

Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 1997, pages 63, 64

Table 1.61

Number and term of judges of appellate and general trial courts

By type of court and jurisdiction, as of Jan. 1, 1996

Jurisdiction	Court of last resort	Appellate courts					General trial courts	Number of judges	Term (in years)
		Number of judges ^a	Term (in years) ^b	Intermediate appellate court	Number of judges	Term (in years)			
Alabama	Supreme Court	9	6	Court of Criminal Appeals	5	6	Circuit courts	127	6
Alaska	Supreme Court	5	10	Court of Civil Appeals	3	6	Superior courts	32 ^c	6
Arizona	Supreme Court	5	6	Court of Appeals	21	6	Superior courts	126	4
Arkansas	Supreme Court	7	8	Court of Appeals	6	8	Chancery/Probate courts and Circuit courts	99 ^d	(d)
California	Supreme Court	7	12	Court of Appeals	88	12	Superior courts	789 ^e	6
Colorado	Supreme Court	7	10	Court of Appeals	16	8	District courts	114 ^f	6
Connecticut	Supreme Court	7	8	Appellate Court	9	8	Superior courts	150	8
Delaware	Supreme Court	5	12	X	X	X	Superior courts and Court of Chancery	17 ^g	12
Florida	Supreme Court	7	6	District Courts of Appeals	57	6	Circuit courts	421	6
Georgia	Supreme Court	7	6	Court of Appeals	9	6	Superior courts	159	4 ^h
Hawaii	Supreme Court	5	10	Intermediate Court of Appeals	3	10	Circuit courts	25 ⁱ	10
Idaho	Supreme Court	5	6	Court of Appeals	3	6	District courts	34 ^j	4
Illinois	Supreme Court	7	10	Appellate Court	42 ^k	10	Circuit courts	820	6
Indiana	Supreme Court	5	10 ^l	Court of Appeals	15 ^m	10 ^l	Superior Court, Probate Court, and Circuit courts	246	6
Iowa	Supreme Court	9	8	Court of Appeals	6	6	District courts	332 ⁿ	6
Kansas	Supreme Court	7	6	Court of Appeals	10	4	District courts	149 ^o	4
Kentucky	Supreme Court	7	8	Court of Appeals	14	8	Circuit courts	93	8
Louisiana	Supreme Court	8 ^p	10	Court of Appeals	54	10	District courts	209 ^q	6
Maine	Supreme Judicial Court	7	7	X	X	X	Superior courts	16	7
Maryland	Court of Appeals	7	10	Court of Special Appeals	13	10	Circuit courts	123	15
Massachusetts	Supreme Judicial Court	7	To age 70	Appeals Court	14	To age 70	Trial courts	320	To age 70
Michigan	Supreme Court	7	8	Court of Appeals	24	6	Circuit courts	208	6
Minnesota	Supreme Court	7	6	Court of Appeals	16	6	District courts	242	6
Mississippi	Supreme Court	9	8	X	X	X	Chancery courts	39	4
Missouri	Supreme Court	7	12	Court of Appeals	32	12	Circuit courts	134 ^r	6
Montana	Supreme Court	7	8	X	X	X	District courts	37 ^s	6
Nebraska	Supreme Court	7	6 ^t	Court of Appeals	6	6 ^t	District courts	50	6
Nevada	Supreme Court	5	6	X	X	X	District courts	46	6
New Hampshire	Supreme Court	5	To age 70	X	X	X	Superior courts	29 ^u	To age 70
New Jersey	Supreme Court	7	7 ^v	Appellate Division of Superior Court	30	7 ^v	Superior courts	372 ^w	7 ^x
New Mexico	Supreme Court	5	8	Court of Appeals	10	8	District courts	61	6
New York	Court of Appeals	7	14 ^y	Appellate Division of Supreme Court	48	5 ^y	Supreme courts and County courts	597	14 ^y
North Carolina	Supreme Court	7	8	Appellate Terms of Supreme Court	15	5 ^y			
North Dakota	Supreme Court	5	10	Court of Appeals	12	8	Superior courts	83 ^z	8
Ohio	Supreme Court	7	6	X	X	X	District courts	24	6
Oklahoma	Supreme Court	9	6	Court of Appeals	65	6	Courts of Common Pleas	362	6
	Court of Criminal Appeals	5	6		12	6	District courts	71 ^{aa}	4
Oregon	Supreme Court	7	6	Court of Appeals	10	6	Circuit courts	92	6
Pennsylvania	Supreme Court	7	10	Superior Court Commonwealth Court	15	10	Tax court	1	6
					9	10	Courts of Common Pleas	366	10
Rhode Island	Supreme Court	5	Life	X	X	X	Superior courts	22 ^{ab}	Life
South Carolina	Supreme Court	5	10	Court of Appeals	6	6	Circuit courts	40 ^{ac}	6
South Dakota	Supreme Court	5	8	X	X	X	Circuit courts	36 ^{ad}	8
Tennessee	Supreme Court	5	8	Court of Appeals	12	8	Chancery courts	33	8
				Court of Criminal Appeals	9	8	Circuit courts	109	8
Texas	Supreme Court	9	6	Court of Appeals	80	6	District courts	386	4
	Court of Criminal Appeals	9	6						
Utah	Supreme Court	5	10 ^{ae}	Court of Appeals	7	10 ^{ae}	District courts	39	6
Vermont	Supreme Court	5	6	X	X	X	Superior courts and District courts	31 ^{af}	6
Virginia	Supreme Court	7	12	Court of Appeals	10	8	Circuit courts	141	8
Washington	Supreme Court	9	6	Court of Appeals	17	6	Superior courts	157	4
West Virginia	Supreme Court of Appeals	5	12	X	X	X	Circuit courts	62	8
Wisconsin	Supreme Court	7	10	Court of Appeals	13	6	Circuit courts	223	6
Wyoming	Supreme Court	5	8	X	X	X	District courts	17	6
District of Columbia	District of Columbia	9	15	Court of Appeals	X	X	Superior courts	59	15
American Samoa	High Court	8 ^{ag}	(ah)	X	X	X	X	X	X
Puerto Rico	Supreme Court	7	To age 70	X	X	X	Superior courts	111	12

See notes on next page.

Table 1.61

Number and term of judges of appellate and general trial courts

By type of court and jurisdiction, as of Jan. 1, 1996--Continued

Note: These data were collected through information provided by the National Center for State Courts, State Court administration offices, and a search of State statutes.

^aNumber includes chief justice.

^bInitial term may be shorter.

^cPlus five masters.

^dAt the general trial court level, Arkansas has three types of courts: chancery, circuit, and chancery probate courts. There are 32 chancery court judges and 34 circuit court judges who serve 4-year terms. Chancery probate court, a hybrid of both chancery and circuit, consists of 33 judges (20 of which serve in the juvenile division of chancery court) who serve 6-year terms.

^ePlus 117 commissioners and 23 referees.

^fPlus three magistrates.

^gFor Superior Court: 17 judges; Court of Chancery: 1 chancellor and 4 vice-chancellors.

^hFor judges of the Superior Court of the Atlanta Judicial Court, term of office is 8 years.

ⁱPlus 14 district family judges.

^jPlus 75 lawyer and 3 non-lawyer magistrates.

^kPlus 12 supplemental judges.

^l2 years initial; 10 years retention.

^mPlus one tax court judge.

ⁿIncludes 8 chief judges, 101 district judges, 50 district associate judges, 26 senior judges, 11 associate juvenile judges, 135 part-time magistrates, and 1 associate probate judge.

^oPlus 69 district magistrates.

^pIncludes one assigned from courts of appeal.

^qPlus seven commissioners.

^rPlus 175 associate circuit judges.

^sPlus six judges for Water Court and one for Workers' Compensation Court.

^tMore than 3 years for first election and every 6 years thereafter.

^uPlus 11 full-time marital masters.

^vFollowed by tenure.

^wPlus 21 surrogates.

^xOn reapportionment until age 70.

^yCourt of Appeals may be reappointed to age 70; intermediate appellate courts are appointed to 5 years or duration; general trial courts, 14 years for Supreme Court and 10 years for county courts.

^zPlus 100 clerks with estate jurisdiction.

^{aa}Plus 77 associate judges and 63 special judges.

^{ab}Includes 2 masters in the Superior Court; plus 10 judges for Workers' Compensation Court.

^{ac}Plus 20 masters-in-equity.

^{ad}Plus 17 law magistrates, 7 part-time law magistrates, 83 full-time clerk magistrates, and 49 part-time clerk magistrates.

^{ae}3 years initial; 10 years retention.

^{af}District and Superior court judges also serve as family court judges.

^{ag}Chief judges and associate judges sit on appellate and trial divisions.

^{ah}For good behavior.

Source: The Council of State Governments, *The Book of the States 1996-97* (Lexington, KY: The Council of State Governments, 1996), pp. 127-130. Table adapted by SOURCE-BOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.