

**Table 5.1
STATE COURTS OF LAST RESORT**

State or other jurisdiction	Justices chosen (a)		No. of judges (b)	Term (in years) (c)	Chief justice		Term of office for chief justice
	Name of court	At large			By district	Method of selection	
Alabama	S.C.	★	9	6	Popular election		6 years
Alaska	S.C.	★	5	10	By court		3 years (d)
Arizona	S.C.	★	5	6	By court		5 years
Arkansas	S.C.	★	7	8	Popular election		8 years
California	S.C.	★	7	12	Appointed by governor		12 years
Colorado	S.C.	★	7	10	By court		Indefinite
Connecticut	S.C.	★	7	8	Legislative appointment (e)		8 years
Delaware	S.C.	★	5	12	Appointed by governor, with consent of Senate		12 years
Florida	S.C.	(f)	7	6	By court		2 years
Georgia	S.C.	★	7	6	By court		4 years
Hawaii	S.C.	★	5	10	Appointed by governor, with consent of Senate (g)		10 years
Idaho	S.C.	★	5	6	By court		4 years
Illinois	S.C.	★	7	10	By court		3 years
Indiana	S.C.	★	5	10 (h)	Judicial nominating commission appointment		5 years
Iowa	S.C.	★	7	8	By court		8 years
Kansas	S.C.	★	7	6	Rotation by seniority		Indefinite
Kentucky	S.C.	★	7	8	By court		4 years
Louisiana	S.C.	★	7 (i)	10	By seniority of service		Duration of service
Maine	S.J.C.	★	7	7	Appointed by governor		7 years
Maryland	C.A.	★	7	10	Appointed by governor		Indefinite
Massachusetts	S.J.C.	★	7	To age 70	Appointed by governor (j)		To age 70
Michigan	S.C.	★	7	8	By court		2 years
Minnesota	S.C.	★	7	6	Popular election		6 years
Mississippi	S.C.	★	9	8	By seniority of service		Duration of service
Missouri	S.C.	★	7	12	By court (k)		2 years
Montana	S.C.	★	7	8	Popular election		8 years
Nebaska	S.C.	★ (l)	7	6 (m)	Appointed by governor from Judicial Nominating Commission		Duration of service
Nevada	S.C.	★	7	6	Rotation		2 years
New Hampshire	S.C.	★	5	To age 70	Appointed by governor with approval of elected executive council		To age 70
New Jersey	S.C.	★	7	7 (n)	Appointed by governor, with consent of Senate		Duration of service
New Mexico	S.C.	★	5	8	By court		2 years
New York	C.A.	★	7	14	Appointed by governor from Judicial Nominating Commission		14 years
North Carolina	S.C.	★	7	8	Popular election		8 years
North Dakota	S.C.	★	5 (o)	10	By Supreme and district court judges		5 years (p)
Ohio	S.C.	★	7	6	Popular election		6 years
Oklahoma	S.C.	★	9	6	By court		2 years
Oregon	S.C.	★	7	6	By court		6 years
Pennsylvania	S.C.	★	7	10	Rotation by seniority		Duration of term
Rhode Island	S.C.	★	5	Life	Appointed by governor from Judicial Nominating Commission (t)		Life
South Carolina	S.C.	★	5	10	Legislative election		10 years

See footnotes at end of table.

JUDICIARY

STATE COURTS OF LAST RESORT — Continued

State or other jurisdiction	Justices chosen (a)			No. of judges (b)	Term (in years) (c)	Chief justice	
	Name of court	At large	By district			Method of selection	Term of office for chief justice
South Dakota	S.C.	★	★ (q)	5	8	By court	4 years
Tennessee	S.C.	★		5	8	By court	4 years
Texas	S.C.	★		9	6	Partisan election	6 years
Utah	C.C.A.	★		9	6	Partisan election	6 years (r)
Vermont	S.C.	★		5	10 (s)	By court	4 years
Virginia	S.C.	★		5	6	Appointed by governor from Judicial Nomination Commission, with consent of Senate	6 years
Washington	S.C.	★		7	12	Seniority	Indefinite
West Virginia	S.C.	★		9	6	By court	4 years
Wisconsin	S.C.A.		★	5	12	Rotation by seniority	1 year
Wyoming	S.C.	★		7	10	Seniority	Until declined
Dist. of Columbia	S.C.	★		5	8	By court	4 years
Puerto Rico	C.A.	★		9	15	Judicial Nominating Commission appointment	4 years
	S.C.	★		7	To age 70	Appointed by governor, with consent of Senate	To age 70

Sources: Number of judges from Court Statistics Project, *State Court Caseload Statistics, 2001* (National Center for State Courts 2001). All other information from *State Court Organization 1998* (National Center for State Courts); state constitutions, statutes and court administrative offices.

Key:

- 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
- H.C. — High Court

(a) See Chapter 5 table entitled, "Selection and Retention of Judges," for details.

(b) Number includes chief justice.

(c) The initial term may be shorter. See Chapter 5 table entitled, "Selection and Retention of Judges," for details.

(d) A justice may serve more than one term as chief justice, but may not serve consecutive terms in that position.

(e) Governor nominates from candidates submitted by Judicial Selection Commission.

(f) Regional (5), Statewide(2), Regional based on District of Appeal

(g) Judicial Selection Commission nominates.

(h) Initial two years; retention 10 years.

(i) Includes one assigned from courts of appeal.

(j) Chief Justices are appointed, until age 70, by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Executive (Governor's) Council.

(k) Selection is typically rotated among the judges.

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

(m) More than three years for first election and every six years thereafter.

(n) Followed by tenure.

(o) A temporary court of appeals was established July 1, 1987 to exercise appellate and original jurisdiction was delegated by the supreme court. This court does not sit, has no assigned judges, has heard no appeals and is currently unfunded.

(p) Or expiration of term, whichever is first.

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

(r) Presiding judge of Court of Criminal Appeals.

(s) Initial three years; retention 10 years.

(t) With House and Senate confirmation.