National Center for State Courts
3 4185 00003612 8

State court caseload statistics:

Annual Report 1987

Wyoming • Conference of State Court Administrators • Alabama • Alaska • Ariz
California • Colorado • Connecticut • Delaware • District of Columbia • Florida
Idaho • Illinois • Indiana • Iowa • Kansas • Kentucky • Louisiana • Maine • Maryl
Michigan • Minnesota • Mississippi • Missouri • Montana • Nebraska • Nevad
New Jersey • New Mexico • New York • North Carolina • North Dakota • Ohio • C
Pennsylvania • Puerto Rico • Rhode Island • South Carolina • South Dakota •
Utah • Vermont • Virginia • Washington • West Virginia • Wisconsin • Wyoming •
Court Administrators • Alabama • Alaska • Arizona • Arkansas • California • Col
Delaware • District of Columbia • Florida • Georgia • Hawaii • Idaho • Illinois • In
Kentucky • Louisiana • Maine • Maryland • Massachusetts • Michigan • Min
Missouri • Montana • Nebraska • Nevada • New Hampshire • New Jersey • New
North Carolina • North Dakota • Ohio • Oklahoma • Oregon • Pennsylvania • Pu
Island • South Carolina • South Dakota • Tennessee • Texas • Utah • Vermont •
West Virginia • Wisconsin • Wyoming • Conference of State Court Administrat
Arizona • Arkansas • California • Colorado • Connecticut • Delaware • District

NCSC
KF
180
C74
1987
c. 2

A joint effort of the Conference of State Court Administrators and the National Center for State Courts

NCSC
KF
180
C74
1987
c. 2

State court caseload statistics: Annual Report 1987

Funding Provided by the
STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE
Grant Number SJI 87-08F-B-020

Rec. 6/4/89

A joint effort of the Conference of State Court Administrators, State Justice Institute and National Center for State Courts' Court Statistics Project

February 1989

Library
National Center for State Courts
300 Newport Ave.
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8798

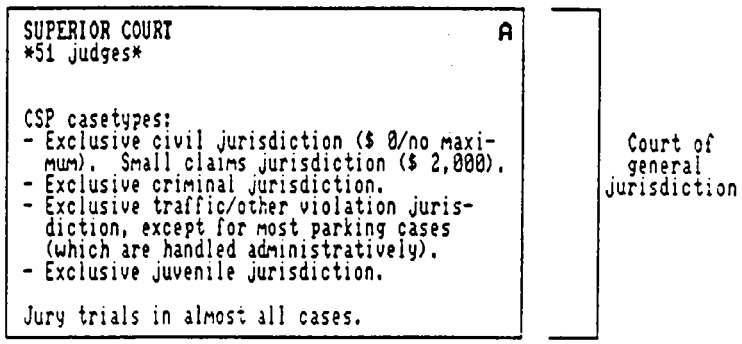
Copyright © 1989 by The National Center for State Courts
ISBN 0-89656-091-0
National Center Publication No. R-109

ERRATA

Please note the following corrections to State Court Caseload Statistics: Report, 1987

Page 142: Part III State Court Structure Charts

District of Columbia



Page 222: Part IV Figure G

State:	Court(s) of last resort	Intermediate appellate court(s)	General jurisdiction court(s)	Limited jurisdiction court(s)
District of Columbia	9	--	*51*	--

• *The correct number of full-time judges in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia is 51. The published number of 61 is incorrect.

Conference of State Court Administrators
Court Statistics and Technology Committee

Larry P. Polansky, Chairman (1979 to present)
Executive Officer, District of Columbia Courts

William G. Bohn (1982 to present)
State Court Administrator, North Dakota

John A. Clarke (1988 to present)
Trial Court Administrator, Hudson County, New Jersey

Hugh M. Collins (1982 to present)
Judicial Administrator, Louisiana

Sue K. Dosal (1982 to present)
State Court Administrator, Minnesota

Marc Galanter (1986 to present)
Evjue-Bascom Professor of Law, Wisconsin

Jane A. Hess (1987 to present)
State Court Administrator, Missouri

David Lampen (1987 to present)
Clerk of the Appellate Courts, Alaska

Mary Campbell McQueen (1988 to present)
State Court Administrator, Washington

J. Denis Moran (1983 to present)
Director of State Courts, Wisconsin

Jerry Short (1987 to present)
Manager, Court Consultative Services, California

Francis J. Taillefer (1982 to present)
Director of Information Services, North Carolina

National Center for State Courts Board of Directors

Warren E. Burger, Honorary Chairman
Chief Justice of the United States, Retired

Chief Justice Gordon R. Hall, Chairman
Supreme Court of Utah

Chief Justice Harry L. Carrico, Chairman-elect
Supreme Court of Virginia

Arthur H. Snowden II, Vice-Chairman
Administrative Director of the Courts, Alaska

Robert N. Baldwin
State Court Administrator, Virginia

Judith A. Cramer
Court Administrator, Ohio

Don Cullen
District Administrator, Minnesota

Judge Sophia H. Hall
Cook County Circuit Court, Illinois

Judge Harriet P. Henry, Judge at Large
Maine District Court

Judge Charles V. Johnson
Superior Court, King County, Washington

Presiding Justice Harry W. Low
Court of Appeal, California

Edward B. McConnell
President, National Center for State Courts

Chief Justice Vincent L. McKusick
Supreme Judicial Court of Maine

Judge Margie M. Meacham
County Court of Carbon County, Wyoming

J. Denis Moran
Director of State Courts, Wisconsin

Chief Justice Robert N.C. Nix, Jr.
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

John H. Pickering, Esq.
Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering, District of Columbia

Judge Floyd E. Propst
Probate Court of Fulton County, Georgia

Chief Justice Dorothy Comstock Riley
Supreme Court of Michigan

C. Kenneth Roberts, Esq.
Exxon Company, Texas

Chief Judge Gerald T. Wetherington
11th Judicial Circuit, Florida

NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS

Geoff Gallas, Director
Research and Special Services

Court Statistics Project Staff

David B. Rottman, Director
Todd M. Stickle, Staff Associate
Karen Gillions Way, Staff Associate
Carol R. Flango, Staff Associate
Natalie B. Davis, Administrative Secretary
JoAnn Adkins, Administrative Secretary
Greg Tolbert, Part-time Research Associate

Publication Service
Dennis Miller, Director
Bill Fishback, Editor
Charles F. Campbell, Associate Editor
Tina Beaven, Art Director
Hisako Sayers, Assistant Art Director
Mary McCall, Publications Production Coordinator

Acknowledgments

This report is possible because of the cooperation and assistance extended by three groups. First, state court administrators and their staff provide most of the information contained in the report. They also respond to requests for clarification and notify project staff of changes to the jurisdiction and recordkeeping arrangements of the courts in their state. We owe a particular debt to the individuals in the administrative offices of the courts who serve as contact persons between their office and the Court Statistics Project.

Second, appellate court clerks in many states provide published or unpublished caseload statistics. The willingness of court clerks and their staff to provide and verify appellate court data is much appreciated.

Third, the 12 members of the Conference of State Court Administrator's Court Statistics and Technology Committee provide policy direction at all stages of preparing the report. Their review of the report in draft form is of particular importance. Project staff benefit, however, throughout the year from advice, suggestions, and guidance of committee members.

The contribution made by various individuals is also gratefully acknowledged. Craig Boersema was Deputy Director of the Court Statistics Project until November 30, 1988. Craig's responsibilities as Director of the Trial Court Information Network limited his involvement in preparing this report, but his thorough review of the trial court data made an important contribution to the accuracy of the 1987 statistics. Part I of the report had the benefit of substantive and editorial comments from Roger Hanson and Ted Rubin, both National Center for State Courts' staff. Margaret Carlini did the wordprocessing of a number of tables and figures in the report.

Responsibility for all errors and omissions in the report lies with the Court Statistics Project staff. The more general responsibility for this report series and the process of improving the accuracy and usefulness of state court statistics lie with NCSC management and the Court Statistics Project staff, working with the policy direction of the COSCA Court Statistics and Technology Committee. Corrections, suggestions, and questions should be sent to the Director, Court Statistics Project, National Center for State Courts, 300 Newport Avenue, Williamsburg, Virginia 23187-8798.

Contents

Acknowledgments vii

Overview of the Report xiii

Part I: State Court Caseloads in 1987 1

Appellate Court Caseloads in 1987 4
- ***Appellate Court Structure and Jurisdiction in 1987*** 4
- ***The Composition of Appellate Court Caseloads in 1987*** 6
- ***Mandatory Appellate Caseloads in 1987*** 9
  - Mandatory Appeals Fined in State Appellate Courts in 1987 9
  - Clearance Rates for Mandatory Appeals in 1987 10
- ***Discretionary Appellate Caseloads in 1987*** 10
  - Discretionary Petitions Filed 11
  - Clearance Rates for Discretionary Petitions 12
  - Discretionary Petitions Granted 12
- ***Mandatory Appeals and Petitions Granted in 1987*** 13
- ***Appellate Court Opinions in 1987*** 14
- ***Appellate Courts in 1987: A Summary*** 15

Trial Court Caseloads in 1987 15
- ***Trial Courts of General and Limited Jurisdiction*** 16
- ***Civil Filings in 1987*** 18
  - Clearance Rates for Civil Cases in 1987 19
- ***Criminal Filings in 1987*** 20
  - Clearance Rates for Criminal Cases in 1987 22
- ***Juvenile Filings in 1987*** 23
  - Clearance Rates for Juvenile Petitions in 1987 25
- ***Trial Courts in 1987: A Summary*** 25

Trends in Civil and Criminal Court Filings: 1981-1987 26
- ***Trends in Tort Filings*** 27
- ***Torts as a Percentage of Total Civil Filings*** 29
- ***Trends in General Civil Filings: 1981–1987*** 30
- ***Trends in Felony Filings: 1981–1987*** 30
- ***Case Filing Trends, 1981-1987: A Summary*** 32

Conclusion 33

Appendix to Part I 35
- TABLE 1.1: Tort Filings in the State Trial Courts, 1981-1987 36
- TABLE 1.2: Total Civil and Tort Filings in State Trial Courts, 1985-1987 40

TABLE 1.3: General Civil Filings in the State Trial Courts, 1981-1987 44
TABLE 1.4: Felony Filings in State Trial Courts, 1981-1987 48

Part II: 1987 State Court Caseload Tables 51

TABLE 1: Reported National Caseload for State Appellate Courts, 1987. Mandatory jurisdiction cases and discretionary jurisdiction petitions in courts of last resort and intermediate appellate courts 52
TABLE 2: Reported Total Caseload for All State Appellate Courts, 1987. Total mandatory cases, total discretionary petitions, and total discretionary petitions granted that are filed and disposed. The number of and filed per judge figures for both the sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions, and the sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted. Court type and the point at which cases are counted 54
TABLE 3: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Mandatory Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1987. Court type. Filed and disposed cases. Disposed as a percent of filed. Number of judges. Filed per judge. Filed per 100,000 population 66
TABLE 4: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions in State Appellate Courts, 1987. Court type. Filed and disposed cases. Disposed as a percent of filed. Number of judges. Filed (disposed) per judge. Filed (disposed) per 100,000 population 72
TABLE 5: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions Granted in State Appellate Courts, 1987. Court type. Filed and disposed cases. Disposed as a percent of filed. Number of judges. Filed (disposed) per judge. Filed (disposed) per 100,000 population .. 77
TABLE 6: Opinions Reported by State Appellate Courts, 1987. Opinion unit of count. Content of opinion count. Number of justices/judges. Number of lawyer support personnel 81
TABLE 7: Reported National Civil and Criminal Caseload for State Trial Courts, 1987 85
TABLE 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1987. Jurisdiction, parking, criminal unit of count and support/custody codes. Case filings and dispositions. Dispositions as a percentage of filings. Filings per 100,000 total population 88
TABLE 9: Reported Total State Trial Court Civil Caseload, 1987. Jurisdiction, support/custody codes. Case filings and dispositions. Dispositions as a percentage of filings. Filings per 100,000 total population 100
TABLE 10: Reported Total State Trial Court Criminal Caseload, 1987. Jurisdiction, criminal unit of count and point of filing codes. Case filings and dispositions. Dispositions as a percentage of filings. Filings per 100,000 adult population 108
TABLE 11: Reported Total State Trial Court Traffic/Other Violation Caseload, 1987. All courts. Jurisdiction, parking codes. Case filings and dispositions. Dispositions as a percentage of filings. Filings per 100,000 total population 116
TABLE 12: Reported Total State Trial Court Juvenile Caseload, 1987. Jurisdiction, point of filing codes. Case filings and dispositions. Dispositions as a percentage of filings. Filings per 100,000 juvenile population 123

Part III: 1987 State Court Structure Charts 129

Court Structure Charts: An Explanatory Note 131
State Court Structure Prototype 1987 133
State Court Structure Charts: Alabama through Wyoming 134

Part IV: Figures 187

FIGURE A: Reporting Periods for All State Courts, 1987 189
FIGURE B: Methods of Counting Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1987 191
FIGURE C: Dollar Amount Jurisdiction for Original Tort, Contract, Real Property Rights, and Small Claims Filings in State Trial Courts, 1987 199
FIGURE D: Criminal Case Unit of Count Used by the State Trial Courts, 1987 205
FIGURE E: Juvenile Unit of Count Used in State Trial Courts, 1987 211
FIGURE F: State Trial Courts with Incidental Appellate Jurisdiction, 1987 216
FIGURE G: Number of Judges/Justices in the State Courts, 1987 222
FIGURE H: Method of Counting Civil Cases in State Trial Courts, 1987 225
FIGURE I: Method of Counting Support/Custody Cases in State Trial Courts, 1987. 231

Appendices 237

Appendix A: Methodology 239

The Court Statistics Project: Goals and Organization 241
Evolution of the Court Statistics Project 241
Sources of Data 242
Data Collection Procedures 242
Variables 243
Graphics as a Method of Displaying Caseload 243
Footnotes 243
Variations in Reporting Periods 244

Appendix B: Sources of 1987 State Court Caseload Statistics 245

Appendix C: Prototype Statistical Profiles 251

Prototype of State Appellate Court Statistical Profile Used in 1987 Data Collection 252
Prototype of State Trial Court Statistical Profile Used in 1987 Data Collection 257

Appendix D: State Populations 263
Resident Population, 1987 265
Total State Population for Trend Tables, 1981, 1984, 1985, 1986, and 1987 266

Overview of the Report

This report offers a comprehensive picture of the work of state appellate and trial courts in 1987. It is the eleventh in a series of annual reports on state court caseloads. The 1987 report is consistent with previous reports and enhances the comparability and accessibility of the relevant information. The overview introduces the main parts of the report and explains their interrelationships, indicates several possible uses of caseload statistics, provides suggestions on how to use the report, and describes the nature of the National Center for State Courts' (NCSC) Court Statistics Project.

Contents of the 1987 Report

The 1987 report is divided into four parts. Part I is a commentary on 1987 appellate and trial court caseloads across the country, which highlights findings of general interest and discusses factors pertinent to any examination of state caseload data. Part I also presents trends since 1981 in filings of selected categories of cases, including torts and felonies.

Part II presents the case filing and case disposition data from individual state courts. The twelve detailed tables, six describing appellate courts and six describing trial courts, represent the core of the report. The level of detail is consistent with the purpose of the tables, which is to serve as a basic reference source. Footnotes to the caseload numbers contained in the tables explain particular features that affect the comparability of certain caseload figures.

In most instances, a footnote alerts the reader to one of three situations. Caseload numbers can be overinclusive in the types of cases that are covered, underinclusive through the omission of certain types of cases, or both. A caseload number is comparable when it meets the definition for the caseload-reporting category recommended by the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary.*

Part III summarizes the structure of each state court system in the form of a one-page chart. The charts identify all of the state courts in operation during the year, describe their geographic and subject matter jurisdiction, note the number of authorized judicial posts, identify whether funding is primarily local or state, and indicate the routes of appeal that link the courts.

Part IV lists the statutes and recordkeeping practices that may have an impact on the comparability of caseload information reported by the courts. The nine figures in Part IV note, for example, the time period used for court statistical reporting, whether calendar year, fiscal year, or court calendar year; define the method by which cases are counted in appellate courts and in criminal, civil, and juvenile trial court proceedings; identify trial courts with the authority to hear appeals; and detail how trial courts resolve the specific issues raised when counting support/custody cases. The figures define what constitutes a case in each court, making it possible to determine which appellate and trial courts compile caseloads on a similar basis. The most important information in the figures is repeated in the main caseload tables (Part II).

Appendix A explains the methodology used to collate the information provided by the states into a standard format.

Uses of Court Statistics

Caseload statistics are simply counts of the number of cases filed and disposed of by a court and, if available, inventories of the number of cases pending at the beginning and at the end of the reporting period. That information provides building blocks that can be combined to construct answers to questions about the state courts.

The broad outline of state court activity emerges from caseload statistics, because they directly address such basic descriptive questions as How many disputes are the courts asked to resolve? and How many of those disputes are in fact decided? Furthermore, caseload statistics can be combined with jurisdictional and other information in this report to describe the work and operations of the state courts. Topics that can be addressed include the composition of caseloads at different court levels, the extent of casetype specialization by particular courts, and the effect of discretionary review on the ability of appellate courts to avoid case backlogs.

Within the limits discussed below, caseload statistics offer a basis for determining the similarities and differences among state court systems. To what extent are appellate and trial courts in various states processing similar types of cases in similar volumes? States can then be grouped into distinct categories, and the impact of those distinctions on the ability of courts to keep up with their incoming caseloads determined. Caseload statistics for several years can be combined to discern trends. Felony case filings can be traced over time and compared to changes during the same time period to case filings for other types of criminal

offenses. The national consistency or changes, up or down, in the level of civil litigation can be studied as well.

There are limits, however, to the uses of available court caseload statistics. A court case is not analogous to a unit of currency. Financial accounts are precise and comparable among firms because accountants can make use of a standard unit—the dollar or other national currency. By contrast, court cases vary in subject matter and complexity. A criminal case can be an accusation of murder or of petty theft. A civil suit may seek to recover $25 dollars in losses or $25 million. This report necessarily focuses on broad categories of cases: mandatory appeals and discretionary petitions for appellate courts; civil, criminal, and juvenile cases for trial courts.

How to Use the Report

This report accommodates all of the uses mentioned above. The commentary in Part I is fashioned from material in Parts II, III, and IV. The user's purpose should determine the parts that are consulted and the order in which they are consulted.

Part I should suffice if the report is being used to obtain a general description of the work of the state courts during 1987. The methodology in Appendix A should be reviewed, however, before drawing specific conclusions.

The best route for obtaining information on a specific state or a specific state court is to read Appendix A and then consult the relevant caseload tables in Part II. Detailed information on the status of the information in the court or state can be found in footnotes to the tables, as well as in Parts III and IV. For example, the total caseload for the trial courts of Virginia can be found in Table 8, Part II. A footnote indicates that the total conforms to the specifications in the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary,* and a code indicates that parking violations are counted as court filings. The court structure chart for Virginia in Part III describes the subject matter of the cases that compose the total, while the figures in Part IV provide details on how the various types of civil and criminal cases are defined.

Differences in the size and composition of court caseloads reflect how states divide the jurisdiction to decide cases and how states collect and disseminate court statistics. Comparisons among states or courts, therefore, require considerable care. Parts III and IV are essential for determining when like is being compared to like. Appendix A explains the conventions and codes that assist the user in identifying similar courts with similar caseload counts.

The NCSC Court Statistics Project

The NCSC Court Statistics Project (CSP) was set up in 1977 to establish a meaningful statistical portrait of the work of the state courts. The caseload report series and other project publications, such as the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary*, encourage uniformity in how courts and state court administrative offices collect and publish caseload information.

The 1987 report, like previous reports in the series, is a joint effort by the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) and the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). COSCA, through its Court Statistics and Technology Committee, oversees the preparation of all project publications and provides policy guidance when establishing or revising generic reporting categories and procedures. NCSC provides project staff and support facilities. Preparation of the 1987 report was funded by a grant from the State Justice Institute to NCSC.

The staff of the Court Statistics Project can provide advice and clarification on the use of the statistics from this and previous caseload reports. Project staff can also provide the full range of information delivered by the states. The prototype statistical profiles (Appendix C), which are used by project staff to collect data, reflect the full range of information sought from the states. Many states provide caseload information that is far more detailed than that presented in Part II of this report. Comments, suggestions, criticisms, and corrections from users of the report are encouraged. Please direct all questions and reactions regarding the report to:

Director, Court Statistics Project
National Center for State Courts
300 Newport Avenue
Williamsburg, Virginia 23187-8798

Part I

State Court Caseloads in 1987

State Court Caseloads in 1987

During 1987, more than 94 million new cases were filed in the state courts. Appeals and discretionary petitions to state appellate courts account for 209,000 of those cases. The rest were trial court filings, consisting of 16 million civil cases, 11.3 million criminal cases, 1.3 million juvenile cases, and 65.6 million traffic or other ordinance violation cases.

Civil trial court filings, which include torts, contracts, small claims, and domestic relations cases, grew 2.4 percent over the 1986 total. Criminal trial court filings, which include felony and misdemeanor cases, increased 4.5 percent over the previous year's total. These increases parallel the experience of appellate courts, where filings grew by 3.9 percent.

The 94 million new cases make the state courts a far more frequent forum for dispute resolution than the federal courts. During 1987, there were 41,599 appeals and petitions filed in the federal appellate courts; 4,493 were directed to the U.S. Supreme Court. There were 233,292 new civil filings and 44,335 new criminal filings in the main federal trial courts, the U.S. District Courts, during 1987.[1] Consequently, five times as many appeals and a hundred times as many civil and criminal trial court cases were filed in state courts than were filed in federal courts.

Although the state court totals are not complete, the caseload statistics reported in this volume offer the most comprehensive picture available of the number and types of cases reaching appellate and trial courts nationwide. Basic filing and disposition data are available for all state appellate courts, although cases cannot always be divided into specific categories. Trial court caseloads are available for all but two states. Statistics for other states are incomplete, with traffic and ordinance violation cases being the most underreported.

This commentary uses 1987 state court caseload statistics toward three main objectives. The first describes the work of state court systems, identifying similarities and differences. The second relates the similarities and differences to the manner in which states organize their court systems and other state-specific characteristics. The third assesses changes over time in state court caseloads.

Part I meets those objectives through the following framework. Appellate courts are examined first in a section that begins by describing and establishing patterns in overall state appellate caseloads. The section then reviews the variation among states in the rate at which the two specific types of cases are filed: mandatory appeals and discretionary petitions. The section reviews, for both types of cases, the extent to which appellate courts in 1987 kept pace with their incoming caseload and, for discretionary petitions, the percentage granted by the court. Subsections examine the cases filed that appellate courts will decide on the merits and the number of opinions written during 1987.

Part I's second section focuses on trial courts. Trial court caseloads are examined with respect to the division of labor among types of trial courts and then with respect to the filing and disposition of civil, criminal, and juvenile cases during 1987. Both the appellate and trial court sections conclude by discussing identified similarities and differences and their relationship to court organization.

Although both the sections on appellate and trial courts compare 1987 caseloads to those from 1986, more extensive trend analysis is offered in the third section. The trend section focuses on changes since 1981 in the number of tort and felony case filings. Torts and felonies are the focus because of the demands that such cases place on court resources, their importance to current public policy debates, and the consistency over time in the definition of these two reporting categories. Part I concludes with a section that reiterates the main findings and a statement of the conclusions that tie the tables, charts, graphs, and maps to the three objectives.

The commentary in Part I is a synthesis of material from the other three parts of the report: the main caseload statistics tables, the court structure charts, and the figures describing court jurisdiction and statistical reporting practices. Before proceeding, it is helpful to arm the reader with basic knowledge about factors that affect the comparability of the caseload statistics.

"Comparable" in this report refers to the methodology of reporting court caseloads established by the Conference of State Court Administrators through its Court Statistics and Technology Committee, as defined in the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary*.[2] Comparability is most often

[1] Filings in the U.S. Courts of Appeals and the U.S. District Courts are from *Want's Federal State Court Directory: 1989 Edition*, Washington, D.C.: Want Publishing. Filings in the U.S. Supreme Court are from unpublished statistics provided by the Office of the Clerk and refer to the 12 months ending September 30, 1987. U.S. District Court filings do not include bankruptcy code filings, which are heard by bankruptcy judges, or misdemeanor cases heard by magistrates.

[2] National Court Statistics Project, National Center for State Courts, *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary*, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1980, and *Supplement*, Williamsburg, Va.: National Center for State Courts, 1984. A revised and consolidated edition will be published in 1989.

compromised when a court's caseload is incomplete, overinclusive, or counted by a method that inflates or deflates its magnitude relative to other courts.

"Incomplete" means that types of cases that should be included in a count are omitted. For example, the definition of criminal case found in the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary* includes the offense of driving while intoxicated (DWI/DUI). A general jurisdiction trial court that has jurisdiction over such cases but classifies them, for reporting purposes, with traffic violations rather than with criminal cases would have its total criminal caseload footnoted as incomplete.

Conversely, if DWI/DUI cases are heard in a court of limited jurisdiction, but cannot be separated from the "traffic and other violation" cases filed in the court, the statistics on "traffic/other ordinance" violation cases will be footnoted as overinclusive, since they include cases that should be categorized as criminal.

Comparability is also affected by basic decisions a state or court makes when designing its court records system. One basic decision is the "unit of count." Some appellate courts count the receipt of the "notice of appeal" as the step that initiates the appellate process. Other courts wait until the trial court record is prepared and transmitted to the appellate court before counting a filing, by which time many appeals have been withdrawn, settled, or dismissed, especially in civil cases (see Figure B, Part IV, p. 191).

Trial courts differ both in what is counted as a filing and in when the count is taken. For criminal cases, some courts count each charge, some count each defendant, and some use charging documents that contain multiple charges and/or multiple defendants. Counts are taken at an early stage in some courts, such as the filing of the complaint, while other courts count only those cases that result in an arraignment. These practices are described using a common framework in Figure D, Part IV (p. 205).

Trial courts tend to count civil cases at the filing of an initial petition or complaint with the clerk of court, but practices vary. What constitutes a case may differ by specific casetype; for example, courts differ in whether support/custody proceedings are counted as a case filing or as part of the marriage dissolution case. As is true for criminal cases, a common framework is used in this report to describe the method of count used in each state court for civil cases generally (Figure H, p. 225) and for support/custody cases specifically (Figure I, p. 231).

Part I uses charts, graphs, and maps to summarize caseload and related information contained in the other parts of the report. The goal is comparability, but differences in case volume reflect many factors, including the constitutions, statutes, court structure and rules, and administrative recordkeeping practices of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Appellate Court Caseloads in 1987

State appellate courts reported 208,962 filings in 1987: 154,701 mandatory appeals and 54,261 discretionary petitions. Case filing data were available for all 94 courts of last resort (COLRs) and intermediate appellate courts (IACs) in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.[3]

Some of the reported filings, however, contain undercounting or double counting. Table 1, Part II (p. 52) allows a detailed review of the quality of the caseload information used to generate the national totals.

Appellate Court Structure and Jurisdiction in 1987

Mandatory jurisdiction refers to appeals as a matter of right: those cases for which the court is required by state constitution or statute to hear and decide the appeal on the merits. Discretionary jurisdiction refers to casetypes in which a party must file a petition asking the court to hear the case. The appellate court then decides whether to exercise its discretionary power to consider the case on the merits.

All states have established a court of last resort (COLR), usually named the supreme court, in their constitutions. The COLR has the final jurisdiction over all appeals within the state. Thirty-eight states have also established one or more intermediate appellate courts to hear appeals from trial courts and administrative agencies as specified in state law or at the discretion of the COLR.[4] Twenty-four states organized their IAC on a statewide basis and fourteen on a regional basis in 1987.

According to an influential perspective[5] on the appropriate role and structure of appellate courts, there are two basic functions: (1) the review of specific trial court proceedings to correct errors in the application of law and procedure, and (2) the development of law for the benefit of the community at large. The error-correction function should be exercised through mandatory jurisdiction, with each unsuccessful party entitled to one appeal as a matter of right. Further appellate review should develop the law, ensuring the uniform application of the law by trial courts throughout the state. This should be undertaken on a discretionary basis. Where the volume of cases exceeds the capacity of the COLR, an IAC should assume the error-correction function, and the COLR should, by the exercise of its discretion to review all manner of appeals, develop the law.

The influence of this perspective on state court systems is evident by the extent which states have created IACs in response to growing appellate caseloads. Twenty-five states established IACs in recent decades (since 1958). Yet, despite the common contexts in which they were created, a careful examination reveals complex differences in the allocation of jurisdiction to both COLRs and

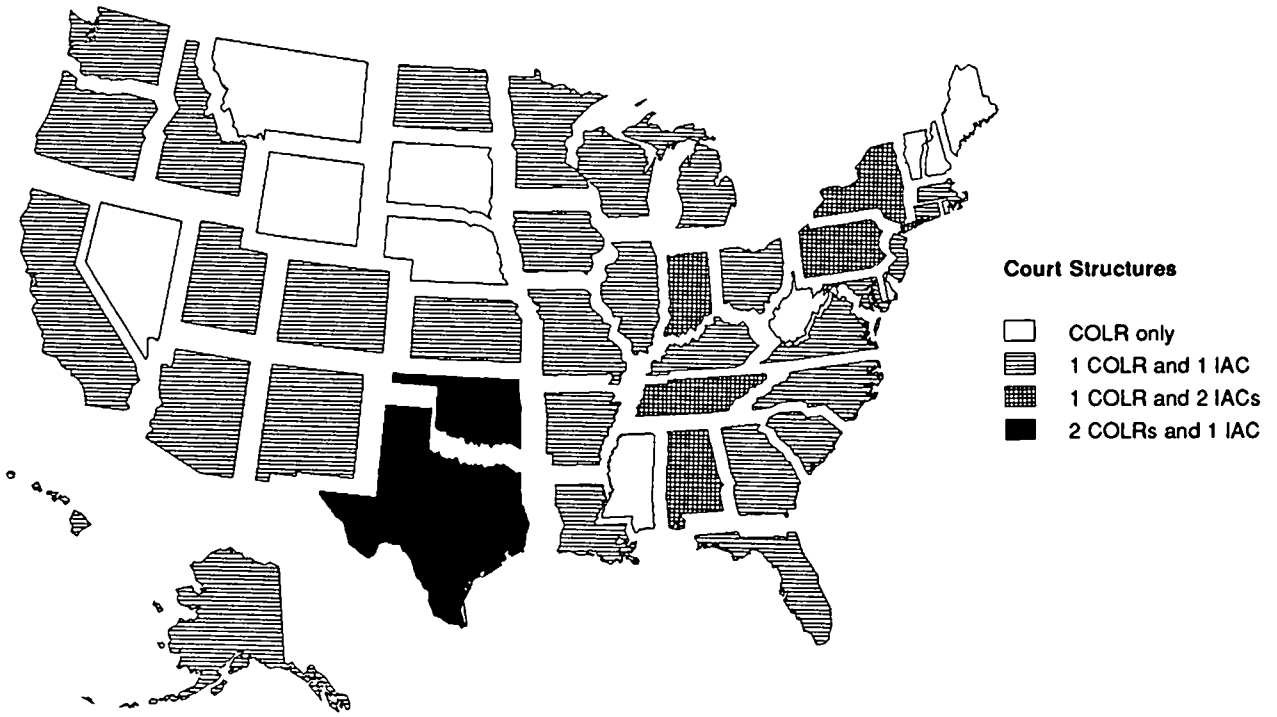
---

[3]Puerto Rico reports trial court but not appellate court statistics to the NCSC Court Statistics Project.

[4]Effective July 1, 1987, through January 1, 1990, a temporary court of appeals is established in North Dakota "to exercise appellate and original jurisdiction as delegated by the supreme court" (sections 27-07.1-17, North Dakota Century Code). The court sits in three-judge panels. The two panels of the IAC called during 1987 heard six cases on assignment from the COLR.

[5]The perspective is put forward in several authoritative texts that vary in nuance. The summary here is derived from the American Bar Association, *Standards Relating to Court Organization,* Chicago: American Bar Association, 1974, pp. 1-10.

MAP 1: The Distribution of Appellate Courts, 1987

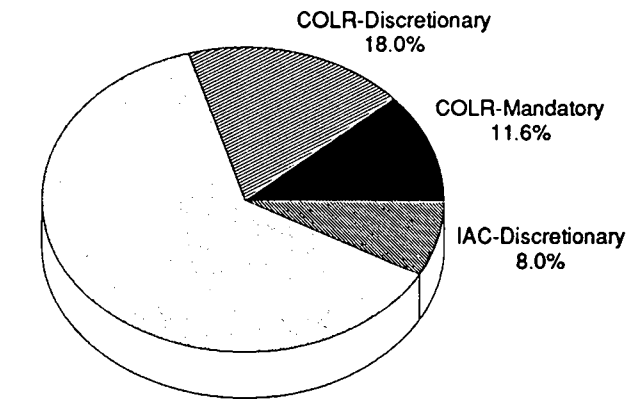


IACs.[6] When one matches appellate structure with jurisdiction, the consequences of these complex differences are highlighted. The matching process produces four categories of cases: (1) COLR mandatory appeals, (2) COLR discretionary petitions, (3) IAC mandatory appeals, and (4) IAC discretionary petitions.

If we combine the appellate filings reported by the states according to court level and jurisdiction, the 1987 appellate caseload is as shown in Chart 1. Eighteen percent of all filings were discretionary petitions to COLRs, and 12 percent of all filings took the form of mandatory appeals to COLRs. Mandatory appeals to IACs represented 62 percent of the total state appellate caseload for the year, while 8 percent consisted of discretionary petitions to IACs.

The text and graphics that follow will compare appellate caseloads reported by the states. The information is placed in context by first considering appellate court structure and jurisdiction throughout the nation.

CHART 1: Appellate Case Filings, 1987

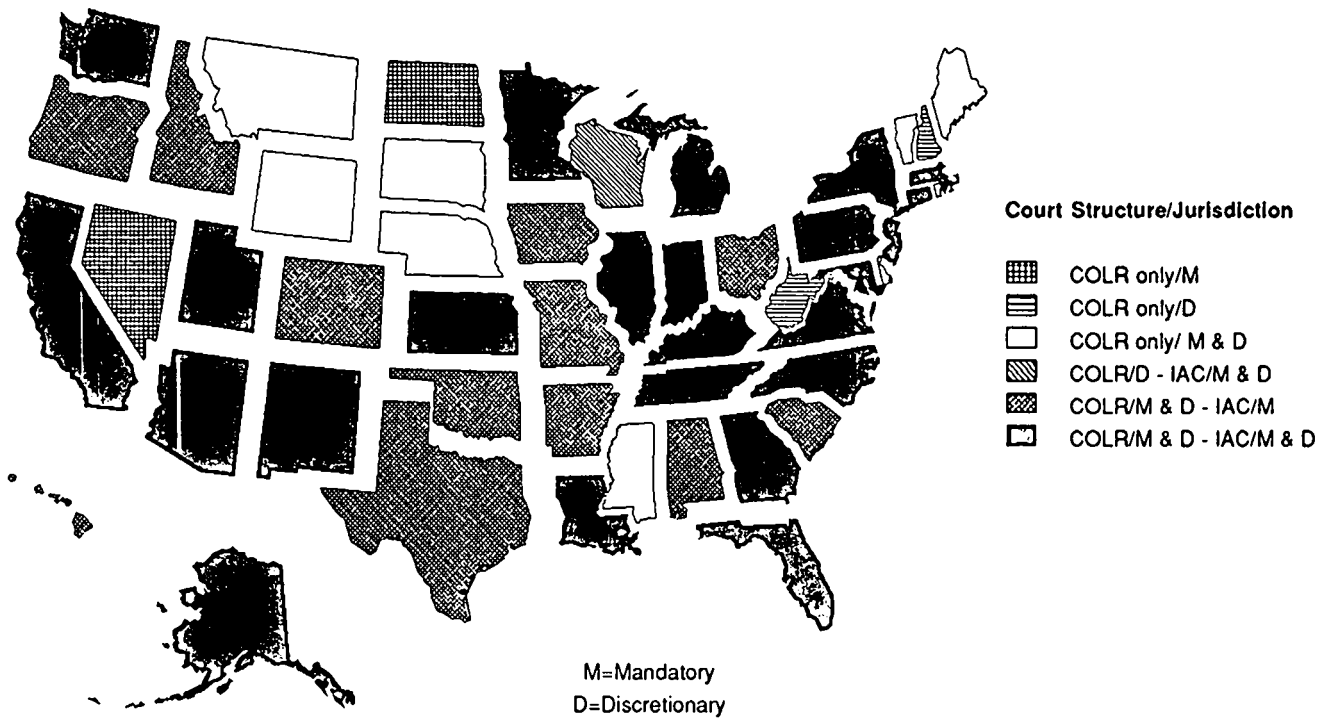


Total=208,962

Map 1 presents the number of courts that have been established at each level in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The 13 states with only one appellate court are sparsely populated or geographically small. Thirty-one states have one COLR and one IAC. Texas and Oklahoma have separate COLRs for criminal and civil cases and one IAC. Four states have established multiple IACs. Alabama

[6]This perspective has clearly applied with great force to the federal system. The U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals were established in 1891 as an IAC on a regional basis and assumed much of the U.S. Supreme Court's mandatory caseload. The federal appellate system evolved subsequently through a series of significant transfers of mandatory appellate jurisdiction from the Supreme Court to the Circuit Courts of Appeal. This culminated in Public Law 100-352 (Act of June 27, 1988, 102 Stat. 662), which "substantially eliminates" the mandatory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. Seven states established an IAC before 1891: Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and Texas (Robert R. Stern, *Appellate Practice in the United States*, Washington, D.C.: Bureau of National Affairs, 1981, p. 9).

MAP 2: Appellate Court Caseload Jurisdiction, 1987



and Tennessee maintain separate courts for civil and criminal appeals, while Pennsylvania divides jurisdiction between its commonwealth court and its superior court on the basis of subject matter. New York divides jurisdiction between its two IACs primarily by the trial court from which the appeal is taken.

Map 2 presents how states allocate mandatory and discretionary jurisdiction within their appellate systems. The District of Columbia and eight of the 13 states with only one appellate court have both mandatory and discretionary jurisdiction. The COLRs in New Hampshire, West Virginia, and Wisconsin exercise full discretionary jurisdiction over their dockets, while all COLR filings in Nevada, North Dakota, and Wyoming are appeals of right (totally mandatory jurisdiction). States with IACs obviously vary in the manner in which jurisdiction is allocated between court levels.

The Composition of Appellate Court Caseloads in 1987

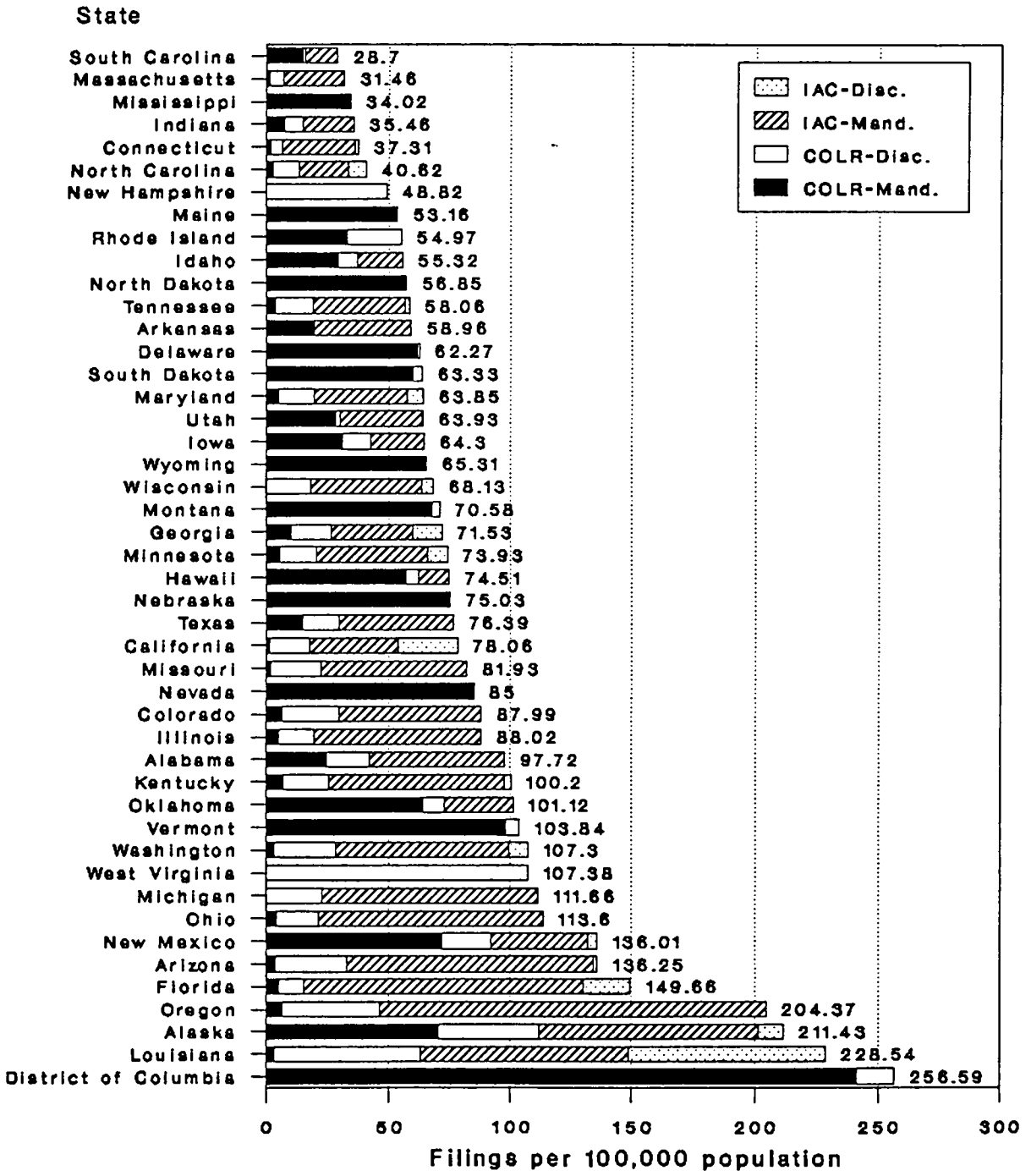
As a generalization, the substantial portion of the work of COLRs is to review petitions and then decide the petitions granted. Of every 100 cases filed in a state COLR, 61 were discretionary petitions. This contrasts with the IAC caseload, in which only 11 of every 100 filings were discretionary petitions. IACs are clearly the workhorses of state appellate systems. Nearly three quarters (72.2 percent) of appellate filings in states with both a COLR and an IAC went to the IAC.[7]

The issue examined here is whether differences in appellate structure are associated with distinctive caseload patterns. Several interrelated questions revolve around this issue. Are the caseloads of one-level appellate systems distinctive from two-level appellate systems? Does the generalization cited above on the respective role of COLRs and IACs in two-tier systems apply to all states or are other patterns identifiable? Are states with multiple appellate courts at any level distinctive in the composition of their caseloads? Such questions are important, as the answers indicate the extent to which like is being compared with like when appellate systems are discussed. These issues are addressed next.

The 1987 totals for the appellate courts of individual states can be found in Table 2, Part II (p. 54), which reports the number of mandatory appeals filed and disposed, the number of petitions that were filed and disposed, and the number of petitions granted (and previously granted petition dispositions). States are listed according to their appellate structure. Consequently, states with one COLR and one IAC are listed first, followed by states with only a COLR, and finally states with more than one COLR or IAC. The appellate system of North Dakota will be grouped with states that have only a COLR. North Dakota's temporary court of appeals heard six cases during 1987 on assignment from the COLR; all appellate caseload statistics are reported as COLR filings and dispositions.

[7]A second appeal is possible in most states with a two-tier appellate system. This means that a case may be counted twice in a state's filing statistics, first as a mandatory appeal of the trial court judgment to the IAC and then as a petition for review by the COLR of an unfavorable IAC decision. One study concluded that between one-fifth and one-half of IAC decisions are appealed to the COLR but that few of those petitions are granted. See Stephen Wasby, Thomas Marvel, and Alexander Aikman, *Volume and Delay in State Appellate Courts: Problems and Responses*, Williamsburg, Va.: National Center for State Courts, 1979, pp. 54-55.

GRAPH 1: Total Appellate Filings per 100,000 Population, 1987



The following states are not included: KS, NJ, NY, PA, VA.

Graph 1 displays case filings per 100,000 population in the appellate courts of 45 states and the District of Columbia. The information used to generate the graph can be found in Table 2, Part II (p. 54). The main conclusions that can be drawn from the graph are the similarity of caseload levels once adjusted for state population size and that particular appellate structures do not appear to be closely linked to high or low caseloads.[8]

These reported filing levels reflect court rules, definitions of appellate jurisdiction, methods of counting filings, the incidental appellate jurisdiction assigned to trial courts, and the rate at which trial court filings result in trials and,

[8]Graph 1 overstates the presence of mandatory appeals relative to discretionary petitions in appellate court caseloads. The footnotes to Table 2, Part II indicate that the number of mandatory appeals is overinclusive, encompassing all discretionary petitions in the following courts: Arkansas Supreme Court, Illinois Appellate Court, Indiana Court of Appeals, Massachusetts Appeals Court, Michigan Court of Appeals, Maine Supreme Judicial Court, and Nebraska Supreme Court.

thus, generate issues that can be the subject of an appeal. Variation in these factors will result in differences between states in filing rates and, if they were taken into consideration, would probably reduce the amount of variation among states in the same region and with similar sizes and economic bases. The variation found in Graph 1 will be examined by appellate court structure.

States with only one appellate court are easily identified in Graph 1. The bar representing their case filings has either one or two sections. Filing rates per 100,000 population in those states tend to be lower than in states with a two-level appellate system. The difference is not absolute. Nevada and Vermont have filing rates above the median, as do West Virginia, which has entirely discretionary jurisdiction, and the District of Columbia, which has the highest filing rate.

Three of the 13 states with only one appellate court have entirely mandatory jurisdiction (Nevada, North Dakota, and Wyoming). Another four states (Delaware, Maine, Mississippi, and Nebraska) have allocated only minor discretionary jurisdiction to their appellate courts, and no discretionary petitions were filed in those courts during 1987. Filings in the appellate courts of the District of Columbia, Montana, South Dakota, and Vermont were overwhelmingly mandatory appeals. Rhode Island was the only state with one appellate court in which discretionary petitions and mandatory appeals were filed in roughly equal numbers. The COLRs in New Hampshire and West Virginia have solely discretionary jurisdiction, but most of the work of other COLRs in one-tier appellate systems is to decide mandatory appeals.

Appellate filings in states with one COLR and one IAC tend to conform to the standard perspective on appellate structure and jurisdiction. Filings in the COLR represent a small proportion of the state total and are mainly discretionary petitions. Filings in the IAC are primarily mandatory cases. This describes the appellate systems of Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin. Most of these states have total appellate filing rates above the median.

Louisiana, Maryland, and North Carolina adhere to only part of the perspective. Discretionary petitions form a larger than typical share of IAC filings in these three states.

Seven states offer a very different pattern, with most filings in the COLR rather than the IAC and filings at both levels primarily in the form of mandatory appeals: Arkansas, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, New Mexico, South Carolina, and Utah (the Utah IAC went into operation on February 1, 1987).[9] The pattern is perhaps clearest in New Mexico. In that state, 64 percent of mandatory appeals and 84 percent of discretionary petitions were filed in the COLR, and there were more than three times as many mandatory appeals than discretionary petitions filed in the COLR (Table 2, Part II, p. 54). That basic pattern applies to those states in which the IAC hears cases on assignment from the COLR. All IAC filings in Hawaii, Idaho, and Iowa are filed with the court through assignment by the state COLR, while filings in the South Carolina IAC arrive both directly and through COLR assignment. With the exception of New Mexico, these states have relatively low rates of total appellate filings per 100,000 population.

Alaska, the remaining state with one COLR and one IAC, is distinctive because a substantial share of the total appellate filings are in the COLR, and most COLR filings are mandatory appeals rather than discretionary petitions. The Alaska COLR has mandatory jurisdiction to hear civil appeals and discretionary jurisdiction over other appellate casetypes, while that state's IAC has mandatory jurisdiction over criminal cases but no jurisdiction in civil cases.

Alabama and Tennessee have separate IACs for civil and criminal appeals. Tennessee conforms to the most common pattern of a COLR with a limited share of the total caseload consisting mainly of discretionary petitions and an IAC with case filings in the form of mandatory appeals. The Alabama appellate caseload is more evenly divided between the two court levels, and the majority of COLR cases and all of the IAC cases are mandatory appeals.

Texas has two COLRs, one having jurisdiction exclusively over criminal appeals. The combined COLR caseload is about one-half mandatory. In other respects, the pattern is similar to the most common one in that the vast majority of appellate filings are mandatory cases in the IAC.

There is much diversity in the composition of state appellate caseloads. That diversity reflects how states have variously responded to increases in the volume of case filings. The available statistical evidence suggests that state appellate caseloads doubled in the 1960s and then again in the 1970s.[10] Some states conform to the standard perspective on structuring and allocating jurisdiction to their appellate courts. Other patterns can be identified, however, even among states with two-tier systems. Local circumstances and needs tempered the application of the standard perspective in many states. In particular, the bulk of the appellate burden remains on the COLR in some states (e.g. Alaska and New Mexico), and some states (e.g. Georgia, Kentucky, and Maryland) have retained substantial mandatory jurisdiction in their COLRs and allocated discretion to their IACs.

The connection between caseload composition and appellate structure is important for any consideration of the work, operations, and problems of appellate courts nationally. Care is required when determining when like is being compared to like. The diversity in structures and jurisdiction also has clear practical consequences. The 3.9 percent increase in total appellate filings between 1986 and 1987 was not evenly experienced by COLRs and IACs, or evenly divided between mandatory appeals and discretionary petitions. Overall, COLR filings increased by 3.0 percent and IAC filings by 4.3 percent. The increase was strongest for discretionary petitions filed in IACs: the IACs with relevant data for both years reported 7.6 percent more discretionary petitions in 1987 than in 1986. Filings of mandatory appeals in IACs increased by 3.9 percent.

[9] In Oklahoma, the state supreme court also assigns cases to the state's IAC, the court of appeals.

[10] "State appellate caseloads have, on the average, doubled every ten years since the Second World War." American Bar Association, Judicial Administration Division, *Standards Relating to Appellate Delay Reduction*, Chicago: American Bar Association, 1988, p. 11.

COLR mandatory appeals increased by 2.1 percent and COLR discretionary petitions by 3.6 percent.

The rest of the appellate caseload section considers, in turn, mandatory appeals and discretionary petitions. For mandatory appeals, the focus is on filing rates per 100,000 population and dispositions as a percentage of filings. For discretionary petitions, the topics include filing rates, petitions disposed as a percentage of petitions filed, and the percentage of petitions granted. The information on mandatory appeals and number of petitions is then brought together. The number of petitions granted during 1987 is added to the number of mandatory appeals filed to yield what is a basic caseload measure for many appellate systems: the number of cases to be heard and decided on the merits. Appellate opinions are the final topic considered in this section of the commentary.

Mandatory Appellate Caseloads in 1987

States reported 154,701 mandatory appeals in 1987, 15.7 percent of which were filed in COLRs. Forty-eight states and the District of Columbia had appellate courts with mandatory jurisdiction.

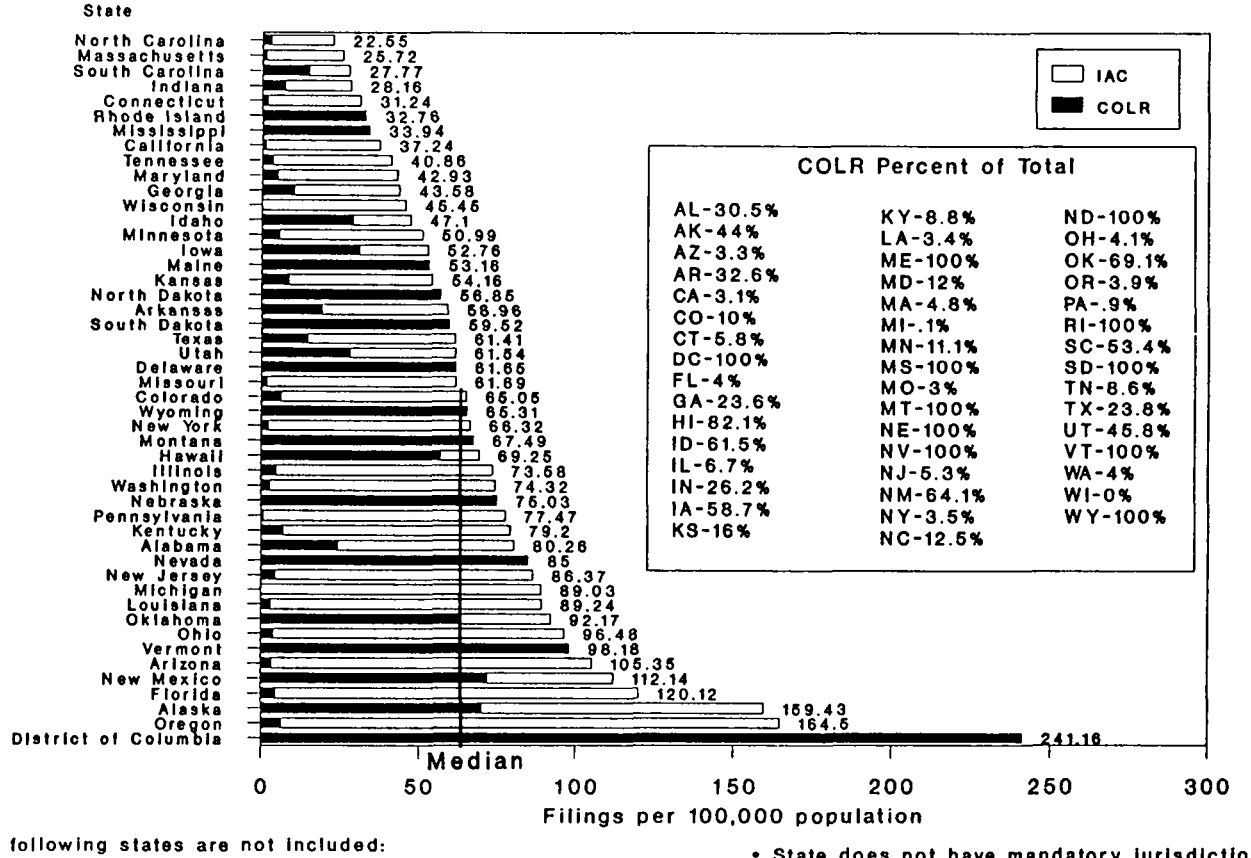
MANDATORY APPEALS FILED IN STATE APPELLATE COURTS IN 1987. Graph 2 summarizes mandatory filings in 47 states and the District of Columbia, based on the information presented in Table 3, Part II (p. 66). Filings are expressed as rates per 100,000 population, and filings in a COLR are differentiated from those in an IAC.

The resulting range is substantial, from 23 per 100,000 population in North Carolina to 241 per 100,000 population in the District of Columbia. The median rate is 63.4, with nearly one-half of the states (22 of 46) falling within a band that includes Minnesota (51 filings per 100,000 population) and Alabama (80 filings per 100,000 population). There is, thus, a broad middle range of states with roughly comparable levels of mandatory appeals.

There is no evident pattern linking filing rates to region, state population, or court structure. States without an IAC tend to be small, located in New England or the West, and tend to have a COLR with little or no discretionary jurisdiction. Yet the 11 states meeting those criteria (with the addition of Mississippi) are scattered on the graph. Rhode Island (32.8) and Mississippi (33.9) are at the low end; Maine (53.2), North Dakota (56.9), South Dakota (59.5), and Delaware (61.7) fall below the median rate of 66.0; Montana and Nebraska are located slightly above the median; and Nevada (85) and Vermont (98.2) show rates considerably above average.

The highest filing rate is in the District of Columbia, which has one appellate court with very limited discretionary jurisdiction. Of the four states with the next highest per 100,000 population filing rate, two (Alaska and New Mex-

GRAPH 2: Mandatory Filings per 100,000 Population, 1987



The following states are not included: NH•, VA, WV•.

• State does not have mandatory jurisdiction.

ico) retain substantial mandatory jurisdiction at the COLR level and two—Florida and Oregon—do not. Some of the ranking of states found in Graph 2 may be attributable to differences in the breadth of appellate court jurisdiction and to how cases are counted. For example, 34 of the 37 states with capital punishment statutes make provision for the automatic review of death sentences, usually by the COLR. The number of mandatory filings that result is currently small—299 prisoners were received from the courts under sentence of death during 1987—but the provision for automatic appeal is one of many statutory or procedural factors that affect a state's filing rate.[11] The method of count also affects the filing rate. For example, appeals in the California appellate courts are counted at the filing of the trial record, rather than the notice of appeal, a point by which some appeals have been closed and, therefore, not counted. Other states with low filing rates—Massachusetts, North Carolina, and South Carolina (COLR only)—base their count on documents filed after the notice of appeal.

CLEARANCE RATES FOR MANDATORY APPEALS IN 1987. Appellate courts that disposed of more cases during 1987 than were filed with the courts in that year reduced their pending caseloads. The cases disposed of during 1987 could have been filed in previous years. A clearance rate is simply the number of cases disposed divided by the number of cases filed, and multiplied by 100 to express the difference as a percentage. Text Table 1 abstracts the relevant information from Table 3, Part II (p. 66) to present a clearance rate for each state, each COLR, and each IAC. States are listed from the lowest to highest statewide appellate clearance rate.

A clearance rate could be calculated for 30 states and the District of Columbia. For nine other states, a clearance rate could be obtained for the IAC but not for the COLR and is included in Text Table 1.

At the state level, clearance rates range from 81 percent in Nebraska to 134 percent in New York. Twelve states and the District of Columbia disposed of more mandatory appellate cases in 1987 than were filed, thus reducing their pending caseload. The remaining states, to varying degrees, were accumulating larger pending caseloads to carry into 1988.

There is no pattern linking high clearance rates to particular appellate structures. However, COLRs are slightly more likely than IACs to report clearance rates of greater than 100 percent: 12 of the 30 COLRs with mandatory jurisdiction and 12 of the 31 IACs in Text Table 1 reduced the size of their pending caseload. Because IACs tend to have larger mandatory caseloads than COLRs, their success in processing cases is likely to dominate the overall state clearance rate. For example, the COLR in New York reported a clearance rate of 90.2 percent, but the combined clearance rate for the two IACs of 136 percent left the state with the highest overall clearance rate in 1987 (134 percent). Overall, most states succeeded in disposing of more cases during 1987 than were filed. That success was certainly facilitated by the sharp decline in the number of mandatory filings during 1987 from the 1986 level.

[11]Lawrence Greenfield, *Capital Punishment 1987*, Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 1988.

TEXT TABLE 1: Appellate Court Clearance Rates for Mandatory Appeals, 1987

State	State Total	Court of Last Resort	Intermediate Appellate Court
Nebraska	80.6%	80.6%	
Alaska	86.0%	79.1%	91.5%
Kentucky	87.0%	103.8%	85.6%
Louisiana	88.0%	91.1%	87.9%
Mississippi	93.3%	93.3%	
North Dakota	93.5%	93.5%	
Ohio	93.9%	90.1%	94.1%
Illinois	94.0%	97.9%	93.7%
Wyoming	94.4%	94.4%	
Hawaii	96.1%	94.0%	106.0%
Arizona	96.9%	74.1%	97.7%
Indiana	97.2%	93.9%	98.4%
Florida	97.9%	94.3%	98.1%
Minnesota	97.9%	84.7%	99.6%
Vermont	98.0%	98.0%	
Arkansas	99.4%	90.6%	103.6%
Texas	99.7%	99.9%	99.6%
Idaho	99.8%	102.1%	96.1%
Wisconsin	101.0%	NH	101.0%
Iowa	101.8%	107.6%	93.5%
New Jersey	102.3%	109.2%	102.0%
Alabama	102.4%	101.9%	102.5%
Maryland	102.7%	95.3%	103.7%
North Carolina	103.9%	106.1%	103.6%
Delaware	105.5%	105.5%	
District of Columbia	106.3%	106.3%	
Kansas	110.1%	155.6%	104.4%
Nevada	118.3%	118.3%	
Washington	119.1%	109.6%	119.5%
Rhode Island	124.5%	124.5%	
New York	134.4%	90.2%	136.0%
Oklahoma	—	N/A	78.2%
Colorado	—	N/A	83.0%
South Carolina	—	N/A	83.6%
Connecticut	—	N/A	94.1%
Georgia	—	N/A	94.7%
Tennessee	—	N/A	98.1%
Oregon	—	N/A	98.3%
Missouri	—	N/A	106.7%
California	—	N/A	106.9%

N/A = Not Available
NH = This casetype is not handled in this court
— = A calculation is inappropriate

Note: A blank space indicates that a state does not have an intermediate appellate court.

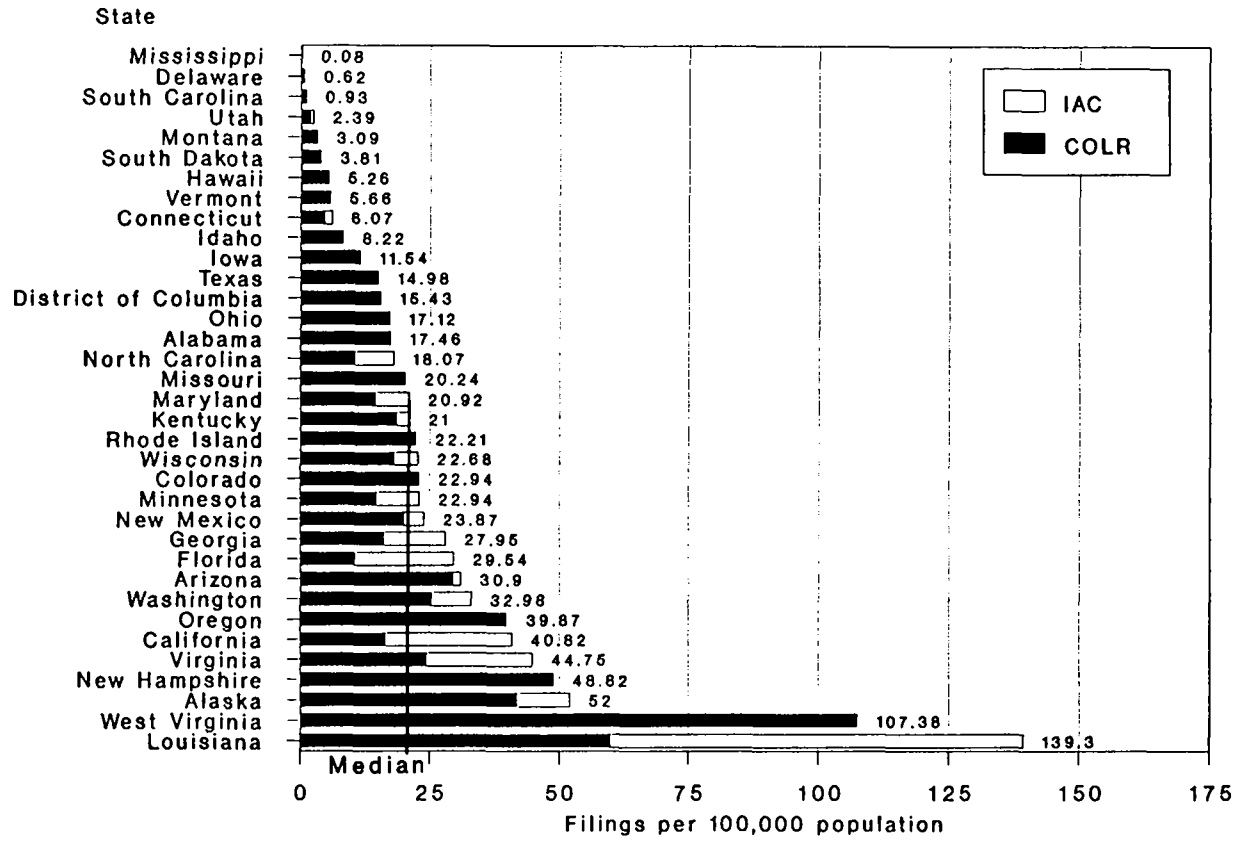
Source: Tables 2 and 3, Part II
National Center for State Courts, 1989.

Discretionary Appellate Caseloads in 1987

This section examines the 54,261 discretionary petitions that were filed in state appellate courts. More than two-thirds (69 percent) of those petitions were filed in a COLR.

In state courts, unlike the federal system, "appellate capacity at an intermediate level does not always spawn discretionary review at the top, as it did in the federal

GRAPH 3: Discretionary Filings per 100,000 Population, 1987



The following states are not included: AR, IL, IN, KS, MA, MI, MN, NE, NV•, NJ, NY, ND•, OK, PA, TN, WY•.

• State does not have discretionary jurisdiction.

system."[12] State COLRs often retain substantial mandatory jurisdiction, and IACs are often created with discretionary jurisdiction. Thus, the division between the work of COLRs and IACs is perhaps not as clear in most states as it is in the federal appellate system.

Appellate courts vary in the procedures used to decide which petitions to accept for review. In 31 states, a decision to grant review in the COLR requires a majority of the members of the full court or of the panel, whichever is used to review petitions. In the remaining COLRs with discretionary jurisdiction, a minority—in several courts a single justice—of the members of the court or of a panel can grant a petition.

The following section considers the number of petitions filed per 100,000 state population, clearance rates for petitions, and the percentage of petitions that were granted.

DISCRETIONARY PETITIONS FILED. The number of petitions filed in each appellate court with discretionary jurisdiction can be found in Table 3, Part II (p. 66). Graph 3 summarizes that information for 34 states and the District of Columbia. The remaining states either lack discretionary jurisdiction or did not provide the relevant data for all court levels with discretionary jurisdiction.

[12]Doris Marie Provine, "Certiorari," pp. 783-794 in R. Janosik (ed.), *Encyclopedia of the American Judicial Process,* New York: Scribners, p. 784.

The median filing rate is 21 per 100,000 population. Filing rates range from a low of less than one per 100,000 population in Mississippi (0.08) to a high of 139.3 per 100,000 population in Louisiana. Most filing rates, however, are less than 30 per 100,000 population. Louisiana, which allocates substantial discretionary jurisdiction to both its COLR and IAC, and West Virginia (107.4 per 100,000 population), a one-court appellate system without mandatory jurisdiction, stand far apart from other states in the magnitude of their discretionary petition caseloads.

There is no clear relationship between the size of mandatory and discretionary caseloads. Louisiana and Alaska are among the states with both the highest mandatory and discretionary filing rates. The District of Columbia, which had a mandatory filing rate substantially higher than any state, receives more petitions on a population-size adjusted basis than states such as Texas or Oklahoma. Some of the states at the low end of the range for discretionary filings simply lack significant jurisdiction for discretionary petitions. Connecticut, Mississippi, and South Carolina, however, have low filing rates for both mandatory appeals and discretionary petitions.

There is greater uniformity among the states in discretionary filing rates than for rates of mandatory appeals. States can be divided into four main categories: those with discretionary filing rates of less than 10 petitions per 100,000 population (10 states); those with filing rates

between 10 and 20 petitions per 100,000 population (6); those with filing rates between 20 and 32 petitions per 100,000 population (11 states); and the remaining states (8). Louisiana and West Virginia should, perhaps, be considered separately. Their appellate courts recorded filing rates that are more than double those found in the state with the third-highest rate, Alaska (52 petitions per 100,000 population).

IACs receive more discretionary petitions than the COLR in California, Florida, and Louisiana. A substantial proportion of all discretionary petitions were filed in the IACs of Georgia, Maryland, Minnesota, North Carolina, Virginia, and Washington. The filing rates in all of those states, except North Carolina, are above the median of 20 per 100,000 population.

CLEARANCE RATES FOR DISCRETIONARY PETITIONS. Text Table 2 provides information on discretionary petitions that were decided during 1987 as a percentage of those filed during the year (derived from Table 4, Part II, p. 72). Comparable filing and disposition data are available for 24 states and the District of Columbia. State clearance rates show less variation for discretionary petitions than was observed for mandatory appeals. The lowest rate is 84 percent, reported by Wisconsin, and the highest is 117 percent in Texas. Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Texas reduced the size of their pending caseload during 1987. The other 18 states and the District of Columbia reported clearance rates below 100 percent. In two states, as many petitions were disposed as were filed: Mississippi reported two cases disposed and two filed and Delaware four disposed and four filed (although the Delaware totals are incomplete).

Generally, pending discretionary caseloads were rising more rapidly than pending caseloads of mandatory appeals. The limited information in Text Table 2 suggests that the problem is more acute for IACs than for COLRs. Eight of 29 COLRs reported clearance rates above 100 percent; only two of 13 IACs could report similar clearance rates. The main feature of the 1987 data is the generally low clearance rates reported for discretionary petitions.

DISCRETIONARY PETITIONS GRANTED. The U.S. Supreme Court currently accepts for review about 5 percent of the discretionary petitions filed.[13] State COLRs tend to accept a larger percentage of petitions filed. During 1987, state COLRs granted 14.1 percent of the discretionary petitions filed.

That percentage is derived from Text Table 3, which shows the number of petitions filed and the number and the percentage granted for the COLRs of 22 states and the District of Columbia.

The percentages granted range from the low of 3 percent in Michigan to a high of 62 percent in Massachusetts. The Michigan Supreme Court has mandatory jurisdiction only in judicial discipline cases, with all appeals of right directed from the trial courts to the IAC. The court received 2,087 filings (five appeals and 2,082 petitions). It granted 60 of those petitions. The mandatory jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court is more broadly defined, including, for example, all sentences of life imprisonment for first-degree murder. The court received 72 appeals and 336 petitions, granting 208 of those petitions.

The COLRs in the District of Columbia (4 percent), California (5 percent), Missouri (8 percent), Tennessee (8 percent), Illinois, New Jersey, and North Carolina (9 percent) granted fewer than one of every ten petitions filed. Unlike Michigan, other COLRs with primarily discretionary jurisdiction tended to grant a high proportion of petitions: West Virginia (39 percent) and Wisconsin (24 percent). Where an IAC has been established, the precise boundaries of its jurisdiction become important in understanding the flow of cases to the COLR and, probably, the percentage of petitions that are granted. For example, it appears that types of cases that would go to the IAC in Michigan would, if in Massachusetts, go to the COLR.

TEXT TABLE 2: Discretionary Petitions Decided as a Percentage of Petitions Filed, 1987

State	State Total	Court of Last Resort	Intermediate Appellate Court
Wisconsin	83.8%	83.4%	85.1%
Vermont	83.9%	83.9%	
Ohio	86.6%	86.6%	NH
New Hampshire	87.4%	87.4%	
Florida	87.6%	96.3%	82.3%
Maryland	90.2%	85.8%	100.0%
District of Columbia	90.6%	90.6%	
Alabama	91.7%	91.7%	NH
Minnesota	91.9%	88.7%	97.7%
Idaho	92.7%	92.7%	NH
West Virginia	93.7%	93.7%	
California	95.5%	87.9%	100.7%
Oregon	96.0%	96.0%	NH
North Carolina	96.6%	94.2%	100.0%
Iowa	96.9%	96.9%	NH
Louisiana	98.5%	99.5%	97.7%
Washington	98.9%	95.0%	112.1%
Kentucky	99.2%	101.9%	78.9%
Delaware	100.0%	100.0%	
Mississippi	100.0%	100.0%	
Hawaii	101.8%	101.8%	NH
Alaska	104.0%	105.5%	100.0%
Arizona	105.1%	105.9%	88.2%
Rhode Island	110.1%	110.1%	
Texas	116.6%	116.6%	NH
Virginia	—	81.1%	N/A
Illinois	—	97.6%	N/A
New Jersey	—	102.1%	N/A
Indiana	—	108.2%	N/A
Georgia	—	N/A	95.6%
Tennesee	—	N/A	100.0%

N/A = Not Available
NH = This casetype is not handled in this court
— = A calculation is inappropriate

Note: A blank space indicates that a state does not have an intermediate appellate court.

Source: Tables 2 and 4, Part II
National Center for State Courts, 1989.

[13]Doris Marie Provine, "Certiorari," pp. 783-794 in R. Janosik (ed.), *Encyclopedia of the American Judicial Process,* New York: Scribners, p. 784.

TEXT TABLE 3: Discretionary Petitions Granted as a Percent of Total Discretionary Cases Filed in COLRs, 1987

State	Number of petitions filed	Number of petitions granted	Percentage of petitions granted
Alaska	219	36	16.4%
California	4,558	224	4.9%
District of Columbia	96	4	4.2%
Georgia	1,006	119	11.8%
Hawaii	57	10	17.5%
Illinois	1,673	152	9.1%
Louisiana	2,673	553	20.7%
Maryland	655	104	15.9%
Massachusetts	336	208	62.0%
Michigan	2,082	60	2.9%
Minnesota	626	104	16.6%
Missouri	1,033	79	7.7%
New Jersey	1,382	119	8.6%
New Mexico	301	45	15.0%
North Carolina	676	60	8.9%
Ohio	1,846	194	10.5%
Oregon	1,086	137	12.6%
Pennsylvania	1,936	237	12.2%
Tennessee	758	64	8.4%
Virginia	1,441	156	10.8%
Wisconsin	869	206	23.7%
West Virginia	2,037	785	38.5%
Texas	2,515	545	21.7%

Source: Tables 2, 4, and 5, Part II
National Center for State Courts, 1989.

TEXT TABLE 4: Mandatory Appeals Filed and Discretionary Petitions Granted in 1987 per 100,000 Population

Appellate Structure/State	
States with one COLR and one IAC	
North Carolina	24.6
South Carolina	28.7
California	40.1
Maryland	45.7
Minnesota	56.0
Kansas	59.9
Missouri	63.2
Hawaii	70.2
New Jersey	87.3
Ohio	98.3
New Mexico	116.2
Louisiana	126.3
Oregon	169.5
States with no IAC	
West Virginia	41.1
North Dakota	56.8
Delaware	61.6
Wyoming	65.3
Nevada	85.0
District of Columbia	241.8
States with multiple COLRs	
Texas	64.7
Oklahoma	95.8

Source: Tables 2, 3, and 5, Part II
National Center for State Courts, 1989.

The two Texas COLRs, one for civil and one for criminal cases, granted 22 percent of the total discretionary petitions filed. The Texas Supreme Court (which hears appeals on civil matters) received three mandatory appeals and 1,176 discretionary petitions, granting 15.1 percent of the petitions. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals processed 2,450 mandatory appeals and 1,339 discretionary petitions, granting 27.4 percent of the petitions. The Texas IAC has exclusively mandatory jurisdiction, which resulted in 7,857 filings. These caseload statistics are taken from Table 2, Part II (p. 54) and the jurisdictional information from the court structure charts in Part III.

IACs with discretionary jurisdiction tend to grant a higher percentage of petitions than is the practice in their state COLR or in COLRs generally. Table 2, Part II (p. 54) provides information on the percentage of discretionary petitions granted in eight IACs: California Courts of Appeal, 8.2 percent; Louisiana Courts of Appeal, 31.1 percent; Maryland Court of Special Appeals, 6.8 percent; Minnesota Court of Appeals, 31.3 percent; New Mexico Court of Appeals, 28.1 percent; North Carolina Court of Appeals, 14.7 percent; Tennessee Court of Appeals, 28.6 percent; and Virginia Court of Appeals, 21.6 percent. With the exception of Maryland, the IAC grants a higher percentage of discretionary petitions filed than does the state COLR.

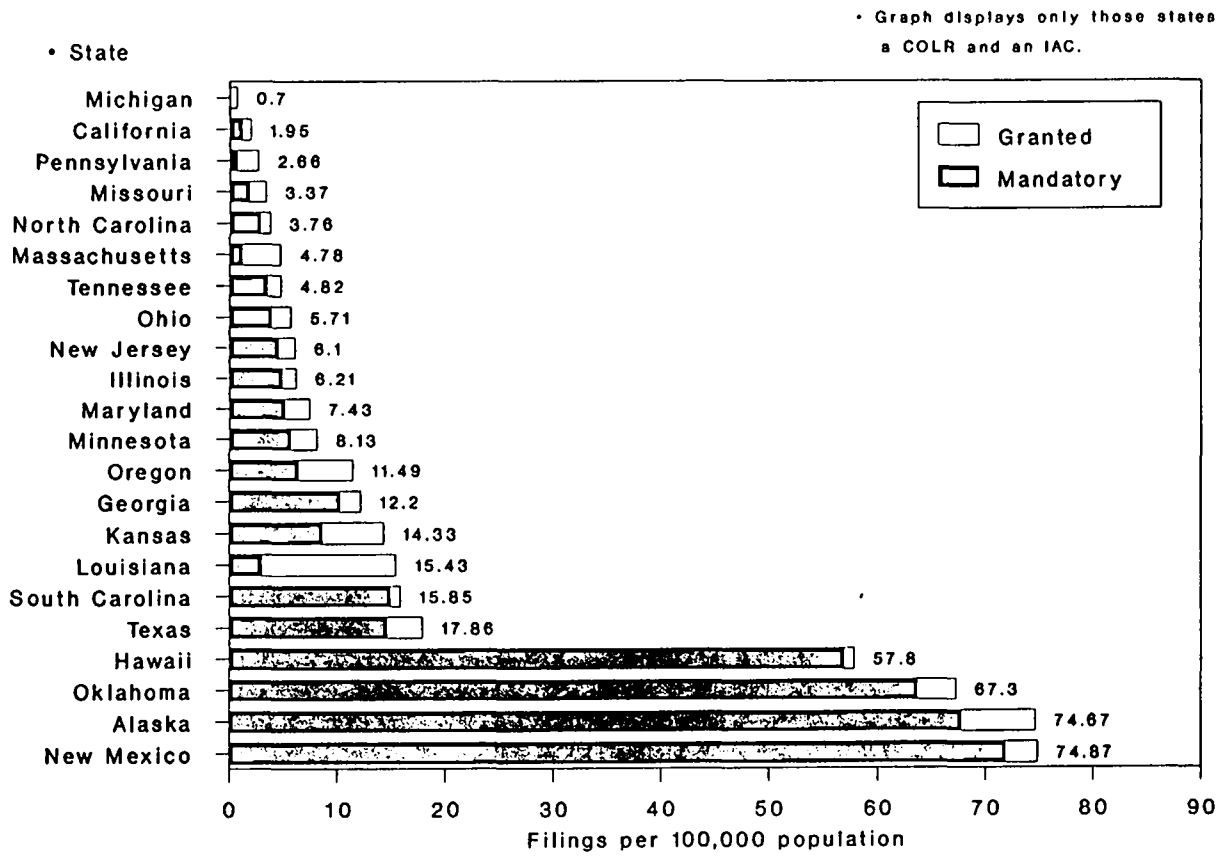
Discretionary jurisdiction clearly enables courts to control their dockets. Generally, courts are selective in the petitions that are granted. The use of discretion, however, is exercised very differently among the states. IACs also exercise discretionary power differently than COLRs, reflecting their respective roles in state appellate systems and, perhaps, the capacity of IACs to expand the number of authorized judgeships in the face of rising caseloads.

Mandatory Appeals and Petitions Granted in 1987

Appellate courts decide two types of cases: mandatory appeals and discretionary petitions that have been granted. Courts differ in the process through which discretionary petitions are reviewed, resulting in varying workload implications for the court and its justices. Therefore, the most comparable and perhaps most important index of the work carried out by state appellate courts in 1987 is the total number of mandatory appeals and discretionary petitions granted. This is the pool of cases that the courts will decide on the merits.

The number of relevant cases can be calculated from all of the appellate courts in 20 states and the District of Columbia using information in Table 5, Part II (p. 77). Text Table 4 displays that number as filings per 100,000 popu-

GRAPH 4: Mandatory Filings and Petitions Granted/100,000 Pop. in COLRs, 1987



The following states are not included:
AL, AZ, AR, CO, CN, FL, ID, IN, IA, KY, NY, UT, VA, WI.

lation of mandatory appeals and discretionary petitions that were subsequently granted, grouping states according to their appellate court structures. The filing rates range from 24.6 in North Carolina to 169.5 in Oregon for states with one COLR and one IAC. Most of the filings in Louisiana and Oregon were in the IAC. However, New Mexico, with the third-highest filing rate, received the majority of filings in the COLR (64 percent of the total). The 1987 filing rates parallel those found for 1986 (Table 1.4, p. 11, *State Court Caseload Statistics: 1986 Annual Report).* In particular, filings in the District of Columbia Court of Appeals far exceed the level found in most states. State filing rates do not, however, appear to reflect the type of appellate court structure a state has adopted.

The ranking of states essentially parallels that found for the rate of mandatory appeals per 100,000 population (see Graph 2). The Louisiana appellate courts, however, move ahead of Ohio and New Mexico when both granted petitions and mandatory appeals are used to calculate the rate of appeals. Compared to the appellate systems of the latter two states, Louisiana's courts both receive a large proportion of their total filings as discretionary petitions and grant a high percentage (27 percent) of the petitions filed.

Graph 4 focuses on the COLRs in states with at least one IAC. Filings that will be decided on the merits range from less than one per 100,000 population in Michigan to 75 per 100,000 in New Mexico. Granted petitions constitute the majority of cases decided by the COLRs of Louisiana, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania. In California and Missouri, the number of appeals and the number of granted petitions are nearly equivalent.

Caseloads are presented in this commentary as filings per 100,000 population. While facilitating comparisons among the states, it is not the measure of greatest weight for the justices or clerks of those courts. Rates based on filings per justice/judge, presented in Tables 2-5, Part II, are perhaps more responsive to the immediate concerns of those working in appellate courts. The next subsection examines a particular aspect of appellate court workload: written opinions.

Appellate Court Opinions in 1987

The preparation of full written opinions "has been called the single most time-consuming task in the appellate process."[14] Rising appellate caseloads have led to both curtailment of the use of full opinions to decide cases and concern over the availability of sufficient judicial time to prepare full opinions in important cases.

Table 6, Part II (p. 81) presents the number of opinions published by state appellate courts during 1987. The table

[14]American Bar Association, Judicial Administration Division, *Standards Relating to Appellate Delay Reduction*, Chicago: American Bar Association, 1988, p. 21.

also provides supplementary information that describes whether the count is by case or by written document and whether majority opinions, per curiam opinions, and memorandums/orders are included in the count. Information is also provided on the number of justices or judges serving on each court and the number of support staff with legal training that the court employs. The number of justices or judges is particularly significant, as appellate courts, and especially IACs, vary greatly in size. COLRs vary from three (the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals) to nine justices (the Alabama Supreme Court, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, the Iowa Supreme Court, the Mississippi Supreme Court, the Texas Supreme Court, and the Washington Supreme Court). IACs range in size from three judges (in Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, and Idaho) to the 80-judge Texas Courts of Appeals.

The number of written opinions is not directly related to the number of cases decided by the court on the merits during 1987. Among COLRs, the range is from the 61 cases decided by written majority opinions in Delaware to 688 majority and per curiam opinions in Alabama. The restricted size of COLRs and the nature of their responsibilities tend to limit the number of written opinions to several hundred in a year (the U.S. Supreme Court typically decides about 150 cases a year by opinion).[15] Generally, courts can determine how they decide cases, whether by full explanatory opinion or by order, and thus control their workload.

IACs vary considerably in the number of written opinions published during 1987. The highest number was reported by the California Courts of Appeal: 8,977 (compared to the 85 written opinions reported by the California Supreme Court). The IACs in Florida, Michigan, Ohio, and Texas reported more than 4,000 written opinions. Those opinions, however, will not typically be of the same length as those prepared by state COLRs.

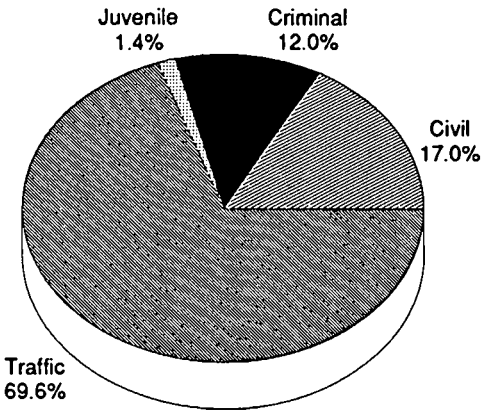
Appellate Courts in 1987: A Summary

Nationally, there were 3.9 percent more appellate filings in 1987 than in 1986. Of course, this does not mean that filings in all courts increased; rather, more COLRs and IACs reported increases than reported decreases. The general increase, which is measured based on courts reporting comparable data in the two years, should be viewed in the context of increasing appellate caseloads over the past three decades.

The combined state court appellate filings in 1987 consisted of 12 percent mandatory appeals to COLRs, 18 percent discretionary petitions to COLRs, 63 percent mandatory appeals to IACs, and 8 percent discretionary petitions to IACs.

Most two-tier appellate systems conformed to the pattern in which the COLR controls its docket through discretionary jurisdiction and most mandatory appeals are heard in an IAC. There are a number of states to which that pattern does not apply. In some states, the COLR continues to hear and decide most of the filings, often in the form of mandatory appeals. The IACs in these and other states have been allocated significant discretionary jurisdiction.

CHART 2: Trial Court Filings, 1987



Total=94,271,941

The rate at which appeals are filed per 100,000 population varies substantially among the states. When mandatory appeals and discretionary petitions are examined separately, however, there is a large middle ground of states with broadly similar filing rates. Differences in appellate procedure and jurisdiction are shown in the varying percentages by which courts grant discretionary petitions. Generally, IACs grant a higher percentage of petitions than do COLRs, but information on the number of petitions granted is not made available by most appellate courts.

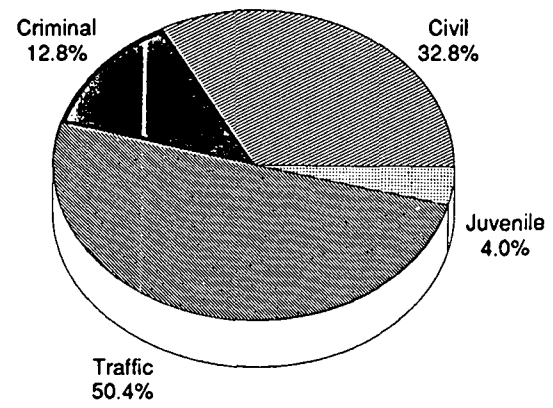
Appellate courts in most states disposed of more cases in 1987 than were filed during the year. A case disposed of in 1987 could, of course, have originated in a filing several years previously. The increase in filings recorded during 1987 enhances the generally favorable picture of appellate courts that are reducing their pending caseload. There are also, however, a number of appellate courts that report clearance rates, especially for discretionary petitions, of substantially less than 100 percent. Those courts accumulated a larger pending caseload during 1987, and those cases must be heard and decided more expeditously in 1988 or subsequent years if these courts are to remain current.

Trial Court Caseloads in 1987

States reported 94,271,941 trial court filings for 1987. That total is formed by 16,027,139 civil cases, 11,271,768 criminal cases, 1,338,737 juvenile cases, and 65,634,297 traffic and other ordinance violation cases. Chart 2 displays filings for each casetype as a proportion of the total. Civil filings represented 17 percent of the total, criminal filings 12 percent, and juvenile filings 1.4 percent. Although more than two-thirds of the total (69.6 percent) consist of traffic/other ordinance violation cases, the focus here is on civil, criminal, and juvenile trial court caseloads because of their demands on court resources.

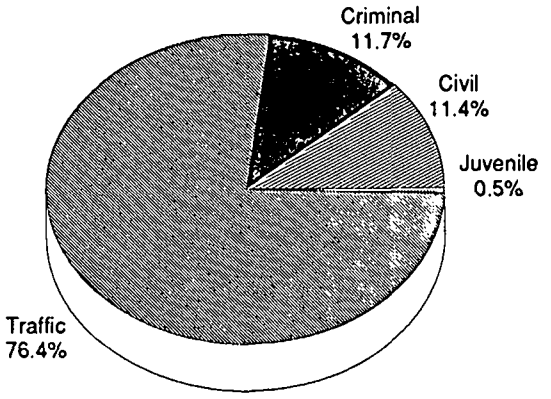
[15]The U.S. Supreme Court disposed of 151 cases by signed opinion (139 consolidated opinions) and nine cases by per curiam opinion (statistics supplied by the Office of the Clerk, Supreme Court of the United States).

CHART 3: Trial Court Filings in General Jurisdiction Courts, 1987



Total=24,531,414

CHART 4: Trial Court Filings in Limited Jurisdiction Courts, 1987



Total=69,740,527

There were more civil and criminal trial court case filings in 1987 than in 1986. When the comparisons are restricted to courts that reported relevant data in both 1986 and 1987, the following changes are found. Civil filings in general jurisdiction courts increased by 1.1 percent and civil filings in limited jurisdiction courts by 4.2 percent. Criminal filings in general jurisdiction courts increased by 5.8 percent and criminal filings in limited jurisdiction courts by 4.1 percent. Those increases coincided with a 3.9 percent increase in the number of appellate court filings.

As a national total, the 94 million cases reported are seriously incomplete. The deficiency is mainly in the reported traffic/other ordinance violation filings. Only 15 states and the District of Columbia reported complete (although at times overinclusive) data on their traffic/other violation caseloads. Generally, problems of comparability and completeness are more serious for trial court than for appellate court caseload statistics. Mississippi and Nevada did not report trial court caseload data.[16]

The completeness of civil and criminal caseload data from the other 48 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico is outlined in Table 7, Part II (p. 85). Other tables in Part II display the number of case filings and case dispositions for the four main trial court casetypes, noting instances where court statistics are incomplete, overinclusive, or simultaneously incomplete and overinclusive: total civil caseloads, Table 9; total criminal caseloads, Table 10; total traffic/other ordinance violation caseloads, Table 11; and total juvenile caseloads, Table 12. The sum of all four casetypes, by court and by state, is presented in Table 8.

This commentary focuses on civil, criminal, and juvenile cases. As with the section commenting on appellate caseloads, the main casetypes structure the presentation. The discussion of civil, criminal, and juvenile cases includes consideration of filing rates per 100,000 population, the relative use of general and limited jurisdiction courts, and clearance rates.

Trial Courts of General and Limited Jurisdiction

General jurisdiction courts are major courts of record from which there is a right of appeal to the state IAC or COLR. Forty-four states in 1987 also had a lower trial court level consisting of courts of limited jurisdiction. Variously called municipal, district justice, justice of the peace, or magistrate courts, limited jurisdiction courts are usually restricted in the range of cases that they can decide.

There were an estimated 2,253 courts of general jurisdiction and 13,231 courts of limited jurisdiction in 1987. Case filings in those courts were heard by 8,859 judges of general jurisdiction courts and 18,721 magistrates, district justices, and justices of the peace of limited jurisdiction courts (Figure G, Part IV, p. 222).

Of the reported total of 94,271,941 court filings, 24,531,414 were in general jurisdiction courts, 25.9 percent of the total. Despite the incompleteness of the data from many states, the respective roles of general and limited jurisdiction courts emerge from a comparison of the composition of their 1987 filings.

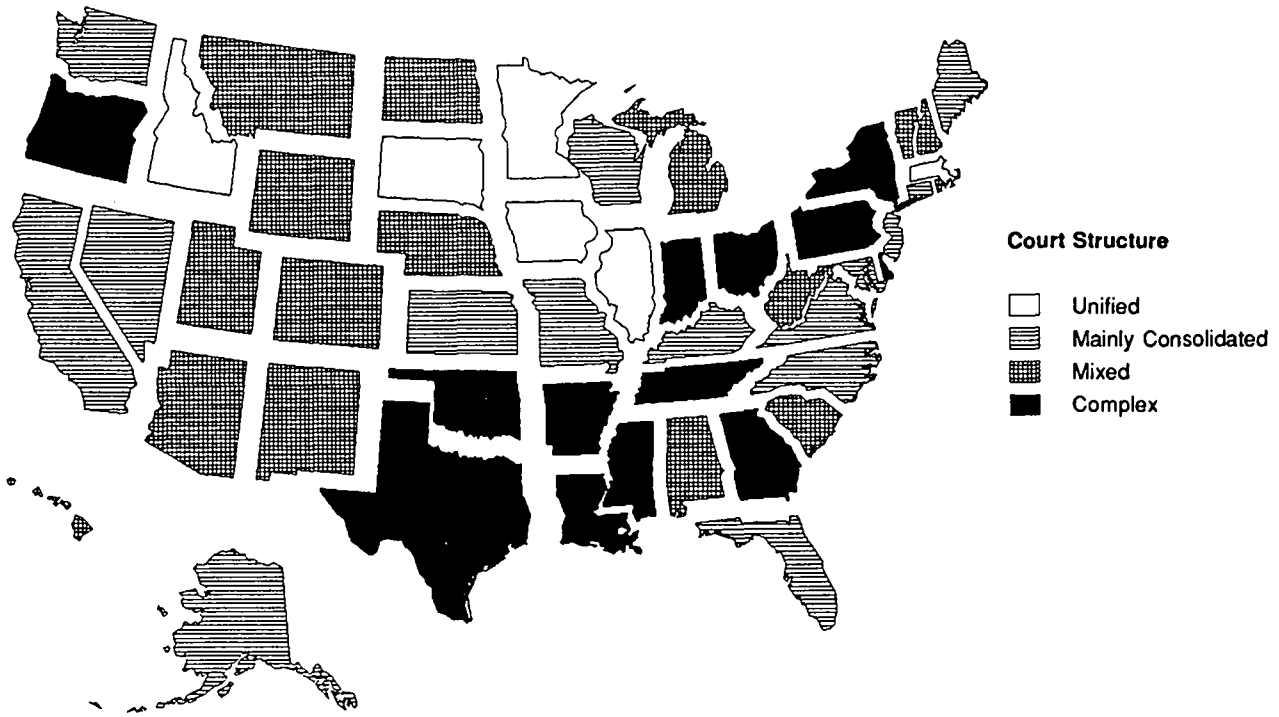
Chart 3 summarizes the general jurisdiction court filings for 1987. Civil case filings represented nearly one-third of the total caseload (32.8 percent), criminal case filings one-eighth (12.8 percent), and juvenile cases, 4.0 percent. Traffic/other violation cases represented the remaining 50.4 percent of all filings.

Chart 4 divides the total limited jurisdiction court caseload into the four main casetypes. Civil cases accounted for 11.4 percent and criminal cases 11.7 percent of the total filings, with juvenile filings representing 0.5 percent. The remaining three-fourths of the filings were traffic/ordinance violation cases.

The percentage of shares derived from the national caseload should be viewed with caution. In particular, the actual role of the general jurisdiction court is obscured. The

[16]Kentucky trial court data for 1987 consists of case filings and dispositions during a 10-month period, July 1, 1986-April 30, 1987.

MAP 3: Trial Court Structures, 1987



national data combine states that only have a general jurisdiction trial court with states that have a second trial court level. The national total also merges data from states that hear juvenile cases in their general jurisdiction courts with data from states that have established a court of specialized (limited) jurisdiction for that purpose.

By focusing on states with a two-tier trial court system and ignoring traffic and ordinance violations cases, it is possible to see the composition of general jurisdiction court caseloads more clearly. First, where juvenile cases are heard exclusively in the general jurisdiction court, the composition of case filings in 1987 was 71.6 percent civil, 17.1 percent criminal, and 11.4 percent juvenile.[17] Second, where juvenile cases are heard in courts of special jurisdiction, the 1987 case filings were 68.5 percent civil and 31.5 percent criminal.[18] Whether a case is filed in the general jurisdiction or in the special juvenile court often is determined solely by the age of the defendant, based on statute provisions that vary among the states and are discussed in the subsection on juvenile filings.

State trial court systems are nearly as diverse as appellate court systems in their structure and division of jurisdiction among courts and between the two levels of courts. Before examining and comparing state filing data and clearance rates, it is useful to highlight some important dimensions on which state trial court systems differ.

The conventional wisdom of court reform is based on the virtues of consolidation. In trial courts, this is manifest in the move toward uniform and simple jurisdiction. Uniform jurisdiction means that all trial courts at each level have identical jurisdiction to decide cases. Simple jurisdiction means that the allocation of subject matter jurisdiction does not overlap between levels.[19]

In six states and the District of Columbia, consolidation has resulted in a single trial court that has jurisdiction over all cases and proceedings. The other 44 states have a two-tier trial court system but differ in the degree to which jurisdiction is allocated in a uniform and simple manner. Differences in court structure are often important in understanding the comparability and completeness of caseload data from a state. Map 3 summarizes the differences present in court structure during 1987. Four court structures are differentiated:

(1) Six states (Idaho, Iowa, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and South Dakota) and the District of Columbia have unified all trial courts.

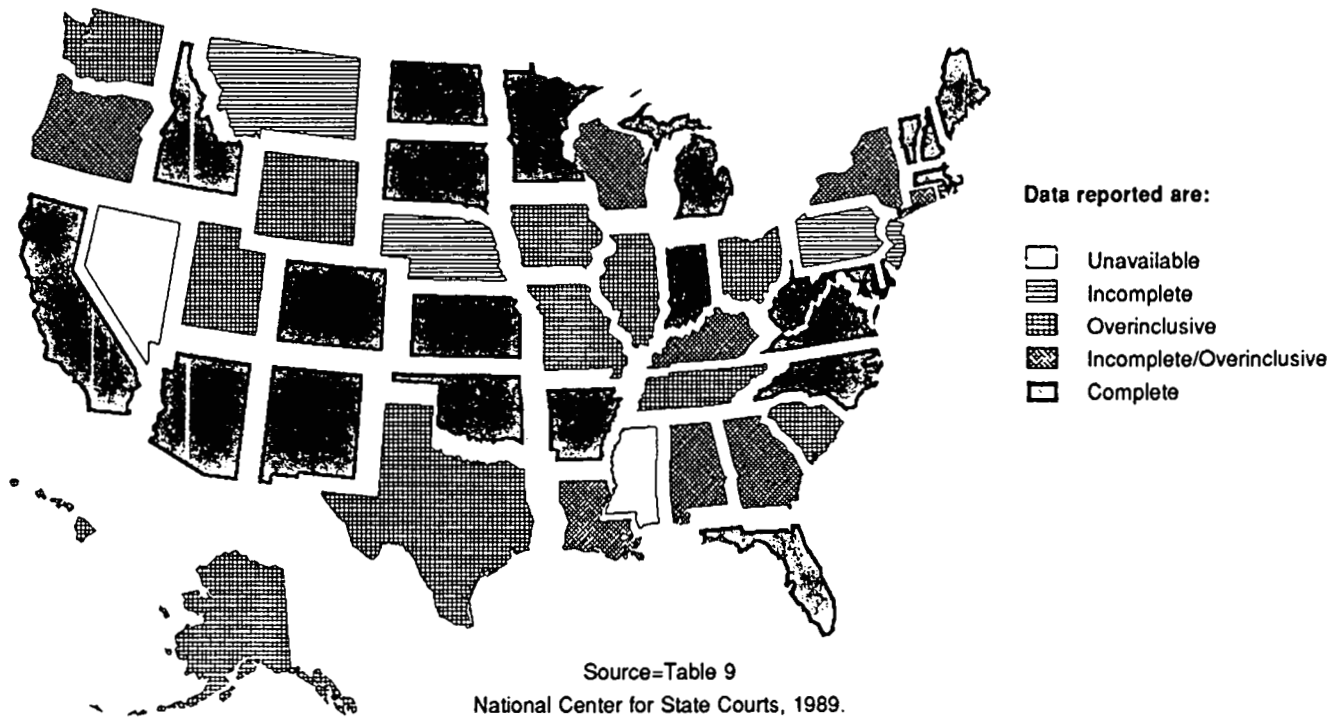
(2) Fifteen states with two court levels, but in which all limited jurisdiction courts have uniform jurisdiction.

[17]This is based on data from four states: Arizona, California, Florida, and New Mexico. Percentages were derived by combining unweighted case filings.

[18]This is based on data from three states: Arkansas, Michigan, and North Carolina. Percentages were derived by combining unweighted case filings.

[19]The "conventional wisdom" is that articulated by the American Bar Association in its *Standards Relating to Court Organization*, Chicago: American Bar Association, 1974, pp. 1-10.

MAP 4: Comparability of Civil Filing Data in General Jurisdiction Courts, 1987



Source=Table 9
National Center for State Courts, 1989.

(3) Sixteen states with two court levels that overlap in their jurisdiction.

(4) Thirteen states in which there are several general jurisdiction courts and/or a multiplicity of limited jurisdiction courts that overlap in jurisdiction both with courts at the same level and with courts at the general jurisdiction level.[20]

Reference to the court structure charts in Part III of the report should indicate the difference in the degree of complexity that distinguishes the four types of court structures just outlined.

The remainder of this section considers, in turn, filings of civil, criminal, and juvenile cases. The main conclusions are summarized at the end of the section.

Civil Filings in 1987

States reported 16,027,139 civil cases filed in 1987. A civil case is a request for the enforcement or protection of a right, or the redress or prevention of a wrong. To meet the definition recommended by the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary*, the category includes all torts, contracts, real property rights, small claims, domestic relations, mental health, and estate cases over which courts have jurisdiction. It also includes all appeals of administrative agency decisions filed in the courts and appeals of decisions of limited jurisdiction trial courts in civil cases to general jurisdiction courts. A review of the footnotes to Table 9, Part II (p. 100) indicates the degree to which states report data conforming to the recommended definition. Map 4 summarizes the information of the footnotes as to the general jurisdiction court filing data from each state.

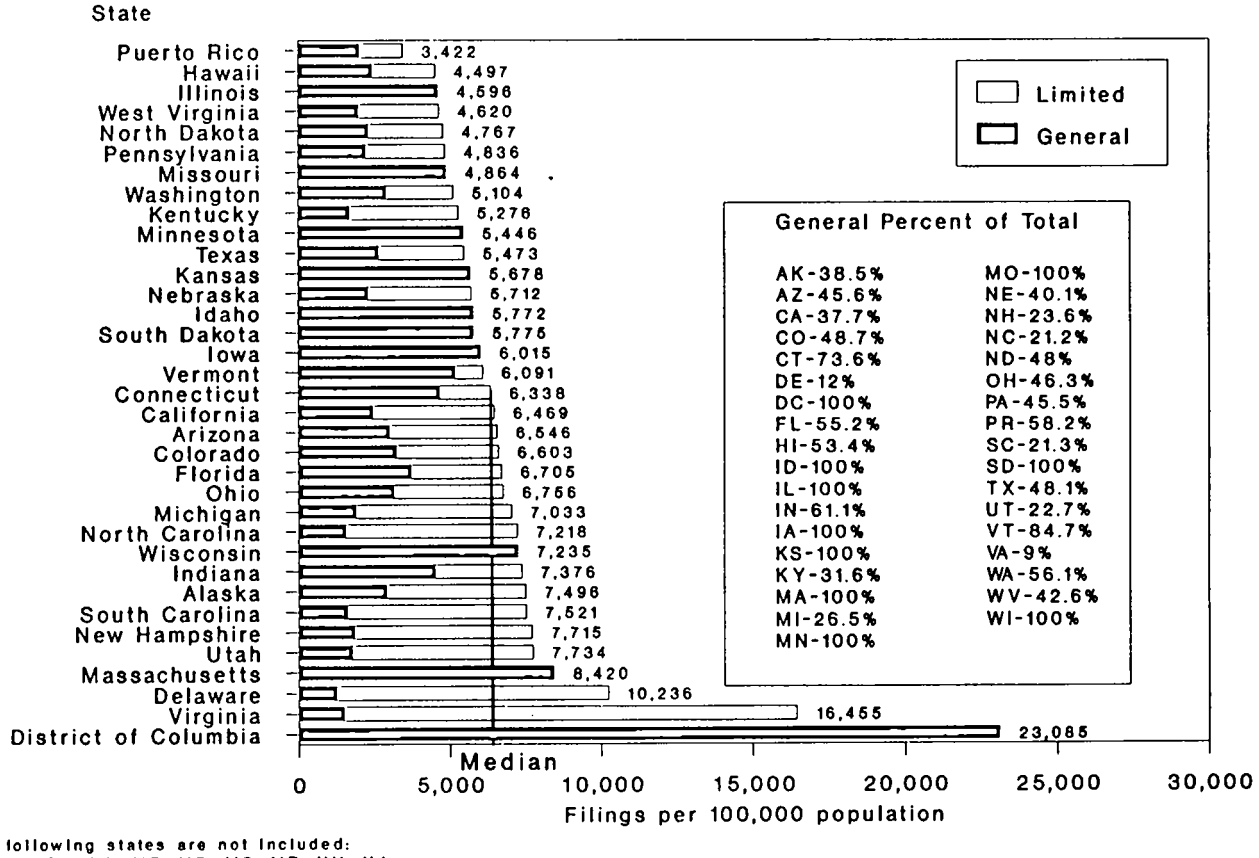
Graph 5 displays the total civil case filings in 33 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The range is from 3,432 filings per 100,000 population in Puerto Rico to 23,085 in the District of Columbia. Connecticut has the median filing rate of 6,338. Most states report filing rates clustered near the median. Hawaii, with 4,497 filings per 100,000 population, has a rate that is 29 percent lower than the median. At the top of the range, Virginia reports a filing rate that is 2.6 times greater than the median. But Virginia and the District of Columbia clearly stand apart from the other jurisdictions included in the graph. Delaware, with the third-highest filing rate, reported 10,236 filings per 100,000 population—62 percent above the median.

Reported civil caseloads are affected by the point at which filings are counted, whether reopened cases are treated as new filings, and the manner in which support/custody proceedings are incorporated into court statistics on marriage dissolution cases. Figure H, Part IV (p. 225) details the method by which each court counts civil cases, and Figure I, Part IV (p. 231) details the method by which support/custody cases are counted.

Different approaches to counting civil, and especially support/custody, caseloads may influence the ranking of

[20]States are assigned to categories based on information contained in David Rottman, Robert Roper, and Dixie Knoebel, *State Court Organization 1987*, Williamsburg, Va.: National Center for State Courts, 1988. An earlier typology of state court systems based on the number of courts and the allocation of jurisdiction among the courts can be found in Henry R. Glick, "State Court Systems," pp. 862-700 in R. Janosik (ed.), *The Encyclopedia of the American Judicial System*, New York: Scribners, 1987, p. 688.

GRAPH 5: Civil Filings per 100,000 Population in State Trial Courts, 1987



The following states are not included: AL, AR, GA, LA, ME, MD, MS, MT, NV, NJ, NM, NY, OK, OR, RI, TN, WY.

states in Graph 5. The limited jurisdiction court in Virginia, the district court, regards all reopened civil cases as new filings, counts support/custody proceedings as separate filings, and enters changes to a marriage decree as a case commenced. Most states, and the general jurisdiction court in Virginia (the circuit court), do not count reopened civil cases as new filings and count support/custody proceedings as part of the original marriage dissolution filing, unless they involve issues that arise at a later point in time or as a postdecree action. Since the method of count varies between the general and limited jurisdiction courts in Virginia, the allocation of subject matter jurisdiction may also be relevant. The Virginia circuit court has exclusive domestic relations jurisdiction with the exception of support/custody cases, which can be heard in the district court. Thus, the relatively high rate of civil filings in Virginia, and the atypical concentration of civil cases in the limited jurisdiction court, is attributable, in part, to choices made when designing court recordkeeping procedures.

Courts hearing support/custody cases in Florida, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming also count cases in a way that inflates their total civil filing rate relative to other states. This may alter somewhat the ranking of states from what would be found if a uniform method of counting cases existed, but there is no indication that the impact would be dramatic.

Differences in counting practices may affect the relative share of the civil caseload heard in courts of general and limited jurisdiction in a state, as was noted for Virginia. Differences in the allocation of subject matter jurisdiction are more likely explanations for why the flow of case filings is mainly toward one court level. Delaware, for example, has five separate limited jurisdiction courts with authority to hear civil cases, including the family court, which has exclusive jurisdiction over domestic relations cases. Fewer than one of every eight civil cases in Delaware is filed in one of the state's two general jurisdiction court systems. Most of the states with high total civil filing rates have allocated substantial relevant subject matter jurisdiction to lower level courts. Massachusetts, with a unified trial court system, is the exception; it has the fourth-highest state filing rate: 8,420 per 100,000 population.

There is little evidence to connect the size of the civil court filing rate in a state to the appellate filing rate. The District of Columbia is the only jurisdiction to report high levels for both rates. With the possible exception of Alaska, other states with high appellate rates are found at all points in the ranking of states based on civil trial court filings. However, Massachusetts has the second-*lowest* appellate filing rate and the fourth-*highest* civil trial court filing rate.

CLEARANCE RATES FOR CIVIL CASES IN 1987. Trial courts that disposed of more civil cases during 1987

TEXT TABLE 5: Trial Court Clearance Rates for Civil Cases, 1987

State	Total	General	Limited
Utah	70.9%	136.8%	51.5%
California	75.3%	76.2%	74.7%
Alaska	83.9%	96.6%	76.0%
Washington	84.4%	85.3%	82.6%
Florida	89.1%	87.8%	90.7%
Kentucky	92.6%	98.2%	90.4%
Hawaii	92.9%	95.4%	90.0%
Delaware	93.8%	79.8%	95.7%
Arizona	93.8%	94.4%	93.3%
North Dakota	94.4%	95.8%	93.1%
Texas	95.1%	99.4%	91.0%
North Carolina	95.3%	91.4%	96.3%
Illinois	96.1%	96.1%	
Colorado	97.2%	97.7%	96.7%
Ohio	97.4%	98.3%	96.7%
Puerto Rico	98.1%	98.1%	98.2%
Vermont	98.7%	100.3%	89.8%
Virginia	98.9%	89.7%	99.8%
Kansas	99.3%	99.3%	NH
Wisconsin	99.8%	99.8%	NH
Indiana	100.2%	101.9%	97.7%
Nebraska	100.5%	102.9%	98.9%
Minnesota	100.6%	100.6%	
District of Columbia	101.0%	101.0%	
South Carolina	101.0%	101.0%	101.0%
Idaho	101.9%	101.9%	
West Virginia	102.9%	110.5%	97.3%
New York	—	76.0%	N/A
Maryland	—	80.0%	N/A
Montana	—	84.5%	N/A
Tennessee	—	89.9%	N/A
Oklahoma	—	90.5%	N/A
New Mexico	—	95.1%	N/A
Alabama	—	95.9%	N/A
New Hampshire	—	96.4%	N/A
Pennsylvania	—	96.6%	N/A
Rhode Island	—	97.6%	N/A
Arkansas	—	97.6%	N/A
New Jersey	—	99.7%	N/A
Georgia	—	100.2%	N/A
South Carolina	—	101.0%	N/A
Maine	—	101.1%	N/A
Michigan	—	107.1%	N/A

N/A = Not Available
NH = This casetype is not handled in this court.
— = A calculation is inappropriate.

Note: A blank space indicates that a state does not have a limited jurisdiction court.

Source: Table 8 and 9, Part II
National Center for State Courts, 1989.

(cases that may have been filed in previous years) than were filed reduced the size of their pending civil caseload. Text Table 5 abstracts the relevant information from Table 9, Part II (p. 100) to present a clearance rate for each state, for the general jurisdiction courts in that state, and for the limited jurisdiction courts, if any, with the authority to hear civil cases. States are listed from the lowest to highest statewide civil clearance rate.

Full information is available for 25 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Clearance rates could be calculated for the general but not the limited jurisdiction courts of another 16 states. Most states ended 1987 with a larger pending caseload than had been present at the start of the reporting year. Only six states (Idaho, Indiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Carolina, and West Virginia) and the District of Columbia reported clearance rates of greater than 100 percent. The highest statewide clearance rate was 102.9 percent; thus, no state was significantly reducing its pending caseload. In the other 20 states, clearance rates ranged from a low of 70.9 percent in Utah and 75.3 percent in California to slightly below 100 percent in Wisconsin.

The low clearance rates reported by Alaska and Utah at the state level are attributable to the limited jurisdiction courts. The Utah District Court had the highest clearance rate of any general jurisdiction court—136.8 percent—but its caseload was combined with a limited jurisdiction court that disposed of one-half as many cases in 1987 as were filed. The general jurisdiction court in Alaska also reported a far higher clearance rate than did the limited jurisdiction courts in the state. By contrast, both trial court levels in California reported low clearance rates, a situation that may have changed in 1988 with increased statewide attention to case management and delay reduction.

Alaska, California, and Utah essentially repeated the clearance rates they reported for 1986. The District of Columbia, Idaho, Nebraska, and West Virginia reported clearance rates of over 100 percent in both 1986 and 1987, while Indiana and Minnesota did not.

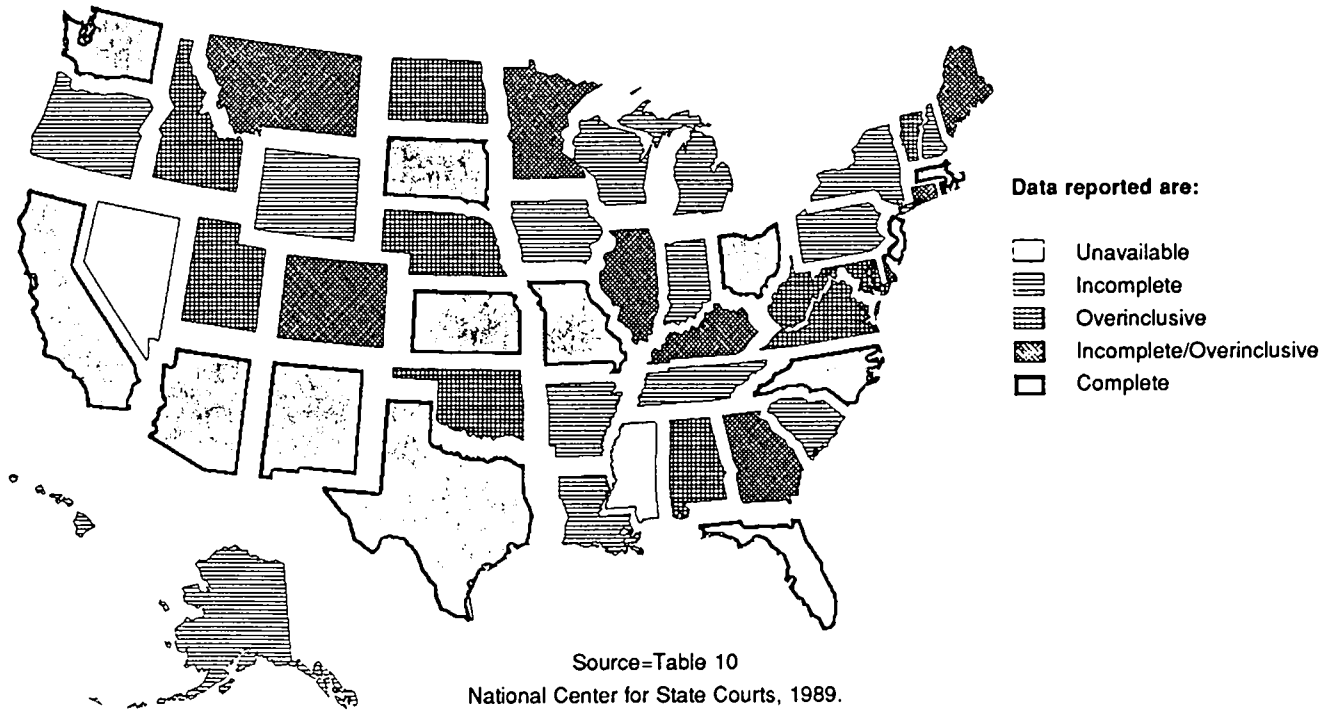
Overall, trial courts failed to keep pace with the flow of new case filings. Clearance rates could be calculated for the general jurisdiction courts of 41 states. The courts of 29 of those states ended 1987 with a larger pending caseload than had been present at the start of the year. Clearance rates could be calculated for the limited jurisdiction courts of 21 states. The courts of 20 of those states accumulated larger pending caseloads during the course of 1987, suggesting the need for serious concern and corrective action.

Criminal Filings in 1987

States reported 11,271,768 new criminal case filings in 1987, 28.9 percent in courts of general jurisdiction. Case filing data from Mississippi and Nevada are not available for 1987, and the caseload data reported by courts in many states either include other casetypes, particularly ordinance violations, or omit casetypes that should be included, particularly DWI/DUI cases. Map 5 summarizes the impact this has on the general jurisdiction court data reported by each state.

The *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary* defines a criminal case as one in which a defendant is charged with the violation of a state law. Subcategories of criminal cases include felonies, misdemeanors, DWI/DUI, and appeals of trial court cases. Felonies that can be tried to completion in the court in which they are filed are distinguished from felony cases that must be bound over for trial to another court. Limited jurisdiction courts in most states hold preliminary hearings for felony cases and, in 26 states, can dismiss a felony case; however, such courts can sentence convicted felons in only seven states (Alabama, Indiana,

MAP 5: Comparability of Criminal Filing Data in General Jurisdiction Courts, 1987



Source=Table 10
National Center for State Courts, 1989.

Maine, Maryland, Nebraska, Rhode Island, and South Carolina).[21] Filings of felony cases in limited jurisdiction courts for the purpose of conducting preliminary hearings are not added to the state criminal caseload if the result is a defendant being bound over for trial in another court. Such cases are, thus, only counted once—as a filing in the court of general jurisdiction.

Graph 6 displays the total criminal filings per 100,000 population for those states reporting data from all courts with relevant subject matter jurisdiction.[22] Thirty-six states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico are included. Reference to Table 10, Part II (p. 108) indicates why the remaining states were excluded and the extent to which the caseload for a state at either the general or limited jurisdiction level is incomplete or overinclusive.

The size of state criminal caseloads varies substantially. Rates per 100,000 population range from a low of 1,466 reported by Kansas to a high of 13,565 reported by Delaware; the same states defined the lower and upper bounds of the range in 1986. The ninefold difference from lowest to highest rate is in marked contrast to the consistency found for state civil filing rates.

The median filing rate is 4,736. One group of states reports levels close to the median: Connecticut, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Washington. Two clusters of states can be identified below and two above that group. The lowest cluster includes Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Puerto Rico. The second-lowest includes California, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

The second-highest cluster, immediately above the middle group of states, consists of Alaska, District of Columbia, Idaho, Maryland, Massachusetts, South Carolina, and Utah. Finally, Arizona, Delaware, New Mexico, North Carolina, Texas, and Virginia form a cluster of states that reported more than 8,000 filings per 100,000 population.

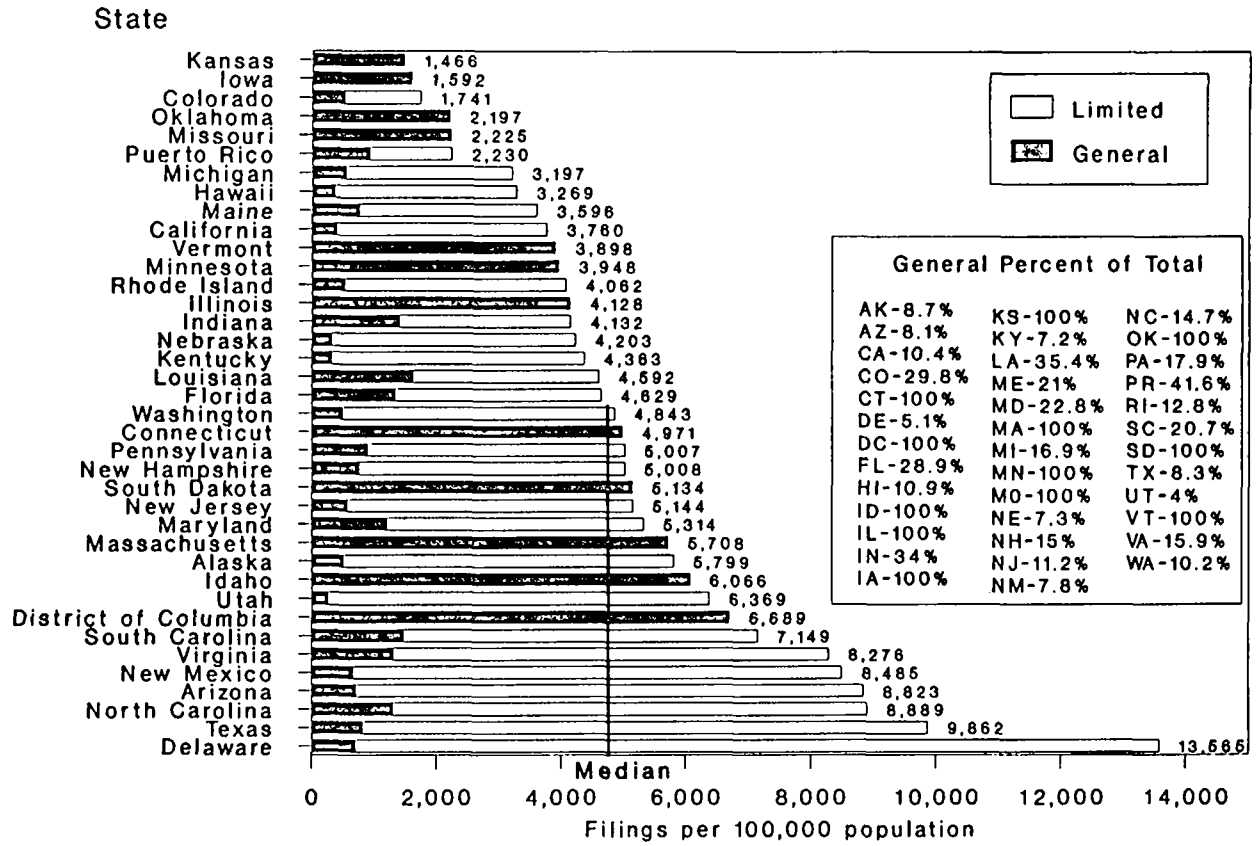
The ranking of states on Graph 6 is influenced by the unit of count and the point at which the count is taken in compiling court statistics. Figure D, Part IV (p. 205) describes and Table 10, Part II (p. 108) summarizes the practice in each court with jurisdiction to handle criminal cases. The unit of count is defined by (a) whether a case filing contains charges facing only an individual defendant or if two or more defendants can be included in one filing, and (b) whether the count is taken by charge or charging documents that contain one charge, one incident, or multiple incidents.

States and trial court systems within states have adopted different bases to count criminal cases. The impact of such variation is considerable. Some states take the count of filings at an early stage in the process, typically

[21]David Rottman, Robert Roper, Dixie Knoebel, *State Court Organization 1987*, Williamsburg, Va.: National Center for State Courts, 1988, Table 16, pp.221-239.

[22]Filing rates in Table 10, Part II are computed on the basis of state adult population, the practice in previous caseload statistics reports. Graph 6, however, uses total population to derive filing rates, thus facilitating comparisons to the size and ranking of state civil filing rates.

GRAPH 6: Criminal Filings per 100,000 Population in State Trial Courts, 1987



The following states are not included:
AL, AR, GA, MS, MT, NV, NY, ND, OH, OR, TN, WV, WI, WY.

the filing of a complaint, information, or indictment; other states only count a case as filed when the defendant enters a plea. The number of defendants per case and the number of charges per charging document will also greatly affect the number of cases reported as filed during a year.[23]

The rankings of some states require careful examination because of their unit of count and point of filing. The state with the lowest filing rate, Kansas, counts filings at the first appearance before the court by the defendant, a later point than that used by most states to count filings. Hawaii (in the district court) is the only other state following that practice; it, too, has a relatively low filing rate.

States with the highest filings tend to count each charge against each defendant as a separate filing: Arizona, Delaware, Texas, and Virginia. Other states following that practice tend to be found in the top half of the ranking; Hawaii is the exception, but its use of a later than typical point for taking the count compensates for the effect of basing the count on charges rather than incidents.

Thus, some of the variation found in Graph 6, perhaps a substantial amount, is attributable to the differences in how courts maintain statistical records, rather than to known differences among states in crime rates or in the propensity to prosecute.

There is little evidence linking the rate of criminal trial court filings in a state to the rate of appellate filings. Alaska, Arizona, and the District of Columbia report high rates of both appeals and trial court filings, while Massachusetts and North Carolina report relatively high rates of criminal filings and among the lowest rates of appeals. As with civil filings, the rankings for most states for appellate and trial court filing rates appear unrelated.

There is stronger evidence suggesting that some states have consistently high or low filing rates for civil and criminal cases. Civil filings in the District of Columbia, Delaware, Massachusetts, and Utah were far higher than in the median rate at which most states clustered. All four jurisdictions reported relatively high criminal filing rates. Missouri reported a low filing rate for both civil and criminal filings.

CLEARANCE RATES FOR CRIMINAL CASES IN 1987. Text Table 6 summarizes the information available from Table 10, Part II (p. 108) on clearance rates. As before, clearance rates are calculated wherever possible for the combined caseloads of all trial courts in a state with relevant subject matter jurisdiction, with separate clear-

[23]A 1985 Directory Survey of General Jurisdiction Courts, carried out by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Justice Statistics, found that 80 percent of the courts based their felony count on defendants and that 75 percent of convicted defendants were convicted on one charge. The survey also suggests substantial variation among individual courts within a state and identified counties that use more than one unit of count when compiling their criminal caseload data.

TEXT TABLE 6: Trial Court Clearance Rates for Criminal Cases, 1987

State	Total	General	Limited
New Mexico	79.6%	93.3%	78.4%
California	83.8%	94.3%	82.5%
Arizona	84.9%	91.8%	84.3%
Washington	85.3%	86.8%	85.1%
Florida	87.1%	92.7%	84.8%
Oklahoma	89.2%	89.2%	NH
Maine	89.3%	95.3%	87.7%
Missouri	91.1%	91.1%	NH
Alaska	91.9%	89.8%	92.1%
Rhode Island	92.3%	101.3%	91.0%
New Jersey	93.5%	94.2%	93.4%
Hawaii	93.7%	76.0%	95.9%
Vermont	94.4%	94.4%	NH
Minnesota	94.9%	94.9%	
Connecticut	95.1%	95.1%	NH
Michigan	95.5%	95.8%	95.4%
Iowa	96.0%	96.0%	
Kentucky	96.5%	97.8%	96.4%
North Carolina	97.6%	97.2%	97.7%
Nebraska	98.2%	104.4%	97.7%
Idaho	98.6%	98.6%	
Puerto Rico	98.7%	98.7%	98.8%
Delaware	99.1%	106.0%	98.7%
Virginia	99.5%	93.2%	100.7%
Colorado	99.9%	102.2%	99.0%
Utah	100.4%	192.9%	96.5%
District of Columbia	101.9%	101.9%	
Kansas	103.4%	103.4%	NH
Illinois	103.8%	103.8%	
Maryland	—	81.3%	N/A
Tennessee	—	85.5%	N/A
Indiana	—	88.7%	N/A
North Dakota	—	90.9%	N/A
Oregon	—	92.2%	N/A
Wisconsin	—	93.8%	N/A
Alabama	—	94.5%	N/A
Arkansas	—	95.0%	N/A
Georgia	—	95.9%	N/A
Pennsylvania	—	97.9%	N/A
Texas	—	98.2%	N/A
Ohio	—	99.0%	N/A
South Carolina	—	99.4%	N/A
New York	—	99.5%	N/A
West Virginia	—	103.6%	N/A
Wyoming	—	105.3%	N/A
Montana	—	119.3%	N/A

N/A = Not Available
NH = This casetype is not handled in this court.
— = A calculation is inappropriate.

Note: A blank space indicates that a state does not have a limited jurisdiction court.

Source: Tables 8 and 10, Part II
National Center for State Courts, 1989.

ance rates provided for the general jurisdiction courts and the limited jurisdiction courts in each state. A state total could be obtained for 27 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Three states and the District of Columbia reported clearance rates greater than 100 percent: Utah (100.4 percent), Kansas (103.4 percent), and Illinois (103.8 percent). The rate of 101.9 percent reported by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia repeats the pattern found for civil filings: the jurisdiction with the highest number of filings per 100,000 population also was one of the few to dispose of more cases than were filed.

Utah offers a more complex situation. It had the lowest clearance rates for civil cases in 1987. Yet the Utah District Court, a general jurisdiction trial court, reported the highest civil and criminal clearance rates of any court in both 1986 and 1987 (in 1987, it reported 4,320 criminal filings and 8,332 dispositions, resulting in a clearance rate of 193 percent). The majority of case filings, however, occur in the state's limited jurisdiction courts, where total civil filings in both years and criminal filings in 1986 substantially exceeded the number of cases disposed.

The general and limited jurisdiction courts in a state do not report consistent clearance rates, minimizing the value of examining the situation at the state level. Most courts at both levels, however, did not dispose of as many cases as were filed, and the gap between dispositions and filings was often substantial. Eleven of the 46 general jurisdiction courts included in Text Table 6 reported clearance rates of over 100 percent. Data are available for the limited jurisdiction courts of 18 states; the clearance rate exceeded 100 percent in only one state. In 1987 most courts were not able to keep pace with the increasing volume of criminal cases. The number of cases disposed of fell short of the number of new filings. As a result, the pending caseload grew, although the data do not tell us by how much. However, by whatever margin it grew, the change has serious implications, as it suggests that cases are being handled less expeditiously than before, and courts are accumulating problems that must be confronted in future years.

Juvenile Filings in 1987

The 1,338,737 juvenile filings during 1987, three-quarters in general jurisdiction trial courts, represent a small share (1.4 percent) of the total reported trial court caseload. Even when traffic/other violation filings are omitted, juvenile cases represent approximately one filing in 21 (4.7 percent). Juvenile petitions accounted for 4.0 percent of 1987 filings at the general jurisdiction level during 1987 (8.1 percent of nontraffic/other violation filings).

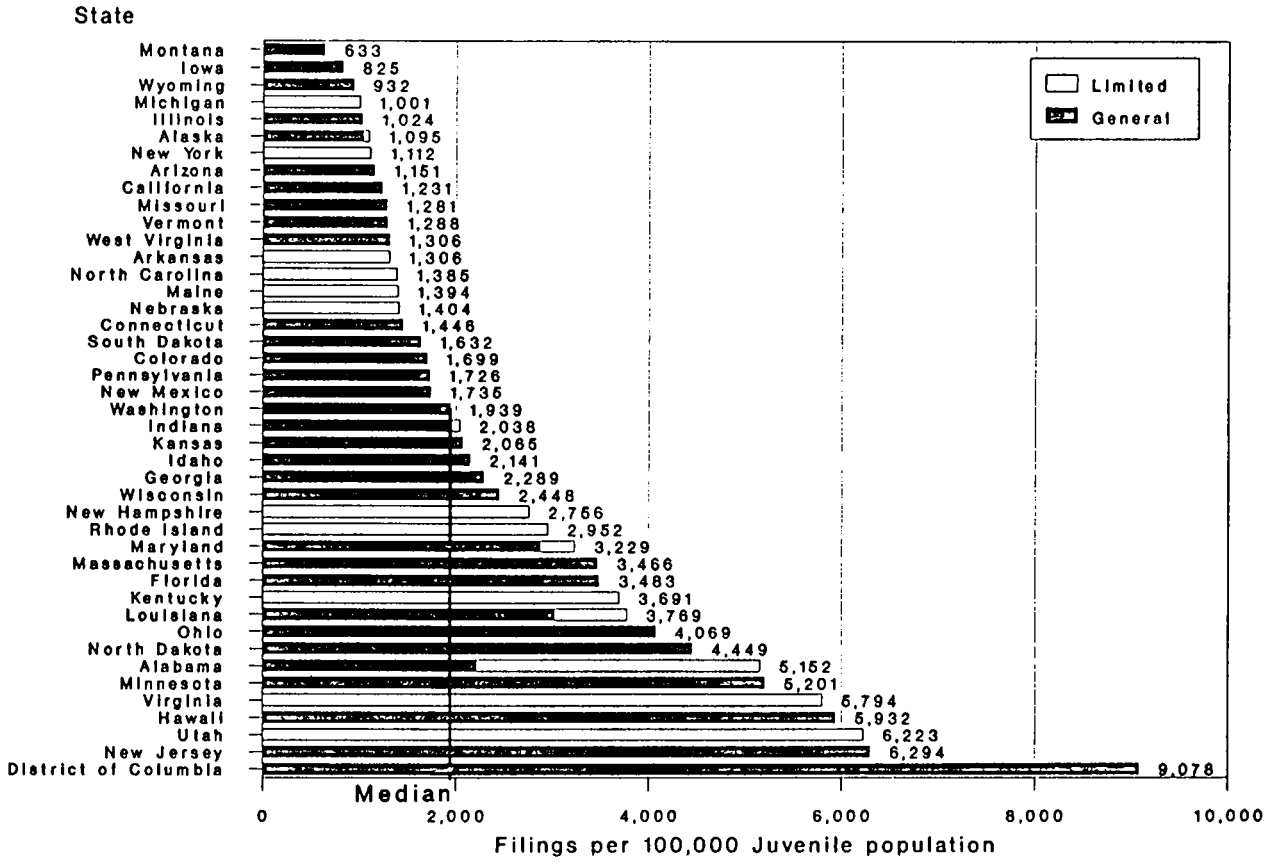
Juvenile caseloads reflect the use of various special procedures (sometimes special jurisdiction trial courts) to hear cases involving persons defined by state law as juveniles. The casetype includes criminal-type juvenile petitions, status offense petitions (conduct illegal only for children), and child victim petitions. A juvenile petition is the equivalent to a case filing in an adult trial court case.

Filing and disposition statistics, along with explanatory footnotes, for each court with juvenile subject matter jurisdiction can be found in Table 12, Part II (p. 123). Statistics were not reported by Mississippi, Nevada, Oklahoma, and Tennessee.[24]

Juvenile caseloads emerge as a highly variable component of state trial court caseloads when examining data for individual states. Twenty-six states, the District of

[24]Juvenile caseload data for 1987 were received from the Indiana Probate Court and the Utah Juvenile Court in 1987; neither court reported caseload statistics for 1986.

GRAPH 7: Juvenile Filings per 100,000 Population in State Trial Courts, 1987



The following states are not included:
DE, MS, NV, OK, OR, PR, SC, TN, TX.

Columbia, and Puerto Rico report the data necessary to calculate the share of the combined civil, criminal, and juvenile caseload that juvenile petition filings represent. The resulting percentages range from 2 percent in Arizona and North Carolina to 16.8 percent in Hawaii. In eighteen states and Puerto Rico, the share is in the 3-5 percent range.[25] Larger shares are reported by the District of Columbia (6.3 percent), Kansas (7.1 percent), Kentucky (9.2 percent), Florida (9.6 percent), Minnesota (12.7 percent), and Utah (14.2 percent). As noted previously, juvenile cases were most prevalent in the Hawaii caseload: 16.8 percent of the nontraffic caseload and 36.2 percent of filings in the state's general jurisdiction court.

Graph 7 indicates the wide range of filing rates, calculated per 100,000 state residents age 17 or under, reported in 1987. Forty-two states and the District of Columbia are included.[26] Filings in a court of general jurisdiction are distinguished from those in courts of limited or special jurisdiction. All filings in Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Utah, and Virginia were in a court of limited or special jurisdiction. All juvenile petitions in 27 of the states included on the graph were filed in a general jurisdiction court; only Alabama, Alaska, Indiana, Louisiana, and Maryland reported juvenile filings at both court levels.

Juvenile filing rates per 100,000 juvenile population vary from 633 in Montana to 9,078 in the District of Columbia. The second-lowest rate is the 825 reported by Iowa; the second-highest filing rate is the 6,294 per 100,000 juvenile population rate reported by New Jersey. The remaining states cover the full range, with some bias toward the lower levels. A narrow band of rates, from 1,000 to 1,500, includes 14 states (in order of ascending rates: Michigan, Illinois, Alaska, New York, Arizona, California, Missouri, Vermont, West Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, Maine, Nebraska, and Connecticut). South Dakota, Colorado, Pennsylvania, and New Mexico follow, all with

[25]The 18 states in which juvenile filings represent 3 to 5 percent of total civil, criminal, and juvenile filings are Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington. The percentage share of each type of case will be affected by footnotes indicating that statistics are incomplete or overinclusive in Tables 9, 10, and 12, Part II.

[26]The Arkansas County Court, sitting as the juvenile court, had exclusive jurisdiction to handle juvenile petitions until early in 1987. The Arkansas Supreme Court found that practice unconstitutional. Effective January 20, 1987, juvenile jurisdiction was transferred to the circuit court and the chancery and probate court, pending approval of a constitutional amendment, which was approved in November 1988, and pending a 1989 legislative act that would structure a new juvenile court system. Since the transfer occurred more than halfway through the reporting year used by the Arkansas courts, all 1987 filings are attributed to the county court.

rates below 1,750 filings per 100,000 juvenile population. Indiana, Kansas, and Washington have rates near the 2,000 mark, but the remaining states are arrayed at nearly even intervals between 2,141 (Idaho) and the District of Columbia, which reported a filing rate (9,078) five times the median of 1,939.

One factor underlying the variation found for juvenile filing rates is the divergent means and degrees to which states have established special procedures and courts to process cases involving delinquent juveniles. "Civil" and "criminal" as caseload categories do not differ significantly from state to state. The same types of cases would be found in their 1987 filings. There is no such broad agreement on what constitutes a "juvenile" case, and what might be heard through regular court procedures in one state may be heard in a special juvenile court in another.

That difference is manifest in the age at which a person is no longer eligible for juvenile court handling. Most states define a juvenile as a person under age 18, often with exceptions based on the offense alleged (for example, Louisiana statutes define a juvenile as a person under age 17, but a 15 year old can be charged in the district court as an adult if the offense is first- or second-degree murder, manslaughter, or aggravated rape; the threshold rises to 16 if the offense is armed robbery, aggravated burglary, or aggravated kidnapping).

The age at which a person is no longer eligible for original juvenile court handling can have a large impact on both a state's criminal and juvenile caseload. Research consistently shows that involvement in crime is greatest in the 15-17 age group. Arrest statistics show that 15-to-19-year olds represent 28.7 percent of those arrested for FBI index crimes and 8.2 percent of the national population.[27] Therefore, the choice of 17 rather than 19 as the point to transfer court jurisdiction, or even 18, can significantly affect the relative number of juvenile as opposed to criminal court filings.

Thirty-seven states and the District of Columbia terminate original juvenile delinquency jurisdiction in juvenile courts at age 18; Wyoming does at age 19. Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, South Carolina, and Texas define an adult for purposes of court jurisdiction as a 17 year old. Four states use 16 as the threshold age dividing juvenile and adult status: Connecticut, New York, North Carolina, and Vermont.

The two latter groups of states have defined juvenile more narrowly than most states; this should be reflected in the size of their juvenile caseload. Graph 7 suggests that is indeed the case, as all four states have filing rates below the median. The use of a lower than typical age to terminate juvenile status may be a factor in the relatively low rates reported by Illinois and Michigan, but states that have adopted age 17 as the point of termination did not consistently report low filing rates.

Other factors may help explain these variations. Law enforcement agencies differ in the extent to which they divert juvenile law violators from further penetration into the juvenile justice system. Case-screening practices by juvenile court intake officers vary significantly and may result in a wide range of referral to petition ratios. Prosecutors have differing authority at the intake juncture, which may have an impact on these ratios. The amount of judge time available and the size of probation officers' supervision caseloads also may influence referral to petition ratios. Rural communities and states tend to file fewer petitions proportionally than more urban jurisdictions; their delinquent offenses may be less serious and more amenable to noncourt or informal handling. Some states allow for direct filings of charges in a criminal court, particularly with older juveniles and more serious offenses, although the numbers of cases involved are not great.

Generally, the juvenile status offense category is known to have extreme variance. Such cases are rarely or infrequently petitioned in some jurisdictions but regularly petitioned elsewhere, and the differences are sometimes pronounced even within one state.

Dependency, neglect, and abuse case filings have increased in recent years. The frequency with which a child protection agency files juvenile court petitions, as opposed to working with a family without court intervention, also varies sizably.

CLEARANCE RATES FOR JUVENILE PETITIONS IN 1987. Text Table 7 presents clearance rates for juvenile petitions, based on caseload statistics from Table 12, Part II (p. 123). Statewide clearance rates can be obtained for 34 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The rates range from a low of 67.7 percent in Florida to a high of 109.8 percent in North Carolina. Six other states reported clearance rates greater than 100 percent: Arizona, New Mexico, New York, Texas, Utah, and West Virginia. Thus, fewer than one state in five reduced the size of its pending caseload during 1987. Since most juvenile petitions are filed and decided in general jurisdiction courts, the state ranking is usually that of the general jurisdiction trial court. Clearance rates could be calculated for 42 general and limited (usually special) jurisdiction courts handling juvenile petitions. In 35 of those courts, the clearance rate was below 100 percent; 11 courts reported clearance rates below 90 percent.

The states with the highest and the lowest juvenile filing rates tended to have comparable criminal filing rates. The high juvenile filing rates reported by the District of Columbia, Utah, and Virginia were complemented by high criminal filing rates. Iowa and Missouri reported low filing rates for both types of cases. Generally, the District of Columbia and Virginia had high trial court filing rates, while Missouri had low filing rates.

Trial Courts in 1987: A Summary

State trial court filings increased in 1987. The increase was greatest for criminal cases, especially those filed in general jurisdiction courts (an increase of 5.8 percent). Civil case filings increased slightly, with a larger increase in limited than in general jurisdiction courts. The increase parallels the experience of appellate courts, which have reported 3.9 percent more filings in 1987 than in 1986.

---

[27]The authority for the "peak" at age 15-17 in criminal activity is Travis Hirschi and Michael Gottfredson, "Age and the Explanation of Crime," *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 89, No. 3 (November 1983). The arrest percentage is calculated from Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice, *Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports 1987*, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1988, Table 33, p. 174.

TEXT TABLE 7: Trial Court Clearance Rates for Juvenile Cases, 1987

State	Total	General	Limited
Florida	67.7%	67.7%	NH
Maine	80.0%	NH	80.0%
Illinois	81.0%	81.0%	
Alaska	81.5%	82.9%	59.3%
Montana	84.7%	84.7%	NH
Michigan	85.0%	NH	85.0%
Washington	87.6%	87.6%	NH
Alabama	87.8%	79.7%	93.9%
Colorado	88.1%	88.1%	NH
Kentucky	91.1%	NH	91.1%
California	92.9%	92.9%	NH
Virginia	94.1%	NH	94.1%
Pennsylvania	94.4%	94.4%	NH
Delaware	94.5%	NH	94.5%
Kansas	95.5%	95.5%	NH
Rhode Island	96.1%	NH	96.1%
Maryland	96.4%	97.3%	88.9%
Vermont	96.4%	96.4%	NH
Arkansas	97.5%	NH	97.5%
Connecticut	97.5%	97.5%	NH
Puerto Rico	97.7%	97.7%	NH
New Jersey	98.0%	98.0%	NH
Idaho	98.5%	98.5%	
Hawaii	98.7%	98.7%	NH
Minnesota	99.0%	99.0%	
Ohio	99.6%	99.6%	NH
Wisconsin	99.6%	99.6%	NH
Indiana	99.8%	99.9%	96.7%
District of Columbia	99.9%	99.9%	
New Mexico	100.6%	100.6%	NH
West Virginia	101.1%	101.1%	NH
Utah	101.3%	NH	101.3%
Arizona	103.2%	103.2%	NH
New York	103.6%	NH	103.6%
Texas	109.3%	111.7%	98.3%
North Carolina	109.8%	NH	109.8%
Louisiana	—	N/A	92.5%

N/A = Not Available
NH = This casetype is not handled in this court.
— = A calculation is inappropriate.

Note: A blank space indicates that a state does not have a limited jurisdiction court.

Source: Tables 8 and 12, Part II
National Center for State Courts, 1989.

There was little variation among states in the rate of 1987 civil filings, with most states reporting civil filing rates close to the median of 6,338 per 100,000 population. Considerable variation was present for criminal filing rates. The range was from 1,466 to 13,565 per 100,000 population, with a median of 4,736 filings. Greater variation characterized juvenile filing rates. States reported filing rates that range from 633 to 9,078 filings per 100,000 juvenile population in 1987.

The differences among states reflect both real variation in the extent to which cases are brought before the courts and the various methods of counts and degrees of data completeness. However, the degree of variation found for the three types of cases is consistent with what would be expected. Civil law and procedure are broadly similar across the country. Crime rates, the criminal law, law enforcement procedure, and practice all differ among states in ways that affect the number of cases reaching the courts. Such differences are still more pronounced in their impact on the use of courts to handle juvenile cases.

A few states report consistently high or consistently low use of their trial courts. Delaware, the District of Columbia, and Virginia reported among the highest filing rates for all three types of cases. Missouri reported among the lowest rates for all three. In states with two-tier trial court systems, civil cases dominate the caseload of general jurisdiction courts.

A strong and disturbing pattern in 1987 trial court caseload statistics is the low clearance rates. Many, perhaps most, courts are experiencing difficulty in keeping up with the inflow of new cases. The number of new cases filed in 1987 often substantially exceeded the number of cases that were disposed of by the court. The problem is more prevalent for juvenile petition and criminal cases than for civil cases, and more serious for limited jurisdiction than for general jurisdiction courts.

Finally, there is no clear relationship between the rate of trial court filings and the rate of appellate filings in a state. Nationally, trial courts and appellate court filings recorded similar percentage increases. But that consistency is not evident in the individual states. The appellate courts of most states, however, will need to cope with the consequences of the trial court caseload growth recorded in 1987 as the cases filed in that year reach judgment and become the subject of appeals.

Trends in Civil and Criminal Court Filings: 1981-87

This section places 1987 trial court filings in the context of recent caseload trends. Two main questions are addressed. First, to what extent are filing rates for individual states and courts essentially stable over time? If filing rates change dramatically and unsystematically from year to year, then the rankings of states reported in the preceding section for civil, criminal, and juvenile filing rates are probably attributable to short-term or random factors. Stability in ranking suggests that durable characteristics such as state legal systems, economies, and demographies are influential in determining the size and composition of court caseloads.

Second, is there sufficient consistency among courts and states to draw conclusions about nationwide change in the state courts? Although states differ in how they report their caseload data, each state tends to retain its system for generating caseload statistics and can thus define its own baseline when assessing the direction and magnitude of change over time. Also, sharp fluctuations from one year to the next can be associated with specific changes in a state's law, procedures, or recordkeeping and should not be confused with underlying, fundamental trends in filing levels.

The baseline used for this section is the caseload reported by state trial courts in 1981.[28] The trends examined describe change in specific torts, general civil (a combination of tort, contract, and real property rights fil-

ings), and criminal felonies. These case categories are indicators of important changes in the size and composition of court caseloads. Torts, general civil, and felony cases tend to consume more court resources than other case categories and to speak directly to the concerns and questions many court managers, legislators, and the public have about the work of the state courts.

Trends in Tort Filings

Torts are allegations of injury or wrong committed either against a person or against a person's property by a party who either failed to do something that they were obligated to do or did something that they were obligated not to do. The caseload statistics reports for 1985 and 1986 contained a separate section devoted to trends in tort litigation. This report updates selected indicators of trends in torts and general civil case filings.

Tort filing data can be obtained from 26 general jurisdiction and six limited jurisdiction courts. The number of filings and the rate of filings per 100,000 population per year are detailed in Appendix Table 1.1. Filing data for 1982 and 1983 are not available, leaving a gap in the time series and requiring caution when interpreting the strength and direction of trends.[29]

The focus here is on the four adjacent years: 1984-87. Chart 5 summarizes the change experienced by each court in each year. Courts are categorized as having a lower or higher filing rate only if the change is greater than 2 percent.

The data suggest three consistencies in tort filings. First, tort filing rates fluctuate in most states rather than remain stable. Second, there is a national direction to the fluctuation in a given year. Third, despite the fluctuations, there is an apparent underlying upward trend in some states but no underlying downward trend.

The first consistency answers the question about stability in filing rates. Filing rates in most states fluctuate from year to year, often substantially. Large fluctuations tend to be associated with specific changes in statute law or court procedure that make it advantageous for litigants to file a lawsuit either before or after a particular date. Tort reform legislation in Utah during 1986, for example, set a cap on the amount of noneconomic damages that a plaintiff could recover, modified the doctrine of joint and several liability, and required structured settlements for certain categories of awards. Tort filings in Utah doubled between 1985 and 1986 and then decreased by 48 percent between 1986 and 1987. The net effect was minor when considered in relation to population: there were 76 tort filings per 100,000 population in the Utah District Court in 1985 and 79 per 100,000 population in 1987. The sharp fluctuations reported for the state of Washington and, perhaps, Colorado may reflect the same pattern of a sharp rise in response to incentives to file in one year followed by an equally precipitous decline back to a rate close to the original filing level.

Other fluctuations may reflect alterations during the 1980s to the maximum dollar amount jurisdiction for cases filed in courts of limited jurisdiction and for small claims procedures. In most states, that maximum has increased substantially. Limited jurisdiction courts and small claims procedures are now viable alternatives to filing a tort case in the general jurisdiction courts of many states. This adds weight to the significance of the increases observed in tort filings, since case filings in general jurisdiction courts presumably represent a diminishing share of total claims for tort damages. For example, on July 1, 1986 (the start of the court reporting year), the maximum dollar amount of a small claims filing in the Alaska District Court rose from $1,000 to $5,000. This may account, in part, for the large decrease (28 percent) in tort filings in the Alaska Superior Court between 1986 and 1987.

A second consistency to tort filing rates in the mid-1980s speaks to the question of national patterns. There is some consistency among states in the timing of upward and downward fluctuations. Filing rates tended to increase in 1985 and again in 1986. Between 1984 and 1985, 13 of 22 states registered increases in the rate at which tort cases were filed in their general jurisdiction trial court. Between 1985 and 1986, 22 of 26 states registered an increase. The change between 1986 and 1987 was more likely to be either slight (10 states) or downward (9 states), with only seven states registering increases. This consistency suggests factors operating at a national or, perhaps, regional level that affect the extent and direction of change to tort filing rates.

A third consistency suggests that the direction in the filing trends is upward. New York is the only state in Chart 5 in which two successive decreases were reported: 1984/85 (–6 percent) and 1985/86 (–10 percent). Given the absence of states with sustained decreases in filings over the mid-1980s, a general downward pattern is implausible. Moreover, sufficient states are experiencing increases in their general jurisdiction court filings during the 1984-87 period to support a general upward trend. California, Ohio, and Puerto Rico experienced three successive increases, while most (11 of the 13) states reporting an increase over 1984/85 also reported an increase in 1985/86.

Some of the increases over the full 1981-87 period are substantial indeed. Tort filings per 100,000 populatioh increased by 49 percent in Texas, 48 percent in California, 34 percent in Ohio, and 31 percent in Connecticut. Most increases were more modest, and the story that emerges

---

[28]The caseload statistics series published by the National Center for State Courts begins in 1975. However, 1981 is the earliest year for which caseload data comparable to that reported in this volume can be obtained for a significant number of general jurisdiction courts. The only other annual series on state court caseloads was collected and published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. The last volume in that series reported 1946 statistics.

[29]Before 1986, civil case filings in New York's general jurisdiction courts, the supreme court and county court, were reported based on a count taken at the "trial note of issue," a document by which the parties indicate their readiness for trial. In 1986 and 1987, civil filing statistics from those courts are based on a count taken at the "request for judicial intervention," which is usually filed with the first motion, an event that takes place at an earlier stage in the litigation process than the "trial note of issue." The change in the point of count is of great importance for caseload trends. The New York supreme and county courts reported 126,776 civil case filings in 1985 and 284,568 in 1986. Table 9, Part II (p.100) reports 242,503 civil filings for 1987. However, to make the trend tables prepared by the NCSC Court Statistics Project consistent over time, case filing statistics in Appendix Tables 1.1 and 1.2 in Part I of this report are based on a count of filings taken at the "trial note of issue." Thus, Appendix Table 1.2 reports 121,433 civil filings in 1987 for the New York supreme and county courts, based on information provided by the New York State Office of Court Administration.

CHART 5: Tort filing trends in general jurisdiction courts, 1984-1987

	1984-1985		1985-1986		1986-1987	
DOWN: Decrease of 3 percent or more	UTAH District	-13%	NEW YORK Supreme and County	-10%	WASHINGTON Superior	-60%
	MARYLAND Circuit	-8%	(1 Court)		UTAH District	-48%
	NEW YORK Supreme and County	-6%			COLORADO District	-41%
	NORTH DAKOTA District	-6%			ALASKA Superior	-28%
	MASSACHUSETTS Trial	-5%			IDAHO District	-17%
	(5 Courts)				MAINE Superior	-14%
					MASSACHUSETTS Trial	-6%
					FLORIDA Circuit	-3%
					MISSOURI	-3%
					(9 Courts)	
NO CHANGE: Decrease or increase no greater than 2 percent	MAINE Superior	-1%	MAINE Superior	-2%	NORTH DAKOTA District	-1%
	NEW JERSEY Superior	0%	MONTANA District	-1%	ARKANSAS Circuit	0%
	KANSAS District	1%	TEXAS District	0%	HAWAII Circuit	0%
	CONNECTICUT Superior	2%	(3 Courts)		NORTH CAROLINA Superior	0%
	(4 Courts)				ARIZONA Superior	1%
					MONTANA District	1%
					NEW YORK Supreme and County	1%
					KANSAS District	2%
					NEW JERSEY Superior	2%
					TENNESSEE Circuit & Chancery	2%
					(10 Courts)	
UP: Increase of 3 percent or more	HAWAII Circuit	3%	ARKANSAS Circuit	3%	CALIFORNIA Superior	3%
	MISSOURI Circuit	4%	HAWAII Circuit	4%	MARYLAND Circuit	3%
	COLORADO District	6%	MASSACHUSETTS Trial	4%	OHIO Court of Common Pleas	3%
	TENNESSEE Circuit and Chancery	6%	TENNESSEE Circuit and Chancery	4%	PUERTO RICO Superior	5%
	TEXAS District	7%	PUERTO RICO Superior	4%	TEXAS District	6%
	WASHINGTON Superior	7%	KANSAS District	5%	MICHIGAN Circuit	9%
	FLORIDA Circuit	8%	ARIZONA Superior	6%	CONNECTICUT Superior	11%
	PUERTO RICO Superior	11%	IDAHO District	7%	(7 Courts)	
	ARIZONA Superior	12%	CONNECTICUT Superior	7%		
	CALIFORNIA Superior	12%	NEW JERSEY Superior	7%		
	MONTANA District	14%	ALASKA Superior	9%		
	IDAHO District	16%	NORTH CAROLINA Superior	9%		
	OHIO Court of Common Pleas	16%	MISSOURI Circuit	10%		
	(13 Courts)		OHIO Court of Common Pleas	10%		
			NORTH DAKOTA District	11%		
			MICHIGAN Circuit	13%		
			CALIFORNIA Superior	14%		
			FLORIDA Circuit	16%		
			MARYLAND Circuit	20%		
			COLORADO District	34%		
			WASHINGTON Superior	98%		
			UTAH District	100%		
			(22 Courts)			
	Total Number of Courts (22)		Total Number of Courts (26)		Total Number of Courts (26)	

Source: APPENDIX TABLE 1.1

from the case filing statistics will vary depending on which states are regarded as the most significant bellwethers of change. Some tentative trends can be put forward, however, based on the 1981-87 tort filing data. Each trend is a distinctive pattern in terms of the consistency and direction of change in filing rates.

First, tort filings in six states and Puerto Rico have grown consistently over the 1981-87 period: Arizona (from 1984), California, Connecticut, Michigan, Ohio, and Texas (included although there was no change in the filing rate per 100,000 population between 1985/86). Second, there was an apparent upward trend in three states, broken only in 1986/87. This describes the trends for Florida, Hawaii (which recorded no change on a population-adjusted basis over 1986/87), and Missouri (from 1984). Third, filings in nine states do not manifest a clear direction, fluctuating

from year to year. This is the most common trend. These states are Idaho (substantial fluctuation, especially over 1986/87), Kansas (minor year-to-year change, essentially stable), Maine (little change until substantial 1986/87 decrease), Maryland (fluctuation with some indication that an upward trend may be present), Massachusetts (fluctuation but with evidence of a downward trend), Montana (essentially stable), New Jersey (upward since 1984), North Dakota (minor fluctuation, but the rate is essentially stable), and Tennessee (fluctuation, with some evidence of an upward trend).

A fourth trend consists of three states that recorded sharp increases over 1985/86 that could be attributed to specific changes in state statutory law or court procedure (see Part II, *State Court Caseload Statistics: 1986 Report*). The three states, which recorded substantial decreases in their filing rates between 1986 and 1987, are Colorado (where the trend seems to be downward), Utah (where there is no identifiable trend), and Washington (where the trend is upward except for the 1986/87 change).

New York suggests a fifth trend that may be present in states not included in Appendix Table 1.1. New York is the only state offering clear evidence of a strong downward trend; that trend, however, was broken in 1986/87, when an increase was recorded.

To summarize, the available state court data on tort filings include six states with a consistent upward trend and five states with what can plausibly be interpreted as an upward trend but where the year-to-year change is not consistently upward. The filing rate has not consistently decreased in any state, although the trend is apparently downward in Colorado, Massachusetts, and New York. There is no satisfactory basis for attributing a direction to the filing data for remaining states; filing rates are essentially stable, particularly over the 1984-86 period.

Torts as a Percentage of Total Civil Filings

The trends just identified can clearly only be characterized as such in the short term. The available data cover too brief a time span to draw firm conclusions about the extent and direction of fundamental changes in tort filings. It would buttress the tentative conclusions considerably, however, if, even in the short term, tort filings were increasing more rapidly than other types of civil cases. This is the case for those states recording consistent year-to-year increases in tort filing rates.

The percentage of total civil filings that were tort cases in 1985, 1986, and 1987 can be calculated from the data in Appendix Table 1.2. Twenty-five states and Puerto Rico are included. The resulting percentages are presented in Text Table 8. In 11 states, the percentage was essentially unchanged over the three-year period; in 10 states the percentage increased, and in four states it declined.[30]

The largest increases were in the general jurisdiction courts of California, Maine, and Maryland. Torts represented 17.9 percent of California's 1985 civil filings and 20.4 percent of 1987 filings. The change in Maine was from 28.8 percent to 31.1 percent and in Maryland from 10.1 percent to 12.2 percent. More modest increases occurred in Arizona (11.1 percent to 12.1 percent) and in Texas (8.3 to 9.2 percent). These percentages are cited as evidence that tort filings were increasing at a faster pace than other types of civil cases.

Diminished percentage shares are found in Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, and Washington. Both tort filings and total civil filings were increasing in Arkansas over the three-year period, but the growth in tort filings did not keep pace with other categories of civil cases. Colorado, Utah, and Washington were cited earlier as likely examples of the impact of tort reform. That attribution is strengthened by the fact that tort filings in those states apparently changed far more dramatically than total civil filings.

TEXT TABLE 8: Tort Filings as a Percent of Civil Filings

State/Court name:	1985	1986	1987
General jurisdiction courts:			
Alaska Superior	11.4	14.2	11.0
Arizona Superior	11.0	11.6	12.1
Arkansas Circuit	16.0	15.5	15.4
California Superior	17.9	19.9	20.4
Colorado District, Denver Superior, Juvenile and Probate	5.0	5.8	3.5
Connecticut Superior	8.5	8.9	10.4
Florida Circuit	7.1	8.0	8.0
Hawaii Circuit	6.4	6.7	6.9
Idaho District	3.3	3.5	3.1
Kansas District	3.3	3.2	3.1
Maine Superior	28.8	30.8	31.1
Maryland Circuit	10.1	11.6	12.2
Michigan Circuit	15.9	17.5	17.4
Minnesota District	—	4.4	4.7
Missouri Circuit	4.3	4.5	4.2
Montana District	6.8	6.5	6.7
New Jersey Superior	7.1	7.3	7.3
New York Supreme and County	28.1	26.7	28.2
North Carolina Superior	9.2	9.6	9.1
North Dakota District	3.6	3.7	3.6
Ohio Court of Common Pleas	8.8	8.7	8.7
Tennessee Circuit, Criminal and Chancery	12.0	12.3	12.2
Texas District	8.4	9.1	9.2
Utah District	4.2	7.7	5.5
Washington Superior	8.0	14.4	6.2
Puerto Rico Superior	7.0	6.7	7.4
Limited jurisdiction courts:			
Alaska District	3.6	15.5	4.4
Florida County	—	12.1	14.6
Hawaii District	3.2	3.5	4.2
Ohio County	1.8	1.8	1.8
Ohio Municipal	4.0	4.1	4.3
Texas County-Level	5.1	5.5	5.7
Puerto Rico District	3.4	3.8	3.7

Source: Appendix Table 1.2, Part I
National Center for State Courts, 1989.

[30]A more formal analysis would take into consideration that a change from 21 percent to 22 percent is not proportional to a change from, say 3 percent to 4 percent. The standard procedure is a logarithmic transformation of the data.

Torts as a percentage of total civil filings offer an indicator of change that is not linked to state population. The size of the population is growing in most states, and if filings remain constant from one year to the next, the result is a decreased filing rate. The use of population-adjusted filing data, therefore, imposes a more difficult standard for upward trends than for downward trends. Also, population change for individual states is often influenced by net migration, which can cause rapid change to the population size of states in some regions.[31]

Overall, the use of percentages tends to support the conclusions drawn using rates per 100,000 population. Torts were increasing more rapidly than other civil filings in only a few states during the 1985-1987 period. There was, however, a sharp upward swing in tort filings between 1985 and 1986: torts increased as a percentage of total civil filings in 16 of 25 courts reporting relevant data. Although that increase did not recur in the 1986/87 changes for most states, there is more evidence in support of rising tort filings than in support of declining tort filings.

Trends in General Civil Filings: 1981-87

Torts are a small component of civil filings in most general jurisdiction trial courts. The range in 1987 was from 3 percent (in Idaho and Kansas) to 31 percent (in Maine). General civil filings offer a larger, more broadly based indicator of trends. The category includes all contract, real property rights, and tort cases. It is possible that general civil filings are changing more consistently and substantially than tort filings alone. This is the case in the federal courts, where contract cases are increasing more rapidly than tort filings.[32]

The number of general civil cases filed and the rate of filings per 100,000 population can be found in Appendix Table 1.3. Changes in filing rates between 1984/85, 1985/86, and 1986/87 are summarized in Chart 6.

The consistencies identified for tort filing rates also apply to general civil cases over the 1984-87 period. The change between 1984 and 1985 and between 1985 and 1986 was upward in most states. There was, however, no clear direction to the change between 1986 and 1987. Of the 18 states reporting data for both 1986 and 1987, six experienced decreases, five were unchanged, and seven experienced increases. There are fewer very large increases or decreases when changes are calculated for general civil filings. It seems reasonable to attribute the more substantial year-to-year changes found for tort filings to specific tort reform legislation.

There is little consistency in the experience of general jurisdiction courts over the full 1981-87 period. Eleven state general jurisdiction courts and the District of Columbia Superior Court reported data for 1981 and 1984-87. A clear upward trend can be identified in Alabama and Kansas. Filing rates fluctuated in Colorado and Texas, but the direction of the change over the period appears to be upward. Most states recorded year-to-year changes, but without establishing a clear trend: Arkansas, Delaware, North Carolina, North Dakota, Tennessee, and Washington.

Hawaii and the District of Columbia recorded substantial and consistent declines in general civil filings. The Hawaii Circuit Court received 390 general civil filings per 100,000 population in 1981 and 339 per 100,000 population in 1987, a decrease of 13 percent. General civil filings in the District of Columbia declined by 20 percent between 1981-87, from 17,183 to 13,827 filings per 100,000 population. The lower general civil filing rates may be the result of changes that made small claims procedures applicable to a broader range of cases. In the District of Columbia, for example, the maximum dollar amount for a small claims filing was increased from $750 in 1981 to $2,000 in 1987.

Overall, the limited evidence on general civil filings is less conclusive than that available for torts. Several states recorded increased filings during the 1981-87 period, several states recorded decreased filings, while most recorded no consistent upward or downward trend. These are sufficient differences between tort and general civil case filing patterns to suggest that the factors promoting increased or decreased levels of tort litigation in states may not be having a similar effect on contract and real property rights litigation.

Trends in Felony Filings: 1981-87

Felonies are serious criminal offenses. Typically, a felony is an offense for which the minimum prison sentence is one year or more. The definition of a felony and the specific offenses involved varies among the states, but felony case filings always include the most serious offenses and exclude minor offenses.

The trend over the 1980s is clear: felony filings are increasing and increasing substantially in most general jurisdiction trial courts. Consistency across states strongly supports the identification of a national trend.

Felony case filing statistics and filing rates per 100,000 populations for 1981 and 1984-87 are presented in Appendix Table 1.4. Chart 7 summarizes the year-to-year changes each court experienced over the 1984-87 period.

Filings per 100,000 population increased in one-half to two-thirds of the courts reporting relevant data for each set of adjacent years. Between 1984/85, three courts registered a decrease, 10 courts remained unchanged, and 19 courts registered an increase. An increase or decrease here means that filings per 100,000 population changed by 2 percent or more. Of the 36 courts with relevant data for the 1985/86 change, four registered decreases, 12 no change, and 20 increases. The comparable 1986/87 figures are six decreases, six no change, and 21 increases.

Increases tended to be substantial. While no state court reported a decrease of more than 9 percent, and most decreases were in the 3 to 5 percent range, many courts reported year-to-year increases of 10 to 20 percent. The cumulative increase in the rate of felony filings is, therefore,

---

[31]Tort filings can be standardized using a variety of rates, including rates per 100,000 households, rates per 100,000 firms, or rates per 100,000 economic transactions in a state. The rate selected should reflect the purpose of the analysis. In this report, the issue is simply whether filings are increasing more or less rapidly than the population.

[32]Marc Galanter, "The Life and Times of the Big Six; or, The Federal Courts Since the Good Old Days." Madison: University of Wisconsin, Institute for Legal Studies, Disputes Processing Research Program, Working Paper Number 6, August 1988.

CHART 6: General civil filing trends in general jurisdiction courts, 1984-1987

General jurisdiction courts:	1984-1985	1985-1986	1986-1987
DOWN: Decrease of 3 percent or more	HAWAII Circuit ..... -7% DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Superior ..... -4% (2 Courts)	ALASKA Superior ..... -40% TEXAS District ..... -3% (2 Courts)	UTAH District ..... -38% WASHINGTON Superior -25% MONTANA District ... -10% DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Superior ..... -6% HAWAII Circuit ..... -5% DELAWARE Superior .. -4% (6 Courts)
NO CHANGE: Decrease or an increase no greater than 2 percent	DELAWARE Superior ..... 0% NORTH DAKOTA District ... 1% (2 Courts)	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Superior ..... -1% UTAH District ..... -1% HAWAII Circuit ..... 0% NORTH CAROLINA Superior 1% (4 Courts)	MICHIGAN Circuit ... -2% NORTH DAKOTA District ..... -2% ARKANSAS Circuit ... -1% NORTH CAROLINA Superior ..... 0% KANSAS District .... 2% (5 Courts)
UP: Increase in of 3 percent or more	TENNESSEE Circuit, Criminal and Chancery ..... 4% NORTH CAROLINA Superior . 8% ALABAMA Circuit ..... 9% KANSAS District ..... 9% TEXAS District ..... 9% COLORADO District ..... 10% MONTANA District ..... 10% WASHINGTON Superior ..... 10% ARKANSAS Chancery and Probate ..... 18% (9 Courts)	ALABAMA Circuit ..... 4% TENNESSEE Circuit, Criminal and Chancery ..... 4% MONTANA District ..... 5% NORTH DAKOTA District . 5% ARKANSAS Circuit ..... 6% CONNECTICUT Superior .. 6% ARIZONA Superior ..... 10% KANSAS District ..... 11% DELAWARE Superior ..... 12% ARKANSAS Chancery and Probate..... 13% WASHINGTON Superior ... 21% MICHIGAN Circuit ..... 22% COLORADO District ..... 30% (13 Courts)	TENNESSEE Circuit and Chancery ..... 3% TEXAS District .... 3% COLORADO District . 5% ALABAMA Circuit ... 8% ARIZONA Superior .. 9% CONNECTICUT Superior 14% ALASKA Superior ... 21% (7 Courts)
	Total Number of Courts (13)	Total Number of Courts (19)	Total Number of Courts (19)

Source: APPENDIX TABLE 1.3

quite substantial in a number of states. Between 1984 and 1987, felony filings per 100,000 population consistently increased by 3 percent or more in California (a cumulative increase of 31.4 percent), the District of Columbia (79.3 percent), New Hampshire (32.9 percent), New York (26.7 percent), and Washington (29.1 percent).

There were, however, fluctuations for most courts despite the strong underlying trend toward higher felony filings. Hawaii, for example, registered a decrease between 1984/85, no change between 1985/86, and an increase between 1986/87. No state registered three successive decreases, and only two states with relevant data (Vermont and Wyoming) failed to register at least one increase of 3 percent or more.

Over the full 1981-87 period, felony filings per 100,000 population increased in 20 states and the District of Columbia. Filing rates declined in six states over those years. Filing data for nine states were not available either for 1981 or 1987.

Despite the general consistency with which states recorded increased filing rates, the data do not provide unambiguous evidence of a strong, nationwide upward trend in the state courts. The experience of the states falls instead into four main trends. Strong and consistent upward trends are identifiable in Arkansas (60 percent), California (41 percent), Connecticut (43 percent), the District of Columbia (138 percent), New Jersey (32 percent), and New York (46 percent). Eight other states can be categorized as having a clear upward trend, but one that was not consistent over the full time period. The states (and the percent increase recorded between 1981 and 1987) are Arizona (21 percent), Iowa (27 percent), New Hampshire (30 percent), North Dakota (16 percent), Oregon (16 percent), South Dakota (16 percent), Texas (26 percent), and Washington (25 percent).

There was no evident direction in the changes experienced by Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, and Wisconsin. The 1981-87 percentage change in the filing rate may have been large, but the direction of year-to-year changes was inconsistent.

Three states (Kansas, Rhode Island, and Wyoming) appear to have experienced downward trends. Filing rates

CHART 7: Felony filing trends in general jurisdiction courts, 1984-1987

	1984-1985		1985-1986		1986-1987	
DOWN: Decrease of 3 percent or more	KANSAS District	-8%	IOWA District	-3%	INDIANA Superior and Circuit	-9%
	NORTH CAROLINA Superior	-5%	MAINE Superior	-3%	MONTANA District	-5%
	HAWAII Circuit	-3%	NEW JERSEY Superior	-3%	WISCONSIN Circuit	-5%
	(3 Courts)		WEST VIRGINIA Circuit	-3%	WYOMING District	-5%
			(4 Courts)		VERMONT District	-4%
					RHODE ISLAND Superior	-3%
					(6 Courts)	
NO CHANGE: Decrease or increase no greater than 2 percent	OHIO Court of Common Pleas	-2%	HAWAII Circuit	-2%	ILLINOIS Circuit	-2%
	ILLINOIS Circuit	-1%	KENTUCKY Circuit	-1%	COLORADO District, Denver Superior, Juvenile and Probate	0%
	VERMONT Superior	0%	WISCONSIN Circuit	-1%	MAINE Superior	0%
	VIRGINIA Circuit	0%	WYOMING District	-1%	ARIZONA Superior	1%
	WEST VIRGINIA Circuit	0%	COLORADO District, Denver Superior, Juvenile and Probate	0%	OHIO Court of Common Pleas	2%
	NEW JERSEY Superior	1%	VERMONT Superior	0%	SOUTH DAKOTA Circuit	2%
	WYOMING District	1%	GEORGIA Superior	1%	(6 Courts)	
	NORTH DAKOTA District	2%	MINNESOTA District	1%		
	OKLAHOMA District	2%	MONTANA District	1%		
	VERMONT District	2%	SOUTH DAKOTA Circuit	1%		
	(10 Courts)		ARKANSAS Circuit	2%		
			ILLINOIS Circuit	2%		
			(12 Courts)			
UP: Increase of 3 percent or more	NEW YORK Supreme and County	3%	OKLAHOMA District	3%	KANSAS District	3%
	OREGON Circuit	3%	KANSAS District	4%	HAWAII Circuit	4%
	GEORGIA Superior	4%	VIRGINIA Circuit	4%	OKLAHOMA District	4%
	COLORADO District, Denver Superior, Juvenile and Probate	5%	OHIO Court of Common Pleas	5%	WASHINGTON Superior	5%
	IOWA District	5%	MISSOURI Circuit	6%	NEW JERSEY Superior	6%
	TEXAS District	5%	NORTH DAKOTA District	6%	VIRGINIA Circuit	6%
	ARIZONA Superior	7%	OREGON Circuit	7%	IOWA District	7%
	NEW HAMPSHIRE Superior	7%	WASHINGTON Superior	7%	TEXAS District	7%
	WISCONSIN Circuit	7%	NORTH CAROLINA Superior	9%	CALIFORNIA Superior	8%
	CALIFORNIA Superior	8%	RHODE ISLAND Superior	9%	MISSOURI Circuit	8%
	MINNESOTA District	8%	MASSACHUSETTS Trial Court of the Commonwealth	11%	NORTH DAKOTA District	8%
	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Superior	9%	NEW YORK Supreme and County	11%	OREGON Circuit	8%
	INDIANA Superior and Circuit	9%	NEW HAMPSHIRE Superior	12%	WEST VIRGINIA Circuit	8%
	IDAHO District	10%	CALIFORNIA Superior	13%	MINNESOTA District	10%
	RHODE ISLAND Superior	12%	VERMONT District	13%	NEW HAMPSHIRE Superior	10%
	MAINE Superior	13%	ARIZONA Superior	15%	NEW YORK Supreme and County	11%
	WASHINGTON Superior	14%	CONNECTICUT Superior	15%	ARKANSAS Circuit	12%
	ARKANSAS Circuit	18%	TEXAS District	17%	NORTH CAROLINA Superior	12%
	SOUTH DAKOTA Circuit	18%	INDIANA Superior and Circuit	23%	CONNECTICUT Superior	14%
	(19 Courts)		DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Superior	32%	MASSACHUSETTS Trial Court of the Commonwealth	15%
			(20 Courts)		DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Superior	24%
					(21 Courts)	
	Total Number of Courts (32)		Total Number of Courts (36)		Total Number of Courts (33)	

Source: APPENDIX TABLE 1.4

in those states tended to fall over the 1981-87 period but not consistently.

In sum, felony filings manifest a clear upward trend. The time span covered is still brief, and data are not available for some states. But states drawn from all regions report a consistent pattern of rising felony case filings.

Case Filing Trends, 1981-87: A Summary

This section reveals some dynamics underlying the 1987 trial court caseload statistics. Change rather than continuity characterizes filing levels for tort, general civil, and felony criminal case filings. Specifically, civil filing rates

in general jurisdiction courts tend to fluctuate from year to year. There is more evidence of a tendency toward higher rather than toward lower case filings, but few courts report large successive changes in the same direction even over the limited time period considered here. The ranking of states by cases filed per 100,000 population is unlikely to remain the same in 1988.

There is sufficient consistency to the changes registered to suggest that some national patterns exist, applicable to many if not to all states. Overall, however, the data suggest that conclusions must be tentative. The consistencies that can be identified should be balanced against the substantial variation that is present among the courts and, for most courts, over the 1981-87 period.

Variation is particularly evident for civil cases. The addition of 1987 data to the tort filing time series is far from conclusive. Between 1985 and 1986, tort filing rates increased in most states reporting data, often substantially. This was largely reversed between 1986 and 1987. A tendency toward higher filing rates can be identified, but its strength will depend on the importance given to different courts and to different ways of presenting the trends.

The trend analysis also suggests that tort filings are changing over time in a manner that differs from that being experienced by other civil case categories. It is possible that tort filing rates in recent years have been influenced by specific legislative changes enacted by states. A more conclusive assessment must await the accumulation of more time points in the trend series.

Felony case filings are experiencing an upward trend. The result is a growth in the portion of criminal caseloads that carries the most substantial implications for court staffing and resources. Most courts were processing far more felony cases in 1987 than at the start of the decade.

Conclusion

This commentary has three main objectives. The first is to describe the work of state court systems, identifying similarities and differences. The second is to relate the similarities and differences to the manner in which states organize their court systems and to other state characteristics. The third is to assess changes over time in state court caseloads.

Similarities among appellate court systems include the filing rates for both mandatory appeals and discretionary petitions, which clustered around the median creating a broad middle range of states. Most appellate courts reported success in keeping pace with flow of new case filings and reduced the size of their pending caseloads.

Differences in appellate court systems include the extent to which filings are mandatory appeals or discretionary petitions and the percentage of discretionary petitions that are granted. Two-tier appellate systems differ in the degree to which they conform to the pattern in which the COLR has discretionary control of its docket and the IAC hears mandatory appeals.

Among trial court systems, there was broad similarity in the rate of civil case filings per 100,000 population. Rates of criminal case filing were more varied, but a middle range could be identified. For civil, criminal, and juvenile cases, states shared problems of increasing pending caseloads. Fewer cases were disposed of than were filed. The resulting problems are more acute in most states for criminal and juvenile cases than for civil cases.

State trial court systems differed in the rate at which juvenile petitions were filed during 1987. Compared to civil and criminal cases, the variation in juvenile filings was substantial. Trial court systems also differ in the use made of general and limited jurisdiction courts to hear cases.

Many of the similarities and differences reflect the manner in which states allocate the jurisdiction to hear and decide various types of cases to their appellate and trial courts. Differences in court structure, however, are not strongly related to either filing or clearance rates. Trial courts in a one-tier system, for example, are not more or less likely than courts in a two-tier system to keep pace with their incoming caseloads.

Court filings and court clearance rates do not form clear regional patterns. There is also no clear evidence linking court caseloads to the state population size or to other state characteristics. It is possible, of course, that subtle patterns exist but would only emerge through more systematic comparisons than were possible in this commentary. Also, the similarities and differences discussed are based both on real variation in filing rates and variation due to how cases are categorized and counted.

The analysis of trends, which allows each state to serve as its own point of comparison, produced more patterns. National appellate filings and national trial court filings both increased during 1987. The slight rise in total civil filings and the more substantial rise in total criminal filings apply to the specific categories of torts, general civil, and felonies. Over the 1981-87 period, tort and general civil filings fluctuated.

Tort filing rates fluctuate from year to year in most states. An underlying upward trend is identifiable for some states over the 1981-87 period. No state registered a clear and consistent downward trend. Tort filing rates were more likely to increase in some years than others, but the available evidence does not support conclusions about national patterns.

A strong upward trend in felony filing rates can be identified for the 1981-87 period. The result was a substantial increase in the number of serious offenses reaching state trial courts.

Appendix to Part I

TABLE 1.1: Tort Filings in the State Trial Courts, 1981-1987

State/Court name:	1981 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes		1981 Filings per 100,000 population	1984 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes		1984 Filings per 100,000 population	1985 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes		1985 Filings per 100,000 population
General jurisdiction courts:									
ALASKA Superior Court	nc		--	nc		--	2,096		402
ARIZONA Superior Court	N/A		--	9,173		300	10,748		337
ARKANSAS Circuit Court	N/A		--	N/A		--	5,382		228
CALIFORNIA Superior Court	80,970		335	97,068		379	112,049		425
COLORADO District and Denver Superior Courts	5,089		172	4,199		132	4,537		140
CONNECTICUT Superior Court	11,471		366	12,391		393	12,742		401
FLORIDA Circuit Court	nc		--	26,815	1	244	29,864	1	263
HAWAII Circuit Court	1,468	1	150	1,611	1	155	1,676	1	159
IDAHO District Court	1,744	1	182	1,729	1	173	2,010	1	200
KANSAS District Court	4,517		190	4,033		165	4,061		166
MAINE Superior Court	1,914		169	2,083		180	2,072		178
MARYLAND Circuit Court	nc		--	10,826	1	249	10,120	1	230
MASSACHUSETTS Trial Court of the Commonwealth	N/A		--	15,151	1	261	14,405	1	247
MICHIGAN Circuit Court	N/A		--	23,186	1	255	23,742		261
MISSOURI Circuit Court	N/A		--	9,259	1	185	9,678	1	192
MONTANA District Court	nc		--	1,640	C	199	1,870	C	226
NEW JERSEY Superior Court	41,376	1	558	41,722	1	555	42,141	1	557
NEW YORK Supreme and County Courts	39,234		223	37,847		213	35,549		200
NORTH CAROLINA Superior Court	N/A		--	N/A		--	8,062	C	129
NORTH DAKOTA District Court	516		78	550		80	512		75
OHIO Court of Common Pleas	21,906		203	22,149		206	25,518		238
TENNESSEE Circuit and Chancery Courts	12,046		261	11,775		250	12,565		264
TEXAS District Court	28,698		194	34,224		214	37,596		230
UTAH District Court	nc		--	1,433	C	87	1,245	C	76
WASHINGTON Superior Court	7,919		188	8,997		207	9,747		221
PUERTO RICO Superior Court	3,760	C	118	3,968	C	121	4,388	C	134
Limited jurisdiction courts:									
ALASKA District Court	nc		--	nc		--	860	1	165
HAWAII District Court	1,037		106	693		67	652		62
OHIO County Court	705		7	519		5	464		4
OHIO Municipal Court	18,992		176	13,503		126	12,992		121
PUERTO RICO District Court	1,813	C	57	1,550	C	47	1,579	C	48
TEXAS County-Level Courts	nc		--	nc		--	8,242		50

APPENDIX TABLE 1.1: Tort filings in the state trial courts, 1981-1987.

State/Court name:	1986 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes		1986 Filings per 100,000 population	1987 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes		1987 Filings per 100,000 population
General jurisdiction courts:						
ALASKA Superior Court	2,344		440	1,664		317
ARIZONA Superior Court	11,888		358	12,260		362
ARKANSAS Circuit Court	5,541		234	5,606		235
CALIFORNIA Superior Court	130,206		483	137,455		497
COLORADO District and Denver Superior Court	6,145	(Q)	188	3,666	(Q)	111
CONNECTICUT Superior Court	13,754		431	15,385		479
FLORIDA Circuit Court	35,535		304	35,453		295
HAWAII Circuit Court	1,749	1	165	1,785	1	165
IDAHO District Court	2,118	1	211	1,757	1	176
KANSAS District Court	4,274		174	4,380		177
MAINE Superior Court	2,044		174	1,786		150
MARYLAND Circuit Court	12,373	1	277	12,938	1	285
MASSACHUSETTS Trial Court of the Commonwealth	15,040	1	258	14,251	1	243
MICHIGAN Circuit Court	27,046		296	29,756		323
MISSOURI Circuit Court	10,746	1	212	10,483	1	205
MONTANA District Court	1,836	C	224	1,792	C	222
NEW JERSEY Superior Court	45,547	1	598	42,662	1	608
NEW YORK Supreme and County Courts	32,011		180	34,249		181
NORTH CAROLINA Superior Court	8,897	C	140	8,981	C	140
NORTH DAKOTA District Court	561		83	551		82
OHIO Court of Common Pleas	28,225		262	29,375		272
TENNESSEE Circuit and Chancery Courts	13,167		274	13,597		280
TEXAS District Court	38,238		229	40,764		243
UTAH District Court	2,527	C	152	1,335	C	79
WASHINGTON Superior Court	19,515		437	8,007		176
PUERTO RICO Superior Court	4,558	C	140	4,811	C	147
Limited jurisdiction courts:						
ALASKA District Court	4,069	1	763	1,071	1	204
HAWAII District Court	738		69	937		87
OHIO County Court	463		4	406		4
OHIO Municipal Court	13,999		130	15,505		144
PUERTO RICO District Court	1,779	C	54	1,729	C	53
TEXAS County-Level Courts	9,833		59	11,314		67

(continued on next page)

APPENDIX TABLE 1.1: Tort filings in the state trial courts, 1981-1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Percent change in tort filings per 100,000 population 1981-1987	Percent change in tort filings per 100,000 population 1986-1987
General jurisdiction courts:		
ALASKA Superior Court	--	-28%
ARIZONA Superior Court	--	1%
ARKANSAS Circuit Court	--	0%
CALIFORNIA Superior Court	48%	3%
COLORADO District and Denver Superior Court	-35%	-41%
CONNECTICUT Superior Court	31%	11%
FLORIDA Circuit Court	--	-3%
HAWAII Circuit Court	10%	0%
IDAHO District Court	3%	-17%
KANSAS District Court	-7%	2%
MAINE Superior Court	-11%	-14%
MARYLAND Circuit Court	--	3%
MASSACHUSETTS Trial Court of the Commonwealth	--	-6%
MICHIGAN Circuit Court	--	9%
MISSOURI Circuit Court	--	-3%
MONTANA District Court	--	1%
NEW JERSEY Superior Court	9%	2%
NEW YORK Supreme and County Courts	-19%	1%
NORTH CAROLINA Superior Court	--	0%
NORTH DAKOTA District Court	5%	-1%
OHIO Court of Common Pleas	34%	4%
TENNESSEE Circuit and Chancery Courts	7%	2%
TEXAS District Court	49%	6%
UTAH District Court	--	-48%
WASHINGTON Superior Court	-6%	-60%
PUERTO RICO Superior Court	25%	5%
Limited jurisdiction courts:		
ALASKA District Court	--	-73%
HAWAII District Court	-18%	2%
OHIO County Court	-43%	0%
OHIO Municipal Court	-18%	10%
PUERTO RICO District Court	-7%	-2%
TEXAS County-Level Courts	--	14%

N/A = Data are unavailable.
-- = Data element is not applicable.

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

nc: The following courts' data are not comparable:
Alaska--Superior and District Courts--The 1981 and 1984 data are not comparable to the 1985, 1986, 1987 data because torts are separated from the unclassified civil figure in significantly greater quantities during 1985, 1986 and 1987 than in previous years.
Florida--Circuit Court--There were 21,063 new filings in 1981, but they did not include reopened cases; therefore, the 1981 data are not comparable with the 1984, 1985, 1986, and 1987 data.
Maryland--Circuit Court--Tort filings for 1981 could not be separated from other civil filings.
Montana--District Court--1981 data are not comparable with 1984,. 1985, 1986, and 1987 data due to changes in reporting.
Texas--County-Level Courts--Tort filings for 1981 and 1984 do not include data from Harris County (i.e., Houston).
Utah--District Court--Tort filings for 1981 could not be separated from other civil filings.

C: The following courts' data are overinclusive:
Montana--District Court--Tort filings include some civil appeals cases for 1984, 1985, 1986 and 1987.
North Carolina--Superior Court--Tort filings include some miscellaneous civil cases for 1985, 1986, and 1987.
Puerto Rico--Superior Court--Tort filings include transfers and reopened cases.
--District Court--Tort filings include transfers and reopened cases.
Utah--District Court--Tort filings include de novo appeals from the Justice of the Peace Courts.

1: The following courts' data are at least 75% complete:
Alaska--District Court--Data do not include filings in the low volume District Courts, which are reported with unclassified civil cases.
Florida--Circuit Court--Data for 1984 and 1985 do not include professional tort cases reported with other civil cases.
Hawaii--Circuit Court--Data do not include a small number of District Court transfers reported with other civil cases.
Idaho--District Court--Data do not include some filings reported with unclassified civil cases. The unclassified figures for 1985, 1986, and 1987 respectively are: 20,644, 21,281, and 22,202.
Maryland--Circuit Court--Data do not include some filings reported with unclassified civil cases. The unclassified figures for 1985, 1986, and 1987 respectively are: 1,438, 976, and 1,829.
Massachusetts--Trial Court of the Commonwealth--Tort filings do not include some cases which are reported with unclassified civil data.
Michigan--Circuit Court--Tort filings are unavailable in 1984 for Hillsdale County, Osceola County, Kalkaska County, and Delta County.
Missouri--Circuit Court--Data do not include filings from St. Louis County and do not include torts filed in the associate divisions with civil jurisdiction under $5,000. 1984 and 1985 data also do not include filings from Boone County.
New Jersey--Superior Court--Data do not include some torts reported with unclassified civil cases. The unclassified figures for 1985, 1986, and 1987 respectively are: 40,026, 46,865, and 44,850.

(Q): Additional court information:

Colorado--District and Denver Superior Court--The Denver Superior Court was abolished 11/14/86 and the caseload absorbed by the District Court.

TABLE 1.2: Total Civil and Tort Filings in State Trial Courts, 1985-1987

State/Court name:	1985 Civil: Number of filings and qualifying footnotes		1985 Civil: Filings per 100,000 population	1985 Tort: Number of filings and qualifying footnotes		1985 Tort: Filings per 100,000 population
General jurisdiction courts:						
ALASKA Superior Court	18,315	E	3,515	2,096		402
ARIZONA Superior Court	97,262	1	3,052	10,748		337
ARKANSAS Circuit Court	33,637		1,426	5,382		228
CALIFORNIA Superior Court	626,496		2,376	112,049		425
COLORADO District, Denver Superior and Juvenile and Probate Courts	89,995		2,785	4,537		140
CONNECTICUT Superior Court	150,323	E	4,736	12,742		401
FLORIDA Circuit Court	421,694		3,710	29,864	1	263
HAWAII Circuit Court	26,283	C	2,494	1,676	1	159
IDAHO District Court	60,347		6,005	2,010	1	200
KANSAS District Court	124,995		5,102	4,061		166
MAINE Superior Court	7,199		618	2,072		178
MARYLAND Circuit Court	99,842		2,273	10,120	1	230
MICHIGAN Circuit Court	149,316		1,643	23,742		261
MINNESOTA District Court	205,241	C	4,895	--		--
MISSOURI Circuit Court	224,651	0	4,467	9,678	1	192
MONTANA District Court	27,648	C	3,347	1,870	C	226
NEW JERSEY Superior Court	597,399	1	7,900	42,141	1	557
NEW YORK Supreme and County Courts	126,776	0	713	35,549		200
NORTH CAROLINA Superior Court	87,670		1,402	8,062	C	129
NORTH DAKOTA District Court	14,239		2,079	512		75
OHIO Court of Common Pleas	290,520	E	2,704	25,518		238
TENNESSEE Circuit, Criminal and Chancery Courts	104,430	C	2,193	12,565		264
TEXAS District Court	451,035	C	2,755	37,596		230
UTAH District Court	30,009	C	1,824	1,245	C	76
WASHINGTON Superior Court	122,505	C	2,779	9,747		221
PUERTO RICO Superior Court	62,393	0	1,910	4,388	C	134
Limited jurisdiction courts:						
ALASKA District Court	24,046		4,615	860	1	165
FLORIDA County Court	323,241		2,844	--		--
HAWAII District Court	20,622		1,957	652		62
OHIO County Court	24,542		228	464		4
OHIO Municipal Court	326,127		3,035	12,992		121
TEXAS County-Level Courts	161,754	C	988	8,242		50
PUERTO RICO District Court	46,074	C	1,410	1,579	C	48

NOTE: The footnoting scheme has been consolidated. Footnotes for 1985 and 1986 have been translated into the footnote scheme for 1987.

-- = Data element is not applicable.

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

C: The following courts' data are overinclusive:
Hawaii--Circuit Court--**Civil** filings include criminal postconviction remedy proceedings and some criminal and traffic/other violation cases.
Minnesota--District Court--Civil filings for 1985 include cases from the County Court and Conciliation and Probate Division and County Municipal Court which merged with the District Court in 1985.
Montana--District Court--Civil filings include appeals of trial court cases. Tort filings include some civil appeals cases for 1985, 1986, and 1987.
North Carolina--Superior Court--Tort filings include some miscellaneous civil cases.
Puerto Rico--Superior Court--Tort filings include transfers and reopened cases.
--District Court--Civil and tort filings include transfers and reopened cases.
Tennesee--Circuit Court, Criminal and Chancery Court--Civil filings for 1987 include postconviction remedy proceedings and **miscellaneous criminal** cases.
Texas--District Court--Civil filings for 1987 include some juvenile cases.
--County-Level Courts--Civil filings include some juvenile cases.
Utah--District Court--Civil filings include some postconviction remedy proceedings. Tort filings include de novo appeals from the Justice of the Peace Courts.

APPENDIX TABLE 1.2: Total civil and tort filings in state trial courts, 1985-1987.

State/Court name:	1986 Civil: Number of filings and qualifying footnotes		1986 Civil: Filings per 100,000 population	1986 Tort: Number of filings and qualifying footnotes		1986 Tort: Filings per 100,000 population
General jurisdiction courts:						
ALASKA Superior Court	16,506	E	3,097	2,344		440
ARIZONA Superior Court	102,140		3,077	11,888		358
ARKANSAS Circuit Court	35,784		1,509	5,541		234
CALIFORNIA Superior Court	654,283		2,425	130,206		483
COLORADO District, Denver Superior and Juvenile and Probate Courts	105,688		3,235	6,145		188
CONNECTICUT Superior Court	154,581	E	4,847	13,754		431
FLORIDA Circuit Court	442,809		3,793	35,535		304
HAWAII Circuit Court	26,171	C	2,462	1,749	1	165
IDAHO District Court	60,121		6,000	2,118	1	211
KANSAS District Court	134,131		5,452	4,274		174
MAINE Superior Court	6,622		565	2,044		174
MARYLAND Circuit Court	106,716		2,391	12,373	1	277
MICHIGAN Circuit Court	154,327		1,688	27,046		296
MINNESOTA District Court	233,927		5,551	10,356		246
MISSOURI Circuit Court	237,782	0	4,694	10,746	1	212
MONTANA District Court	28,212	C	3,445	1,836	C	224
NEW JERSEY Superior Court	624,828	1	8,200	45,547	1	598
NEW YORK Supreme and County Courts	120,038	0	675	32,011		180
NORTH CAROLINA Superior Court	92,031		1,453	8,897	C	140
NORTH DAKOTA District Court	15,085		2,222	561		83
OHIO Court of Common Pleas	324,779	E	3,020	28,225		262
TENNESSEE Circuit, Criminal and Chancery Courts	106,890	C	2,225	13,167		274
TEXAS District Court	419,434	C	2,514	38,238		229
UTAH District Court	33,042	C	1,985	2,527	C	152
WASHINGTON Superior Court	135,933	C	3,046	19,515		437
PUERTO RICO Superior Court	68,295	0	2,086	4,558	C	140
Limited jurisdiction courts:						
ALASKA District Court	26,328		4,940	4,069	1	763
FLORIDA County Court	349,645		2,995	42,229		362
HAWAII District Court	21,263		2,000	738		69
OHIO County Court	23,759		221	463		4
OHIO Municipal Court	342,714		3,187	13,999		130
TEXAS County-Level Courts	178,265	C	1,068	9,833		59
PUERTO RICO District Court	46,911	C	1,433	1,779	C	54

APPENDIX TABLE 1.2: Total civil and tort filings in state trial courts, 1985-1987.

State/Court name:	1987 Civil Number of filings and qualifying footnotes		1987 Civil Filings per 100,000 population	1987 Tort Number of filings and qualifying footnotes		1987 Tort Filings per 100,000 population
General jurisdiction courts:						
ALASKA Superior Court	15,168	E	2,889	1,664		317
ARIZONA Superior Court	101,148		2,987	12,260		362
ARKANSAS Circuit Court	36,401		1,524	5,606		235
CALIFORNIA Superior Court	674,912		2,440	137,455		497
COLORADO District, Denver Superior and Juvenile and Probate Courts	104,614		3,174	3,666		111
CONNECTICUT Superior Court	147,347	O	4,589	15,385		479
FLORIDA Circuit Court	444,952		3,701	35,453		295
HAWAII Circuit Court	26,031	C	2,404	1,785	1	165
IDAHO District Court	57,605		5,772	1,757	1	176
KANSAS District Court	140,586		5,678	4,380		177
MAINE Superior Court	6,079		512	1,884		159
MARYLAND Circuit Court	106,193		2,342	12,938	1	285
MICHIGAN Circuit Court	170,541		1,854	29,756		323
MINNESOTA District Court	231,244		5,446	10,739		253
MISSOURI Circuit Court	248,190	E	4,864	10,483	1	205
MONTANA District Court	26,816	1	3,315	1,792	C	222
NEW JERSEY Superior Court	638,975	1	8,329	46,671	1	608
NEW YORK Supreme and County Courts	121,443	O	681	34,249		192
NORTH CAROLINA Superior Court	97,979		1,547	8,981	C	140
NORTH DAKOTA District Court	15,382		2,265	551		82
OHIO Court of Common Pleas	337,637	E	3,131	29,375		272
TENNESSEE Circuit, Criminal and Chancery Courts	111,102	C	2,288	13,597		280
TEXAS District Court	442,052	C	2,633	40,764		243
UTAH District Court	29,543	E	1,440	1,335	C	79
WASHINGTON Superior Court	129,842	E	2,853	8,007		176
PUERTO RICO Superior Court	65,146	O	1,979	4,811	C	146
Limited jurisdiction courts:						
ALASKA District Court	24,184		4,606	1,071	1	204
FLORIDA County Court	361,130		3,004	52,491		437
HAWAII District Court	22,676		2,094	937		87
OHIO County Court	23,604		219	406		4
OHIO Municipal Court	362,789		3,364	15,505		144
TEXAS County-Level Courts	197,414	C	1,176	11,314		67
PUERTO RICO District Court	46,886	C	1,424	1,729	C	53

(continued on next page)

APPENDIX TABLE 1.2: Total civil and tort filings in state trial courts, 1985-1987. (continued)

E: The following courts' data include postconviction remedy proceedings:
- Alaska--Superior Court
- Connecticut--Superior Court
- Ohio--Court of Common Pleas
- Missouri--Circuit Court
- Washington--Superior Court
- Utah--District Court

1: The following courts' data are at least 75% complete:
- Alaska--District Court--Tort filings do not include cases from low-volume District Courts, which are reported with other civil cases.
- Arizona--Superior Court--Civil filings for 1985 do not include mental health cases.
- Florida--Circuit Court--Tort filings for 1985 do not include professional tort cases, which are reported with the unclassified civil data.
- Hawaii--Circuit Court--Tort filings do not include a small number of District Court transfers reported with unclassified civil data.
- Idaho--District Court--Tort filings do not include some cases that are reported with unclassified civil data. The unclassified figures for 1985, 1986, and 1987 respectively are 20,644, 21,281, and 22,202.
- Maryland--Circuit Court--Tort filings do not include some cases that are reported with unclassified civil data. The unclassified figures for 1985, 1986, and 1987 respectively are 1,438, 976, and 1,829.
- Missouri--Circuit Court--Tort data do not include filings from St. Louis County and do not include torts filed in the associate divisions with civil jurisdiction under $5,000. 1985 data also do not include tort filings from Boone County.
- Montana--District Court--Civil filings do not include some appeals of trial court cases.
- New Jersey--Superior Court--Tort filings do not include some cases that are reported with unclassified civil data. The unclassified figures for 1985, 1986, and 1987 respectively are 40,026, 46,865, and 44,850. Civil filings do not include a few domestic relations cases.

0: The following courts' data are 75% complete and are overinclusive:
- Connecticut--Superior Court--Civil filings for 1987 include postconviction remedy proceedings, but do not include mental health cases.
- Missouri--Circuit Court--Civil filings for 1985 and 1986 include postconviction remedy proceedings, but do not include some domestic relations cases.
- New York--Supreme and County Court--Civil filings include postconviction remedy proceedings, but do not include civil appeals cases.
- Puerto Rico--Superior Court--Civil filings for 1985 and 1986 include transfers and reopened cases, but do not include estate cases. Civil filings for 1987 include transfers and reopened cases, but do not include URESA cases.

TABLE 1.3: General Civil Filings in the State Trial Courts, 1981-1987

State/Court name:	1981 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1981 Filings per 100,000 population	1984 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1984 Filings per 100,000 population	1985 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1985 Filings per 100,000 population
General jurisdiction courts:						
ALABAMA Circuit Court	28,460 C	727	29,650 C	743	32,447 C	807
ALASKA Superior Court	nc	nc	nc	nc	4,906	942
ARIZONA Superior Court	nc	nc	29,580	5,916	33,143	1,040
ARKANSAS Chancery and Probate Courts	7,545	329	5,151	219	6,117	259
Circuit Court	nc	nc	nc	nc	30,475	1,292
COLORADO District, Denver Superior and Juvenile and Probate Courts	36,168	1,220	32,032	1,008	35,928	1,112
CONNECTICUT Superior Court	nc	nc	nc	nc	47,286	1,490
DELAWARE Superior Court	2,522 C	422	2,520 C	411	2,564 C	412
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Superior Court	108,426	17,183	96,975	15,566	93,877	14,996
HAWAII Circuit Court	3,830 1	390	3,992 1	384	3,764 1	357
KANSAS District Court	54,005 1	2,266	57,140 1	2,344	62,501 1	2,551
MICHIGAN Circuit Court	nc	nc	nc	nc	47,917	527
MONTANA District Court	nc	nc	6,651	807	7,347	889
NORTH CAROLINA Superior Court	13,756 C	231	12,482 C	202	13,654 C	218
NORTH DAKOTA District Court	5,632	856	5,674	827	5,713	834
TENNESSEE Circuit and Chancery Courts	23,442	508	21,505	456	22,529	473
TEXAS District Court	68,451	464	85,873	537	95,659	584
UTAH District Court	nc	nc	nc	nc	3,856 C	234
WASHINGTON Superior Court	34,922	828	33,140	762	36,904	837
Limited jurisdiction courts:						
ALABAMA District Court	55,818	1,425	51,805	1,298	44,326	1,102
ARIZONA Justice of the Peace Court	nc	nc	nc	nc	53,650	1,683
COLORADO County Court	45,423 1	1,532	65,485 1	2,061	72,174 1	2,234
DELAWARE Court of Common Pleas	3,740	625	3,755	613	3,498	562
HAWAII District Court	13,549	1,381	13,968	1,344	14,974	1,421
INDIANA County Court	5,573	102	3,664	67	4,407 1	80
KENTUCKY District Court	57,627	1,574	56,359	1,514	52,997	1,422
MAINE District Court	nc	nc	16,146 C	1,397	15,901 C	1,366
MICHIGAN District Court	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	230,055 1	2,531
MICHIGAN Municipal Court	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	869 1	10
NEBRASKA County Court	nc	nc	nc	nc	22,571 C	1,405
NEW HAMPSHIRE District Court	10,382	1,109	9,815	1,005	9,566	959
NEW MEXICO Magistrate Court	14,117	1,063	18,308	1,286	16,633	1,147
Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County	8,290	624	9,744	684	8,465	584
NEW YORK Civil Court of the City of New York	151,159	859	195,163	1,100	189,790	1,067
Court of Claims	1,330	8	1,678	9	1,953	11
District and City Courts	nc	nc	nc	nc	65,263	367
NORTH CAROLINA District Court	52,100	875	45,636	740	42,864	685
NORTH DAKOTA County Court	nc	nc	nc	nc	5,534 C	808
OHIO Municipal Court	260,068 1	2,412	221,523 1	2,060	225,593 1	2,100
County Court	11,302 1	105	9,542 1	89	9,316 1	87
OREGON District Court	33,862	1,277	24,518	917	26,299	979
PENNSYLVANIA District Justice Court	nc	nc	183,143	1,539	194,610	1,642
RHODE ISLAND District Court	23,689	2,486	18,759	1,950	21,396	2,210
TEXAS Justice of the Peace Court	nc	nc	nc	nc	204,952 V	1,252
UTAH Circuit Court	nc	nc	nc	nc	39,838	2,422

APPENDIX TABLE 1.3: General civil filings in the state trial courts, 1981-1987

State/Court name:	1986 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes		1986 filings per 100,000 population	1987 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes		1987 filings per 100,000 population	Percentage change in filings per 100,000 population 1981-1987	Percentage change in filings per 100,000 population 1986-1987
General jurisdiction courts:								
ALABAMA Circuit Court	33,984	C	839	37,050	C	907	25%	8%
ALASKA Superior Court	2,998		562	3,582		682	--	21%
ARIZONA Superior Court	38,224		1,152	38,537		1,138	--	9%
ARKANSAS Chancery and Probate Courts	7,027		296	7,027		294	-11%	-1%
Circuit Court	32,495		1,370	32,761		1,372	--	0%
COLORADO District, Denver Superior, and Juvenile and Probate Courts	47,787		1,463	50,474		1,531	25%	5%
CONNECTICUT Superior Court	50,474		1,583	57,883		1,803	--	14%
DELAWARE Superior Court	2,950	C	466	2,870	C	446	5%	-4%
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Superior Court	91,918		14,707	86,006		13,827	-20%	-6%
HAWAII Circuit Court	3,780	1	356	3,672	1	339	-13%	-5%
KANSAS District Court	70,449		2,864	72,547		2,930	29%	2%
MICHIGAN Circuit Court	61,611		674	61,036		663	--	-2%
MONTANA District Court	7,633		932	6,803		841	--	-10%
NORTH CAROLINA Superior Court	14,842	C	234	14,995	C	234	1%	0%
NORTH DAKOTA District Court	5,974		880	5,792		862	1%	-2%
TENNESSEE Circuit and Chancery Courts	23,568		491	24,504		505	1%	3%
TEXAS District Court	94,258		565	98,036		584	26%	3%
UTAH District Court	3,838		231	2,399		143	--	-38%
WASHINGTON Superior Court	47,289		1,060	36,078		795	4%	-25%
Limited jurisdiction courts:								
ALABAMA District Court	44,492		1,198	45,980		1,126	-21%	-6%
ARIZONA Justice of the Peace Court	64,036		1,929	68,082		2,011	--	4%
COLORADO County Court	122,683		3,755	93,674		2,842	86%	-24%
DELAWARE Court of Common Pleas	5,190		820	4,605		715	14%	-13%
HAWAII District Court	15,497		1,458	16,902		1,561	13%	7%
INDIANA County Court.	4,991	1	91	4,901		89	-13%	-2%
KENTUCKY District Court	60,598		1,625	67,400		1,808	15%	11%
MAINE District Court	15,771		1,345	17,086		1,439	--	7%
MICHIGAN District Court	258,920		2,831	273,323		2,971	--	5%
MICHIGAN Municipal Court	900		10	671		7	--	-30%
NEBRASKA County Court	33,304		2,085	32,173		2,018	--	-3%
NEW HAMPSHIRE District Court	10,804		1,052	12,491		1,181	6%	12%
NEW MEXICO Magistrate Court	15,415		1,042	13,326		888	16%	15%
Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County	9,237		625	8,408		561	-10%	-11%
NEW YORK Civil Court of the City of New York	196,216		1,104	196,257		1,101	22%	0%
Court of Claims	2,290		13	2,072		12	50%	-8%
District and City Courts	87,234		491	83,618		469	--	-4%
NORTH CAROLINA District Court	44,295		699	45,387		708	-19%	1%
NORTH DAKOTA County Court	4,908		723	4,302		640	--	-11%
OHIO Municipal Court	237,516	1	2,210	176,113	1	1,633	-31%	-26%
County Court	9,031	1	84	8,041	1	75	-29%	-11%
OREGON District Court	31,268		1,160	31,805		1,168	-9%	1%
PENNSYLVANIA District Justice Court	198,615		1,671	203,752		1,707	--	2%
RHODE ISLAND District Court	21,116		2,166	19,899		2,018	-19%	-7%
TEXAS Justice of the Peace Court	210,171	V	1,249	221,989	1	1,322	--	6%
UTAH Circuit Court	49,452		2,970	55,546		3,306	--	11%

(continued on next page)

APPENDIX TABLE 1.3: General civil filings in the state trial courts, 1981-1987 (continued)

N/A = Data are not available.
-- = Data element is not applicable.
nc = Data are not comparable with other years.

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

C: The following courts' data are overinclusive:
Alabama--Circuit Court--Data include civil appeals and postconviction remedy proceedings.
Delaware--Superior Court--Data include administrative agency appeals.
Maine--District Court--1981-1985 data include some domestic relations and juvenile cases.
Nebraska--County Court--Data for 1985 include cases from the Municipal Court from July 1, 1985, to December 31, 1985.
North Carolina--Superior Court--1981-1985 data include administrative agency appeals. 1986 and 1987 data include miscellaneous civil cases.
North Dakota--County Court--1985 data include criminal appeals cases.
Utah--District Court--1985 data include de novo appeals.

1: The following courts' data are at least 75% complete:
Colorado--County Court--1981-1985 data do not include cases from Denver County Court.
Hawaii--Circuit Court--Data do not include "unreported cases."
Indiana--County Court--Data do not include "other" cases or "redocketed civil" cases for 1985 and 1986.
Kansas--District Court--1981-1985 data do not include all real property rights cases.
Michigan--District Court--Data for 1985 do not include cases from the city of Dearborn.
Michigan--Municipal Court--1985 data do not include cases from the city of Dearborn. Municipal Courts for Grosse Pointe Municipal and Grosse Pointe Shores did not report 1985 data.
Ohio--Municipal Court and County Court--Data do not include cases classified as miscellaneous civil.
Texas--Justice of the Peace Court--Data for 1987 represent a reporting rate of 79%

V: The following court's data are less than 75% complete:
Texas--Justice of the Peace Court--Data for 1985 and 1986 represent a reporting rate of 73% and 74% respectively.

TABLE 1.4: Felony Filings in State Trial Courts, 1981-1987

State/Court name:	1981 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1981 Filings per 100,000 adult population	1984 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1984 Filings per 100,000 adult population	1985 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1985 Filings per 100,000 adult population
General jurisdiction courts:						
ARIZONA Superior Court	14,357 1	720	15,360 1	700	17,295 1	748
ARKANSAS Circuit Court	14,565 G	891	17,993 G	1,060	21,425 G	1,251
CALIFORNIA Superior Court	64,993 G	366	74,412 G	392	82,372 G	422
COLORADO District Denver Superior Court Juvenile and Probate Courts	13,868	644	14,783	637	15,804	668
CONNECTICUT Superior Court ...	6,382 O	274	6,650 O	276	7,198 O	298
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Superior Court	8,505	1,729	11,195	2,294	12,399	2,510
GEORGIA Superior Court	37,338	950	33,725	802	36,182	838
HAWAII Circuit Court	2,291 1	326	2,655 1	353	2,609 1	341
ILLINOIS Circuit Court	41,795	505	46,107 C	548	45,925 1	544
INDIANA Superior and Circuit Court			13,619 G	342	14,894 (Q)	373
IOWA District Court	8,166 C	309	7,658 C	360	7,970 C	378
KANSAS District Court	12,121	697	11,397	638	10,470	587
KENTUCKY Circuit Court	13,007 C	500	N/A		13,439 C	497
MAINE Superior Court	3,281	401	3,189	375	3,656	425
MASSACHUSETTS Trial Court of the Commonwealth	nc		N/A		5,279	118
MINNESOTA District Court	N/A		17,643	581	19,119	626
MISSOURI Circuit Court	N/A		N/A		41,935 C	1,133
MONTANA District Court	N/A		N/A		2,574 O	435
NEW HAMPSHIRE Superior Court .	3,652	537	3,813	526	4,198	563
NEW JERSEY Superior Court	29,101	533	37,135	656	37,784	663
NEW YORK Supreme & County Court	41,587 G	319	49,191 G	369	51,034 G	380
NORTH CAROLINA Superior Court	42,792	995	42,160	924	40,915	877
NORTH DAKOTA District Court ..	1,233 C	264	1,284 C	263	1,312 C	269
OHIO Court of Common Pleas ...	41,076	530	37,073	471	36,249	461
OKLAHOMA District Court	N/A		24,178 C	1,017	24,673 C	1,038
OREGON Circuit Court	20,198	1,045	19,913	1,013	20,682	1,047
RHODE ISLAND Superior Court ..	4,576	639	4,232	575	4,780	643
SOUTH DAKOTA Circuit Court ...	2,654	548	2,606	521	3,088	615
TEXAS District Court	82,872	800	87,249	774	93,968	812
VERMONT District Court	3,021	810	1,837	471	1,897	480
Superior Court	34	9	8	2	6	2
VIRGINIA Circuit Court	40,444	1,017	42,642	1,013	43,096	1,011
WASHINGTON Superior Court	15,442	502	15,432	484	17,885	554
WEST VIRGINIA Circuit Court ..	N/A		4,724	332	4,707	331
WISCONSIN Circuit Court	14,601	428	13,607	390	14,549	417
WYOMING District Court	1,772 C	521	1,462	417	1,468	421

APPENDIX TABLE 1.4: Felony filings in state trial courts, 1981-1987.

State/Court name:	1986 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes		1986 Filings per 100,000 adult population	1987 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes		1987 Filings per 100,000 adult population	Percent change in filings per 100,000 adult population 1986-1987	Percent change in filings per 100,000 adult population 1981-1987
General jurisdiction courts:								
ARIZONA Superior Court	20,653	1	858	21,444	1	869	1	21
ARKANSAS Circuit Court	21,944	G	1,271	24,805	G	1,426	12	60
CALIFORNIA Superior Court	94,779	G	477	104,906	G	515	8	41
COLORADO District Court, Denver Superior Court Juvenile and Probate Court .	16,087		670	16,223		670	0	4
CONNECTICUT Superior Court ...	8,436	O	344	9,628	O	392	14	43
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Superior Court	16,207		3,321	19,986		4,112	24	138
GEORGIA Superior Court	37,146		846	N/A				
HAWAII Circuit Court	2,598	1	334	2,766	O	347	4	6
ILLINOIS Circuit Court	47,075	C	554	46,342	C	542	-2	7
INDIANA Superior and Circuit Court	18,436	G	458	16,905	G	416	-9	
IOWA District Court	7,692	C	366	8,230	C	392	7	27
KANSAS District Court	11,106		612	11,500		630	3	-10
KENTUCKY Circuit Court	13,380	C	492	nc				
MAINE Superior Court	3,583		411	3,612		409	0	2
MASSACHUSETTS Trial Court of the Commonwealth	5,893		131	6,790		150	15	
MINNESOTA District Court	19,707		635	21,834		696	10	
MISSOURI Circuit Court	44,989	C	1,197	49,017	C	1,292	8	
MONTANA District Court	2,591	O	441	2,443	O	418	-5	
NEW HAMPSHIRE Superior Court .	4,857		633	5,527		699	10	30
NEW JERSEY Superior Court	38,443		644	41,198		705	6	32
NEW YORK Supreme and County Court	56,356	Q	421	62,940	G	467	11	46
NORTH CAROLINA Superior Court	44,980		955	51,210		1,070	12	8
NORTH DAKOTA District Court ..	1,390		284	1,487	C	307	8	16
OHIO Court of Common Pleas ...	38,374		486	39,376		495	2	-7
OKLAHOMA District Court	25,782	C	1,072	26,438	C	1,111	4	
OREGON Circuit Court	22,533		1,120	24,591		1,207	8	16
RHODE ISLAND Superior Court ..	4,360		583	4,278		565	-3	-12
SOUTH DAKOTA Circuit Court ...	3,182		624	3,275		638	2	16
TEXAS District Court	111,331		947	119,395		1,011	7	26
VERMONT District Court	2,177		543	2,111		519	-4	-36
Superior Court	1		0	85		21		133
VIRGINIA Circuit Court	45,646		1,050	49,481		1,113	6	9
WASHINGTON Superior Court	19,693		595	21,071		625	5	25
WEST VIRGINIA Circuit Court ..	4,546		321	4,885		347	8	
WISCONSIN Circuit Court	14,470		412	13,802		390	-5	-9
WYOMING District Court	1,466		415	1,353		396	-5	-24

APPENDIX TABLE 1.4: Felony filings in state trial courts, 1981-1987. (continued)

NOTE: The footnoting scheme has been consolidated. Footnotes for 1981, 1984, and 1985 have been translated into the footnote scheme for 1986 and 1987.

N/A = Data are not available

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES

C: The following courts' data are overinclusive:
Illinois--Circuit Court--Felony data include preliminary hearings for courts "downstate."
Iowa--District Court--Felony data include third offense DWI/DUI cases.
Kentucky--Circuit Court--Felony data include misdemeanor cases, sentence review only, and some postconviction remedy proceedings.
Missouri--Circuit Court--Felony data include some DWI/DUI cases and include preliminary hearing proceedings, which are included in the main caseload tables in caseload reports before 1987. Table 10, Part II of the 1987 report excludes those preliminary hearing proceedings.
North Dakota--District Court--Felony data include sentence review only and postconviction remedy proceedings.
Oklahoma--District Court--Felony data include some miscellaneous criminal cases.
Wyoming--District Court--Felony data include criminal appeals.
Indiana--Felony data include class D felonies, DWI/DUI cases, and ordinance violation cases.

G: The following courts' data include DWI/DUI cases:
Arkansas--Circuit Court
California--Superior Court
Indiana--Superior Court and Circuit Court
New York--Supreme and County Court

1: The following courts' data are at least 75% complete:
Arizona--Superior Court--Felony data do not include some cases reported with unclassified criminal data.
Hawaii--Circuit Court--Felony data do not include reopened prior cases.
Illinois Circuit Court--Felony data do not include limited felony cases.

O: The following courts' data are incomplete and overinclusive:

Connecticut--Superior Court--Felony data include preliminary hearing proceedings that were included in the main caseload tables in caseload reports before 1987. Table 10, Part II of the 1987 report excludes those preliminary hearing proceedings. Felony data do not include some cases reported with misdemeanor data.
Hawaii--Circuit Court--Felony data include misdemeanor cases, but do not include reopened prior cases.
Montana--District Court--Felony data include appeals of trial court cases, but do not include
some cases reported with unclassified criminal data.

(Q): Additional information:
District of Columbia--Superior Court--Reactivated and reinstated cases were added to new filings.
Indiana--Superior and Circuit Court--Data are not comparable with previous years' figures, due to changes in classification of County Court function.
Kansas--District Court--Case filings include both original actions and retrials/reinstated (reopened) cases.
Maine--Superior Court--Data include cases that were refiled.
Minnesota District Court--Data include reactivated cases.
New York--Supreme and County Court--This court experienced a significant increase in the number of filings due to the change to an individual calendaring system in 1986.

Part II

1987 State Court Caseload Tables

TABLE 1: Reported National Caseload for State Appellate Courts, 1987

Reported Caseload	Filed	Disposed
Courts of last resort:		
I. Mandatory jurisdiction cases:		
A. Number of reported complete cases	16,981	13,153
Number of courts reporting complete data	35	23
Number of states with courts of last resort reporting complete mandatory jurisdiction data	33	21
Percent of the total population of states with mandatory jurisdiction represented by complete data	72%	49%
B. Number of reported complete cases that include some discretionary petitions	5,650	5,799
Number of courts reporting complete data with some discretionary petitions	9	11
Number of states with courts of last resort reporting complete mandatory jurisdiction data that include some discretionary petitions	9	11
Percent of the total population of states with mandatory jurisdiction represented by complete data that include some discretionary petitions	9%	12%
C. Number of reported cases that are either incomplete, or incomplete and include some discretionary petitions	1,656	1,218
Number of courts reporting incomplete data, or incomplete and include some discretionary petitions	5	5
Number of states with courts of last resort reporting either incomplete mandatory jurisdiction data or data that are both incomplete and include some discretionary petitions	5	5
Percent of the total population of states with mandatory jurisdiction represented by incomplete data, or incomplete and include some discretionary petitions	17%	17%
II. Discretionary jurisdiction petitions:		
A. Number of reported complete petitions	30,368	26,263
Number of courts reporting complete petitions	33	26
Number of states with courts of last resort reporting complete discretionary jurisdiction petitions	31	24
Percent of the total population of states with discretionary jurisdiction represented by complete data	70%	62%
B. Number of reported complete petitions that include some mandatory cases	995	5,345
Number of courts reporting complete petitions with some mandatory cases	1	4
Number of states with courts of last resort reporting complete petitions that include some mandatory cases	1	4
Percent of the total population of states with discretionary jurisdiction represented by complete data that include some mandatory cases		9%
C. Number of reported petitions that are either incomplete, or incomplete and include some mandatory cases	6,220	7,033
Number of courts reporting incomplete petitions, or incomplete and include some mandatory cases	10	10
Number of states with courts of last resort reporting either incomplete petitions or incomplete and include some mandatory cases	10	10
Percent of the total population of states with discretionary jurisdiction represented by incomplete data, or incomplete and include some mandatory cases	17%	16%

(continued on next page)

TABLE 1: Reported national caseload for state appellate courts, 1987. (continued)

Reported Caseload	Filed	Disposed
Intermediate appellate courts:		
I. Mandatory jurisdiction cases:		
A. Number of reported complete cases	82,030	77,060
Number of courts reporting complete data	28	25
Number of states with intermediate appellate courts reporting complete mandatory jurisdiction data	25	23
Percent of the total population of states with mandatory jurisdiction represented by complete data	60%	57%
B. Number of reported complete cases that include some discretionary cases	47,824	54,328
Number of courts reporting complete data with some discretionary petitions	12	13
Number of states with intermediate appellate courts reporting complete data that include some discretionary petitions	11	11
Percent of the total population of states with mandatory jurisdiction represented by complete data that include some discretionary petitions	39%	37%
C. Number of reported cases that are either incomplete, or incomplete and include some discretionary petitions	560	0
Number of courts reporting data that are either incomplete, or incomplete and include some discretionary petitions	1	0
Number of states with intermediate appellate courts reporting data that are either incomplete, or incomplete and include some discretionary petitions	1	0
Percent of the total population of states with mandatory jurisdiction represented by data that are either incomplete, or incomplete and include some discretionary petitions	1%	0%
II. Discretionary jurisdiction petitions:		
A. Number of reported complete petitions	16,320	14,424
Number of courts reporting complete petitions	16	12
Number of states with intermediate appellate courts reporting complete discretionary jurisdiction petitions	14	11
Percent of the total population of states with discretionary jurisdiction represented by complete data	52%	46%
B. Number of reported complete petitions that include some mandatory cases	0	1,743
Number of courts reporting complete petitions that include some mandatory cases	0	1
Number of states with intermediate appellate courts reporting complete petitions that include some mandatory cases	0	1
Percent of the total population of states with discretionary jurisdiction represented by complete data that include some mandatory cases	0%	3%
C. Number of reported petitions that are either incomplete, or incomplete and include some mandatory cases	358	340
Number of courts reporting incomplete data, or incomplete and include some mandatory cases	2	1
Number of states with intermediate appellate courts reporting either incomplete petitions or incomplete and include some mandatory cases	2	1
Percent of the total population of states with discretionary jurisdiction represented by incomplete data, or incomplete and include some mandatory cases	4%	3%

Summary section for all appellate courts:

	Reported filings		
	COLR	IAC	Total
A. Number of reported complete cases/petitions	47,349	98,350	145,699
B. Number of reported complete cases/petitions that include other case types	6,645	47,824	54,469
C. Number of reported cases/petitions that are either incomplete, or incomplete and include other casetypes	7,876	918	8,794
Total	61,870	147,092	208,962

TABLE 2: Reported Total Caseload for All State Appellate Courts, 1987

State/Court name:	Total cases filed: Total mandatory cases	Total discretionary petitions	Total discretionary petitions granted	Totals: Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions: Number	Filed per judge	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted: Number	Filed per judge
STATES WITH ONE COURT OF LAST RESORT AND ONE INTERMEDIATE APPELLATE COURT							
ALASKA--STATE TOTAL	837	273		1,110	139		
Supreme Court	368	219	36	587	117	404	81
Court of Appeals	469	54	N/A	523	174		
ARIZONA--STATE TOTAL	3,567*	1,046*		4,613	201		
Supreme Court	116[1]	995[C]	N/A	1,111	222		
Court of Appeals	3,451	51	N/A	3,502	195		
ARKANSAS--STATE TOTAL	1,408*			1,408	108		
Supreme Court	459[P]	(P)	N/A	459	66		
Court of Appeals	949	NH	NH	949	158	--	--
CALIFORNIA--STATE TOTAL	10,300*	11,290	778*	21,590	257	11,078	132
Supreme Court	315[1]	4,558	224[1]	4,873	696	539	77
Courts of Appeal	9,985	6,732	554	16,717	217	10,539	137
COLORADO--STATE TOTAL	2,144	756		2,900	171		
Supreme Court	214	756	N/A	970	139		
Court of Appeals	1,930	NH	NH	1,930	193	--	--
CONNECTICUT--STATE TOTAL	1,003	195*		1,198	100		
Supreme Court	58	152[1]	N/A	210	30		
Appellate Court	945	43	N/A	988	198		
FLORIDA--STATE TOTAL	14,442	3,552		17,994	340		
Supreme Court	581	1,270	N/A	1,851	264		
District Courts of Appeal	13,861	2,282	N/A	16,143	351		
GEORGIA--STATE TOTAL	2,711*	1,739		4,450	278		
Supreme Court	640[C]	1,006	119[1]	1,646	235	759	108
Court of Appeals	2,071[C]	733	N/A	2,804	312		
HAWAII--STATE TOTAL	750*	57	10	807	101	760	95
Supreme Court	616[C]	57	10	673	135	626	125
Court of Appeals	134	NH	NH	134	45	134	45
IDAHO--STATE TOTAL	470*	82		552	69		
Supreme Court	289[C]	82	N/A	371	74		
Court of Appeals	181	NH	NH	181	60	--	--

State/Court name:	Total cases disposed: Total mandatory cases	Total discretionary petitions	Total discretionary petitions granted	Totals: Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted	Court type	Point at which cases are counted
STATES WITH ONE COURT OF LAST RESORT AND ONE INTERMEDIATE APPELLATE COURT							
ALASKA--STATE TOTAL .	720	285		1,005			
Supreme Court	291	231	N/A	522		COLR	1
Court of Appeals ..	429	54	14	483	443	IAC	1
ARIZONA--STATE TOTAL	3,458*	1,099*		4,557			
Supreme Court	86[1]	1,054[C]	101[C]	1,140	187	COLR	6
Court of Appeals ..	3,372	45	N/A	3,417		IAC	6
ARKANSAS--STATE TOTAL	1,399*			1,399	1,399		
Supreme Court	416[P]	(P)	(P)	416	416	COLR	2
Court of Appeals ..	983	NH	NH	983	983	IAC	2
CALIFORNIA--STATE TOTAL	10,742*	10,780		21,522			
Supreme Court	73[V]	4,004	N/A	4,077		COLR	6
Courts of Appeal ..	10,669	6,776	N/A	17,445		IAC	2
COLORADO--STATE TOTAL		1,036*		2,638			
Supreme Court	(C)	1,036[C]	N/A	1,036		COLR	1
Court of Appeals ..	1,602	NH	NH	1,602	--	IAC	1
CONNECTICUT--							
Supreme Court	(P)	293[P]	N/A	293		COLR	1
Appellate Court ...	893	N/A	N/A			IAC	1
FLORIDA--STATE TOTAL	14,139	3,110		17,249			
Supreme Court	548	1,223	N/A	1,771		COLR	1
District Courts of Appeal	13,591	1,887	N/A	15,478		IAC	1
GEORGIA--STATE TOTAL		2,225*					
Supreme Court	N/A	1,524[D]	N/A			COLR	2
Court of Appeals ..	1,961[C]	701	N/A	2,662		IAC	2
HAWAII--STATE TOTAL .	721*	58		779			
Supreme Court	579[C]	58	N/A	637		COLR	2
Court of Appeals ..	142	NH	NH	142	--	IAC	2
IDAHO--STATE TOTAL ..	469*	76		545			
Supreme Court	295[C]	76	N/A	371		COLR	1
Court of Appeals ..	174	NH	NH	174	--	IAC	4

(continued on next page)

TABLE 2: Reported total caseload for all state appellate courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Total cases filed: Total mandatory cases	Total discretionary petitions	Total discretionary petitions granted	Totals: Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions: Number	Totals: Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions: Filed per judge	Totals: Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted: Number	Totals: Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted: Filed per judge
ILLINOIS--STATE TOTAL	8,522*			10,195	249		
Supreme Court	568	1,673	152	2,241	320	720	103
Appellate Court	7,954C	(C)	N/A	7,954	234		
INDIANA--STATE TOTAL	1,558*			1,962	392		
Supreme Court	409	404	N/A	813	163		
Court of Appeals	1,149C	(C)	N/A	1,149	96		
IOWA--STATE TOTAL	1,495*	327*		1,822	121		
Supreme Court	877C	327[1]	N/A	1,204	134		
Court of Appeals	618	NH	NH	618	103	--	--
KANSAS--STATE TOTAL	1,341*					1,482	87
Supreme Court	214	N/A	141			355	51
Court of Appeals	1,127C	N/A	(C)			1,127	113
KENTUCKY--STATE TOTAL	2,952	783*		3,735	178		
Supreme Court	261	693[1]	N/A	954	136		
Court of Appeals	2,691	90	N/A	2,781	199		
LOUISIANA--STATE TOTAL	3,981	6,214	1,655	10,195	185	5,636	103
Supreme Court	135	2,673	553	2,808	401	688	98
Courts of Appeal	3,846	3,541	1,102	7,387	154	4,948	103
MARYLAND--STATE TOTAL	1,947*	949	124	2,896	145	2,071	104
Court of Appeals	233C	655	104	888	127	337	48
Court of Special Appeals	1,714	294	20	2,008	154	1,734	133
MASSACHUSETTS--STATE TOTAL ..	1,506*			1,842	108		
Supreme Judicial Court	72	336	208	408	58	280	40
Appeals Court	1,434C	(C)	N/A	1,434	143		
MICHIGAN--STATE TOTAL	8,191*			10,273	411		
Supreme Court	5	2,082	60	2,087	298	65	9
Court of Appeals	8,186C	(C)	N/A	8,186	455		
MINNESOTA--STATE TOTAL	2,165	974*	213*	3,139	157	2,378	119
Supreme Court	241	626	104	867	124	345	49
Court of Appeals	1,924	348[1]	109[1]	2,272	175	2,033	156
MISSOURI--STATE TOTAL	3,148*	1,033	79	4,181	107	3,227	83
Supreme Court	93	1,033	79	1,126	161	172	25
Court of Appeals	3,055	NH	NH	3,055	96	3,055	96

State/Court name:	Total cases disposed: Total mandatory cases	Total discretionary petitions	Total discretionary petitions granted	Totals: Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions	Totals: Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted	Court type	Point at which cases are counted
ILLINOIS--STATE TOTAL	8,007*			9,640			
Supreme Court	556	1,633	138	2,189	694	COLR	1
Appellate Court ...	7,451C	(C)	N/A	7,451		IAC	1
INDIANA--STATE TOTAL	1,514*			1,951*			
Supreme Court	384	437	56	821	440	COLR	6
Court of Appeals ..	1,130C	(C)	N/A	1,130		IAC	6
IOWA--STATE TOTAL ...	1,522*	317*	58*	1,839	1,580		
Supreme Court	944C	317[1]	58[1]	1,261	1,002	COLR	1
Court of Appeals ..	578	NH	NH	578	578	IAC	4
KANSAS--STATE TOTAL .	1,476*						
Supreme Court	333	N/A	N/A			COLR	5
Court of Appeals ..	1,143C	(C)	N/A	1,143		IAC	5
KENTUCKY--STATE TOTAL	2,575	777*		3,352			
Supreme Court	271	706[1]	N/A	977		COLR	6
Court of Appeals ..	2,304	71	N/A	2,375		IAC	3
LOUISIANA--STATE TOTAL	3,503	6,220	1,627	9,723	5,130		
Supreme Court	123	2,660	552	2,783	675	COLR	2
Courts of Appeal ..	3,380	3,460	1,075	6,840	4,455	IAC	2
MARYLAND--STATE TOTAL	1,999*	856		2,855			
Court of Appeals ..	222C	562	N/A	784		COLR	2
Court of Special Appeals	1,777	294	N/A	2,071		IAC	2
MASSACHUSETTS--							
Supreme Court	(C)	N/A	283C			COLR	2
Court of Appeals ..	N/A	N/A	N/A			IAC	2
MICHIGAN--STATE TOTAL				9,670			
Supreme Court	(C)	2,168C	N/A	2,168		COLR	1
Court of Appeals ..	7,502C	(C)	N/A	7,502		IAC	1
MINNESOTA--STATE TOTAL	2,120	895*	220	3,015	2,340		
Supreme Court	204	555	115	759	319	COLR	1
Court of Appeals ..	1,916	340[1]	105[1]	2,256	2,021	IAC	1
MISSOURI--STATE TOTAL	3,392*	997*		4,522			
Supreme Court	133C	997[1]	N/A	1,130		COLR	1
Court of Appeals ..	3,259	NH	NH	3,259	--	IAC	1

(continued on next page)

TABLE 2: Reported total caseload for all state appellate courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Total cases filed: Total mandatory cases	Total discretionary petitions	Total discretionary petitions granted	Totals: Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions: Number	Totals: Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions: Filed per judge	Totals: Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted: Number	Totals: Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted: Filed per judge
NEW JERSEY--STATE TOTAL	6,626*					6,695	191
Supreme Court	349	1,382[1]	119[1]	1,731	247	468	67
Appellate Division of Superior Court	6,277[C]	N/A	(C)			6,227	178
NEW MEXICO--STATE TOTAL	1,682	358	61	2,040	170	1,743	145
Supreme Court	1,078	301	45	1,379	276	1,123	225
Court of Appeals	604	57	16	661	94	620	89
NORTH CAROLINA--STATE TOTAL .	1,446*	1,159	131*	2,605	137	1,577	83
Supreme Court	181	676	60	857	122	241	34
Court of Appeals	1,265[C]	483	71[C]	1,748	146	1,336	111
OHIO--STATE TOTAL	10,405	1,846	194	12,251	189	10,599	163
Supreme Court	422	1,846	194	2,268	324	616	88
Court of Appeals	9,983	NH	NH	9,983	172	9,983	172
OREGON--STATE TOTAL	4,481	1,086	137	5,567	328	4,618	272
Supreme Court	176	1,086	137	1,262	180	313	45
Court of Appeals	4,305	NH	NH	4,305	431	4,305	431
SOUTH CAROLINA--STATE TOTAL	951	32*	32	983	89	983	89
Supreme Court	511	32[1]	32	543	109	543	109
Court of Appeals	440	NH	NH	440	73	440	73
UTAH--STATE TOTAL	1,034*	40*		1,074	90		
Supreme Court	474	30	N/A	504	101		
Court of Appeals	560[1]	10[1]	N/A	570	81		
VIRGINIA--STATE TOTAL		2,642	416*				
Supreme Court	N/A	1,441	156				
Court of Appeals	422	1,201	260[1]	1,623	162	682	68
WASHINGTON--STATE TOTAL	3,373*	1,497*		4,870	195		
Supreme Court	135[P]	1,151[P]	N/A	1,286	143		
Court of Appeals	3,238	346	N/A	3,584	224		
WISCONSIN--STATE TOTAL	2,185	1,090		3,275	164		
Supreme Court	NH	869	206	869	124	--	--
Court of Appeals	2,185	221	N/A	2,406	185		
STATES WITH NO INTERMEDIATE APPELLATE COURT							
DELAWARE--Supreme Court	397[C]	4[1]	(C)	401	80	397	79
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA-- Court of Appeals	1,500	96	4	1,596	177	1,504	167

State/Court name:	Total cases disposed: Total mandatory cases	Total cases disposed: Total discretionary petitions	Total cases disposed: Total discretionary petitions petitions granted	Totals: Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions	Totals: Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted	Court type	Point at which cases are counted
NEW JERSEY--STATE TOTAL	6,781*						
Supreme Court	381	1,411[1]	N/A	1,792		COLR	1
Appellate Division of Superior Court	6,400[C]	N/A	(C)		6,400	IAC	1
NEW MEXICO--							
Supreme Court	N/A	N/A	N/A			COLR	5
Court of Appeals ..	853[C]	(C)	N/A	853		IAC	5
NORTH CAROLINA--STATE TOTAL	1,502*	1,120		2,622			
Supreme Court	192	637	61	829	253	COLR	2
Court of Appeals ..	1,310[C]	483	N/A	1,793		IAC	2
OHIO--STATE TOTAL ...	9,773	1,598	181	11,371	9,574		
Supreme Court	380	1,598	181	1,978	561	COLR	1
Court of Appeals ..	9,393	NH	NH	9,393	9,393	IAC	1
OREGON--STATE TOTAL .	4,545*	1,042		5,587	4,545		
Supreme Court	313[C]	1,042	(C)	1,355	313	COLR	1
Court of Appeals ..	4,232	NH	NH	4,232	4,232	IAC	1
SOUTH CAROLINA--STATE TOTAL	964*			964			
Supreme Court	596[C]	(C)	N/A	596		COLR	2
Court of Appeals ..	368	NH	NH	368	--	IAC	4
UTAH--							
Supreme Court	521C	(C)	N/A	521		COLR	1
Court of Appeals ..	N/A	N/A	N/A			IAC	1
VIRGINIA--STATE TOTAL		2,912*					
Supreme Court	N/A	1,169	N/A			COLR	1
Court of Appeals ..	(C)	1,743[C]	N/A	1,743		IAC	1
WASHINGTON--STATE TOTAL	4,018*	1,481*		5,499			
Supreme Court	148[P]	1,093[P]	68	1,241	216	COLR	1
Court of Appeals ..	3,870	388	N/A	4,258		IAC	1
WISCONSIN--STATE TOTAL	2,206*	913		3,119			
Supreme Court	NH	725	219	725	--	COLR	5
Court of Appeals ..	2,206	188	N/A	2,394		IAC	1
STATES WITH NO INTERMEDIATE APPELLATE COURT							
DELAWARE--Supreme Court	419[C]	4[1]	N/A	423		COLR	1
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA--							
Court of Appeals ..	1,595	87	1	1,682	1,596	COLR	1

(continued on next page)

TABLE 2: Reported total caseload for all state appellate courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Total cases filed: Total mandatory cases	Total discretionary petitions	Total discretionary petitions granted	Totals: Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions: Number	Totals: Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions: Filed per judge	Totals: Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted: Number	Totals: Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted: Filed per judge
MAINE--Supreme Judicial Court Sitting as Law Court	631[P]	(P)	N/A	631	90		
MISSISSIPPI--Supreme Court	891	2	N/A	893	99		
MONTANA--Supreme Court	546	25	N/A	571	82		
NEBRASKA--Supreme Court	1,196[C]	(C)	N/A	1,196	171		
NEVADA--Supreme Court	856	NH	NH	856	171	856	171
NEW HAMPSHIRE--Supreme Court	NH	516[1]	N/A	516	103	--	--
NORTH DAKOTA--Supreme Court	382	NH	NH	382	76	382	76
RHODE ISLAND--Supreme Court	323	219	N/A	542	108		
SOUTH DAKOTA--Supreme Court	422[C]	27[1]	N/A	449	90		
VERMONT--Supreme Court	538	31	N/A	569	114		
WEST VIRGINIA--Supreme Court of Appeals	NH	2,037	785	2,037	407	785	157
WYOMING--Supreme Court	320	NH	NH	320	64	320	64
STATES WITH MULTIPLE APPELLATE COURTS AT ANY LEVEL							
ALABAMA--STATE TOTAL	3,277	713		3,990	235		
Supreme Court	998	713	N/A	1,711	190		
Court of Civil Appeals	584	NH	NH	584	195	--	--
Court of Criminal Appeals	1,695	NH	NH	1,695	339	--	--

State/Court name:	Total cases disposed: Total mandatory cases	Total discretionary petitions	Total discretionary petitions granted	Totals: Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions	Totals: Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted	Court type	Point at which cases are counted
MAINE--Supreme Judicial Court Sitting as Law Court	495[1]	40	N/A	535		COLR	1
MISSISSIPPI--Supreme Court	831	2	2	833	833	COLR	2
MONTANA--Supreme Court	619[C]	(C)	N/A	619		COLR	1
NEBRASKA--Supreme Court	964[C]	(C)	(C)	964	964	COLR	1
NEVADA--Supreme Court	1,013	NH	NH	1,013	1,013	COLR	2
NEW HAMPSHIRE--Supreme Court	NH	451[1]	N/A	451		COLR	1
NORTH DAKOTA--Supreme Court	357	NH	NH	357	357	COLR	1
RHODE ISLAND--Supreme Court	402	241	N/A	643		COLR	2
SOUTH DAKOTA--Supreme Court	381[C]	(C)	N/A	381		COLR	1
VERMONT--Supreme Court	527	26	N/A	553		COLR	1
WEST VIRGINIA--Supreme Court of Appeals ..	NH	1,909	775	1,909	775	COLR	1
WYOMING--Supreme Court	302	NH	NH	302	302	COLR	1
STATES WITH MULTIPLE APPELLATE COURTS AT ANY LEVEL							
ALABAMA--STATE TOTAL	3,354	654		4,008			
Supreme Court	1,017	654	N/A	1,671		COLR	1
Court of Civil Appeals	518	NH	NH	518	--	IAC	1
Court of Criminal Appeals	1,819	NH	NH	1,819	--	IAC	1

(continued on next page)

TABLE 2: Reported total caseload for all state appellate courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Total cases filed: Total mandatory cases	Total discretionary petitions	Total discretionary petitions granted	Totals: Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions: Number	Filed per judge	Totals: Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted: Number	Filed per judge
NEW YORK--STATE TOTAL	11,822*						
Court of Appeals	409	N/A	N/A				
Appellate Divisions of Supreme Court	9,205[C]	(C)	N/A	9,205	196		
Appellate Terms of Supreme Court	2,208[C]	(C)	N/A	2,208	147		
OKLAHOMA--STATE TOTAL	3,016*		117	3,309	276	3,133	131
Supreme Court	1,105	293	56	1,398	155	1,161	129
Court of Criminal Appeals	980[C]	(C)	61	980	327	1,041	347
Court of Appeals	931	NH	NH	931	78	931	78
PENNSYLVANIA--STATE TOTAL ...	9,247*						
Supreme Court	80	1,936[P]	237[1]	2,016	288	317	45
Superior Court	6,137[C]	N/A	(C)			6,137	409
Commonwealth Court	3,030[1]	115	N/A	3,145	349		
TENNESSEE--STATE TOTAL	1,984*			2,819	108		
Supreme Court	170	758	64	928	186	234	47
Court of Appeals	1,003	77	22	1,080	90	1,025	85
Court of Criminal Appeals	811[C]	(C)	N/A	811	90		
TEXAS--STATE TOTAL	10,310	2,515	545	12,825	131	10,855	111
Supreme Court	3	1,176	178	1,179	131	181	20
Court of Criminal Appeals	2,450	1,339	367	3,789	421	2,817	313
Courts of Appeals	7,857	NH	NH	7,857	98	7,857	98

JURISDICTION CODES:

COLR = Court of last resort
IAC = Intermediate appellate court
NH = This casetype is not handled in this court.
-- = Inapplicable

POINTS AT WHICH CASES ARE COUNTED:

1 = At the notice of appeal
2 = At the filing of trial record
3 = At the filing of trial record, and complete briefs
4 = At transfer
5 = Other
6 = Varies

NOTE: N/A indicates that the data are unavailable. Blank spaces indicate that a calculation is inappropriate.

( ) = Mandatory and discretionary jurisdiction cases cannot be separately identified. Data are reported within the jurisdiction where the court has the majority of its caseload.

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

An absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that the data are complete.

*See the qualifying footnote for each court within the state. Each footnote will have impact on the state's total.

State/Court name:	Total cases disposed: Total mandatory cases	Total discretionary petitions	Total discretionary petitions granted	Totals: Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted	Court type	Point at which cases are counted
NEW YORK--STATE TOTAL	15,894*			19,372			
Court of Appeals ..	369	3,478	227	3,847	596	COLR	1
Appellate Divisions of Supreme Court .	13,392[C]	(C)	N/A	13,392		IAC	2
Appellate Terms of Supreme Court.....	2,133[C]	(C)	N/A	2,133		IAC	2
OKLAHOMA--STATE TOTAL	2,167*	520*		2,687			
Supreme Court	813[C]	237[1]	N/A	1,050		COLR	1
Court of Criminal Appeals	626	283	N/A	909		COLR	2
Court of Appeals ..	728	NH	NH	728	--	IAC	4
PENNSYLVANIA--							
Supreme Court	N/A	N/A	N/A			COLR	6
Superior Court	6,253[C]	N/A	(C)		6,253	IAC	1
Commonwealth Court	4,053[C]	(C)	N/A	4,053		IAC	1
TENNESSEE--STATE TOTAL				2,944			
Supreme Court	(C)	1,087[C]	N/A	1,087		COLR	1
Court of Appeals ..	1,033	77	N/A	1,110		IAC	1
Court of Criminal Appeals	747[C]	(C)	N/A	747		IAC	1
TEXAS--STATE TOTAL ..	10,275	2,933	407	13,208	10,682		
Supreme Court	3	1,261	170	1,264	173	COLR	1
Court of Criminal Appeals	2,448	1,672	237	4,120	2,685	COLR	5
Courts of Appeals .	7,824	NH	NH	7,824	7,824	IAC	1

C: The following courts' data are overinclusive:
Arizona--Supreme Court--Data include mandatory judge disciplinary cases.
Colorado--Supreme Court--Disposed data include mandatory jurisdiction cases.
Delaware--Supreme Court--Data include some discretionary petitions and filed data include discretionary petitions that were granted.

(continued on next page)

TABLE 2: Reported total caseload for all state appellate courts, 1987. (continued)

Georgia--Supreme Court--Total mandatory filed data include a few discretionary petitions that were granted and refiled as appeals. --Court of Appeals--Total mandatory data include all discretionary petitions that were granted and refiled as appeals.
Hawaii--Supreme Court--Data include a few discretionary petitions granted.
Idaho--Supreme Court--Data include discretionary petitions that were granted.
Illinois--Appellate Court--Data include all discretionary petitions.
Indiana--Court of Appeals--Data include all discretionary petitions.
Iowa--Supreme Court--Data include some discretionary petitions that were dismissed by the Court.
Kansas--Court of Appeals--Filed data include a few discretionary petitions that were granted. Disposed data include all discretionary petitions.
Maryland--Court of Appeals--Data include discretionary petitions that were granted, and refiled as appeals.
Massachusetts----Supreme Court--Disposed data include all mandatory appeals. --Appeals Court--Data include all discretionary petitions.
Michigan--Supreme Court--Disposed data include a few mandatory jurisdiction cases. --Court of Appeals--Total mandatory data include discretionary petitions.
Missouri--Supreme Court--Mandatory disposed data include discretionary petitions that were granted, and refiled as appeals.
Montana--Supreme Court--Mandatory cases disposed include all discretionary petitions.
Nebraska--Supreme Court--Data include all discretionary petitions and disposed discretionary petitions granted.
New Jersey--Appellate Division of Superior Court--Data include all discretionary petitions that were granted.
New Mexico--Court of Appeals--Disposed data include all discretionary petitions.
New York--Appellate Divisions of Supreme Court--Data include all discretionary petitions. Appellate terms of Supreme Court--Data include all discretionary petitions.
North Carolina--Court of Appeals--Mandatory filed data include a few discretionary petitions that were granted and refiled as appeals. Data include some cases where relief, not review, was granted.
Oklahoma--Supreme Court--Data include granted discretionary petitions that were disposed. --Court of Criminal Appeals--Mandatory filed data include all discretionary petitions.
Oregon--Supreme Court--Disposed data include all discretionary petitions that were granted.
Pennsylvania--Superior Court--Data include all discretionary petitions that were granted. --Commonwealth Court--Disposed data include all discretionary petitions.
South Carolina--Supreme Court--Disposed data include all discretionary petitions that were disposed.
South Dakota--Filed data include discretionary advisory opinions. Mandatory jurisdiction dispositions include all discretionary petitions.
Tennessee--Supreme Court--Disposed data include all mandatory jurisdiction cases.--Court of Criminal Appeals--Data include all discretionary petitions.
Utah--Supreme Court--Disposed data include all discretionary petitions.
Virginia--Court of Appeals--Discretionary petitions disposed include all mandatory jurisdiction cases.

D: Data for the following court are overinclusive and represent some double counting (discretionary petitions that are granted review are counted once as a petition and then are refiled as mandatory cases and cannot be separated from mandatory cases):
Georgia--Supreme Court--Disposed data include all mandatory appeals and discretionary petitions granted.

1: The following courts' data are at least 75% complete:
Arizona--Supreme Court--Data do not include mandatory judge disciplinary cases.
California--Supreme Court--Total mandatory filed data do not include mandatory judge disciplinary cases. Total discretionary petitions granted do not include original proceedings that were granted and administrative agency cases.
Connecticut--Supreme Court--Data do not include some unclassified appeals and judge disciplinary cases.
Delaware--Supreme Court--Data do not include some discretionary interlocutory decision cases, which are reported with mandatory jurisdiction cases.
Georgia--Supreme Court--Discretionary petitions granted do not include interlocutory decisions.
Iowa--Supreme Court--Data do not include discretionary petitions that were dismissed by the court, which are reported with mandatory jurisdiction cases. Discretionary petitions granted and disposed do not include some discretionary original proceedings.
Kentucky--Supreme Court--Data do not include some discretionary unclassified petitions.
Maine--Supreme Judicial Court Sitting as Law Court--Disposed data do not include mandatory disciplinary and advisory opinion cases.
Minnesota--Court of Appeals--Total discretionary petitions do not include discretionary petitions of final judgments that were denied. Total discretionary petitions granted do not include "other" discretionary petitions granted.
Missouri--Supreme Court--Disposed data do not include a few discretionary original proceedings.
New Hampshire--Supreme Court--Data do not include discretionary judge disciplinary cases.
New Jersey--Supreme Court--Data do not include discretionary interlocutory decisions.
Oklahoma--Supreme Court--Disposed data do not include disposed discretionary petitions granted.

Pennsylvania--Supreme Court--Total discretionary petitions do not include original proceeding petitions that were granted.
--Commonwealth Court--Filed mandatory jurisdiction cases do not include transfers from the Superior Court and the Court of Common Pleas.
South Carolina--Supreme court--Filed data do not include discretionary petitions that were denied or otherwise dismissed/withdrawn, or settled.
Utah--Court of Appeals--Data represent an eleven-month reporting period.

Pennsylvania--Supreme Court--Discretionary petitions granted do not include original proceeding petitions that were granted.
South Dakota--Supreme Court--Data do not include advisory opinions reported with mandatory jurisdiction cases.
Virginia--Court of Appeals--Filed data do not include original proceeding petitions granted.

P: The following courts' data are both incomplete and overinclusive:
Arkansas--Supreme Court--Data include a few discretionary petitions, but do not include mandatory attorney disciplinary cases and certified questions from the federal courts.
Maine--Supreme Judicial Court Sitting as Law Court--Total mandatory jurisdiction filed data include discretionary petitions but do not include mandatory disciplinary and advisory opinion cases.
Pennsylvania--Supreme Court--Total discretionary jurisdiction filed data include non-case motions that could not be separated, but do not include original proceeding petitions.
Washington--Supreme Court--Mandatory jurisdiction data include some discretionary petitions, but do not include mandatory certified questions from the federal courts. Total discretionary petitions include mandatory certified questions from federal courts, but do not include some discretionary petitions reported with mandatory jurisdiction caseload.

V: The following court's data are less than 75% complete:
California--Supreme Court--Disposed data do not include disciplinary cases.

TABLE 3: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Mandatory Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1987

State/Court name:	Court type	Mandatory cases Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed per judge	Filed per 100,000 population
STATES WITH ONE COURT OF LAST RESORT AND ONE INTERMEDIATE APPELLATE COURT							
ALASKA--STATE TOTAL		837	720	86	8	105	159
Supreme Court	COLR	368	291	79	5	74	70
Court of Appeals	IAC	469	429	91	3	156	89
ARIZONA--STATE TOTAL		3,567*	3,458*	97	23	155	105
Supreme Court	COLR	116[1]	86[1]	74	5	23	3
Court of Appeals	IAC	3,451	3,372	98	18	192	102
ARKANSAS--STATE TOTAL		1,408*	1,399*	99	13	108	59
Supreme Court	COLR	459[P]	416[P]	91	7	66	19
Court of Appeals	IAC	949	983	104	6	158	40
CALIFORNIA--STATE TOTAL		10,300*	10,742*		84	123	37
Supreme Court	COLR	315[1]	73V		7	45	1
Courts of Appeal	IAC	9,985	10,669	107	77	130	36
COLORADO--STATE TOTAL		2,144			17	126	65
Supreme Court	COLR	214	(C)		7	31	6
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,930	1,602	83	10	193	59
CONNECTICUT--STATE TOTAL		1,003			12	84	31
Supreme Court	COLR	58	N/A		7	8	2
Appellate Court	IAC	945	893	94	5	189	29
FLORIDA--STATE TOTAL		14,442	14,139	98	53	272	120
Supreme Court	COLR	581	548	94	7	83	5
District Courts of Appeal	IAC	13,861	13,591	98	46	301	115
GEORGIA--STATE TOTAL		2,711*			16	169	44
Supreme Court	COLR	640[C]	(C)		7	91	10
Court of Appeals	IAC	2,071[C]	1,961[C]	95	9	230	33
HAWAII--STATE TOTAL		750*	721*	96	8	94	69
Supreme Court	COLR	616[C]	579[C]	94	5	123	57
Intermediate Court of Appeals	IAC	134	142	106	3	45	12
IDAHO--STATE TOTAL		470*	469*	100	8	59	47
Supreme Court	COLR	289[C]	295[C]	102	5	58	29
Court of Appeals	IAC	181	174	96	3	60	18

(continued on next page)

TABLE 3: Selected caseload and processing measures for mandatory cases in state appellate courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Mandatory cases: Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed per judge	Filed per 100,000 population
ILLINOIS--STATE TOTAL		8,522*	8,007*	94	41	208	74
Supreme Court	COLR	568	556	98	7	81	5
Appellate Court	IAC	7,954C	7,451C	94	34	234	69
INDIANA--STATE TOTAL		1,558*	1,514*	97	17	92	28
Supreme Court	COLR	409	384	94	5	82	7
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,149C	1,130C	98	12	96	21
IOWA--STATE TOTAL		1,495*	1,522*	102	15	100	53
Supreme Court	COLR	877C	944C	108	9	97	31
Court of Appeals	IAC	618	578	94	6	103	22
KANSAS--STATE TOTAL		1,341*	1,476*	110	17	79	54
Supreme Court	COLR	214	333	156	7	31	9
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,127C	1,143C	101	10	113	46
KENTUCKY--STATE TOTAL		2,952	2,575	87	21	141	79
Supreme Court	COLR	261	271	104	7	37	7
Court of Appeals	IAC	2,691	2,304	86	14	192	72
LOUISIANA--STATE TOTAL		3,981	3,503	88	55	72	89
Supreme Court	COLR	135	123	91	7	19	3
Courts of Appeal	IAC	3,846	3,380	92	48	80	86
MARYLAND--STATE TOTAL		1,947*	1,999*	103	20	97	43
Court of Appeals	COLR	233C	222C	95	7	33	5
Court of Special Appeals .	IAC	1,714	1,777	104	13	132	38
MASSACHUSETTS--STATE TOTAL .		1,506*			17	89	26
Supreme Judicial Court ...	COLR	72	N/A		7	10	1
Appeals Court	IAC	1,434C	N/A		10	143	24
MICHIGAN--STATE TOTAL		8,191*			25	328	89
Supreme Court	COLR	5	(C)		7	1	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	8,186C	7,502C	92	18	455	89
MINNESOTA--STATE TOTAL		2,165	2,120	98	20	108	51
Supreme Court	COLR	241	204	85	7	34	6
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,924	1,916	100	13	148	45
MISSOURI--STATE TOTAL		3,148	3,392*		39	81	62
Supreme Court	COLR	93	133C		7	13	2
Court of Appeals	IAC	3,055	3,259	107	32	95	60

(continued on next page)

TABLE 3: Selected caseload and processing measures for mandatory cases in state appellate courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Mandatory cases: Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed per judge	Filed per 100,000 population
NEW JERSEY--STATE TOTAL		6,626*	6,781*	102	35	189	86
Supreme Court	COLR	349	381	109	7	50	5
Appellate Division of Superior Court	IAC	6,277C	6,400C	102	28	224	82
NEW MEXICO--STATE TOTAL		1,682			12	140	112
Supreme Court	COLR	1,078	N/A		5	216	72
Court of Appeals	IAC	604	853C		7	86	40
NORTH CAROLINA--STATE TOTAL.		1,446*	1,502*	104	19	76	23
Supreme Court	COLR	181	192	106	7	26	3
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,265C	1,310C	104	12	105	20
OHIO--STATE TOTAL		10,405	9,773	94	65	160	96
Supreme Court	COLR	422	380	90	7	60	4
Court of Appeals	IAC	9,983	9,393	94	58	172	93
OREGON--STATE TOTAL		4,481	4,545*		17	264	165
Supreme Court	COLR	176	313C		7	25	6
Court of Appeals	IAC	4,305	4,232	98	10	431	158
SOUTH CAROLINA--STATE TOTAL.		951	964*		11	86	28
Supreme Court	COLR	511	596C		5	102	15
Court of Appeals	IAC	440	368	84	6	73	13
UTAH--STATE TOTAL		1,034*			12	86	62
Supreme Court	COLR	474	521C		5	95	28
Court of Appeals	IAC	560[1]	N/A		7	80	33
VIRGINIA--Supreme Court	COLR	N/A	N/A				
Court of Appeals	IAC	422	N/A		10	42	7
WASHINGTON--STATE TOTAL		3,373*	4,018*	119	25	135	74
Supreme Court	COLR	135P	148P	110	9	15	3
Court of Appeals	IAC	3,238	3,870	120	16	202	71
WISCONSIN--STATE TOTAL.....		2,185	2,206	101	13	168	45
Supreme Court	COLR	NH	NH		--	--	--
Court of Appeals	IAC	2,185	2,206	101	13	168	45
STATES WITH NO INTERMEDIATE APPELLATE COURT							
DELAWARE--Supreme Court	COLR	397C	419C	106	5	79	62
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA-- Court of Appeals	COLR	1,500	1,595	106	9	167	241

(continued on next page)

TABLE 3: Selected caseload and processing measures for mandatory cases in state appellate courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Mandatory cases Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed per judge	Filed per 100,000 population
MAINE--Supreme Judicial Court Sitting as Law Court	COLR	631[P]	495[1]		7	90	53
MISSISSIPPI--Supreme Court.	COLR	891	831	93	9	99	34
MONTANA--Supreme Court	COLR	546	(C)		7	78	67
NEBRASKA--Supreme Court ...	COLR	1,196[C]	964[C]	81	7	171	75
NEVADA--Supreme Court	COLR	856	1,013	118	5	171	85
NEW HAMPSHIRE--Supreme Court	COLR	NH	NH		--	--	--
NORTH DAKOTA--Supreme Court	COLR	382	357	93	5	76	57
RHODE ISLAND--Supreme Court	COLR	323	402	124	5	65	33
SOUTH DAKOTA--Supreme Court	COLR	422[C]	(C)		5	84	60
VERMONT--Supreme Court	COLR	538	527	98	5	108	98
WEST VIRGINIA--Supreme Court	COLR	NH	NH		--	--	--
WYOMING--Supreme Court	COLR	320	302	94	5	64	65
STATES WITH MULTIPLE APPELLATE COURTS AT ANY LEVEL							
ALABAMA--STATE TOTAL		3,277	3,354	102	17	193	80
Supreme Court	COLR	998	1,017	102	9	111	24
Court of Civil Appeals ...	IAC	584	518	89	3	195	14
Court of Criminal Appeals.	IAC	1,695	1,819	107	5	339	42
NEW YORK--STATE TOTAL		11,822*	15,894*	134	69	171	66
Court of Appeals	COLR	409	369	90	7	58	2
Appellate Division of Supreme Court	IAC	9,205[C]	13,392[C]	146	47	196	52
Appellate Court of Supreme Supreme Court	IAC	2,208[C]	2,133[C]	97	15	147	12
OKLAHOMA--STATE TOTAL		3,016*	2,167*		24	126	92
Supreme Court	COLR	1,105	813[C]		9	123	34
Court of Criminal Appeals.	COLR	980[C]	626		3	327	30
Court of Appeals	IAC	931	728	78	12	78	28

(continued on next page)

TABLE 3: Selected caseload and processing measures for mandatory cases in state appellate courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Mandatory cases: Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed per judge	Filed per 100,000 population
PENNSYLVANIA--STATE TOTAL ..		9,247*			31	298	78
Supreme Court	COLR	80	N/A		7	11	1
Superior Court	IAC	6,137C	6,253C	102	15	409	51
Commonwealth Court	IAC	3,030[1]	4,053C		9	337	25
TENNESSEE--STATE TOTAL		1,984*			26	76	41
Supreme Court	COLR	170	(C)		5	34	4
Court of Criminal Appeals.	IAC	811C	747C	92	9	90	17
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,003	1,033	103	12	84	21
TEXAS--STATE TOTAL		10,310	10,275	100	98	105	61
Supreme Court	COLR	3	3	100	9	0	0
Court of Criminal Appeals.	COLR	2,450	2,448	100	9	272	15
Courts of Appeals	IAC	7,857	7,824	100	80	98	47

JURISDICTION CODES:

COLR = Court of Last Resort
IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court
NH = This casetype is not handled in this court
-- = Inapplicable

NOTE: N/A indicates that the data are unavailable. Blank spaces indicate that a calculation is inappropriate.

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

The absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that data are complete.

*See the qualifying footnote written for each court in the state. Each footnote has an impact on the state total.

(C): Disposed mandatory jurisdiction cases cannot be separately identified and are reported with discretionary cases disposed.

C: The following courts' data are over-inclusive:
Delaware--Supreme Court--Data include some discretionary petitions and discretionary petitions that were granted.
Georgia--Supreme Court--Mandatory jurisdiction filed data include discretionary cases that were granted and refiled as appeals.
--Court of Appeals--Mandatory jurisdiction data include discretionary petitions that were granted and refiled as appeals.
Hawaii--Supreme Court--Data include discretionary petitions that were granted, and refiled as appeals.
Idaho--Supreme Court--Data include discretionary petitions reviewed on the merits.
Illinois--Appellate Court--Data include discretionary petitions.

(continued on next page)

TABLE 3: Selected caseload and processing measures for mandatory cases in state appellate courts, 1987. (continued)

Indiana--Court of Appeals--Data include discretionary interlocutory decision cases.
Iowa--Supreme Court--Filed data include discretionary original proceedings. Disposed data include some discretionary cases that were dismissed.
Kansas--Court of Appeals--Data include a few discretionary cases that were granted.
Maryland--Court of Appeals--Data include discretionary petitions that were granted, and refiled as appeals.
Massachusetts--Appeals Court--Data include a small number of discretionary interlocutory decision petitions.
Michigan--Court of Appeals--Data include discretionary petitions.
Missouri--Supreme Court--Disposed data include discretionary petitions that were granted, and refiled as appeals.
Nebraska--Supreme Court--Data include a few discretionary petitions, and disposed discretionary petitions granted.
New Jersey--Appellate Division of Superior Court--Data include discretionary interlocutory petitions that were granted.
New Mexico--Court of Appeals--Data include discretionary petitions.
New York--Appellate Divisions of Supreme Court--Data include discretionary petitions--Appellate terms of Supreme Court--Data include discretionary petitions.
North Carolina--Court of Appeals--Data include discretionary petitions that were granted, and refiled as appeals.
Oklahoma--Supreme Court--Disposed data include granted discretionary petitions that were disposed
--Court of Criminal Appeals--Filed data include all discretionary jurisdiction cases.
Oregon--Supreme Court--Disposed data include discretionary petitions that were granted.
Pennsylvania--Superior Court--Data include all discretionary petitions that were granted.
--Commonwealth Court--Disposed data include discretionary petitions.
South Carolina--Supreme Court--Disposed data include all discretionary petitions that were disposed.
South Dakota--Supreme Court--Data include all discretionary jurisdiction cases.
Tennessee--Court of Criminal Appeals--Data include discretionary petitions.
Utah--Supreme Court--Disposed data include discretionary petitions.

1: The following courts' data are at least 75% complete:
Arizona--Supreme Court--Data do not include judge disciplinary cases.
California--Supreme Court--Filed data do not include judge disciplinary cases.
Maine--Supreme Judicial Court Sitting as Law Court--Disposed data do not include disciplinary or advisory opinion cases.
Pennsylvania--Commonwealth Court--Filed mandatory jurisdiction cases do not include transfers from the Superior Court and the Court of Common Pleas.
Utah--Court of Appeals--Filed data represent an eleven-month reporting period.

P: The following courts' data are both incomplete and overinclusive:
Arkansas--Supreme Court--Data include a few discretionary petitions, but do not include mandatory attorney disciplinary cases and certified questions from the federal courts.
Maine--Supreme Judicial Court Sitting as Law Court--Filed data include discretionary petition cases, but do not include mandatory disciplinary and advisory opinion cases.
Washington--Supreme Court--Data include some discretionary petitions, but do not include certified questions from the federal courts.

V: Data are less than 75% complete:
California--Supreme Court--Disposed data do not include disciplinary cases.

TABLE 4: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions in State Appellate Courts, 1987

State/Court name:	Court type	Discretionary petitions: Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed (disposed) per judge	Filed (disposed) per 100,000 population
STATES WITH ONE COURT OF LAST RESORT AND ONE INTERMEDIATE APPELLATE COURT							
ALASKA--STATE TOTAL		273	285	104	8	34	52
Supreme Court	COLR	219	231	105	5	44	42
Court of Appeals	IAC	54	54	100	3	18	10
ARIZONA--STATE TOTAL		1,046*	1,099*	105	23	45	31
Supreme Court	COLR	995[C]	1,054[C]	106	5	199	29
Court of Appeals	IAC	51	45	88	18	3	2
ARKANSAS--							
Supreme Court	COLR	N/A	N/A				
Court of Appeals	IAC	NH	NH				
CALIFORNIA--STATE TOTAL		11,290	10,780	95	84	134	41
Supreme Court	COLR	4,558	4,004	89	7	651	16
Courts of Appeal	IAC	6,732	6,776	101	77	87	24
COLORADO--STATE TOTAL		756	1,036*		7	108	23
Supreme Court	COLR	756	1,036[C]		7	108	23
Court of Appeal	IAC	NH	NH				
CONNECTICUT--STATE TOTAL		195*			12	16	6
Supreme Court	COLR	152[1]	293[P]		7	22	5
Appellate Court	IAC	43	N/A		5	9	1
FLORIDA--STATE TOTAL		3,552	3,110	88	53	67	30
Supreme Court	COLR	1,270	1,223	96	7	181	11
District Courts of Appeal.	IAC	2,282	1,887	83	46	50	19
GEORGIA--STATE TOTAL		1,739	2,225*		16	109	28
Supreme Court	COLR	1,006	1,524[D]		7	144	16
Court of Appeals	IAC	733	701	96	9	81	12
HAWAII--STATE TOTAL		57	58	102	5	11	5
Supreme Court	COLR	57	58	102	5	11	5
Court of Appeals	IAC	NH	NH		--	--	--
IDAHO--STATE TOTAL		82	76	93	5	16	8
Supreme Court	COLR	82	76	93	5	16	8
Court of Appeals	IAC	NH	NH		--	--	--
ILLINOIS--							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,673	1,633	98	7	239	14
Appellate Court	IAC	N/A	N/A				
INDIANA--							
Supreme Court	COLR	404	437	108	5	81	7
Court of Appeals	IAC	N/A	N/A				
IOWA--STATE TOTAL		327*	317*	97	9	36	12
Supreme Court	COLR	327[1]	317[1]	97	9	36	12
Court of Appeals	IAC	NH	NH		--	--	--

(continued on next page)

TABLE 4: Selected caseload and processing measures for discretionary petitions in state appellate courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Discretionary petitions: Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed (disposed) per judge	Filed (disposed) per 100,000 population
KANSAS--							
Supreme Court		N/A	N/A				
Court of Appeals		N/A	N/A				
KENTUCKY--STATE TOTAL		783*	777*	99	21	37	21
Supreme Court	COLR	693[1]	706[1]	102	7	99	19
Court of Appeals	IAC	90	71	79	14	6	2
LOUISIANA--STATE TOTAL		6,214	6,220	98	55	113	139
Supreme Court	COLR	2,673	2,660	99	7	382	60
Courts of Appeal	IAC	3,541	3,460	98	48	74	79
MARYLAND--STATE TOTAL		949	856	90	20	47	21
Court of Appeals	COLR	655	562	86	7	94	14
Court of Special Appeals	IAC	294	294	100	13	23	6
MASSACHUSETTS--							
Supreme Judicial Court	COLR	336	N/A		7	48	6
Appeals Court	IAC	N/A	N/A				
MICHIGAN--							
Supreme Court	COLR	2,082	2,168[c]		7	297	23
Court of Appeals	IAC	N/A	N/A				
MINNESOTA--STATE TOTAL		974*	895*	92	20	49	23
Supreme Court	COLR	626	555	89	7	89	15
Court of Appeals	IAC	348[1]	340[1]	98	13	27	8
MISSOURI--STATE TOTAL		1,033	997*		7	148	20
Supreme Court	COLR	1,033	997[1]		7	148	20
Court of Appeals	IAC	NH	NH		--	--	--
NEW JERSEY--							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,382[1]	1,411[1]	102	7	197	18
Appellate Division of Supreme Court	IAC	N/A	N/A				
NEW MEXICO--STATE TOTAL		358			12	30	24
Supreme Court	COLR	301	N/A		5	60	20
Court of Appeals	IAC	57	N/A		7	8	4
NORTH CAROLINA--STATE TOTAL		1,159	1,120	97	19	61	18
Supreme Court	COLR	676	637	94	7	97	11
Court of Appeals	IAC	483	483	100	12	40	8
OHIO--STATE TOTAL		1,846	1,598	87	7	264	17
Supreme Court	COLR	1,846	1,598	87	7	264	17
Court of Appeals	IAC	NH	NH		--	--	--
OREGON--STATE TOTAL		1,086	1,042	96	7	155	40
Supreme Court	COLR	1,086	1,042	96	7	155	40
Court of Appeals	IAC	NH	NH		--	--	--

(continued on next page)

TABLE 4: Selected caseload and processing measures for discretionary petitions in state appellate courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Discretionary petitions: Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed (disposed) per judge	Filed (disposed) per 100,000 population
SOUTH CAROLINA--STATE TOTAL		32*			5	6	1
Supreme Court	COLR	32[1]	N/A		5	6	1
Court of Appeals	IAC	NH	NH		--	--	--
UTAH--STATE TOTAL		40*			12	3	2
Supreme Court	COLR	30	N/A		5	6	2
Court of Appeals	IAC	10[1]	N/A		7	1	1
VIRGINIA--STATE TOTAL		2,642	2,912*		17	155	45
Supreme Court	COLR	1,441	1,169	81	7	206	24
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,201	1,743[C]		10	120	20
WASHINGTON--STATE TOTAL		1,497*	1,481*	99	25	60	33
Supreme Court	COLR	1,151[P]	1,093[P]	95	9	128	25
Court of Appeals	IAC	346	388	112	16	22	8
WISCONSIN--STATE TOTAL		1,090	913	84	20	55	23
Supreme Court	COLR	869	725	83	7	124	18
Court of Appeals	IAC	221	188	85	13	17	5
STATES WITH NO INTERMEDIATE APPELLATE COURT							
DELAWARE--Supreme Court	COLR	4[1]	4[1]	100	5	1	1
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA--Court of Appeals	COLR	96	87	91	9	11	15
MAINE--Supreme Judicial Court	COLR	N/A	40		7	(6)	(3)
MISSISSIPPI--Supreme Court	COLR	2	2	100	9	.2	.1
MONTANA--Supreme Court	COLR	25	N/A		7	4	3
NEBRASKA--Supreme Court	COLR	N/A	N/A				
NEVADA--Supreme Court	COLR	NH	NH		--	--	--
NEW HAMPSHIRE--Supreme Court	COLR	516[1]	451[1]	87	5	103	49
NORTH DAKOTA--Supreme Court	COLR	NH	NH		--	--	--
RHODE ISLAND--Supreme Court	COLR	219	241	110	5	44	22
SOUTH DAKOTA--Supreme Court	COLR	27[1]	N/A		5	5	4
VERMONT--Supreme Court	COLR	31	26	84	5	6	6
WEST VIRGINIA--Supreme Court of Appeals	COLR	2,037	1,909	94	5	407	107
WYOMING--Supreme Court	COLR	NH	NH		--	--	--

(continued on next page)

TABLE 4: Selected caseload and processing measures for discretionary petitions in state appellate courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Discretionary petitions: Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed (disposed) per judge	Filed (disposed) per 100,000 population
STATES WITH MULTIPLE APPELLATE COURTS AT ANY LEVEL							
ALABAMA--STATE TOTAL		713	654	92	9	79	17
Supreme Court	COLR	713	654	92	9	79	17
Court of Civil Appeals ...	IAC	NH	NH		--	--	--
Court of Criminal Appeals	IAC	NH	NH		--	--	--
NEW YORK--							
Court of Appeals	COLR	N/A	3,478		7	(497)	(20)
Appellate Divisions of Supreme Court	IAC	N/A	N/A				
Appelate Terms of Supreme Court	IAC	N/A	N/A				
OKLAHOMA--STATE TOTAL			520*		12	(43)	(16)
Supreme Court	COLR	293	237[1]		9	33	9
Court of Criminal Appeals.	COLR	N/A	283		3	(94)	(9)
Court of Appeals	IAC	NH	NH		--	--	--
PENNSYLVANIA--							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,936[P]	N/A		7	277	16
Commonwealth Court	IAC	115	N/A		9	13	1
Superior Court	IAC	N/A	N/A				
TENNESSEE--							
Supreme Court.....	COLR	758	1,087[C]		5	152	16
Court of Appeals	IAC	77	77	100	12	6	2
Court of Criminal Appeals	IAC	N/A	N/A				
TEXAS--STATE TOTAL		2,515	2,933	117	18	140	15
Supreme Court	COLR	1,176	1,261	107	9	131	7
Court of Criminal Appeals	COLR	1,339	1,672	125	9	149	8
Court of Appeal	IAC	NH	NH		--	--	--

TABLE 4: Selected caseload and processing measures for discretionary petitions in state appellate courts, 1987. (continued)

JURISDICTION CODES:

COLR = Court of Last Resort
IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court
NH = This casetype is not handled in this court
-- = Inapplicable

NOTE: N/A indicates that the data are unavailable. Blank spaces indicate that a calculation is inappropriate.

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

The absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that data are complete.

*See the qualifying footnote written for each court in the state. Each footnote has an impact on the state's total.

C: The following courts' data are overinclusive:
- Arizona--Supreme Court--Data include mandatory judge disciplinary cases.
- Colorado--Supreme Court--Disposed data include all mandatory jurisdiction cases.
- Michigan--Supreme Court--Disposed data include a few mandatory jurisdiction cases.
- Tennessee--Supreme Court--Disposed data include all mandatory jurisdiction cases.
- Virginia--Court of Appeals--Disposed data include all mandatory jurisdiction cases.

D: The following court's data are overinclusive and represent some double counting:
- Georgia--Supreme Court--Disposed data include all mandatory appeals and discretionary petitions granted, that are refiled as a mandatory case.

1: The following courts' data are at least 75% complete:
- Connecticut--Supreme Court--Filed data do not include disciplinary cases.
- Delaware--Supreme Court--Data do not include some discretionary interlocutory petitions and some discretionary advisory opinions.
- Iowa--Supreme Court--Data do not include discretionary cases that were dismissed by the court.
- Kentucky--Supreme Court--Data do not include some discretionary unclassified petitions.
- Minnesota--Court of Appeals--Data do not include petitions of final judgments that were denied.
- Missouri--Supreme Court--Disposition data do not include a few original proceedings.
- New Hampshire--Supreme Court--Data do not include discretionary judge disciplinary cases.
- New Jersey--Supreme Court--Data do not include discretionary interlocutory petitions which could not be separated from a "motions" category.
- Oklahoma--Supreme Court--Disposed data do not include discretionary petitions granted and disposed.
- South Carolina--Supreme Court--Filed data do not include discretionary petitions that were denied or otherwise dismissed/withdrawn, or settled.
- South Dakota--Supreme Court--Data do not include advisory opinions which are reported with mandatory jurisdiction cases.
- Utah--Court of Appeals--Filed data represent an eleven-month reporting period.

P: The following courts' data are both incomplete and overinclusive:
- Connecticut--Supreme Court--Disposed data include mandatory cases, but do not include some unclassified appeals and judge disciplinary cases.
- Pennsylvania--Supreme Court--Total discretionary jurisdiction filed data include non-case motions that could not be separated, but do not include original proceeding petitions.
- Washington--Supreme Court--Data include mandatory certified questions from the federal courts, but do not include some discretionary petitions.

TABLE 5: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions Granted in State Appellate Courts, 1987

State/Court name:	Court type	Discretionary petitions granted: Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed (disposed) per judge	Filed (disposed) per 100,000 population
STATES WITH ONE COURT OF LAST RESORT AND ONE INTERMEDIATE APPELLATE COURT							
ALASKA--							
Supreme Court	COLR	36	N/A		5	7	7
Court of Appeals	IAC	N/A	14		3	(5)	(3)
ARIZONA--							
Supreme Court	COLR	N/A	101[c]		5	(20)	(3)
Court of Appeals	IAC	N/A	N/A				
ARKANSAS--							
Supreme Court	COLR	N/A	N/A				
Court of Appeals	IAC	NH	NH		--	--	--
CALIFORNIA--STATE TOTAL		778[*]			84	9	3
Supreme Court	COLR	224[1]	N/A		7	32	1
Courts of Appeal	IAC	554	N/A		77	7	2
COLORADO--							
Supreme Court	COLR	N/A	N/A				
Court of Appeals	IAC	NH	NH		--	--	--
CONNECTICUT--							
Supreme Court	COLR	N/A	N/A				
Appellate Court	IAC	N/A	N/A				
FLORIDA--							
Supreme Court	COLR	N/A	N/A				
District Courts of Appeals	IAC	N/A	N/A				
GEORGIA--							
Supreme Court	COLR	119[1]	N/A		7	17	2
Court of Appeals	IAC	N/A	N/A				
HAWAII--STATE TOTAL		10			5	2	1
Supreme Court	COLR	10	N/A		5	2	1
Court of Appeals	IAC	NH	NH		--	--	--
IDAHO--							
Supreme Court	COLR	N/A	N/A				
Court of Appeals	IAC	NH	NH		--	--	--
ILLINOIS--							
Supreme Court	COLR	152	138	91	7	22	1
Appellate Court	IAC	N/A	N/A				
INDIANA--							
Supreme Court	COLR	N/A	56		5	(11)	(1)
Court of Appeals	IAC	N/A	N/A				

(continued on next page)

TABLE 5: Selected caseload and processing measures for discretionary petitions granted in state appellate courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Discretionary petitions granted					
		Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed (disposed) per judge	Filed (disposed) per 100,000 population
IOWA--STATE TOTAL			58*		9	(6)	(2)
Supreme Court	COLR	N/A	58[1]		9	(6)	(2)
Court of Appeals	IAC	NH	NH		--	--	--
KANSAS--							
Supreme Court	COLR	141	N/A		7	20	6
Court of Appeals	IAC	N/A	N/A				
KENTUCKY--							
Supreme Court	COLR	N/A	N/A				
Court of Appeals	IAC	N/A	N/A				
LOUISIANA--STATE TOTAL		1,655	1,628	98	55	30	37
Supreme Court	COLR	553	553	100	7	79	12
Courts of Appeal	IAC	1,102	1,075	98	48	23	25
MARYLAND--STATE TOTAL		124			20	6	3
Court of Appeals	COLR	104	N/A		7	15	2
Court of Special Appeals .	IAC	20	N/A		13	2	0
MASSACHUSETTS--							
Supreme Judicial Court ...	COLR	208	283[C]		7	30	4
Appeals Court	IAC	N/A	N/A				
MICHIGAN--							
Supreme Court	COLR	60	N/A		7	9	1
Court of Appeals	IAC	N/A	N/A				
MINNESOTA--STATE TOTAL		213*	220*	103	20	11	5
Supreme Court	COLR	104	115	111	7	15	2
Court of Appeals	IAC	109[1]	105[1]	96	13	8	3
MISSOURI--STATE TOTAL		79			7	11	2
Supreme Court	COLR	79	N/A		7	11	2
Court of Appeals	IAC	NH	NH		--	--	--
NEW JERSEY--							
Supreme Court	COLR	119[1]	N/A		7	17	2
Appellate Division of Superior Court	IAC	N/A	N/A				
NEW MEXICO--STATE TOTAL		61			12	5	4
Supreme Court	COLR	45	N/A		5	9	3
Court of Appeals	IAC	16	N/A		7	2	1
NORTH CAROLINA--STATE TOTAL.		131			19	7	2
Supreme Court	COLR	60	61	102	7	9	1
Court of Appeals	IAC	71	N/A		12	6	1
OHIO--STATE TOTAL		194	181	93	7	28	2
Supreme Court	COLR	194	181	93	7	28	2
Court of Appeals	IAC	NH	NH		--	--	--

(continued on next page)

TABLE 5: Selected caseload and processing measures for discretionary petitions granted in state appellate courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Discretionary petitions granted: Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed (disposed) per judge	Filed (disposed) per 100,000 population
OREGON--STATE TOTAL		137			7	20	5
Supreme Court	COLR	137	N/A		7	20	5
Court of Appeals	IAC	NH	NH		--	--	--
SOUTH CAROLINA--STATE TOTAL		32			5	6	1
Supreme Court	COLR	32	N/A		5	6	1
Court of Appeals	IAC	NH	NH		--	--	--
UTAH--							
Supreme Court	COLR	N/A	N/A				
Court of Appeals	IAC	N/A	N/A				
VIRGINIA--STATE TOTAL		416*			17	24	7
Supreme Court	COLR	156	N/A		7	22	3
Court of Appeals	IAC	260[1]	N/A		10	26	4
WASHINGTON--							
Supreme Court	COLR	N/A	68		9	(8)	(2)
Court of Appeals	IAC	N/A	N/A				
WISCONSIN--							
Supreme Court	COLR	206	219	106	7	29	4
Court of Appeals	IAC	N/A	N/A				
STATES WITH NO INTERMEDIATE APPELLATE COURT							
DELAWARE--Supreme Court	COLR	N/A	N/A				
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA--							
Court of Appeals	COLR	4	1	25	9	.4	.6
MAINE--Supreme Judicial Court Sitting as Law Court	COLR	N/A	N/A				
MONTANA--Supreme Court	COLR	N/A	N/A				
MISSISSIPPI--Supreme Court .	COLR	N/A	2		9	(.2)	(.1)
NEBRASKA--Supreme Court	COLR	N/A	N/A				
NEVADA--Supreme Court	COLR	NH	NH		--	--	--
NEW HAMPSHIRE--Supreme Court	COLR	N/A	N/A				
NORTH DAKOTA--Supreme Court	COLR	NH	NH		--	--	--
RHODE ISLAND--Supreme Court	COLR	N/A	N/A				
SOUTH DAKOTA--Supreme Court	COLR	N/A	N/A				

(continued on next page)

TABLE 5: Selected caseload and processing measures for discretionary petitions granted in state appellate courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Discretionary petitions granted: Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed (disposed) per judge	Filed (disposed) per 100,000 population
VERMONT--Supreme Court	COLR	N/A	N/A				
WEST VIRGINIA--Supreme Court of Appeals	COLR	785	775	99	5	157	41
WYOMING--Supreme Court	COLR	NH	NH		--	--	--
STATES WITH MULTIPLE APPELLATE COURTS AT ANY LEVEL							
ALABAMA--							
Supreme Court	COLR	N/A	N/A				
Court of Civil Appeals ...	IAC	NH	NH		--	--	--
Court of Criminal Appeals	IAC	NH	NH		--	--	--
NEW YORK--							
Court of Appeals	COLR	N/A	227		7	(32)	(1)
Appellate Divisions of Supreme Court	IAC	N/A	N/A				
Appellate Terms of Supreme Court	IAC	N/A	N/A				
OKLAHOMA--STATE TOTAL		117			12	10	4
Supreme Court	COLR	56	N/A		9	6	2
Court of Criminal Appeals.	COLR	61	N/A		3	20	2
Court of Appeals	IAC	NH	NH		--	--	--
PENNSYLVANIA--							
Supreme Court	COLR	237[1]	N/A		7	34	2
Superior Court	COLR	N/A	N/A				
Commonwealth Court	IAC	N/A	N/A				
TENNESSEE--							
Supreme Court	COLR	64	N/A		5	13	1
Court of Appeals	IAC	22	N/A		12	2	0
Court of Criminal Appeals	IAC	N/A	N/A				
TEXAS--STATE TOTAL		545	407	75	18	30	3
Supreme Court	COLR	178	170	96	9	20	1
Court of Criminal Appeals.	COLR	367	237	65	9	41	2
Court of Appeals	IAC	NH	NH		--	--	--

JURISDICTION CODES:

COLR = Court of Last Resort
IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court
NH = This casetype is not handled in this court
-- = Inapplicable

NOTE: N/A indicates that the data are unavailable. Blank spaces indicate that a calculation is inappropriate.

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

The absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that data are complete.

*See the qualifying footnote for each court in the state. Each footnote has an impact on the state's total.

C: The following courts' data are overinclusive:
Arizona--Supreme Court--Data include mandatory judge disciplinary cases.
Massachusetts--Supreme Judicial Court--Disposed data include all mandatory jurisdiction cases.

1: The following courts' data are at least 75% complete:
California--Supreme Court--Data do not include original proceedings initially heard in the Supreme Court that were granted.
Georgia--Supreme Court--Filed data do not include discretionary interlocutory petitions granted.
Iowa--Supreme Court--Disposed data do not include some original proceedings.
Minnesota--Court of Appeals--Data do not include some petitions.
New Jersey--Supreme Court--Filed data do not include discretionary interlocutory petitions granted.
Pennsylvania--Supreme Court--Data do not include original proceedings petitions that were granted.
Virginia--Court of Appeals--Data do not include original proceedings petitions granted.

TABLE 6: Opinions Reported by State Appellate Courts, 1987

State/Court name:	Opinion count is by: case	Opinion count is by: written document	Does the opinion count include? Majority opinion	Per curiam opinion	Memos/ orders	Total dispositions by opinion	Number of authorized justices/ judges	Number of lawyer support personnel
STATES WITH ONE COURT OF LAST RESORT AND ONE INTERMEDIATE APPELLATE COURT								
ALASKA--Supreme Court	X	0	X	0	0	135	5	11
Court of Appeals	X	0	X	0	0	82	3	8
ARIZONA--Supreme Court	X	0	X	X	0	121	5	16
Court of Appeals	X	0	X	X	some	356	18	48
ARKANSAS--Supreme Court	X	0	X	X	X	358	7	15
Court of Appeals	X	0	X	X	0	649	6	16
CALIFORNIA--Supreme Court ..	X	0	X	X	some	85	7	50
Courts of Appeal	X	0	X	X	some	8,977	77	206
COLORADO--Supreme Court	X	0	X	X	0	238	7	14
Court of Appeals	X	0	X	0	some	N/A	10	26
CONNECTICUT--Supreme Court .	X	0	X	X	some	233	6	14
Appellate Court	X	0	X	X	some	404	6	14
FLORIDA--Supreme Court	X	0	X	X	0	512	7	15
District Courts of Appeal	X	0	X	X	0	4,534	46	102
GEORGIA--Supreme Court	X	0	X	X	0	374	7	17
Court of Appeals	X	0	X	0	0	1,667	9	28
HAWAII--Supreme Court	X	0	X	X	some	314	5	14
Intermediate Court of Appeals	X	0	X	X	X	135	3	6
IDAHO--Supreme Court	0	X	X	X	X	108	5	11
Court of Appeals	0	X	X	X	0	154	3	6
ILLINOIS--Supreme Court	X	0	X	X	0	N/A	7	24
Appellate Court	X	0	X	X	some	2,024	34	88
INDIANA--Supreme Court	X	0	X	X	0	363	5	13
Court of Appeals	X	X	X	X	X	1,114	12	10
IOWA--Supreme Court	0	X	X	0	0	244	9	16
Court of Appeals	X	0	X	0	0	418	6	6
KANSAS--Supreme Court	X	0	X	X	some	244	7	7
Court of Appeals	X	0	X	X	some	781	10	18

(continued on next page)

TABLE 6: Opinions reported by state appellate courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Opinion count is by: case	Opinion count is by: written document	Does the opinion count include? Majority opinion	Does the opinion count include? Per curiam opinion	Does the opinion count include? Memos/ orders	Total dispositions by opinion	Number of authorized justices/ judges	Number of lawyer support personnel
KENTUCKY--Supreme Court	X	0	X	X	some	279	7	11
Court of Appeals	X	0	X	X	some	1,432	14	22
LOUISIANA--Supreme Court ...	0	X	X	X	some	145	7	26
Courts of Appeal	0	X	X	X	X	3,040	48	103
MARYLAND--Court of Appeals .	X	0	X	0	0	126	7	14
Court of Special Appeals .	X	0	X	0	0	233	13	29
MASSACHUSETTS--Supreme Judicial Court	0	X	X	0	0	247	7	20
Appeals Court	0	X	X	X	X	760	10	27
MICHIGAN--Supreme Court	X	0	X	X	0	108	7	15
Court of Appeals	X	0	X	X	some	4,179	18	84
MINNESOTA--Supreme Court ...	X	0	X	0	0	156	7	10
Court of Appeals	X	0	X	0	0	1,279	13	36
MISSOURI--Supreme Court	X	0	X	X	some	74	7	15
Court of Appeals	X	0	X	X	some	1,720	32	135
NEW JERSEY--Supreme Court ..	0	X	X	0	0	87	7	26
Appellate Division of Superior Court	X	0	X	X	X	3,640	28	60
NEW MEXICO--Supreme Court ..	X	0	X	0	some	192	5	10
Court of Appeals	0	X	X	0	0	175	7	20
NORTH CAROLINA--Supreme Court	X	0	X	0	some	160	7	14
Court of Appeals	X	0	X	0	X	1,209	12	28
OHIO--Supreme Court	X	0	X	0	X	N/A	7	20
Court of Appeals	X	0	X	0	X	4,731	58	varies
OREGON--Supreme Court	X	0	X	X	0	114	7	10
Court of Appeals	X	0	X	0	0	597	10	18
SOUTH CAROLINA--Supreme Court	X	0	X	X	0	169	5	19
Court of Appeals	X	0	X	X	0	336	6	11

(continued on next page)

TABLE 6: Opinions reported by state appellate courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Opinion count is by: case	Opinion count is by: written document	Does the opinion count include? Majority opinion	Does the opinion count include? Per curiam opinion	Does the opinion count include? Memos/ orders	Total dispositions by opinion	Number of authorized justices/ judges	Number of lawyer support personnel
UTAH--Supreme Court	X	0	X	X	0	182	5	12
Court of Appeals	X	0	X	X	0	151	7	9
VIRGINIA--Supreme Court	X	0	X	X	0	149	7	23
Court of Appeals	X	0	X	X	0	187	10	22
WASHINGTON--Supreme Court ..	X	0	X	X	some	134	9	23
Court of Appeals	X	0	X	X	some	1,645	16	32
WISCONSIN--Supreme Court ...	X	0	X	X	0	116	7	10
Court of Appeals	X	0	X	0	0	1,165	13	25
STATES WITH NO INTERMEDIATE APPELLATE COURT								
DELAWARE--Supreme Court	X	0	X	0	0	61	5	5
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA-- Court of Appeals	X	0	X	X	0	296	9	25
MAINE--Supreme Judicial Court Sitting as Law Court	0	X	X	0	0	220	7	8.5
MISSISSIPPI--Supreme Court .	X	0	X	0	X	507	9	38
MONTANA--Supreme Court	X	0	X	0	0	359	7	14
NEBRASKA--Supreme Court	X	0	X	X	X	365	7	14
NEVADA--Supreme Court	0	X	X	X	0	142	5	20
NEW HAMPSHIRE--Supreme Court	X	0	X	X	0	155	5	20
NORTH DAKOTA--Supreme Court.	X	0	X	X	0	249	5	10
RHODE ISLAND--Supreme Court.	X	0	X	0	0	181	5	17
SOUTH DAKOTA--Supreme Court.	X	0	X	X	0	186	5	8
VERMONT--Supreme Court	X	0	X	0	0	117	5	8

(continued on next page)

TABLE 6: Opinions reported by state appellate courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Opinion count is by: case	Opinion count is by: written document	Does the opinion count include? Majority opinion	Per curiam opinion	Memos/ orders	Total dispositions by opinion	Number of authorized justices/ judges	Number of lawyer support personnel
WEST VIRGINIA--Supreme Court of Appeals	X	0	X	X	some	244	5	20
WYOMING--Supreme Court	X	0	X	X	some	196	5	12
STATES WITH MULTIPLE APPELLATE COURTS AT ANY LEVEL								
ALABAMA--Supreme Court	X	0	X	X	some	688	9	18
Court of Civil Appeals ...	X	0	X	X	X	339	3	6
Court of Criminal Appeals.	X	0	X	0	some	448	5	10
NEW YORK--Court of Appeals .	0	X	X	0	0	109	7	28
Appellate Terms of the Supreme Court	0	X	X	X	some	N/A	15	25
Appellate Divisions of the Supreme Court	0	X	X	X	some	N/A	47	171
OKLAHOMA--Supreme Court	X	0	X	X	0	143	9	16
Court of Criminal Appeals.	X	0	X	X	0	N/A	3	6
Court of Appeals	X	0	X	X	X	721	12	12
PENNSYLVANIA--Supreme Court.	X	0	X	0	0	N/A	7	N/A
Superior Court	X	0	X	X	X	N/A	15	N/A
Commonwealth Court	0	X	X	X	X	N/A	9	39
TENNESSEE--Supreme Court ...	X	0	X	X	some	184	5	9
Court of Appeals	X	0	X	X	some	887	12	12
Court of Criminal Appeals.	X	0	X	X	some	690	9	9
TEXAS--Supreme Court	0	X	X	0	0	93	9	44
Court of Criminal Appeals.	X	0	X	0	0	214	9	42
Courts of Appeals	X	0	X	0	0	4,831	80	217

CODES:

X = Court follows this method when counting opinions
0 = Court does not follow this method when counting opinions

TABLE 7: Reported National Civil and Criminal Caseload for State Trial Courts, 1987

Reported Caseload	Filed	Disposed
Civil cases:		
I. General jurisdiction courts:		
A. Number of reported complete cases	3,623,539	2,822,876
Number of courts reporting complete civil data	29	27
Number of states with general jurisdiction courts reporting complete data	24	22
Percent of the total population of states with general jurisdiction courts reporting complete civil data	43%	40%
B. Number of reported complete civil cases that include other casetypes	2,515,495	1,790,930
Number of courts reporting complete civil data that include other casetypes	16	12
Number of states with general jurisdiction courts reporting complete civil data that include other casetypes	16	12
Percent of the total population of states with general jurisdiction courts reporting complete civil data that include other casetypes	32%	26%
C. Number of reported cases that are either incomplete or incomplete and include noncivil casetypes	1,907,007	2,746,720
Number of courts reporting cases that are incomplete or incomplete and include noncivil casetypes	10	15
Number of states with general jurisdiction courts reporting cases that are incomplete or incomplete and include noncivil casetypes	10	15
Percent of the total population of states with general jurisdiction courts reporting cases that are incomplete or incomplete and include noncivil casetypes	24%	31%
II. Limited jurisdiction courts:		
A. Number of reported complete cases	6,727,220	5,275,290
Number of courts reporting complete civil data	55	47
Number of states with limited jurisdiction courts reporting complete data	29	26
Percent of the total population of states with limited jurisdiction courts reporting complete civil data	58%	43%
B. Number of reported complete civil cases that include other casetypes	356,260	367,199
Number of courts reporting complete civil data that include other casetypes	3	3
Number of states with limited jurisdiction courts reporting complete civil data that include other casetypes	3	3
Percent of the total population of states with limited jurisdiction courts reporting complete civil data that include other casetypes	6%	6%

(continued on next page)

TABLE 7: Reported national civil and criminal caseload for state trial courts, 1987. (continued)

Reported Caseload	Filed	Disposed
C. Number of reported cases that are either incomplete or incomplete and include noncivil casetypes	897,618	845,448
Number of courts reporting cases that are incomplete or incomplete and include noncivil casetypes	14	15
Number of states with limited jurisdiction courts reporting cases that are incomplete or incomplete and include noncivil casetypes	9	11
Percent of the total population of states with limited jurisdiction courts reporting cases that are incomplete or incomplete and include noncivil casetypes	17%	28%
Criminal cases:		
I. General jurisdiction courts:		
A. Number of reported complete cases	1,237,605	830,696
Number of courts reporting complete data	17	16
Number of states with general jurisdiction courts reporting complete data	17	16
Percent of the total population of states with general jurisdiction courts reporting complete criminal data	48%	45%
B. Number of reported complete criminal cases that include other casetypes	632,304	598,890
Number of courts reporting complete criminal data that include other casetypes	16	16
Number of states with general jurisdiction courts reporting complete criminal data that include other casetypes	16	16
Percent of the total population of states with general jurisdiction courts reporting complete criminal data that include other casetypes	18%	18%
C. Number of reported cases that are either incomplete or incomplete and include noncriminal casetypes	1,272,729	1,196,835
Number of courts reporting either incomplete data or incomplete data that include noncriminal casetypes	18	20
Number of states with general jurisdiction courts reporting either incomplete criminal data or incomplete data that include noncriminal casetypes	18	20
Percent of the total population of states with general jurisdiction courts reporting either incomplete criminal data or incomplete data that include noncriminal casetypes	33%	34%
II. Limited jurisdiction courts:		
A. Number of reported complete cases	1,867,487	1,112,295
Number of courts reporting complete data	10	8
Number of states with limited jurisdiction courts reporting complete data	8	6
Percent of the total population of states with limited jurisdiction courts reporting complete criminal data	10%	8%
B. Number of reported complete criminal cases that include other casetypes	1,341,788	1,248,745
Number of courts reporting complete criminal data that include other casetypes	10	10
Number of states with limited jurisdiction courts reporting complete criminal data that include other casetypes	9	9
Percent of the total population of states with limited jurisdiction courts reporting complete criminal data that include other casetypes	16%	16%

(continued on next page)

TABLE 7: Reported national civil and criminal caseload for state trial courts, 1987. (continued)

Reported Caseload	Filed	Disposed
C. Number of reported cases that are either incomplete or incomplete and include noncriminal casetypes	4,919,855	4,622,203
Number of courts reporting either incomplete data or incomplete data that include noncriminal casetypes	38	34
Number of states with limited jurisdiction courts reporting either incomplete criminal data or incomplete data that include noncriminal casetypes	27	26
Percent of the total population of states with limited jurisdiction courts reporting either incomplete criminal data or incomplete data that include noncriminal casetypes	52%	53%

Summary section for all trial courts:

	Reported filings					
	General Jurisdiction		Limited Jurisdiction		Total (incomplete)	
	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal
1. Total number of reported complete cases	3,623,539	1,237,605	6,727,220	1,867,487	10,350,759	3,105,092
2. Total number of reported complete cases that include other casetypes	2,515,495	632,304	356,260	1,341,788	2,871,755	1,974,092
3. Total number of reported cases that are either incomplete, or incomplete and include other casetypes	1,907,007	1,272,729	897,618	4,919,855	2,804,625	6,192,584
Total (incomplete)	8,046,041	3,142,638	7,981,098	8,129,130	16,027,139	11,271,768

TABLE 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1987

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Parking	Criminal unit of count	Support/ custody	Grand total filings and qualifying footnotes	Grand total dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Disposi-tions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
ALABAMA--STATE TOTAL .								
Circuit Court	G	2	G	6	143,213 C	132,894 C	93	3,508
District Court	L	1	B	1	572,100 C	537,518 C	94	14,012
Probate Court	L	2	I	1	N/A	N/A		
Municipal Court	L	1	M	1	N/A	N/A		
ALASKA--STATE TOTAL ..					155,629 *	146,494 *	94	29,644
Superior Court	G	1	B	6	19,605 O	18,505 O	94	3,734
District Court	L	3	B	5	136,024	127,989	94	25,909
ARIZONA--STATE TOTAL .					1,800,047 *	1,658,042 *	92	53,161
Superior Court	G	2	D	6	135,963	128,645	95	4,015
Justice of the Peace Court	L	1	Z	1	641,559 K	605,948 K	94	18,947
Municipal Court	L	1	Z	1	1,022,525 1	923,449 1	90	30,199
ARKANSAS--STATE TOTAL								
Chancery and Probate Court	G	2	I	3	53,426	51,575	97	2,237
Circuit Court	G	2	A	1	68,648	66,726	97	2,875
City Court	L	1	A	1	23,602 1	13,817 1	59	988
County Court	L	2	I	1	12,780 1	10,717 1	84	535
Court of Common Pleas	L	2	I	1	N/A	N/A		
Municipal Court	L	1	A	1	458,030 1	325,905 1	71	19,180
Police Court	L	1	A	1	N/A	N/A		
CALIFORNIA--STATE TOTAL					18,782,143 *	15,156,647 *	81	67,896
Superior Court	G	2	B	6	873,158	699,932	80	3,156
Justice Court	L	3	B	1	612,993 C	504,554 C	82	2,216
Municipal Court	L	3	B	1	17,295,992 C	13,952,162 C	81	62,524
COLORADO--STATE TOTAL								
District, Denver Juvenile & Probate Court	G	2	D	3	136,550 C	132,292 C	97	4,143
Water Court	G	2	I	1	1,381	1,786	129	42
County Court	L	2	D	1	366,749 1	351,081 1	96	11,127
Municipal Court	L	1	I	1	N/A	N/A		
CONNECTICUT--STATE TOTAL					679,858 *			21,173
Superior Court	G	1	E	3	626,203 O	576,910 O		19,502
Probate Court	L	2	I	1	53,655	N/A		1,671

(continued on next page)

TABLE 8: Reported grand total state trial court caseload, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Parking	Criminal unit of count	Support/ custody	Grand total filings and qualifying footnotes	Grand total dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Disposi-tions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
DELAWARE--STATE TOTAL					329,568 *	321,863 *	98	51,175
Court of Chancery ..	G	2	I	1	3,352	2,734	82	521
Superior Court	G	2	B	1	9,029 E	8,315 E	92	1,402
Alderman's Court ...	L	4	A	1	22,452	22,009	98	3,486
Court of Common Pleas	L	2	A	1	26,331 1	25,652 1	97	4,089
Family Court	L	2	B	3	34,925 1	32,892 1	94	5,423
Justice of the Peace Court	L	2	A	1	201,251	198,275	99	31,250
Municipal Court of Wilmington	L	4	A	1	32,228 K	31,986 K	99	5,004
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA--								
Superior Court	G	3	B	6**	219,138	221,395	101	35,231
FLORIDA--STATE TOTAL .					4,751,310	4,169,006	88	39,519
Circuit Court	G	2	E	4	699,915	603,356	86	5,821
County Court	L	1	A	1	4,051,395	3,565,650	88	33,697
GEORGIA--STATE TOTAL .								
Juvenile Court	G	2	I	1	28,072 V	18,153 V	65	
Superior Court	G	2	G	3	214,658 C	212,084 C	99	3,450
Civil Court	L	2	M	1	N/A	N/A		
County Recorder's Court	L	1	M	1	N/A	N/A		
Magistrate Court ...	L	2	B	1	288,785 1	240,360 1	83	4,641
Municipal Court	L	2	M	1	N/A	N/A		
Municipal Court and City of Atlanta ...	L	1	M	1	N/A	N/A		
Probate Court	L	2	B	1	103,318 V	74,476 V		
State Court	L	2	G	1	N/A	N/A		
HAWAII--STATE TOTAL ..					928,130 *	850,856 *	92	85,700
Circuit Court	G	2	G	6	47,185 C	44,733 C	95	4,357
District Court	L	4	A	1	880,945	806,123	92	81,343
IDAHO--District Court	G	3	D	6	344,973 O	344,083 O	100	34,566
ILLINOIS--Circuit Court	G	4	G	6	7,069,209 C	5,219,129 C	74	61,036

(continued on next page)

TABLE 8: Reported grand total state trial court caseload, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Parking	Criminal unit of count	Support/ custody	Grand total filings and qualifying footnotes	Grand total dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Disposi-tions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
INDIANA--STATE TOTAL .					1,248,539 •	1,221,189 •	98	22,573
Superior & Circuit Court	G	3	B	4	522,944 M	494,567 M	95	9,455
County Court	L	4	B	1	251,856	247,767	98	4,554
Municipal Court of Marion County	L	3	B	1	213,693	214,494	100	3,864
Probate Court	L	2	I	1	3,360	2,844	85	61
City and Town Court	L	3	B	1	194,066	199,677	103	3,509
Small Claims Court of Marion County	L	2	I	1	62,620	61,840	99	1,132
IOWA--District Court .	G	3	B	6	922,729 E	899,097 O		32,559
KANSAS--STATE TOTAL ..								
District Court	G	2	B	6	421,021	420,004	100	17,004
Municipal Court	L	1	I		N/A	N/A		
KENTUCKY--STATE TOTAL					672,503 •	641,297 •	95	18,044
Circuit Court	G	2	B	6	64,527 O	63,324 O	98	1,731
District Court	L	3	B	1	607,976 O	577,973 O	95	16,313
LOUISIANA--STATE TOTAL								
District Court	G	2	Z	6	484,554 E	N/A		10,862
Family & Juvenile Court	G	2	I	4***	26,841	N/A		602
City and Parish Court	L	1	B	1	639,436	522,820	82	14,334
Justice of the Peace Court	L	1	I	1	N/A	N/A		
Mayor's Court	L	1	I	1	N/A	N/A		
MAINE--STATE TOTAL ...								
Superior Court	G	2	B	6	17,884 C	17,522 C	98	1,507
Administrative Court	L	2	I	1	341	309	91	29
District Court	L	4	B	5	293,896 C	277,520 C	94	24,760
Probate Court	L	2	I	1	N/A	N/A		
MARYLAND--STATE TOTAL								
Circuit Court	G	2	B	4	193,555 C	161,086 C	83	4,268
District Court	L	2	B	1	1,686,155 N	984,065 V		37,181
Orphan's Court	L	2	I	1	N/A	N/A		

(continued on next page)

TABLE 8: Reported grand total state trial court caseload, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Parking	Criminal unit of count	Support/ custody	Grand total filings and qualifying footnotes		Grand total dispositions and qualifying footnotes		Disposi-tions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
MASSACHUSETTS--STATE TOTAL					2,147,351	•	1,611,177	•		36,676
Trial Court of the Commonwealth:										
Superior Court Department	G	1	D	4	28,303		33,719		119	483
Housing, District, Probate/Family Court, Boston Municipal Court Departments	G	1	D	4	2,119,048	1	1,577,458	V		36,192
MICHIGAN--STATE TOTAL					3,481,399	•	3,423,930	*		37,841
Circuit Court	G	2	B	4	220,106		230,030		105	2,392
Court of Claims	G	2	I	1	818		1,012		124	9
District Court	L	4	B	1	3,102,052		3,084,343		99	33,718
Municipal Court	L	4	B	1	42,376		43,607		103	461
Probate Court	L	2	I	1	116,047	1	64,938	V		1,261
MINNESOTA--District Court	G	4	B	6	1,955,547		1,918,533		98	46,056
MISSOURI--Circuit Court	G	3	Z	6	835,039	O	794,848	O	95	16,364
MONTANA--STATE TOTAL										
District Court	G	2	G	3	31,517		27,790		88	3,896
City Court	L	1	B	1	N/A		N/A			
Justice of the Peace Court	L	1	B	1	N/A		N/A			
Municipal Court	L	1	B	1	N/A		N/A			
NEBRASKA--STATE TOTAL					431,788	*				27,088
District Court	G	2	B	5	41,434	E	42,711	E	103	2,599
County Court	L	1	B	1	387,699	K	388,425	K	100	24,322
Separate Juvenile Court	L	2	I	1	2,269		N/A			142
Workers' Compensation Court	L	2	I	1	386		329		85	24
NEVADA--STATE TOTAL										
District Court	G	2	Z	2	N/A		N/A			
Justice Court	L	1	Z	1	N/A		N/A			
Municipal Court	L	1	Z	1	N/A		N/A			

(continued on next page)

TABLE 8: Reported grand total state trial court caseload, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Parking	Criminal unit of count	Support/ custody	Grand total filings and qualifying footnotes	Grand total dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Disposi-tions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
NEW HAMPSHIRE--STATE TOTAL					416,641 *			39,417
Superior Court	G	2	A	5	27,152 1	26,076		2,569
District Court	L	4	A	1	365,419 K	N/A		34,571
Municipal Court	L	4	A	1	7,671 K	N/A		726
Probate Court	L	2	I	1	16,399	N/A		1,551
NEW JERSEY--STATE TOTAL								
Superior Court	G	2	B	6**	798,492	791,412	99	10,408
Municipal Court	L	4	B	1	5,785,076	5,128,305	89	75,405
Surrogates' Court	L	2	I	1	N/A	N/A		
Tax Court	L	2	I	1	4,619	4,687	101	60
NEW MEXICO--STATE TOTAL								
District Court	G	2	E	3	68,656	65,518	95	4,577
Magistrate Court	L	3	E	1	117,279 C	100,998		7,819
Probate Court	L	2	I	1	N/A	N/A		
Municipal Court	L	1	I	1	N/A	N/A		
Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County	L	4	E	1	437,133 K	285,374 1		29,142
NEW YORK--STATE TOTAL								
Supreme and County Court	G	2	E	1	305,443 O	246,867 O	81	1,714
Court of Claims	L	2	I	1	2,072	2,090	101	12
District and City Court	L	4	E	1	1,645,233	1,614,405	98	9,230
Family Court	L	2	I	4	439,130	430,797	98	2,464
Surrogates' Court	L	2	I	1	108,637	59,359 V		610
Town and Village Court	L	1	E	1	N/A	N/A		
Civil Court of the City of New York	L	2	I	1	251,981	248,588	99	1,414
Criminal Court of the City of New York	L	4	E	1	380,853 1	360,172 1	95	2,137
NORTH CAROLINA--STATE TOTAL					2,030,961 *	1,948,102 *	96	31,669
Superior Court	G	2	B	1	181,457	170,687	94	2,830
District Court	L	3	C	3	1,849,504 K	1,777,415 K	96	28,840
NORTH DAKOTA--STATE TOTAL						163,502 •		
District Court	G	4	B	3	25,831 C	25,167 C	97	3,844
County Court	L	1	E	1	91,282 K	90,939 K	100	13,584
Municipal Court	L	1	B	1	N/A	47,396 V		

(continued on next page)

TABLE 8: *Reported grand total state trial court caseload, 1987.* (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Parking	Criminal unit of count	Support/ custody	Grand total filings and qualifying footnotes	Grand total dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Disposi-tions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
OHIO--STATE TOTAL								
Court of Common Pleas	G	2	B	4	617,380 E	609,011 E	99	5,725
County Court	L	2	B	1	293,724	292,082	99	2,724
Court of Claims	L	2	I	1	4,513	4,355	96	42
Mayors' Court	L	1	M	1	N/A	N/A		
Municipal Court	L	2	B	1	2,271,242	2,269,705	100	21,061
OKLAHOMA--STATE TOTAL								
District Court	G	2	J	6	506,265 1	458,069 1	90	15,473
Court of Tax Review	L	2	I	1	N/A	N/A		
Municipal Criminal Court of Record ...	L	1	I	1	N/A	N/A		
Municipal Court Not of Record	L	1	I	1	N/A	N/A		
OREGON--STATE TOTAL ..								
Circuit Court	G	2	E	6	120,537 E	93,524 O		4,425
Tax Court	G	2	I	1	N/A	N/A		
County Court	L	2	I	1	N/A	N/A		
District Court	L	1	E	1	465,170 K	481,405 K	103	17,077
Justice Court	L	3	E	1	N/A	N/A		
Municipal Court	L	3	A	1	N/A	N/A		
PENNSYLVANIA--STATE TOTAL					4,128,203 •			34,586
Court of Common Pleas	G	2	B	4	418,507 1	404,520 1	97	3,506
District Justice Court	L	4	B	1	2,015,663	1,811,218	90	16,887
Philadelphia Municipal Court	L	2	B	1	171,783 C	171,886 C	100	1,439
Philadelphia Traffic Court	L	1	I	1	1,117,420	342,134	31	9,362
Pittsburgh City Magistrates	L	4	B	1	404,830 1	N/A		3,392
PUERTO RICO--TOTAL ...								
Superior Court	G	2	A	6	102,051 O	100,282 O	98	3,117
District Court	L	2	A	1	164,601 C	162,024 C	98	5,028
Municipal Court	L	1	I	1	N/A	N/A		
RHODE ISLAND--STATE TOTAL								
Superior Court	G	2	D	1	13,549 E	13,410 E	99	1,374
District Court	L	2	A	1	68,862 1	63,211 1	92	6,984
Family Court	L	2	I	6	14,177 1	9,920 V		1,438
Municipal Court	L	1	I	1	N/A	N/A		
Probate Court	L	2	I	1	N/A	N/A		

(continued on next page)

TABLE 8: Reported grand total state trial court caseload, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Parking	Criminal unit of count	Support/ custody	Grand total filings and qualifying footnotes	Grand total dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Disposi-tions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
SOUTH CAROLINA--STATE TOTAL					1,262,666 *	1,270,989 *	101	36,866
Circuit Court	G	2	B	1	105,502 E	105,740 E	100	3,080
Family Court	L	2	I	6	71,260	69,854	98	2,081
Magistrate Court	L	4	B	1	690,000 K	701,451 K	102	20,146
Municipal Court	L	4	B	1	376,049 K	374,643 K	100	10,980
Probate Court	L	2	I	1	19,855	19,301	97	580
SOUTH DAKOTA--Circuit Court	G	3	B	4	219,969	210,084 1		31,025
TENNESSEE--STATE TOTAL								
Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery Court	G	2	Z	6	158,863 O	140,675 O	89	3,272
General Sessions Court	L	1	M	6	3,145 V	2,524 V	80	
Probate Court	L	2	I	1	N/A	N/A		
Juvenile Court	L	2	I	1	N/A	N/A		
Municipal Court	L	1	M	1	N/A	N/A		
TEXAS--STATE TOTAL					10,328,658 *	8,552,781 *	83	60,751
District Court	G	2	B	3	591,580	587,994	99	3,524
County-Level Court	L	2	B	4	664,945	668,182	100	3,961
Justice of the Peace Court	L	4	A	1	2,325,122 1	1,943,614 1	84	13,849
Municipal Court	L	4	A	1	6,747,011 1	5,352,991 1	79	40,187
UTAH--STATE TOTAL					796,268 *	706,119 *	89	47,397
District Court	G	2	J	3	33,863 C	48,744 C	144	2,016
Circuit Court	L	4	B	1	408,897 E	319,553 E	78	18,189
Justice of the Peace Court	L	4	B	1	305,580	289,441	95	18,189
Juvenile Court	L	2	I	1	47,928	48,381	101	2,853
VERMONT--STATE TOTAL					174,090	176,007	101	31,768
District Court	G	2	D	4***	158,663	161,115	102	28,953
Superior Court	G	2	I	5	10,302	10,291	100	1,880
Probate Court	L	2	I	1	5,125	4,601	90	935
VIRGINIA--STATE TOTAL					2,967,202	2,944,460	99	50,257
Circuit Court	G	2	A	3	164,853	150,541	91	2,792
District Court	L	4	A	4	2,802,349	2,793,919	100	47,465

(continued on next page)

TABLE 8: Reported grand total state trial court caseload, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Parking	Criminal unit of count	Support/ custody	Grand total filings and qualifying footnotes		Grand total dispositions and qualifying footnotes		Disposi-tions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
WASHINGTON--STATE										
TOTAL					2,038,770	*	1,804,861	*		44,927
Superior Court	G	2	G	6	174,862	E	150,038	E	86	3,853
District Court	L	4	C	1	786,474	K	774,849	K	99	17,331
Municipal Court	L	4	C	1	1,077,434		879,974	1		23,742
WEST VIRGINIA--STATE										
TOTAL										
Circuit Court	G	2	J	5	51,186	E	55,433	E	108	2,698
Magistrate Court ...	L	2	J	1	296,842	K	286,663	K	97	15,648
Municipal Court	L	1	A	1	N/A		N/A			
WISCONSIN--STATE TOTAL							1,326,838	*		
Circuit Court	G	3	D	3	1,086,587	1	1,074,813	1	99	22,604
Municipal Court	L	3	A	1	N/A		252,025	1		
WYOMING--STATE TOTAL .										
District Court	G	2	J	5	10,319	E	10,619	E	103	2,106
County Court	L	1	J	4	109,981	1	109,471	1	100	22,445
Justice of the Peace Court	L	1	J	1	N/A		N/A			
Municipal Court	L	1	A	1	59,681	1	60,173	1	101	12,180

NOTE: The trial courts of Mississippi are not included in this table, as neither grand total caseload nor court jurisdiction information is available for 1987. All other state trial courts with grand total jurisdiction are listed in the table, regardless of whether caseload data are available. Blank spaces in the table indicate that a particular calculation, such as the total state caseload, is not appropriate. State total "filings per 100,000 population" may not equal the sum of the filing rates for the individual courts due to rounding.

N/A = Data are not available.

JURISDICTION CODES:

G = General Jurisdiction
L = Limited Jurisdiction

SUPPORT/CUSTODY CODES:

1 = The court does not have jurisdiction over support/custody cases
2 = Support/custody caseload data are not available
3 = Only contested support/custody cases and all URESA cases (where the court has jurisdiction) are counted separately from marriage dissolution cases
4 = Both contested and uncontested support/custody cases and URESA cases (where the court has jurisdiction) are counted separately from marriage dissolution cases
5 = Support/custody is counted as a proceeding of the marriage dissolution and thus a marriage dissolution that involves support/custody is counted as one case
6 = Support/custody is counted as a proceeding of the marriage dissolution but URESA cases are counted separately

** = Nondissolution support/custody cases are also counted separately
*** = Court has only URESA jurisdiction

PARKING CODES:

1 = Parking data are unavailable
2 = Court does not have parking jurisdiction
3 = Only contested parking cases are included
4 = Both contested and uncontested parking cases are included
5 = Parking cases are handled administratively
6 = Uncontested parking cases are handled administratively; contested parking cases are handled by the court

CRIMINAL UNIT OF COUNT CODES:

M = Missing Data
I = Data element is inapplicable
A = Single defendant--single charge
B = Single defendant--single incident (one/more charges)
C = Single defendant--single incident/maximum number charges (usually two)
D = Single defendant--one/more incidents
E = Single defendant--content varies with prosecutor
F = One/more defendants--single charge

(continued on next page)

TABLE 8: Reported grand total state trial court caseload, 1987. (continued)

G = One/more defendants--single incident (one/more charges)
H = One/more defendants--single incident/maximum number charges (usually two)
J = One/more defendants--one/more incidents
K = One/more defendants--content varies with prosecutor
L = Inconsistent during reporting year
Z = Both the defendant and charge components vary within the state

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

The absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that data are complete.

*See the qualifying footnote for each court within the state. Each footnote has an impact on the state's total.

C: The following courts' data are overinclusive:
Alabama--Circuit Court--Grand total filed and disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings, and preliminary hearings.
--District Court--Grand total filed and disposed data include preliminary hearings.
California--Justice Court--Grand total filed and disposed data include preliminary hearing bindovers and transfers.
--Municipal Court--Grand total filed and disposed data include preliminary hearing bindovers and transfers.
Colorado--District, Denver Juvenile, Denver Probate Court--Grand total filed and disposed data include extraditions, revocations, parole, and release from commitment hearings.
Georgia--Superior Court--Grand total filed and disposed data include probation revocation hearings.
Hawaii--Circuit Court--Grand total filed and disposed data include criminal postconviction remedy proceedings.
Illinois--Circuit Court--Grand total filed and disposed data include preliminary hearing proceedings.
Maine--Superior Court--Grand total filed and disposed data include postconviction remedy and sentence review only proceedings.
--District Court--Grand total filed and disposed data include preliminary hearings.
Maryland--Circuit Court--Grand total filed and disposed data include some post-conviction remedy proceedings.
New Mexico--Magistrate Court--Grand total filed data include preliminary hearings.
North Dakota--District Court--Grand total filed and disposed data include sentence review only and postconviction remedy proceedings.
Pennsylvania--Philadelphia Municipal Court--Grand total filed and disposed data include preliminary hearing proceedings.
Puerto Rico--District Court--Grand total filed and disposed data include transfers and reopened cases.
Utah--District Court--Grand total filed and disposed data include postconviction remedy and sentence review only proceedings.

(continued on next page)

TABLE 8: Reported grand total state trial court caseload, 1987. (continued)

E: The following courts' data include postconviction remedy proceedings:
Delaware--Superior Court
Iowa--District Court (filed data)
Louisiana--District Court (filed data)
Nebraska--District Court
Ohio--Court of Common Pleas
Oregon--Circuit Court (filed data)
Rhode Island--Superior Court
South Carolina--Circuit Court
Utah--Circuit Court
Washington--Superior Court
West Virginia--Circuit Court
Wyoming--District Court

1: The following courts' data are at least 75% complete:
Arizona--Municipal Court--Grand total filed and disposed data do not include partial data from one municipality.
Arkansas--City Court--Grand total filed and disposed data do not include cases from several courts which did not report.
--County Court--Grand total filed and disposed data do not include real property rights and miscellaneous civil cases and data from several counties which did not report.
--Municipal Court--Grand total filed and disposed data do not include cases from several municipalities which did not report.
Colorado--County Court--Grand total filed and disposed data do not include limited felony cases and are missing civil data from Denver County.
Delaware--Court of Common Pleas--Grand total filed and disposed data do not include some limited felony cases.
--Family Court--Grand total filed and disposed data do not include status petitions and child-victim petitions.
Georgia--Magistrate Court--Grand total filed and disposed data do not include cases from 11 counties, and include only partial data from 15 counties.
Massachusetts--Trial Court of the Commonwealth (Housing, District, Probate/Family, Boston Municipal Departments)--Grand total filed data do not include parking cases from the District Court Department.
Michigan--Probate Court--Grand total filed data do not include status petitions.
New Hampshire--Superior Court--Grand total filed data do not include some criminal appeals cases.
New Mexico--Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County--Grand total disposed data do not include limited felony and some miscellaneous traffic cases.
New York--Criminal Court of the City of New York--Grand total filed and disposed data do not include moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic, and some ordinance violation cases.
Oklahoma--District Court--Grand total filed and disposed data do not include any juvenile cases.
Pennsylvania--Court of Common Pleas--Grand total filed data do not include some civil cases and postconviction criminal appeals.
--Pittsburgh City Magistrates Court--Grand total filed data do not include limited felony and DWI/DUI cases.
Rhode Island--District Court--Grand total filed and disposed data do not include administrative agency appeals, mental health, and limited felony cases.
--Family Court--Grand total filed data do not include paternity/bastardy cases.
South Dakota--Circuit Court--Grand total disposed data do not include adoption, miscellaneous domestic relations, estate, mental health, administrative agency appeals, and juvenile data.
Texas--Justice of the Peace Court--Grand total filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of 79%.
--Municipal Court--Grand total filed and disposed data do not include limited felony cases and represent a reporting rate of 79%.
Washington--Municipal Court--Grand total disposed data do not include some ordinance violation cases.
Wisconsin--Circuit Court--Grand total filed and disposed data do not include cases from Milwaukee County.
--Municipal Court--Grand total disposed data do not include cases from 41 courts which did not report.
Wyoming--County Court--Grand total filed and disposed data do not include appeals of trial court cases, felony and criminal appeals cases.
--Municipal Court--Grand total filed and disposed data do not include partial data from two municipalities.

(continued on next page)

TABLE 8: Reported grand total state trial court caseload, 1987. (continued)

K: The following courts' data do not include limited felony cases:
Arizona--Justice of the Peace Court
Delaware--Municipal Court of Wilmington
Nebraska--County Court
New Hampshire--District Court--Municipal Court
New Mexico--Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County (filed data)
North Carolina--District Court
North Dakota--County Court
Oregon--District Court
South Carolina--Magistrate Court--Municipal Court
Washington--District Court
West Virginia--Magistrate Court

M: The following court's data do not include criminal appeals cases:
Indiana--Superior and Circuit Court

N: The following court's data do not include ordinance violation cases:
Maryland--District Court (filed data)

O: The following courts' data are incomplete and overinclusive:
Alaska--Superior Court--Grand total filed and disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings, but do not include criminal appeals cases.
Connecticut--Superior Court--Grand total filed data include postconviction remedy proceedings, but do not include mental health cases, and child-victim petitions. Grand total disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings, but do not include mental health, some miscellaneous domestic relations, most small claims cases, and all child-victim petitions.
Idaho--District Court--Grand total filed and disposed data include postconviction remedy and sentence review only proceedings, but do not include parking cases.
Illinois--Circuit Court--Grand total filed and disposed data include some preliminary hearings, but do not include parking cases from anywhere but Cook County.
Iowa--District Court--Grand total disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings, but do not include juvenile cases and a few domestic relations cases.
Kentucky--Circuit Court--Grand total filed and disposed data include sentence review only and postconviction remedy proceedings, but represent only 10 months of data.
--District Court--Grand total filed and disposed data include sentence review only proceedings, but do not include limited felony cases.
Missouri--Circuit Court--Grand total filed and disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings, but do not include some ordinance violation and some parking cases.
New York--Supreme and County Court--Grand total filed and disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings, but do not include civil appeals and criminal appeals cases.
Oregon--Circuit Court--Grand total disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings, but do not include adoption, mental health, and some juvenile cases.
Puerto Rico--Superior Court--Grand total filed and disposed data include transfers and reopened cases, but do not include URESA cases.
Tennessee--Circuit, Criminal and Chancery Court--Grand total filed data include postconviction remedy proceedings, but do not include traffic/other violation cases. Grand total disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings, but do not include DWI/DUI and traffic/other violation cases.

V: The following courts' data are less than 75% complete:
Georgia--Juvenile Court--Grand total filed and disposed data do not include data from 58 counties.
--Probate Court--Grand total filed data do not include most misdemeanor cases and do not represent all counties. Grand total disposed data do not include any civil cases, most misdemeanor cases, and do not represent all counties.
Maryland--District Court--Grand total disposed data do not include civil and ordinance violation cases.

(continued on next page)

TABLE 8: Reported grand total state trial court caseload, 1987. (continued)

Massachusetts--Trial Court of the Commonwealth (Housing, District, Probate/Family, Boston Municipal Court Departments)--Grand total disposed data do not include civil cases from the Housing Court Department, miscellaneous civil data from the Probate/Family Court Department, criminal cases from the Boston Municipal, Housing and District Court Departments, moving traffic cases from the Boston Municipal Court Department, parking, ordinance violation and miscellaneous traffic cases, and juvenile data from the Juvenile Court Department.

Michigan--Probate Court--Grand total disposed data do not include paternity/bastardy, miscellaneous domestic relations, mental health, miscellaneous civil, traffic and juvenile cases.

New York--Surrogates' Court--Grand total disposed data do not include miscellaneous estate cases.

North Dakota--Municipal Court--Grand total disposed data do not include ordinance violation and parking cases.

Rhode Island--Family Court--Grand total disposed data do not include most marriage dissolution cases and all paternity/bastardy cases.

Tennessee--General Sessions Court--Grand total filed and disposed data are missing all but domestic relations cases, and represent only 16 of 94 courts.

TABLE 9: Reported Total State Trial Court Civil Caseload, 1987

State/Court name:	Support/ custody code	Juris- diction	Total civil filings and qualifying footnotes		Total civil dispositions and qualifying footnotes		Dispo- sitions as a per- centage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
ALABAMA--STATE TOTAL								
Circuit Court	6**	G	84,329	O	80,891	O	96	2,065
District Court	1	L	159,638		149,613		94	3,910
Probate Court	1	L	N/A		N/A			
ALASKA--STATE TOTAL			39,352	•	33,024	•	84	7,496
Superior Court	6**	G	15,168	E	14,644	E	97	2,889
District Court	5	L	24,184		18,380		76	4,606
ARIZONA--STATE TOTAL			221,632	•	207,926	•	94	6,546
Superior Court	6	G	101,148		95,480		94	2,987
Justice of the Peace Court	1	L	118,878		110,840		93	3,511
Municipal Court	1	L	1,606	1	1,606	1	100	47
ARKANSAS--STATE TOTAL								
Chancery and Probate Court	3**	G	53,426		51,575		97	2,237
Circuit Court	1	G	36,401		36,104		99	1,524
City Court	1	L	64	1	48	1	75	3
County Court	1	L	4,314	1	2,466	1	57	181
Court of Common Pleas ..	1	L	N/A		N/A			
Municipal Court	1	L	33,617	1	21,660	1	64	1,408
Police Court	1	L	N/A		N/A			
CALIFORNIA--STATE TOTAL ..			1,789,532		1,346,724		75	6,469
Superior Court	6	G	674,912		514,244		76	2,440
Justice Court	1	L	40,407		29,804		74	146
Municipal Court	1	L	1,074,213		802,676		75	3,883
COLORADO--STATE TOTAL			217,646	•	211,513	•	97	6,603
District, Denver Juvenile and Probate Court	3	G	104,614		101,744		97	3,174
Water Court	1	G	1,381		1,786		129	42
County Court	1	L	111,651	1	107,983	1	97	3,387
CONNECTICUT--STATE TOTAL .			203,506	•				6,338
Superior Court	5**	G	149,851	O	85,929	X		4,667
Probate Court	1	L	53,655		N/A			1,671
DELAWARE--STATE TOTAL			65,921		61,814		94	10,236
Court of Chancery	1	G	3,352		2,734		82	521
Superior Court	1	G	4,565		3,584		79	709
Alderman's Court	1	L	0		0			
Court of Common Pleas ..	1	L	4,918		5,271		107	764
Family Court	3**	L	24,362		22,896		94	3,783
Justice of the Peace Court	1	L	28,724		27,329		95	4,460
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA--								
Superior Court	6**	G	143,590		145,058		101	23,085
FLORIDA--STATE TOTAL			806,082		718,315		89	6,704
Circuit Court	4	G	444,952		390,616		88	3,701
County Court	1	L	361,130		327,699		91	3,004

(continued on next page)

TABLE 9: Reported total state trial court civil caseload, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Support/ custody code	Juris- diction	Total civil filings and qualifying footnotes	Total civil dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispo- sitions as a per- centage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
GEORGIA--STATE TOTAL						
Superior Court	3	G	144,081 C	144,390 C	100	2,316
Civil Court	1	L	N/A	N/A		
Magistrate Court	1	L	249,161 1	216,861 1	87	4,005
Municipal Court	1	L	N/A	N/A		
Probate Court	1	L	23,029 1	N/A		370
State Court	1	L	N/A	N/A		
HAWAII--STATE TOTAL			48,707 *	45,233 *	93	4,497
Circuit Court	6	G	26,031 C	24,831 C	95	2,404
District Court	1	L	22,676	20,402	90	2,094
IDAHO--District Court	6**	G	57,605	58,673	102	5,772
ILLINOIS--Circuit Court ..	6**	G	532,279 C	511,653 C	96	4,596
INDIANA--STATE TOTAL			407,970	408,869	100	7,376
Superior and Circuit Court	5	G	249,380	253,988	102	4,509
City and Town Court	1	L	16,370	17,487	107	296
County Court	1	L	66,751	62,839	94	1,207
Municipal Court of Marion County	1	L	11,493	11,844	103	208
Probate Court	1	L	2,203	1,725	78	40
Small Claims Court of Marion County	1	L	61,773	60,986	99	1,117
IOWA--District Court	6	G	170,471 E	173,666 0		6,015
KANSAS--District Court ...	6**	G	140,586	139,574	99	5,678
KENTUCKY--STATE TOTAL			187,195 *	173,377 *	93	5,023
Circuit Court	6	G	52,752 0	51,813 0	98	1,415
District Court	1	L	134,443 1	121,564 1	90	3,607
LOUISIANA--STATE TOTAL ...						
District Court	6	G	181,554 E	N/A		4,070
Family and Juvenile Court	4***	G	N/A	N/A		
City and Parish Court ..	1	L	73,928	53,132	72	1,657
Justice of the Peace Court	1	L	N/A	N/A		
MAINE--STATE TOTAL						
Superior Court	6	G	5,981	6,047	101	504
Administrative Court ...	1	L	341	309	91	29
District Court	5	L	54,712	52,223	95	4,609
Probate Court	1	L	N/A	N/A		

(continued on next page)

TABLE 9: Reported total state trial court civil caseload, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Support/ custody code	Juris- diction	Total civil filings and qualifying footnotes	Total civil dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispo- sitions as a per- centage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
MARYLAND--STATE TOTAL						
Circuit Court	6**	G	106,193	84,894	80	2,342
District Court	1	L	619,451	N/A		13,659
Orphan's Court	1	L	N/A	N/A		
MASSACHUSETTS--Trial Court of the Commonwealth	5**	G	493,006	462,890 1		8,420
MICHIGAN--STATE TOTAL			647,043	609,862 *		7,033
Circuit Court	6**	G	170,541	182,572	107	1,854
Court of Claims	1	G	818	1,012	124	9
District Court	1	L	383,268	380,986	99	4,166
Municipal Court	1	L	992	1,271	128	11
Probate Court	1	L	91,424	44,021 V		994
MINNESOTA--District Court	6	G	231,244	232,681	101	5,446
MISSOURI--Circuit Court ..	6**	G	248,190 E	239,881 D		4,864
MONTANA--STATE TOTAL						
District Court	3	G	26,816 1	22,672 1	85	3,315
City Court	1	L	N/A	N/A		
Justice of the Peace Court	1	L	N/A	N/A		
Municipal Court	1	L	N/A	N/A		
NEBRASKA--STATE TOTAL			91,053 *	91,521 *	101	5,712
District Court	5	G	36,536 1	37,598 1	103	2,292
County Court	1	L	54,131	53,594	99	3,396
Workers' Compensation Court	1	L	386	329	85	33
NEVADA--STATE TOTAL						
District Court	2	G	N/A	N/A		
Justice Court	1	L	N/A	N/A		
Municipal Court	1	L	N/A	N/A		
NEW HAMPSHIRE--STATE TOTAL			81,548			7,715
Superior Court	5	G	19,201	18,507	96	1,817
District Court	1	L	45,470	N/A		4,302
Municipal Court	1	L	478	N/A		45
Probate Court	1	L	16,399	N/A		1,551
NEW JERSEY--STATE TOTAL ..						
Superior Court	6**	G	638,975 1	636,795 1	100	8,329
Surrogates' Court	1	L	N/A	N/A		
Tax Court	1	L	4,619	4,687	101	60

(continued on next page)

TABLE 9: Reported total state trial court civil caseload, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Support/ custody code	Juris- diction	Total civil filings and qualifying footnotes	Total civil dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispo- sitions as a per- centage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
NEW MEXICO--STATE TOTAL ..						
District Court	6**	G	51,013	48,489	95	3,401
Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County	1	L	8,408	10,470	125	561
Magistrate Court	1	L	13,326	11,140	84	888
Probate Court	1	L	N/A	N/A		
NEW YORK--STATE TOTAL						
Supreme and County Court	5	G	242,503 O	184,237 O	76	1,360
Civil Court of the City of New York.....	1	L	251,981	248,588	99	1,414
Court of Claims	1	L	2,072	2,090	101	12
District and City Court	1	L	134,618	119,332	89	755
Family Court	4	L	390,636	380,572	97	2,192
Surrogates' Court	1	L	108,637	59,359 V		610
Town and Village Court .	1	L	N/A	N/A		
NORTH CAROLINA--STATE TOTAL			462,909	441,103	95	7,218
Superior Court	1	G	97,979	89,551	91	1,528
District Court	6**	L	364,930	351,552	96	5,690
NORTH DAKOTA--STATE TOTAL			32,036	30,235	94	4,767
District Court	6**	G	15,382	14,733	96	2,289
County Court	1	L	16,654	15,502	93	2,478
OHIO--STATE TOTAL			728,543 •	709,809 •	97	6,756
Court of Common Pleas ..	6**	G	337,637 E	331,990 E	98	3,131
County Court	1	L	23,604	23,217	98	219
Court of Claims	1	L	4,513	4,355	96	42
Municipal Court	1	L	362,789	350,247	97	3,364
OKLAHOMA--STATE TOTAL						
District Court	6	G	222,754	201,691	91	6,808
Court of Tax Review	1	L	N/A	N/A		
OREGON--STATE TOTAL						
Circuit Court	6**	G	76,636 C	70,845 O		2,813
Tax Court	1	G	N/A	N/A		
County Court	1	L	N/A	N/A		
District Court	1	L	73,666	69,384	94	2,704
Justice Court	1	L	N/A	N/A		
PENNSYLVANIA--STATE TOTAL			577,182 *	551,414 •	96	4,836
Court of Common Pleas ..	4	G	262,333 1	253,406 1	97	2,198
District Justice Court .	1	L	203,752	194,843	96	1,707
Philadelphia Municipal Court	1	L	105,251 C	103,165 C	98	882
Pittsburgh City Magistrates	1	L	5,846	N/A		49

(continued on next page)

TABLE 9: Reported total state trial court civil caseload, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Support/ custody code	Juris- diction	Total civil filings and qualifying footnotes		Total civil dispositions and qualifying footnotes		Dispo- sitions as a per- centage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
PUERTO RICO--TOTAL			112,032	•	109,952	•	98	3,422
Superior Court	6	G	65,146	O	63,935	O	98	1,990
District Court	1	L	46,886	C	46,017	C	98	1,432
RHODE ISLAND--STATE TOTAL								
Superior Court	1	G	8,405	E	8,199	E	98	852
District Court	1	L	33,954	1	31,455	1	93	3,444
Family Court	6	L	7,418	1	3,422	V		752
Probate Court	1	L	N/A		N/A			
SOUTH CAROLINA--STATE TOTAL			257,606	•	260,278	•	101	7,521
Circuit Court	1	G	54,917	C	55,460	C	101	1,603
Family Court	6**	L	58,634		57,195		98	1,712
Magistrate Court	1	L	124,200		128,322		103	3,626
Probate Court	1	L	19,855		19,301		97	580
SOUTH DAKOTA--Circuit Court	4	G	40,948		35,075	1		5,775
TENNESSEE--STATE TOTAL ...								
Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery Court	6**	G	111,102	C	99,852	C	90	2,288
General Sessions Court .	6**	L	3,145	V	2,524	V	80	
Juvenile Court	1	L	N/A		N/A			
Probate Court	1	L	N/A		N/A			
TEXAS--STATE TOTAL			918,818	•	873,533	•	95	5,473
District Court	6**	G	442,052	C	439,517	C	99	2,633
County-Level Court	6**	L	197,414	C	217,723	C	110	1,176
Justice of the Peace ...	1	L	278,890	1	215,831	1	77	1,661
Municipal Court	1	L	462	1	462	1	100	3
UTAH--STATE TOTAL			129,928	•	92,153	•	71	7,734
District Court	3	G	29,543	E	40,412	E	137	1,759
Circuit Court	1	L	97,053		48,423		50	5,777
Justice of the Peace Court	1	L	3,332		3,318		100	198
VERMONT--STATE TOTAL			33,380		32,934		99	6,091
District Court	4***	G	18,038		18,073		100	3,292
Superior Court	5	G	10,217		10,260		100	1,864
Probate Court	1	L	5,125		4,601		90	935
VIRGINIA--STATE TOTAL			971,498		960,907		99	16,455
Circuit Court	3	G	87,020		78,012		90	1,474
District Court	4	L	884,478		882,895		100	14,981
WASHINGTON--STATE TOTAL ..			231,638	•	195,451	*	84	5,104
Superior Court	6	G	129,842	E	110,788	E	85	2,861
District Court	1	L	101,196		83,511		83	2,230
Municipal Court	1	L	600		576		96	13

(continued on next page)

TABLE 9: Reported total state trial court civil caseload, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Support/ custody code	Juris- diction	Total civil filings and qualifying footnotes	Total civil dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispo- sitions as a per- centage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
WEST VIRGINIA--STATE TOTAL			87,633	90,152	103	4,620
Circuit Court	5	G	37,292	41,194	110	1,966
Magistrate Court	1	L	50,341	48,958	97	2,654
WISCONSIN--Circuit Court .	6**	G	347,766 0	347,087 0	100	7,235
WYOMING--STATE TOTAL						
District Court	5	G	7,587 C	9,194 C		1,548
County Court	4	L	15,864 1	16,186 1	102	3,238
Justice of the Peace Court	1	L	N/A	N/A		

NOTE: The trial courts of Mississippi are not included in this table as neither civil caseload nor court jurisdiction information is available for 1987. All other state trial courts with civil jurisdiction are listed in the table regardless of whether caseload data are available. Blank spaces in the table indicate that a particular calculation, such as the total state caseload, is not appropriate. State total "filings per 100,000 population" may not equal the sum of the filing rates for the individual courts due to rounding.

JURISDICTION CODES:

G = General Jurisdiction
L = Limited Jurisdiction

Support/Custody Codes:
1 = The court does not have jurisdiction over support/custody cases
2 = Support/custody caseload data are not available
3 = Only contested support/custody cases and all URESA cases (where the court has jurisdiction) are counted separately from marriage dissolution cases
4 = Both contested and uncontested support/custody cases and URESA cases (where the court has jurisdiction) are counted separately from marriage dissolution cases
5 = Support/custody is counted as a proceeding of the marriage dissolution and thus a marriage dissolution that involves support/custody is counted as one case
6 = Support/custody is counted as a proceeding of the marriage dissolution but URESA cases are counted separately

**Nondisolution support/custody are also counted separately

***Court has only URESA jurisdiction

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

The absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that data are complete.

*See the qualifying footnote for each court within the state. Each footnote has an impact on the state's total.

C: The following courts' data are overinclusive:
Georgia--Superior Court--Total civil filed and disposed data include probation revocation hearings.
Hawaii--Circuit Court--Total civil filed and disposed data include criminal postconviction remedy proceedings and some criminal and traffic/other violation cases.
Illinois--Circuit Court--Total civil filed and disposed data include miscellaneous criminal cases.
Oregon--Circuit Court--Total civil filed data include criminal appeals cases and postconviction remedy proceedings.
Pennsylvania--Philadelphia Municipal Court--Total civil filed and disposed data include some ordinance violation cases.
Puerto Rico--District Court--Total civil filed and disposed data include transfers and reopened cases.
South Carolina--Circuit Court--Total civil filed and disposed data include criminal appeals and postconviction remedy proceedings.

(continued on next page)

TABLE 9: Reported total state trial court civil caseload, 1987. (continued)

Tennessee--Circuit, Criminal and Chancery Court--Total civil filed and disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings and miscellaneous criminal cases.
Texas--District Court--Total civil filed and disposed data include some juvenile cases.
--County-Level Courts--Total civil filed and disposed data include child-victim petition cases.
Wyoming--District Court--Total civil filed data include criminal appeals cases and postconviction remedy proceedings. Total civil disposed data include criminal appeals, juvenile, cases and postconviction remedy proceedings.

E: The following courts' data include postconviction remedy proceedings:
Alaska--Superior Court--Total civil filed and disposed data include postcoviction remedy proceedings.
Iowa--District Court--Total civil filed and disposed data include miscellaneous criminal cases.
Louisiana--District Court--Total civil filed data include postconviction remedy proceedings.
Missouri--Circuit Court--Total civil filed data include postconviction remedy proceedings.
Ohio--Court of Common Pleas
Rhode Island--Superior Court
Utah--District Court
Washington--Superior Court--Total civil filed and disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings.

1: The following courts' data are at least 75% complete:
Arizona--Municipal Court--Total civil filed and disposed data do not include partial data from one municipality.
Arkansas--City Court--Total civil filed and disposed data do not include cases from several cities.
--County Court--Total civil filed and disposed data do not include real property rights and miscellaneous civil cases and data from several counties.
--Municipal Court--Total civil filed and disposed data do not include data from 14 municipalities, and partial data from 14 others.
Colorado--County Court--Total civil filed and disposed data do not include cases from Denver County.
Georgia--Magistrate Court--Total civil filed and disposed data do not include any cases from 11 counties, and partial data from 15 counties.
--Probate Court--Total civil filed data do not include cases from several counties.

(continued on next page)

TABLE 9: Reported total state trial court civil caseload, 1987. (continued)

Kentucky--District Court--Total civil filed and disposed data do not include paternity/bastardy cases.
Massachusetts--Trial Court of the Commonwealth--Total civil disposed data do not include real property rights and small claims cases from the Housing Court Department and miscellaneous civil cases from the Probate/Family Court Department.
Montana--District Court--Total civil filed and disposed data do not include some appeals of trial court cases.
Nebraska--District Court--Total civil filed and disposed data do not include civil appeals.
New Jersey--Superior Court--Total civil filed and disposed data do not include a few domestic relations cases.
Pennsylvania--Court of Common Pleas--Total civil data do not include some unclassified civil cases.
Rhode Island--District Court--Total civil filed and disposed data do not include administrative agency appeals and mental health cases.
--Family Court--Total civil filed data do not include paternity/bastardy and adoption cases.
South Dakota--Circuit Court--Total civil disposed data do not include adoption, miscellaneous domestic relations, estate, mental health, and administrative agency appeals cases.
Texas--Justice of the Peace Court--Total civil filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of 79%.
--Municipal Court--Total civil filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of 79%.
Wyoming--County Court--Total civil filed and disposed data do not include appeals of trial court cases.

O: The following courts' data are incomplete and overinclusive:
Alabama--Circuit Court--Total civil filed and disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings, but do not include URESA cases.
Connecticut--Superior Court--Total civil filed data include postconviction remedy proceedings, but do not include mental health cases.
Iowa--District Court--Total civil disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings, but do not include a few domestic relations cases.
Kentucky--Circuit Court--Total civil filed and disposed data include some postconviction remedy proceedings, but represent only 10 months of CY 87.
Missouri--Circuit Court--Total civil disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings, but do not include adoption and miscellaneous domestic relations cases.
New York--Supreme and County Court--Total civil filed and disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings, but do not include civil appeals cases.
Oregon--Circuit Court--Total civil disposed data include criminal appeals and postconviction remedy proceedings, but do not include adoption and mental health cases.
Puerto Rico--Superior Court--Total civil filed and disposed data include transfers and reopened cases, but do not include URESA cases.
Wisconsin--Circuit Court--Total civil filed and disposed data include criminal appeals cases, but do not include data from Milwaukee County.

V: The following courts' data are less than 75% complete:
Michigan--Probate Court--Total civil disposed data do not include paternity/bastardy, miscellaneous domestic relations, mental health, and miscellaneous civil cases.
New York--Surrogates' Court--Total civil disposed data do not include miscellaneous estate cases.
Rhode Island--Family Court--Total civil disposed data do not include most marriage dissolution cases and all adoption cases.
Tennessee--General Sessions Court--Total civil filed and disposed data include only domestic relations cases for 16 of 94 courts.

X: The following court's data are less than 75% complete and overinclusive:
Connecticut--Superior Court--Total civil disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings, but do not include mental health, some miscellaneous domestic relations, and most small claims cases.

TABLE 10: Reported Total State Trial Court Criminal Caseload, 1987

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Unit of count	Point of filing	Total criminal filings and qualifying footnotes		Total criminal dispositions and qualifying footnotes		Dispo-sitions as a percen-tage of filings	Filings per 100,000 adult popula-tion
ALABAMA--STATE TOTAL									
Circuit Court	G	G	A	34,125	E	32,262	E	95	1,151
District Court	L	B	B	113,023	C	106,504	C	94	3,811
Municipal Court	L	M	B	N/A		N/A			
ALASKA--STATE TOTAL				30,444	*	27,985	*	92	8,624
Superior Court	G	B	A	2,661	M	2,389	M	90	754
District Court	L	B	B	27,783	C	25,596	C	92	7,871
ARIZONA--STATE TOTAL				298,742	*	253,736	*	85	12,110
Superior Court	G	D	A	24,237		22,245		92	982
Justice of the Peace Court	L	Z	B	66,274	K	56,400	K	85	2,686
Municipal Court	L	Z	B	208,231	1	175,091	1	84	8,441
ARKANSAS--STATE TOTAL									
Circuit Court	G	A	A	32,247		30,622		95	1,853
City Court	L	A	B	5,989	0	4,787	0	80	344
Municipal Court	L	A	B	132,315	0	99,404	0	75	7,604
Police Court	L	A	B	N/A		N/A			
CALIFORNIA--STATE TOTAL				1,040,241	*	871,199	*	84	5,109
Superior Court	G	B	A	108,329		102,160		94	532
Justice Court	L	B	B	62,820	0	51,015	0	81	309
Municipal Court	L	B	B	869,092	0	718,024	0	83	4,268
COLORADO--STATE TOTAL				57,370	*	57,327	*	100	2,368
District, Denver Juvenile and Probate Court	G	D	B	17,104	C	17,478	C	102	706
County Court	L	D	B	40,266	1	39,849	1	99	1,662
CONNECTICUT--Superior Court	G	E	A	159,617	0	151,864	0	95	6,504
DELAWARE--STATE TOTAL				87,359	*	86,527	*	99	18,124
Superior Court	G	B	A	4,464	E	4,731	E	106	926
Alderman's Court	L	A	B	3,611	F	3,547	F	98	749
Court of Common Pleas	L	A	B	21,413	1	20,381	1	95	4,443
Family Court	L	B	B	3,498		3,282		94	726
Justice of the Peace Court	L	A	B	40,688	1	40,367	1	99	8,441
Municipal Court of Wilmington	L	A	B	13,685	0	14,219	0	104	2,839
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA--Superior Court	G	B	G	41,608	L	42,377	L	102	8,561
FLORIDA--STATE TOTAL				556,540		484,676		87	5,972
Circuit Court	G	E	A	160,786		149,030		93	1,725
County Court	L	A	B	395,754		335,646		85	4,247

(continued on next page)

TABLE 10: Reported total state trial court criminal caseload, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Unit of count	Point of filing	Total criminal filings and qualifying footnotes		Total criminal dispositions and qualifying footnotes		Dispo-sitions as a percen-tage of filings	Filings per 100,000 adult popula-tion
GEORGIA--STATE TOTAL									
Superior Court	G	G	A	70,577	C	67,694	C	96	1,573
Civil Court	L	M	M	N/A		N/A			
County Recorder's Court	L	M	M	N/A		N/A			
Magistrate Court	L	B	B	N/A		N/A			
Municipal Court	L	M	M	N/A		N/A			
Municipal Court and City of Atlanta	L	M	M	N/A		N/A			
Probate Court	L	B	A	2,506	V	2,373	V	95	
State Court	L	G	A	N/A		N/A			
HAWAII--STATE TOTAL				35,401	•	33,186	•	94	4,442
Circuit Court	G	G	B	3,845	1	2,923	1	76	482
District Court	L	A	C	31,556	1	30,263	1	96	3,959
IDAHO--District Court	G	D	F	60,536	C	59,663	C	99	8,748
ILLINOIS--Circuit Court	G	G	A	478,096	O	496,077	O	104	5,594
INDIANA--STATE TOTAL				228,540	•	208,197	*		5,628
Superior and Circuit Court	G	B	A	77,581	M	68,776	M	89	1,910
City and Town Court	L	B	F	35,856	C	37,461	C	104	883
County Court	L	B	F	53,977		50,916		94	1,329
Municipal Court of Marion County	L	B	F	60,279		50,190		83	1,484
Small Claims Court of Marion County	L	I	I	847		854		101	21
IOWA--District Court	G	B	A	45,115	1	43,321	1	96	2,146
KANSAS--District Court	G	B	C	36,301		37,549		103	1,988
KENTUCKY--STATE TOTAL				162,591	•	156,892	•	96	5,954
Circuit Court	G	B	A	11,775	O	11,511	O	98	431
District Court	L	B	F	150,816	O	145,381	O	96	5,522
LOUISIANA--STATE TOTAL				204,852	•				
District Court	G	Z	A	72,523	L	N/A			2,305
City and Parish Court	L	B	F	132,329	X	113,709	X	86	
MAINE--STATE TOTAL				42,680	•	38,111	*	89	
Superior Court	G	B	A	8,978	O	8,553	O	95	1,016
District Court	L	B	F	33,702	V	29,558	V	88	
MARYLAND--STATE TOTAL				240,980	•	187,883	•		7,067
Circuit Court	G	B	A	54,980	C	44,698	C	81	1,612
District Court	L	B	A	186,000		143,185	L		5,455

(continued on next page)

TABLE 10: Reported total state trial court criminal caseload, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Unit of count	Point of filing	Total criminal filings and qualifying footnotes		Total criminal dispositions and qualifying footnotes		Dispo-sitions as a percen-tage of filings	Filings per 100,000 adult popula-tion
MASSACHUSETTS--STATE TOTAL				334,230		9,219	*		7,396
Trial Court of the Commonwealth: Superior Court Dept.	G	D	A	6,790		6,069		89	150
Trial Court of the Commonwealth: Housing, District, Boston Municipal and Juvenile Court Dept.	G	D	B	327,440		3,150	V		7,246
MICHIGAN--STATE TOTAL				294,160	*	280,899	*	95	4,364
Circuit Court	G	B	A	49,565		47,458		96	735
District Court	L	B	B	242,626	0	231,382	0	95	3,600
Municipal Court	L	B	B	1,969	0	2,059	0	105	29
MINNESOTA--District Court	G	B	B	167,616	0	159,111	0	95	5,347
MISSOURI--Circuit Court	G	B	A	113,543		103,469		91	2,993
MONTANA--STATE TOTAL									
District Court	G	G	A	3,282	C	3,916	C	119	561
City Court	L	B	B	N/A		N/A			
Justice of the Peace Court	L	B	B	N/A		N/A			
Municipal Court	L	B	B	N/A		N/A			
NEBRASKA--STATE TOTAL				66,999	*	65,791	*	98	5,726
District Court	G	B	A	4,898	C	5,113	C	104	419
County Court	L	B	F	62,101	0	60,678	0	98	5,308
NEVADA--STATE TOTAL									
District Court	G	Z	A	N/A		N/A			
Justice Court	L	Z	B	N/A		N/A			
Municipal Court	L	Z	B	N/A		N/A			
NEW HAMPSHIRE--STATE TOTAL				52,935	*				6,644
Superior Court	G	A	A	7,951	1	7,569			1,005
District Court	L	A	B	43,718	K	N/A			5,527
Municipal Court	L	A	B	1,266	K	N/A			160
NEW JERSEY--STATE TOTAL				394,675		369,080		94	6,757
Superior Court	G	B	A	44,272		41,724		94	758
Municipal Court	L	B	B	350,403		327,356		93	5,999
NEW MEXICO--STATE TOTAL				127,281	*	101,299	*	80	12,076
District Court	G	E	A	9,906		9,246		93	940
Magistrate Court	L	E	B	50,657	C	43,822	C	87	4,806
Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County	L	E	B	66,718	0	48,231	0	72	6,330

(continued on next page)

TABLE 10: Reported total state trial court criminal caseload, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Unit of count	Point of filing	Total criminal filings and qualifying footnotes		Total criminal dispositions and qualifying footnotes		Dispo-sitions as a percen-tage of filings	Filings per 100,000 adult popula-tion
NEW YORK--STATE TOTAL									
Supreme and County Court	G	E	A	62,940	M	62,630	M	100	468
Criminal Court of the City of New York	L	E	D	278,670		260,256		93	2,070
District and City Court	L	E	D	217,509	F	201,967	F	93	1,615
Town and Village Justice Court	L	E	B	N/A		N/A			
NORTH CAROLINA--STATE TOTAL				570,027	*	556,253	*	98	11,910
Superior Court	G	B	A	83,478		81,136		97	1,744
District Court	L	C	G	486,549	O	475,117	O	98	10,166
NORTH DAKOTA--STATE TOTAL									
District Court	G	B	A	1,554	C	1,413	C	91	320
County Court	L	E	F	15,652	K	16,483	K	105	3,227
Municipal Court	L	B	B	N/A		N/A			
OHIO--STATE TOTAL									
Court of Common Pleas	G	B	C	39,376		38,994		99	495
County Court	L	B	E	38,905	F	38,509	F	99	490
Mayor's Court	L	M	M	N/A		N/A			
Municipal Court	L	B	E	369,386	F	381,655	F	103	4,648
OKLAHOMA--District Court	G	J	A	71,890	F	64,111	F	89	3,022
OREGON--STATE TOTAL									
Circuit Court	G	E	G	24,591	M	22,679	M	92	1,207
District Court	L	E	G	71,508	K	65,952	K	92	3,509
Justice Court	L	E	B	N/A		N/A			
Municipal Court	L	A	B	N/A		N/A			
PENNSYLVANIA--STATE TOTAL				597,623	*				6,578
Court of Common Pleas	G	B	A	106,972	1	104,688	1	98	1,177
District Justice Court	L	B	B	439,011	F	370,603	F	84	4,832
Philadelphia Municipal Court	L	B	B	39,973	O	42,052	O	105	440
Pittsburgh City Magistrates	L	B	B	11,667	O	N/A			128
PUERTO RICO--TOTAL				73,002	*	72,072	*	99	
Superior Court	G	A	B	30,352	C	29,946	C	99	
District Court	L	A	B	42,650	O	42,126	O	99	
RHODE ISLAND--STATE TOTAL				40,052	*	36,967	*	92	5,291
Superior Court	G	D	A	5,144		5,211		101	680
District Court	L	D	B	34,908	O	31,756	O	91	4,611
SOUTH CAROLINA--STATE TOTAL				244,835	*				9,856
Circuit Court	G	B	A	50,585	M	50,280	M	99	2,036
Magistrate Court	L	B	E	124,200	X	123,424	X	99	
Municipal Court	L	B	E	70,050	K	N/A			2,820

(continued on next page)

TABLE 10: Reported total state trial court criminal caseload, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Unit of count	Point of filing	Total criminal filings and qualifying footnotes		Total criminal dispositions and qualifying footnotes		Dispo-sitions as a percen-tage of filings	Filings per 100,000 adult popula-tion
SOUTH DAKOTA--Circuit Court	G	B	B	36,403		18,833	V		7,096
TENNESSEE--STATE TOTAL									
Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery Court	G	Z	A	47,761	1	40,823	1		1,325
General Sessions Court	L	M	M	N/A		N/A			
Municipal Court	L	M	M	N/A		N/A			
TEXAS--STATE TOTAL				1,655,686	•	1,246,184	*		14,025
District Court	G	B	A	137,355		134,885		98	1,164
County-Level Court	L	B	F	448,463		378,341	1		3,799
Justice of the Peace Court	L	A	B	592,157	1	396,100	1	67	5,016
Municipal Court	L	A	B	477,711	1	336,858	1	71	4,047
UTAH--STATE TOTAL				106,996	•	107,420	*	100	10,180
District Court	G	J	A	4,320	C	8,332	C	193	411
Circuit Court	L	B	A	56,629	O	60,007	O	106	5,388
Justice of the Peace Court	L	B	B	46,047	C	39,081	C	85	4,381
VERMONT--STATE TOTAL				21,361	•	20,154	•	94	5,248
District Court	G	D	C	21,276	F	20,123	F	95	5,228
Superior Court	G	I	I	85		31		36	21
VIRGINIA--STATE TOTAL				488,598	•	486,137	*	99	10,992
Circuit Court	G	A	A	77,833	F	72,529	F	93	1,751
District Court	L	A	E	410,765	L	413,608	L	101	9,241
WASHINGTON--STATE TOTAL				219,772	*	187,415	*	85	6,523
Superior Court	G	G	A	22,348		19,398		87	663
District Court	L	C	B	107,828	K	84,222	K	78	3,201
Municipal Court	L	C	B	89,596		83,795		94	2,659
WEST VIRGINIA--STATE TOTAL									
Circuit Court	G	J	A	7,497	E	7,770	E	104	533
Magistrate Court	L	J	E	137,449	K	129,801	K	94	9,769
Municipal Court	L	A	B	N/A		N/A			
WISCONSIN--STATE TOTAL									
Circuit Court	G	D	C	68,777	1	64,536	1	94	1,944
Municipal Court	L	A	B	N/A		N/A			
WYOMING--STATE TOTAL									
District Court	G	J	A	1,353	M	1,425	M	105	396
County Court	L	J	B	8,281	1	N/A			2,421
Justice of the Peace Court	L	J	B	N/A		N/A			
Municipal Court	L	A	B	1,798	V	N/A			

(continued on next page)

TABLE 10: Reported total state trial court criminal caseload, 1987. (continued)

F: The following courts' data include ordinance violation cases:
Delaware--Alderman's Court
New York--District and City Court
Ohio--County Court--Municipal Court
Oklahoma--District Court
Pennsylvania--District Justice Court
Vermont--District Court
Virginia--Circuit Court

I: The following courts' data are at least 75% complete:
Arizona--Municipal Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data are missing partial data from one municipality.
Colorado--County Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data do not include limited felony and DWI/DUI cases.
Delaware--Court of Common Pleas--Total criminal filed and disposed data do not include some limited felony cases.
--Justice of the Peace Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data do not include most DWI/DUI cases.
Hawaii--Circuit Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data do not include reopened prior cases.
--District Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data do not include some criminal cases that could not be separated from ordinance violation cases.
Iowa--District Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data do not include some misdemeanor cases.
New Hampshire--Superior Court--Total criminal filed data do not include some criminal appeals cases.
Pennsylvania--Court of Common Pleas--Total criminal filed and disposed data do not include some criminal appeals cases.
Tennessee--Circuit, Criminal and Chancery Court--Total criminal filed data do not include miscellaneous criminal cases. Total criminal disposed data do not include miscellaneous criminal and DWI/DUI cases.
Texas--County-Level Courts--Total criminal disposed data do not include some criminal appeals cases.
--Justice of the Peace Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of 79%.
--Municipal Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data do not include limited felony cases and represent a 79% reporting rate.
Wisconsin--Circuit Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data do not include DWI/DUI data from Milwaukee County, or any criminal appeals cases.
Wyoming--County Court--Total criminal filed data do not include felony and criminal appeals cases.

K: The following courts' data do not include limited felony cases:
Arizona--Justice of the Peace Court
New Hampshire--District Court (filed data)--Municipal Court (filed data)
North Dakota--County Court
Oregon--District Court
South Carolina----Municipal Court (filed data)
Washington--District Court
West Virginia--Magistrate Court

L: The following courts' data do not include DWI/DUI cases:
District of Columbia--Superior Court
Louisiana--District Court--This figure is estimated by the State Court Administrator's Office on the basis that 75% of criminal cases reported (290,092) are traffic cases.
Maryland--District Court (disposed data)
Virginia--District Court

M: The following courts' data do not include criminal appeals cases:
Alaska--Superior Court
Indiana--Superior Court and Circuit Court
New York--Supreme and County Court
Oregon--Circuit Court
South Carolina--Circuit Court
Wyoming--District Court

O: The following courts' data are incomplete and overinclusive:
Arkansas--City Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases, but do not include data from all courts.
--Municipal Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases, but do not include cases from several municipalities.
California--Justice Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include preliminary hearing bindovers and transfers, and ordinance violation cases, but do not include DWI/DUI cases.
--Municipal Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include some ordinance violation cases and preliminary hearing bindovers and transfers, but do not include DWI/DUI cases.
Connecticut--Superior Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases, but do not include DWI/DUI cases.
Delaware--Municipal Court of Wilmington--Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases, but do not include limited felony and most DWI/DUI cases.

(continued on next page)

TABLE 10: Reported total state trial court criminal caseload, 1987. (continued)

NOTE: The trial courts of Mississippi are not included in this table, as neither criminal caseload nor court jurisdiction information is available for 1987. All other state trial courts with criminal jurisdiction are listed in the table regardless of whether caseload data are available. Blank spaces in the table indicate that a particular calculation, such as the total state caseload, is not appropriate. State total "filings per 100,000 population" may not equal the sum of the filing rates for the individual courts due to rounding.

N/A = Data are not available.

JURISDICTION CODES:

G = General Jurisdiction
L = Limited Jurisdiction

UNIT OF COUNT CODES:

M = Missing Data
I = Data element is inapplicable
A = Single defendant--single charge
B = Single defendant--single incident (one/more charges)
C = Single defendant--single incident/maximum number charges (usually two)
D = Single defendant--one/more incidents
E = Single defendant--content varies with prosecutor
F = One/more defendants--single charge
G = One/more defendants--single incident (one/more charges)
H = One/more defendants--single incident/maximum number charges (usually two)
J = One/more defendants--one/more incidents
K = One/more defendants--content varies with prosecutor
L = Inconsistent during reporting year
Z = Both the defendant and charge components vary within the state

POINT OF FILING CODES:

M = Missing Data
I = Data element is inapplicable
A = At the filing of the information/indictment
B = At the filing of the complaint
C = When defendant enters plea/initial appearance
D = When docketed
E = At issuing of warrant
F = At filing of information/complaint
G = Varies (at filing of the complaint, information, indictment)

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

The absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that data are complete.

*See the qualifying footnote for each court within the state. Each footnote has an impact on the state's total.

C: The following courts' data are overinclusive:
Alabama--District Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include preliminary hearing proceedings.
Alaska--District Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include some moving traffic cases and all ordinance violation cases.
Colorado--District, Denver Juvenile, and Denver Probate Courts--Total criminal filed and disposed data include extraditions, revocations, parole, and release from commitment hearings.
Georgia--Superior Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include traffic/other violation cases.
Idaho--District Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violations, postconviction remedy and sentence review only proceedings.
Indiana--City and Town Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include some ordinance violation cases.
Maryland--Circuit Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include some postconviction remedy proceedings.
Montana--District Court--Total criminal filed data include appeals of trial court cases.
Nebraska--District Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include civil appeals cases and postconviction remedy proceedings.
New Mexico--Magistrate Court--Total criminal filed data include preliminary hearing proceedings.
North Dakota--District Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include sentence review only and postconviction remedy proceedings.
Puerto Rico--Superior Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include transfers and reopened cases.
Utah--District Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include postconviction remedy and all sentence review only proceedings.
--Justice of the Peace Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include some moving traffic violation cases.

E: The following courts' data include postconviction remedy proceedings:
Alabama--Circuit Court
Delaware--Superior Court
West Virginia--Circuit Court

(continued on next page)

TABLE 10: Reported total state trial court criminal caseload, 1987. (continued)

Illinois--Circuit Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include some preliminary hearings and some ordinance violation cases, but do not include DWI/DUI and miscellaneous criminal cases.
Kentucky--Circuit Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include sentence review only and some postconviction remedy proceedings, and represent only 10 months of data.
--District Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases and sentence review only proceedings, but do not include limited felony cases.
Maine--Superior Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases, postconviction remedy and sentence review only proceedings, but do not include DWI/DUI some criminal appeals cases.
Michigan--District Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases, but do not include DWI/DUI cases.
--Municipal Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases, but do not include DWI/DUI cases.
Minnesota--District Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases, but do not include some DWI/DUI cases.
Nebraska--County Court--Total criminal data include ordinance violations, but do not include limited felony cases.
New Mexico--Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County--Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases, but do not include limited felony cases.
North Carolina--District Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violations, but do not include limited felony cases.
Pennsylvania--Pittsburgh City Magistrates--Total criminal filed data include ordinance violation cases, but do not include limited felony and limited DWI/DUI cases.
--Philadelphia Municipal Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include preliminary hearing proceedings, but do not include some misdemeanor cases.
Puerto Rico--District Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases, but do not include DWI/DUI cases.
Rhode Island--District Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include moving traffic violation and ordinance violation cases, but do not include limited felony cases.
Utah--Circuit Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings, but do not include some miscellaneous criminal cases.

V: The following courts' data are less than 75% complete:
Georgia--Probate Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data do not include DWI/DUI and most misdemeanor cases, and represent only 51 of 95 counties.
Maine--District Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data do not include DWI/DUI and some misdemeanor cases.
Massachusetts--Trial Court of the Commonwealth (Housing, District, Boston Municipal, and Juvenile Court Departments) --Total criminal disposed data do not include felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, miscellaneous criminal, and some criminal appeals cases.
South Dakota--Circuit Court--Total criminal disposed data do not include some misdemeanor cases.
Wyoming--Municipal Court--Total criminal filed data do not include misdemeanors and are missing partial data from two municipalities.

X: The following courts' data are less than 75% complete and overinclusive:
Louisiana--City and Parish Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases, but do not include DWI/DUI cases.
South Carolina--Magistrate Court--Total criminal filed and disposed data include miscellaneous juvenile cases, but do not include felony and DWI/DUI cases. (Filed data were estimated using percentages provided by the AOC).

TABLE 11: Reported Total State Trial Court Traffic/Other Violation Caseload, 1987

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Parking	Total traffic filings and qualifying footnotes		Total traffic dispositions and qualifying footnotes		Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
ALABAMA--STATE TOTAL								
District Court	L	1	266,652		250,622		94	6,531
Municipal Court	L	1	N/A		N/A			
ALASKA--District Court	L	3	83,949	1	83,949	1	100	15,990
ARIZONA--STATE TOTAL			1,269,095	*	1,185,460	*	93	37,481
Justice of the Peace Court	L	1	456,407		438,708		96	13,479
Municipal Court	L	1	812,688	1	746,752	1	92	24,001
ARKANSAS--STATE TOTAL								
City Court	L	1	17,549	1	8,982	1	51	735
Municipal Court	L	1	292,098	1	204,841	1	70	12,232
Police Court	L	1	N/A		N/A			
CALIFORNIA--STATE TOTAL			15,862,453	*	12,855,196	*	81	57,342
Justice Court	L	3	509,766	0	423,735	0	83	1,843
Municipal Court	L	3	15,352,687	0	12,431,461	0	81	55,499
COLORADO--STATE TOTAL								
County Court	L	2	214,832	G	203,249	G	95	6,518
Municipal Court	L	1	N/A		N/A			
CONNECTICUT--Superior Court	G	5	305,787	0	328,445	0	107	9,523
DELAWARE--STATE TOTAL			169,663	*	167,263	*	99	26,345
Alderman's Court	L	4	18,841	N	18,462	N	98	2,926
Family Court	L	2	440		455		103	68
Justice of the Peace Court	L	2	131,839	C	130,579	C	99	20,472
Municipal Court of Wilmington	L	5	18,543	0	17,767	0	96	2,879
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA--Superior Court	G	6	21,594	G	21,624	G	100	3,472
FLORIDA--County Court	L	5	3,294,511		2,902,305		88	27,402
GEORGIA--STATE TOTAL								
Juvenile Court	G	2	4,864	V	3,482	V	72	
Superior Court	G	2	N/A		N/A			
County Recorder's Court	L	1	N/A		N/A			
Magistrate Court	L	2	39,624	1	23,499	1	59	637
Municipal Court and City of Atlanta	L	1	N/A		N/A			
Probate Court	L	2	77,783	X	72,103	X	93	
State Court	L	2	N/A		N/A			

(continued on next page)

TABLE 11: Reported total state trial court traffic/other violation caseload, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Park-ing	Total traffic filings and qualifying footnotes		Total traffic dispositions and qualifying footnotes		Dispo-sitions as a percen-tage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
HAWAII--STATE TOTAL			827,057	•	755,701	•	91	76,367
Circuit Court	G	2	344	1	243	1	71	32
District Court	L	4	826,713	C	755,458	C	91	76,335
IDAHO--District Court	G	3	220,280	V	219,292	V	100	
ILLINOIS--Circuit Court	G	4	6,027,756	O	4,186,216	O	69	51,974
INDIANA--STATE TOTAL			582,066	*	574,231	•	99	10,524
Superior and Circuit Court	G	3	167,177		143,030		86	3,023
City and Town Court	L	3	141,840	1	144,729	1	102	2,564
County Court	L	4	131,128		134,012		102	2,371
Municipal Court of Marion County	L	3	141,921		152,460		107	2,566
IOWA--District Court	G	3	701,101	C	682,110	C	97	24,739
KANSAS--STATE TOTAL								
District Court	G	4	230,713	1	230,066	1	100	9,318
Municipal Court	L	1	N/A		N/A			
KENTUCKY--District Court	L	3	285,959	N	277,536	N	97	7,673
LOUISIANA--STATE TOTAL								
District Court	G	1	217,569	G	N/A			4,877
City and Parish Court	L	1	423,364	O	346,902	O	82	9,490
Justice of the Peace Court	L	1	N/A		N/A			
Mayor's Court	L	1	N/A		N/A			
MAINE--STATE TOTAL			204,183	*	195,282	•	96	17,202
Superior Court	G	2	2,925	O	2,922	O	100	246
District Court	L	4	201,258	C	192,360	C	96	16,955
MARYLAND--District Court	L	1	876,757	N	837,370	O		19,333
MASSACHUSETTS--Trial Court of the Commonwealth	G	1	1,273,813	G	1,117,981	O		21,756
MICHIGAN--STATE TOTAL								
District Court	L	4	2,476,158	O	2,471,975	O	100	26,915
Municipal Court	L	4	39,415	O	40,277	O	102	428
Probate Court	L	2	N/A		N/A			

(continued on next page)

TABLE 11: Reported total state trial court traffic/other violation caseload, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Park-ing	Total traffic filings and qualifying footnotes		Total traffic dispositions and qualifying footnotes		Dispo-sitions as a percen-tage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
MINNESOTA--District Court	G	4	1,498,905	O	1,469,564	O	98	35,302
MISSOURI--Circuit Court	G	3	456,540	1	432,461	1	95	8,947
MONTANA--STATE TOTAL								
City Court	L	1	N/A		N/A			
Justice of the Peace Court	L	1	N/A		N/A			
Municipal Court	L	1	N/A		N/A			
NEBRASKA--County Court	L	1	267,781	N	270,514	N	101	16,799
NEVADA--STATE TOTAL								
Justice Court	L	1	N/A		N/A			
Municipal Court	L	1	N/A		N/A			
NEW HAMPSHIRE--STATE TOTAL			274,827					26,001
District Court	L	4	268,900		N/A			25,440
Municipal Court	L	4	5,927		N/A			561
NEW JERSEY--Municipal Court	L	4	5,434,673		4,800,949		88	70,838
NEW MEXICO--STATE TOTAL								
Magistrate Court	L	3	53,296		46,036		86	3,553
Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County	L	4	362,007	N	226,673	1		24,134
Municipal Court	L	1	N/A		N/A			
NEW YORK--STATE TOTAL								
Criminal Court of the City of New York	L	4	102,183	V	99,916	V	98	
District and City Court	L	4	1,293,106	N	1,293,106	N	100	7,254
Town and Village Court	L	1	N/A		N/A			
NORTH CAROLINA--District Court	L	6	975,488	N	925,997	N	95	15,211
NORTH DAKOTA--STATE TOTAL								
District Court	G	4	575		N/A			86
County Court	L	1	58,976		58,954		100	8,776
Municipal Court	L	1	N/A		47,396	X		

(continued on next page)

TABLE 11: Reported total state trial court traffic/other violation caseload, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Park-ing	Total traffic filings and qualifying footnotes		Total traffic dispositions and qualifying footnotes		Dispo-sitions as a percen-tage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
OHIO--STATE TOTAL								
Court of Common Pleas	G	2	124,963		123,081		98	1,159
County Court	L	5	231,215	N	230,356	N	100	2,144
Mayor's Court	L	1	N/A		N/A			
Municipal Court	L	5	1,539,067	N	1,537,803	N	100	14,272
OKLAHOMA--STATE TOTAL								
District Court	G	2	211,621	N	192,267	N	91	6,468
Municipal Court Not of Record	L	1	N/A		N/A			
Municipal Criminal Court of Record	L	1	N/A		N/A			
OREGON--STATE TOTAL								
District Court	L	1	319,996		346,069		108	11,747
Justice Court	L	3	N/A		N/A			
Municipal Court	L	3	N/A		N/A			
PENNSYLVANIA--STATE TOTAL			2,904,196	*				24,331
District Justice Court	L	4	1,372,900	N	1,245,772	N	91	11,502
Philadelphia Municipal Court	L	2	26,559	O	26,669	O	100	223
Philadelphia Traffic Court	L	1	1,117,420		342,134		31	9,362
Pittsburgh City Magistrates	L	4	387,317	N	N/A			3,245
PUERTO RICO--TOTAL								
District Court	L	2	75,065	O	73,881	O	98	2,280
Municipal Court	L	1	N/A		N/A			
RHODE ISLAND--STATE TOTAL								
District Court	L	2	N/A		N/A			
Municipal Court	L	1	N/A		N/A			
SOUTH CAROLINA--STATE TOTAL								
Family Court	L	2	N/A		N/A			
Magistrate Court	L	4	441,600	C	449,705	C	102	12,893
Municipal Court	L	4	305,999		374,643	C		8,934
SOUTH DAKOTA--Circuit Court	G	3	139,420		156,176	C		19,664
TENNESSEE--STATE TOTAL								
Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery Court	G	2	N/A		N/A			
General Sessions Court	L	1	N/A		N/A			
Municipal Court	L	1	N/A		N/A			
TEXAS--STATE TOTAL			7,739,403	•	6,416,938	•		46,098
County-Level Court	L	2	16,490		69,584	C		98
Justice of the Peace Court	L	4	1,454,075	1	1,331,683	1	92	8,661
Municipal Court	L	4	6,268,838	1	5,015,671	1	80	37,339

(continued on next page)

TABLE 11: Reported total state trial court traffic/other violation caseload, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Park-ing	Total traffic filings and qualifying footnotes		Total traffic dispositions and qualifying footnotes		Dispo-sitions as a percen-tage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
UTAH--STATE TOTAL			520,199	*	466,893	*	90	30,964
Circuit Court	L	4	255,215	C	211,123	C	83	15,191
Justice of the Peace Court	L	4	256,201	1	247,042	1	96	15,250
Juvenile Court	L	2	8,783		8,728		99	523
VERMONT--District Court	G	2	117,533	N	121,169	N	103	21,448
VIRGINIA--STATE TOTAL								
Circuit Court	G	2	N/A		N/A			
District Court	L	4	1,422,578	G	1,417,890	G	100	24,095
WASHINGTON--State Total			1,564,688		1,402,719	*		34,480
District Court	L	4	577,450		607,116		105	12,725
Municipal Court	L	4	987,238		795,603	1		21,755
WEST VIRGINIA--STATE TOTAL								
Magistrate Court	L	2	109,052		107,904		99	5,749
Municipal Court	L	1	N/A		N/A			
WISCONSIN--STATE TOTAL					884,266	*		
Circuit Court	G	3	638,981	1	632,241	1	99	13,293
Municipal Court	L	3	N/A		252,025	0		
WYOMING--STATE TOTAL								
County Court	L	1	85,836		93,284	C		17,518
Justice of the Peace Court	L	1	N/A		N/A			
Municipal Court	L	1	57,883	0	60,173	0	104	11,813

NOTE: Parking violations are defined as part of the traffic/other violation caseload. However, states, and courts within a state, differ in the extent to which parking violations are processed through the courts. A code opposite the name of each court indicates the manner in which parking cases are reported by the court. Qualifying footnotes in Table 11 do not repeat the information provided by the code, and thus refer only to the status of the statistics on moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic, and ordinance violations. The trial courts of Mississippi are not included in this table as neither traffic/other violation caseload nor court jurisdiction information is available for 1987. All other state trial courts with traffic/other violation jurisdiction are listed in the table regardless of whether caseload data are available. Blank spaces in the table indicate that a particular calculation, such as the total state caseload, is not appropriate. State total "filings per 100,000 population" may not equal the sum of the filing rates for the individual courts due to rounding.

N/A = Data are not available.

JURISDICTION CODES:

G = General Jurisdiction
L = Limited Jurisdiction

PARKING CODES:

1 = Parking data are unavailable
2 = Court does not have parking jurisdiction
3 = Only contested parking cases are included
4 = Both contested and uncontested parking cases are included
5 = Parking cases are handled administratively
6 = Uncontested parking cases are handled administratively; contested parking cases are handled by the Court

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

The absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that data are complete.

*See the qualifying footnote for each court within the state. Each footnote has an impact on the state's total.

(continued on next page)

TABLE 11: Reported total state trial court traffic/other violation caseload, 1987. (continued)

C: The following courts' data are overinclusive:
Delaware--Justice of the Peace Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include most of the DWI/DUI cases.
Hawaii--District Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include some misdemeanor cases.
Iowa--District Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include some misdemeanor cases.
Maine--District Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include some misdemeanor and all DWI/DUI cases.
South Carolina--Magistrate Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include DWI/DUI and juvenile cases. (Filed data were estimated using percentages provided by the AOC).
--Municipal Court--Total traffic/other violation disposed data include misdemeanor and DWI/DUI cases.
South Dakota--Circuit Court--Total traffic/other violation disposed data include some misdemeanor cases.
Texas--County-Level Courts--Total traffic/other violation disposed data include some criminal appeals cases.
Utah--Circuit Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include some miscellaneous criminal cases.
Wyoming--County Court--Total traffic/other violation disposed data include misdemeanor and DWI/DUI cases.

G: The following courts' data include DWI/DUI cases:
Colorado--County Court
District of Columbia--Superior Court
Louisiana--District Court--This figure is estimated by the State Court Administrator's Office on the basis that 75% of criminal cases reported (290,092) are traffic cases.
Massachusetts--Trial Court of the Commonwealth (filed data)
Virginia--District Court

I: The following courts' data are at least 75% complete:
Alaska--District Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data do not include some moving traffic violation cases and all ordinance violation cases.
Arizona--Municipal Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data do not include partial data from one municipality, which only reported for three months.
Arkansas--City Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data do not include ordinance violation cases and are missing all traffic data from several courts.
--Municipal Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data do not include ordinance violation cases, and are missing all data from several municipalities, and partial data from several others.
Georgia--Magistrate Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data do not include any cases from 11 counties, and partial data from 15 counties.
Hawaii--Circuit Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data do not include reopened prior cases reported with the civil data.
Indiana--City and Town Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data do not include some cases reported with criminal data.
Kansas--District Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data do not include juvenile traffic cases.
Missouri--Circuit Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data do not include ordinance violation and parking cases heard by Municipal judges.
New Mexico--Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County--Total traffic/other violation disposed data do not include ordinance violations and some miscellaneous traffic cases.
Texas--Justice of the Peace Court--Total traffic/other violation data do not include some cases due to a reporting rate of 79%.
--Municipal Court--Total traffic/other violation data do not include some cases due to a reporting rate of 79%.
Utah--Justice of the Peace Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data do not include some moving traffic cases.
Wisconsin--Circuit Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data do not include cases from District 1 (Milwaukee County).

N: The following courts' data do not include ordinance violation cases:
Delaware--Alderman's Court
Kentucky--District Court
Maryland--District Court (filed data)
Nebraska--County Court
New Mexico--Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County (filed data)
New York--District and City Court
North Carolina--District Court
Ohio--County Court--Municipal Court
Oklahoma--District Court
Pennsylvania--District Justice Court--Pittsburgh City Magistrates
Vermont--District Court

O: The following courts' data are incomplete and overinclusive:
California--Justice Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include DWI/DUI cases, but do not include some ordinance violation cases.
--Municipal Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include DWI/DUI cases, but do not include some ordinance violation cases.

(continued on next page)

TABLE 11: Reported total state trial court traffic/other violation caseload, 1987. (continued)

Connecticut--Superior Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include DWI/DUI cases, but do not include ordinance violation cases.
Delaware--Municipal Court of Wilmington--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include most DWI/DUI cases, but do not include ordinance violation cases.
Illinois--Circuit Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include DWI/DUI cases, but do not include ordinance violation cases from Cook County and parking cases from anywhere but Cook County.
Louisiana--City and Parish Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include DWI/DUI cases, but do not include ordinance violation cases.
Maine--Superior Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include DWI/DUI and some criminal appeals cases, but do not include ordinance violation cases.
Maryland--District Court--Total traffic/other violation disposed data include DWI/DUI cases, but do not include ordinance violation cases.
Massachusetts--Trial Court of the Commonwealth--Total traffic/other violation disposed data include some felony/misdemeanor cases, but do not include ordinance violation, some moving traffic, and miscellaneous traffic cases.
Michigan--District Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include DWI/DUI cases, but do not include ordinance violation cases.
--Municipal Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include DWI/DUI cases, but do not include ordinance violation cases.
Minnesota--District Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include some DWI/DUI cases, but do not include ordinance violation cases.
Pennsylvania--Philadelphia Municipal Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include some misdemeanors but do not include some ordinance violation cases.
Puerto Rico--District Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include DWI/DUI cases, but do not include ordinance violation cases.
Wisconsin--Municipal Court--Total traffic/other violation disposed data include DWI/DUI cases, but represent only 155 of the 196 municipal courts.
Wyoming--Municipal Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include misdemeanors, but are missing data for a six-month period from two municipalities.

V: The following courts' data are less than 75% complete:
Georgia--Juvenile Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data represent 101 of 159 counties, a reporting rate of 64% which accounts for 50% of the caseload.
Idaho--District Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data do not include ordinance violation and parking cases.
New York--Criminal Court of the City of New York--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data do not include moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic, and some ordinance violation cases.

X: The following courts' data are less than 75% complete and overinclusive:
Georgia--Probate Court--Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include DWI/DUI cases but represent only 51 of 95 counties.
North Dakota--Municipal Court--Total traffic/other violation disposed data include DWI/DUI cases, but do not include ordinance violation cases.

TABLE 12: Reported Total State Trial Court Juvenile Caseload, 1987

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Point of filing	Total juvenile filings and qualifying footnotes	Total juvenile dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 juvenile population
ALABAMA--STATE TOTAL			57,546 *	50,520 *	88	5,152
Circuit Court	G	A	24,759 C	19,741 C	80	2,217
District Court	L	A	32,787	30,779	94	2,935
ALASKA--STATE TOTAL			1,884	1,536	82	1,095
Superior Court	G	C	1,776	1,472	83	1,033
District Court	L	I	108	64	59	63
ARIZONA--Superior Court	G	C	10,578	10,920	103	1,151
ARKANSAS--County Court	L	B	8,466 1	8,251 1	97	1,306
CALIFORNIA--Superior Court	G	C	89,917	83,528	93	1,231
COLORADO--District, Denver Juvenile and Probate Court	G	A	14,832	13,070	88	1,699
CONNECTICUT--Superior Court	G	F	10,948 1	10,672 1	97	1,446
DELAWARE--Family Court	L	C	6,625 V	6,259 V	94	
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA--Superior Court	G	B	12,346	12,336	100	9,078
FLORIDA--Circuit Court	G	A	94,177	63,710	68	3,483
GEORGIA--Juvenile Court	G	A	23,208 V	14,671 V	63	
HAWAII--Circuit Court	G	F	16,965	16,736	99	5,932
IDAHO--District Court	G	C	6,552	6,455	99	2,141
ILLINOIS--Circuit Court	G	C	31,078	25,183	81	1,024

(continued on next page)

TABLE 12: Reported total state trial court juvenile caseload, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Point of filing	Total juvenile filings and qualifying footnotes		Total juvenile dispositions and qualifying footnotes		Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 juvenile population
INDIANA--STATE TOTAL			29,963		29,892		100	2,038
Superior and Circuit Court	G	C	28,806		28,773		100	1,960
Probate Court	L	C	1,157		1,119		97	79
IOWA--District Court	G	A	6,042		N/A			825
KANSAS--District Court	G	A	13,421	C	12,815	C	95	2,065
KENTUCKY--District Court	L	A	36,758	C	33,492	C	91	3,691
LOUISIANA--STATE TOTAL			49,564	*				3,769
District Court	G	C	12,908		N/A			982
Family and Juvenile Court	G	C	26,841	C	N/A			2,041
City and Parish Court	L	C	9,815		9,077		92	746
MAINE--District Court	L	C	4,224		3,379		80	1,394
MARYLAND--STATE TOTAL			36,329		35,004		96	3,229
Circuit Court	G	C	32,382		31,494		97	2,878
District Court	L	C	3,947		3,510		89	351
MASSACHUSETTS--Trial Court of the Commonwealth	G	C	46,302		21,087	X		3,466
MICHIGAN--Probate Court	L	C	24,623	O	20,917	O	85	1,001
MINNESOTA--District Court	G	C	57,782		57,177		99	5,201
MISSOURI--Circuit Court	G	C	16,766		19,037	C		1,281
MONTANA--District Court	G	C	1,419		1,202		85	634
NEBRASKA--STATE TOTAL			5,955					1,404
County Court	L	C	3,686		3,639		99	869
Separate Juvenile Court	L	C	2,269		N/A			535
NEVADA--District Court	G	C	N/A		N/A			

(continued on next page)

TABLE 12: Reported total state trial court juvenile caseload, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Point of filing	Total juvenile filings and qualifying footnotes	Total juvenile dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 juvenile population
NEW HAMPSHIRE--District Court	L	C	7,331	N/A		2,756
NEW JERSEY--Superior Court	G	C	115,245 C	112,893 C	98	6,294
NEW MEXICO--District Court	G	C	7,737	7,783	101	1,735
NEW YORK--Family Court	L	C	48,494	50,225	104	1,112
NORTH CAROLINA--District Court	L	C	22,537	24,749	110	1,385
NORTH DAKOTA--District Court	G	C	8,320	9,021 C		4,449
OHIO--Court of Common Pleas	G	E	115,404	114,946	100	4,069
OKLAHOMA--District Court	G	G	N/A	N/A		
OREGON--STATE TOTAL						
Circuit Court	G	C	19,310	N/A		2,815
County Court	L	C	N/A	N/A		
PENNSYLVANIA--Court of Common Pleas	G	F	49,202	46,426	94	1,726
PUERTO RICO--Superior Court	G	C	6,553 C	6,401 C	98	
RHODE ISLAND--Family Court	L	F	6,759 C	6,498 C	96	2,952
SOUTH CAROLINA--STATE TOTAL						
Family Court	L	C	12,626 C	12,659 C	100	1,342
Magistrate Court	L	I	N/A	N/A		
SOUTH DAKOTA--Circuit Court	G	B	3,198	N/A		1,632
TENNESSEE--STATE TOTAL						
General Sessions Court	L	B	N/A	N/A		
Juvenile Court	L	B	N/A	N/A		

(continued on next page)

TABLE 12: Reported total state trial court juvenile caseload, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Point of filing	Total juvenile filings and qualifying footnotes	Total juvenile dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 juvenile population
TEXAS--STATE TOTAL			14,751 •	16,126 •	109	
District Court	G	C	12,173 1	13,592 1	112	244
County-Level Court	L	C	2,578 V	2,534 V	98	
UTAH--Juvenile Court	L	C	39,145	39,653	101	6,223
VERMONT--District Court	G	C	1,816	1,750	96	1,288
VIRGINIA--District Court	L	A	84,528	79,526	94	5,794
WASHINGTON--Superior Court	G	A	22,672	19,852	88	1,939
WEST VIRGINIA--Circuit Court	G	C	6,397	6,469	101	1,306
WISCONSIN--Circuit Court	G	C	31,063 1	30,949 1	100	2,448
WYOMING--District Court	G	C	1,379	N/A		932

NOTE: The trial courts of Mississippi are not included in this table as neither juvenile caseload nor court jurisdiction information is available for 1987. All other state trial courts with juvenile jurisdiction are listed in the table regardless of whether caseload data are available. Blank spaces in the table indicate that a particular calculation, such as the total state caseload, is not appropriate. State total "filings per 100,000 population" may not equal the sum of the filing rates for the individual courts due to rounding.

N/A = Data are not available.

JURISDICTION CODES:

G = General Jurisdiction
L = Limited Jurisdiction

POINT OF FILING CODES:

M = Missing Data
I = Data element is inapplicable
A = Filing of complaint
B = At initial hearing (intake)
C = Filing of petition
E = Issuance of warrant
F = At referral
G = Varies

(continued on next page)

TABLE 12: Reported total state trial court juvenile caseload, 1987. (continued)

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

The absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that data are complete.

*See the qualifying footnote for each court within the state. Each footnote has an impact on the state's total.

C: The following courts' data are overinclusive:
- Alabama--Circuit Court--Total juvenile filed and disposed data include URESA cases.
- Kansas--District Court--Total juvenile filed and disposed data include some traffic/other violation data.
- Kentucky--District Court--Total juvenile filed and disposed data include paternity/bastardy cases.
- Louisiana--Family and Juvenile Court--Total juvenile filed data include domestic relations and mental health cases.
- Missouri--Circuit Court--Total juvenile disposed data include adoption and termination of parental rights cases.
- New Jersey--Superior Court--Total juvenile filed and disposed data include termination of parental rights and some paternity/bastardy cases.
- North Dakota--District Court--Total juvenile disposed data include traffic cases.
- Puerto Rico--Superior Court--Total juvenile filed and disposed data include transfers and reopened cases.
- Rhode Island--Family Court--Total juvenile filed and disposed data include adoption cases.
- South Carolina--Family Court--Total juvenile filed and disposed data include traffic/other violation cases.

1: The following courts' data are at least 75% complete:
- Arkansas--County Court--Total juvenile filed and disposed data do not include cases from several counties. Effective 1/20/87 juvenile jurisdiction transferred to the Circuit and Chancery Courts.
- Connecticut--Superior Court--Total juvenile filed and disposed data do not include child-victim petitions.
- Texas--District Court--Total juvenile filed and disposed data do not include child-victim petitions.
- Wisconsin--Circuit Court--Total juvenile filed and disposed data do not include cases from Milwaukee County.

O: The following court's data are incomplete and overinclusive:
- Michigan--Probate Court--Total juvenile filed and disposed data include traffic/other violation cases, but do not include status petitions.

V: The following courts' data are less than 75% complete:
- Delaware--Family Court--Total juvenile filed and disposed data do not include status petitions and child-victim petitions.
- Georgia--Juvenile Court--Total juvenile filed and disposed data represent 101 of 159 counties, a reporting rate of 64% which accounts for approximately 50% of the caseload.
- Texas--County-Level Courts--Total juvenile filed and disposed data do not include child-victim petitions.

X: The following court's data are less than 75% complete and overinclusive:
- Massachusetts--Trial Court of the Commonwealth--Total juvenile disposed data include some traffic/other violation cases, but do not include any cases from the Juvenile Court Department and appeals from the District Court Department.

Part III

1987 State Court Structure Charts

1987 State Court Structure Charts

Court Structure Charts: An Explanatory Note

The court structure charts summarize the key features of each state's court organization into a one-page diagram. The format has two objectives: (1) to be comprehensive, indicating all court systems in the state and their interrelationships; and (2) to describe the jurisdiction of court systems using a comparable set of terminology and symbols. The court structure charts employ the common terminology developed by the NCSC's Court Statistics Project (CSP) for reporting caseload statistics.

The first chart is a prototype. It represents a state court organization in which there is one of each of the four court system levels recognized by the Court Statistics Project: courts of last resort, intermediate appellate courts, general jurisdiction trial courts, and limited jurisdiction trial courts. Routes of appeal from one court to another are indicated by lines, with an arrow showing which court receives the appeal or petition.

The charts also provide basic descriptive information, such as the number of authorized justices, judges, and magistrates (or other judicial officers). Each court system's subject matter jurisdiction is indicated using the Court Statistics Project casetypes. Information is also provided on the use of districts, circuits, or divisions in organizing the courts within the system and the number of courts, where this coincides with a basic government unit.

The casetypes, which define a court system's subject matter jurisdiction, require the most explanation. This is done separately for appellate and trial court systems.

Appellate Courts

The rectangle representing each appellate court contains information on the number of authorized justices; the number of geographic divisions, if any, that are maintained; whether court decisions are made en banc, in panels, or both; and the Court Statistics Project casetypes that are heard by the court. The casetypes are shown separately for mandatory and discretionary cases. The casetypes themselves are defined in other Court Statistics Project publications, especially *1984 State Appellate Court Jurisdiction Guide for Statistical Reporting* and *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary.*

An appellate court can have both mandatory *and* discretionary jurisdiction over the same Court Statistics Project casetype. This arises, in part, because the Court Statistics Project casetypes are defined broadly in order to be applicable to every state's courts. There are, for example, only two appellate Court Statistics Project casetypes for criminal appeals: capital and noncapital. A court may have mandatory jurisdiction over felony cases but discretionary jurisdiction over misdemeanors. The listing of casetypes would include "criminal" for both mandatory and discretionary jurisdiction. The duplication of a casetype under both headings can also occur if appeals from one lower court for that casetype are mandatory, while appeals from another lower court are discretionary. Also, statutory provisions or court rules in some states automatically convert a mandatory appeal into a discretionary petition—for example, when an appeal is not filed within a specified time limit. A more comprehensive description of each appellate court's subject matter jurisdiction can be found in the *1984 State Appellate Court Jurisdiction Guide for Statistical Reporting.*

Trial Courts

The rectangle representing each trial court also lists the applicable Court Statistics Project casetypes. These include civil, criminal, traffic/other violation, and juvenile. Where a casetype is simply listed, it means that the court system shares jurisdiction over it with other courts. The presence of exclusive jurisdiction is always explicitly stated. The absence of a casetype from a list means that the court does not have that subject matter jurisdiction. The dollar amount jurisdiction is shown where there is an upper or a lower limit to the cases that can be filed in a court. A dollar limit is not listed if a court does not have a minimum or maximum dollar jurisdiction for general civil cases. In criminal cases, jurisdiction is distinguished between "triable felony," where the court can try a felony case to verdict and sentencing, and "limited felony," which applies to those limited jurisdiction courts that can conduct preliminary hearings that bind a defendant over for trial in a higher court.

Trial courts can have what is termed incidental appellate jurisdiction. The presence of such jurisdiction over the decisions of other courts is noted in the list of casetypes as either "civil appeals," "criminal appeals," or "administrative agency" appeals. A trial court that hears appeals directly from an administrative agency has an "A" in the upper right corner of the rectangle.

For each trial court, the chart states the authorized number of judges and whether the court can empanel a jury. The rectangle representing the court also indicates the number of districts, divisions, or circuits into which the

court system is divided. These subdivisions are stated using the court system's own terminology. The descriptions, therefore, are not standardized across states or court systems.

Trial courts are differentiated into those that are totally funded from local sources and those that receive some form of state funds. Locally funded court systems are drawn with broken lines. A solid line indicates some or all of the funding is derived from state funds.

Symbols and Abbreviations

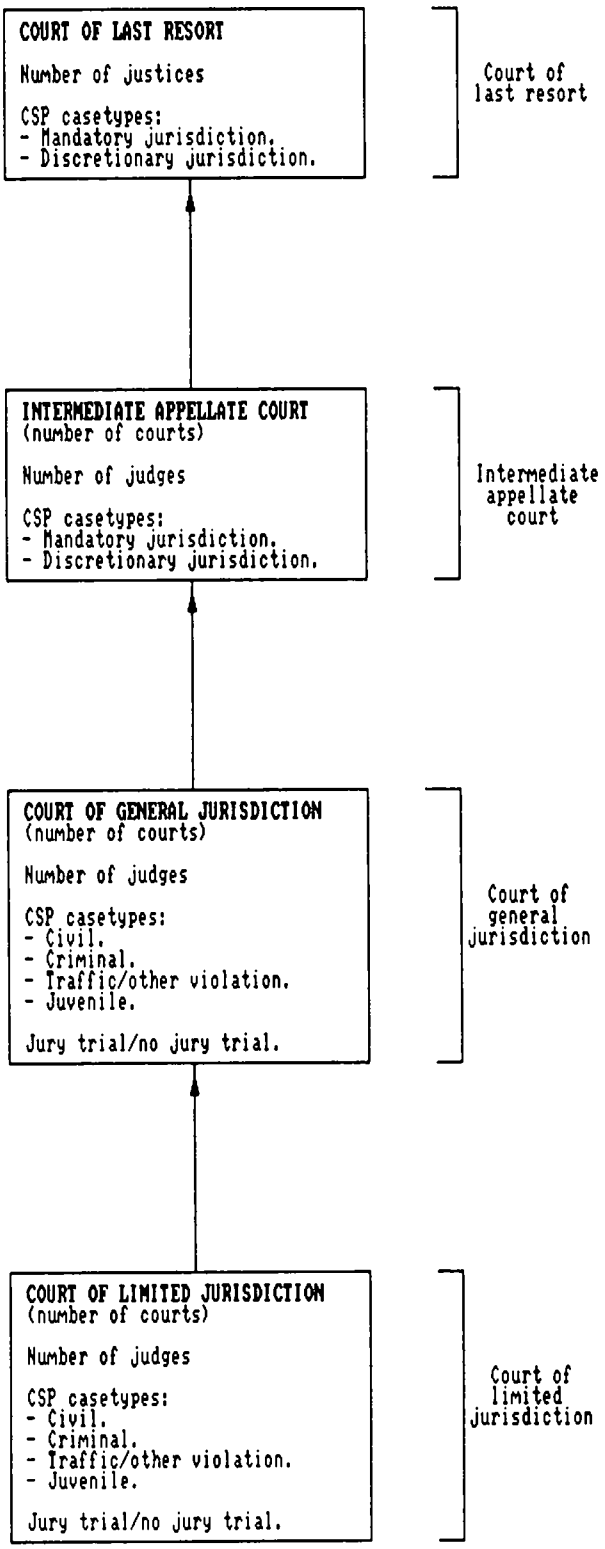
An "A" in the upper right corner of a rectangle, representing either an appellate or a trial court, indicates that the court receives appeals directly from the decisions of an administrative agency. Where "administrative agency" appeals are listed as a casetype, it indicates that the court hears appeals from decisions of another court on an administrative agency's actions. It is possible for a court to both have an "A" designation and to have "administrative agency appeals" listed as a casetype. Such a court hears appeals directly from an administrative agency ("A") and has appellate jurisdiction over the decisions of a lower court that has already reviewed the decision of the administrative agency (and is thus listed as a casetype).

The number of justices or judges is sometimes stated as "FTE." This represents "full time equivalent" authorized judicial positions. "DWI/DUI" stands for "driving while intoxicated/driving under the influence." The abbreviation "SC" stands for "small claims." The dollar amount jurisdiction for civil cases is indicated in parenthesis with a dollar sign. Where the small claims dollar amount jurisdiction is different, it is also noted.

Conclusion

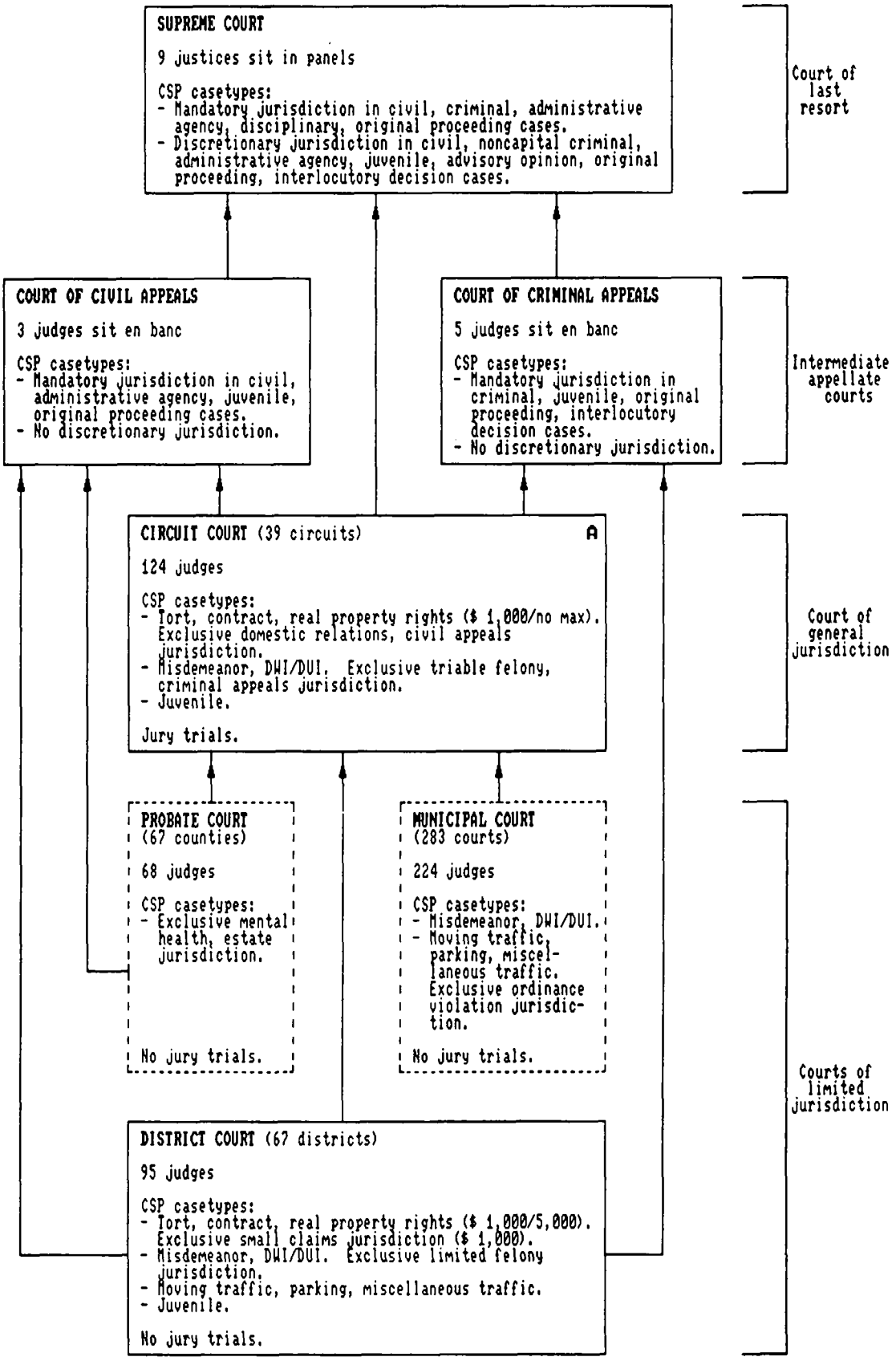
The court structure charts are convenient summaries. They do not substitute for the detailed descriptive material contained in *State Court Organization 1987*, another Court Statistics Project publication. Moreover, they are based on the Court Statistics Project's terminology and categories. This means that a state may have established courts that are not included in these charts. Some states have courts of special jurisdiction to receive complaints on matters that are more typically directed to administrative boards and agencies. Since these courts receive cases that do not fall within the Court Statistics Project casetypes, they are not included in the charts. The existence of such courts, however, is recognized in a footnote to the state's court structure chart.

STATE COURT STRUCTURE PROTOTYPE, 1987



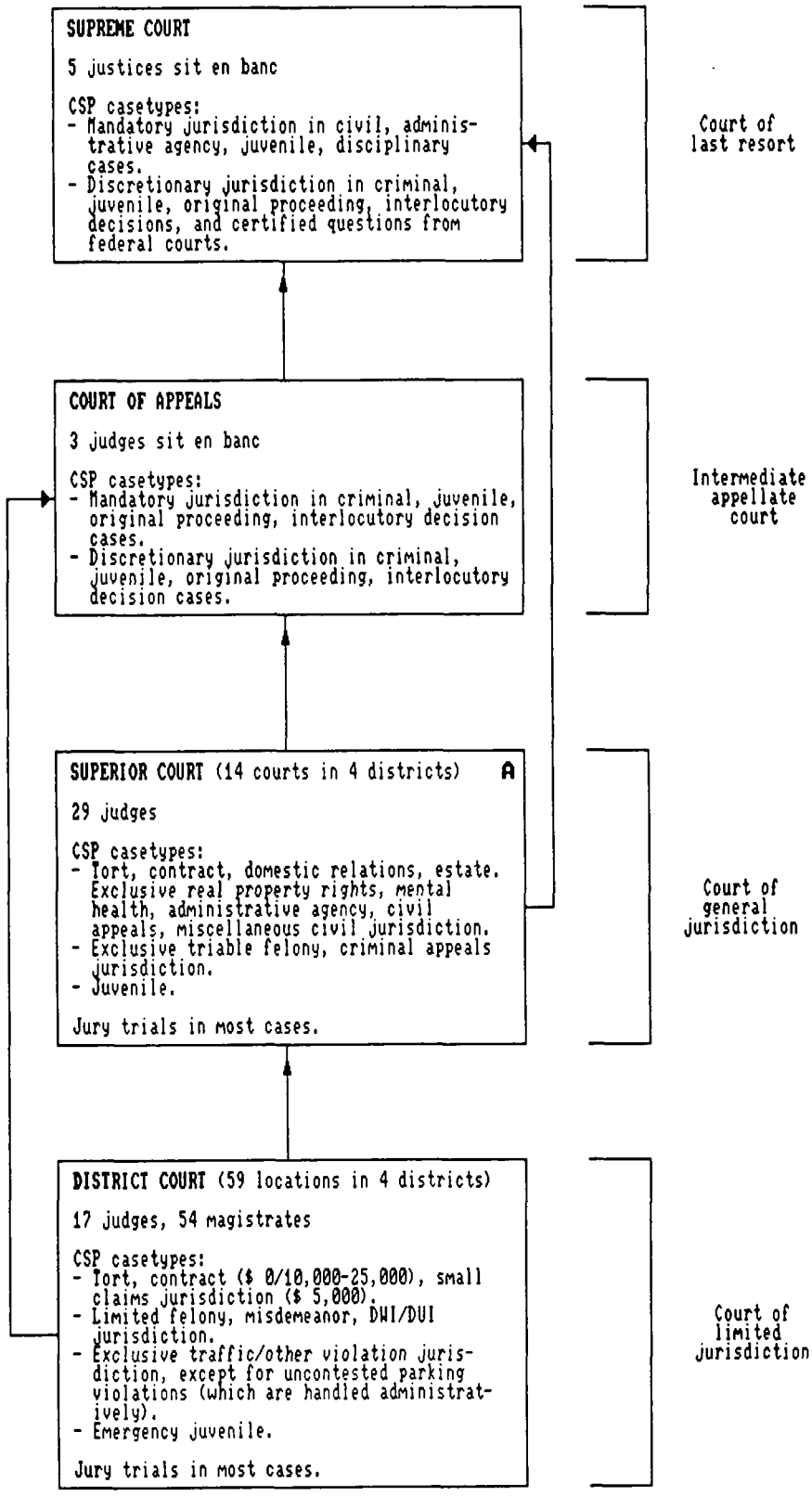
NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

ALABAMA COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



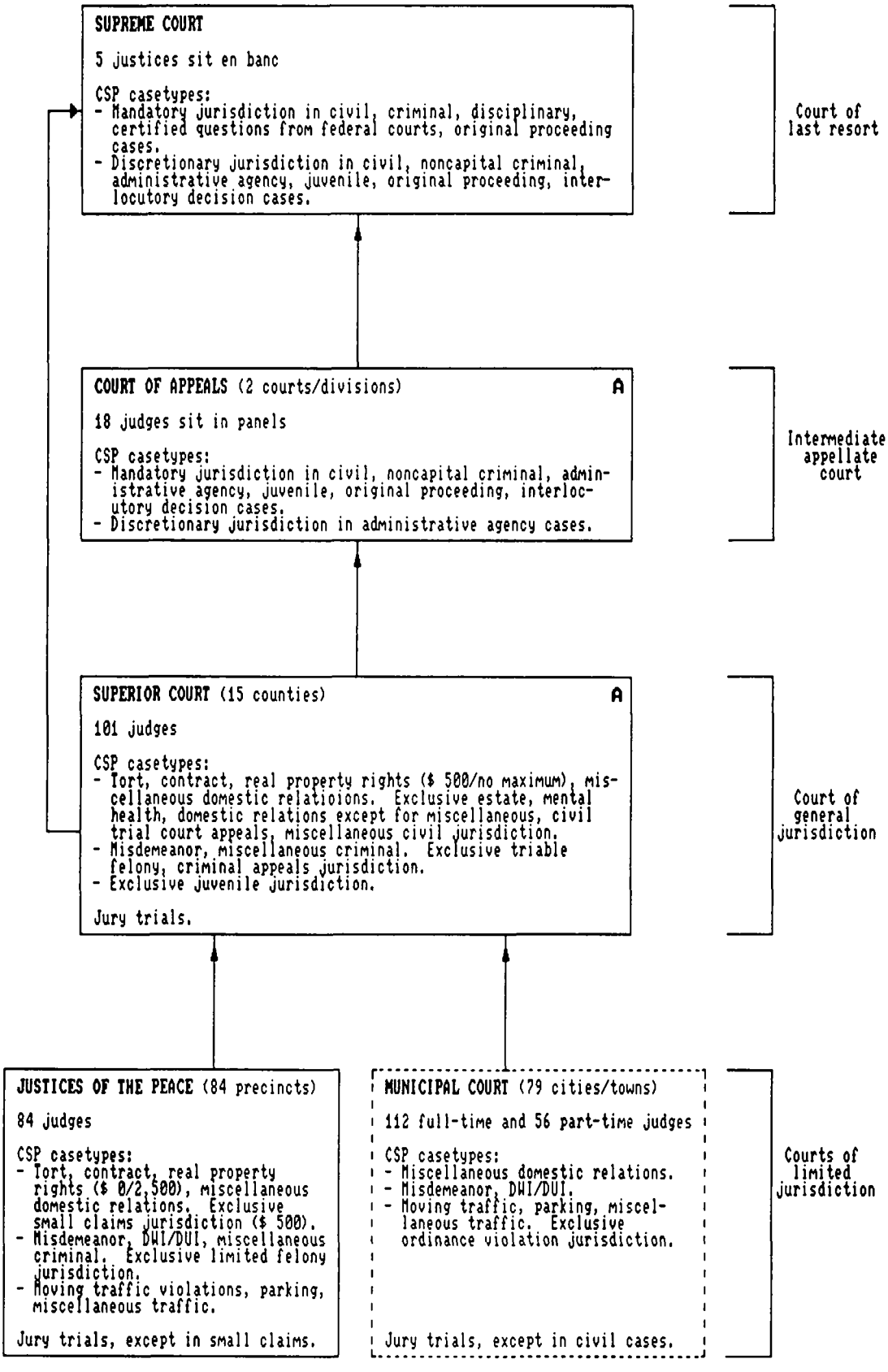
NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

ALASKA COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



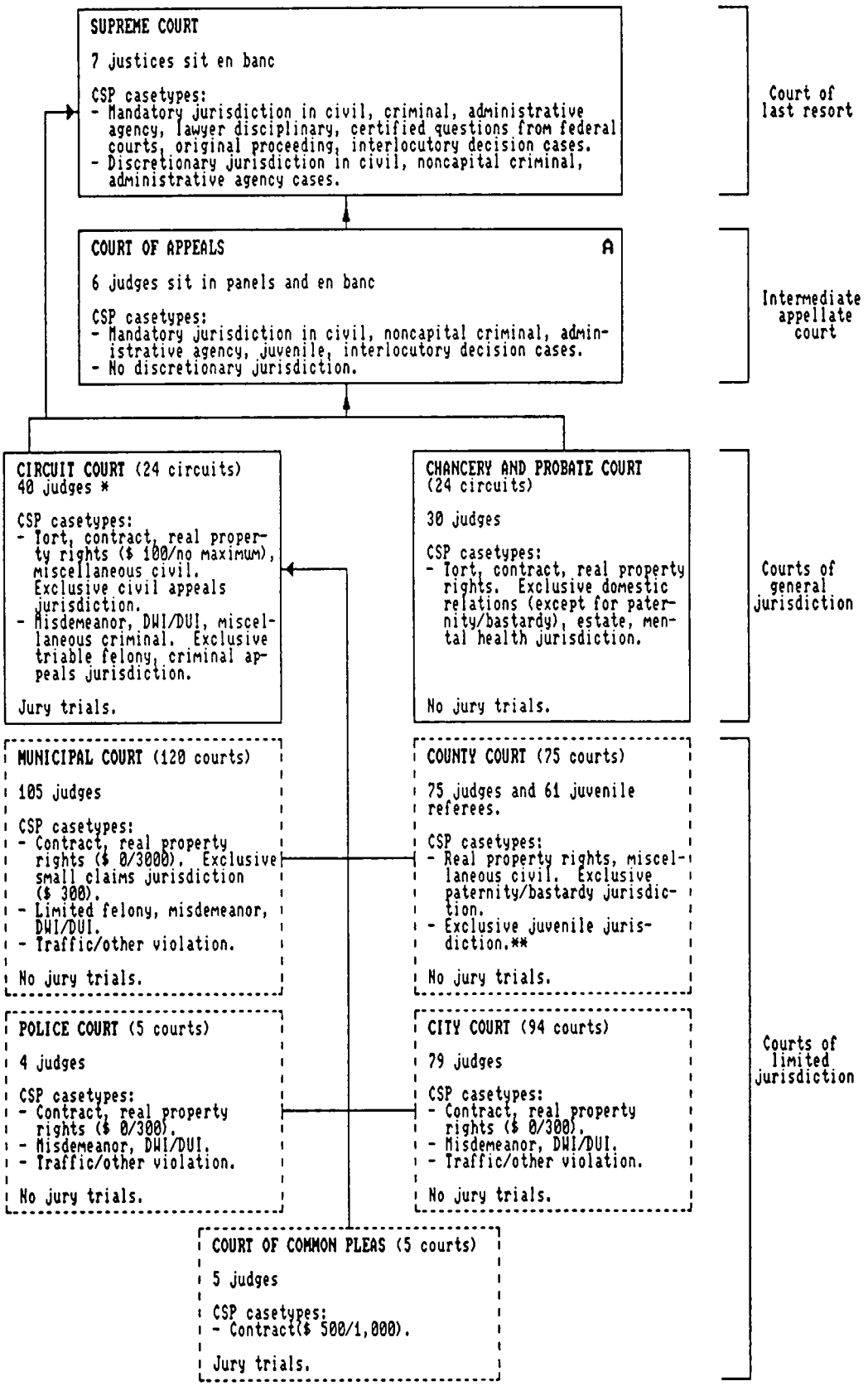
NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

ARIZONA COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

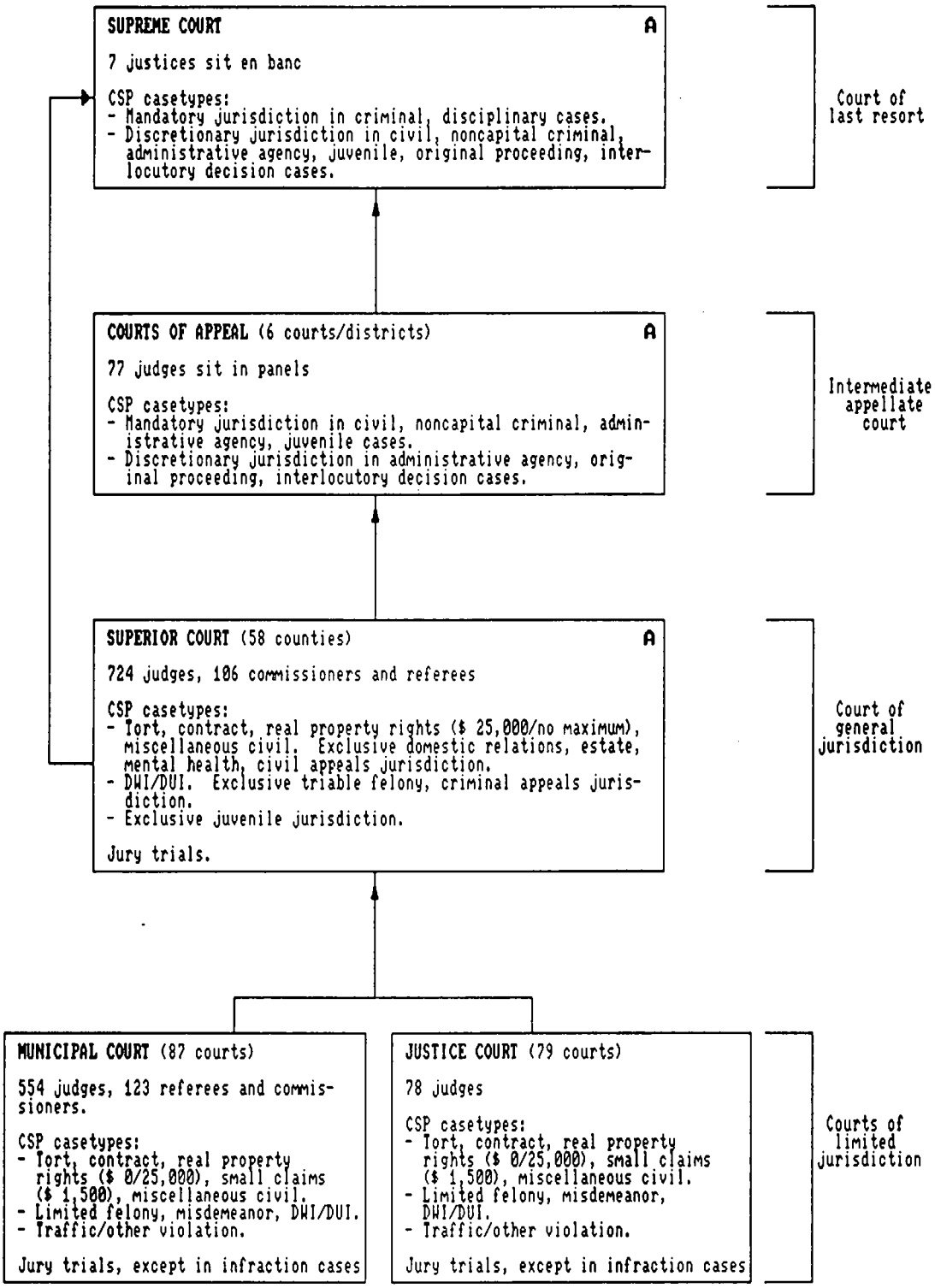
ARKANSAS COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



* Eight judges also serve the Chancery and Probate Court.
** Effective Jan. 20, 1987, juvenile jurisdiction was transferred to the Circuit Court and the Chancery and Probate Court.

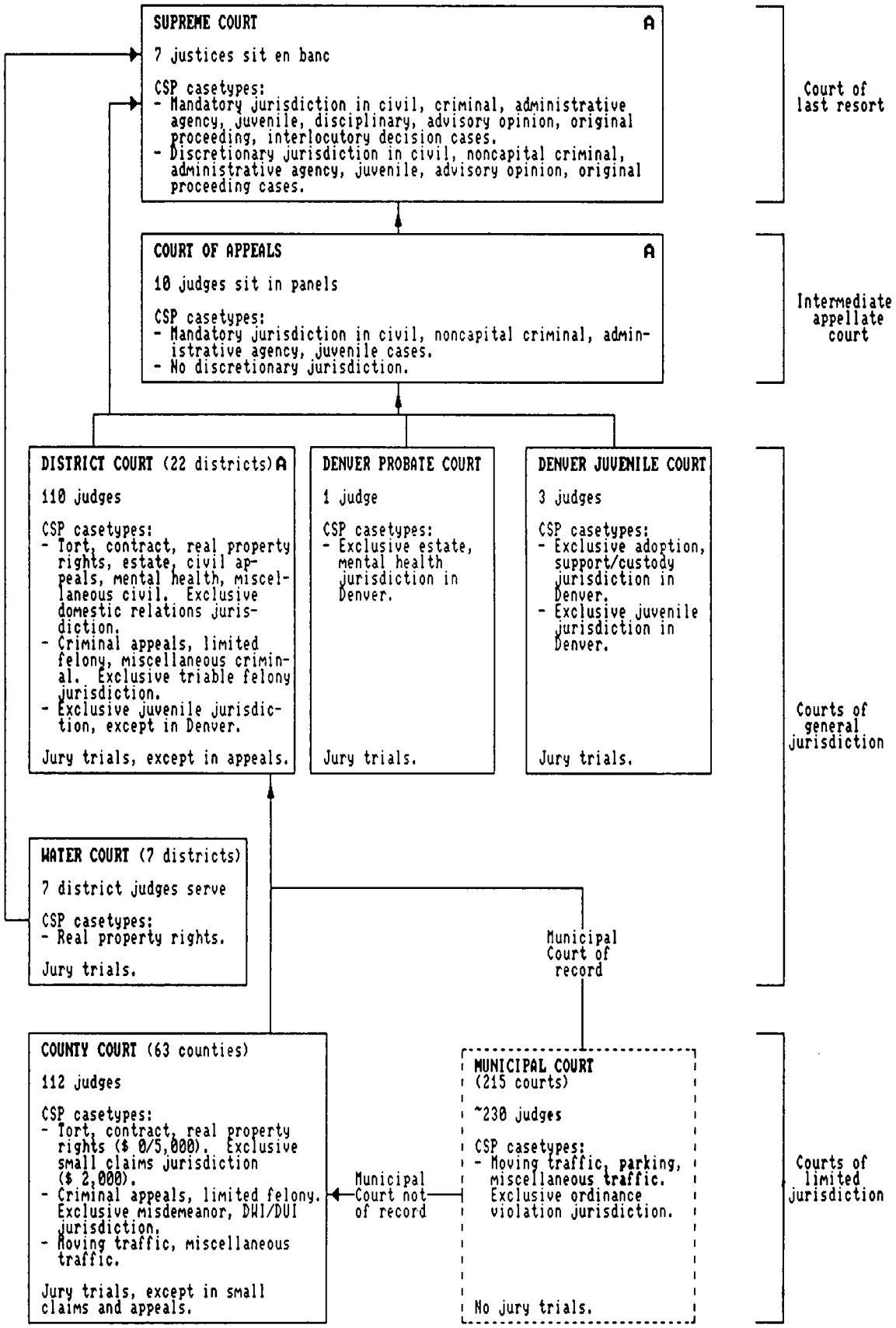
NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

CALIFORNIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

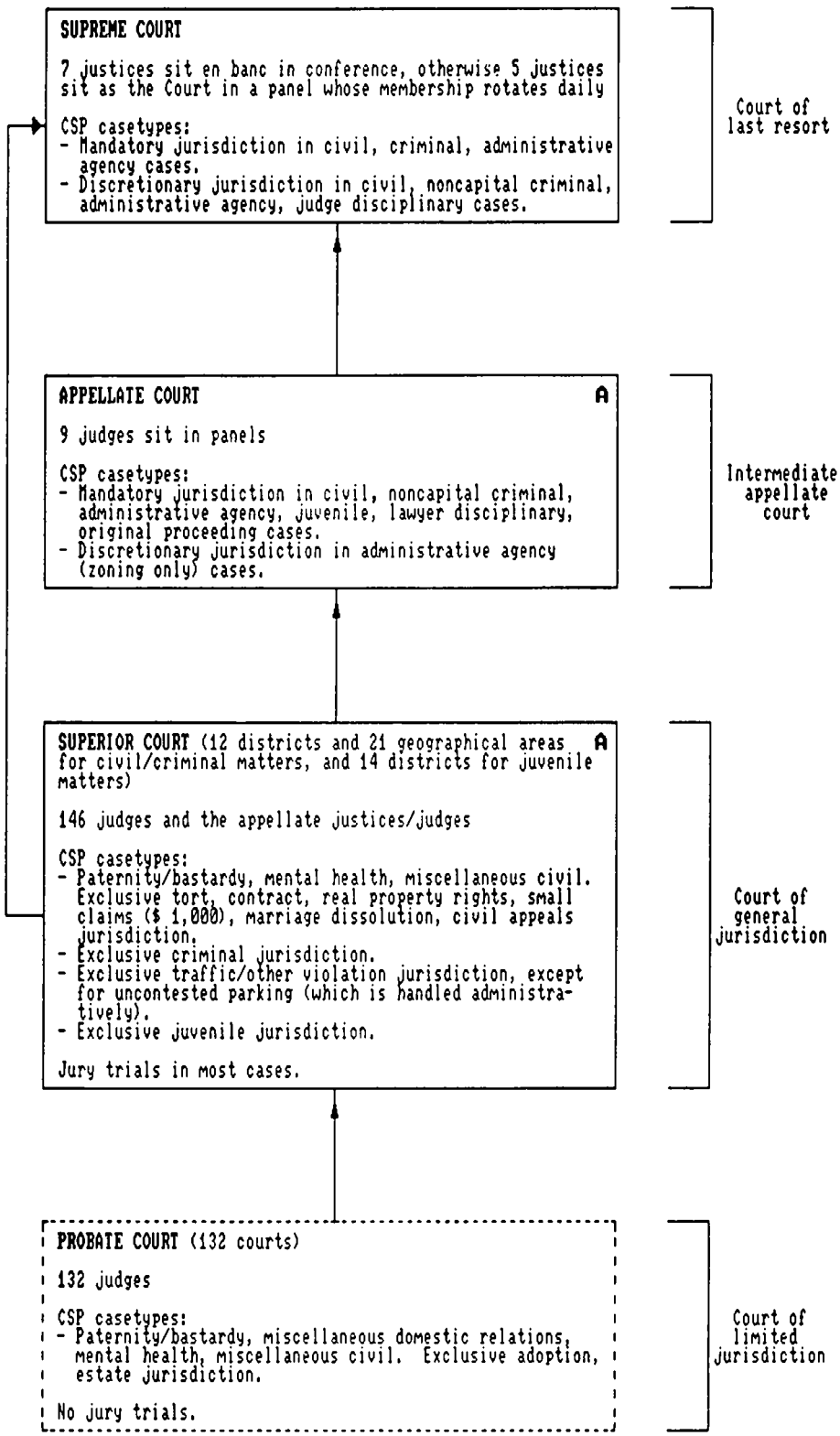
COLORADO COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



The Denver Superior Court was abolished 11/14/86.

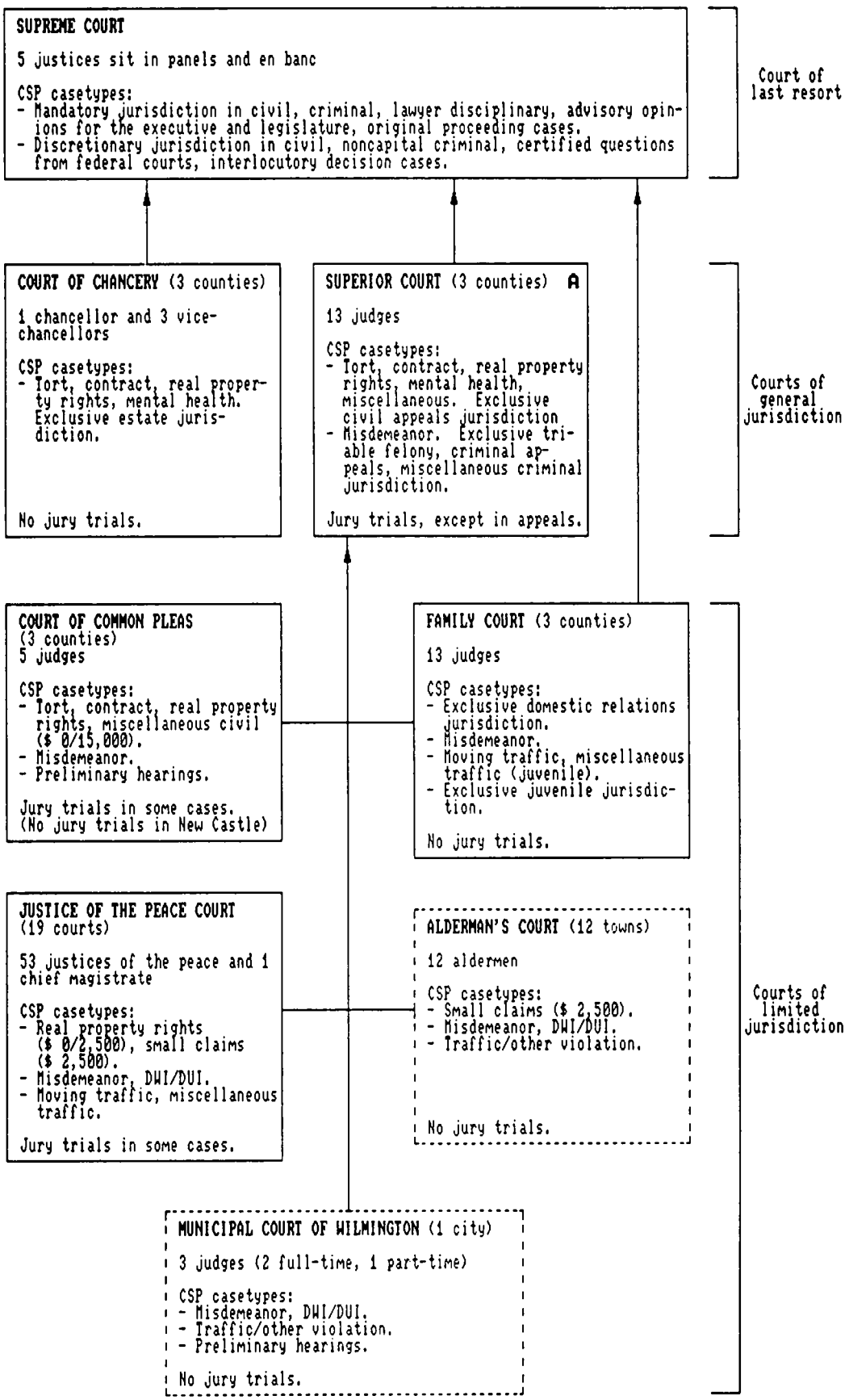
NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

CONNECTICUT COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



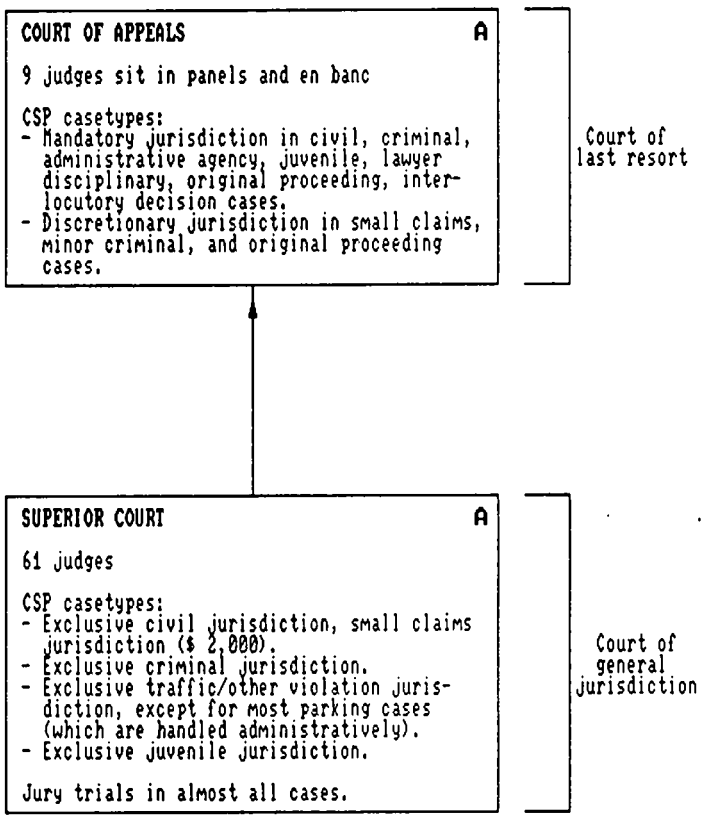
NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

DELAWARE COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



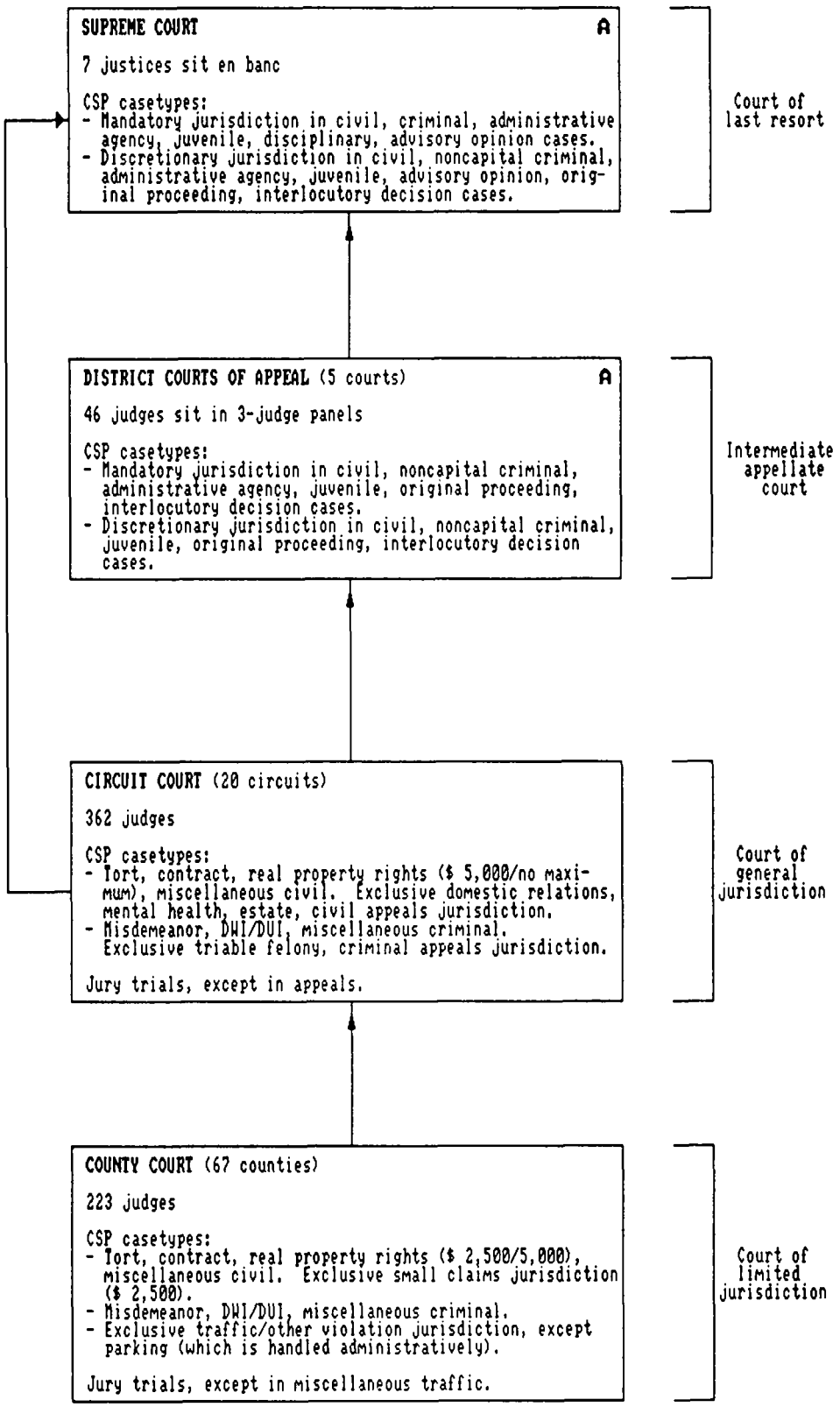
NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



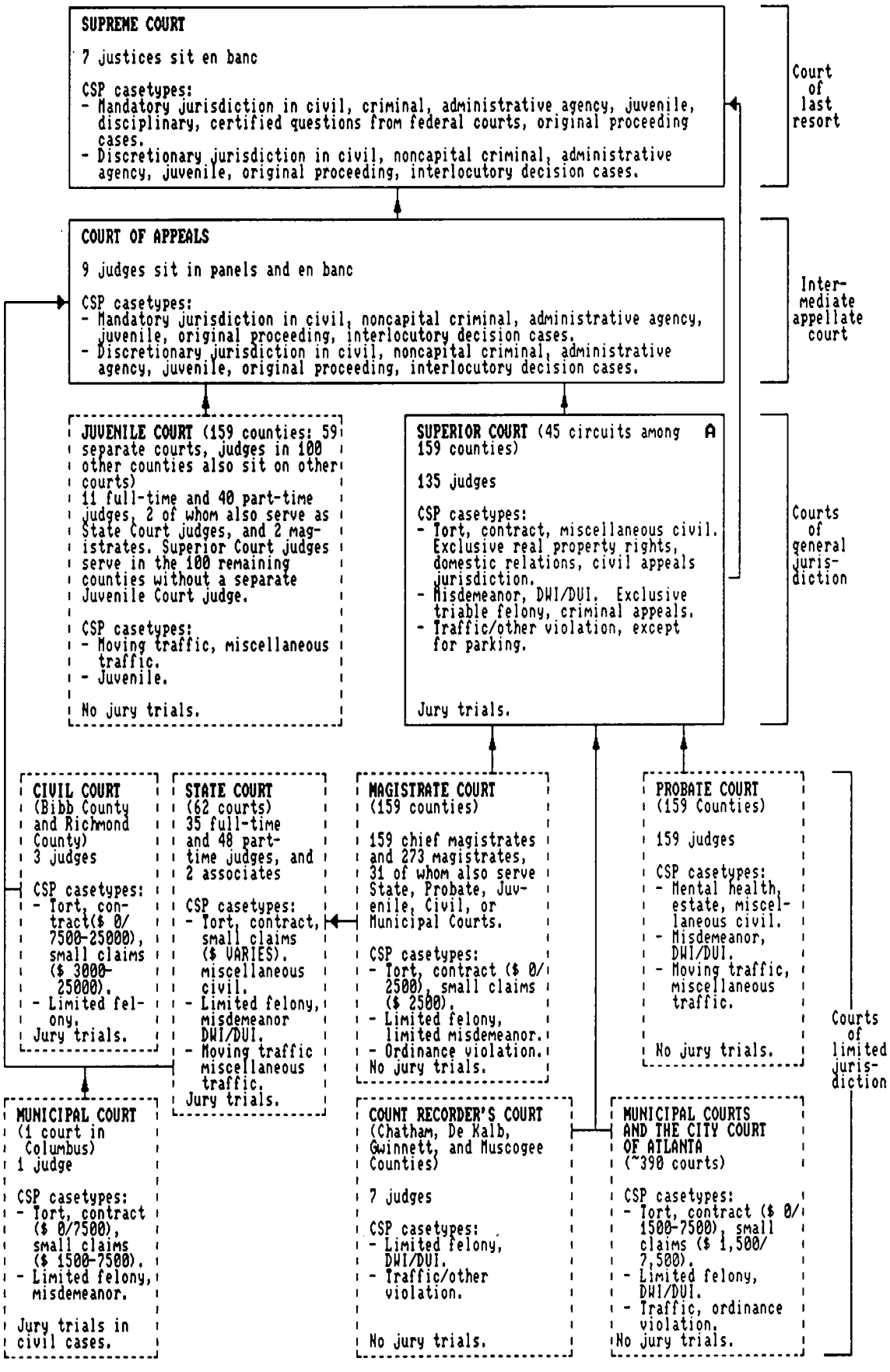
NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

FLORIDA COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



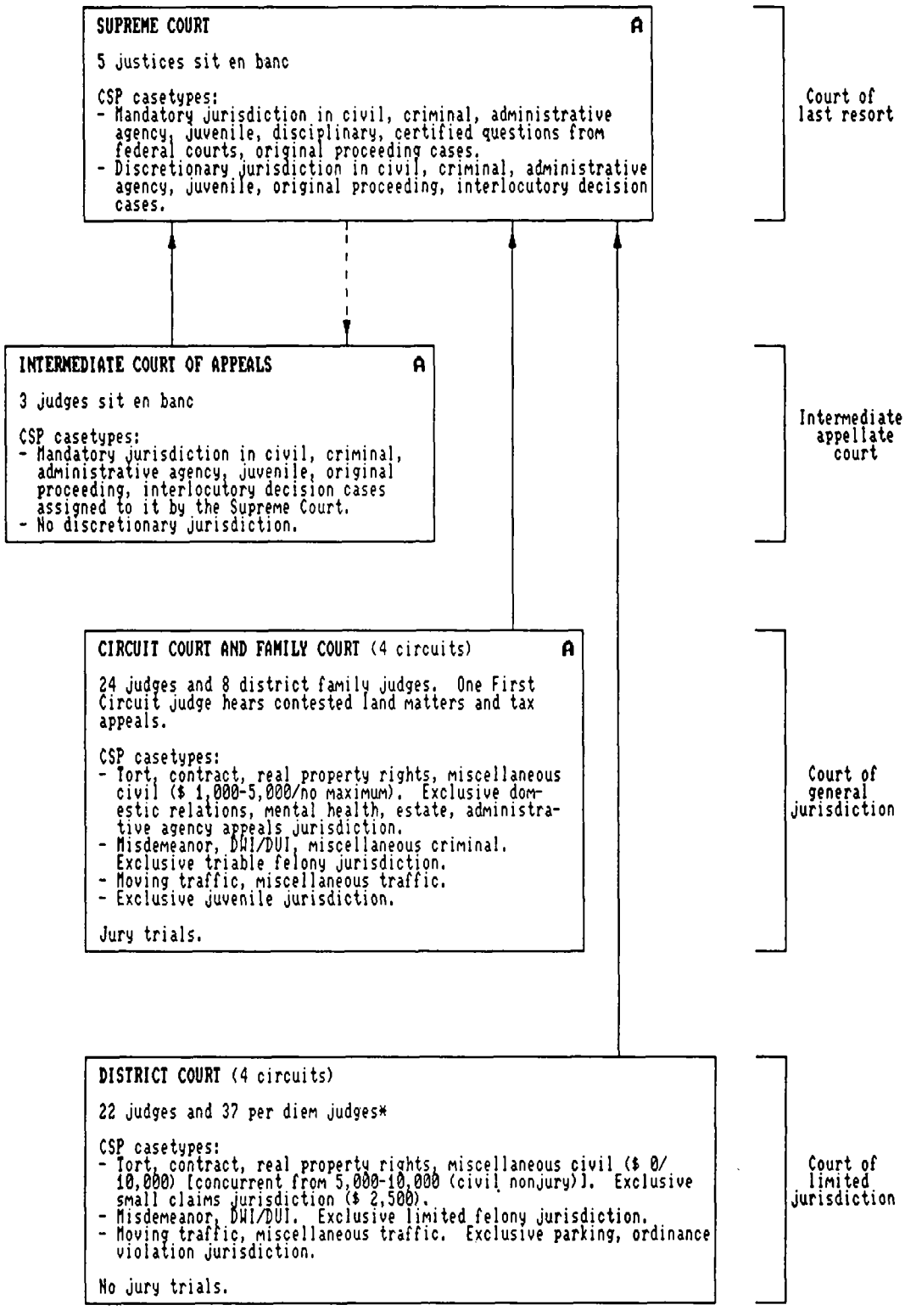
NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

GEORGIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

HAWAII COURT STRUCTURE, 1987

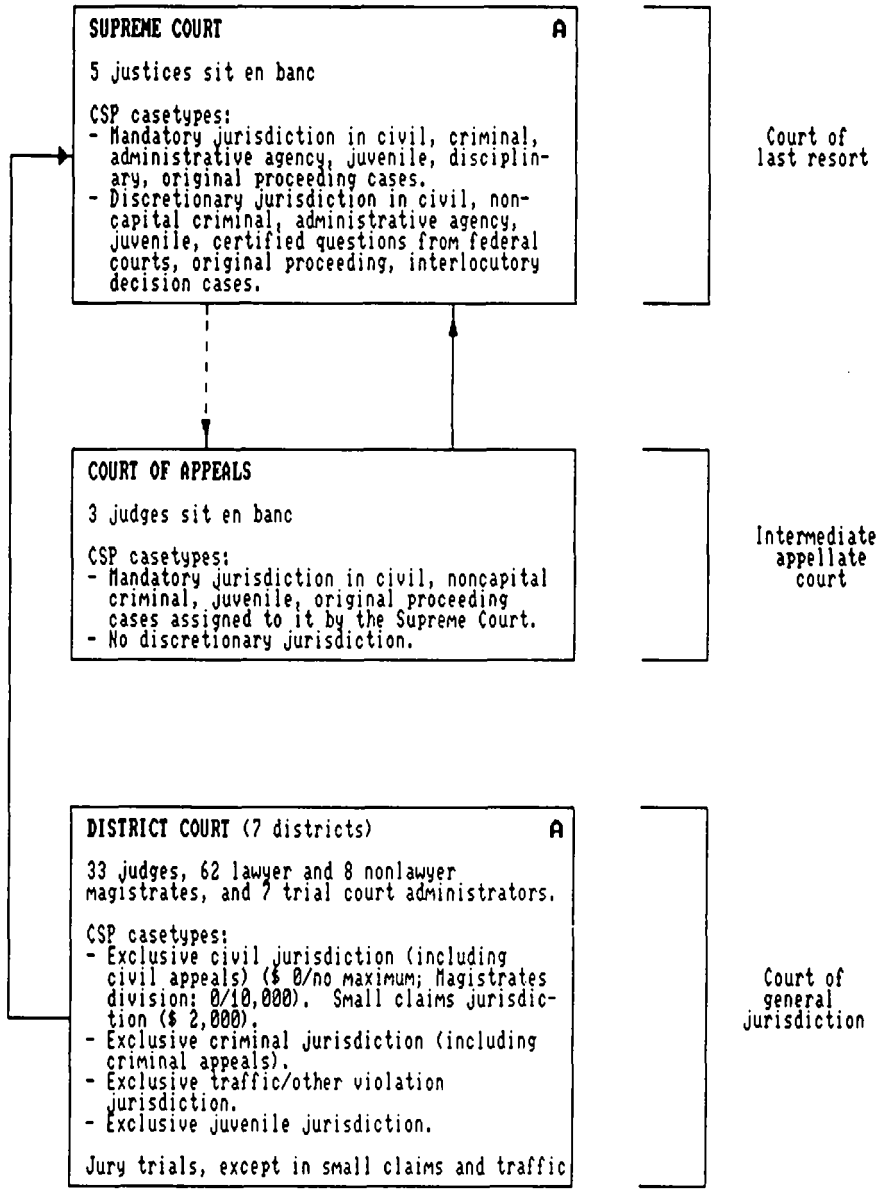


---- Indicates assignment of cases.

* Some per diem judges are assigned to serve as per diem District & Family Court judges in the First Circuit.

NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

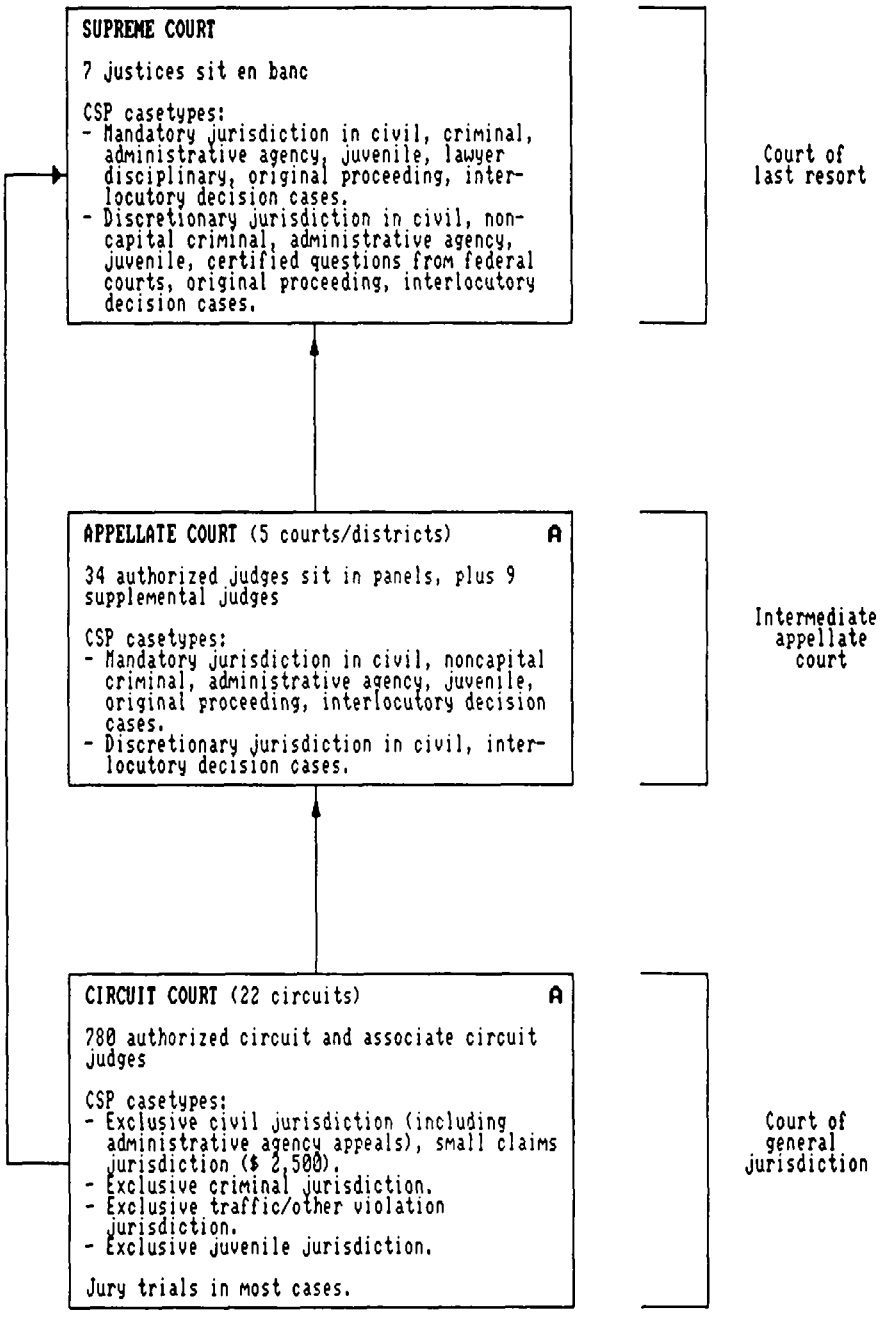
IDAHO COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



---- indicates assignment of cases.

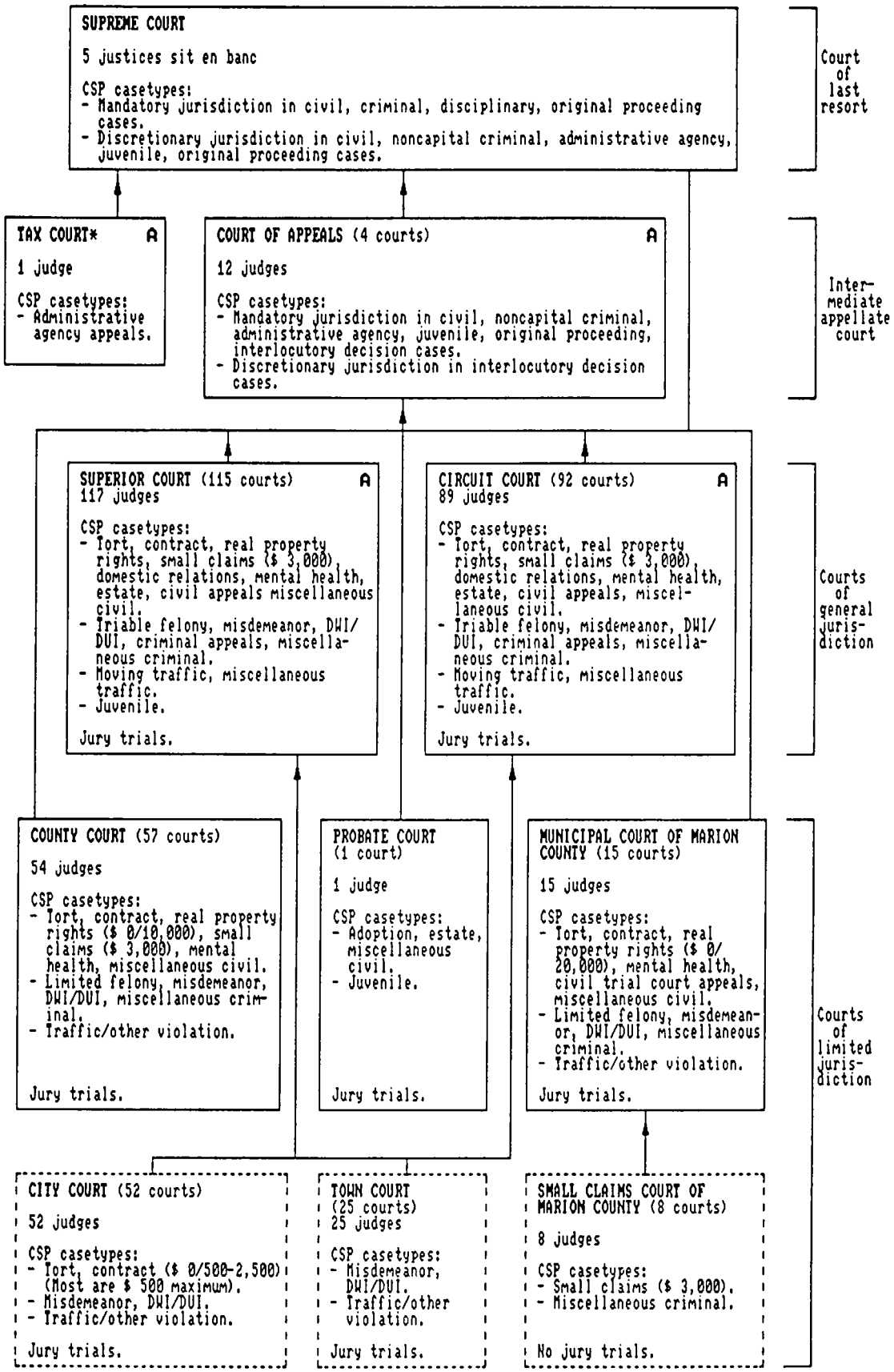
NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

ILLINOIS COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

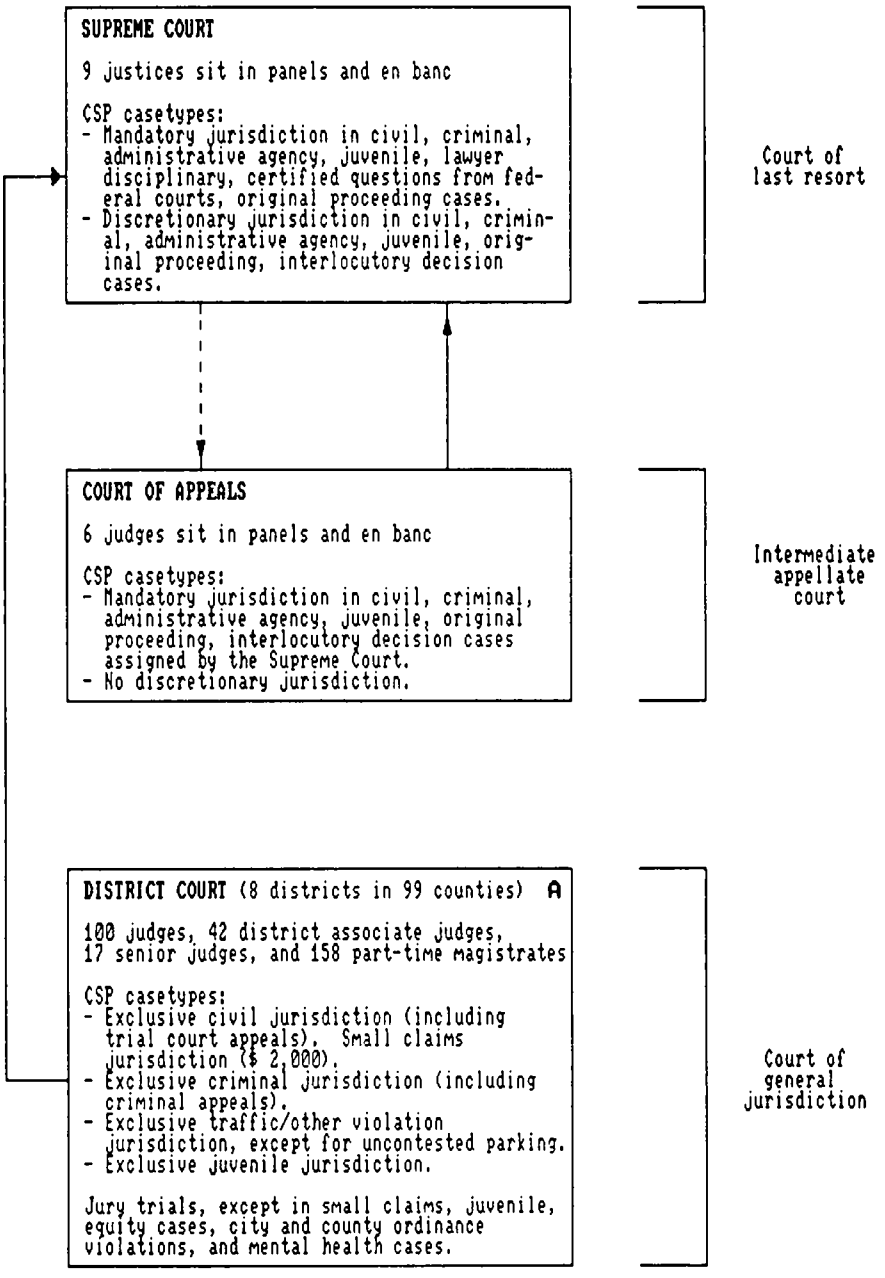
INDIANA COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



* The Tax Court was established in 1986.

NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

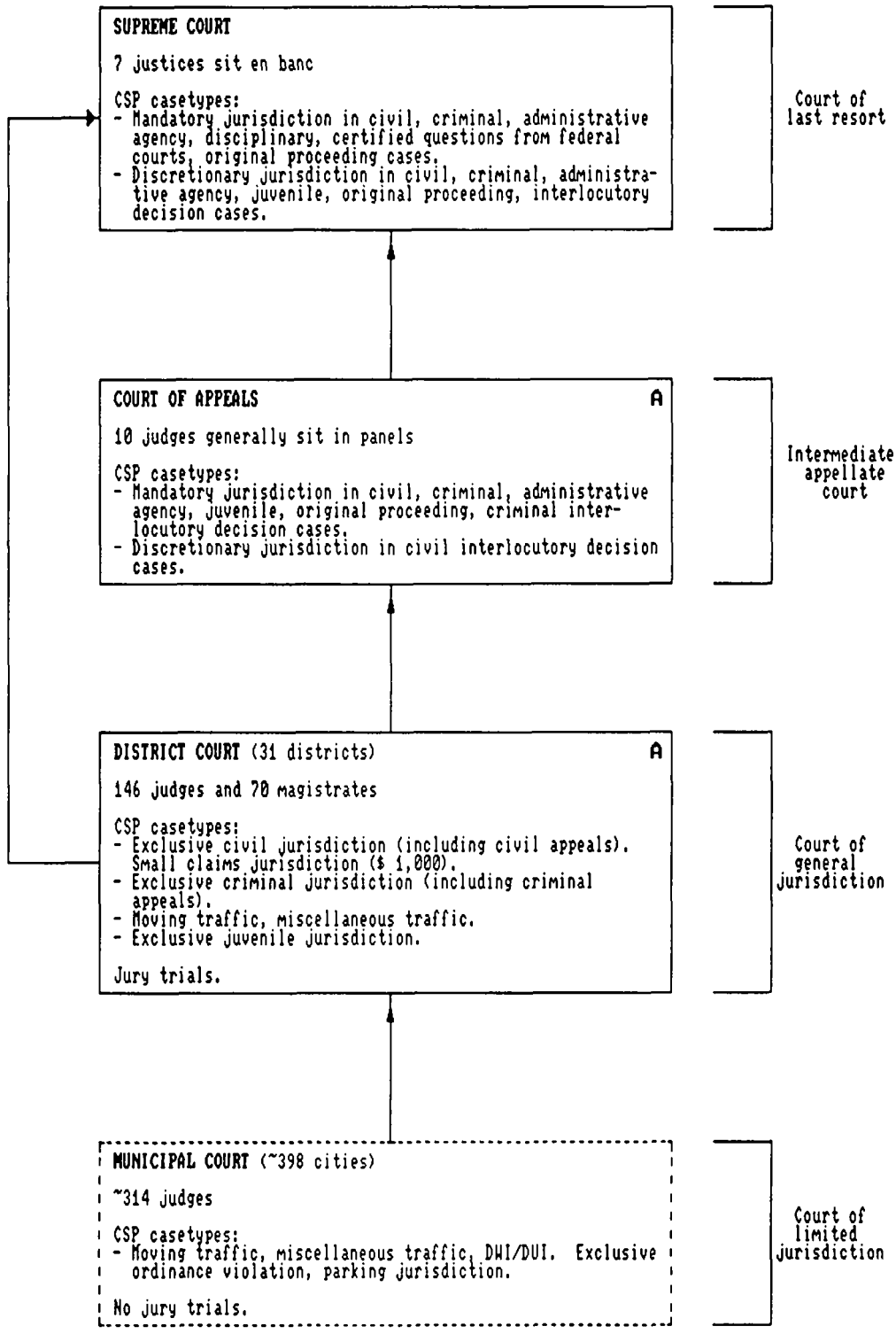
IOWA COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



---- Indicates assignment of cases.

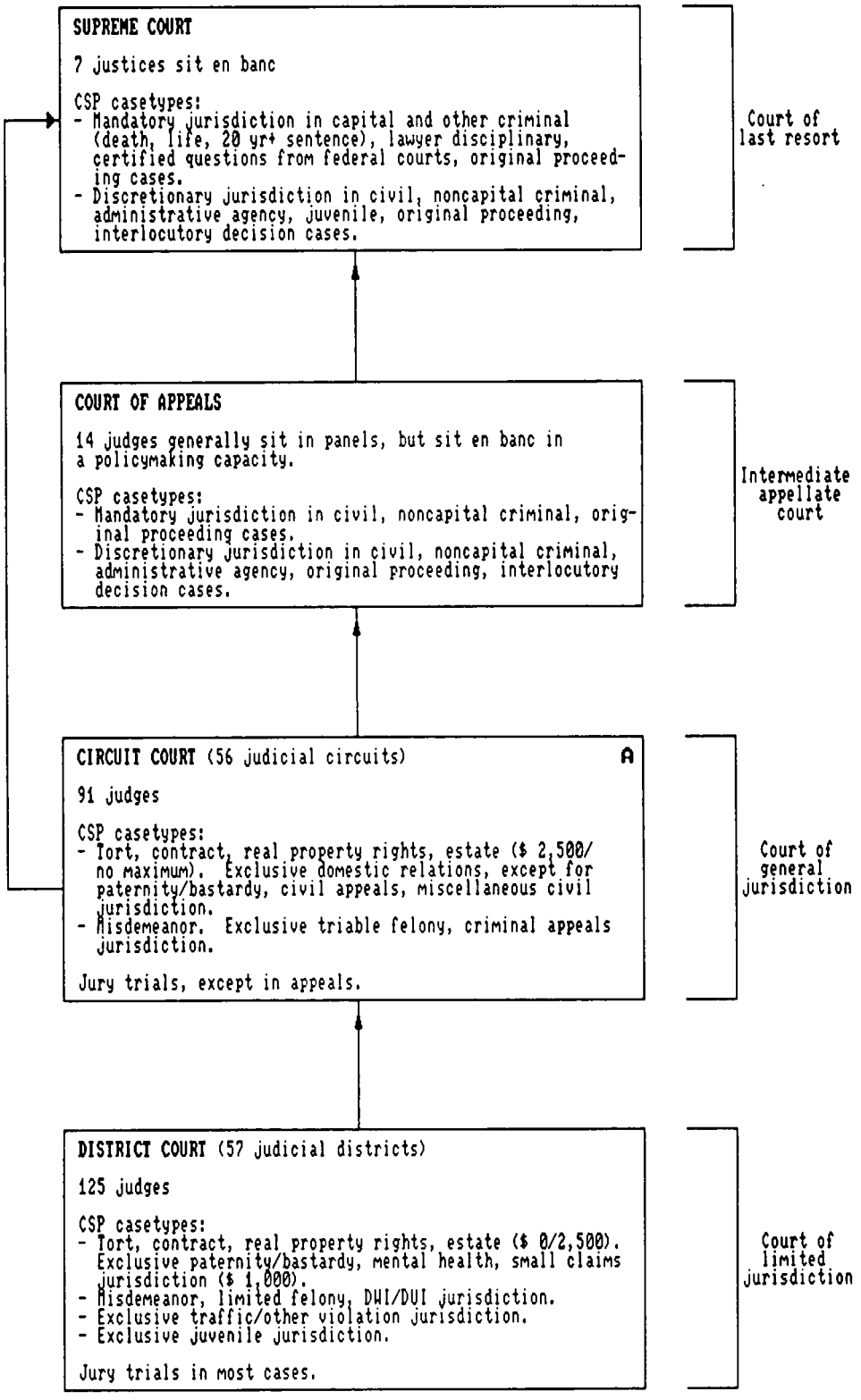
NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

KANSAS COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



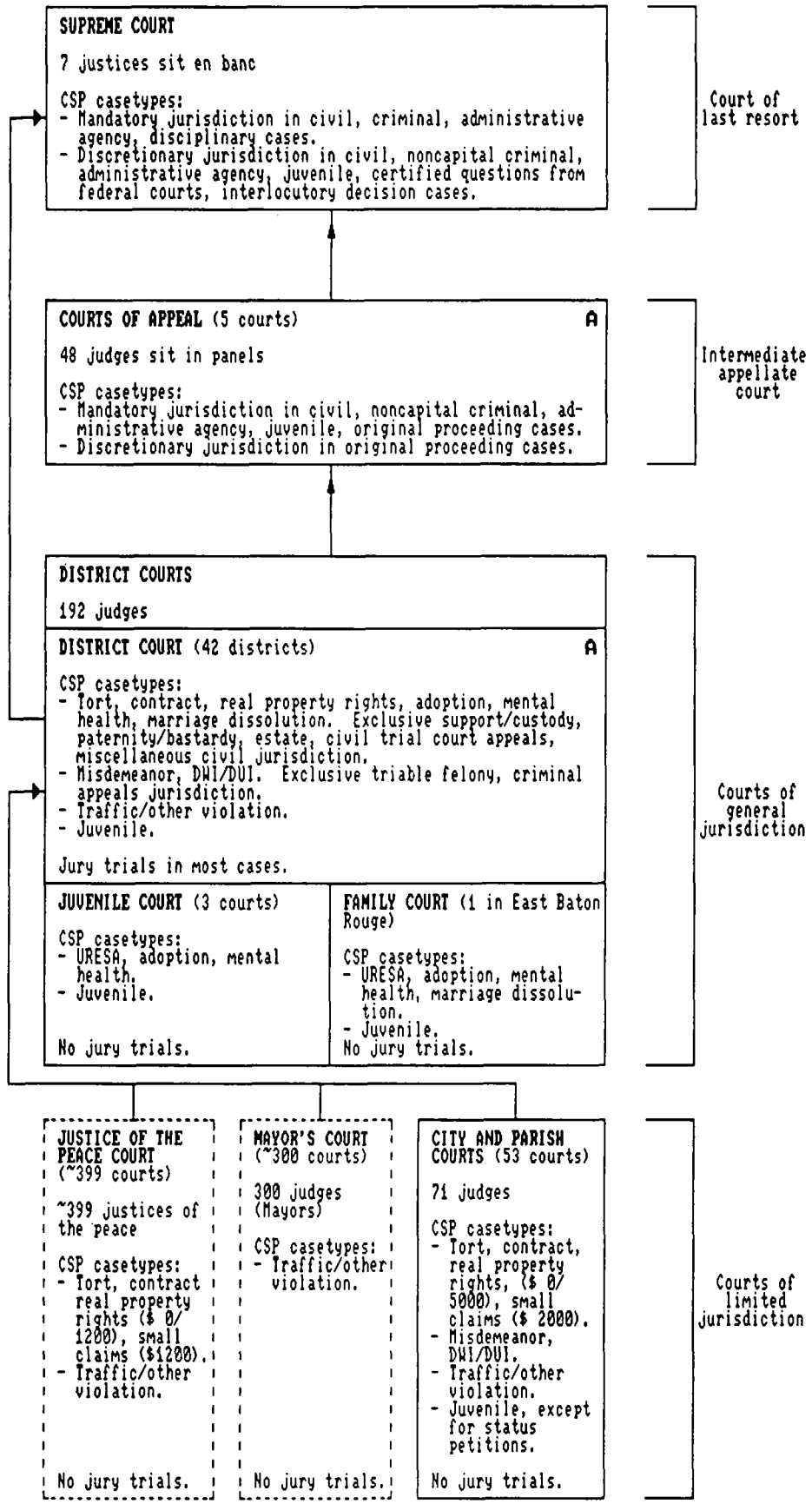
NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

KENTUCKY COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



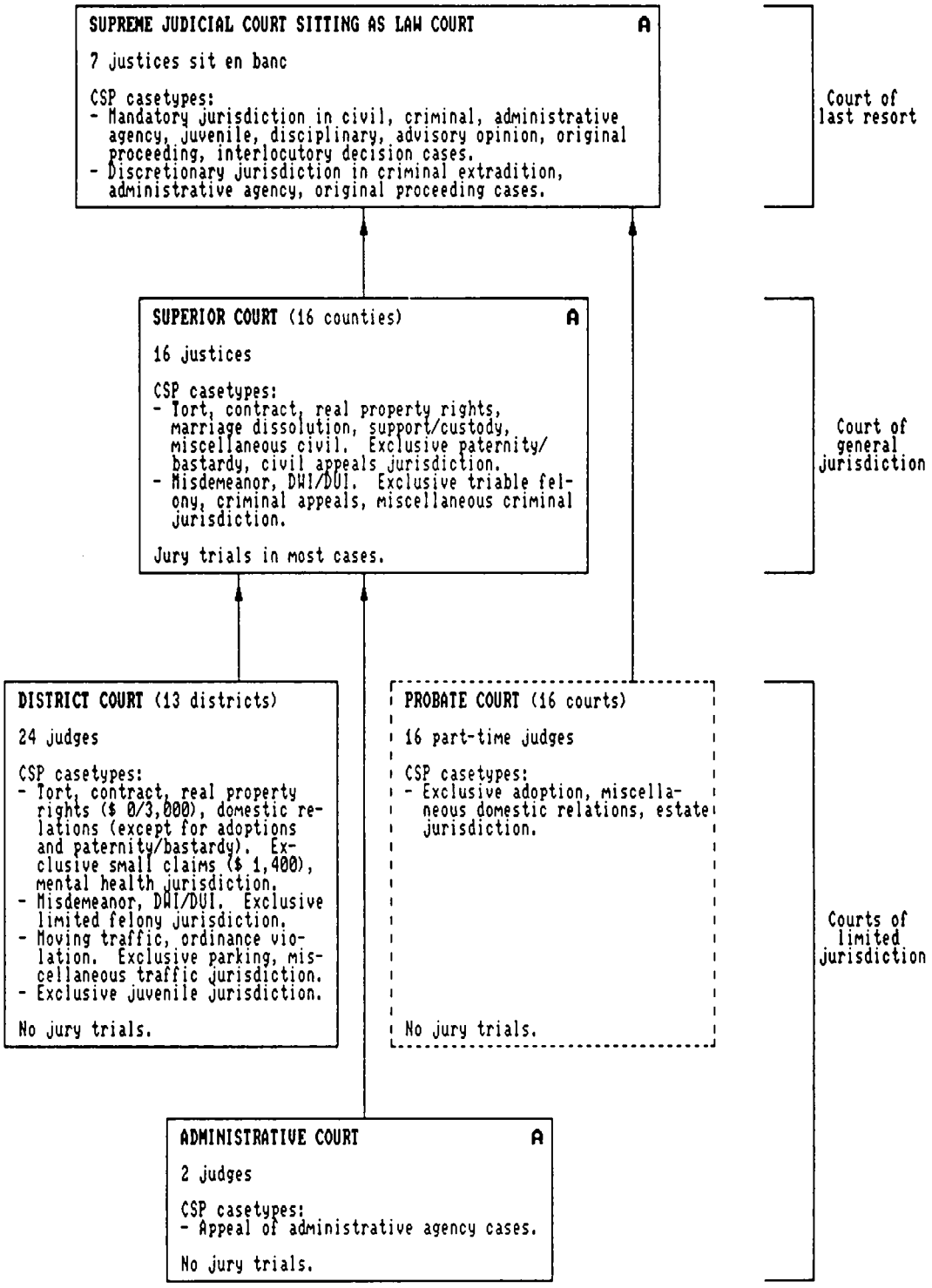
NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

LOUISIANA COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



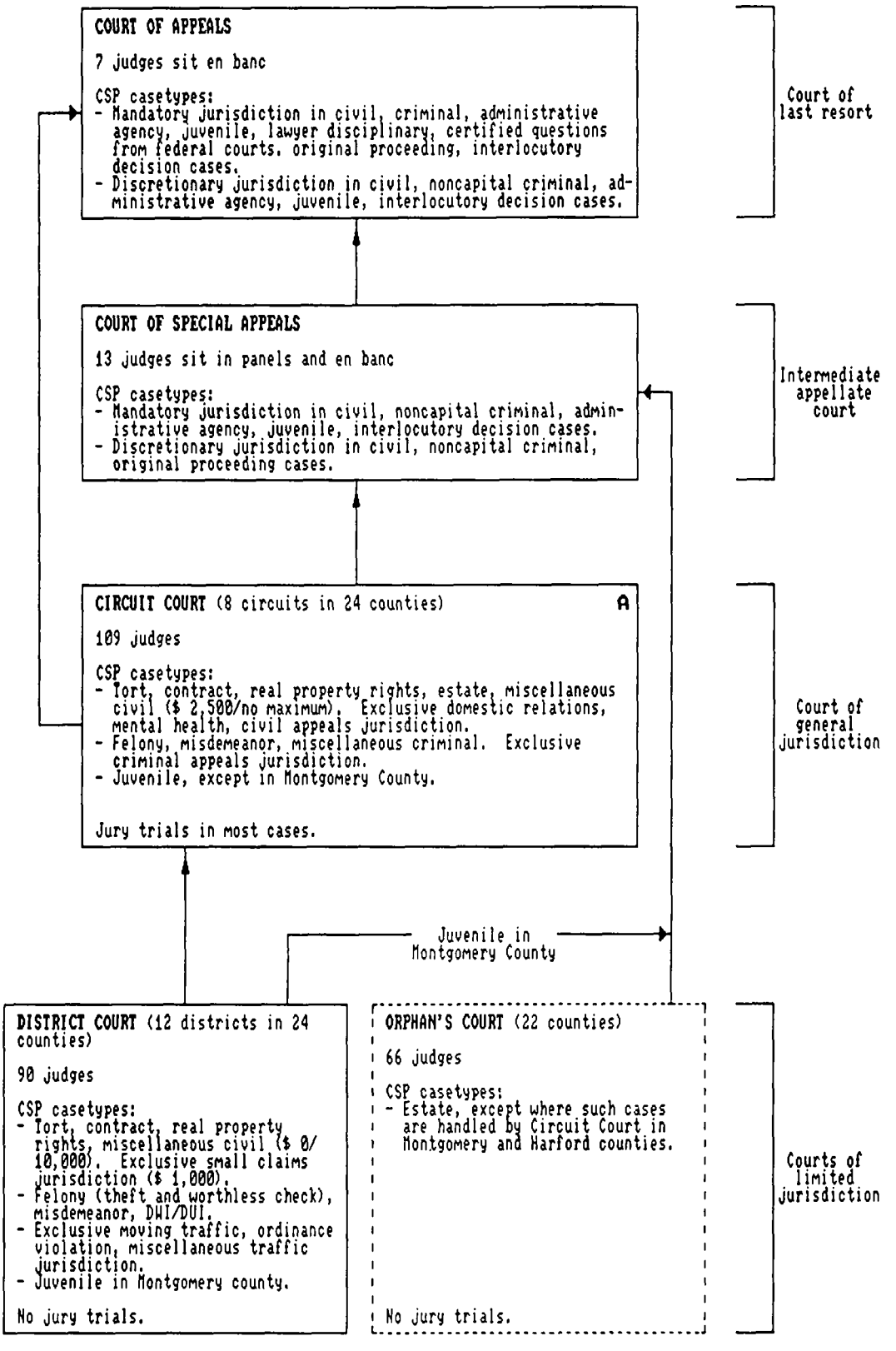
NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

MAINE COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



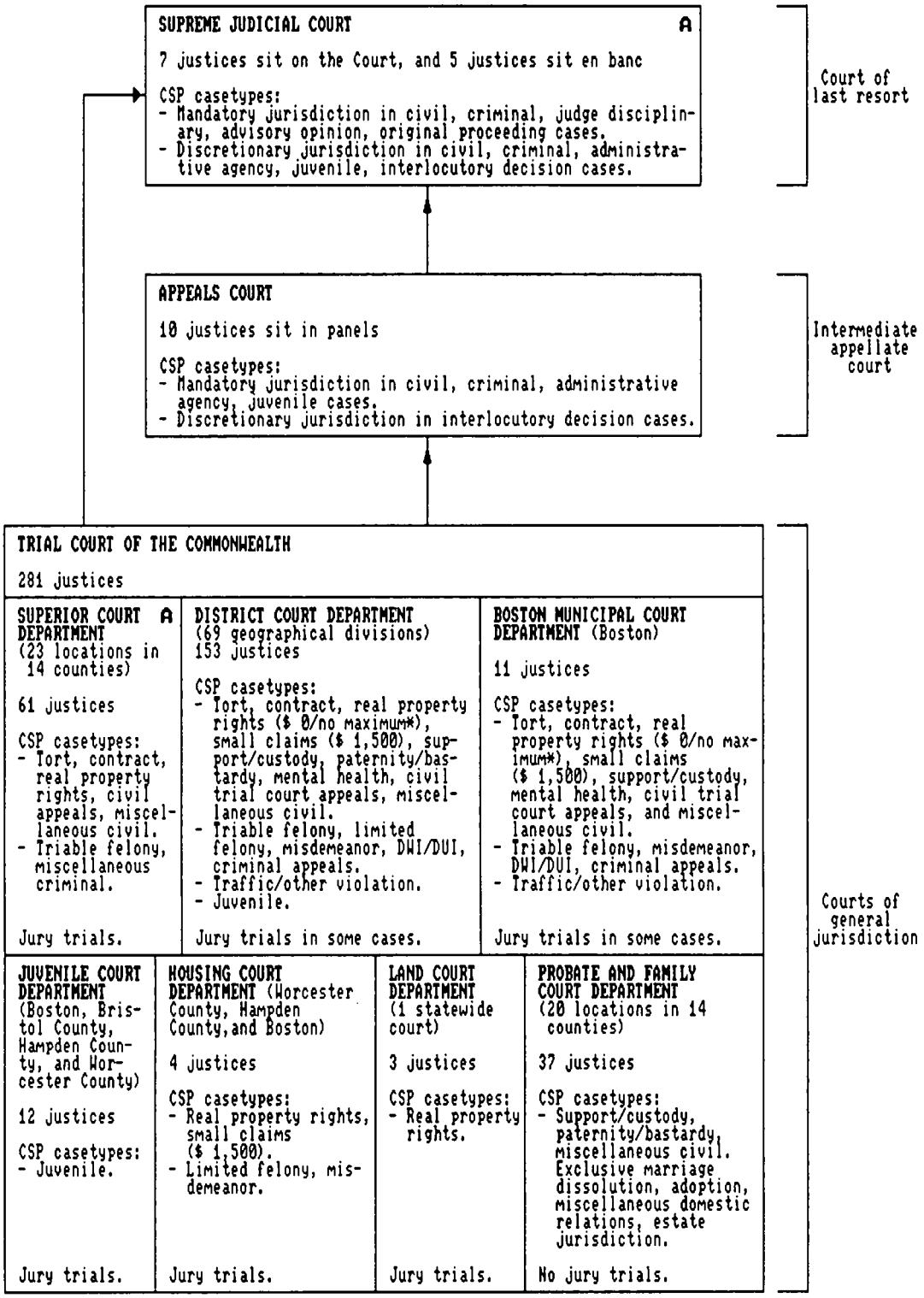
NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

MARYLAND COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

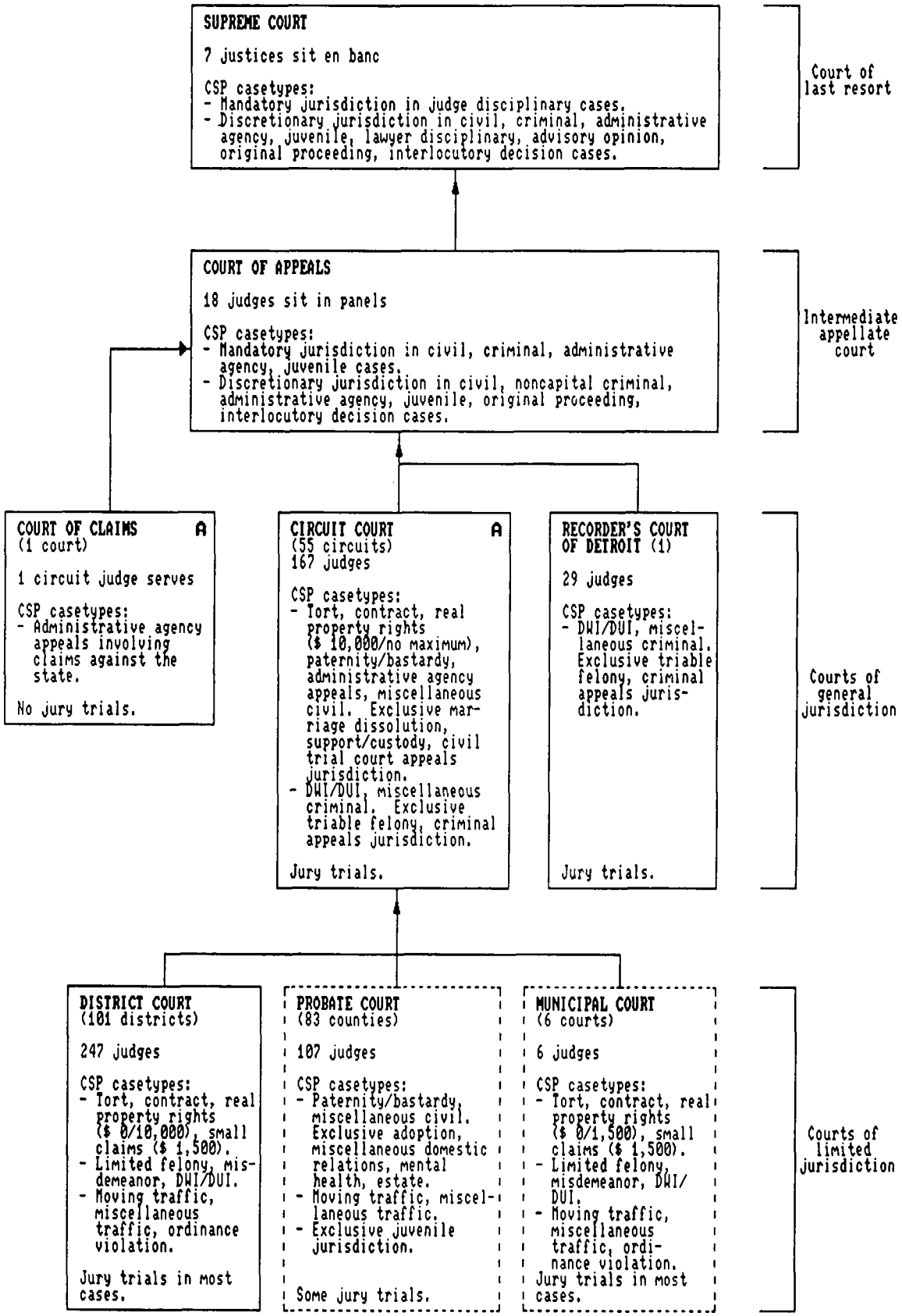
MASSACHUSETTS COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



* Limited dollar jurisdiction in tort and contract cases is $ 25,000.

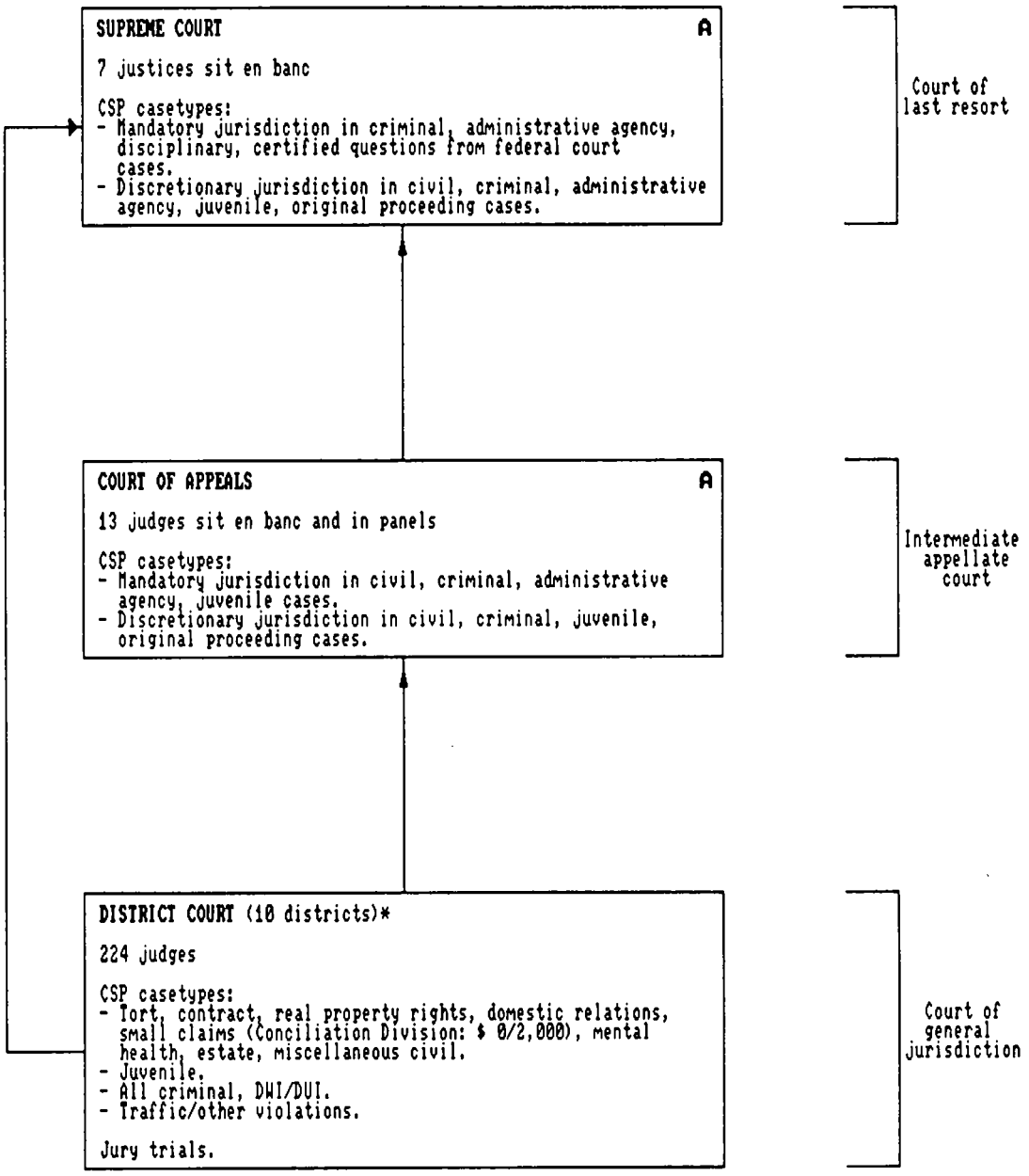
NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

MICHIGAN COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

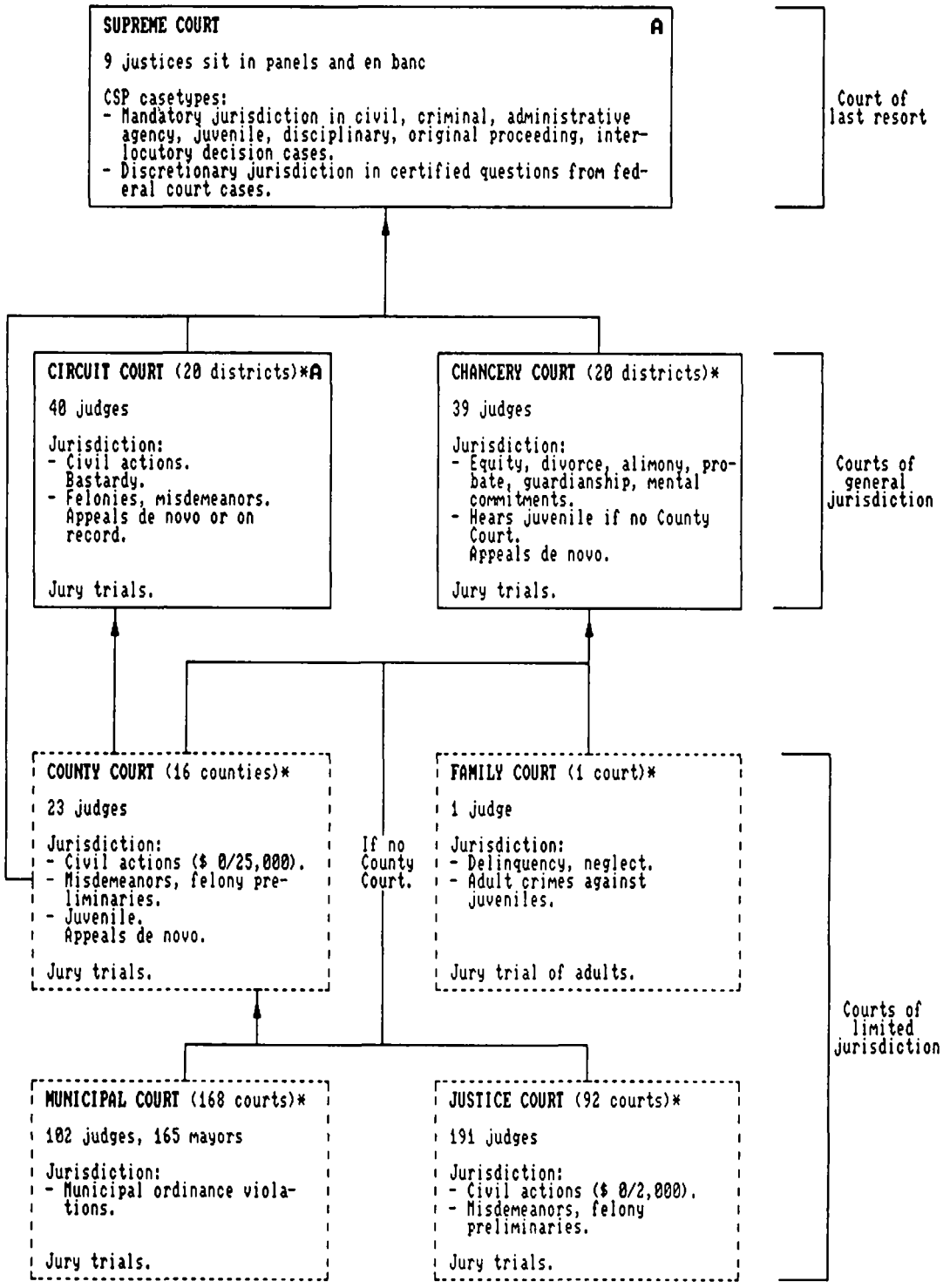
MINNESOTA COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



* The District Court was consolidated in September, 1987.

NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

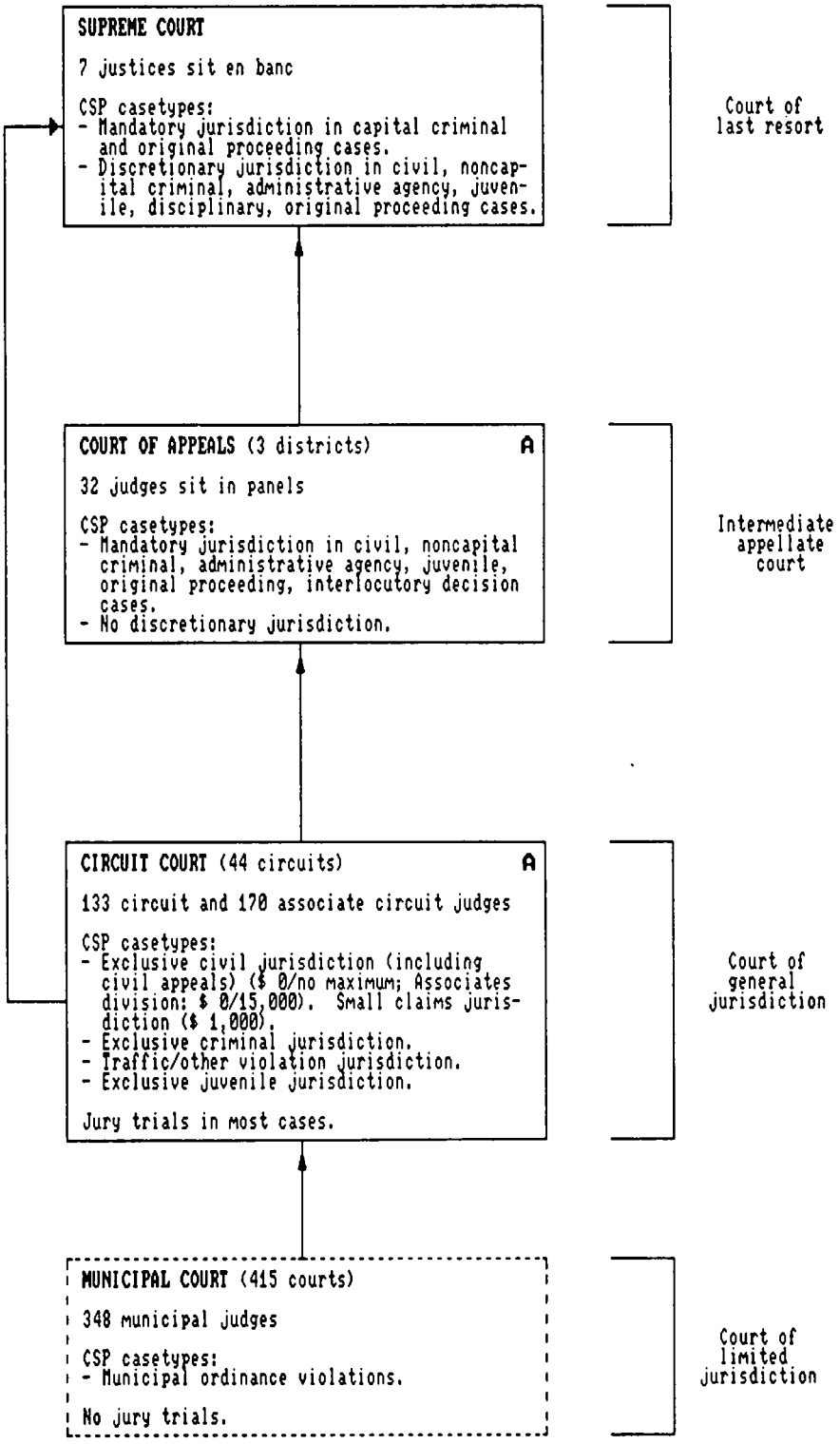
MISSISSIPPI COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



* A trial court jurisdiction guide was never completed by Mississippi, and data are unavailable for the trial courts; therefore, the trial court terminology reported in this court structure chart does not reflect CSP model reporting terms.

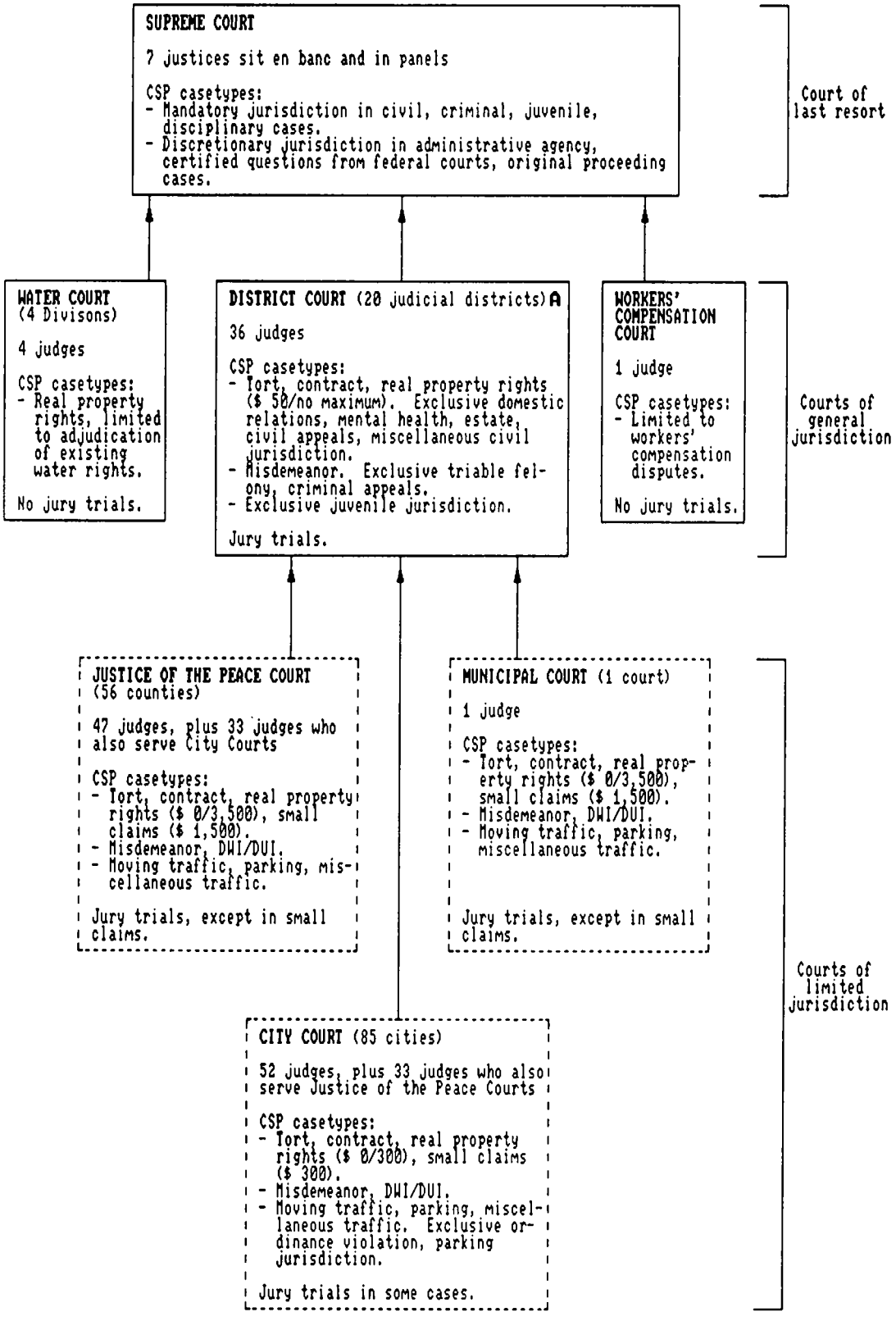
NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

MISSOURI COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



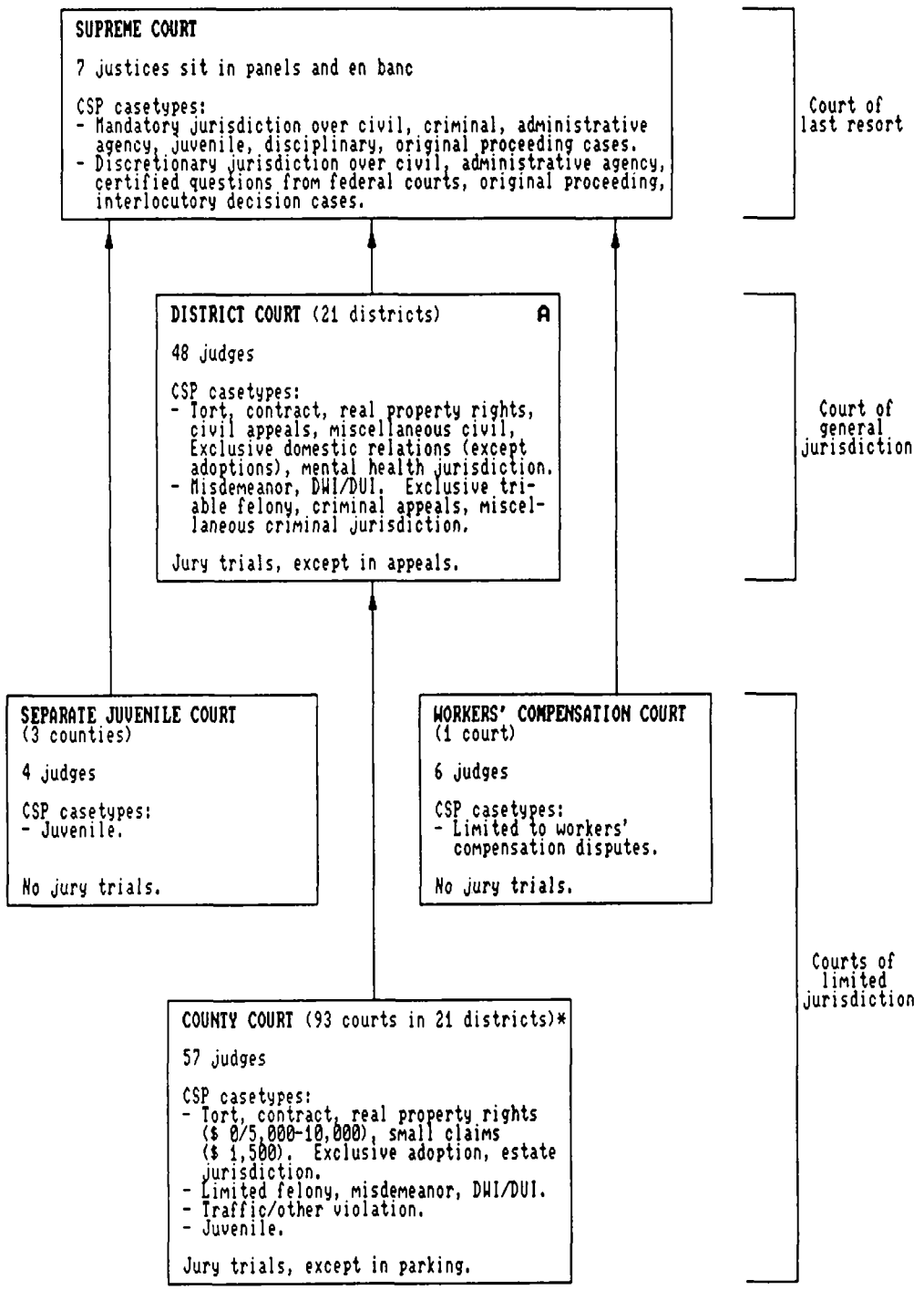
NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

MONTANA COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

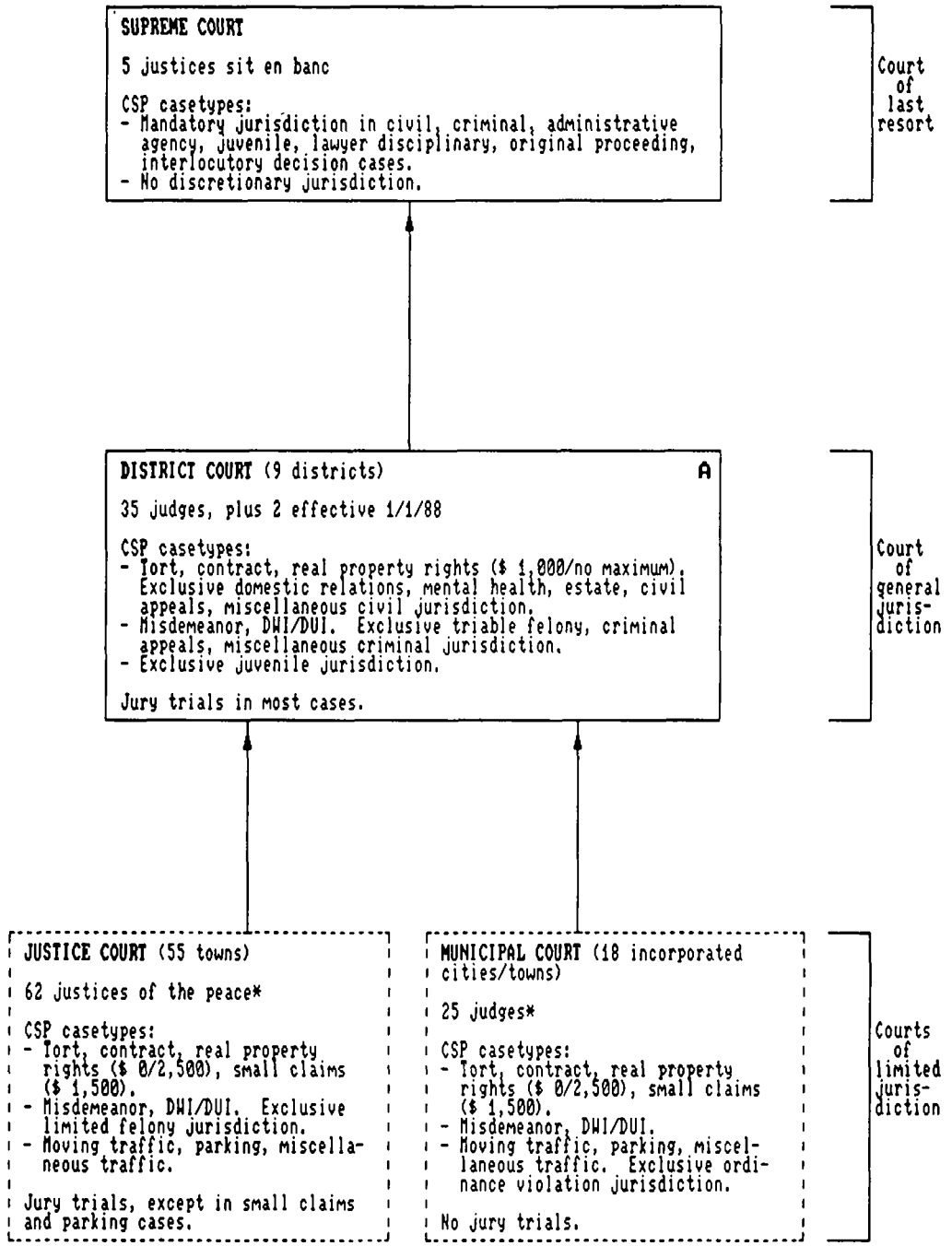
NEBRASKA COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



* In July 1985, the Municipal Courts were merged with the County Courts.

NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

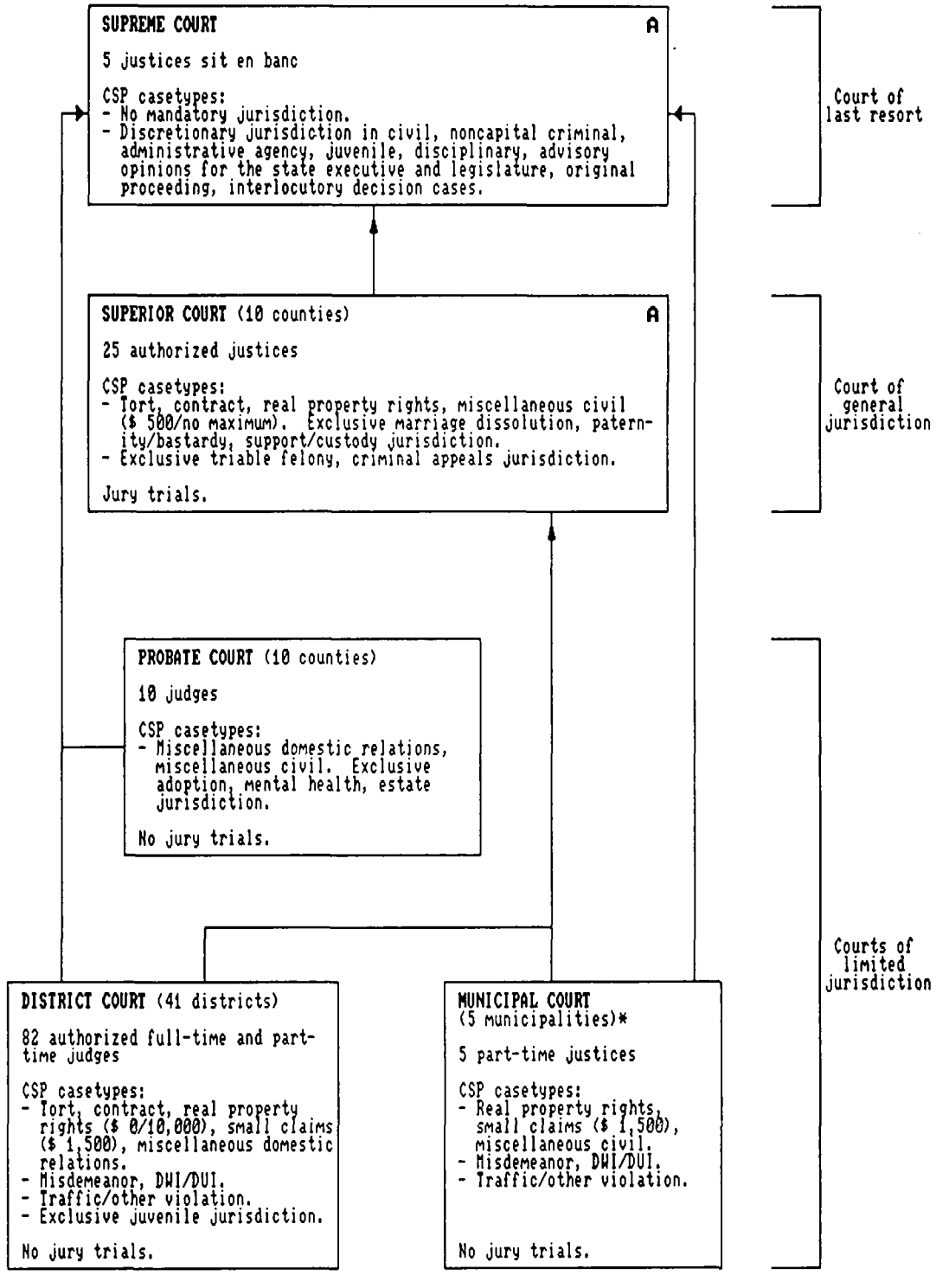
NEVADA COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



* Eight Justices of the Peace also serve as Municipal Court judges.

NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

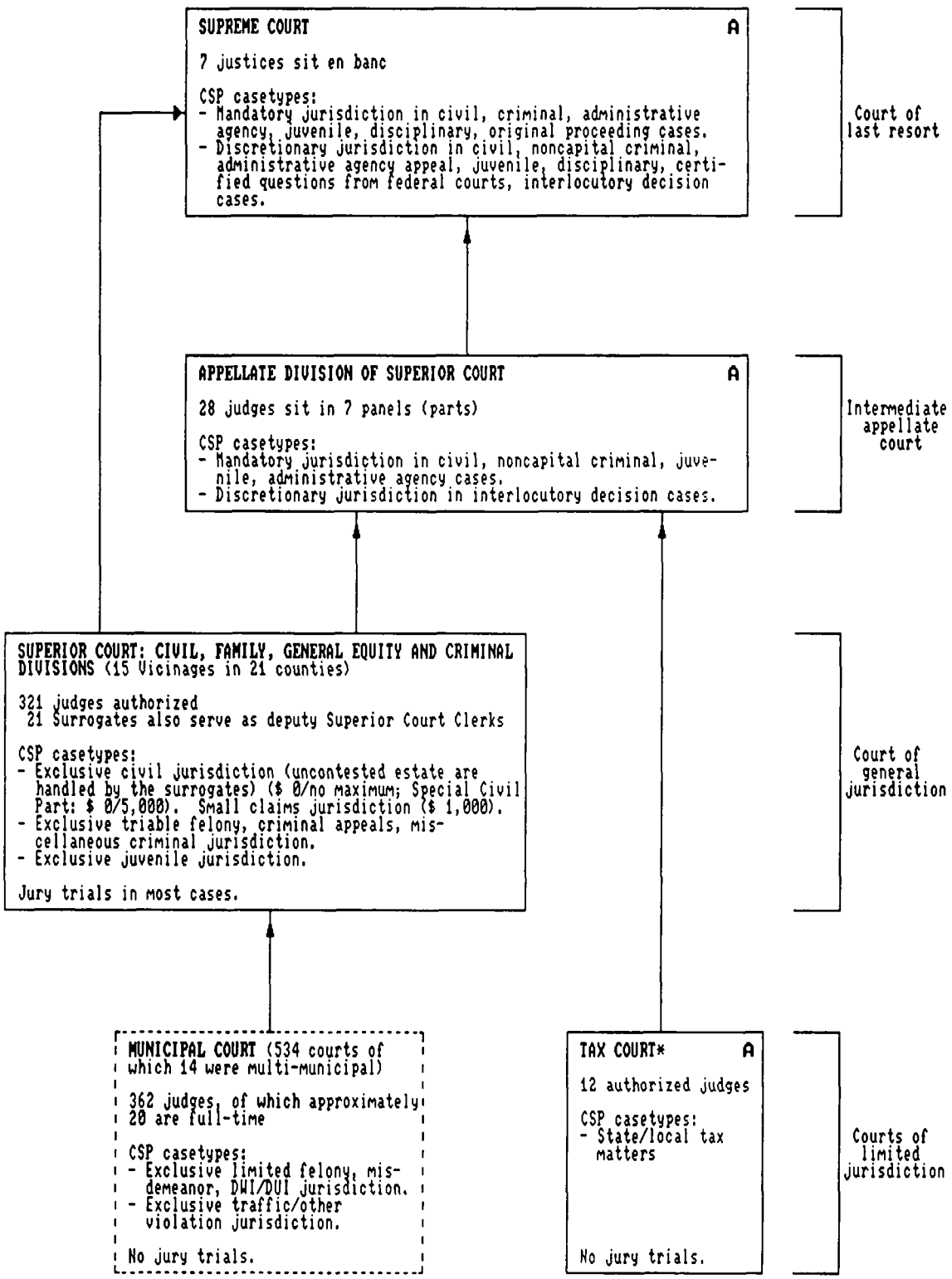
NEW HAMPSHIRE COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



* The Municipal Court is being phased out (by statute) upon retirement and/or resignation of sitting justices.

NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

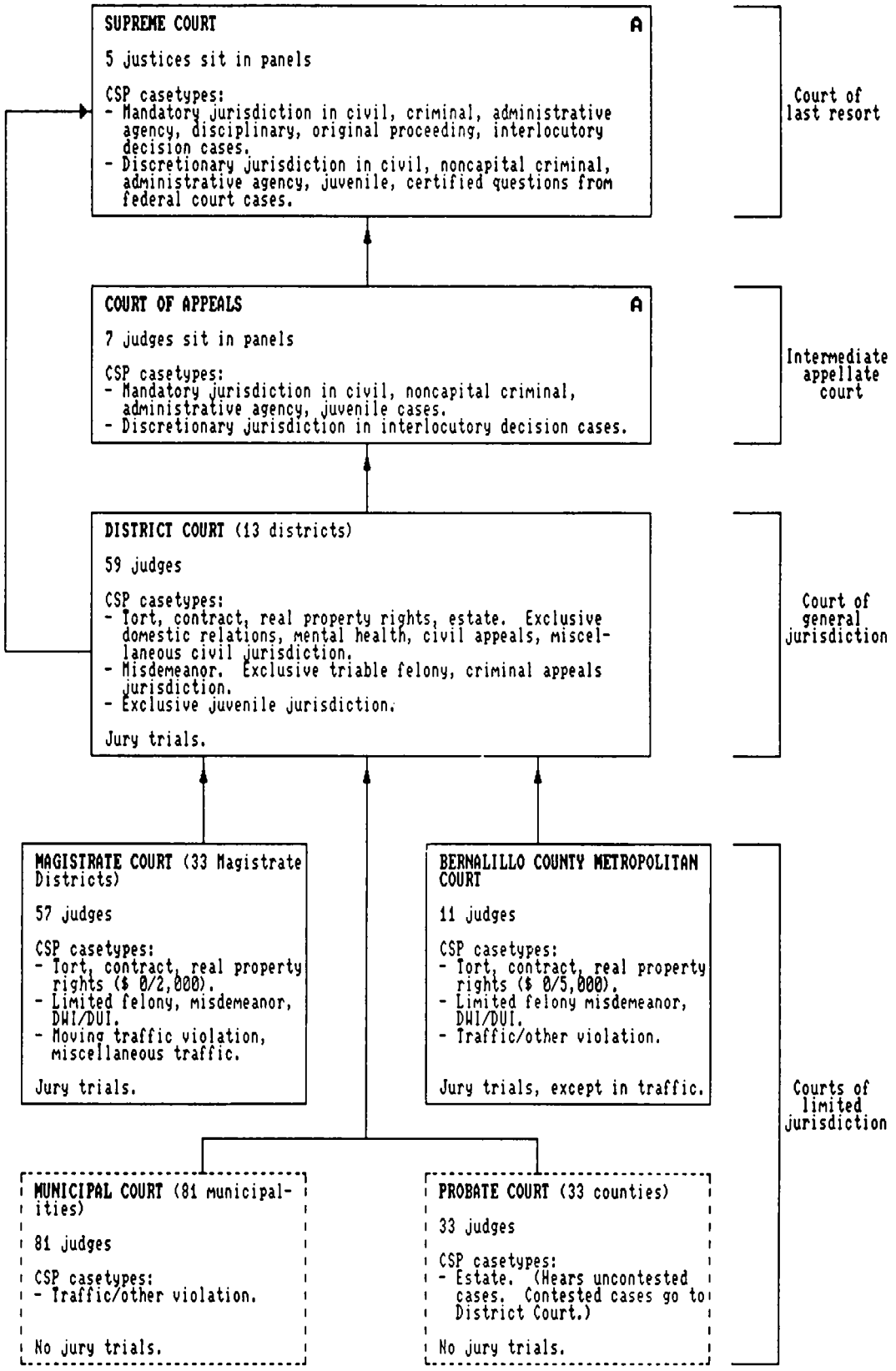
NEW JERSEY COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



* Tax Court is considered a limited jurisdiction court because of its specialized subject matter. Nevertheless, it receives appeals from administrative bodies and its cases are appealed to the intermediate appellate court. Tax Court judges have the same general qualifications and terms of service as Superior Court judges and can be cross assigned.

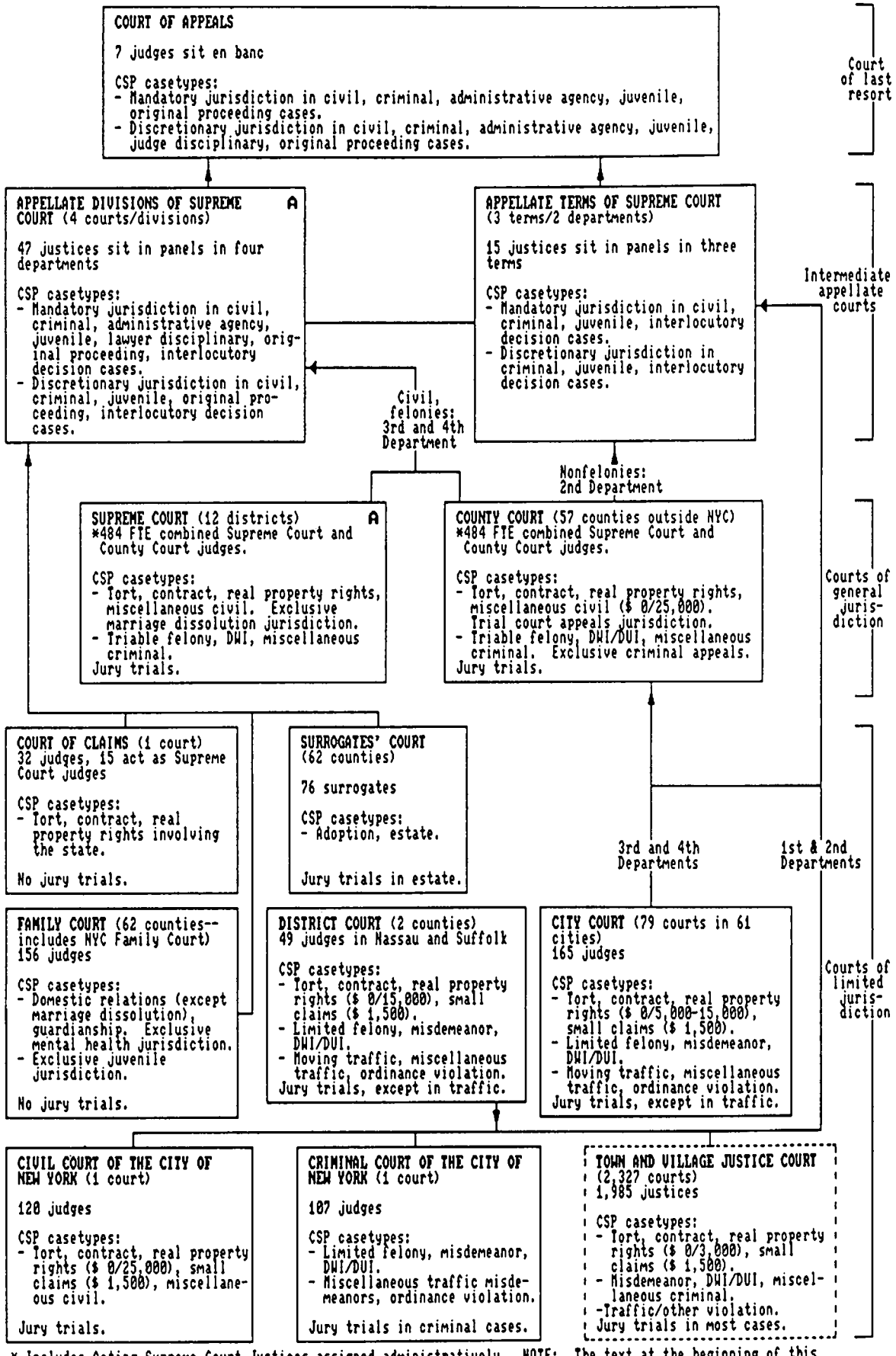
NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

NEW MEXICO COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



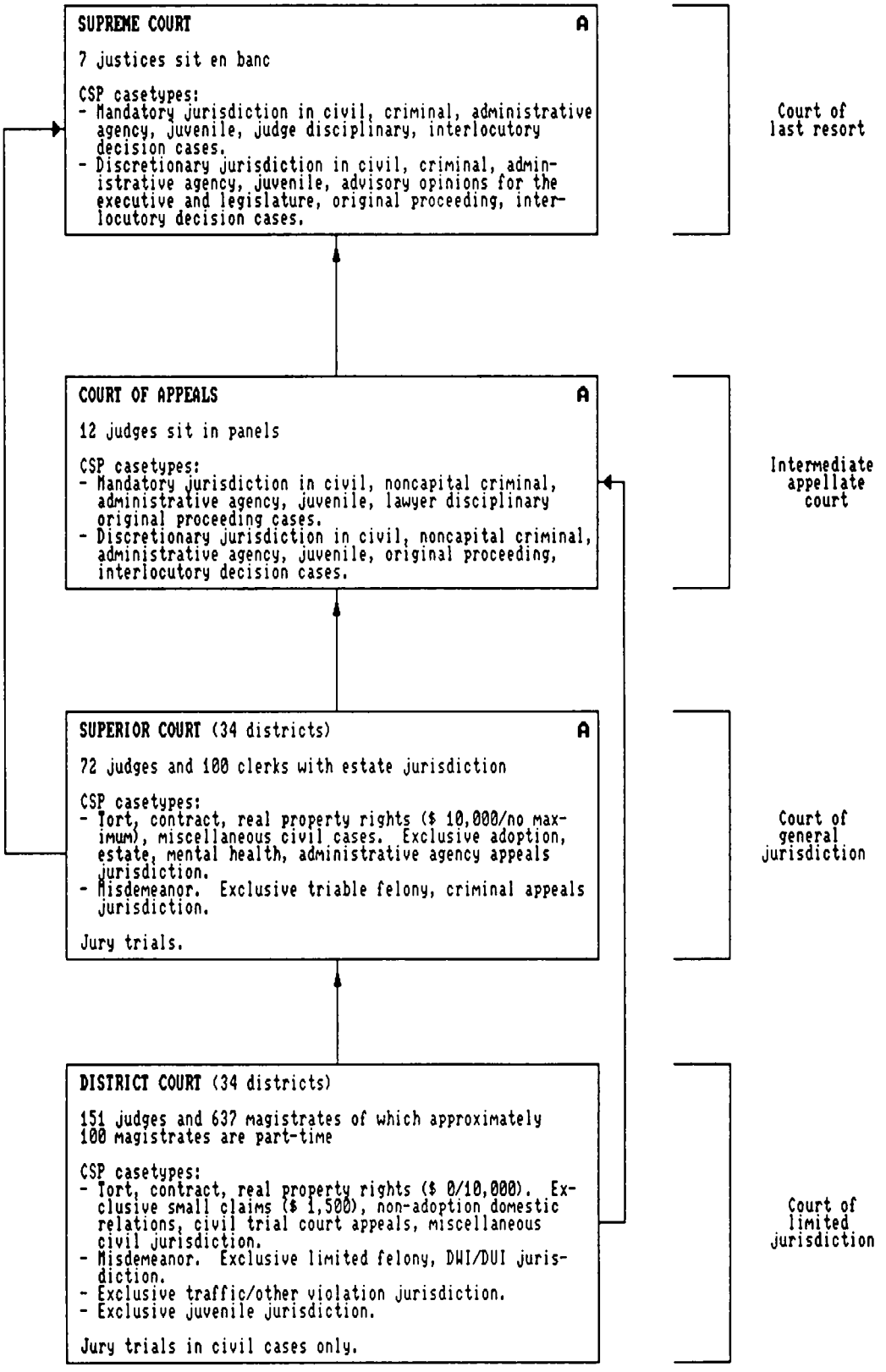
NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

NEW YORK COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



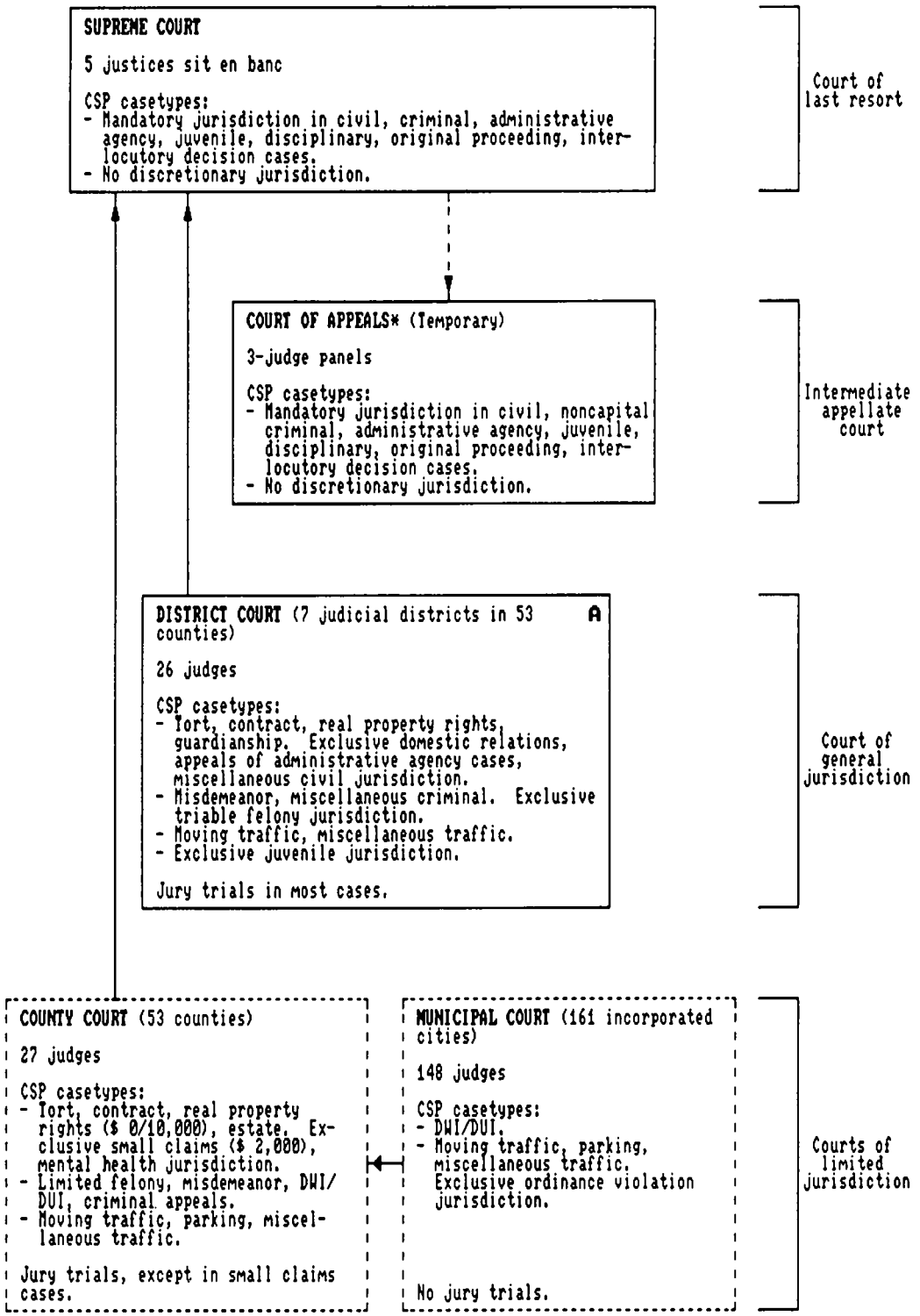
* Includes Acting Supreme Court Justices assigned administratively. NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

NORTH CAROLINA COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

NORTH DAKOTA COURT STRUCTURE, 1987

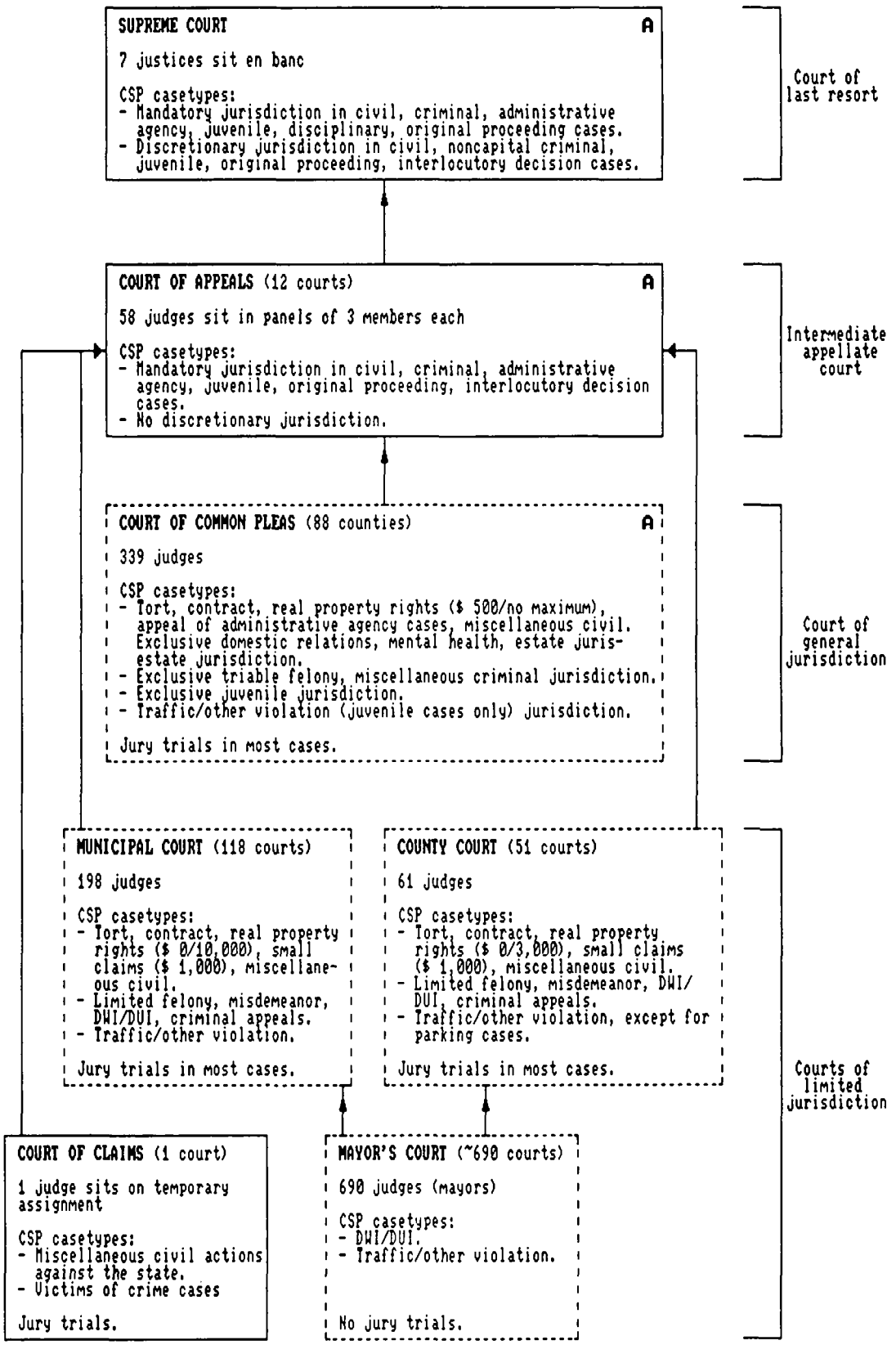


---- Indicates assignment of cases.

* Effective July 1, 1987 through January 1, 1990, a temporary Court of Appeals is established to exercise appellate and original jurisdiction as delegated by the Supreme Court.

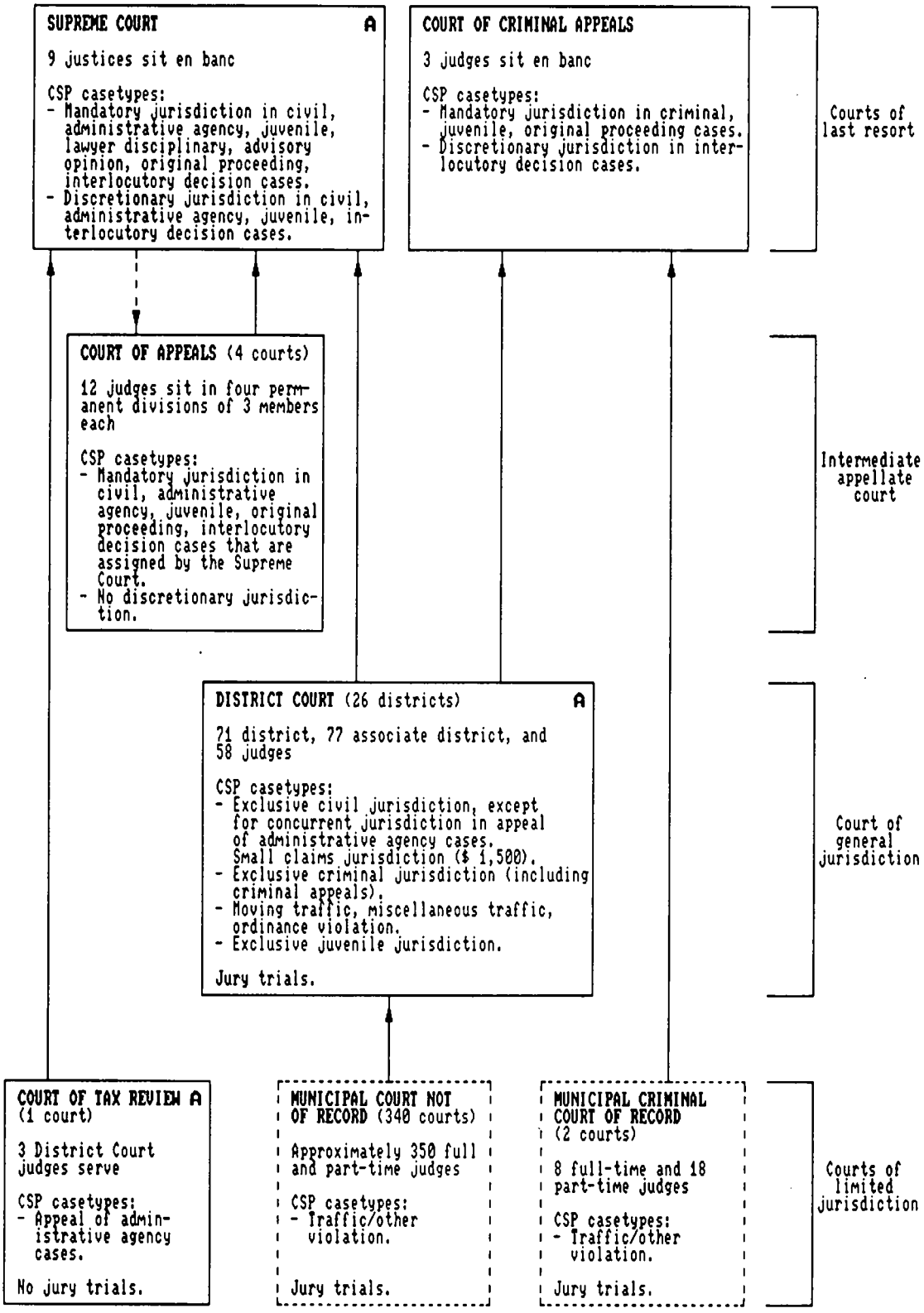
NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

OHIO COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

OKLAHOMA COURT STRUCTURE, 1987

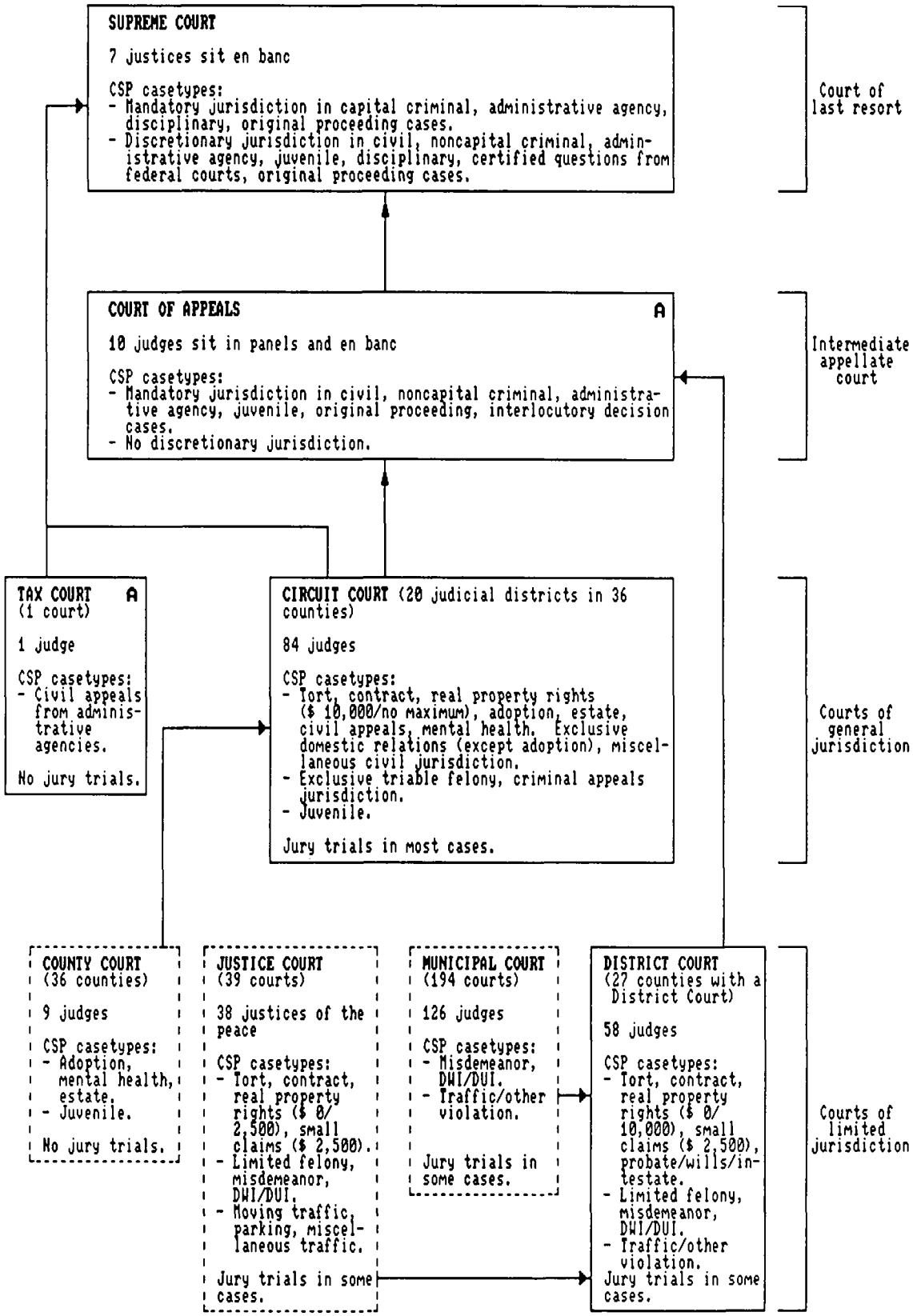


---- Indicates assignment of cases.

Oklahoma has a Workers' Compensation Court which hears complaints that are handled exclusively by administrative agencies in other states.

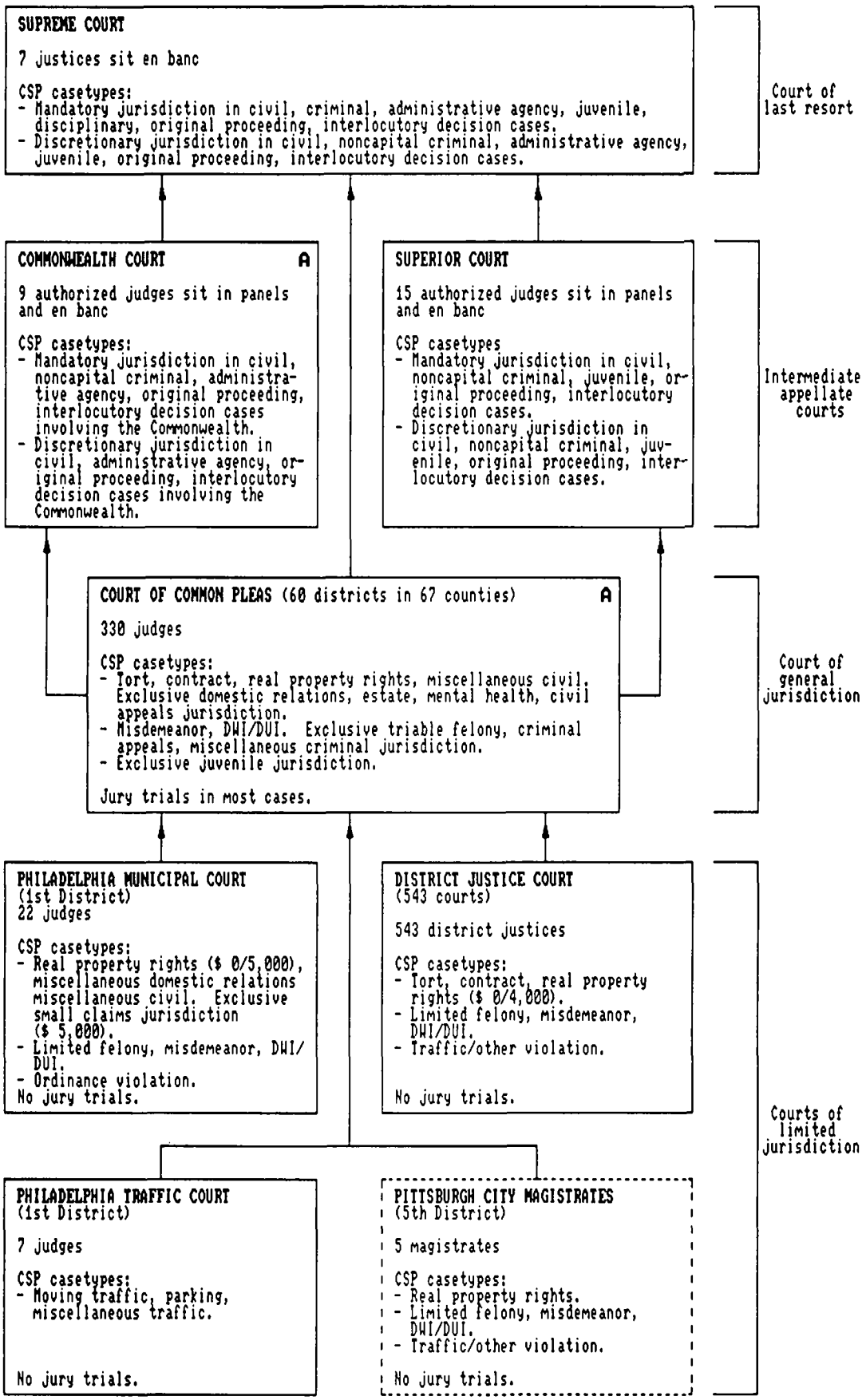
NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

OREGON COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



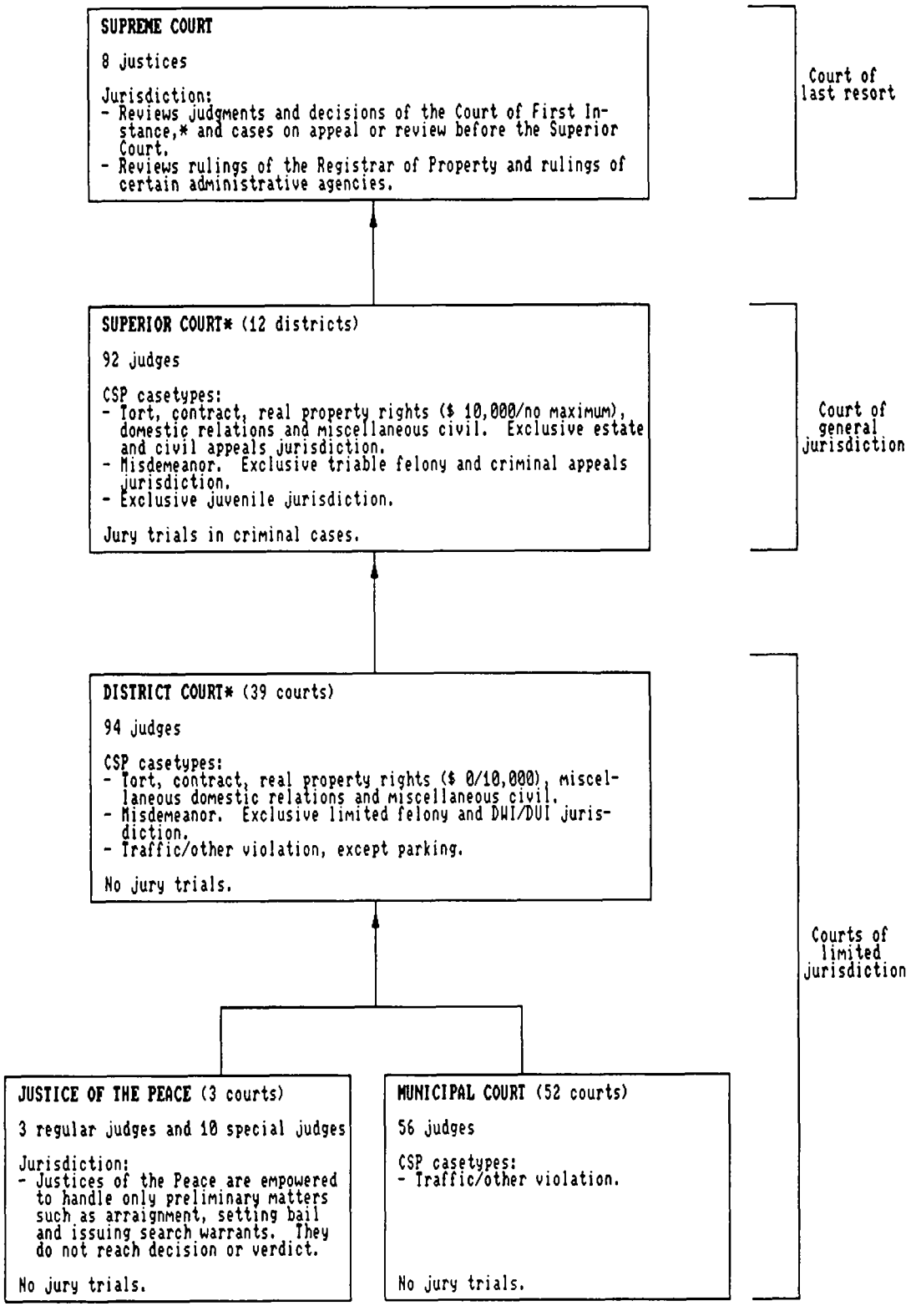
NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

PENNSYLVANIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

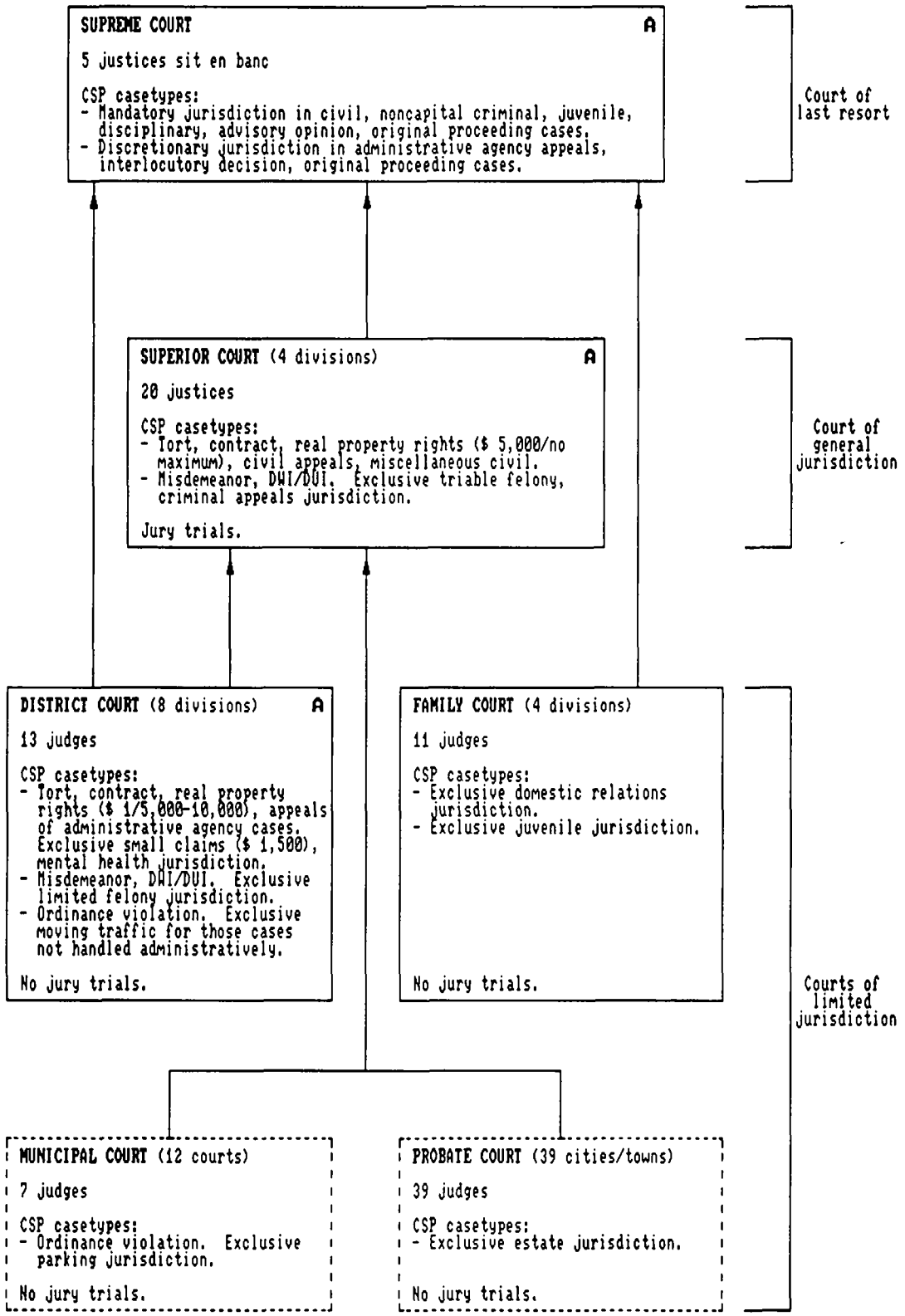
PUERTO RICO COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



* The Court of First Instance consists of two divisions: the Superior Court and the District Court.

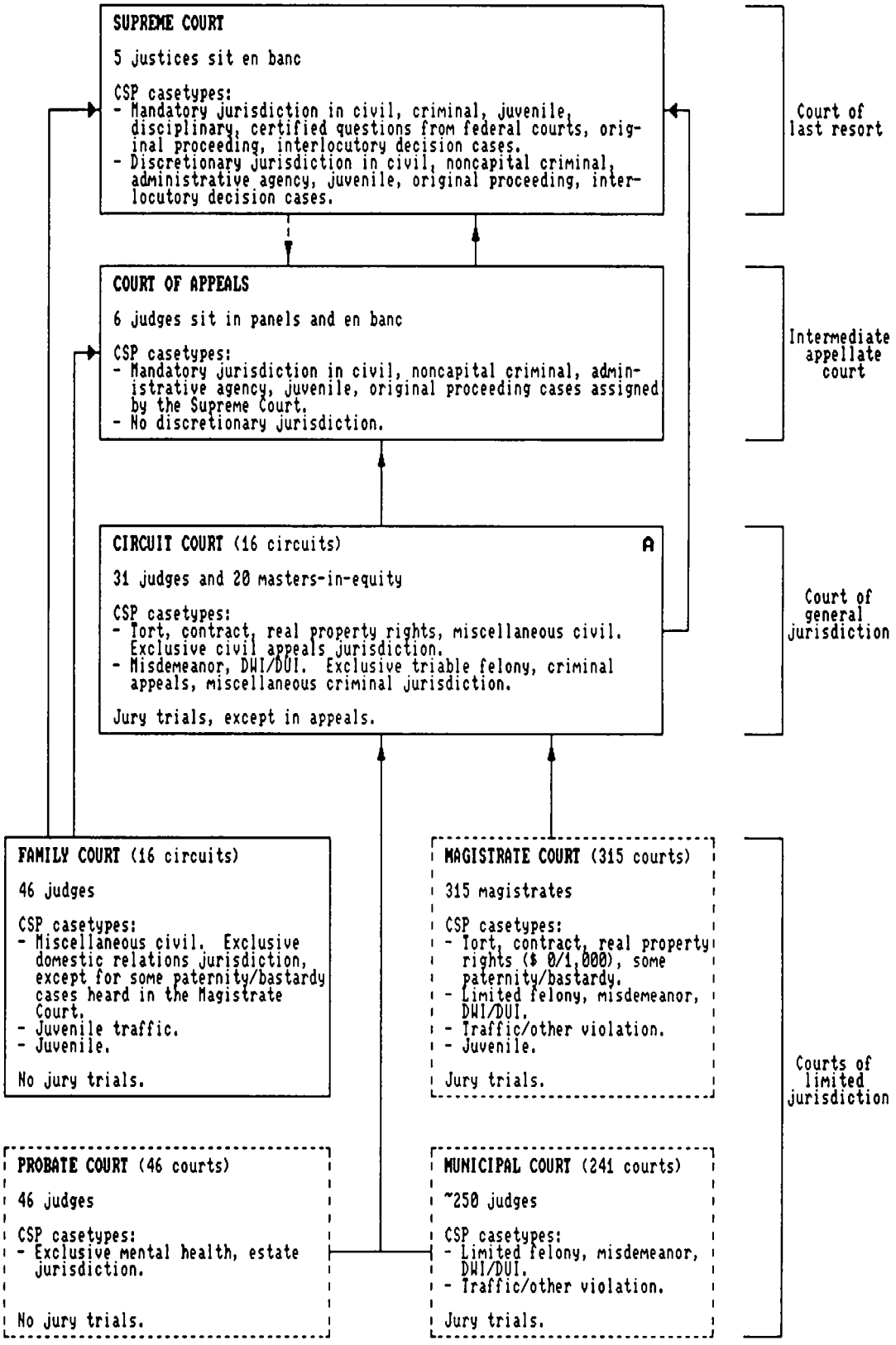
NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

RHODE ISLAND COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

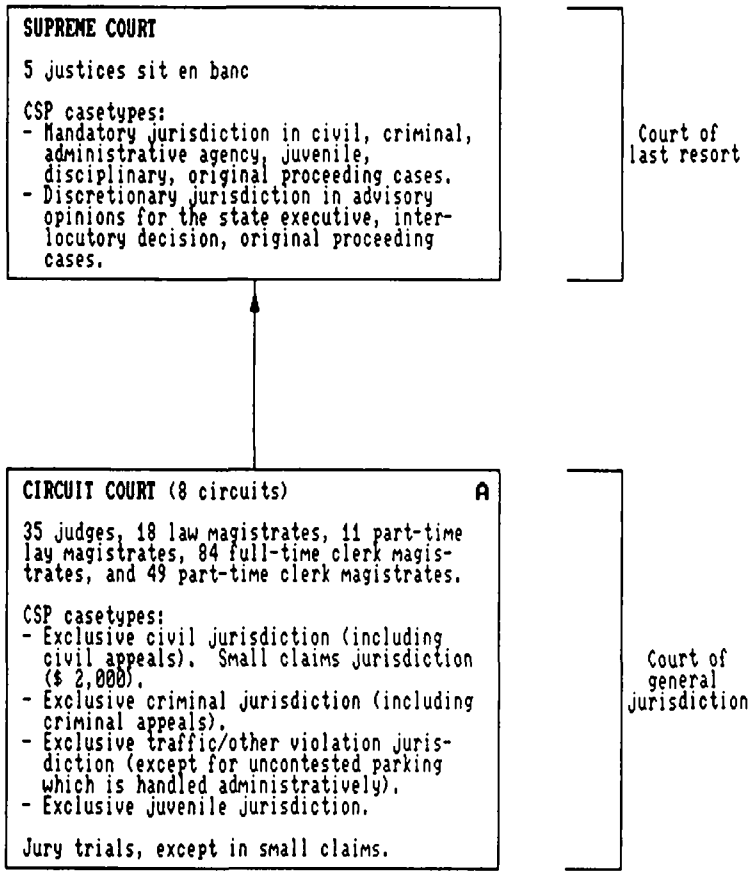
SOUTH CAROLINA COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



---- Indicates assignment of cases.

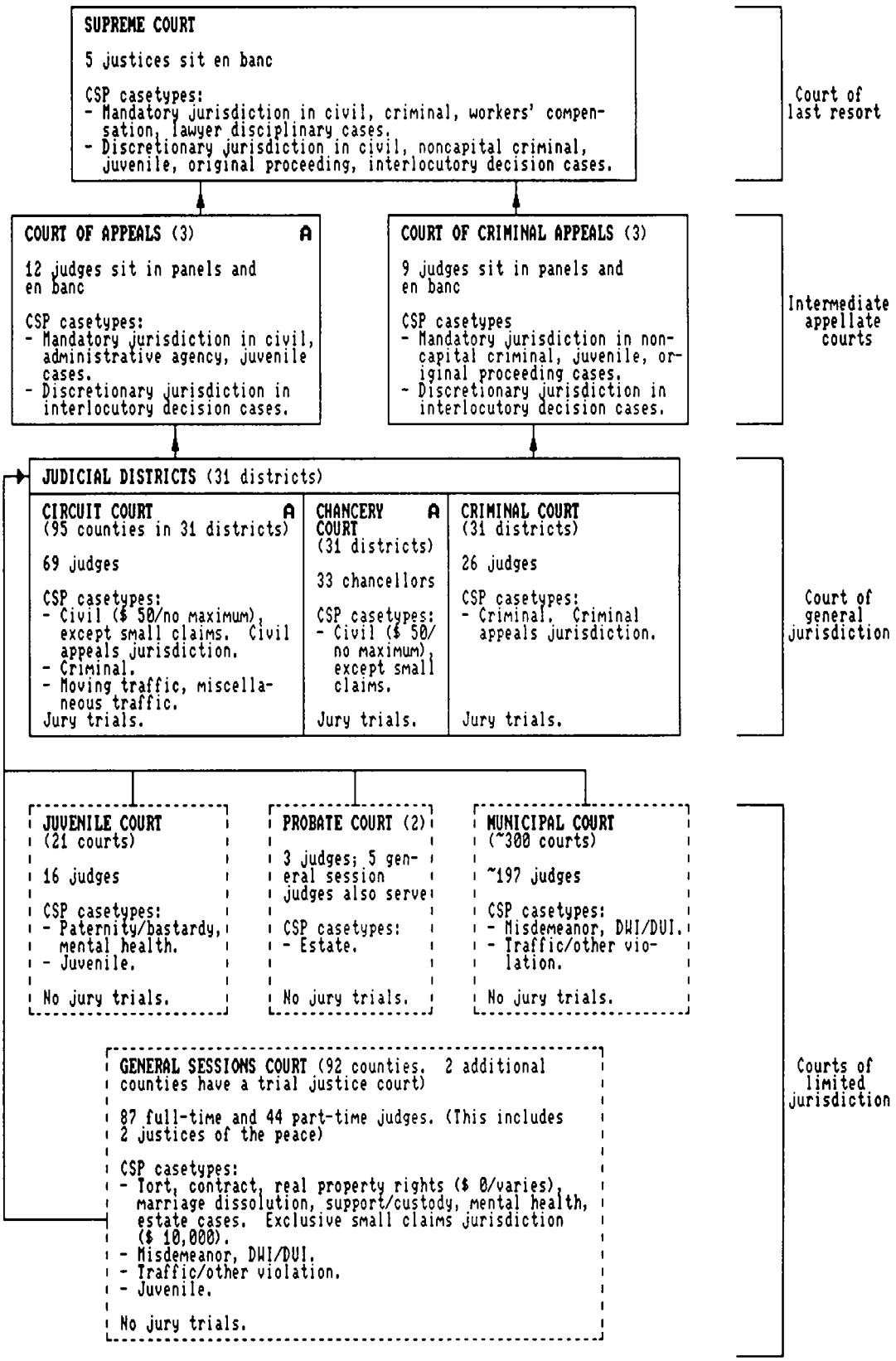
NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

SOUTH DAKOTA COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



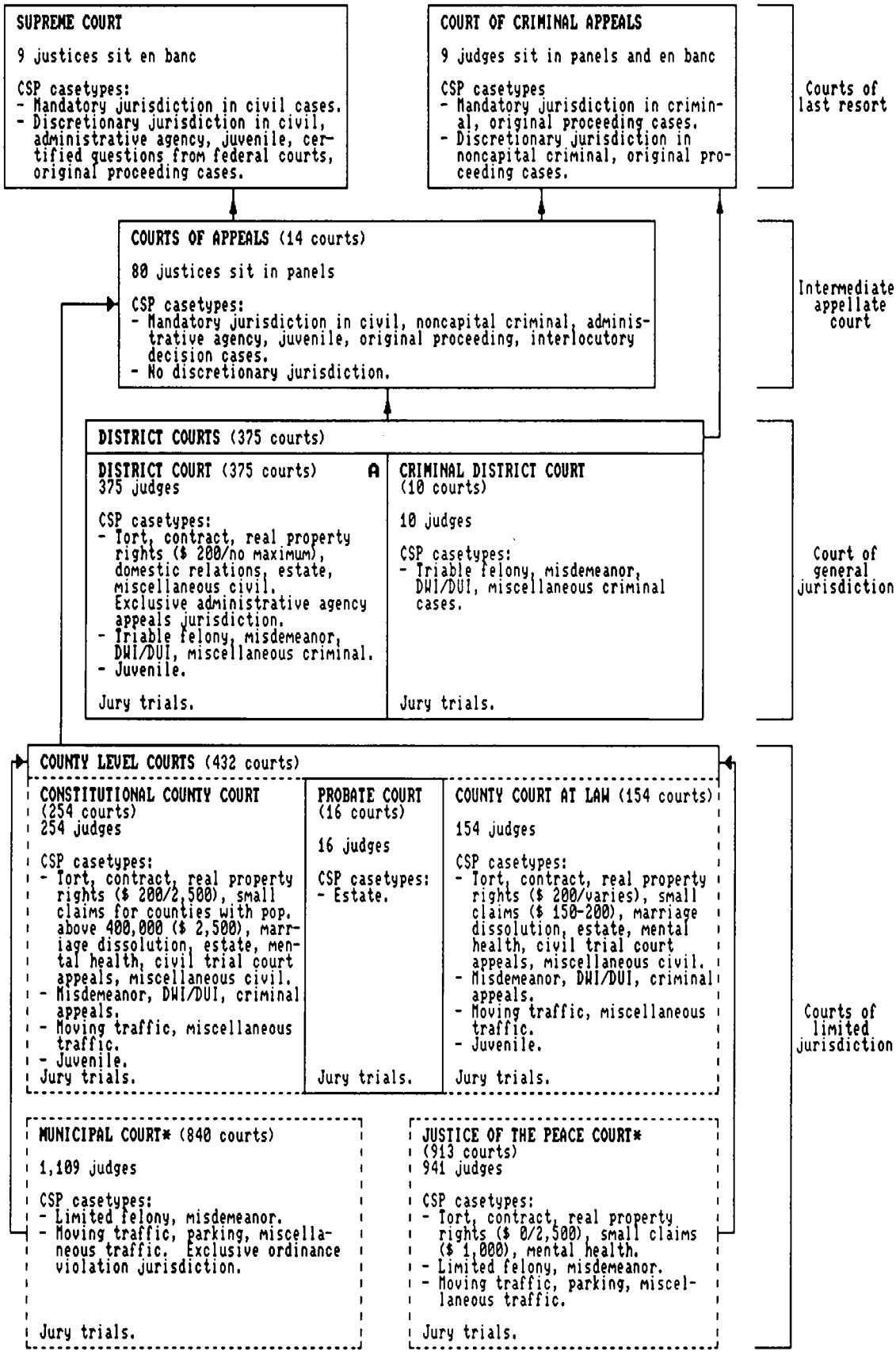
NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

TENNESSEE COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

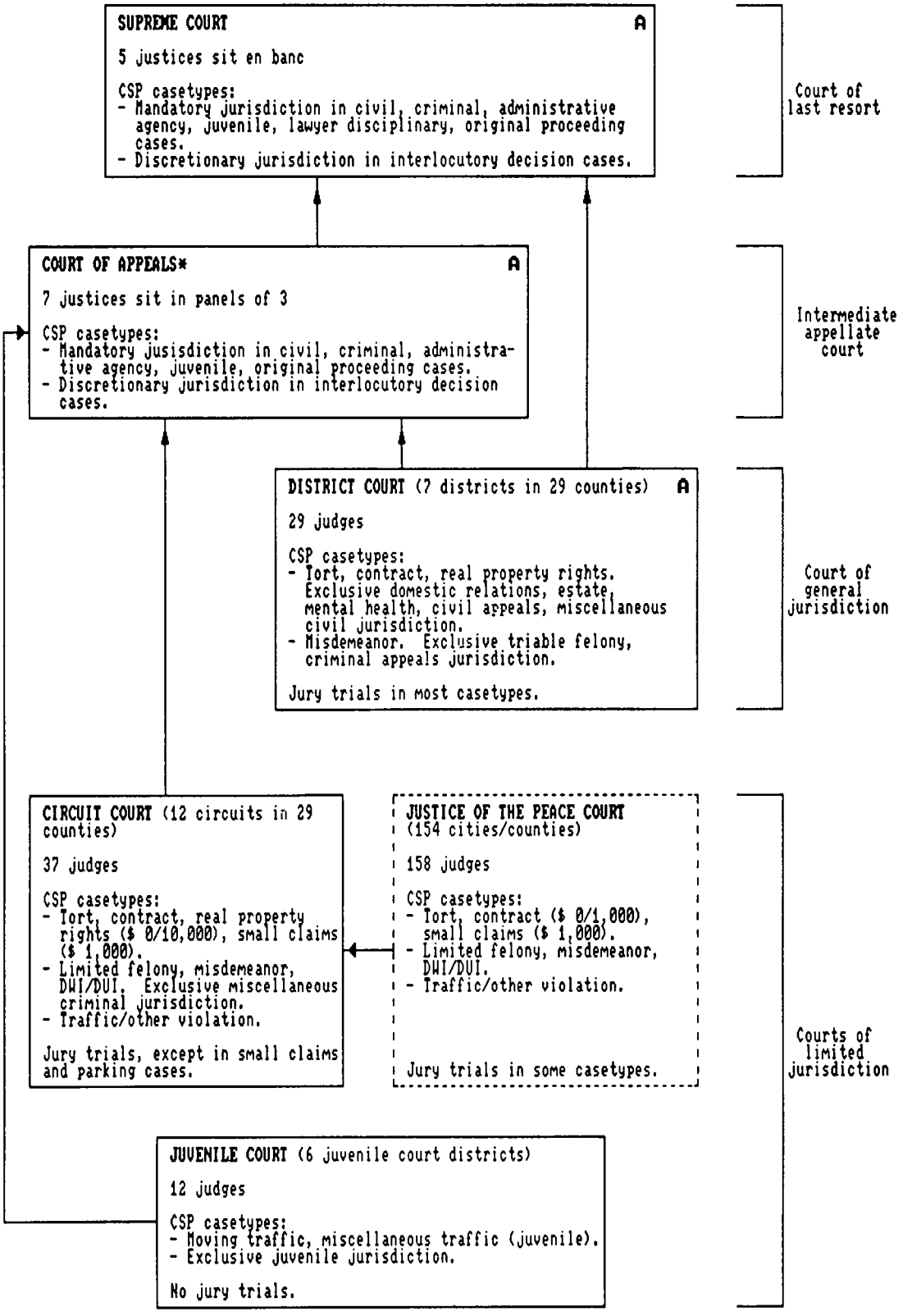
TEXAS COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



* Some Municipal and Justice of the Peace Courts may appeal to the District Court.

NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

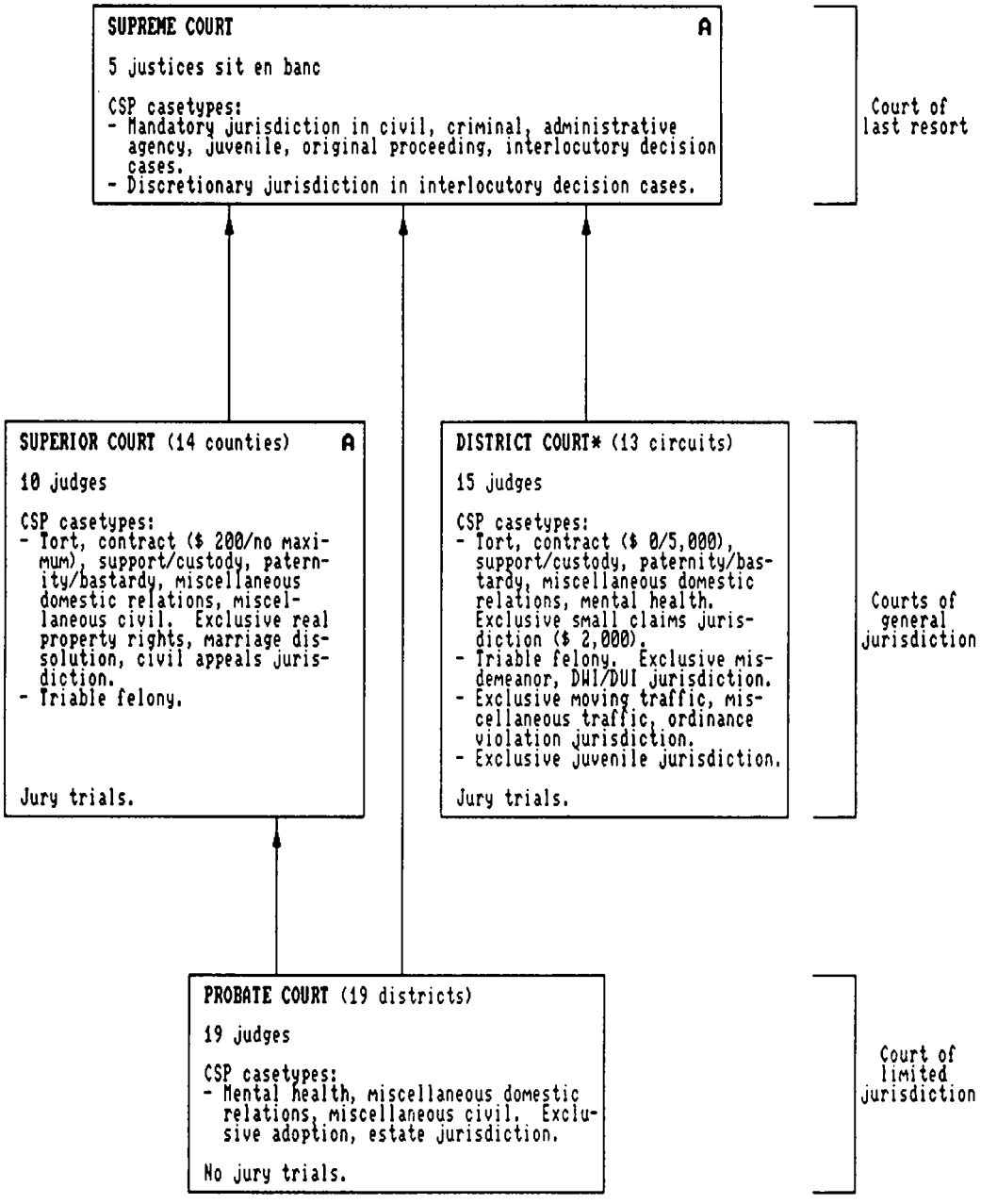
UTAH COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



* The Court of Appeals became operational on Feb. 1, 1987.

NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

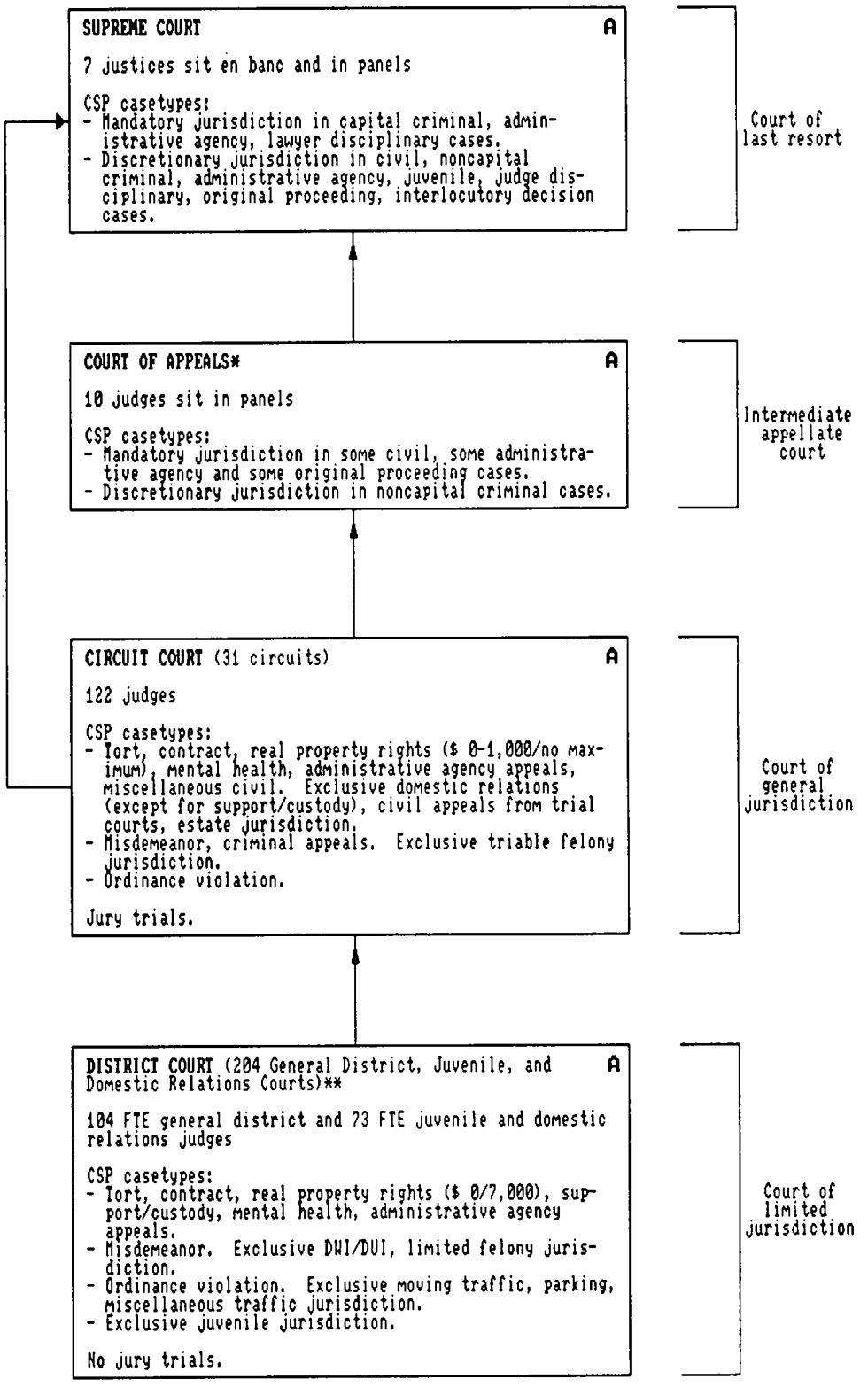
VERMONT COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



* The District Court, although created as a court of limited jurisdiction, has steadily increased its scope to include almost all criminal matters. In 1983, the District Court was granted jurisdiction over all criminal cases, and has become the court of general jurisdiction for most criminal matters. A small number of appeals go to the Superior Court.

NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

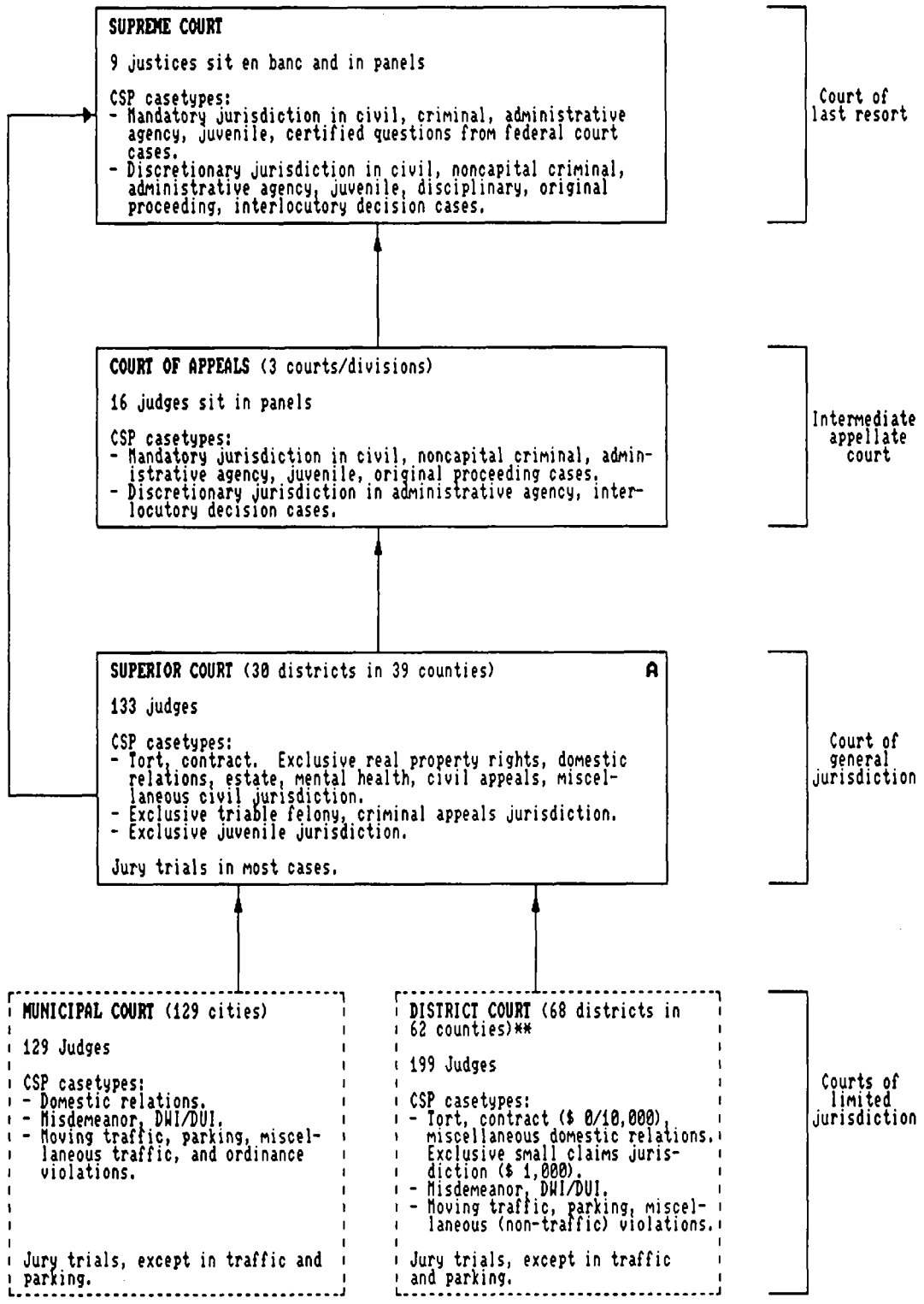
VIRGINIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



* The Virginia Court of Appeals became operational on January 1, 1985.
** The District Court is referred to as the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court when hearing juvenile and domestic relations cases, and as the General District Court for the balance of the cases.

NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

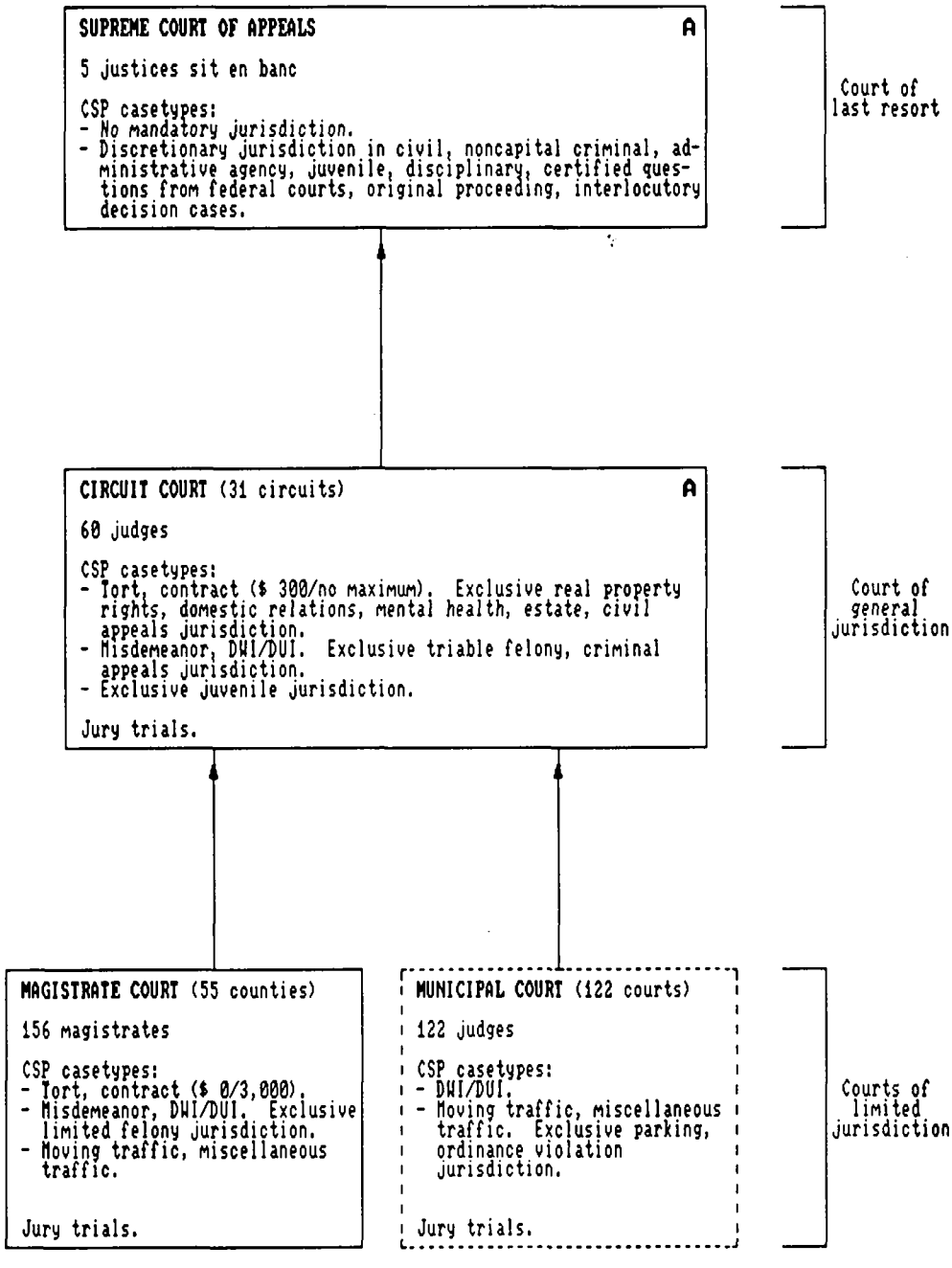
WASHINGTON COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



** District Court provides services to municipalities which do not have a Municipal Court.

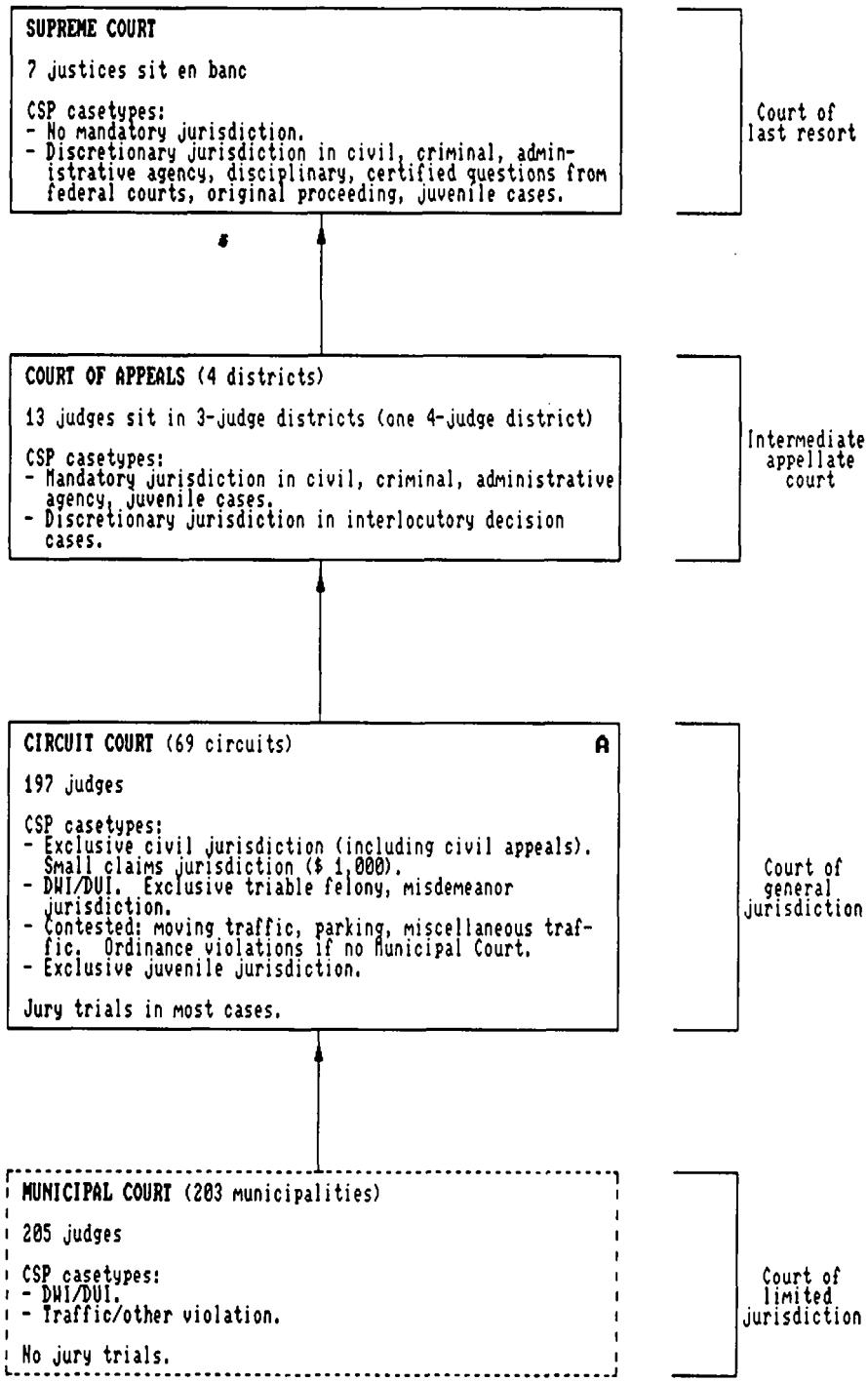
NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

WEST VIRGINIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



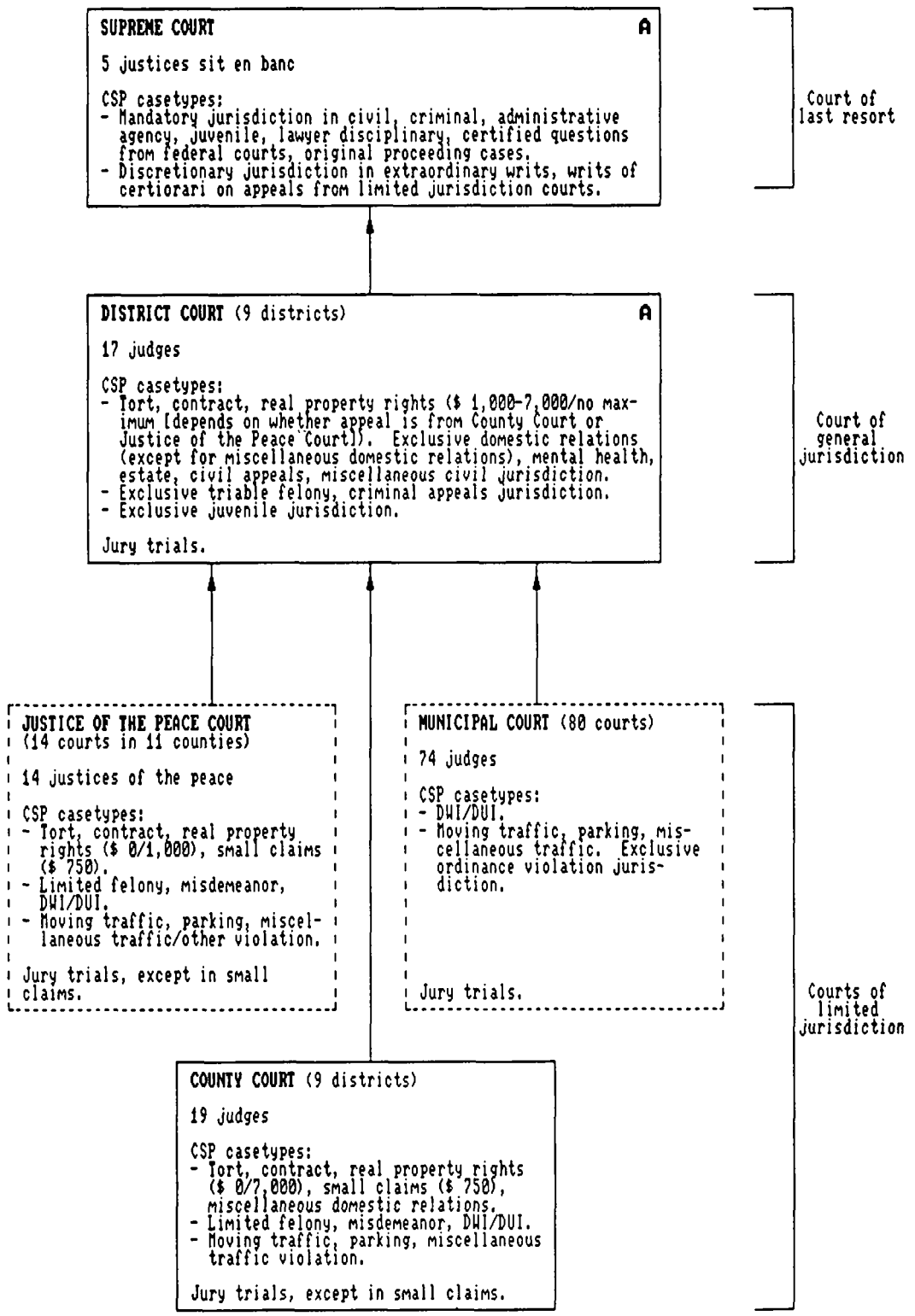
NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

WISCONSIN COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

WYOMING COURT STRUCTURE, 1987



NOTE: The text at the beginning of this section contains important information relevant to this chart.

Part IV

Figures

FIGURE A: Reporting Periods for All State Courts, 1987

State	Reporting periods			
	January 1, 1987 to December 31, 1987	July 1, 1986 to June 30, 1987	September 1, 1986 to August 31, 1987	October 1, 1986 to September 30, 1987
Alabama				X
Alaska		X		
Arizona	X			
Arkansas		X		
California		X		
Colorado		X		
Connecticut		X		
Delaware		X		
District of Columbia	X			
Florida	X			
Georgia	X Court of Appeals Juvenile Court Probate Court Superior Court	X Magistrate Court	X Supreme Court (Aug. 1, 1986 - July 31, 1987)	
Hawaii		X		
Idaho	X			
Illinois	X			
Indiana	X			
Iowa	X			
Kansas		X		
Kentucky		X		
Louisiana	X			
Maine	X			
Maryland		X		
Massachusetts		X Trial Courts	X Supreme Judicial Court Appeals Court	
Michigan	X Trial Courts Court of Appeals	X Supreme Court		
Minnesota	X			
Mississippi	X Supreme Court			
Missouri		X		
Montana	X Supreme Court District Court	X Justice of the Peace City Court Municipal Court		
Nebraska	X District Court County Court Separate Juvenile	X Workers' Compensation Court	X Supreme Court	
Nevada	X			
New Hampshire	X Supreme Court District Court Municipal Court Superior Court	X Probate Court		

(continued on next page)

FIGURE A: Reporting periods for all state courts, 1987. (continued)

State	Reporting periods			
	January 1, 1987 to December 31, 1987	July 1, 1986 to June 30, 1987	September 1, 1986 to August 31, 1987	October 1, 1986 to September 30, 1987
New Jersey		X		
New Mexico		X		
New York	X			
North Carolina		X		
North Dakota	X			
Ohio	X			
Oklahoma		X		
Oregon	X			
Pennsylvania	X			
Puerto Rico		X		
Rhode Island	X Trial Courts			X Supreme Court
South Carolina	X			
South Dakota		X		
Tennessee	X			
Texas			X	
Utah	X Supreme Court	X Trial Courts		
Vermont		X		
Virginia	X			
Washington	X			
West Virginia	X			
Wisconsin	X			
Wyoming	X			

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, an "X" means that all of the trial and appellate courts in that state report data for the time period indicated by the column.

Source: Data were gathered from the 1987 State Trial and Appellate Court Jurisdiction Guide profiles and State Administrative Offices of the Courts.

FIGURE B: Methods of Counting Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1987

State/Court name:	Court type	Case counted at: Notice of appeal	Filing of the trial record	Record plus briefs	Other point	Case filed with: Trial court	Appellate court	Does the court count reinstated/reopened cases in its count of new filings? No	Rarely	Yes, or frequently as new case
ALABAMA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
Court of Civil Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
Court of Criminal Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	X
ALASKA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
ARIZONA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X-CRIM	0	0	X*	X	0	0	X	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	X-CRIM*	X*	0	X*	X (except indus-trial cases & civil petition for special action)	X (only indus-trial cases & civil petition for special action)	0	X	0
ARKANSAS:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	X	0	0	X	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	X	0	0	X	0	0	X	0
CALIFORNIA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X*	X	0	0	X (death penalty only)	COLR (if petition for review of IAC)	X	0	0
Courts of Appeal	IAC	0	X	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
COLORADO:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
CONNECTICUT:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X (if motion to open)	0	0
Appellate Court	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	X (if motion to open or if remand by COLR)	0	0
DELAWARE:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	X	0	0

(continued on next page)

FIGURE B: Methods of counting cases in state appellate courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Case counted at: Notice of appeal	Filing of the trial record	Record plus briefs	Other point	Case filed with: Trial court	Appellate court	Does the court count reinstated/reopened cases in its count of new filings? No	Rarely	Yes, or frequently as new case
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:										
Court of Appeals	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
FLORIDA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	IAC	X	0	0
District Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	(Adm.Agy. and Workers Comp.)	X	0	0
GEORGIA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	X	0	0	0	X (if new appeal)
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	X	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
HAWAII:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	X	X (original proceeding)	0	0	X
Intermediate Court of Appeals	IAC	0	X	0	(when assigned by COLR)	0	0	0	0	X
						0	0	0	0	X
IDAHO:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X (appeal from trial court)	X (COLR if appeal from IAC)	0	X	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	0	0	(when assigned by COLR)	0	0	0	X	0
ILLINOIS:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	X	0	0
Appellate Court	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
INDIANA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	0	0	(any first filing, notice, record, brief or motion)	X (only death penalty and/or sentence over 10 years)	COLR (if petition for transfer from IAC)	0	0	X
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	0	0	(any first filing)	X (precipe)	0	0	0	X

(continued on next page)

FIGURE B: Methods of counting cases in state appellate court, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Case counted at: Notice of appeal	Filing of the trial record	Record plus briefs	Other point	Case filed with: Trial court	Appellate court	Does the court count reinstated/reopened cases in its count of new filings? No	Rarely	Yes, or frequently as new case
IOWA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X (if appeal from trial court)	X (COLR if appeal from IAC)	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	0	0	TRANSFER	X (if appeal from trial court)	0	X	0	0
KANSAS:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	0	0	X*	X	0	0	0	X
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	0	0	X*	X	0	0	0	X
KENTUCKY:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	0	0	X*	X	X (COLR if review is sought from IAC)	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	0	X	0	X	0	X	0	0
LOUISIANA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	0	X	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	X	0	0	0	X	X	0	0
MAINE:										
Supreme Judicial Court Sitting as Law Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X (if remanded)	0	X (if new appeal)
MARYLAND:										
Court of Appeals	COLR	0	X	0	0	X (if direct appeal)	X (IAC if appeal from IAC)	0	0	X
Court of Special Appeals	IAC	0	X	0	0	X	0	0	0	X
MASSACHUSETTS:										
Supreme Judicial Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
Appeals Court	IAC	0	X	0	0	X	0	0	X (if originally dismissed as premature)	0

(continued on next page)

FIGURE B: Methods of counting cases in state appellate courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Case counted at: Notice of appeal	Filing of the trial record	Record plus briefs	Other point	Case filed with: Trial court	Appellate court	Does the court count reinstated/reopened cases in its count of new filings? No	Rarely	Yes, or frequently as new case
MICHIGAN:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	X (if remanded w/jurisdiction retained)	0	X (if new appeal)
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	0	X	0	0	X
MINNESOTA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	0	X	X	0	0
MISSISSIPPI:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	X (file with both, eff. 1/1/87)	0	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
MISSOURI:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
MONTANA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X (notice plus any other filing: fee, record, motion)	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
NEBRASKA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	X
NEVADA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	0	X	X	0	0
NEW HAMPSHIRE:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	X (if remanded & jurisdiction retained)	0	X

(continued on next page)

FIGURE B: Methods of counting cases in state appellate courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Case counted at: Notice of appeal	Filing of the trial record	Record plus briefs	Other point	Case filed with: Trial court	Appellate court	Does the court count reinstated/reopened cases in its count of new filings? No	Rarely	Yes, or frequently as new case
NEW JERSEY:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	(COLR if direct appeal, otherwise with IAC)	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
Appellate Division of Superior Court	IAC	X	0	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
NEW MEXICO:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	0	0	X (within 30 days of notice)	X	0	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	0	0	X (within 30 days of notice)	X	0	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
NEW YORK:										
Court of Appeals	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	X
Appellate Divisions of Supreme Court	IAC	0	X	0	0	X	0	X (if remit for specific issues)	0	X (if remand for new trial)
Appellate Terms of Supreme Court	IAC	0	X	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
NORTH CAROLINA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	X (if direct appeal)	X (COLR if appeal from IAC)	X (if petition to rehear)	X	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	X	0	0	X	0	X (if reconsidering dismissal)	X	0
NORTH DAKOTA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	X
OHIO:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	IAC	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X*	0	X	0	0

(continued on next page)

FIGURE B: Methods of counting cases in state appellate courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Case counted at: Notice of appeal	Filing of the trial record	Record plus briefs	Other point	Case filed with: Trial court	Appellate court	Does the court count reinstated/reopened cases in its count of new filings? No	Rarely	Yes, or frequently as new case
OKLAHOMA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X*	0	0	0	X	0	X*	0	X*
Court of Criminal Appeals	COLR	0	X (notice plus transcript)	0	0	X	0	X*	0	X*
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	0	0	TRANSFER	0	COLR	X*	0	X*
OREGON:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
PENNSYLVANIA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X (direct appeal only)	0	0	X (discretionary certiorari granted)	X*	X*	X (if reinstated to enforce order)	X (if new appeal)	0
Superior Court	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
Commonwealth Court	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	X (Admin. Agency)	0	0	X
PUERTO RICO:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X-CR	X-CV	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
RHODE ISLAND:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	X	0	0	0	X
SOUTH CAROLINA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	X	X	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	0	0	TRANSFER	X	0	X	0	0
SOUTH DAKOTA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0

(continued on next page)

FIGURE B: Methods of counting cases in state appellate courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Case counted at: Notice of appeal	Filing of the trial record	Record plus briefs	Other point	Case filed with: Trial court	Appellate court	Does the court count reinstated/reopened cases in its count of new filings? No	Rarely	Yes, or frequently as new case
TENNESSEE:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	0	X (Court of Appeals)	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
Court of Criminal Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	0	X (Court of Criminal Appeals)	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
TEXAS:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
Court of Criminal Appeals	COLR	0	0	0	any first filing	X	X (Court of Crim. Appeals)	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
Court of Appeals	IAC	X (Civil only)	0	0	0	X	0	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
UTAH:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X*	0	0	0	X (court from which appealed)	X (Admin. Agency)	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	0	X	0
VERMONT:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X (if dismissed & reinstated)	0	X (if after final decision or if statistical period has ended)
VIRGINIA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	X
WASHINGTON:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0

(continued on next page)

FIGURE B: Methods of counting cases in state appellate courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Case counted at: Notice of appeal	Filing of the trial record	Record plus briefs	Other point	Case filed with: Trial court	Appellate court	Does the court count reinstated/reopened cases in its count of new filings? No	Rarely	Yes, or frequently as new case
WEST VIRGINIA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X (Counted as new filings as of 8/86)	0	0
WISCONSIN:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	0	0	(When accepted by court)	0	X	0	0	X
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	X
WYOMING:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	0	0	X

ADM. AGY. = Administrative agency cases only.
CR = Criminal cases only.
CV = Civil cases only.
DP = Death penalty cases only.
COLR = Court of last resort.
IAC = Intermediate appellate court.

*FOOTNOTES:

Arizona--Supreme Court: Civil cases: A case is counted when the fee is paid within 30 days after trial record is filed.

Arizona--Court of Appeals: Civil cases: A case is counted when the fee is paid within 30 days after trial record is filed. For juvenile/industrial/habeas corpus cases, a case is counted at receipt of notice, or at receipt of the trial record.

California--Supreme Court: Cases are counted at the notice of appeal for discretionary review cases from the IAC.

Kansas--Cases are counted at the docketing which occurs 21 days after a notice of appeal is filed in the trial court.

Kentucky--Cases are counted at either the filing of the brief or request for intermediate relief.

Ohio--Court of Appeals: The clerk of the trial court is also the clerk of the Court of Appeals.

Oklahoma--The notice of appeal refers to the petition in error. The courts do not count reinstated cases as new filings, but do count any subsequent appeal of an earlier decided case as a new filing.

Pennsylvania--Supreme Court: Mandatory cases are filed with the trial court, and discretionary cases are filed with the appellate court.

Utah--Supreme Court: Mandatory appeals are no longer in effect as of 1/1/86; an intermediate court of appeals was established on 1/1/87.

Source: State Appellate Court Jurisdiction Guide profiles, as updated and verified for 1987 by State Administrative Offices of the Courts.

FIGURE C: Dollar Amount Jurisdiction for Original Tort, Contract, Real Property Rights, and Small Claims Filings in State Trial Courts, 1987

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Unlimited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property Minimum/maximum	Limited dollar amount torts, contracts real property Minimum/maximum	Small claims Maximum dollar amount	Jury trials	Summary proce-dures	Lawyers per-mitted
ALABAMA:							
Circuit Court	G	$1,000/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
District Court	L	--	$1,000/ $5,000	$1,000	No	Yes	Optional
ALASKA:							
Superior Court	G	0/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
District Court	L	--	0/$25,000	$5,000	No	Yes	No
ARIZONA:							
Superior Court	G	$500/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
Justice of the Peace Court	L	--	0/ $2,500	$500	No	Yes	No
ARKANSAS:							
Circuit Court	G	$100/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
Court of Common Pleas	L	--	$500/ $1,000 (contract only)	--	--	--	--
Municipal Court	L	--	0/ $300 (contract and real property)	$300	No	Yes	No
City Court, Police Court	L	--	0/ $300 (contract and real property)	--	--	--	--
CALIFORNIA:							
Superior Court	G	$25,000/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
Municipal Court	L	--	0/$25,000	$1,500	No	Yes	No
Justice Court	L	--	0/$25,000	$1,500	No	Yes	No
COLORADO:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
Water Court	G	0/No maximum (only real property)	--	--	--	--	--
County Court	L	--	0/ $5,000	$2,000	No	Yes	No
CONNECTICUT:							
Superior Court	G	0/No maximum	--	$1,000	No	Yes	Yes
DELAWARE:							
Court of Chancery	G	0/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
Superior Court	G	0/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
Court of Common Pleas	L	--	0/$15,000	--	--	--	--
Justice of the Peace Court	L	--	0/ $2,500	$2,500	No	Yes	Yes
Alderman's Court	L	--	0/ $2,500	$2,500	No	Yes	Yes
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:							
Superior Court	G	0/No maximum (no minimum for real property)	--	$2,000	Yes	Yes	Yes

(continued on next page)

FIGURE C: Dollar amount jurisdiction for original tort, contract, real property rights, and small claims filings in state trial courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Unlimited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property Minimum/maximum	Limited dollar amount torts, contracts real property Minimum/maximum	Small claims Maximum dollar amount	Jury trials	Summary proce-dures	Lawyers per-mitted
FLORIDA:							
Circuit Court	G	$5,000/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
County Court	L	--	$2,500/ $5,000	$2,500	Yes	Yes	Yes
GEORGIA:							
Superior Court	G	0/No maximum	--	No max	Yes	No	Yes
State Court	L	0/No maximum (No real property)	--	No max	Yes	Yes	Yes
Civil Court	L	--	0/ $7,500-25,000	$3,000-$25,000	No	Yes	Yes
Magistrate Court	L	--	0/ $2,500 (No real property)	$2,500	No	Yes	Yes
Municipal Court	L	--	0/ $7,500	$7,500	No	Yes	Yes
HAWAII:							
Circuit Court	G	$1,000/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
District Court	L	--	0/$10,000 (No maximum in summary posses-sion or eject-ment)	$2,500 (Except in residential security de-posit cases.	No	Yes	Yes
IDAHO:							
District Court:	G	0/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
(Magistrates Division)	L	--	0/$10,000	$2,000	No	Yes	No
ILLINOIS:							
Circuit Court	G	0/No maximum	--	$2,500	Yes	Yes	Yes
INDIANA:							
Superior Court and Circuit Court	G	0/No maximum	--	$3,000	No	Yes	Yes
County Court	L	--	0/$10,000	$3,000	No	Yes	Yes
Municipal Court of Marion County	L	--	0/$20,000	--	--	--	--
Small Claims Court of Marion County	L	--	--	$3,000	No	Yes	Yes
City Court	L	--	0/ $500-$2,500 (No real property)	--	--	--	--
IOWA:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	--	$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
KANSAS:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	--	$1,000	No	Yes	No

(continued on next page)

FIGURE C: Dollar amount jurisdiction for original tort, contract, real property rights, and small claims filings in state trial courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Unlimited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property Minimum/maximum	Limited dollar amount torts, contracts real property Minimum/maximum	Small claims Maximum dollar amount	Jury trials	Summary proce-dures	Lawyers per-mitted
KENTUCKY:							
Circuit Court	G	$2,500/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
District Court	L	--	0/ $2,500	$1,000	No	Yes	Yes
LOUISIANA:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
City Court, Parish Court	L	--	0/ $5,000	$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
Justice of the Peace Court	L	--	0/ $1,200	$1,200	No	Yes	Yes
MAINE:							
Superior Court	G	0/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
District Court	L	--	0/$30,000	$1,400	No	Yes	Yes
MARYLAND:							
Circuit Court	G	$2,500/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
District Court	L	--	0/$10,000 (No maximum real property)	$1,000	No	Yes	Yes
MASSACHUSETTS:							
Trial Court of the Commonwealth:							
Superior Court Dept.	G	0/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
Housing Court Dept.	G	0/No maximum	--	$1,500	No	No	Yes
District Court Dept.	G	0/No maximum	--	$1,500	Yes	Yes	Yes
Boston Municipal Court Dept.	G	0/No maximum	--	$1,500	Yes	Yes	Yes
MICHIGAN:							
Circuit Court	G	$10,000/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
District Court	L	--	0/$10,000	$1,500	No	Yes	No
Municipal Court	L	--	0/ $1,500	$1,500	No	Yes	No
MINNESOTA:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	--	$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
MISSISSIPPI:		(NO DATA AVAILABLE)					
MISSOURI:							
Circuit Court	G	0/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
(Associates Division)	L	--	0/ $5,000	$1,000	No	Yes	Yes
MONTANA:							
District Court	G	$50/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
Justice of the Peace Court and Municipal Court	L	--	0/ $3,500	$1,500	No	Yes	No
City Court	L	--	0/ $300	$300	No	Yes	No

(continued on next page)

FIGURE C: Dollar amount jurisdiction for original tort, contract, real property rights, and small claims filings in state trial courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unlimited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property Minimum/maximum	Limited dollar amount torts, contracts real property Minimum/maximum	Small claims Maximum dollar amount	Small claims Jury trials	Small claims Summary procedures	Small claims Lawyers permitted
NEBRASKA:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
County Court	L	--	0/$10,000 ($5,000 for real property)	$1,500	No	Yes	No
NEVADA:							
District Court	G	$1,000/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
Justice Court	L	--	0/ $2,500	$1,500	No	Yes	Yes
Municipal Court	L	--	0/ $2,500	--	--	--	--
NEW HAMPSHIRE:							
Superior Court	G	$500/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
District Court	L	--	0/$10,000	$1,500	No	Yes	Yes
Municipal Court	L	--	0/ $1,500	$1,500 (only landlord-tenant, and small claims)	No	Yes	Yes
NEW JERSEY:							
Superior Court (Law Division and Chancery Division)	G	0/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
(Law Division, Special Civil Part)	L	--	0/ $5,000	$1,000	No	Yes	Yes
NEW MEXICO:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
Magistrate Court	L	--	0/ $2,000	--	--	--	--
Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County	L	--	0/ $5,000	--	--	--	--
NEW YORK:							
Supreme Court	G	0/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
County Court	G	--	0/$25,000	--	--	--	--
Civil Court of the City of New York	L	--	0/$25,000	$1,500	Yes	Yes	Yes
City Court	L	--	0/ $500-$15,000	$1,500	Yes	Yes	Yes
District Court	L	--	0/$15,000	$1,500	Yes	Yes	Yes
Court of Claims	L	0/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
Town Court and Village Justice Court	L	--	0/ $3,000	$1,500	Yes	Yes	Yes
NORTH CAROLINA:							
Superior Court	G	$10,000/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
District Court	L	--	0/$10,000	$1,500	No	Yes	Yes
NORTH DAKOTA:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
County Court	L	--	0/$10,000	$2,000	No	Yes	Varies

(continued on next page)

FIGURE C: Dollar amount jurisdiction for original tort, contract, real property rights, and small claims filings in state trial courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Unlimited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property Minimum/maximum	Limited dollar amount torts, contracts real property Minimum/maximum	Small claims Maximum dollar amount	Jury trials	Summary proce-dures	Lawyers per-mitted
OHIO:							
Court of Common Pleas	G	$500/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
County Court	L	--	0/ $3,000	$1,000	No	Yes	Yes
Municipal Court	L	--	0/$10,000	$1,000	No	Yes	Yes
OKLAHOMA:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	--	$1,500	Yes	Yes	Yes
OREGON:							
Circuit Court	G	$10,000/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
District Court	L	--	0/$10,000	$2,500	No	Yes	No
Justice Court	L	--	0/ $2,500	$2,500	No	Yes	No
PENNSYLVANIA:							
Court of Common Pleas	G	0/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
District Justice Court	L	--	0/ $4,000	--	--	--	--
Philadelphia Municipal Court	L	--	0/ $5,000 (only real property)	$5,000	No	Yes	Yes
Pittsburgh City Magistrates Court	L	--	0/No maximum (only real property)	--	--	--	--
PUERTO RICO:							
Superior Court	G	$10,000/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
District Court	L	--	0/$10,000	--	--	--	--
RHODE ISLAND:							
Superior Court	G	$5,000/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
District Court	L	--	$1,000/ $5,000-$10,000	$1,500	No	Yes	Yes
SOUTH CAROLINA:							
Circuit Court	G	0/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
Magistrate Court	L	--	0/ $1,000 (no max. in landlord-tenant	--	--	--	--
SOUTH DAKOTA:							
Circuit Court	G	0/No maximum	--	$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
TENNESSEE:							
Circuit Court, Chancery Court	G	$50/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
General Sessions Court	L	0/No maximum (Forcible entry, detainer, and in actions to recover personal property	0/$10,000 (All civil actions in counties with population under 700,000) 0/$15,000 (All civil actions in counties with population over 700,000)	$10,000	No	Yes	Yes

(continued on next page)

FIGURE C: Dollar amount jurisdiction for original tort, contract, real property rights, and small claims filings in state trial courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unlimited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property Minimum/maximum	Limited dollar amount torts, contracts real property Minimum/maximum	Small claims Maximum dollar amount	Small claims Jury trials	Small claims Summary procedures	Small claims Lawyers permitted
TEXAS:							
District Court	G	$200/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
County Court at Law, Constitutional County Court	L	--	$200/varies	$200	--	--	--
Justice of the Peace Court	L	--	0 / $2,500 (No max. in real property)	$1,000	Yes	Yes	Yes
UTAH:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
Circuit Court	L	--	0/$10,000	$1,000	No	Yes	Yes
Justice of the Peace Court	L	--	0/ $1,000	$1,000	Yes	Yes	Yes
VERMONT:							
Superior Court	G	$200/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
District Court	G	--	0/ $5,000	$2,000	Yes	Yes	Yes
VIRGINIA:							
Circuit Court	G	$1,000/No maximum 0/No maximum (real property)	--	--	--	--	--
District Court	L	--	0/ $7,000	--	--	--	--
WASHINGTON:							
Superior Court	G	0/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
District Court	L	--	0/$10,000 (tort) 0/ $7,500 (Contract. No real property)	$1,000	No	Yes	Yes
WEST VIRGINIA:							
Circuit Court	G	$300/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
Magistrate Court	L	--	0/ $3,000 (No real property)	--	--	--	--
WISCONSIN:							
Circuit Court	G	0/No maximum	--	$1,000	Yes	No	Yes
WYOMING:							
District Court	G	$1,000/No maximum	--	--	--	--	--
County Court	L	--	0/ $7,000	$750	No	Yes	Yes
Justice of the Peace Court	L	--	0/ $1,000	$750	No	Yes	Yes

JURISDICTION CODES:

G = General jurisdiction court.
L = Limited jurisdiction court.
-- = Data element is inapplicable.

Source: Data were gathered from the 1987 State Trial Court Jurisdiction Guide profiles, and State Administrative Offices of the Courts.

FIGURE D: Criminal Case Unit of Count Used by the State Trial Courts, 1987

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Point of counting a criminal case	Number of defendants: One	Number of defendants: One or more	Contents of charging document: Single charge	Contents of charging document: Single incident (set # of charges per case)	Contents of charging document: Single incident (unlimited # of charges)	Contents of charging document: One or more incidents
ALABAMA:								
Circuit Court	G	Information/Indictment		X			X	
District Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X			(No data reported)		
ALASKA:								
Superior Court	G	Indictment	X				X	
District Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
ARIZONA:								
Superior Court	G	Information/indictment	X					X
Justice of the Peace Court	L	Complaint			Varies with prosecutor*			
Municipal Court	L	Complaint			Varies with prosecutor*			
ARKANSAS:								
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment	X		X			
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
City Court, Police Ct.	L	Complaint	X		X			
CALIFORNIA:								
Superior Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	
Justice Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
COLORADO:								
District Court	G	Complaint	X					X
County Court	L	Complaint/summons	X					X
CONNECTICUT:								
Superior Court	G	Information	X				(Varies among local police departments)	
DELAWARE:								
Superior Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	
Family Court	L	Complaint/petition	X				X	
Justice of the Peace Ct.	L	Complaint	X		X			
Court of Common Pleas	L	Complaint	X		X			
Municipal Court of Wilmington	L	Complaint	X		X			
Alderman's Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:								
Superior Court	G	Complaint/information/indictment	X				X	

(continued on next page)

FIGURE D: Criminal case unit of count used by the state trial courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Point of counting a criminal case	Number of defendants: One	Number of defendants: One or more	Contents of charging document: Single charge	Contents of charging document: Single incident (set # of charges per case)	Contents of charging document: Single incident (unlimited # of charges)	Contents of charging document: One or more incidents
FLORIDA:								
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment	X			(Prosecutor decides)		
County Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
GEORGIA:								
Superior Court	G	Indictment/accusation		X			X	
State Court	L	Accusation		X			X	
Magistrate Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
Probate Court	L	Accusation	X				X	
Municipal Court	L	No data reported						
Civil Court	L	No data reported						
County Recorder's Court	L	No data reported						
Municipal Courts and the City Court of Atlanta	L	No data reported						
HAWAII:								
Circuit Court	G	Complaint/indictment	X				X (Most serious charge)	
District Court	L	First appearance/information	X		X			
IDAHO:								
District Court	G	Information	X					X
(Magistrates Division)	L	Complaint	X					X
ILLINOIS:								
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment		X			X	
INDIANA:								
Superior Court and Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X (may not be consistent)	
County Court	L	Information/complaint	X				X (may not be consistent)	
Municipal Court of Marion County	L	Information/complaint	X				X (may not be consistent)	
City Court and Town Court	L	Information/complaint	X				X (may not be consistent)	
IOWA:								
District Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	
KANSAS:								
District Court	G	First appearance	X				X	
KENTUCKY:								
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	
District Court	L	Complaint/citation	X				X	

(continued on next page)

FIGURE D: Criminal case unit of count used by the state trial courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Point of counting a criminal case	Number of defendants: One	Number of defendants: One or more	Contents of charging document: Single charge	Contents of charging document: Single incident (set # of charges per case)	Contents of charging document: Single incident (unlimited # of charges)	Contents of charging document: One or more incidents
LOUISIANA:								
District Court	G	Information/indictment	Varies			Varies		
City Court and Parish Court	L	Information/complaint	X				X	
MAINE:								
Superior Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	
District Court	L	Information/complaint	X				X	
MARYLAND:								
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	
District Court	L	Citation/information	X				X	
MASSACHUSETTS:								
Trial Court of the Commonwealth:								
Superior Court Dept.	G	Information/indictment	X					X
Housing Court Dept.	L	Complaint	X					X
District Court Dept.	L	Complaint	X					X
Boston Municipal Ct.	L	Complaint	X					X
MICHIGAN:								
Circuit Court	G	Information	X				X	
District Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
MINNESOTA:								
District Court	G	Complaint	X				X	
MISSISSIPPI:		DATA ARE UNAVAILABLE						
MISSOURI:								
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	
(Associate Division)	L	Complaint	X				X	
MONTANA:								
District Court	G	Information/indictment		X			X	
Justice of Peace Court and Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
City Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
NEBRASKA:								
District Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	(not consistently observed statewide)
County Court	L	Information/complaint	X				X	

(continued on next page)

FIGURE D: Criminal case unit of count used by the state trial courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Point of counting a criminal case	Number of defendants: One	Number of defendants: One or more	Contents of charging document: Single charge	Contents of charging document: Single incident (set # of charges per case)	Contents of charging document: Single incident (unlimited # of charges)	Contents of charging document: One or more incidents
NEVADA:								
District Court	G	Information/indictment	Varies		Varies, depending on prosecutor			
Justice Court	L	Complaint	Varies		Varies, depending on prosecutor			
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	Varies		Varies, depending on prosecutor			
NEW HAMPSHIRE:								
Superior Court	G	Information/indictment	X		X			
District Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
NEW JERSEY:								
Superior Court (Law Division)	G	Accusation/indictment	X				X	
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
NEW MEXICO:								
District Court	G	Indictment/information	X				X	(May vary with prosecutor)
Magistrate Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
NEW YORK:								
Supreme Court	G	Defendant/Indictment	X		Varies depending on prosecutor			
County Court	L	Defendant/Indictment	X		Varies depending on prosecutor			
Criminal Court of the City of New York	L	Docket number	X		Varies depending on prosecutor			
District Court and City Court	L	Docket number	X		Varies depending on prosecutor			
Town Court and Village Justice Court	L	Complaint	X		Varies depending on prosecutor			
NORTH CAROLINA:								
Superior Court	G	Indictment (filing of appeal from District Court on misdemeanor conviction)	X				X	
District Court	L	Warrant/summons (includes citations, Magistrates order, misdemeanor statement of charges)	X			X (2 max)		
NORTH DAKOTA:								
District Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X (may vary)	
County Court	L	Complaint/information	X				Varies	
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
OHIO:								
Court of Common Pleas	G	Arraignment	X				X	
County Court	L	Warrant/summons	X				X	
Municipal Court	L	Warrant/summons	X				X	
Mayor's Court	L	No data reported						

(continued on next page)

FIGURE D: Criminal case unit of count used by the state trial courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Point of counting a criminal case	Number of defendants: One	Number of defendants: One or more	Contents of charging document: Single charge	Contents of charging document: Single incident (set # of charges per case)	Contents of charging document: Single incident (unlimited # of charges)	Contents of charging document: One or more incidents
OKLAHOMA:								
District Court	G	Information/indictment		X				X
OREGON:								
Circuit Court	G	Complaint/indictment	X			(Number of charges not consistent statewide)		
District Court	L	Complaint/indictment	X			(Number of charges not consistent statewide)		
Justice Court	L	Complaint	X			(Number of charges not consistent statewide)		
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
PENNSYLVANIA:								
Court of Common Pleas	G	Information/docket transcript	X				X	
District Justice Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
Philadelphia Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
Pittsburgh City Magistrates Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
PUERTO RICO:								
Superior Court	G	Accusation	X		X			
District Court	L	Charge	X		X			
RHODE ISLAND:								
Superior Court	G	Information/indictment	X					X
District Court	L	Complaint	X					X
SOUTH CAROLINA:								
Circuit Court	G	Indictment	X				X	
Magistrate Court	L	Warrant/summons	X				X	
Municipal Court	L	Warrant/summons	X				X	
SOUTH DAKOTA:								
Circuit Court	G	Complaint	X				X	
TENNESSEE:								
Circuit Court and Criminal Court	G	Information/indictment	Not consistent statewide					
General Sessions Court	L	No data reported						
Municipal Court	L	No data reported						
TEXAS:								
District Court and Criminal District Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	
County-Level Courts	L	Complaint/information	X				X	
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
Justice of the Peace Ct.	L	Complaint	X		X			

(continued on next page)

FIGURE D: Criminal case unit of count used by the state trial courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Point of counting a criminal case	Number of defendants: One	Number of defendants: One or more	Contents of charging document: Single charge	Contents of charging document: Single incident (set # of charges per case)	Contents of charging document: Single incident (unlimited # of charges)	Contents of charging document: One or more incidents
UTAH:								
District Court	G	Information		X				X
Circuit Court	L	Information/citation	X				X	
Justice of the Peace Court	L	Citation	X				X	
VERMONT:								
District Court	G	Arraignment	X					X
VIRGINIA:								
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment	X		X			
District Court	L	Warrant/summons	X		X			
WASHINGTON:								
Superior Court	G	Information		X			X	
District Court	L	Complaint/citation	X			X (2 max)		
Municipal Court	L	Complaint/citation	X			X (2 max)		
WEST VIRGINIA:								
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment		X				X
Magistrate Court	L	Warrant		X				X
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
WISCONSIN:								
Circuit Court	G	Initial appearance	X					X
Municipal Court	L	Citation**	X		X			
WYOMING:								
District Court	G	Information/indictment		X				X
County Court	L	Complaint/information		X				X
Justice of the Peace Court	L	Complaint/information		X				X
Municipal Court	L	Citation/complaint	X		X			

G = General jurisdiction court.
L = Limited jurisdiction court.

FOOTNOTES

*Arizona--Varies in Limited Jurisdiction courts. Prosecutor can file either long or short form. Long form can involve one or more defendants and/or charges; short form involves one defendant and a single charge.

**Wisconsin--Municipal Court--The court has exclusively civil jurisdiction, but its caseload includes first offense DWI/DUI cases. The State Court Model Statistical Dictionary treats all DWI/DUI cases as a subcategory of criminal cases.

Source: State Trial Court Jurisdiction Guide profiles, updated and verified for 1987 by State Administrative Offices of the Courts.

FIGURE E: Juvenile Unit of Count Used in State Trial Courts, 1987

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Filings are counted: At in-take or referral	Filings are counted: At filing of peti-tion or complaint	Disposition counted: At adjudi-cation of petition	Disposition counted: At dispo-sition of juvenile	Age at which juvenile jurisdiction transfers to adult courts
ALABAMA:						
Circuit Court	G		X	X		18
District Court	L		X	X		18
ALASKA:						
Superior Court	G		X	X		18
ARIZONA:						
Superior Court	G		X	X		18
ARKANSAS:						
Circuit Court	G		X	X		18
Chancery and Probate Court	G		X	X		18
CALIFORNIA:						
Superior Court	G		X		X	18
COLORADO:						
District Court (includes Denver Juvenile Court)	G		X		X	18
CONNECTICUT:						
Superior Court	G	X			X	16
DELAWARE:						
Family Court	L		X		X	18
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:						
Superior Court	G	X			X	18
FLORIDA:						
Circuit Court	G		X	X		18
GEORGIA:						
Superior Court and Juvenile Court	G		X		X	17
HAWAII:						
Circuit Court	G	X			X	18 (Jurisdiction may be retained until full term of the order expires, provided term does not extend beyond time juvenile reaches age 20)

(continued on next page)

FIGURE E: Juvenile unit of count used in state trial courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Filings are counted: At in-take or referral	Filings are counted: At filing of peti-tion or complaint	Disposition counted: At adjudi-cation of petition	Disposition counted: At dispo-sition of juvenile	Age at which juvenile jurisdiction transfers to adult courts
IDAHO:						
District Court	G		X	X		18
ILLINOIS:						
Circuit Court	G		X		X	17 (15 for first degree murder, aggravated criminal sexual assault, and armed robbery with a firearm)
INDIANA:						
Superior Court and Circuit Court	G		X	X		18
Probate Court	L		X	X		18
IOWA:						
District Court	G		X	Disposition data are not collected		18
KANSAS:						
District Court	G		X		X	18 14 (for traffic violation) 16 (for fish and game or charged with felony with two prior juvenile adjud-ications, which would be considered a felony
KENTUCKY:						
District Court	L		X	X		18
LOUISIANA:						
District Court	G		X	X		17
Family Court and Juvenile Court	G		X	X		15 (for first and second degree murder, man-slaughter, and aggra-vated rape)
City Court	L		X	X		16 (for armed robbery, aggravated burglary, and aggravated kid-napping)
MAINE:						
District Court	L		X		X	18

(continued on next page)

FIGURE E: Juvenile unit of count used in state trial courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Filings are counted: At in-take or referral	Filings are counted: At filing of peti-tion or complaint	Disposition counted: At adjudi-cation of petition	Disposition counted: At dispo-sition of juvenile	Age at which juvenile jurisdiction transfers to adult courts
MARYLAND:						
Circuit Court	G		X		X	18
District Court	L		X		X	18
MASSACHUSETTS:						
Trial Court of the Commonwealth:	G					
District Court Dept.			X	X		17
Juvenile Court Dept.			X	X		17
MICHIGAN:						
Probate Court	L		X		X	17
MINNESOTA:						
District Court	G		X	X		18
MISSISSIPPI		(Data are unavailable)				
MISSOURI:						
Circuit Court	G		X	X		17
MONTANA:						
District Court	G		X		X	18
NEBRASKA:						
Separate Juvenile Court	L		X		X	18
County Court	L		X		X	18
NEVADA:						
District Court	G		Varies by District		Varies by District	18
NEW HAMPSHIRE:						
District Court	L		X		X	18 16 (for traffic violation) 15 (for some felony charges)
NEW JERSEY:						
Superior Court	G		X		X	18
NEW MEXICO:						
District Court	G		X	X		18
NEW YORK:						
Family Court	L		X		X	16 13 (for murder and kidnapping)

(continued on next page)

FIGURE E: Juvenile unit of count used in state trial courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Filings are counted: At in-take or referral	Filings are counted: At filing of peti-tion or complaint	Disposition counted: At adjudi-cation of petition	Disposition counted: At dispo-sition of juvenile	Age at which juvenile jurisdiction transfers to adult courts
NORTH CAROLINA:						
District Court	L		X	X		16
NORTH DAKOTA:						
District Court	G		X		X	18
OHIO:						
Court of Common Pleas	G	X (warrant)			X	18
OKLAHOMA:						
District Court	G		X (case number)	X		18
OREGON:						
Circuit Court	G		X	(Dispositions are not counted)		18
County Court	L		X			18
PENNSYLVANIA:						
Court of Common Pleas	G	X		X		18
PUERTO RICO:						
Superior Court	G		X	X		18
RHODE ISLAND:						
Family Court	L		X	X		18
SOUTH CAROLINA:						
Family Court	L		X	X		17
SOUTH DAKOTA:						
Circuit Court	G	X		X		18
TENNESSEE:						
General Sessions Court	L	X			X	18
Juvenile Court	L	X			X	18
TEXAS:						
District Court	G		X		X	17
County Court at Law, Constitutional County Court, Probate Court	L		X		X	17
UTAH:						
Juvenile Court	L		X		X	18

(continued on next page)

FIGURE E: Juvenile unit of count used in state trial courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Filings are counted: At in-take or referral	Filings are counted: At filing of peti-tion or complaint	Disposition counted: At adjudi-cation of petition	Disposition counted: At dispo-sition of juvenile	Age at which juvenile jurisdiction transfers to adult courts
VERMONT:						
District Court	G		X		X	16
VIRGINIA:						
District Court	L		X		X	18
WASHINGTON:						
Superior Court	G		X	X (dependency)	X (delinquency)	18
WEST VIRGINIA:						
Circuit Court	G		X		X	18
WISCONSIN:						
Circuit Court	G		X	X		18
WYOMING:						
District Court	G		X	X		19

JURISDICTION CODES:

G = General jurisdiction court.
L = Limited jurisdiction court.
• = Effective January 20, 1987, juvenile jurisdiction in Arkansas transferred to the Circuit Court (delinquency) and Chancery and Probate Court (dependency) from the County Court.

Source: State Trial Court Jurisdiction Guide profiles, updated and verified by State Administrative Offices of the Courts.

FIGURE F: State Trial Courts with Incidental Appellate Jurisdiction, 1987

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Administrative Agency Appeals	Trial Court Appeals Civil	Trial Court Appeals Criminal	Type of Appeal	Source of Trial Court Appeal
ALABAMA:						
Circuit Court	G	X	X	X	de novo	District, Probate, and Municipal Courts
ALASKA:						
Superior Court	G	X	O	O	de novo	
		O	X	X	on the record	District Court
ARIZONA:						
Superior Court	G	O	X	X	de novo	Justice of the Peace, Municipal Court
ARKANSAS:						
Circuit Court	G	O	X	X	de novo	Court of Common Pleas, County, Municipal, City and Police Courts
CALIFORNIA:						
Superior Court	G	X	X	X	de novo on the record	Justice Court, Municipal Court
COLORADO:						
District Court	G	X	X	O	on the record	County and Municipal Court of Record
		O	O	X	de novo	County and Municipal Court of Record
County Court	L	O	X	X	de novo	Municipal Court Not of Record
CONNECTICUT:						
Superior Court	G	X	X	O	on the record	Probate Court
DELAWARE:						
Superior Court	G	O	X	X	de novo	Municipal Court of Wilmington, Alderman's, and Justice of Peace Courts
		X	X	X	on the record	Superior Court, Court of Common Pleas
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:						
Superior Court	G	X	O	O	on the record	Merit Protection Board, Administrative Traffic Agency
FLORIDA:						
Circuit Court	G	O	X	O	de novo on the record	County Court
		O	O	X	on the record	County Court

(continued on next page)

FIGURE F: State trial courts with incidental appellate jurisdiction, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Administrative Agency Appeals	Trial Court Appeals Civil	Trial Court Appeals Criminal	Type of Appeal	Source of Trial Court Appeal
GEORGIA:						
Superior Court	G	X	X	O	de novo or on the record (varies by county)	Probate Court, Magistrate Court
		O	O	X	de novo or on the record (Probate varies)	Probate Court Municipal Court
HAWAII:						
Circuit Court	G	X	O	O	de novo	
IDAHO:						
District Court	G	X	X (small claims only)	X	de novo	Magistrates Division
		O	X	O	on the record	Magistrates Division
ILLINOIS:						
Circuit Court	G	X	O	O	on the record	
INDIANA:						
Superior Court and Circuit Court	G	X	X	X	de novo	City and Town Courts
Municipal Court of Marion County	L	O	X	O	de novo	Small Claims Court of Marion County
IOWA:						
District Court	G	X	O	O	de novo	
		O	X	X	on the record	Magistrates Division
KANSAS:						
District Court	G	X	X	X	de novo	Municipal Court
KENTUCKY:						
Circuit Court	G	X	X	X	on the record	District Court
LOUISIANA:						
District Court	G	X	X	X	de novo on the record	City and Parish, Justice of the Peace, Mayor's Courts
MAINE:						
Superior Court	G	X	X	X	on the record	District Court, Administrative Courts

(continued on next page)

FIGURE F: State trial courts with incidental appellate jurisdiction, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Adminis-trative Agency Appeals	Trial Court Appeals Civil	Trial Court Appeals Criminal	Type of Appeal	Source of Trial Court Appeal
MARYLAND:						
Circuit Court	G	X	O	O	on the record	
		O	X	X	de novo	District Court
MASSACHUSETTS:						
Superior Court Department	G	X	X	O	on the record	Other departments
District Court Department and Boston Municipal Court	G	O	X	X	de novo	Other departments
MICHIGAN:						
Circuit Court	G	X	X	X	de novo	Municipal Court
		O	X	O	on the record	District, Municipal and Probate Courts
MINNESOTA:						
District Court	G	O	X	X	de novo	County Court
MISSISSIPPI:			(DATA ARE UNAVAILABLE)			
MISSOURI:						
Circuit Court	G	X	O	O	on the record	
		X	X	O	de novo	Municipal Court, Associate Divisions
MONTANA:						
District Court	G	X	X	O	de novo and on the record	Justice of Peace, Municipal and City Courts
		O	O	X	de novo	
NEBRASKA:						
District Court	G	X	O	O	de novo on the record	
		O	X	X	on the record	County Court
NEVADA:						
District Court	G	X	X	X	de novo on the record	Justice and Municipal Courts
		O	O	X	de novo	Municipal Court on the record
NEW HAMPSHIRE:						
Superior Court	G	X	O	X	de novo	District and Municipal and Probate Courts

(continued on next page)

FIGURE F: State trial courts with incidental appellate jurisdiction, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Administrative Agency Appeals	Trial Court Appeals Civil	Trial Court Appeals Criminal	Type of Appeal	Source of Trial Court Appeal
NEW JERSEY:						
Superior Court	G	0	0	X	de novo on the record	Municipal Court
NEW MEXICO:						
District Court	G	X	X	X	de novo	Magistrate, Probate, Municipal, and Bernalillo County Metropolitan Courts
NEW YORK:						
County Court	G	0	X	X	on the record	City, Town and Village Justice Courts
NORTH CAROLINA:						
Superior Court	G	X	0	X	de novo	District Court
		X	0	0	de novo on the record	
		X	0	0	on the record	
NORTH DAKOTA:						
District Court	G	X	0	0	Varies	
County Court	L	0	X	X	de novo	Municipal Court
OHIO:						
Court of Common Pleas	G	X	0	0	de novo and on the record	
County Court	L	0	0	X	de novo	Mayor's Court
Municipal Court	L	0	0	X	de novo	Mayor's Court
Court of Claims	L	X	0	0	de novo	
OKLAHOMA:						
District Court	G	X	0	X	de novo on the record	Municipal Court Not of Record
Court of Tax Review	L	X	0	0	de novo on the record	
OREGON:						
Circuit Court	G	X	X	X	on the record	County Court, Municipal Court, (in counties with no District Court) Justice Court, (in counties with no District Court)
Tax Court	G	X	0	0	on the record	
PENNSYLVANIA:						
Court of Common Pleas	G	X	X	0	on the record	Limited Jurisdiction Courts
		0	0	X	de novo	

(continued on next page)

FIGURE F: State trial courts with incidental appellate jurisdiction, 1987 (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Adminis-trative Agency Appeals	Trial Court Appeals Civil	Trial Court Appeals Criminal	Type of Appeal	Source of Trial Court Appeal
PUERTO RICO:						
Superior Court	G	0	X	X	--	District Court
RHODE ISLAND:						
Superior Court	G	X	0	0	on the record	
		0	X	X	de novo	District, Municipal, and Probate Courts
District Court	L	X	0	0	on the record	
SOUTH CAROLINA:						
Circuit Court	G	X	X	X	de novo on the record	Magistrate, Probate and Municipal Courts
SOUTH DAKOTA:						
Circuit Court	G	X	0	0	de novo and on the record	
		0	X	X	de novo	Magistrates Division
TENNESSEE:						
Circuit, Chancery and Criminal Courts	G	X	X	X	de novo	General Sessions, Probate, Municipal and Juvenile Courts
TEXAS:						
District Court	G	X	0	0	de novo and de novo on the record	
County-Level Courts	L	0	X	X	de novo	Municipal and Justice of the Peace Courts
UTAH:						
District Court	G	X	X	X	on the record	Limited Jurisdiction Courts
		0	X	X	de novo	Justice of the Peace Court
VERMONT:						
Superior Court	G	X	X	0	de novo on the record	District Court, Probate Court

(continued on next page)

FIGURE F: State trial courts with incidental appellate jurisdiction, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Adminis-trative Agency Appeals	Trial Court Appeals Civil	Trial Court Appeals Criminal	Type of Appeal	Source of Trial Court Appeal
VIRGINIA:						
Circuit Court	G	X	0	0	on the record	
		0	X	X	de novo	District Court
District Court	L	X	0	0	de novo	
WASHINGTON:						
Superior Court	G	X	X	X	de novo on the record	District and Municipal Courts
WEST VIRGINIA:						
Circuit Court	G	X	0	0	on the record	
		0	X	X	de novo	Magistrate Court
WISCONSIN:						
Circuit Court	G	X	0	X (first offense only)	de novo DWI/DUI	Municipal Court
		0	X	X (first offense only)	on the record DWI/DUI	Municipal Court
WYOMING:						
District Court	G	X	X	X	de novo on the record	Limited Jurisdiction Courts

JURISDICTION CODES:

G = General jurisdiction court.
L = Limited jurisdiction court.
-- = Information not available.

Definitions of types of appeal:

de novo: An appeal from one trial court to another trial court that results in a totally new set of proceedings and a new trial court judgment.

de novo on the record: An appeal from one trial court to another trial court that is based on the record to reach a new trial court judgment.

on the record: An appeal from one trial court to another trial court in which procedural challenges to the original trial proceedings are claimed, and an evaluation of those challenges are made--there is not a new trial court judgment on the case.

Source: Data were gathered from the 1987 State Trial Court Jurisdiction Guide profiles and State Administrative Offices of the Courts.

FIGURE G: Number of Judges/Justices in the State Courts, 1987

State:	Court(s) of last resort	Intermediate appellate court(s)	General jurisdiction court(s)	Limited jurisdiction court(s)
Alabama	9	8	124	803 (includes 416 mayors)
Alaska	5	3	29	71 (includes 54 magistrates)
Arizona	5	18	101	252 (includes 84 justices of the peace, 56 part-time judges)
Arkansas	7	6	70	329 (includes 61 juvenile referees)
California	7	77	830 (includes 106 commissioners or referees)	755 (includes 123 commissioners or referees)
Colorado	7	10	121	342
Connecticut	7	9	162 (includes the 16 appellate justices/judges	132
Delaware	5	--	17	87 (includes 53 justices of the peace, 1 chief magistrate, 12 aldermen, 1 part-time judge)
District of Columbia	9	--	61	--
Florida	7	46	362	223
Georgia	7	9	188 (includes 40 part-time judges)	1,077 (includes 48 part-time judges, 159 chief magistrates, 273 magistrates)
Hawaii	5	3	32 (includes 8 District Court judges)	59 (includes 37 per diem judges)
Idaho	5	3	103 (includes 62 lawyer and 8 non-lawyer magistrates)	--
Illinois	7	43 (includes 9 supplemental judges)	780	--
Indiana	5	13	206	155
Iowa	9	6	317 (includes 158 part-time magistrates)	--
Kansas	7	10	216 (includes 70 district magistrate judges)	314
Kentucky	7	14	91	125
Louisiana	7	48	192	770 (includes 399 justices of the peace, 300 mayors)
Maine	7	--	16	42 (includes 16 part-time judges)
Maryland	7	13	109	156
Massachusetts	7	10	281	--
Michigan	7	18	197	360
Minnesota	7	13	224*	--*
Mississippi	9	--	79	482 (includes 165 mayors, 191 justices of the peace)

(continued on next page)

FIGURE G: Number of judges/justices in the state courts, 1987. (continued)

State:	Court(s) of last resort	Intermediate appellate court(s)	General jurisdiction court(s)	Limited jurisdiction court(s)
Missouri	7	32	303	348
Montana	7	--	41	133 (includes 33 justices of the peace that also serve on the city court)
Nebraska	7	--	48	67
Nevada	5	--	35	79
New Hampshire	5	--	25	97
New Jersey	7	28	342	374 (includes 342 part-time judges)
New Mexico	5	7	59	182
New York	7	62	484	2,690 (includes 76 surrogates, 1,985 justices of the peace)
North Carolina	7	12	172 (includes 100 clerks who hear uncontested probate)	788 (includes 637 magistrates of which 100 are part-time)
North Dakota	5		26	175
Ohio	7	58	339	950 (includes 690 mayors)
Oklahoma	12	12	206	379 (includes unknown number of part-time judges)
Oregon	7	10	85	316 (includes 38 justices of the peace)
Pennsylvania	7	24	330	577 (includes 543 justices of the peace and 5 magistrates)
Puerto Rico	8	--	92	163 (includes 10 special judges)
Rhode Island	5	--	20	70
South Carolina	5	6	51 (includes 20 masters-in-equity)	657 (includes 315 magistrates)
South Dakota	5	--	197 (includes 11 part-time lay magistrates, 18 law magistrates, 84 full-time magistrate/clerks, 49 part-time lay magistrate/clerks)	--
Tennessee	5	21	128 (includes 33 chancellors)	347 (includes 44 part-time judges, and 2 justices of the peace
Texas	18	80	385	2,474 (includes 941 justices of the peace)
Utah	5	7	29	207 (includes 158 justices of the peace)
Vermont	5	--	25	19
Virginia	7	10	122	177

(continued on next page)

FIGURE G: Number of judges/justices in the state courts, 1987. (continued)

State:	Court(s) of last resort	Intermediate appellate court(s)	General jurisdiction court(s)	Limited jurisdiction court(s)
Washington	9	16	133	328
West Virginia	5	--	60	278 (includes 156 magistrates)
Wisconsin	7	13	197	205
Wyoming	5	--	17	107 (includes 14 justices of the peace)
Total	355	778	8,859	18,721

-- = The state does not have a court at the indicated level.

NOTE: This table identifies, in parentheses, all individuals who hear cases but are not titled judges/justices. Some states may have given the title "judge" to officials who are called magistrates, justices of the peace, etc., in other states.

*Minnesota--General Jurisdiction and Limited Jurisdiction Courts were consolidated in 1987.

Source: Data were gathered from the 1987 State Trial and Appellate Court statistical profiles.

FIGURE H: Method of Counting Civil Cases in State Trial Courts, 1987

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Are reopened cases counted as new filings, or identified separately as reopened cases?	Qualifications or Conditions	Are enforcement/collection proceedings counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?	Are temporary injunctions counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?
ALABAMA:					
Circuit Court	G	New filing		Yes/No	Yes/No
District Court	L	New filing		No	Yes/No
ALASKA:					
Superior Court	G	Reopened		No	Yes
District Court	L	Reopened		No	No
ARIZONA:					
Superior Court	G	Reopened	When transferred in	No	Yes/No
Justice of the Peace Court	L	Reopened	When transferred in	No	Yes/No
ARKANSAS:					
Circuit Court	G	Reopened		No	No
Chancery and Probate Court	G	Reopened		No	No
CALIFORNIA:					
Superior Court	G	Reopened	Retried cases	No	No
Municipal Court	L	Reopened	Retried cases	No	N/A
Justice Court	L	Reopened	Retried cases	No	N/A
COLORADO:					
District Court	G	Reopened	Post Activities	No	No
Water Court	G	Reopened	Post Activities	No	No
County Court	L	Reopened	Post Activities	No	No
Municipal Court	L	N/A		N/A	N/A
CONNECTICUT:					
Superior Court	G	New filing		No	No
DELAWARE:					
Court of Chancery	G	Reopened		No	No
Superior Court	G	New filing Reopened	If remanded Case rehearing	No	Yes/No
Justice of the Peace Court	L	Rarely occurs		No	Yes/No
Family Court	L	New filing is heard separately Reopened - if rehearing of total case	If part of original proceeding	No	No
Court of Common Pleas	L	N/A		N/A	N/A
Alderman's Court	L	N/A		N/A	N/A

(continued on next page)

FIGURE H: Method of counting civil cases in state trial courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Are reopened cases counted as new filings, or identified separately as reopened cases?	Qualifications or Conditions	Are enforcement/collection proceedings counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?	Are temporary injunctions counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:					
Superior Court	G	Reopened		Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes
FLORIDA:					
Circuit Court	G	Reopened		Yes/No	Yes/No
County Court	L	Reopened		Yes/No	Yes/No
GEORGIA:					
Superior Court	G	New filing		No	No
Civil Court	L	N/C		No	No
State Court	L	New filing		No	No
Probate Court	L	New filing		No	No
Magistrate Court	L	New filing		No	No
Municipal Court	L	N/C		No	No
HAWAII:					
Circuit Court and Family Court	G	Reopened	Supplemental proceedings	Yes/Yes Special proceedings	Yes/Yes Circuit Court: Special Proceedings
District Court	L	Reopened	Supplemental proceedings	No	Yes/No (included as new case filing)
IDAHO:					
District Court	G	Reopened		Yes/No	No
ILLINOIS:					
Circuit Court	G	Reopened		No	No
INDIANA:					
Superior Court	G	Reopened	Redocketed	No	No
Circuit Court	G	Reopened	Redocketed	No	No
County Court	L	Reopened	Redocketed	No	No
Municipal Court of Marion County	L	Reopened	Redocketed	No No	No No
City Court	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Small Claims Court of Marion County	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
IOWA:					
District Court	G	New filing		Yes/No	No
KANSAS:					
District Court	G	Reopened		No	Yes/No

(continued on next page)

FIGURE H: Method of counting civil cases in state trial courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Are reopened cases counted as new filings, or identified separately as reopened cases?	Qualifications or Conditions	Are enforcement/collection proceedings counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?	Are temporary injunctions counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?
KENTUCKY:					
Circuit Court	G	Reopened		No	Yes/Yes
District Court	L	Reopened		No	Yes/Yes
LOUISIANA:					
District Court	G	Reopened	As action on open case	Yes/Yes	Yes/No
Juvenile Court	G	Reopened	As action on open case	Yes/Yes	No
Family Court	G	Reopened	As action on open case	No	No
City & Parish Courts	L	New filing	As action on open case	Yes/No	No
MAINE:					
Superior Court	G	New filing		No	Yes/No
District Court	L	N/C		No	No
Probate Court	L	N/C		No	No
MARYLAND:					
Circuit Court	G	New filing		No	N/A
District Court	L	N/A		N/A	Yes/No
MASSACHUSETTS:					
Trial Court of the Commonwealth					
Superior Court Dept.	G	N/C		N/A	Yes/Yes
District Court Dept.	G	N/C		Yes/Yes	N/A
Boston Municipal Court Dept.	G	N/C		Yes/Yes	N/A
Housing Court Dept.	G	N/C		Yes/Yes	N/A
Land Court Dept.	G	N/C		N/Applicable	N/A
MICHIGAN:					
Court of Claims	G	Reopened		No	No
Circuit Court	G	Reopened		No	No
District Court	L	N/A		N/A	N/A
Municipal Court	L	N/A		N/A	N/A
MINNESOTA:					
District Court	G	Identified separately		No	No
MISSISSIPPI:		Data are unavailable			
MISSOURI:					
Circuit Court	G	New filings		Yes/No	Yes/No
MONTANA:					
District Court	G	Reopened		Yes/Yes	Yes/No
Justice of the Peace Court	L	N/A		N/A	N/A
Municipal Court	L	N/A		N/A	N/A
City Court	L	N/A		N/A	N/A

(continued on next page)

FIGURE H: Method of counting civil cases in state trial courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Are reopened cases counted as new filings, or identified separately as reopened cases?	Qualifications or Conditions	Are enforcement/collection proceedings counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?	Are temporary injunctions counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?
NEBRASKA:					
District Court	G	Reopened		No	No
County Court	L	Reopened		No	No
NEVADA:					
District Court	G	Reopened		Yes/Yes	No
NEW HAMPSHIRE:					
Superior Court	G	Reopened		No	No
District Court	L	N/C		No	No
Municipal Court	L	N/C		No	No
NEW JERSEY:					
Superior Court: Civil, Family, General Equity, and Criminal Divisions	G	Reopened		Yes/Yes	Yes/No (except for domestic violence)
NEW MEXICO:					
District Court	G	Reopened		Yes/Yes	No
Magistrate Court	L	Reopened		No	No
Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County	L	Reopened		No	No
NEW YORK:					
Supreme Court	G	Reopened		Yes/No	Yes/No
County Court	L	N/C		No	No
Court of Claims	L	N/C		No	No
Family Court	L	Reopened		Yes/No	No
District Court	L	N/C		No	No
City Court	L	N/C		No	No
Civil Court of the City of New York	L	N/C		No	No
Town & Village Justice Court	L	N/C		No	No
NORTH CAROLINA:					
Superior Court	G	N/C		No	No
District Court	L	N/C		Yes/No	No
NORTH DAKOTA:					
District Court	G	New filing		Yes/Yes (only counted if a hearing was held)	Yes/Yes
County Court	L	New filing		N/A	N/A

(continued on next page)

FIGURE H: Method of counting civil cases in state trial courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Are reopened cases counted as new filings, or identified separately as reopened cases?	Qualifications or Conditions	Are enforcement/collection proceedings counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?	Are temporary injunctions counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?
OHIO:					
Court of Common Pleas	G	Reopened		Yes/No (are counted separately in domestic relations cases)	Yes/No
Municipal Court	L	Reopened		No	No
County Court	L	Reopened		No	No
Court of Claims	L	N/A		N/A	N/A
OKLAHOMA:					
District Court	G	Reopened		No	No
OREGON:					
Circuit Court	G	Reopened		Yes/No	Yes/No
Justice Court	L	N/A		N/A	N/A
Municipal Court	L	N/A		N/A	N/A
District Court	L	Reopened		N/A	N/A
PENNSYLVANIA:					
Court of Common Pleas	G	Reopened		No	No
District Justice Court	L	New filing		N/A	N/A
PUERTO RICO:					
Superior Court	G	New filing		Yes/No	N/A
District Court	L	New filing		Yes/No	N/A
RHODE ISLAND:					
Superior Court	G	Reopened		No	Yes/No
District Court	L	Reopened		No	Yes/Yes
Family Court	L	Reopened		No	Yes/Yes
Probate Court	L	N/A		N/A	N/A
SOUTH CAROLINA:					
Circuit Court	G	New filing		No	No (Permanent injunctions are counted as a new filing)
Family Court	L	New filing		No	No
Magistrate Court	L	New filing		No	No
Probate Court	L	New filing		No	No
SOUTH DAKOTA:					
Circuit Court	G	N/C		No	Yes/No
TENNESSEE:					
Circuit Court	G	Reopened	(Varies based on local practice)		(Varies based on local practice)
Chancery Court	G	Reopened	(Varies based on local practice)		(Varies based on local practice)
General Sessions Court	L	Reopened	(Varies based on local practice)		(Varies based on local practice)

(continued on next page)

FIGURE H: Method of counting civil cases in state trial courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Juris-diction	Are reopened cases counted as new filings, or identified separately as reopened cases?	Qualifications or Conditions	Are enforcement/ collection proceed-ings counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?	Are temporary injunc-tions counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?
TEXAS:					
District Court	G	Reopened		No	No
Constitutional County Court	L	Reopened		No	No
County Court at Law	L	Reopened		No	No
Justice of the Peace Court	L	New filing		No	No
UTAH:					
District Court	G	N/C	(called - abstract of judgment filed)	No	Yes/Yes
Circuit Court	L	N/C		No	Yes/Yes
Justice of the Peace Court	L	N/C		No	Yes/Yes
VERMONT:					
Superior Court	G	N/C		No	Yes/No
District Court	G	N/C		No	Yes/No
Probate Court	L	N/C		No	N/A
VIRGINIA:					
Circuit Court	G	Reopened	Reinstated cases	Yes/Yes	Yes/No
District Court	L	New filing		Yes/No	No
WASHINGTON:					
Superior Court	G	New filing		No	Yes/No
Municipal Court	L	New filing		N/A	N/A
District Court	L	New filing		Yes/Yes	N/A
WEST VIRGINIA:					
Circuit Court	G	Reopened		No	No
Magistrate Court	L	New filing		No	No
WISCONSIN:					
Circuit Court	G	New filing	Identified with R suffix, but included in total count	No	Yes/Yes
WYOMING:					
District Court	G	Reopened		No	No
Justice of the Peace Court	L	Reopened		N/A	N/A
County Court	L	Reopened		N/A	N/A

G - General Jurisdiction Court
L - Limited Jurisdiction Court
N/A - Information is not available
N/C - Information is not collected/ counted
N/Applicable - Civil casetypes heard by this court are not applicable to this figure.

Source: State Trial Court Jurisdiction Guide profiles, as updated and verified for 1987 by State Administrative Offices of the Courts.

FIGURE I: Method of Counting Support/Custody Cases in State Trial Courts, 1987

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Is support/custody a proceeding within a marriage dissolution case?	Do the support/custody and marriage dissolution case counts include uncontested cases as well as contested cases?	Are changes in decree counted as new filings or as reopened cases?
ALABAMA:				
Circuit Court	G	Yes, except URESA and nondissolution S/C which are counted separately	Yes	New filings
District Court	L	N/A	Yes (S/C only)	New filings
ALASKA:				
Superior Court	G	Yes, except URESA and nondissolution S/C which are counted separately	Yes	Reopened cases
ARIZONA:				
Superior Court	G	Yes, except URESA cases which are counted separately	Yes	Reopened cases
ARKANSAS:				
Chancery and Probate Court	G	Yes, except URESA cases contested S/C and non-dissolution S/C which are counted separately	Yes	Reopened cases
CALIFORNIA:				
Superior Court	G	Yes	Yes	N/C
COLORADO:				
District Court	G	Yes, except URESA cases and contested S/C which are counted separately	Yes	Reopened cases
CONNECTICUT:				
Superior Court	G	Yes, except nondissolution S/C which are counted separately	Yes	Reopened cases
DELAWARE:				
Family Court	L	Yes, except contested S/C and nondissolution S/C which are counted separately	Yes	Reopened cases
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:				
Superior Court	G	Yes, except URESA cases and nondissolution S/C which are counted separately	Yes	Reopened cases
FLORIDA:				
Circuit Court	G	No	Yes	Reopened cases
GEORGIA:				
Superior Court	G	Yes, except URESA and contested S/C cases which are counted separately	Yes	New filings

(continued on next page)

FIGURE I: Method of counting support/custody cases in state trial courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Is support/custody a proceeding within a marriage dissolution case?	Do the support/custody and marriage dissolution case counts include uncontested cases as well as contested cases?	Are changes in decree counted as new filings or as reopened cases?
HAWAII:				
Circuit Court (Family Court Division)	G	Yes, except URESA cases which are counted separately	Yes	N/C
IDAHO:				
District Court	G	Yes, except URESA cases and S/C nondissolution, which are counted separately	Yes	New filings
ILLINOIS:				
Circuit Court	G	Yes, except URESA cases and nondissolution S/C, which are counted separately	Yes	Reopened cases
INDIANA:				
Superior Court	G	Yes	Yes	Reopened cases (redocketed)
Circuit Court	G	Yes	Yes	Reopened cases (redocketed)
IOWA:				
District Court	G	Yes, except URESA cases, which are counted separately	Yes	New filings
KANSAS:				
District Court	G	Yes, except URESA cases and nondissolution S/C, which are counted separately	Yes	N/C
KENTUCKY:				
Circuit Court	G	Yes, except URESA cases, which are counted separately	Yes	Reopened cases
LOUISIANA:				
District Court	G	Yes, except URESA cases, which are counted separately	Yes	Reopened cases
Juvenile Court	G	No (court has only support/custody jurisdiction)	Yes	Reopened cases
Family Court	G	Yes, except nondissolution S/C, which are counted separately	Yes	Reopened cases
MAINE:				
Superior Court	G	Yes, except URESA cases, which are counted separately	Yes	N/C
District Court	L	Yes	Yes	N/C

(continued on next page)

FIGURE I: Method of counting support/custody cases in state trial courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Is support/custody a proceeding within a marriage dissolution case?	Do the support/custody and marriage dissolution case counts include uncontested cases as well as contested cases?	Are changes in decree counted as new filings or as reopened cases?
MARYLAND:				
Circuit Court	G	Yes, except URESA cases and nondissolution S/C, which are counted separately	Yes	New filings
MASSACHUSETTS:				
Trial Court of the Commonwealth:				
Probate and Family Court Department	G	Yes, except nondissolution S/C cases, which are counted separately	No	Reopened cases (Modifications)
MICHIGAN:				
Circuit Court	G	Yes, except URESA cases and nondissolution S/C, which are counted separately	Yes	N/C
MINNESOTA:				
District Court	G	Yes, except URESA cases, which are counted separately	Yes	Reopened cases
MISSISSIPPI:		Data are unavailable		
MISSOURI:				
Circuit Court	G	Yes, except URESA cases and nondissolution S/C, which are counted separately	Yes	New filings
MONTANA:				
District Court	G	Yes, except URESA cases and contested S/C, which are counted separately	Yes	New filings
NEBRASKA:				
District Court	G	Yes	Yes	Reopened cases
NEVADA:				
District Court	G	Yes	Yes	Reopened cases
NEW HAMPSHIRE:				
Superior Court	G	Yes	Yes	Reopened cases
NEW JERSEY:				
Superior Court:				
Civil, Family, General Equity and Criminal Divisions	G	Yes, except URESA cases and nondissolution S/C, which are counted separately	Yes	Reopened cases

(continued on next page)

FIGURE I: Method of counting support/custody cases in state trial courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Is support/custody a proceeding within a marriage dissolution case?	Do the support/custody and marriage dissolution case counts include uncontested cases as well as contested cases?	Are changes in decree counted as new filings or as reopened cases?
NEW MEXICO:				
District Court	G	Yes, except URESA cases and nondissolution S/C, which are counted separately	Yes	Reopened cases
NEW YORK:				
Supreme Court	G	Yes	Yes	Reopened cases
Family Court	L	No (support/custody jurisdiction only)	N/Applicable	Reopened cases (heard in Supreme Court only)
NORTH CAROLINA:				
District Court	L	Yes, except URESA cases and nondissolution S/C, which are counted separately	Yes	Reopened cases
NORTH DAKOTA:				
District Court	G	Yes, except URESA cases and nondissolution S/C, which are counted separately	Yes	New filings
OHIO:				
Court of Common Pleas	G	Yes, except URESA cases and nondissolution S/C, which are counted separately	Yes	New filings
OKLAHOMA:				
District Court	G	Yes, except URESA cases, which are counted separately	Yes	New filings
OREGON:				
Circuit Court	G	Yes, except URESA cases and nondissolution S/C, which are counted separately	Yes	Reopened cases
PENNSYLVANIA:				
Court of Common Pleas	G	No	Yes	New filings
PUERTO RICO:				
Superior Court	G	Yes, except URESA cases, which are counted separately	Yes	Reopened cases
RHODE ISLAND:				
Family Court	L	Yes, except URESA cases, which are counted separately	Yes	Reopened cases

(continued on next page)

FIGURE I: Method of counting support/custody cases in state trial courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Is support/custody a proceeding within a marriage dissolution case?	Do the support/custody and marriage dissolution case counts include uncontested cases as well as contested cases?	Are changes in decree counted as new filings or as reopened cases?
SOUTH CAROLINA:				
Family Court	L	Yes, except URESA cases and nondissolution S/C, which are counted separately	Yes	New filings (not counted)
SOUTH DAKOTA:				
Circuit Court	G	No	Yes	N/C
TENNESSEE:				
Circuit Court	G	Yes, except URESA cases and nondissolution S/C, which are counted separately	Yes	Reopened cases
Chancery Court	G	Yes, except URESA cases and nondissolution S/C, which are counted separately	Yes	Reopened cases
General Sessions Court	L	Yes, except URESA cases and nondissolution S/C, which are counted separately	Yes	Reopened cases
TEXAS:				
District Court	G	Yes, except URESA cases and nondissolution S/C, which are counted separately	Yes	New filings
County-Level Courts	L	Yes, except URESA cases and nondissolution S/C, which are counted separately	Yes	New filings
UTAH:				
District Court	G	Yes, except URESA cases and contested S/C, which are counted separately	Yes	Reopened cases
VERMONT:				
Superior Court	G	Yes	Yes	N/C
District Court	G	No	Yes	N/C
VIRGINIA:				
Circuit Court	G	Varies*	Yes	Reopened cases (cases commenced)
District Court	L	No	Yes	Reopened cases (reinstated cases)
WASHINGTON:				
Superior Court	G	Yes, except URESA and paternity cases, which are counted separately	Yes	Reopened cases
WEST VIRGINIA:				
Circuit Court	G	Yes, unless S/C is an out-of-state issue	Yes	Reopened cases

(continued on next page)

FIGURE I: Method of counting support/custody cases in state trial courts, 1987. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Is support/custody a proceeding within a marriage dissolution case?	Do the support/custody and marriage dissolution case counts include uncontested cases as well as contested cases?	Are changes in decree counted as new filings or as reopened cases?
WISCONSIN:				
Circuit Court	G	Yes, except URESA cases and S/C filed after the original proceeding	Yes	Reopened cases (new action to modify jurisdiction)
WYOMING:				
District Court	G	Yes	Yes	Reopened cases
County Court	L	No	Yes	Reopened cases

S/C - Support/Custody
N/A - Information is not available
N/C - Information is not collected/counted
N/Applicable - Civil casetypes heard by this court are not applicable to this figure.
URESA - Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act

*FOOTNOTES:

Virginia--If a custody/support issue is considered at the same time as the divorce action, it is counted as one divorce case. Sometimes, custody/support issues arise after the final decree in a divorce case is entered. When this happens, the custody/support issue is counted as a reinstatement of an "other equity" case. A reinstatement is counted as a case commenced. Custody/support issues are sometimes referred to the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, where they are counted as new cases.

Source: State Trial Court Jurisdiction Guide, as updated and verified for 1987 by State Administrative Offices of the Courts.

Appendices

Appendix A

Methodology

Methodology

Court Statistics Project: Goals and Organization

The Court Statistics Project compiles and reports comparable court caseload data from the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico and encourages greater uniformity in how individual state courts and state administrative court offices collect and publish caseload information. Progress toward greater uniformity in caseload data reporting should result in more meaningful and useful caseload information at the disposal of judges, court managers, and state court administrators.

The *State Court Caseload Statistics* series is a cooperative effort of the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) and the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). Responsibility for project management and staffing is assumed by the NCSC's Court Statistics Project, formerly called the National Court Statistics Project (1977-83) and the Court Statistics and Information Management Project (1983-87). COSCA, through its Court Statistics and Technology Committee (CSTC), provides policy guidance and review for the project. The Court Statistics and Technology Committee is composed of representatives from COSCA, COSCA's staff, the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks, the National Association for Court Management, and a representative from the academic research community. The preparation of the 1987 caseload report was funded by a grant from the State Justice Institute (SJI 87 08F B 020) to NCSC.

In addition to preparing publications, the Court Statistics Project responds to about 500 requests for information and assistance each year. These requests fall into four basic categories: requests for caseload data, requests for court jurisdictional information, requests for information on data collection and reporting procedures, and requests for statistical analysis of the caseload data. The requests come from a variety of sources, including state administrative offices of the courts, local courts, individual justices and judges, federal agencies, legislators, the media, academic researchers, and NCSC staff. The requests received by the project are taken into consideration when topics are selected for emphasis in the annual caseload statistics report.

Evolution of the Court Statistics Project

During compilation of the *State of the Art* and the *State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Report, 1975,* the Court Statistics Project's original data compilation efforts, classification problems arose from the multitude of categories and terms used by the states to report their caseloads.[1] This suggested the need for a model annual report and a statistical dictionary of terms for court usage.

The *State Court Model Annual Report* outlines the basic management data that should, at a minimum, be included in state court annual reports.[2] *The State Court Model Statistical Dictionary,* published in 1980, and the *1984 Supplement* provide common terminology, definitions, and usage for reporting appellate and trial court caseload inventory. The dictionary and other project publications provide terms for use in reporting data on the method of case disposition.[3] The classification structure and definitions serve as a model framework for developing comparable and useful data. A consolidated and revised edition of the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary,* which incorporates many new appellate court reporting categories, will be published in 1989.

The *Court Case Management Information Systems Manual,* which was produced jointly with the State Judicial Information Systems Project, is another publication through which the Court Statistics Project seeks to enhance the usefulness of court statistics.[4] This manual provides a methodology for building court information systems that provide the data needed for both daily court operations and long-term case management, resource allocation, and strategic planning.

Once a set of recommended terms was established, the focus shifted to assessing the comparability of caseload data as reported by the courts to those terms. It became particularly important to detail the subject matter jurisdiction and methods of counting cases in each state court. This effort was undertaken in two stages. The first stage addressed problems related to the categorizing and count-

---

[1]National Court Statistics Project, National Center for State Courts, *State Court Caseload Statistics: The State of the Art* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1978).

[2]National Court Statistics Project, National Center for State Courts, *State Court Model Annual Report* (Williamsburg, Va.: National Center for State Courts, 1980).

[3]National Court Statistics Project, National Center for State Courts, *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1980); *Supplement* (Williamsburg, Va.: National Center for State Courts, 1984).

[4]Clifford and Jensen, *Court Case Management Information Systems Manual* (Williamsburg, Va.: National Center for State Courts, 1983).

ing of cases in the trial courts and resulted in the *1984 State Trial Court Jurisdiction Guide for Statistical Reporting.*[5] Information from the jurisdiction guide was incorporated into the caseload database for 1981 and is updated annually.

The second stage involved preparation of the *1984 State Appellate Court Jurisdiction Guide for Statistical Reporting,* which was used to compile the 1984 appellate court database.[6] The introduction to the 1981 report contains a complete description of the impact of the *Trial Court Jurisdiction Guide* on the Court Statistics Project data collection, and the introduction of the 1984 report provided a complete description of the impact of the *Appellate Court Jurisdiction Guide.*

Much of the court jurisdiction information contained in the 1987 report is the result of research done for *State Court Organization, 1987,* another project publication. *State Court Organization, 1987,* is a source book which describes the organization and management of state appellate and trial courts.[7]

The first caseload report presented 1975 caseload data for state appellate courts, trial courts of general jurisdiction, and for selected categories (juvenile, domestic relations, probate, and mental health) in limited jurisdiction courts. The second report (1976) again presented available data for appellate courts and courts of general jurisdiction and also included all available caseload data for limited jurisdiction courts. The 1979 and 1980 reports eliminated repetitiveness in the summary tables and reorganized the data in the summary tables based on completeness and comparability. The 1981 volume, incorporating the structure detailed in the *1984 Trial Court Jurisdiction Guide,* organized the caseload data by comparable jurisdictions. In order to make the series current with the publication of the 1984 volume, the Court Statistics Project did not publish caseload data for 1982 and 1983.

Sources of Data

Information for the national caseload databases comes from published and unpublished sources supplied by state court administrators and appellate court clerks. The published data are usually found in official state annual reports. State annual reports assume a variety of forms and vary widely in detail. They represent the most reliable and valid data available at the state level. The data, however, are the product of statistical reports, often filed monthly or quarterly, from numerous local jurisdictions and, in most states, several trial court systems. The caseload statistics are used by the states to manage their own systems and are not prepared specifically for inclusion in the NCSC caseload statistics series.

Some states either do not publish an annual report or publish only limited caseload statistics for either trial or appellate courts. The Court Statistics Project receives unpublished data from those states in a wide range of forms, including internal management memos, computer-generated output, and the project's statistical and jurisdictional profiles, which were sent to state court administrative offices for updating.

Telephone contact and follow-up correspondence are used to collect missing data, confirm the accuracy of available data, and determine the legal jurisdiction of each court. Information is collected concerning the number of judges per court or court system (from annual reports, offices of state court administrators, and appellate court clerks); the state population (based on Bureau of the Census revised estimates);[8] and special characteristics regarding subject matter jurisdiction and court structure. Appendix B lists the source of each state's caseload statistics for 1987.

Data Collection Procedures

The following outline summarizes the major tasks involved in collecting the 1987 caseload data reported in this volume.

a. The 1987 state reports were evaluated to note changes in the categories and terminology used to report the data, changes in the range of available data, and changes in the state's court organization or jurisdiction. This process involved a direct comparison of the 1987 material with the contents of individual state 1986 annual reports. Project staff used a copy of each state's 1986 trial and appellate court statistical profile(s), trial and appellate court jurisdiction guide profile(s), and the state court organization chart as worksheets for gathering the 1987 data. Use of the previous year's profiles provided the data collector with a reference point so that the logic behind the 1986 data collection could be identified and replicated. The caseload data were then taken from the state caseload report and entered onto the 1987 profiles. The caseload terminology used on the profiles are defined in the statistical dictionary. Prototypes of the appellate and trial court statistical profiles can be found in Appendix C.

b. Project staff screened the collected caseload numbers for significant changes from the previous year. A formal record documented, and, where possible, explained such changes. This process served as another reliability check by identifying statutory, organizational, or procedural changes that potentially have an impact on court caseload. During the data collection process, a check was conducted to ensure compatibility between the information supplied on the jurisdiction guide profiles and the casetypes identified on the statistical profiles.

c. The data were then transferred from the handwritten copy to computer databases (codebooks are available upon request). The data entry program used (SPSS's Data Entry) automatically checked for certain data entry errors.

[5]Clifford and Roper, *State Trial Court Jurisdiction Guide for Statistical Reporting* (Williamsburg, Va.: National Center for State Courts, 1985).

[6]Roper, *1984 State Appellate Court Jurisdiction Guide for Statistical Reporting* (Williamsburg, Va.: National Center for State Courts, 1985).

[7]Court Statistics Project, National Center for State Courts, *State Court Organization, 1987* (Williamsburg, Va.: National Center for State Courts, 1988).

[8]U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 1024, *State Population and Household Estimates, with Age, Sex, and Components of Change: 1981-87.* (Washington, D.C., U.S. Government Printing Office, 1988).

The software allows the programmer to establish a range of acceptable values for each variable. If a value was entered which fell outside the parameters, SPSS would not incorporate the number within the database until several attempts were made to enter the value. After the data were entered, a batch error-detection program checked for other user-specified logic violations, usually through mathematical checks on the consistency of subtotals and totals. The reliability of data collection and data entry were verified through an independent review of all decisions made by the original data collector.

d. After the data were entered and checked for keypunching errors, computer printouts were run comparing 1986 and 1987 reported data. The printouts were checked for inconsistencies between the two years, and outliers were identified.

e. Finally, the caseload tables in the body of this report were generated from the database.

Variables

There are four basic types of data elements collected by the Court Statistics Project: (1) trial court caseload statistics, (2) trial court jurisdictional/organizational information, (3) appellate court caseload, and (4) appellate court jurisdictional/organizational information. An individual court profile is prepared for each of these data elements. These data collection instruments are approved by COSCA's Court Statistics and Technology Committee and consist of data elements defined in the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary.*

There are four main trial court casetypes: civil, criminal, juvenile, and traffic/other violation. Each major casetype can be reduced to several specific caseload categories. For example, the civil casetype consists of tort, contract, real property rights, small claims, mental health, estate, and domestic relations cases. In some circumstances, these casetypes can be further refined; for example, domestic relations cases can be divided into marriage dissolution, URESA, support/custody, and adoption cases.

Currently, only filing and disposition numbers are entered into the database for each of these casetypes. Data on pending cases were routinely collected by the project until serious comparability problems were identified when compiling the 1984 caseload report. Some courts provided data that included active cases only, while others included active and inactive cases. COSCA's Court Statistics and Technology Committee recommended that the collection of pending caseload be deferred until a study determined whether the data can be made comparable across states.

The trial court jurisdictional profile collects an assortment of information relevant to the organization and jurisdiction of each trial court system. The main purpose of the profile is to translate the terminology used by the states when reporting statistical information into generic terms recommended by the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary.* In addition, the profile collects information on the numbers of courts, the number of judges, methods of counting cases, the availability of jury trials, the dollar amount jurisdiction of the court, and the method of case disposition.

There are also statistical and jurisdiction guide profiles for each state appellate court. Two major casetypes are used in the statistical profile: mandatory cases (those cases which the court must hear on the merits—appeals of right) and discretionary petitions (those cases which the court has discretion on whether to accept and then reach a decision on the merits). The statistical profile also contains the number of petitions granted, although many states do not report this. Mandatory and discretionary cases are further differentiated by whether the case is a review of a final trial court judgment or some other matter, such as interlocutory or postconviction relief. Where possible, the statistics are classified according to subject matter, mainly civil, criminal, juvenile, disciplinary, and administrative agency appeal.

As with the trial court jurisdiction guide, the primary task of the appellate court guide is to translate the terminology and categories used by each state appellate court into the generic ones recommended by the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary.* This guide also contains information about each court, including the number of court locations, the number of justices/judges, the number of legal support personnel, the point at which appeals are counted as a case, the procedures used to review discretionary petitions, and the use of panels.

Graphics as a Method of Displaying Caseload

The 1985 and 1986 caseload reports used maps to summarize the data presented in table form. The 1987 report also uses maps to display information; however, their use is limited to summarizing court structure and jurisdictional information rather than caseload data.

The 1987 report uses pie charts and bar graphs to illustrate and summarize the caseload data presented in table form. The states are arranged by filing rate, from lowest to highest, so that a midpoint can be easily determined. Each graph is limited to those states providing relevant data in a comparable manner to the project. It is incorrect to conclude that a state omitted from the graph did not report caseload statistics to the project. The definitive statement of data availability can be found in the detailed caseload tables in Part II.

Footnotes

Footnotes indicate the degree to which a court's statistics conform to the Court Statistics Project's reporting categories as defined in the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary.* Footnoted caseload numbers are either overinclusive in that they contain casetypes other than those defined for the term in the dictionary, or are underinclusive in that some casetypes defined for the term in the dictionary are not included. It is possible for a caseload number to contain inapplicable types, while omitting applicable ones, making the subtotal or total simultaneously overinclusive and underinclusive.

Reported case filings and dispositions are also affected by the unit and method of count used by states, differing subject matter and dollar amount jurisdictions, and different court system structures. Most of these differences are described in the figures found in Part IV of this volume and summarized in the court structure chart for each state in Part III.

Variations in Reporting Periods

As indicated in Figure A, most states report data by fiscal year, others by calendar year, and a few appellate courts report data by court term. Therefore, the 12-month period covered in this report is not the same for all courts.

The 1987 report reflects court organization and jurisdiction in 1987. Since 1975, new courts have been created at both the appellate and trial level, new courts report data to the Court Statistics Project, courts may have merged and changed counting or reporting methods. The dollar amount limits of civil jurisdiction in many trial courts also vary. Great care is therefore required when comparing the 1987 data to previous years.

Final Note

Finally, comments, corrections, and suggestions by readers are a vital part of the work of the Court Statistics Project and should be sent to the Director, Court Statistics Project, National Center for State Courts, 300 Newport Avenue, Williamsburg, Virginia, 23187-8798.

Appendix B

Sources of 1987 State Court Caseload Statistics

Sources of 1987 state court caseload statistics

ALABAMA:
COLR: Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.
IAC, GJC, LJC: Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of Courts.

ALASKA:
COLR, IAC, GJC, LJC: Administrative Director of the Courts, *Alaska Court System, 1987 Annual Report* (Anchorage, Alaska: 1988).

ARIZONA:
COLR, IAC, GJC, LJC: Administrative Director of the Courts, *The Arizona Courts, 1987 Judicial Report* (Phoenix, Arizona: 1988).

ARKANSAS:
COLR, IAC, GJC, LJC: Executive Secretary of the Judicial Department, *Annual Report of the Judiciary of Arkansas, FY 86-87* (Little Rock, Arkansas: 1988).

CALIFORNIA:
COLR, IAC, GJC, LJC: Judicial Council of California, *1988 Annual Report, Judicial Council of California* (San Francisco, California: 1988).

COLORADO:
COLR, IAC, GJC, LJC: State Court Administrator, *Annual Report of the Colorado Judiciary 1986-87* (Denver, Colorado: 1987).

CONNECTICUT:
COLR, IAC, GJC, LJC: *Biennial Report of the Connecticut Judicial Department, 1985-87* (Hartford, Connecticut: 1988).

DELAWARE:
COLR, GJC, LJC: Administrative Director of the Courts, *1987 Annual Report of the Delaware Judiciary* (Wilmington, Delaware: 1987). Additional unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of the Courts.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:
COLR, GJC: Executive Officer of the Courts, *1987 Annual Report, District of Columbia Courts* (Washington, D.C.: 1987). Additional unpublished data were provided by the Executive Officer.

COLR = Court of last resort.
GJC = General jurisdiction court.
IAC = Intermediate appellate court.
LJC = Limited jurisdiction court.

FLORIDA:
COLR: Unpublished data were provided by the State Courts Administrator and Clerk of the Supreme Court.
IAC, GJC, LJC: Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.

GEORGIA:
COLR: Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.
IAC: Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Court of Appeals.
GJC, LJC: Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of the Courts.

HAWAII:
COLR, IAC: Administrative Director of the Courts, *The Judiciary, State of Hawaii: Annual Report 1986-87* and *Statistical Supplement, July 1, 1986 to June 30, 1987* (Honolulu, Hawaii: 1987).
GJC, LJC: Administrative Director of the Courts, *The Judiciary, State of Hawaii: Annual Report 1986-87* (Honolulu, Hawaii: 1987). Additional unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of the Courts.

IDAHO:
COLR, IAC, GJC: Administrative Director of the Courts, *The Idaho Courts 1987 Annual Report Appendix* (Boise, Idaho: 1988).

ILLINOIS:
COLR, IAC, GJC: Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of the Courts.

INDIANA:
COLR, IAC, GJC, LJC: Executive Director of the Division of State Court Administration, *1987 Indiana Judicial Report* (Indianapolis, Indiana: 1988).

IOWA:
COLR: State Court Administrator, *1987 Annual Statistical Report* (Des Moines, Iowa: 1988). Additional unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.
IAC: State Court Administrator, *1987 Annual Statistical Report* (Des Moines, Iowa: 1988). Additional unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Court of Appeals.
GJC: State Court Administrator, *1987 Annual Statistical Report* (Des Moines, Iowa: 1988).

KANSAS:
COLR, IAC, GJC, LJC: Judicial Administrator, *Annual Report of the Courts of Kansas: 1986-1987 Fiscal Year* (Topeka, Kansas: 1987).

KENTUCKY:
COLR: Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.
IAC: Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Court of Appeals.
GJC, LJC: Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of the Courts.

LOUISIANA:
COLR: Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.
IAC, GJC, LJC: Judicial Administrator, *1987 Annual Report of the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court of Louisiana* (New Orleans, Louisiana: 1988).

MAINE:
COLR, GJC, LJC: State Court Administrator, *State of Maine Judicial Department 1987 Annual Report* (Portland, Maine: 1988).

MARYLAND:
COLR, IAC, GJC, LJC: State Court Administrator, *Annual Report of the Maryland Judiciary 1986-87* (Annapolis, Maryland: 1987).

MASSACHUSETTS:
COLR: Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court.
IAC: Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Appeals Court.
GJC: Chief Administrative Justice, *Annual Report of the Massachusetts Trial Court, 1987* (Boston, Massachusetts: 1988).

MICHIGAN:
COLR, IAC, GJC, LJC: State Court Administrator, *1987 Annual Report of the State Court Administrator and Statistical Supplement* (Lansing, Michigan: 1988).

MINNESOTA:
COLR, IAC, GJC, LJC: State Court Administrator, *Minnesota State Court Report 1986-1987* (St. Paul, Minnesota: 1988).

MISSISSIPPI:
COLR: Staff Attorney, *Mississippi Supreme Court Annual Report 1987* (Jackson, Mississippi: 1988).
GJC, LJC: No data were available for cases handled by these courts in 1987.

MISSOURI:
COLR, IAC, GJC: State Courts Administrator, *Missouri Judicial Report Fiscal Year 1987* (Jefferson City, Missouri: 1987).

MONTANA:
COLR: Unpublished data were provided by the Court Administrator of the Supreme Court.
GJC: Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.
LJC: No data were available for cases handled by these courts in fiscal year 1987.

NEBRASKA:
COLR, GJC, LJC: State Court Administrator, *Nebraska Supreme Court 1987 Annual Report* (Lincoln, Nebraska: 1987).

NEVADA:
COLR: Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.
GJC, LJC: No data were available for cases handled by these courts in 1987.

NEW HAMPSHIRE:
COLR: Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.
GJC, LJC: Unpublished data were provided by the Director, Administrative Office of the Courts.

NEW JERSEY:
COLR: Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.
IAC: Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Court.
GJC, LJC: Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director, Administrative Office of the Courts.

NEW MEXICO:
COLR, IAC, GJC, LJC: Administrative Director, *Judicial Department, State of New Mexico, Annual Report July 1, 1986-June 30, 1987* (Santa Fe, New Mexico: 1987).

NEW YORK:
COLR, IAC: Clerk of the Court, *1987 Annual Report of the Clerk of the Court, Court of Appeals of the State of New York* (New York: 1988). Additional unpublished data were provided by the Clerks of the Appellate Division and Appellate Terms of the Supreme Court.
GJC, LJC: Chief Administrator of the Courts, *Ninth Annual Report 1988* (New York: 1988).

NORTH CAROLINA:
COLR, IAC, GJC, LJC: Administrative Director, Administrative Office of the Courts, *North Carolina Courts, 1986-87* (Raleigh, North Carolina: 1987).

NORTH DAKOTA:
COLR, GJC, LJC: State Court Administrator, *Annual Report of the North Dakota Judicial System, 1987* (Bismarck, North Dakota: 1988).

OHIO:
COLR, IAC, GJC, LJC: Administrative Director of the Supreme Court, *Ohio Courts Summary 1987* (Columbus, Ohio: 1988).

OKLAHOMA:
COLR: Administrative Director of the Courts, *State of Oklahoma, the Judiciary: Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1987* (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma: 1988). Additional unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Court of Criminal Appeals.
IAC, GJC, LJC: Administrative Director of the Courts, *State of Oklahoma, the Judiciary: Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1987* and *Statistical Appendix* (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma: 1988).

OREGON:
COLR, IAC, GJC, LJC: Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.

PENNSYLVANIA:
COLR, IAC, GJC, LJC: Unpublished data were provided by the Court Administrator.

PUERTO RICO:
GJC, LJC: Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of the Courts.

RHODE ISLAND:
COLR: Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.
GJC, LJC: Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.

SOUTH CAROLINA:
COLR, IAC, GJC, LJC: Director of the Judicial Department, *South Carolina Judicial Department, Annual Report, 1987* (Columbia, South Carolina: 1988).
Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.

SOUTH DAKOTA:
COLR, GJC: State Court Administrator, *Benchmark 1987: Annual Report of the South Dakota Unified Judicial System* (Pierre, South Dakota: 1988).

TENNESSEE:
COLR, IAC, GJC, LJC: Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Tennessee, *1987 Annual Report* (Nashville, Tennessee: 1988).

TEXAS:
COLR, IAC, GJC, LJC: Administrative Director of the Courts, *Texas Judicial System Annual Report, September 1, 1986 - August 31, 1987* (Austin, Texas: 1987).

UTAH:
COLR, GJC, LJC: Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.

VERMONT:
COLR, GJC, LJC: Court Administrator, *Judicial Statistics for Year Ending June 30, 1987* (Montpelier, Vermont: 1987).

VIRGINIA:
COLR, IAC, GJC, LJC: Executive Secretary, Supreme Court, *Virginia State of the Judiciary Report 1987* (Richmond, Virginia: 1988).

WASHINGTON:
COLR, IAC, GJC, LJC: State Court Administrator, *Annual Report of the Courts of Washington, 1987* (Olympia, Washington: 1988).
Caseloads of the Courts of Limited Jursidiction of Washington State, 1987 (Olympia, Washington: 1987.)

WEST VIRGINIA:
COLR: Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Appeals.
GJC, LJC: Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of the Courts.

WISCONSIN:
COLR, IAC: Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.
GJC, LJC: Unpublished data were provided by the Director of State Courts.

WYOMING:
COLR, GJC: Unpublished data were provided by the Court Coordinator.
LJC: Unpublished data were provided by the Director of State Courts.

COLR = Court of last resort.
GJC = General jurisdiction court.
IAC = Intermediate appellate court.
LJC = Limited jurisdiction court.

Appendix C

Prototype Statistical Profiles

Prototype of State Appellate Court Statistical Profile Used in 1987 Data Collection

STATE NAME, COURT NAME
Court of last resort or intermediate appellate court
Number of divisions/departments, Number of authorized justices/judges
Time period covered

	Beginning pending	Filed	Disposed	End pending
Cases:				
Mandatory jurisdiction:				
Appeals of final judgment:				
Civil				
Criminal:				
Capital crimes (death/life)				
Other criminal				
Total criminal				
Juvenile				
Administrative agency				
Unclassified (e.g., constitutional issue)				
Total appeals of final judgment				
Other mandatory cases:				
Disciplinary matters:				
Attorney				
Judge				
Total disciplinary				
Original proceedings (e.g., extraordinary writs, postconviction remedy, sentence review only, election cases)				
Interlocutory decisions				
Advisory opinions:				
Intra-state (legislature, executive, courts)				
Federal courts (i.e., certified question)				
Total advisory opinions				
Total other mandatory cases				
Total mandatory jurisdiction cases				
Discretionary jurisdiction:				
Petitions of final judgment:				
Civil		( )	( )	
Criminal		( )	( )	
Juvenile		( )	( )	
Administrative agency		( )	( )	
Unclassified (e.g., constitutional issue)		( )	( )	
Total petitions of final judgment		( )	( )	
Other discretionary petitions:				
Disciplinary matters:				
Attorney		( )	( )	
Judge		( )	( )	
Total disciplinary		( )	( )	
Original proceedings (e.g., extraordinary writs, postconviction remedy, sentence review only, election cases)		( )	( )	
Interlocutory decisions		( )	( )	
Advisory opinions:				
Intra-state (legislature, executive, courts)		( )	( )	
Federal courts (e.g., certified question)		( )	( )	
Total advisory opinions		( )	( )	
Total other discretionary petitions		( )	( )	
Total discretionary jurisdiction cases		( )	( )	
Grand total cases		( )	( )	
Other proceedings:				
Rehearing/reconsideration requests				
Motions				
Other matters (e.g., bar admissions)				

Prototype of state appellate court statistical profile

	Manner of Disposition					
	Predecision disposition (dismissed/ withdrawn/ settled)	Opinions		Decision without opinion (memo/ order)	Transferred	Other
		Signed opinion	Per curiam opinion			
Mandatory jurisdiction:						
Appeals of final judgment:						
Civil						
Criminal						
Juvenile						
Administrative agency						
Unclassified (e.g., constitutional issue)						
Other mandatory cases:						
Disciplinary matters						
Original proceedings (e.g., election cases)						
Interlocutory decisions						
Total mandatory jurisdiction cases						
Discretionary jurisdiction (cases granted only):						
Petitions of final judgments:						
Civil						
Criminal						
Juvenile						
Administrative agency						
Unclassified (e.g., constitutional issue)						
Other discretionary petitions						
Disciplinary matters						
Original proceedings (e.g., election cases)						
Total discretionary jurisdiction cases						
Grand total						

Type of decision in mandatory cases/granted petitions of final judgment

	Civil	Criminal	Juvenile	Administrative Agency	Other Mandatory cases	Total
Opinions:						
Affirmed						
Modified						
Reversed						
Remanded						
Mixed						
Dismissed						
Other						
Decisions without opinion:						
Affirmed						
Modified						
Reversed						
Remanded						
Mixed						
Dismissed						
Other						

Type of decision in other discretionary petitions

	Petition granted	Petition denied	Other
Other discretionary petitions			
Disciplinary matters			
Original proceedings (e.g., election cases)			
Total discretionary jurisdiction cases			

Prototype of state appellate court statistical profile

	Time interval data[n] (months/days)											
	Notice of appeal to ready for hearing			Ready for hearing to under advisement (submitted or oral argument completed)			Under advisement (submitted or oral argument completed) to decision			Notice of appeal to decision		
	Number of cases	Mean	Median	Number of cases	Mean	Median	Number of cases	Mean	Median	Number of cases	Mean	Median
Mandatory jurisdiction:												
Appeals of final judgment:												
Civil												
Criminal												
Juvenile												
Administrative agency												
Unclassified (e.g., constitutional issue)												
Other mandatory cases:												
Disciplinary matters												
Original proceedings (e.g., election cases												
Interlocutory decisions												
Total mandatory jurisdiction cases												
Discretionary jurisdiction:												
Petitions of final judgment:												
Civil												
Criminal												
Juvenile												
Administrative agency												
Unclassified (e.g., constitutional issue)												
Other discretionary petitions												
Disciplinary matters												
Original proceedings (e.g., election cases)												
Interlocutory decisions												
Advisory opinions												
Total discretionary jurisdiction cases												
Grand total												

Prototype of state appellate court statistical profile

	Age of pending caseload (days)																
	Not ready for hearing																
	Awaiting court reporter's transcript			Awaiting appellant's brief			Awaiting respondent's brief			Ready for hearing			Under advisement (submitted or oral argument completed				
	0-60 days	61-120 days	Over 120 days	0-60 days	61-120 days	Over 120 days	0-60 days	61-120 days	Over 120 days	0-60 days	61-120 days	Over 120 days	0-60 days	61-120 days	Over 120 days	Average age of pending caseload
Mandatory jurisdiction:																	
Appeals of final judgment:																	
Civil																	
Criminal																	
Juvenile																	
Administrative agency																	
Unclassified (e.g., constitutional issue) ...																	
Other mandatory cases:																	
Disciplinary matters																	
Original proceedings (e.g., election cases) ..																	
Interlocutory decisions ...																	
Total mandatory jurisdiction cases																	
Discretionary jurisdiction:																	
Petitions of final judgment:																	
Civil																	
Criminal																	
Juvenile																	
Administrative agency																	
Unclassified (e.g., constitutional issue) ...																	
Other discretionary petitions																	
Disciplinary matters																	
Original proceedings (e.g., election cases) ..																	
Interlocutory decisions ...																	
Advisory opinions																	
Total discretionary jurisdiction cases																	
Grand total																	

Prototype of state appellate court statistical profile

Boldface headings indicate the classifications used by the Court Statistics Project.
N/A = The casetype is handled by the court, but the data are unavailable.
X = The data for this casetype are known to be included in the total but are unavailable by category.
-- = Data element is not applicable.

( ) NOTE: Begin pending data filed outside the parentheses, disposed data outside the parentheses, and end pending data reported as discretionary jurisdiction cases represent petitions/motions for review. Filed figures inside the parentheses represent those newly filed petitions/motions that were granted during the time period covered on this profile. For those interested, filed figures inside the parentheses can then be added to total mandatory jurisdiction cases filed to arrive at the number of new cases that the court will ultimately consider "on the merits." Disposed figures inside the parentheses represent the number of discretionary petitions granted that were disposed of "on the merits." This number is rarely available, and is usually included in either the total discretionary petitions disposed, or the mandatory jurisdiction cases. The number of disposed petitions inside the parentheses can be added to total mandatory jurisdiction cases disposed to arrive at the number of cases that the court disposed of "on the merits."

Qualifying Footnotes:

A = The data element is complete with no footnotes.

B = The data element is complete and represents some double counting.

C = The data element is overinclusive.

D = The data element is overinclusive and represents some double counting.

---

i (enter as lower case) = The data element is at least 75% complete.

J = The data element is at least 75% complete, and represents some double counting.

P = The data element is incomplete and overinclusive.

Q = The data element is incomplete, overinclusive and represents some double counting.

V = The data element is less than 75% complete.

W = The data element is less than 75% complete, and represents some double counting.

X = The data element is less than 75% complete, and overinclusive.

Y = The data element is less than 75% complete, overinclusive, and represents some double counting.

Z = The data are missing for this data element.

R = Judge information.

S = Figure was computed.

T = Additional information.

U = The data element is included in the unclassified category.

Prototype of State Trial Court Statistical Profile Used In 1987 Data Collection

STATE NAME, COURT NAME
Court of general jurisdiction or court of limited jurisdiction
Number of circuits or districts, Number of judges
Time period covered

	Beginning pending	Filed	Disposed	End pending
Civil:				
Tort:				
Auto tort				
Medical malpractice				
Other professional malpractice				
Product liability tort				
Miscellaneous tort				
Total tort				
Contract				
Real property rights				
Small claims				
Domestic relations:				
Marriage dissolution				
Support/custody				
URESA				
Adoption				
Paternity/bastardy				
Miscellaneous domestic relations				
Total domestic relations				
Estate:				
Probate/wills/intestate				
Guardianship/conservatorship/trusteeship				
Miscellaneous estate				
Total estate				
Mental health				
Appeal:				
Appeal of administrative agency case				
Appeal of trial court case				
Total civil appeals				
Miscellaneous civil	___	___	___	___
Total civil				
Criminal:				
Felony				
Misdemeanor				
DWI/DUI				
Appeal				
Miscellaneous criminal	___	___	___	___
Total criminal				
Traffic/other violation:				
Moving traffic violation				
Ordinance violation				
Parking violation				
Miscellaneous traffic	___	___	___	___
Total traffic/other violation				
Juvenile:				
Criminal-type juvenile petition				
Status offense				
Child-victim petition				
Miscellaneous juvenile petition	___	___	___	___
Total juvenile				
Grand total cases				
Other proceedings:				
Postconviction remedy				
Preliminary hearings				
Sentence review only				
Extraordinary writs				
Total other proceedings				

Prototype of state trial court statistical profile

Manner of disposition: trials

	Trial		
	Jury	Non-jury	Total
Civil:			
Tort:			
Auto tort			
Other professional malpractice			
Product liability tort			
Miscellaneous tort			
Total tort			
Contract			
Real property rights			
Small claims			
Domestic relations:			
Marriage dissolution			
Support/custody			
URESA			
Adoption			
Paternity/bastardy			
Miscellaneous domestic relations			
Total domestic relations			
Estate:			
Probate/wills/intestate			
Guardianship/conservatorship/ trusteeship			
Miscellaneous estate			
Total estate			
Mental health			
Appeal:			
Appeal of administrative agency case			
Appeal of trial court case			
Total civil appeals			
Miscellaneous civil			
Total civil			

	Trial		
	Jury	Non-jury	Total
Criminal:			
Felony:			
Misdemeanor			
DWI/DUI			
Appeal			
Miscellaneous criminal			
Total criminal			
Traffic/other violation:			
Moving traffic			
Ordinance violation			
Parking violation			
Miscellaneous traffic			
Total traffic/other violation			
Juvenile:			
Criminal-type juvenile petition			
Status petition			
Child-victim petition			
Miscellaneous juvenile petition			
Total juvenile			
Grand total trials			

Manner of civil dispositions

	Uncontested/ Default	Dismissed	Withdrawn	Settled	Transferred	Arbitration	Total
Civil:							
Tort:							
Auto tort							
Medical malpractice							
Other professional malpractice							
Product liability tort							
Miscellaneous tort							
Total tort							
Contract							
Real property rights							
Small claims							
Domestic relations:							
Marriage dissolution							
Support/custody							
URESA							
Adoption							
Paternity/bastardy							
Miscellaneous domestic relations							
Total domestic relations							
Estate:							
Probate/wills/intestate							
Guardianship/conservatorship/ trusteeship							
Miscellaneous estate							
Total estate							
Mental health							
Appeal:							
Appeal of administrative agency case							
Appeal of trial court case							
Total civil appeal							
Miscellaneous civil							
Total civil							

Prototype of state trial court statistical profile

Manner of criminal dispositions and type of decision

	Felony	Misdemeanor	DWI/DUI	Appeal	Miscellaneous criminal	Total
Jury trial:						
Conviction						
Guilty plea						
Acquittal						
Dismissed						
Non-jury trial:						
Conviction						
Guilty plea						
Acquittal						
Dismissed						
Dismissed/nolle prosequi						
Bail forfeiture						
Bound over						
Transferred						
Other						
Total dispositions						

Manner of traffic/other violation dispositions and type of decision

	Moving traffic violation	Ordinance violation	Parking	Miscellaneous traffic/ other violation	Total
Jury trial:					
Conviction					
Acquittal					
Non-jury trial:					
Conviction					
Acquittal					
Guilty plea					
Dismissed/nolle prosequi					
Bail forfeiture					
Parking fines					
Transferred					
Other					
Total					

Age of pending caseload (days)

	0-30 days	31-60 days	61-90 days	91-180 days	181-360 days	361-720 days	Over 720 days	Average age of pending cases
Civil:								
Tort:								
Auto tort								
Medical malpractice								
Other professional malpractice								
Product liability tort								
Miscellaneous tort								
Total tort								
Contract								
Real property rights								
Small claims								
Domestic relations:								
Marriage dissolution								
Support/custody								
URESA								
Adoption								
Paternity/bastardy								
Miscellaneous domestic relations								
Total domestic relations								
Estate:								
Probate/wills/intestate								
Guardianship/conservatorship/ trusteeship								
Miscellaneous estate								
Total estate								
Mental health								
Appeal:								
Appeal of administrative agency case								
Appeal of trial court case								
Total appeal								
Miscellaneous civil								
Total civil								

Prototype of state trial court statistical profile

	Age of pending caseload (days)							
	0-30 days	31-60 days	61-90 days	91-180 days	181-360 days	361-720 days	Over 720 days	Average age of pending cases
Criminal:								
Felony								
Misdemeanor								
DWI/DUI								
Appeal								
Miscellaneous criminal								
Total criminal								
Traffic/other violation:								
Moving traffic								
Ordinance violation								
Parking violation								
Miscellaneous traffic								
Total traffic/other violation								
Juvenile:								
Criminal-type juvenile petition								
Status petition								
Child-victim petition								
Miscellaneous juvenile petition								
Total juvenile								

Boldface headings indicate the classifications used by the Court Statistics Project (CSP).
N/A = This casetype is handled by the court, but the data are unavailable.
X = The data for this casetype are known to be included in the total but are unavailable by category.
-- = Not applicable.

Units of count:
- Civil unit of count.
- Criminal unit of count.
- Traffic/other violation unit of count.
- Juvenile unit of count.

Trial definitions:
- Jury trial definition.
- Nonjury trial definition.

Qualifying Footnotes:

A = The data element is complete with no footnotes.

C = The data element is complete and also includes more information than can be specifically identified in codes E-H below.

E = The data element is complete and also includes all postconviction remedy proceedings.

F = The data element is complete and also includes all ordinance violation cases.

G = The data element is complete and also includes all DWI/DUI cases.

H = The data element is complete and also includes all criminal appeals cases.

---

i (enter as lower case) = The data element is at least 75% complete, and is missing more information than can be specifically identified in codes K-N below.

K = The data element does not include any limited felony cases.

L = The data element does not include any DWI/DUI cases.

M = The data element does not include any criminal appeal cases.

N = The data element does not include any ordinance violation cases.

O = The data element is incomplete and overinclusive.

V = The data element is less than 75% complete.

X = The data element is less than 75% complete and overinclusive.

Q = Additional court information.

R = Judge information.

S = Figure was computed.

T = Additional information; reopened cases are added to the data element.

U = The data element is included in the unclassified category.

Z = The data are missing for this data element (i.e., the primary data element was coded a "-5" to a "-1").

-1Z = Data not available

-2Z = Casetype does not fall within the jurisdiction of the court.

-3Z = Data are represented in the total, but could not be separated by data element.

-4Z = Data are reported in the unclassified category of the same general casetype.

-5Z = Data are collapsed with another casetype and could not be identified by specific data element.

Appendix D

State Populations

Resident Population, 1987

State or territory	Population (in thousands) 1987 Juvenile	1987 Adult	1987 Total
Alabama	1,117	2,966	4,083
Alaska	172	353	525
Arizona	919	2,467	3,386
Arkansas	648	1,740	2,388
California	7,302	20,361	27,663
Colorado	873	2,423	3,296
Connecticut	757	2,454	3,211
Delaware	162	482	644
District of Columbia	136	486	622
Florida	2,704	9,319	12,023
Georgia	1,736	4,486	6,222
Hawaii	286	797	1,083
Idaho	306	692	998
Illinois	3,035	8,547	11,582
Indiana	1,470	4,061	5,531
Iowa	732	2,102	2,834
Kansas	650	1,826	2,476
Kentucky	996	2,731	3,727
Louisiana	1,315	3,146	4,461
Maine	303	884	1,187
Maryland	1,125	3,410	4,535
Massachusetts	1,336	4,519	5,855
Michigan	2,460	6,740	9,200
Minnesota	1,111	3,135	4,246
Mississippi	791	1,834	2,625
Missouri	1,309	3,794	5,103
Montana	224	585	809
Nebraska	424	1,170	1,594
Nevada	253	754	1,007
New Hampshire	266	791	1,057
New Jersey	1,831	5,841	7,672
New Mexico	446	1,054	1,500
New York	4,361	13,464	17,825
North Carolina	1,627	4,786	6,413
North Dakota	187	485	672
Ohio	2,836	7,948	10,784
Oklahoma	893	2,379	3,272
Oregon	686	2,038	2,724
Pennsylvania	2,851	9,085	11,936
Puerto Rico	N/A	N/A	3,292
Rhode Island	229	757	986
South Carolina	941	2,484	3,425
South Dakota	196	513	709
Tennessee	1,251	3,604	4,855
Texas	4,984	11,805	16,789
Utah	629	1,051	1,680
Vermont	141	407	548
Virginia	1,459	4,445	5,904
Washington	1,169	3,369	4,538
West Virginia	490	1,407	1,897
Wisconsin	1,269	3,538	4,807
Wyoming	148	342	490

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, series P-25, No. 1024, May 1988.

Total State Population for Trend Tables, 1981, 1984, 1985, 1986, and 1987

Total state population for trend tables, 1981, 1984, 1985, 1986, and 1987

State or territory	Population (in thousands)				
	1981	1984	1985	1986	1987
Alabama	3,917	3,990	4,021	4,053	4,083
Alaska	412	500	521	534	525
Arizona	2,794	3,053	3,187	3,280	3,386
Arkansas	2,296	2,349	2,359	2,372	2,388
California	24,196	25,622	26,365	26,981	27,663
Colorado	2,965	3,178	3,231	3,267	3,296
Connecticut	3,134	3,154	3,174	3,189	3,211
Delaware	598	613	622	633	644
District of Columbia	631	623	626	626	622
Florida	10,183	10,976	11,366	11,675	12,023
Georgia	5,574	5,837	5,976	6,104	6,222
Hawaii	981	1,039	1,054	1,062	1,083
Idaho	959	1,001	1,005	1,003	998
Illinois	11,462	11,511	11,535	11,553	11,582
Indiana	5,468	5,498	5,499	5,503	5,531
Iowa	2,899	2,910	2,884	2,850	2,834
Kansas	2,383	2,438	2,450	2,460	2,476
Kentucky	3,662	2,723	3,726	3,729	3,727
Louisiana	4,308	4,462	4,481	4,502	4,461
Maine	1,133	1,156	1,164	1,173	1,187
Maryland	4,263	4,349	4,392	4,463	4,535
Massachusetts	5,773	5,798	5,822	5,832	5,855
Michigan	9,204	9,075	9,088	9,145	9,200
Minnesota	4,094	4,162	4,193	4,214	4,246
Mississippi	2,531	2,598	2,613	2,625	2,625
Missouri	4,941	5,008	5,029	5,066	5,103
Montana	793	824	826	819	809
Nebraska	1,577	1,606	1,606	1,598	1,594
Nevada	845	911	936	964	1,007
New Hampshire	936	977	998	1,027	1,057
New Jersey	7,404	7,515	7,562	7,620	7,672
New Mexico	1,328	1,424	1,450	1,479	1,500
New York	17,602	17,735	17,783	17,772	17,825
North Carolina	5,953	6,165	6,255	6,334	6,413
North Dakota	658	686	685	679	672
Ohio	10,781	10,752	10,744	10,753	10,784
Oklahoma	3,100	3,298	3,301	3,305	3,272
Oregon	2,651	2,674	2,687	2,698	2,724
Pennsylvania	11,871	11,901	11,853	11,889	11,936
Puerto Rico	3,197	3,267	3,267	3,274	3,292
Rhode Island	953	962	968	975	986
South Carolina	3,167	3,300	3,347	3,376	3,425
South Dakota	686	706	708	708	709
Tennessee	4,612	4,717	4,762	4,803	4,855
Texas	14,766	15,989	16,370	16,685	16,789
Utah	1,518	1,652	1,645	1,665	1,680
Vermont	516	530	535	541	548
Virginia	5,430	5,636	5,706	5,787	5,904
Washington	4,217	4,349	4,409	4,463	4,538
West Virginia	1,952	1,952	1,936	1,919	1,897
Wisconsin	4,742	4,766	4,775	4,785	4,807
Wyoming	492	511	509	507	490

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, series P-25.