~200 courts)
~300 judges
CSP case types:
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI (up to 30 days and/or $500).
- Traffic/other violation.
- Preliminary hearings.
- Jury trials.

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.

**CIRCUIT COURT (8 circuits)**
- 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.
TENNESSEE COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

SUPREME COURT
5 justices sit en banc
CSP case types:
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, criminal, noncapital criminal, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

COURT OF APPEALS (3 divisions)
12 judges sit in panels
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, administrative agency, juvenile cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in interlocutory decision cases.

JUDICIAL DISTRICTS (31 districts)

CIRCUIT COURT A
(95 counties)
85 judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($50/no maximum), small claims, civil appeals.
• Criminal.
• Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic.
Jury trials.

PROBATE COURT
(2 courts)
2 judges
CSP case types:
• Estate.
• Administrative agency appeals.
No jury trials.

CHANCERY COURT A
33 chancellors
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($50/no maximum) (except small claims).
Jury trials.

CRIMINAL COURT
31 judges
CSP case types:
• Criminal (including criminal appeals).
Jury trials.

GENERAL SESSIONS COURT (93 counties; 2 additional counties have a trial justice court)
156 general sessions judges (shared with Juvenile Court)
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/varies), marriage dissolution, support/custody, mental health, estate (probate) cases. Exclusive small claims jurisdiction ($0/$10,000-$15,000).
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Traffic/other violation.
• Juvenile.
• Preliminary hearings.
No jury trials.

MUNICIPAL COURT (~300 courts)
231 judges
CSP case types:
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Traffic/other violation.
No jury trials.
TEXAS COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

SUPREME COURT
9 justices sit en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, administrative agency, juvenile, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding cases.

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS
9 justices sit en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in capital criminal, criminal, original proceeding cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in noncapital criminal, original proceeding cases and certified questions from federal court.

COURTS OF APPEALS (14 courts)
80 judges sit in panels
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
• No discretionary jurisdiction.

DISTRICT COURTS (396 courts) 396 judges

DISTRICT COURT (386 courts) A
386 judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($200/no maximum), domestic relations, estate, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive administrative agency appeals jurisdiction.
• Felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, miscellaneous criminal.
• Juvenile.
Jury trials.

CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT
(10 courts)
10 judges
CSP case types:
• Felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, miscellaneous criminal cases.
Jury trials.

COUNTY-LEVEL COURTS (451 courts) 451 judges

CONSTITUTIONAL COUNTY COURT
(254 courts)
254 judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($200/$5,000), domestic relations, estate, mental health, civil trial court appeals, miscellaneous civil.
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, criminal appeals.
• Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic.
• Juvenile.
Jury trials.

PROBATE COURT
(16 courts)
16 judges
CSP case types:
• Estate.
• Mental health.
Jury trials.

COUNTY COURT AT LAW
(181 courts)
181 judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($200/ varies), estate, mental health, civil trial court appeals, miscellaneous civil.
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, criminal appeals.
• Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic.
• Juvenile.
Jury trials.

MUNICIPAL COURT* (850 courts)
1,122 judges
CSP case types:
• Misdemeanor.
• Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic. Exclusive ordinance violation jurisdiction.
• Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT* (843 courts)
842 judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$5,000), small claims ($5,000), mental health.
• Misdemeanor.
• Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic.
• Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials.

* Some municipal and justice of the peace courts may appeal to the district court.
UTAH 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 interlocutory decision cases.

COURT OF APPEALS
7 justices sit in panels of 3
CSP case types:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in interlocutory decision cases.

DISTRICT COURT (29 courts) (8 districts in 29 counties)
70 judges (plus 7 domestic court commissioners)
CSP case types:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, small claims. Exclusive domestic relations, estate, mental health, miscellaneous civil, civil appeals jurisdiction.
- Felony, misdemeanor. Exclusive criminal appeals jurisdiction.
- Traffic/others violation.
Jury trials in most case types.

JUSTICE COURT (147 courts)
128 judges
CSP case types:
- Tort, contract ($0/$5,000), small claims ($5,000).
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/others violation.
- Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials in some case types.

JUVENILE COURT (20 courts)
22 judges and 1 commissioner
CSP case types:
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.
No jury trials.
SUPREME COURT
5 justices sit en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in interlocutory decision cases.

FAMILY COURT
(14 counties)
Judges assigned from the
12 superior and 17 district judges, 5 child support magistrates
CSP case types:
• Paternity, interstate support, marriage dissolution, support/custody, domestic violence, miscellaneous domestic relations, mental health.
• Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.
No jury trials.

SUPERIOR COURT
(14 counties)
12 judges
CSP case types:
• Exclusive tort, contract, real property rights ($0/no maximum), small claims ($3,500), civil appeals jurisdiction. Miscellaneous civil.
Jury trials.

DISTRICT COURT
(14 counties)
17 judges
CSP case types:
• Exclusive felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI jurisdiction.
• Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic, ordinance violation jurisdiction.
Jury trials.

ENVIRONMENTAL COURT
1 judge
CSP case types:
• Administrative agency appeals.
No jury trials.

PROBATE COURT
(18 districts)
18 judges (part-time)
CSP case types:
• Mental health, miscellaneous domestic relations, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive adoption, estate jurisdiction.
No jury trials.

VERMONT TRAFFIC & MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE BUREAU*
4 hearing officers
CSP case types:
• Moving traffic, ordinance violation, parking, miscellaneous traffic.
No jury trials.

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

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.
VIRGINIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

SUPREME COURT
7 justices sit en banc and in panels
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in capital criminal, criminal, administrative agency, disciplinary cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

COURT OF APPEALS
10 judges sit en banc and in panels
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in some civil, some administrative agency, some original proceeding cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in noncapital criminal cases.

CIRCUIT COURT (31 circuits, 122 courts)
147 judges*
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($3,000/no maximum), mental health, administrative agency appeals, miscellaneous civil, domestic relations, civil appeals from trial courts, estate jurisdiction.
• Felony, misdemeanor, criminal appeals.
• Ordinance violation.
Jury trials.

DISTRICT COURT (189 general district, juvenile, and domestic relations courts)**
121 FTE general district and 101 FTE juvenile and domestic relations judges***
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$15,000), support/custody, interstate support, domestic violence, miscellaneous domestic relations, mental health, small claims in Fairfax County.
• Felony, misdemeanor. Exclusive DWI/DUI jurisdiction.
• Ordinance violation. Exclusive moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic jurisdiction.
• Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.
• Preliminary hearings.
No jury trials.

* 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

SUPREME COURT
9 justices sit en banc and in panels
CSP case types:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile,
certified questions from federal court cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile,
disciplinary, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

COURT OF APPEALS (3 courts/divisions)
21 judges sit in panels
CSP case types:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original
proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in administrative agency, interlocutory decision cases.

SUPERIOR COURT (30 districts in 39 counties)
167 judges
CSP case types:
- Tort, contract ($0/no maximum). Exclusive real property rights ($0/no maximum), domestic
relations, estate, mental health, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil jurisdiction.
- Exclusive felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.
- Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.

MUNICIPAL COURT (134 courts)
102 judges
CSP case types:
- Domestic violence.
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic, ordinance violation.

Jury trials except in infractions and parking.

DISTRICT COURT* (50 courts in 62 locations for 39 counties)
113 judges
CSP case types:
- Tort, contract ($0/$35,000), domestic violence.
- Exclusive small claims jurisdiction ($2,500).
- Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous (nontraffic) violations.
- Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials except in traffic and parking.

* District court provides services to municipalities that do not have a municipal court.
WEST VIRGINIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

**SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS**
- 5 justices sit en banc
- CSP case types:
  - No mandatory jurisdiction.
  - Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

**CIRCUIT COURT** (55 courts, 31 circuits)
- 62 judges
- CSP case types:
  - Tort, contract, real property rights ($300/no maximum), domestic relations. Exclusive mental health, estate, civil appeals jurisdiction.
  - Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI. Exclusive felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.
  - Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.
  - Jury trials.

**MAGISTRATE COURT** (55 counties)
- 156 magistrates
- CSP case types:
  - Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$5,000), domestic violence.
  - Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
  - Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic.
  - Preliminary hearings.
  - Jury trials.

**MUNICIPAL COURT** (122 courts)
- 122 judges (part-time)
- CSP case types:
  - DWI/DUI.
  - Moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic. Exclusive parking, ordinance violation jurisdiction.
  - Jury trials.
SUPREME COURT
7 justices sit en banc
CSP case types:
• 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)
16 judges (two 4-judge districts, one 3-judge district, one 5-judge district)
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in interlocutory decision cases.

CIRCUIT COURT (69 circuits)
234 judges
CSP case types:
• Exclusive civil jurisdiction (including civil appeals). Small claims jurisdiction ($5,000).
• DWI/DUI. Exclusive felony, misdemeanor jurisdiction.
• Contested moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic. Ordinance violations if no municipal court.
• Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.
Jury trials in most cases.

MUNICIPAL COURT (215 courts)
217 judges
CSP case types:
• DWI/DUI (first offense).
• Traffic/other violation.
No jury trials.
WYOMING COURT STRUCTURE, 1998

SUPREME COURT
5 justices sit en banc
CSP case types:
• Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding cases.
• Discretionary jurisdiction in extraordinary writs (writs of review).

DISTRICT COURT (9 districts)
17 judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($1,000-$7,000/no maximum [depends on whether appeal is from county court or justice of the peace court]). Exclusive domestic relations (except for domestic violence), mental health, estate, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil jurisdiction.
• Exclusive felony, criminal appeals jurisdiction.
• Exclusive juvenile jurisdiction.
Jury trials.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT*
(10 courts in 9 counties)
10 justices of the peace (part-time)
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$3,000), small claims ($3,000).
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic/other violation.
• Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials except in small claims.

MUNICIPAL COURT (79 courts)
2 judges (full-time), 73 judges (part-time)
CSP case types:
• DWI/DUI.
• Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic.
Exclusive ordinance violation jurisdiction.

COUNTY COURT* (19 courts in 14 counties)
19 judges
CSP case types:
• Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/$7,000), small claims ($3,000), domestic violence.
• Misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
• Moving traffic, parking, miscellaneous traffic violation.
• Preliminary hearings.
Jury trials except in small claims.

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