



JUDICIARY OF THE U.S.

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FEDERAL COURTS HEAR DIFFERENT CASES:

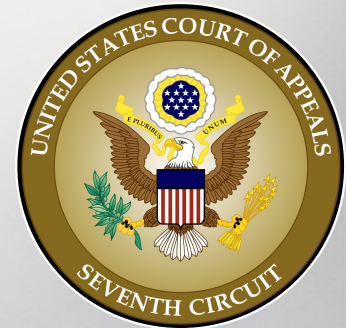
- ✓ involving the constitutionality of a law
- ✓ involving the laws and treaties of the US
- ✓ ambassadors and public ministers
- ✓ controversies in which the US government is a party
- ✓ admiralty law
- ✓ bankruptcy cases

THE FEDERAL COURT SYSTEM

Supreme Court

District and Appellate
courts

Special courts



DISTRICT COURTS

“grand” juries

- ❖ indict those accused of crimes

“petit” juries

- ❖ decide the case





BANKRUPTCY

Bankruptcy cases are filed in the bankruptcy court

Bankruptcy laws help people to pay their debts



COURTS OF APPEALS

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50
districts

12 regional
circuits

Courts of
appeals

A flowchart showing the hierarchy of courts. It consists of three chevron-shaped boxes pointing from left to right. The first box contains '50 districts', the second '12 regional circuits', and the third 'Courts of appeals'. The boxes are connected by white arrows pointing right.

A decorative white scrollwork border frames the entire page. At the top center, there is a floral crest. Below the title, a horizontal line with a small scrollwork ornament in the center separates the title from the main text.

COURTS OF APPEALS

You can ask the court to:

1. review the case to see if the judge applied the law correctly
2. review decisions of federal administrative agencies

THE SUPREME COURT

Consists of:

- Chief Justice
- 8 Associate

Justices

Jurisdiction:

- Cases, which involving foreign dignitaries
- Cases in which a state is a party

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SPECIAL TRIAL COURTS

1. The Court of International Trade

- cases involving international trade and customs issues

2. The United States Court of Federal Claims

- claims for money damages against the United States, disputes over federal contracts, unlawful “takings” of private property by the federal government, etc.

STATE COURTS





THE STATE COURTS HAVE SUCH A HEAVY
CASELOAD BECAUSE THEIR JURISDICTION
ALLOWS THEM TO DECIDE ALMOST EVERY
TYPE OF CASE



MOST EVERY TOWN OR CITY HAS A COURT WITH A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, MAGISTRATE, OR JUDGE, WHO IS NOT NECESSARILY TRAINED IN LAW, WHO HANDLE MINOR CRIMINAL CASES (I.E. MISDEMEANORS), LESS SERIOUS CIVIL SUITS, TRAFFIC AND PARKING VIOLATIONS

COURTS OF GENERAL JURISDICTION

Courts of general jurisdiction are typically county courts but, in less populated states, may be courts of a region that includes several counties. They may be called superior courts or district courts, and their judges are law-school graduates, often with extensive experience at the bar.



APPELLATE COURTS

In some states the only appellate court is the state's Supreme Court; others provide an intermediate court of appeals. A person convicted of the crime has the right to an appellate court and ultimately to the court of last resort.



SOME DIFFERENCES AMONG THE STATES

The highest appellate court in Maryland and New York, and the only appellate court in the District of Columbia, is called Court of Appeals rather than "Supreme Court."





The courts of Louisiana and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are organized under a civil law model with significantly different procedures from those of the courts in all other states and the District of Columbia, which are based upon the traditions of the common law of England



Delaware, Mississippi, New Jersey, and Tennessee make a distinction between a "court of law" and a "court of equity" (chancery court).

THE END

