

STATE COURTS

Table 5.2
STATE INTERMEDIATE APPELLATE COURTS AND GENERAL TRIAL COURTS:
NUMBER OF JUDGES AND TERMS

State or other jurisdiction	Intermediate appellate court			General trial court		
	Name of court	No. of judges	Term (years)	Name of court	No. of judges	Term (years)
Alabama.....	Court of Criminal Appeals	5	6	Circuit Court	143	6
Alaska.....	Court of Civil Appeals	5	6	Superior Court	49	6 (a)
Arizona.....	Court of Appeals	3	8	Superior Court	174	4
Arkansas.....	Court of Appeals	22	6	Chancery/Probate Court and Circuit Court	118	6
California.....	Courts of Appeal	12	8	Superior Court	2,022	6
Colorado.....	Court of Appeals	105	12	District Court	153	6 (b)
Connecticut.....	Appellate Court	22	8	Superior Court	180	8
Delaware.....	...	10	8	Superior Court	19	12
Florida.....	District Courts of Appeals	...	...	Court of Chancery	5	12
Georgia.....	District Courts of Appeals	61	6	Circuit Court	599	6
Hawaii.....	Court of Appeals	12	6	Superior Court	202	4
Idaho.....	Intermediate Court of Appeals	6	10	Circuit Court	46	10
Illinois.....	Court of Appeals	4	6	District Court	43	4
Indiana.....	Appellate Court	54	10	Circuit Court	510	6
Iowa.....	Court of Appeals	15	12 (c)	Superior Court, Probate Court and Circuit Court	308	6
Kansas.....	Court of Appeals	9	6	District Court	348 (d)	6 (e)
Kentucky.....	Court of Appeals	15	4	District Court	243 (f)	4
Louisiana.....	Courts of Appeal	14	8	Circuit Court	95	8
Maine.....	...	53 (g)	10	District Court	236	6
Maryland.....	Court of Special Appeals	...	...	Superior Court	17	7
Massachusetts.....	Appellate Division of Superior Court	13	10	Circuit Court	153	15
Michigan.....	Appellate Court	28 (h)	To age 70	Superior Court	82	To age 70
Minnesota.....	Court of Appeals	28	6	Circuit Court	221	6
Mississippi.....	Court of Appeals	19	6	District Court	281	6
Missouri.....	Court of Appeals	32	8	Circuit Court	51	4
Montana.....	...	10	12	Circuit Court	369 (i)	6 (j)
Nebraska.....	Court of Appeals	...	...	District Court	43 (k)	6
Nevada.....	...	6	3 (l)	District Court	55	6 (m)
New Hampshire.....	...	...	...	District Court	64	6
New Jersey.....	Appellate Division of Superior Court	35	7 (n)	Superior Court	24	To age 70
New Mexico.....	Court of Appeals	10	8	Superior Court	411	7 (o)
New York.....	Appellate Division of Supreme Court	56	5 (p)	District Court	89	6
North Carolina.....	Appellate Terms of Supreme Court	(q)	...	Supreme Court	385	14
North Dakota.....	Court of Appeals	15	8	County Court	129	10
Ohio.....	Temporary Court of Appeals	3 (ff)	1 (gg)	Superior Court	111 (t)	8 (s)
	Courts of Appeal	68	6	District Court	42	6
				Court of Common Pleas	391	6

See footnotes at end of table.

**STATE INTERMEDIATE APPELLATE COURTS AND GENERAL TRIAL COURTS:
NUMBER OF JUDGES AND TERMS — Continued**

State or other jurisdiction	Intermediate appellate court			General trial court		
	Name of court	No. of judges	Term (years)	Name of court	No. of judges	Term (years)
Oklahoma.....	Court of Appeals	12	6	District Court	241 (t)	4 (u)
Oregon.....	Court of Appeals	10	6	Circuit Court	173	6
Pennsylvania.....	Superior Court	23 (v)	10	Tax Court	7	6
Rhode Island.....	Commonwealth Court	9 (w)	10	Court of Common Pleas	521 (x)	10
South Carolina.....	Court of Appeals	...	Life	Superior Court	27 (y)	Life
South Dakota.....	Court of Appeals	...	6	Circuit Court	46 (aa)	6
Tennessee.....	Court of Appeals	12	8	Circuit Court	39	8
Tennessee.....	Court of Criminal Appeals	12	8	Chancery Court	34	8
Tennessee.....	Court of Criminal Appeals	12	8	Circuit Court	85	8
Tennessee.....	Court of Criminal Appeals	12	8	Criminal Court	33	8
Tennessee.....	Court of Criminal Appeals	12	8	Probate Court	2	8
Texas.....	Courts of Appeal	80	6	District Court	444	4
Utah.....	Court of Appeals	7	6 (aa)	District Court	103 (bb)	6 (cc)
Vermont.....	Court of Appeals	...	...	Superior Court and District Court	42 (cc)	6
Virginia.....	Court of Appeals	11	8	Circuit Court	157	8
Washington.....	Courts of Appeal	25	6	Superior Court	176	4
West Virginia.....	Court of Appeals	...	...	Circuit Court	65	8
Wisconsin.....	Court of Appeals	16	6	Circuit Court	246	6
Wyoming.....	Court of Appeals	...	...	District Court	21	6
Dist. of Columbia.....	Circuit Court of Appeals	...	...	Superior Court	62	15
Puerto Rico.....	Circuit Court of Appeals	39	16	Court of First Instance	326 (dd)	12 (ee)

Sources: State Court Organization, 2004, U.S. Department of Justice Statistics, update from the National Center for State Courts, March 2011.

Key:

- ... — Court does not exist in jurisdiction or not applicable.
- (a) The initial term for Superior Court judges is three years.
- (b) The initial term for District Court, Denver Probate Court, Denver Juvenile Court and County Court judges is two years.
- (c) Two years initial; 10 years retention.
- (d) The number of District Court judges includes associate judges and magistrates.
- (e) The initial term for District judges is at least one year. Associate judges serve a term of four years with an initial term of at least one year, and magistrate judges serve a term of four years.
- (f) The number of District Court judges includes magistrates.
- (g) The Courts of Appeal have 55 authorized judicial positions.
- (h) The Appeals Court has 25 authorized judicial positions. The judges of the Appeals Court are assisted by the services on recall of several retired judges.
- (i) The number of Circuit Court judges includes associate judges.
- (j) Associate Circuit judges serve a term of four terms.
- (k) There are actually 43 District Court judges. Three of those judges serve the Water Court and are included in the data for that court.
- (l) More than three years for first election and retention is every six years thereafter.
- (m) The initial term is for three years but not more than five years.
- (n) Followed by tenure. 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.
- (o) After an initial seven-year term, the reappointment term for Superior and Tax Court judges is open-ended until mandatory retirement at age 70.

- (p) Or duration.
- (q) Appellate Terms of the Supreme Court have been established within the First and Second Departments of the Appellate Division. Data for the Appellate Terms are not included in the information presented here.
- (r) The number of Superior Court judges includes special judges.
- (s) Special judges serve a term of four years.
- (t) The number of District Court judges includes associate judges and special judges.
- (u) District and associate judges serve four-year terms; special judges serve at pleasure.
- (v) The Superior Court has 15 authorized judicial positions. The judges of the Superior Court are assisted by senior judges specially appointed by the Supreme Court.
- (w) The judges of the Commonwealth Court are assisted by senior judges specially appointed by the Supreme Court. Also, senior Common Pleas Court judges occasionally serve on the Commonwealth Court.
- (x) These numbers include both active and senior judges.
- (y) The number of judges includes magistrates.
- (z) Four to five judges are currently working as active retired judges.
- (aa) The initial term of appointment is until the next general election immediately following the third year from the time of the initial appointment.
- (bb) Effective 2011, the Family, District, and Probate Courts were combined into the Superior Court.
- (cc) The initial term of appointment is until the next general election immediately following the third year from the time of the initial appointment.
- (dd) The number of Court of First Instance judges includes Municipal Division judges.
- (ee) Municipal judges serve a term of eight years.
- (ff) The supreme court may provide for the assignment of active or retired district court judges, retired justices of the supreme court, and lawyers, to serve on three-judge panels.
- (gg) Assignments are for a specified time, not to exceed one year or the completion of one or more cases on the docket of the supreme court.

STATE COURTS