

TABLE 5.1  
State Courts of Last Resort

State or other jurisdiction	Name of court	Justices chosen (a)			Term (in years) (c)	Chief justice	
		At large	By district	No. of judges (b)		Method of selection	Term of office for chief justice
Alabama	S.C.	★		9	6	Partisan election	6 years
Alaska	S.C.	★		5	10	By court	3 years
Arizona	S.C.	★		7	6	By court	5 years
Arkansas	S.C.	★		7	8	Nonpartisan popular election	8 years
California	S.C.	★		7	12	Gubernatorial appointment with consent of Commission on Judicial Appointments	12 years
Colorado	S.C.	★		7	10	By court	10 years
Connecticut	S.C.	★		7	8	Gubernatorial appointment with consent of the Legislature	8 years
Delaware	S.C.	★		5	12	Gubernatorial appointment from Judicial Nominating Commission with consent of the Legislature	12 years
Florida	S.C.	★(d)	★(d)	7	6	By court	2 years
Georgia	S.C.	★		9	6	By court	6 years
Hawaii	S.C.	★		5	10	Gubernatorial appointment from Judicial Nominating Commission with consent of the Senate	10 years
Idaho	S.C.	★		5	6	By court	4 years
Illinois	S.C.	★(e)	★(e)	7	10	By court	3 years
Indiana	S.C.	★		5	10	Judicial Nominating Commission	5 years
Iowa	S.C.	★		7	8	By court	8 years
Kansas	S.C.	★		7	6	Rotation by seniority	Duration of service
Kentucky	S.C.		★	7	8	By court	4 years
Louisiana	S.C.		★	7	10	By seniority of service	Duration of service
Maine	S.J.C.	★		7	7	Appointed by governor with consent of the Legislature	7 years
Maryland	C.A.		★	7	10	Appointed by governor	To age 70
Massachusetts	S.J.C.	★		7	To age 70	Gubernatorial appointment with approval of elected executive council	To age 70
Michigan	S.C.	★		7	8	By court	2 years
Minnesota	S.C.	★		7	6	Nonpartisan popular election	Duration of service
Mississippi	S.C.		★(g)	9	8	By seniority of service	Duration of service
Missouri	S.C.	★		7	12	By court	2 years
Montana	S.C.	★		7	8	Nonpartisan popular election	8 years
Nebraska	S.C.	★(h)	★(h)	7	6	Gubernatorial appointment from Judicial Nominating Commission	Duration of service
Nevada	S.C.	★		7	6	Rotation by seniority	(i)
New Hampshire	S.C.	★		5	To age 70	Gubernatorial appointment with approval of elected executive council	To age 70
New Jersey	S.C.	★		5	7/To age 70 (j)	Gubernatorial appointment with consent of the Senate	7 years, plus tenure, to age 70
New Mexico	S.C.	★		5	8	By court	2 years
New York	C.A.	★		7	14	Gubernatorial appointment from Judicial Nominating Commission with consent of the Senate	14 years
North Carolina	S.C.	★		7	8	Partisan popular election	8 years
North Dakota	S.C.	★		5	10	By Supreme and District Court judges	5 years
Ohio	S.C.	★		7	6	Popular election (k)	6 years
Oklahoma	S.C.		★	9	6	By court	2 years
	C.C.A.		★	5	6	By court	2 years
Oregon	S.C.	★		7	6	By court	6 years
Pennsylvania	S.C.	★		7	10	Seniority	To age 70
Rhode Island	S.C.	★		5	Life	Gubernatorial appointment from Judicial Nominating Commission with consent of the Legislature	Hold office during good behavior
South Carolina	S.C.	★		5	10	Legislative appointment	10 years
South Dakota	S.C.	★(l)	★(l)	5	8	By court	4 years
Tennessee	S.C.	★		5	8	By court	4 years / 2 years (m)
Texas	S.C.	★		9	6	Partisan election	6 years
	C.C.A.	★		9	6	Partisan election	6 years
Utah	S.C.	★		5	10	By court	4 years
Vermont	S.C.	★		5	6	Gubernatorial appointment from Judicial Nominating Commission with consent of the Legislature	6 years
Virginia	S.C.	★		7	12	By court	4 years
Washington	S.C.	★		9	6	By court	4 years
West Virginia	S.C.A.	★		5	12	By court	1 year
Wisconsin	S.C.	★		7	10	By court	2 years
Wyoming	S.C.	★		5	8	By court	4 years
Dist. of Columbia	C.A.	★		9	15	Judicial Nominating Commission appointment	4 years
Puerto Rico	S.C.	★		9	To age 70	Gubernatorial appointment with consent of the Legislature	To age 70

See footnotes at end of table

## JUDICIARY

TABLE 5.1

### State Courts of Last Resort (continued)

Sources: National Center for State Courts. January 1, 2018.

Key:

★—Yes.

S.C.—Supreme Court

S.C.A.—Supreme Court of Appeals

S.J.C.—Supreme Judicial Court

C.A.—Court of Appeals

C.C.A.—Court of Criminal Appeals

(a) See Table 5.6, entitled, "Selection and Retention of Appellate Court Judges," for more detail.

(b) Number includes chief justice.

(c) The initial term may be shorter. See Table 5.6, entitled, "Selection and Retention of Appellate Court Judges," for more detail.

(d) Elected statewide, but each of 5 regional appellate districts entitled to at least 1 justice.

(e) Three justices chosen from First District (Cook County), rest from other Districts.

(g) Three justices chosen from each of three districts.

(h) Chief justice chosen statewide; associate judges chosen by district.

(i) The senior justice in commission is the chief justice, and in case the commissions of two or more of the justices bear the same date, the justices shall determine by lot who is the chief justice.

(j) All judges are subject to gubernatorial reappointment and consent by the Senate after an initial seven-year term; thereafter, they may serve until mandatory retirement at age 70.

(k) Party affiliation is not included on the ballot in the general election, but candidates are chosen through partisan primary nominations.

(l) Initially chosen by district; retention determined statewide.

(m) Four years for initial term; two years for additional terms.