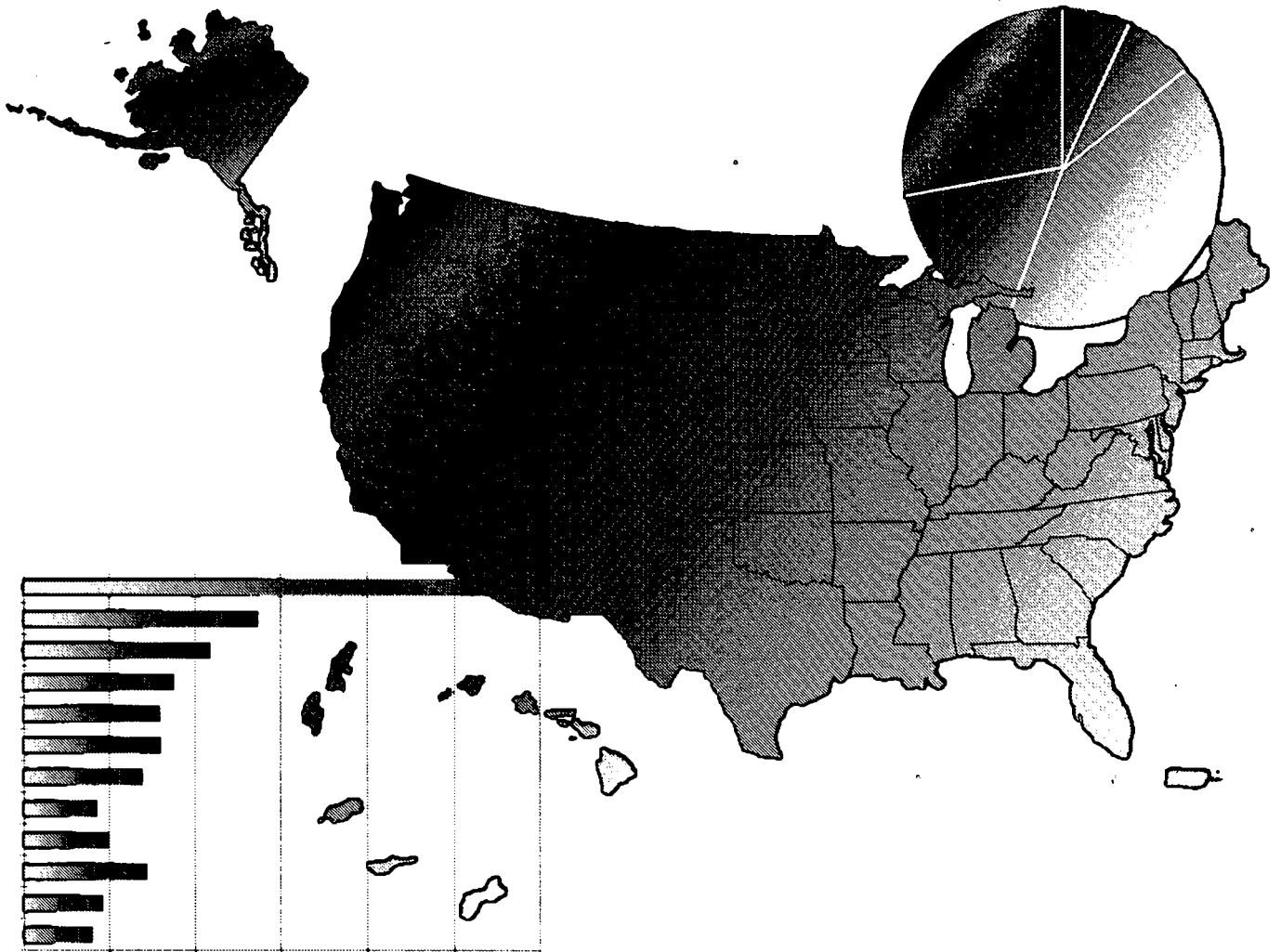


National Center for State Courts



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# State Court Caseload Statistics: *ANNUAL REPORT 1992*



**A commentary on  
State Court Caseloads and Trends in 1992**

*A joint project of the Conference of State Court Administrators,  
the State Justice Institute, and the National Center for State Courts*

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# State Court Caseload Statistics

## *Annual Report, 1992*

### *Court Statistics Project Staff*

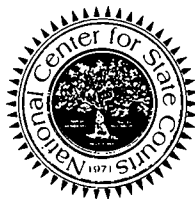
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*A joint project of the Conference of State Court Administrators, the State Justice Institute,  
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Jane Hess became a member of the COSCA Court Statistics Committee in 1987. Her formal association with the work of the Court Statistics Project ended upon her retirement as State Court Administrator of Missouri in January 1994. But she leaves a strong legacy of commitment to continuous improvement of the quality and utility of state court caseload statistics.

The Court Statistics Project is funded through the generous support of the State Justice Institute. SJI's commitment to the project is greatly appreciated, as is the input from Kathy Schwartz, the

project monitor. It should be noted that the points of view stated in this *Report* are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the policies of the State Justice Institute.

A special debt is owed to the advice and editorial skills of our colleague Roger A. Hanson. Roger's deep knowledge of the business and structure of state courts has helped greatly in our efforts to bring context and interpretation to a vast array of aggregate caseload numbers. David B. Rottman, Sally T. Hillsman, and Victor E. Flango also offered a range of constructive input that considerably improved the final product. Their deep knowledge of the business and structure of the state courts has helped greatly in our efforts to bring context and interpretation to a vast array of aggregate caseload numbers. The *Report* benefited greatly from the careful editing of Bill Fishback, while the page design and preparation for publication was managed skillfully by Hisako Sayers.

Thanks are also due to the SPSS Corporation for the donation of SPSS statistical software, which was used for all analysis in this *Report*.

Responsibility for the information reported here and the analysis in Parts I and II nevertheless rests fully with the Court Statistics Project staff. The more general responsibility for the development of the *Report* series and promoting improvements to court statistics is shared with the National Center for State Court's management, working under the policy direction of the COSCA Court Statistics Committee.

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# Overview

This *Report* offers judges, court managers, and policy makers an authoritative guide to the increasing caseload volume facing state trial and appellate courts. The more than 93 million new cases filed in state courts in 1992 underscore the fact that the state courts are and will continue to be the primary arena for the resolution of legal disputes in the United States. Filings increased in 1992 for most major categories of trial court cases, including civil, criminal, and juvenile cases, as well as both mandatory appeals and discretionary petitions at the appellate level. The exception to the pattern of rising caseloads was the decline in routine traffic offenses.

Three themes emerge from the *Report's* analysis of caseload volume.

- First, the increases in caseload volume for 1992 are part of a continuing upward trend. An extrapolation based on past trends suggests that many trial and appellate courts are likely to see their caseloads double before the end of the decade.
- Second, many trial and appellate courts are having difficulty keeping up with the upward trend in caseload volume. They dispose of fewer cases than they take in each year, which increases their pending caseloads. This suggests that the public's demand for services in many courts is outstripping available resources.
- Third, the greatest caseload increase during the past five years has been in the criminal arena, which generally has statutory priority over civil cases in most states. State trial court felony and criminal appeal filings are increasing faster in number than the rest of the caseload. As a result, more resources and innovative management procedures are necessary to meet these specific trends, otherwise courts also will find it difficult to avoid civil case backlogs.

Any attempt to assess the business of the nation's state courts must appreciate the enormity and complexity of bringing together information from 50 distinct and highly diverse court systems. This *Report* takes up the challenge of providing a comprehensive picture of state court caseload, organization, and structure in five basic parts. Parts I and II of the *Report* rely on graphics and a nontechnical presentation to describe caseload volume, composition, and trends in state trial and appellate courts. Those individuals with more detailed information needs will find state specific information on total filings and dispositions, the number of judges, factors affecting comparability between states, and a host of other organizational and structural issues in Parts III, IV, and V. Finally, the appendices provide, among other information, an overview to understanding and using state court caseload statistics.

Taken together, the information provided in this *Report* is extensive and detailed, a resource volume not designed for reading from cover to cover. However, the rest of this Overview provides a readable and quite complete summary of the content of the *Report* and provides a roadmap to find particular information, allowing readers to maximize their use of the volume.

## What Specific Findings Emerge?

**State trial courts.** Part I of the *Report* examines state trial court caseloads in 1992 and how the 1992 experience fits with recent years. The total reported state trial court caseload includes data from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. What stands out is that trial court caseload volume continues to rise in most states.

- More than 93 million new cases were filed in state trial courts during 1992. The total is composed of nearly 20 million civil cases, more than 13 million criminal cases, 1.7 million juvenile cases, and 59 million traffic or other ordinance violation cases.

- The 33 million civil and criminal cases filed in the nation's state trial courts is more than 100 times the number of civil and criminal cases filed in the federal district courts.

Rising trial court filings raises the issue of whether courts are disposing of cases at the same rate they are receiving them. The number of case dispositions expressed as a proportion of the cases filed during the same period provides a clearance rate, which is a summary measure of whether a court or a state court system is keeping up with its incoming caseload.

- The number of new cases filed in 1992 often substantially exceeded the number of cases that were disposed of by the courts that year.
- Only about one general jurisdiction trial court in four managed to keep pace with the flow of new civil and criminal cases in 1992.

Because courts must give priority to criminal caseloads, maintaining high criminal clearance rates is necessary to ensure the timely disposition of all other case types.

The *Report* goes beyond offering a comprehensive summary of state trial court activity in 1992 to an examination of caseload trends. Looking at caseload growth in recent historical perspective shows that the 1992 experience is an extension of ongoing growth.

- Since 1985, civil caseloads have risen by 30 percent, criminal caseloads by 25 percent, and juvenile caseloads by 35 percent. In contrast, national population has increased by less than 8 percent over the same eight-year period.

The broad caseload categories of *civil* and *criminal* represent an amalgam of very different types of cases. Going inside these aggregate totals provides the opportunity to see what trends are emerging for specific types of cases.

- The largest part of the total civil caseload is made up of domestic relations cases. With a growth rate exceeding 43 percent since 1985, domestic relations cases are the fastest growing part of the civil caseload. A closer examination of the specific types of cases that make up the domestic relations category—divorce, support/custody, domestic violence, paternity, URESA, and adoption—shows an upward trend for each type.
- In contrast, general civil cases (i.e., tort, contract and real property rights), which are the second largest part of the civil caseload and at the heart of the debate over reform of the civil justice system, show a mixed trend. All three types of general civil cases are down in 1992, with contract cases falling to their lowest level in the eight years examined. Although the number of tort cases was down slightly in 1992, the overall trend shows that tort filings have remained essentially unchanged since 1986. The drop in real property rights filings in 1992 is the first instance of decline in what had been an uninterrupted climb since 1986.
- Total felony filings, which are the largest part of criminal caseloads in courts of general jurisdiction, have increased by more than 65 percent since 1985. This means that the nation has faced consistent annual increases of about 9 percent throughout this eight-year period.

**State appellate courts.** Part II of the *Report* describes the volume and trends in state appellate court caseloads.

- The volume of appeals reached a new high in 1992. State appellate courts reported more than 259,000 mandatory and discretionary filings in 1992, nearly a 6 percent increase over 1991.

Appeals are heard in two types of courts: intermediate appellate courts (IACs) and courts of last resort (COLRs). All states have established a COLR,

often called the supreme court, which has final jurisdiction over all appeals within the state. Thirty-nine states have responded to caseload growth by creating intermediate appellate courts to hear appeals from trial courts or administrative agencies, as specified by law or at the direction or assignment of the COLR.

- The IACs handle the bulk of the caseload in the appellate system. In 1992, mandatory appeals in the IACs accounted for 62 percent of total appellate filings. The more than 160,000 mandatory appeals filed in IACs in 1992 represent a 6 percent increase over the 1991 total.
- The COLRs experienced a 2 percent increase between 1991 and 1992 in the number of discretionary petitions, which constitutes the bulk of their work.

Appellate court caseloads in 1992 continued a long-term trend of increasing volume. This makes the twin issues of whether appellate courts are disposing of their growing caseloads and whether they are doing so in a timely manner areas of important policy concern.

- Four-fifths of the IACs had three-year clearance rates of under 100 percent for mandatory appeals, that is, they are not keeping pace with their growing caseloads.
- Two-thirds of the COLRs also had three-year clearance rates for discretionary petitions under 100 percent.
- The results from a special study of the processing of criminal appeals in IACs found that two out of three criminal appeals fail to be disposed of within the American Bar Association's suggested time standard of 280 days.

The data contained in this *Report* show that between 1988 and 1992 state COLR and IAC caseloads grew in a majority of appellate courts. However, growth was not uniform, and the *Report* examines whether the increases in the number of

appeals was more pronounced for civil or criminal appeals and how the composition of appellate caseloads is changing over time.

- Mandatory criminal appeals in IACs grew by 32 percent between 1988 and 1992, while mandatory civil appeals in IACs grew by 6 percent during the same time period.
- Discretionary criminal appeals in COLRs increased by 10 percent from 1988 to 1992, while discretionary civil appeals in COLRs were up by 11 percent.

To summarize, the success that appellate courts are having in meeting the demands placed on them is limited. Caseload pressures continue to confront state appellate courts, and many are having difficulty keeping up with the flow of cases.

### **What is contained in Parts III, IV, and V of the Report?**

Part III contains the detailed caseload statistics. Appellate court caseloads in 1992 are provided in the first six tables. Trial court caseloads in 1992 are detailed in the next six tables. Tables 13-16 describe trends in the volume of case filings and dispositions. Tables 13 and 14 indicate the patterns between 1985-92 for mandatory and discretionary cases in state appellate courts. The trend in felony case filings in state trial courts for the same period is contained in Table 15, and the trend in tort filings for those eight years is in Table 16.

All of the tables in Part III are intended as basic reference sources. Each one compiles information from the nation's state courts. In addition, the tables indicate the extent of standardization in the numbers for each state. The factors that most strongly affect the comparability of caseload information across the states (for example, the unit of count) are incorporated into the tables. Footnotes explain how a court system's reported caseloads are related to the standard categories for reporting such information recommended in the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary, 1989*. Caseload numbers are cited if they are incomplete

in the types of cases represented, if they are overinclusive, or both. Numbers without footnotes should be interpreted as in compliance with the *Dictionary's* standard definitions.

Part IV displays the overall structure of each state court system on a one-page chart. The chart for each state identifies all the courts in operation in that state during the year, describes their geographic and subject matter jurisdiction, notes the number of authorized judicial positions, indicates whether funding is primarily local or state, and outlines the routes of appeal that link the courts.

Part V lists jurisdiction and state court-reporting practices that might affect the comparability of caseload information reported by the courts. Eight figures note, for example, the time period used for court statistical reporting (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 courts; and identify trial courts with the authority to hear appeals. The figures define what constitutes a case in each court, making it possible to determine which appellate and trial courts compile caseload statistics on a similar basis. The most important information in the figures in Part V for making comparative use of caseload statistics in Part III is repeated in that section.

Appendix A describes why caseload statistics are useful and provides examples of how caseload statistics should be used to solve problems. Appendix B reviews the method used for the *Report* to collate the information provided by the states into a standard format. The 1992 *Report* improves the completeness and accuracy of the information provided over previous editions. The procedural changes responsible for the improvement are described, as are the specific results in the form of new data and corrections to previously reported caseloads.

**How are the *Report* data collected?** Information for the *Report's* national caseload databases comes from published and unpublished sources supplied by state court administrators and appellate court clerks. Published data are typically taken from official state court annual reports, so they

take many forms and vary greatly in detail. Data from published sources are often supplemented by unpublished data received from the state courts in many formats, including internal management memoranda and computer-generated output.

Extensive telephone contacts and follow-up correspondence are used in preparing the *Report* to collect missing data, confirm the accuracy of available data, and determine the legal jurisdiction of each court. Information is also collected on 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 U.S. Bureau of the Census revised estimates); and special characteristics regarding subject matter jurisdiction and court structure. A complete review of the data collection procedures and the sources of each state's 1992 caseload statistics are provided in Appendices A and B.

**How is comparability in the data encouraged?** Because there are 50 states and thus 50 different state court systems, the biggest challenge in preparing the *Report* is to present the data so that valid state-to-state comparisons can be made. Frequent mention is made in this *Report* of a model approach for collecting and using caseload information. Over the past 16 years, the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) and the National Center for State Courts have jointly developed that approach, which is laid out in *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary, 1989*. The key to the approach is providing a standard for comparison: comparison among states and comparison over time. The COSCA/NCSC approach makes comparison possible and highlights some aspects that remain problematic as the *Report* series continues to build a comprehensive statistical profile of the work of the state appellate and trial courts nationally.

The organization of the *Report* is intended to enhance the potential for meaningful comparisons. The information on current caseload volume and the analysis of key caseload trends in the state trial and appellate courts, described in Parts I and II, are made more understandable by the information in the remaining sections of the *Report*. To facilitate comparisons among the states, the rest of

the *Report* provides detailed tables of state caseload statistics, descriptions of how states organize and allocate jurisdiction to their courts, and basic information on how courts compile and report court statistics.

## **The NCSC Court Statistics Project**

The 1992 *Report*, like previous reports, is a joint project of the Conference of State Court Administrators and the National Center for State Courts. COSCA, through its Court Statistics Committee, oversees the preparation of project publications and provides policy guidance for devising or revising generic reporting categories and procedures. The NCSC provides project staff and support facilities. Preparation of the 1992 *Report* is funded in part by a grant to the NCSC from the State Justice Institute.

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 available from each state. The prototype spreadsheets (Appendix D) used by project staff to collect data reflect the full range of information sought from the states. Most states provide far more detailed caseload information than could be presented in Part III of this report.

Comments, suggestions, and corrections from users of the *Report* are encouraged. Questions and reactions to the *Report* can be sent to:

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# *PART I*

*State Trial Court Caseloads in 1992 and 1985-92 Trends*

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# State trial court caseloads in 1992 and 1985-92 trends

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## Comparable information on the work of the state courts

The state trial courts are the primary institution for the adjudication of disputes in the United States, with over 93 million new cases filed in 1992. This enormous volume of cases consists of nearly 33 million civil and criminal cases, nearly 2 million juvenile cases, and over 59 million traffic cases.

Filings increased since 1991 for all major types of cases. The one area of decline was traffic case filings. Because of increased use of administrative procedures in handling minor traffic offenses, total traffic filings in courts dropped by 2 percent between 1991 and 1992.

## Assessing the volume of cases entering the state courts

Caseload statistics in this section of the *Report* describe the work of the state trial courts and assess the consequences of caseload volume on the capacity of those courts to hear and to decide cases. The discussion is divided into eight substantive sections, with each section focusing on a different facet of the massive volume of cases being brought to the state courts:

- **Section 1: Overview of the Business of State Trial Courts** takes an aggregate look at the major types of cases entering the state courts. How many cases were filed in the nation's state trial courts in 1992? How is the volume of cases changing over time? How is the caseload distributed between limited jurisdiction and general jurisdiction courts? How many courts and judges process state court caseload? *Pages 5-9.*
- **Section 2: Civil Filings in 1992 and 1985-92 Trends** offers a descriptive portrait of civil cases in the state courts. How many total civil cases are filed each year and how do filing levels compare across states? Are the residents of some states more litigious than others or are filing rates similar across the country? Are more new cases being filed than the courts are disposing of during the year? *Pages 10-14.*
- **Section 3: Composition of Civil Caseloads: Focus on Tort, Contract, and Real Property Rights Cases** looks at the cases at the heart of the debate over reform of the civil justice system. What proportion of civil case filings involve tort law? Is there evidence of a tort litigation "explosion?" Does it appear that the residents of some states are more litigious than those living in other states? What proportion of torts are automobile torts and what proportion medical malpractice and product liability torts? How do patterns in contract and real property rights filings compare to tort filings? *Pages 15-22.*
- **Section 4: Domestic Relations Cases in the State Courts** examines the substantial growth in family-related court caseload in the state courts. How prevalent are the different types of domestic relations cases? What are the trends in domestic relations caseloads? Are certain types of domestic relations cases (e.g., divorce) increasing more rapidly than other types (e.g., paternity)? What are the similarities and differences in the number of domestic violence cases being filed in the states? *Pages 23-27.*
- **Section 5: Juvenile Caseloads in the State Courts** helps to complete the picture of cases involving the family that are heard in state courts. What is the largest category of juvenile cases? How have juvenile caseloads changed since 1988? Are criminal-type juvenile petitions rising more rapidly than other types of juvenile cases? *Pages 28-30.*



- **Section 6: Criminal Filings in 1992 and 1985-92 Trends** provides a comprehensive summary of criminal caseloads in the state courts. How have criminal caseloads changed since 1985? What is the relationship between population and criminal caseloads? Are courts successful in disposing of their criminal cases? Are felonies the bulk of criminal caseloads? Are misdemeanor and DWI/DUI cases, adjusted for population, similar across the states? *Pages 31-38.*
- **Section 7: Composition of Criminal Caseloads: Focus on Felony Filings** examines the volume and recent changes in felony caseloads. How many felonies are filed in the state courts each year? How fast are felony caseloads rising in courts of general jurisdiction? Are all states experiencing substantial growth in felony filings? After adjusting for population size, how similar are felony filing rates? *Pages 39-42.*
- **Section 8: Summing Up: Comparing State and Federal Court Caseloads** briefly examines the relationship between caseload and judicial resources in the state and federal court systems. How does the number of case filings in state courts compare to the caseload in the federal court system? Do the state and federal courts display similar growth patterns in civil and criminal caseloads? What is the average caseload handled by state and federal judges? *Pages 43-45.*

# Section 1: Overview of the Business of State Trial Courts

## More than 93 million cases were filed in state courts in 1992

States report that 93,786,499 cases were filed in trial courts in 1992.<sup>1</sup> This total is composed of four broad types of cases:

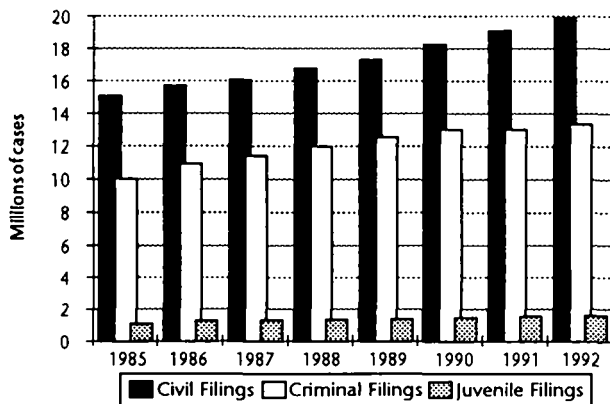
- 19,707,374 civil cases;
- 13,245,543 criminal cases;
- 1,730,721 juvenile cases; and
- 59,102,861 traffic and other ordinance violation cases.

At the national level, the case types that consume the majority of court time and resources (civil, criminal, and juvenile) have been increasing at least three times the rate in population growth. This steady upward trend is shown in Figure I.1.

Continuous growth has led to a sizable increase in civil, criminal, and juvenile caseloads throughout the United States. Growth rates for each major type of case are displayed in Figure I.2.

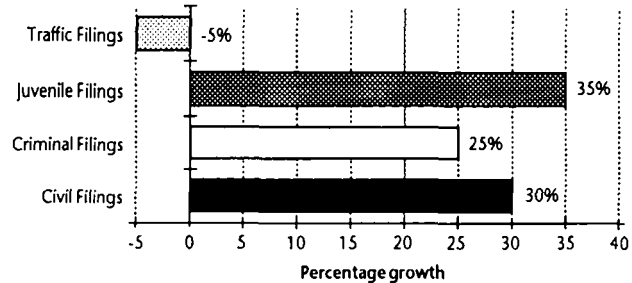
- Civil, criminal, and juvenile filings have grown between 25 and 35 percent since 1985.
- In contrast, population grew by less than 8 percent between 1985 and 1992.
- Reported traffic caseloads dropped between 1991 and 1992, with an overall decline of 5 percent since 1985. The primary reason is the decriminalization of many minor traffic offenses and the adjudication of these cases either by quasi-judicial officers, traffic ticket bureaus, or by an administrative agency within the executive branch (e.g., department of motor vehicles).

Figure I.1: Total Filings by Major Category, 1985-1992



Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

Figure I.2: Percentage Change in the Total Number of Filings by Major Category, 1985-92

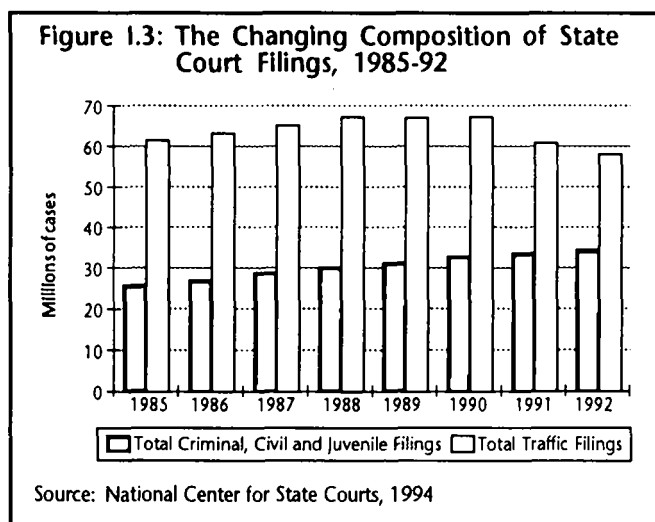


Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

<sup>1</sup> The fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico will all be referred to as *state courts* throughout the remainder of the *Report*.

## The steady increase in civil, criminal, and juvenile filings stands in contrast to the decline in the number of traffic cases being decided by the state courts

The decline in traffic caseloads has occurred as criminal, civil and juvenile caseloads continue to grow. The result, as seen in Figure I.3, is that the more labor intensive cases are an increasing proportion of state court caseloads.

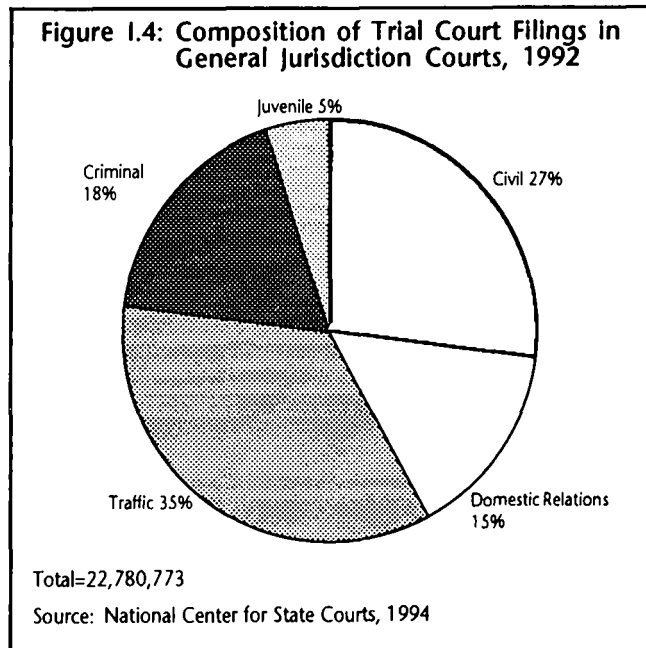


Traffic cases made up nearly 70 percent of the national caseload total from 1985 to 1990. The recent move toward alternative methods of processing routine traffic cases, however, means that civil, criminal, and juvenile cases now make up nearly 40 percent of the total.

### How Is the Caseload Distributed Between General Jurisdiction and Limited Jurisdiction Courts?

#### General jurisdiction courts

Of the reported total of more than 93 million court filings, 22,780,773 were in general jurisdiction courts (25 percent of the total). Figure I.4 shows that:



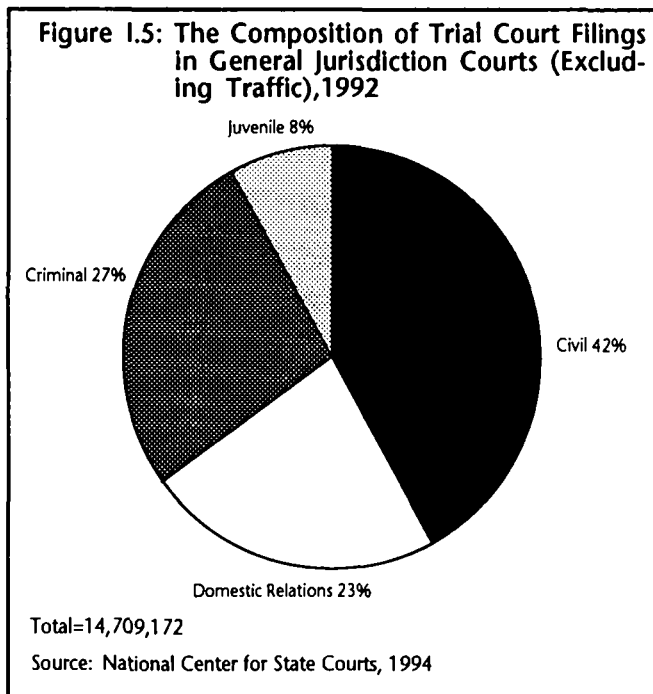
- Civil case filings (excluding domestic relations) represented just over one-quarter of the total general jurisdiction caseload (6,224,442);
- Domestic relations cases accounted for slightly more than one-sixth of the total (3,326,059);
- Criminal case filings made up nearly one-fifth (4,007,838);
- Juvenile cases accounted for about one-twentieth (1,150,833); and
- Over one-third of general jurisdiction caseload consisted of traffic/other ordinance violation cases (8,071,601).

The increased use of administrative processing of parking violations in several state courts (e.g., Illinois, Iowa, Texas, and Wisconsin) underlies the national drop in traffic filings of nearly 50 percent in general jurisdiction courts since 1989.

## State courts are not keeping up with the flow of new cases

While traffic cases are a major part of many states' general jurisdiction court caseload, it is particularly pronounced in those states (e.g., District of Columbia, Illinois, and Minnesota) where because there is no lower court, all matters, including traffic, are heard exclusively by a general jurisdiction court.

The majority of traffic cases are disposed of with a minimum of judicial attention. In particular, states vary to the extent they count uncontested parking violations as traffic cases (see Table 11, Part III). Traffic filings, although they account for the bulk of total case filings, do not consume a majority of court time or resources. One way to compensate for the unequal draw on court resources is to remove traffic caseloads from the picture (Figure I.5).

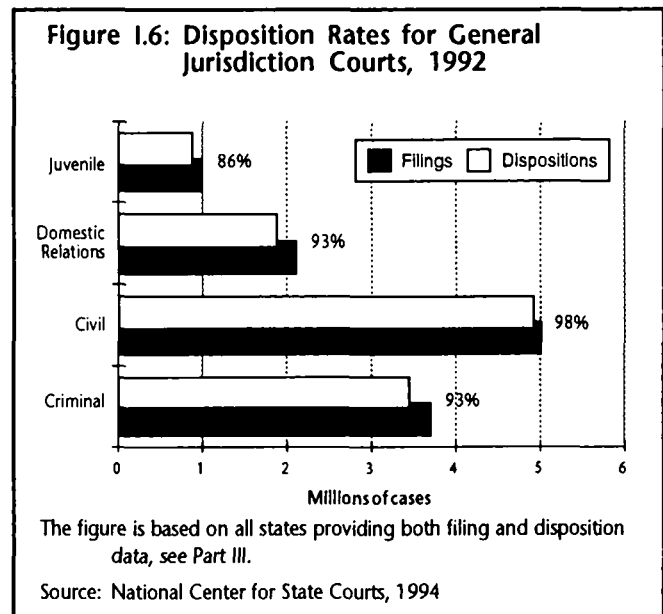


The focus on criminal cases in the media might lead one to believe that criminal cases account for the majority of court business. In reality, general jurisdiction courts are dominated by civil and

domestic relations cases. The civil side of the docket is nearly two and a half times the size of the criminal caseload.

**State general jurisdiction trial courts dispose of more cases each year, but filings still exceed dispositions.**

The number of cases disposed of as a proportion of cases filed in courts of general jurisdiction is shown in Figure I.6.



Thus, the timely disposition of all types of cases is a major challenge in the state courts.

### Limited jurisdiction courts

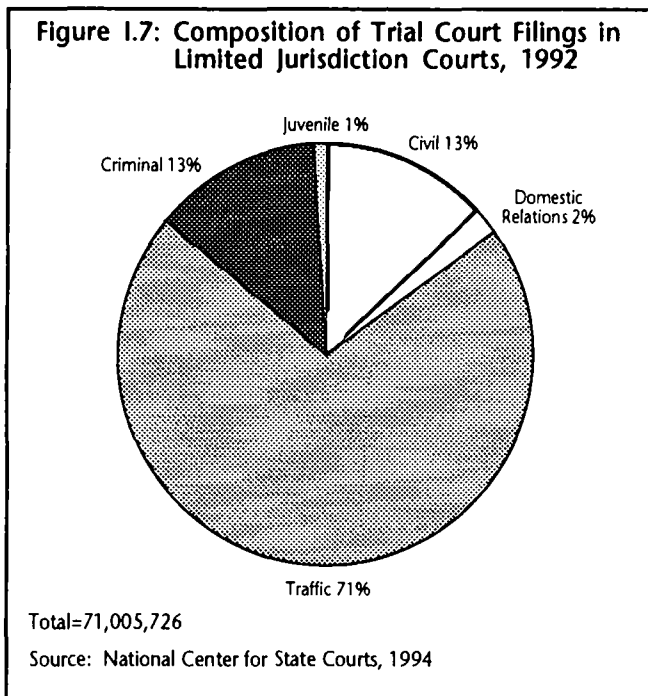
In 1992, 45 states had courts of limited or special jurisdiction. Various called district, justice, justice of the peace, magistrate, county, or municipal courts, these courts can decide a restricted range of cases. Yet, the bulk of the nation's disputes are handled in these courts of limited jurisdiction.

# Limited jurisdiction courts handled over 19 million civil, criminal, and domestic relations cases in 1992

Limited jurisdiction courts are dominated by traffic cases, though an increasing number of these cases are being handled administratively.

The proportions of civil and criminal cases in limited jurisdiction courts vary greatly from state to state. With respect to civil caseloads, one-fourth of these courts are limited to hearing cases involving claims of less than \$3,000. Many of these limited jurisdiction courts have exclusive jurisdiction over specialized areas, most commonly juvenile.

Figure I.7 divides the limited jurisdiction court caseload into the five main case types.

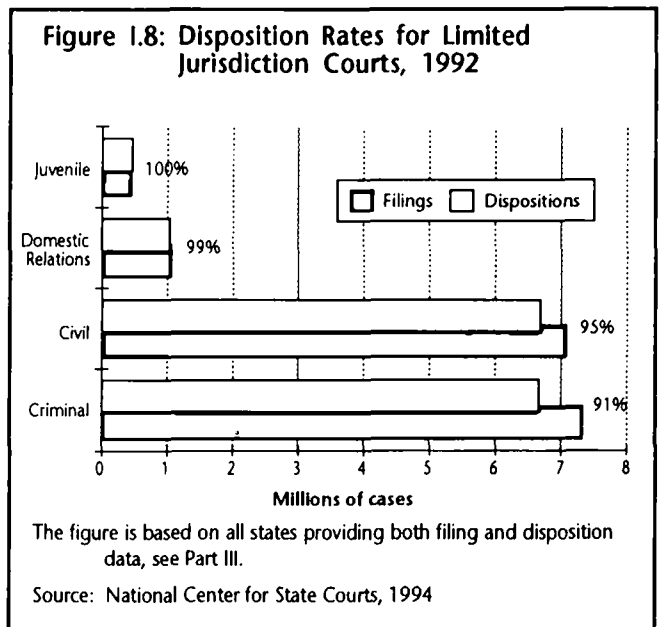


- There were 9,044,000 civil filings (13 percent).
- 9,237,705 criminal filings (13 percent).

- 1,112,873 domestic relations filings (2 percent).
- The 579,888 juvenile filings represent 1 percent.
- The remaining 51,031,260 cases (71 percent) are traffic/other ordinance violation cases.

Handling over 19 million civil, domestic relations, and criminal cases in 1992 means that limited jurisdiction courts are not merely "traffic courts."

Limited jurisdiction courts have had mixed success keeping up with the flow of rising caseloads. Civil and criminal caseloads pose the greatest challenges (Figure I.8).



# State judicial resources fail to keep pace with rising caseloads

## How many courts and judges process state court caseloads?

In 1992, there were nearly 16,500 state trial courts in operation throughout the country:

- 2,516 general jurisdiction courts and
- 13,921 limited jurisdiction courts.

To gain perspective on the caseload totals from general and limited jurisdiction courts, the number of judges available to decide the cases over the past three years is summarized in **Figure I.9**.

**Figure I.9: The Number of Judges in State Trial Courts**

	General Jurisdiction Courts	Limited Jurisdiction Courts
1990	9,325	18,234
1991	9,502	18,289
1992	9,602	18,272

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

Not surprisingly, there are far more judges in limited jurisdiction courts (see Figure G, Part V for state-by-state judicial totals).

Although there are nearly 28,000 judges currently working in state courts, the total barely changed in a period when the number of cases that

judges typically hear (i.e., civil, domestic relations, and criminal) continues its uninterrupted climb. The change in the average number of filings per judge in courts of general jurisdiction is shown in **Figure I.10**.

**Figure I.10: Filings per Judge in General Jurisdiction Courts**

	Filings	Judges	Filings per Judge
1990			
Civil and Domestic	9,175,487	9,325	984
Criminal	3,785,608	9,325	406
1991			
Civil and Domestic	9,366,543	9,502	986
Criminal	3,843,902	9,502	405
1992			
Civil and Domestic	9,550,501	9,602	995
Criminal	4,007,838	9,602	417

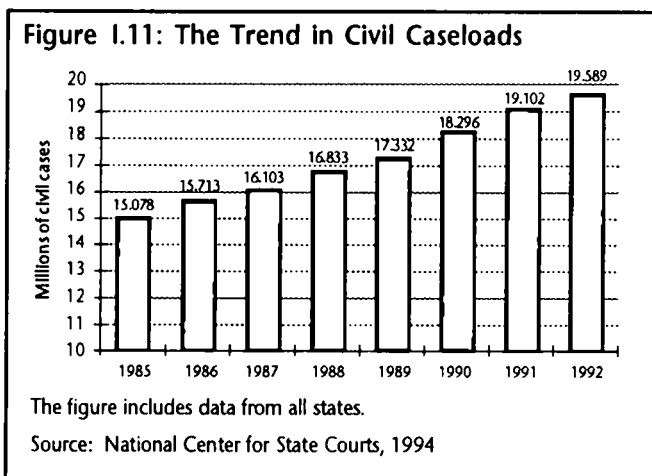
Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

Facing rising caseloads and static funding levels, courts have been creative in stretching their resources by developing new case processing techniques like differentiated case management. But efficiency measures can be pushed only so far, because even the most productive judge can only carefully decide so many cases each day. Bottlenecks will become more pervasive unless resources expand to meet the growing need for staff, services, and facilities at all court levels.

## Section 2: Civil Filings in 1992 and 1985-92 Trends

### Total civil caseloads in the states

States providing comparable data over the past eight years report the filing of 19,589,000 civil cases in 1992, an increase of over 3 percent from the previous year. Similar increases have occurred in the state courts since 1985 (Figure I.11).



### How do civil caseloads compare across states and how are they influenced by variation in population?

Civil filings in the state courts exhibit two distinct patterns (see Figure I.12). First, the range is wide:

- Total civil filings extend from a low of 30,979 filings in Wyoming to a high of 1,917,310 filings in California.

Second, civil cases are highly concentrated in particular states.

- The nine states with the largest civil caseloads account for more than 53 percent of the nation's total of 19 million civil filings.
- Seven of those nine states are among the nine states with the largest populations, underscoring the strong, direct correspon-

**Figure I.12: Total Civil Filings**

	State	Total Civil	Population Rank
1.	California	1,917,310	1
2.	New York	1,729,717	2
3.	Virginia	1,438,763	12
4.	New Jersey	1,038,761	9
5.	Maryland	949,261	19
6.	Florida	914,540	4
7.	Texas	864,934	3
8.	Ohio	819,400	7
9.	Illinois	753,131	6
10.	Michigan	716,295	8
11.	Pennsylvania	695,078	5
12.	North Carolina	599,297	10
13.	Massachusetts	517,500	13
14.	Indiana	423,712	14
15.	Wisconsin	344,216	18
16.	South Carolina	305,329	25
17.	Washington	284,417	16
18.	Alabama	278,818	22
19.	Missouri	269,942	15
20.	Louisiana	254,746	21
21.	Colorado	252,329	27
22.	Connecticut	242,682	28
23.	Arizona	235,022	23
24.	Minnesota	232,660	20
25.	Kentucky	230,850	24
26.	Oklahoma	192,762	29
27.	Oregon	192,002	30
28.	Kansas	173,699	33
29.	Arkansas	159,922	34
30.	Iowa	158,232	31
31.	Utah	154,493	35
32.	Puerto Rico	150,800	26
33.	District of Columbia	139,764	49
34.	Tennessee	137,270	17
35.	Nebraska	118,854	37
36.	Mississippi	106,061	32
37.	West Virginia	101,339	36
38.	New Hampshire	86,031	42
39.	New Mexico	83,583	38
40.	Rhode Island	77,364	44
41.	Delaware	76,900	47
42.	Idaho	70,528	43
43.	Maine	67,337	40
44.	Hawaii	57,113	41
45.	Nevada	48,160	39
46.	South Dakota	44,399	46
47.	Vermont	40,526	51
48.	North Dakota	34,833	48
49.	Alaska	34,006	50
50.	Wyoming	30,979	52

The following states are not included: GA, MT.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

## States average about one civil filing for every 15 people living in the state

dence between population levels and total civil filing rates.

Because even a cursory glance at Figure I.12 shows that the more heavily populated a state is, the more civil filings it has, the question arises of whether the states with the highest number of civil filings (e.g., California) really differ from the states with the lowest number of civil filings (e.g., Wyoming) in terms of litigiousness.<sup>2</sup> Adjusting for population will show whether people tend to file civil cases at about the same rate around the country and should also reveal other, more subtle factors that produce interstate differences among the civil filing levels.

Figure I.13 displays total civil case filings per 100,000 population in 50 state court systems as well as each state's population rank.

- The median is 6,610 civil filings per 100,000 population (Idaho) or about 1 civil filing for every 15 people in the state.
- The clustering of many states close to the median shows the relatively close relationship between population and the number of civil filings. Most states record a civil filing for every 10 to 20 residents.

Controlling for population reduces the variation between states considerably. For example, California and Wyoming are at the opposite ends of the spectrum in terms of the absolute number of filings, with California having 62 times as many filings as Wyoming (Figure I.12). When population is taken into account, however, California has 6,212 filings for every 100,000 persons and Wyoming emerges with a slightly higher 6,648 filings for every 100,000 individuals.

2 The relationship between population and total civil filings is confirmed by a positive Pearson Correlation Coefficient of .88. For every increase in a state's population, there is a proportional increase in the number of cases filed.

Figure I.13: Civil Filings per 100,000 Population

	State	Per Capita Filings	Population Rank
1.	District of Columbia	23,729	49
2.	Virginia	22,562	12
3.	Maryland	19,341	19
4.	New Jersey	13,336	9
5.	Delaware	11,161	47
6.	New York	9,546	2
7.	North Carolina	8,758	10
8.	Massachusetts	8,628	13
9.	Utah	8,521	35
10.	South Carolina	8,474	25
11.	New Hampshire	7,744	42
12.	Rhode Island	7,698	44
13.	Michigan	7,590	8
14.	Indiana	7,483	14
15.	Ohio	7,438	7
16.	Nebraska	7,401	37
17.	Connecticut	7,397	28
18.	Colorado	7,272	27
19.	Vermont	7,110	51
20.	Kansas	6,885	33
21.	Wisconsin	6,875	18
22.	Florida	6,780	4
23.	Alabama	6,741	22
24.	Arkansas	6,666	34
25.	Wyoming	6,648	52
26.	Idaho	6,610	43
27.	Illinois	6,475	6
28.	Oregon	6,450	30
29.	South Dakota	6,245	46
30.	California	6,212	1
31.	Kentucky	6,148	24
32.	Arizona	6,133	23
33.	Oklahoma	6,001	29
34.	Louisiana	5,942	21
35.	Alaska	5,793	50
36.	Pennsylvania	5,788	5
37.	Iowa	5,627	31
38.	West Virginia	5,593	36
39.	Washington	5,538	16
40.	North Dakota	5,477	48
41.	Maine	5,452	40
42.	New Mexico	5,287	38
43.	Missouri	5,198	15
44.	Minnesota	5,193	20
45.	Hawaii	4,924	41
46.	Texas	4,899	3
47.	Puerto Rico	4,282	26
48.	Mississippi	4,057	32
49.	Nevada	3,629	39
50.	Tennessee	2,732	17

The following states are not included: GA, MT.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994



## Nearly two-thirds of the states have experienced an increase in civil filings since 1990

Although civil filing rates per 100,000 population are broadly similar across the states, there are some differences, which suggest that other factors also influence civil case filing rates. Differences in civil caseloads across the states may reflect a wide range of cultural, social, and economic factors. They are also certainly affected by how cases are classified and how they are counted.

- Differences in counting practices affect the ranking of states in Figure I.13. Figure H, Part V, details the method by which each court counts civil cases.

### How has volume changed since 1990?

The overall trend in civil filings continues upward, but there is significant variation in growth rates among the states.

The change in civil filings in general jurisdiction court systems from 1990 to 1992 is shown in Figure I.14. The percentage change in civil filings between 1990 and 1992 for each state is displayed in the "index" column. For example, the value of 108 for the Alabama index indicates that civil filings grew by 8 percent between 1990 and 1992. Likewise, the index value of 90 for Arizona says that civil filings declined by 10 percent between 1990 and 1992.

- Since 1990, total civil filings have increased in 32 states, declined in 18 states, and remained the same in one state.
- In six states, the three-year index is 112 or greater, which indicates an average annual increase in civil filings of 6 percent or more.
- Eight states show an index value of 92 or less. Seven of these states have experienced a steady decline in civil filings since 1990 (Arizona, Colorado, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Texas, Vermont).

Figure I.14: The Percentage Change in Total Civil Filings, 1990-92

State	Growth Index 1990-92
Alabama	108
Alaska	110
Arizona	90
Arkansas	106
California	107
Colorado	89
Connecticut	107
Delaware	113
District of Columbia	99
Florida	104
Hawaii	107
Idaho	114
Illinois	108
Indiana	92
Iowa	86
Kansas	108
Kentucky	102
Louisiana	101
Maine	92
Maryland	116
Massachusetts	92
Michigan	92
Minnesota	108
Mississippi	100
Missouri	102
Montana	97
Nebraska	105
Nevada	106
New Hampshire	93
New Jersey	120
New Mexico	104
New York	109
North Carolina	105
North Dakota	109
Ohio	103
Oklahoma	94
Oregon	108
Pennsylvania	102
Puerto Rico	94
Rhode Island	87
South Carolina	95
South Dakota	109
Tennessee	103
Texas	99
Utah	119
Vermont	63
Virginia	102
Washington	99
West Virginia	120
Wisconsin	101
Wyoming	98

The following state is not included: GA.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

## Most states dispose of fewer civil cases each year than are filed

### Are courts keeping up with the flow of new civil cases?

Whether the trend in new filings is up or down, a primary concern remains the timely disposition of cases. Trial courts reduced the size of their pending civil caseload if they disposed of more civil cases during 1992 than were filed.

Figure I.15 abstracts the relevant information from Table 9, Part III, to present clearance rates for civil cases in general jurisdiction courts.

What is the "clearance rate?" The clearance rate is the number of dispositions in a given year divided by the number of filings in the same year. For example, if a state court receives 100,000 civil case filings in a given year and disposes of 95,000 civil cases that same year, the clearance rate is 95,000/100,000 or 95 percent. While the cases disposed of in 1992 were not necessarily filed that same year, the clearance rate is an easily calculated and useful measure of the responsiveness of courts to the demand for court services.

General jurisdiction courts in 41 states are included in Figure I.15.

- Most states ended 1992 with increases to pending caseloads.
- In courts of general jurisdiction, less than 30 percent of the courts (12 of 41) reported clearance rates of 100 percent or greater for 1992.
- In 1992, most courts of general jurisdiction had clearance rates between 95 and 100 percent, seven had clearance rates between 90 and 95 percent, and four had clearance rates less than 90 percent.

Figure I.15: General Jurisdiction Court Clearance Rates for Civil Cases, 1990-92

State	1990	1991	1992	Three-Year
Hawaii	130.2	98.7	100.2	109.5
Oregon	102.7	103.0	100.9	102.2
Alaska	105.9	99.8	98.7	101.4
Michigan	99.6	99.5	103.7	100.9
Massachusetts	99.1	100.0	103.3	100.7
West Virginia	100.1	110.1	93.0	100.7
Texas	98.5	100.6	102.8	100.6
Alabama	103.8	100.7	97.5	100.6
Maine	103.5	95.9	102.0	100.5
Puerto Rico	96.4	96.8	108.9	100.5
New Hampshire	86.8	103.0	110.0	99.6
Wisconsin	97.5	99.4	100.7	99.2
Idaho	100.7	98.2	98.7	99.2
Ohio	97.4	99.8	98.6	98.6
Oklahoma	97.2	99.5	98.8	98.5
Nebraska	98.9	99.7	96.0	98.2
Kansas	97.8	98.8	97.7	98.1
Minnesota	96.2	99.7	97.9	97.9
North Dakota	97.7	99.0	95.3	97.3
Illinois	97.3	98.3	95.5	97.0
Arizona	98.2	92.1	101.1	97.0
South Carolina	93.4	92.5	105.6	97.0
District of Columbia	99.9	92.3	98.4	96.9
Indiana	96.6	94.8	99.0	96.8
Pennsylvania	93.8	98.2	98.2	96.7
Missouri	92.2	98.1	99.4	96.6
Colorado	97.3	95.7	92.9	95.4
Arkansas	94.4	94.7	95.6	94.9
California	87.1	92.1	94.8	91.4
Kentucky	93.1	90.3	90.9	91.4
North Carolina	89.8	92.9	90.7	91.1
Washington	90.9	89.6	92.1	90.9
Virginia	84.5	86.9	92.7	88.1
Delaware	85.5	87.8	85.6	86.3
Maryland	79.3	79.7	83.7	81.0
Florida	80.1	83.2	76.1	79.8
Connecticut		95.3	102.5	
Vermont		98.5	98.9	
Utah		101.5	97.2	
New York		90.5	96.5	
New Jersey		97.7	84.7	

The following states are not included: GA, IA, LA, MS, MT, NV, NM, RI, SD, TN, WY.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

## ***Only one general jurisdiction court in four had an average three-year clearance rate of 100 percent or more***

The general jurisdiction courts of New Hampshire reported the largest clearance rate: 110 percent, followed by Puerto Rico at 109 percent. The other states that also disposed of more cases than were filed had clearance rates very close to 100 percent and, therefore, did not significantly reduce the size of their pending caseloads.

### **Are low clearance rates related to above average growth in civil caseloads?**

**Rising civil case volume is creating trouble for many state courts. It is particularly evident for the 11 states with 1992 clearance rates below 95 percent. Eight of those states have experienced growth in civil caseloads of more than 5 percent between 1990 and 1992 (growth in three was in excess of 16 percent: Maryland, New Jersey, and West Virginia).**

- Eight of the 12 states with clearance rates above 100 percent in 1992 benefited from a decline in civil filings between 1990 and 1992.

To address the question of whether the findings for 1992 reflect short-term or long-term problems of the state courts, Figure I.15 includes the clearance rates of the general jurisdiction courts of each state from 1990, 1991, and 1992. Clearance rates over the three years are similar in some, but vary widely in other general jurisdiction courts.

To make allowances for year-to-year fluctuations in clearance rates, a "three-year" clearance rate has been constructed. This three-year rate is computed by first summing all filings and dispositions during 1990-1992 and then dividing the three-year sum of dispositions by the corresponding sum of filings.

Examining the three-year clearance rate provides the opportunity to see if courts are keeping up with new cases, despite a possible shortfall in a

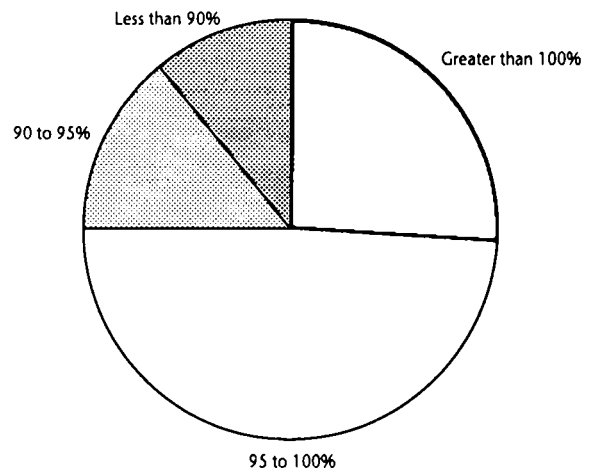
given year. Figure I.15 is sorted by this three-year rate.

- Between 1990 and 1992, only one court in four had an average clearance rate of 100 percent or more.

Many of the other jurisdictions show a problem in keeping up with the inflow of cases. Figure I.16 shows the distribution of three-year clearance rates.

- Over a quarter of the general jurisdiction courts have disposed of less than 95 percent of their civil filings since 1990.
- For about one-half the states (20 of the 36 states with three-year rates) the situation seems to be improving in that the 1992 rate exceeds the three-year clearance rate. Because the three-year rate reflects the average success that a particular court has had in disposing of cases over the past three years, 20 states disposed of a higher percentage of cases in 1992 than is typical over this three-year period.

**Figure I.16: Three-year Clearance Rates for Civil Cases in General Jurisdiction Courts, 1992**



The figure includes data from 36 states.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

## Section 3: Focus on Tort, Contract, and Real Property Rights Cases

### What is the composition of civil caseloads?

Much of the ongoing controversy over the civil justice system concerns the number of cases actually filed and how the filing rate is changing over time. We know that state courts handled over 19 million civil cases in 1992, but this number represents an amalgam of very different types of cases. What specific types of disputes are filed and in what numbers? What trends are emerging? Figure I.17 summarizes the composition of civil caseloads in 27 general jurisdiction courts in 1992. Although we do not know how representative these courts are of the nation, they provide our best source of information for examining the nature of civil caseloads.

total (9 percent tort, 11 percent contract, 9 percent real property rights).

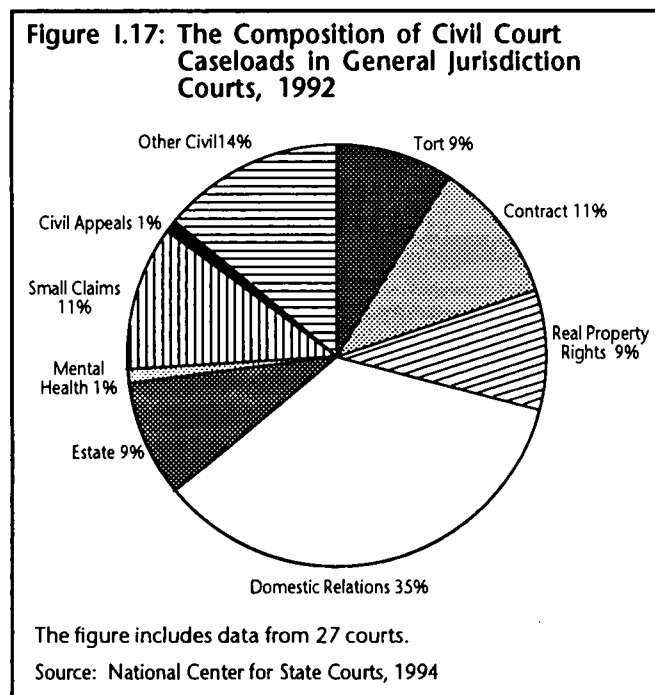
Although only 8 of the 27 general jurisdiction courts in Figure I.17 have small claims jurisdiction, small claims cases were common enough in those courts to account for 11 percent of the total.

Other civil cases, accounting for 14 percent of the total, are composed of all civil cases that cannot be identified as belonging to one of the other major categories.

### How has the composition of civil caseloads been changing?

Figure I.18 shows how several key components of the civil caseload have been changing between 1990 and 1992.

- Only domestic relations caseloads show a continuous increase during the past three years.
- Tort, contract, real property rights, and small claims filings in 1992 are all down from their levels in 1991.



Domestic relations cases form the largest caseload category (35 percent), while general civil cases account for an additional 29 percent of the

**Figure I.18: Recent Changes in Key Components of the Civil Caseload**

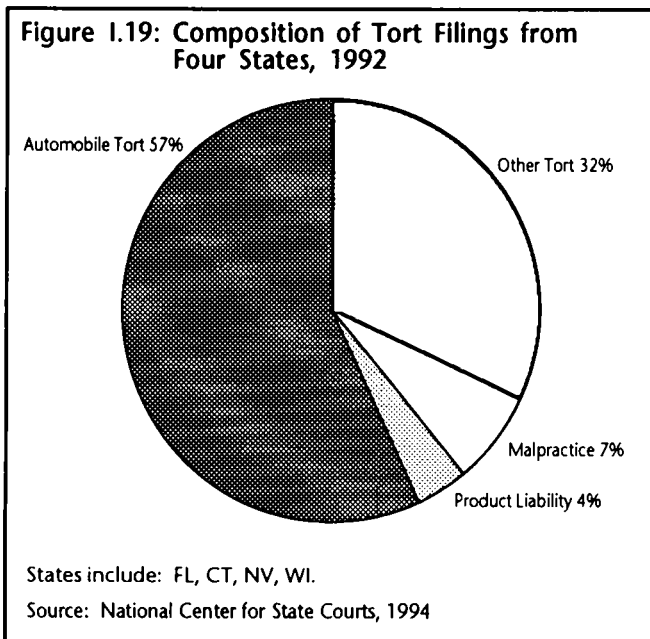
	1990	1991	1992
Tort	635,376	632,021	625,049
Contract	770,813	784,828	699,577
Real Property Rights	464,094	500,395	473,332
Domestic Relations	2,082,544	2,122,706	2,305,181
Small Claims	748,402	764,585	733,566

The figure includes data from the 27 courts in Figure I.17.  
Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

# *There is no evidence of a tort litigation “explosion” in the state courts*

Tort is the area of law that figures most prominently in the debate over the need for reform of the civil justice system. Tort cases have the highest visibility and include suits against doctors for malpractice, against manufacturers for dangerous products, and against motorists involved in automobile accidents.

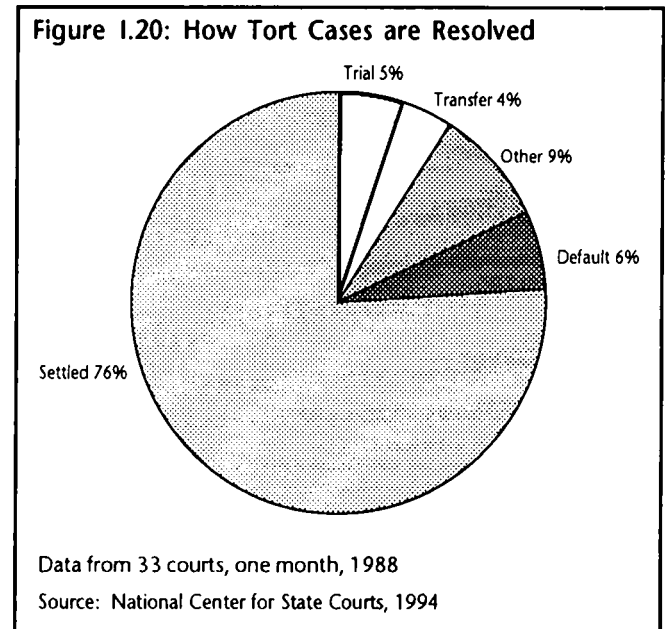
- It is estimated that about 1,050,000 tort cases were filed in state courts in 1992.
- **Figure I.19** (based on data from four states) shows that tort filings are dominated by automobile torts. Malpractice and product liability, the focus of most attention, tend to be substantially fewer in number.



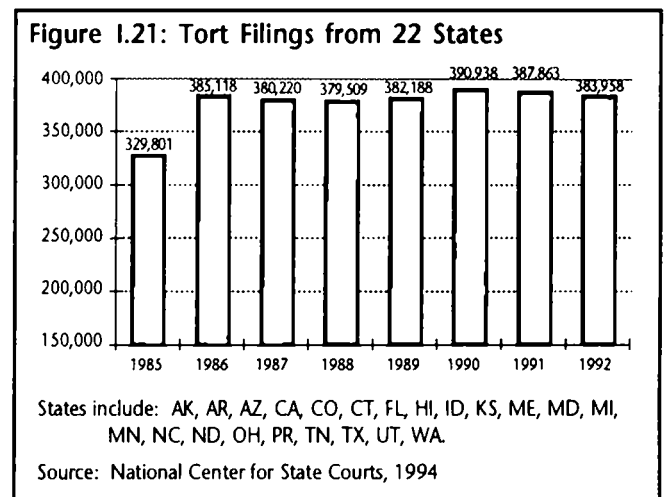
- The manner in which tort cases are resolved is shown in **Figure I.20**. These data, gathered from 33 urban trial courts in 1988,<sup>3</sup> show that just over three-quarters of all tort cases are dismissed or settled. Only 5 percent of the tort cases ended in trial.

<sup>3</sup> David Rottman, *Tort Litigation in the State Courts: Evidence From the Trial Court Information Network*, 14 *State Court Journal* No. 4 (Fall 1990).

- Of the cases disposed at trial, 60 percent were by jury trial and 40 percent were by bench trial.



**Tort filings have remained essentially constant over the past eight years.** This observation is based on aggregating tort filing data obtained from 22 states that have reported comparable data for the 1985 to 1992 period. The totals are displayed in **Figure I.21** and contain data from 6 of the 10 most populous states. As is evident, the



## *The trend in tort filings fluctuates widely from state to state, although the national total has declined by 2 percent since 1990*

only substantial period of growth occurred between 1985 and 1986.

- Tort filings have actually declined by approximately 2 percent since 1990.
- The evidence points to tort litigation growing more slowly than civil cases generally: the total number of civil cases in general jurisdiction courts grew by 4 percent between 1990 and 1992.

The actual numbers of tort filings per year are detailed in **Figure I.22**. The column at the far right of the table labeled "1990-1992 Index" summarizes the change in tort filings experienced by each court between 1990 and 1992. Taking 1990 as the

base (index equals 100), one can quickly see the percentage change in tort litigation over the past three years. For example, the index value of "90" for Arizona indicates a 10 percent drop in the number of tort filings since 1990, while the value of "107" for Florida means the number of torts filed in 1992 is 7 percent greater than the total in 1990.

- Sharp differences in the volume of tort filings across states since 1990 belies the relative calm in the aggregate.
- Thirteen of the 29 states report a decline of 3 percent or more in tort filings between 1990 and 1992, with relatively large decreases (10 percent or more) in Arizona,

**Figure I.22: Tort Filings, 1985-92**

State	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1990-92 Index
Alaska	2,096	2,344	1,664	937	851	826	838	815	99
Arizona	10,748	11,888	12,260	20,490	12,559	15,418	15,442	13,842	90
Arkansas	5,382	5,541	5,606	5,132	5,000	5,045	5,099	5,098	101
California	112,049	130,206	137,455	132,378	131,900	121,960	114,298	109,219	90
Colorado	4,537	6,145	3,666	4,506	5,490	5,886	6,295	6,151	105
Connecticut	12,742	13,754	15,385	15,741	16,955	16,477	16,266	16,250	99
Florida	29,864	34,027	33,622	34,325	38,415	40,748	44,257	43,458	107
Hawaii	1,676	1,749	1,785	1,736	1,793	2,065	2,365	2,689	130
Idaho	2,010	2,118	1,757	1,453	1,478	1,417	1,257	1,325	94
Indiana	NA	NA	NA	NA	5,697	6,719	7,910	8,043	120
Kansas	4,061	4,273	4,380	4,595	4,513	4,010	4,076	4,338	108
Maine	2,072	2,044	1,786	1,776	1,950	1,878	1,686	1,643	87
Maryland	10,120	12,373	12,938	14,170	14,274	14,908	16,270	15,612	105
Massachusetts	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	76,806	74,641	68,341	89
Michigan	22,811	32,612	29,756	30,966	32,663	38,784	31,869	34,497	89
Minnesota	10,000	10,356	10,739	10,125	9,658	7,135	7,252	7,460	105
Missouri	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	21,680	21,245	19,999	92
Nevada	NA	NA	NA	4,329	4,799	5,295	5,871	6,185	117
New Jersey	NA	NA	NA	NA	71,367	72,463	73,614	67,380	93
New York	NA	NA	NA	NA	62,189	65,026	65,767	72,189	111
North Carolina	8,062	8,897	8,981	7,639	7,879	8,175	8,656	9,361	115
North Dakota	512	561	551	552	602	744	531	411	55
Ohio	25,518	28,225	29,375	28,614	29,039	34,488	34,422	33,196	96
Puerto Rico	4,388	4,558	4,811	4,077	5,579	6,095	6,569	5,610	92
Tennessee	12,565	13,167	13,597	13,550	13,501	13,453	13,223	13,100	97
Texas	37,596	38,238	40,764	36,597	36,710	39,648	44,088	46,762	118
Utah	1,245	2,527	1,335	1,404	1,233	1,631	1,729	1,979	121
Washington	9,747	19,515	8,007	8,746	10,146	10,147	11,375	11,142	110
Wisconsin	NA	NA	9,545	9,534	9,152	9,669	8,865	8,835	91
Total						648,596	645,776	634,930	98

The following states are not included: AL, DE, DC, GA, IL, IA, KY, LA, MS, MT, NE, NH, NM, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, VT, VA, WV, WY.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

## Most states have similar rates of tort litigation

California, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, and North Dakota.

- Another 13 states show growth in tort filings since 1990: 5 states had growth of less than 10 percent, 5 states had growth of 10 to 19 percent, and 3 states experienced growth of 20 percent or more in tort filings since 1990 (Hawaii, Indiana, and Utah). This latter rate of growth (10 to 15 percent per year) is sufficient to double tort case-loads in only about seven years.
- Three states (Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut) show essentially no change.

The overall trend is strongly shaped by tort activity in a few large states. For example, California accounts for more than one-sixth of the total tort filings in Figure I.22. A further indication of California's influence is that the number of cases involved in the 10 percent decline in California's tort filings—a figure of about 12,700—is larger than the yearly total of tort filings in 16 of the states in Figure I.22.

It is obvious from Figure I.22 that more heavily populated states tend to have more tort filings, but that fact does not answer the question of whether some states are more litigious than others. Adjusting for population provides a way to examine whether the *rate* of tort litigation is similar or different between states—regardless of their population size. The number of tort filings per 100,000 population is shown for 29 states for the period 1990 to 1992 in Figure I.23.

- The states exhibit a fair degree of uniformity in per capita filing rates, with 24 of the 29 states falling between 100 and 400 tort filings per 100,000 population.
- Massachusetts and New Jersey have particularly high rates of population-adjusted tort filings, while North Dakota is the one state with less than 100 tort filings per 100,000 population.

- Six states (Arizona, California, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, North Dakota) have experienced rather significant declines of more than 50 filings per 100,000 population since 1990, with North Dakota nearly halving its tort litigation rate.
- Substantial increases in tort litigation rates were few, with only Hawaii, Nevada, New York, and Texas seeing increases of 25 filings per 100,000 population or more since 1990.
- While both Arkansas and Colorado show an increase in the raw number of tort filings since 1990, both states have experienced a slight decline in the number of population-adjusted tort filings.

Figure I.23: Tort Filings per 100,000 Population

State	1990	1991	1992
Alaska	150	147	139
Arizona	421	412	361
Arkansas	215	215	213
California	410	376	354
Colorado	179	186	177
Connecticut	501	494	495
Florida	315	333	322
Hawaii	186	208	232
Idaho	141	121	124
Indiana	121	141	142
Kansas	162	163	172
Maine	153	137	133
Maryland	312	335	318
Massachusetts	1,277	1,245	1,139
Michigan	417	340	366
Minnesota	163	164	167
Missouri	424	412	385
Nevada	441	457	466
New Jersey	937	949	865
New York	361	364	398
North Carolina	123	128	137
North Dakota	116	84	65
Ohio	318	315	301
Puerto Rico	185	187	159
Tennessee	276	267	261
Texas	233	254	265
Utah	95	98	109
Washington	209	227	217
Wisconsin	198	179	176

The following states are not included: AL, DE, DC, GA, IL, IA, KY, LA, MS, MT, NE, NH, NM, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, VT, VA, WV, WY.

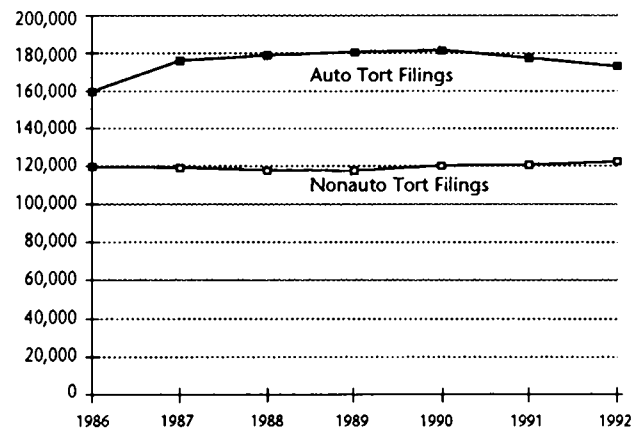
Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

## Automobile torts show a different trend than nonautomobile torts

State-by-state fluctuations in tort filings make generalizations difficult. Moreover, the different components of the tort caseload within these states show different patterns of change. The ten states on **Figure I.24** report a breakdown of the tort caseload that distinguishes between automobile and nonautomobile torts.

- The situation changes when just the 1990 to 1992 period is examined. During this period, total tort filings in these ten states fell by 2 percent, with automobile torts falling by 5 percent. In contrast, nonautomobile torts rose by 3 percent.
- Going inside the aggregate totals shows that there is considerable variation between states on how automobile tort filings have changed relative to total tort filings.

**Figure I.24: Recent Trends in Tort Filings: Auto v. Nonauto Filings from 10 States**



States include: AZ, CA, CT, FL, HI, MD, MI, NC, NV, TX.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

- Total tort filings in these ten states increased by 5 percent between 1986 and 1992. Automobile accident filings rose by 6 percent during this period, while nonautomobile torts, which include medical malpractice and product liability, grew by 3 percent.

Two time periods are examined (1986 to 1992 and 1990 to 1992) in **Figure I.25**. While the overall picture suggests that automobile torts are on the decline from 1990 to 1992, **Figure I.25** shows that auto torts have actually risen in six of the ten states reporting data. The overall decline is primarily the product of the steep decline in California.

**Figure I.25: The Change in Automobile Torts v. Total Torts**

State	Automobile Torts		Total Torts	
	1986-92 Index	1990-92 Index	1986-92 Index	1990-92 Index
Arizona	112	85	116	90
California	86	85	84	90
Connecticut	122	96	118	99
Florida	118	102	128	107
Hawaii	199	134	154	130
Maryland	128	101	126	105
Michigan	136	93	106	89
Nevada	203	129	143	117
North Carolina	151	113	105	115
Texas	113	116	122	118
Overall change	106	95	105	98

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994



## *The trends in the number of cases involving contract and real property rights disputes are very different from the recent trend in tort filings*

Torts have become the primary focus of the debate on whether the level of litigation in this country is rising to a degree that is detrimental to businesses and a challenge to judges and court managers. However, contract and real property rights cases are also useful indicators of our society's willingness to sue in that, along with torts, these cases represent an independent decision to choose litigation over any other means of dispute resolution. In addition, extending consideration to contract and real property rights cases permits comment on how representative tort cases are of civil caseload trends. Specifically, are contract and real property rights cases changing more consistently and substantially than tort filings?

Complete and comparable data on contract cases are available between 1990 and 1992 for the general jurisdiction courts of 25 states (see Figure I.26) and for real property rights filings in 25 states (see Figure I.27). The rate of change between 1990 and 1992 is shown as an "index number" in the far right column of each table, with a value of 100 indicating no change. For example, Alaska's "1990-1992 Index" value of 79 on Figure I.26 means that the number of contract filings in 1992 has declined by 21 percent from the level in 1990. When available, both tables display actual filing data as far back as 1985. Figure I.28 displays the aggregate trend in contract filings for the 17 states that provide this data for the period 1985 to 1992.

**Figure I.26: Contract Filings, 1985-92**

State	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1990-92 Index
Alaska	NA	NA	NA	1,286	918	696	623	547	79
Arizona	21,987	25,800	25,680	25,805	25,865	26,423	23,299	14,211	54
Arkansas	24,925	26,775	26,900	19,339	16,399	13,744	14,174	13,644	99
California	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	101,369	106,080	108,953	107
Colorado	15,162	18,333	18,979	17,314	16,605	16,007	12,635	9,739	61
Connecticut	19,850	21,254	21,176	23,405	27,445	29,964	30,863	27,825	93
Florida	46,987	55,468	57,076	59,812	70,658	71,798	56,207	44,321	62
Hawaii	1,830	1,807	1,690	1,798	1,695	1,784	1,685	1,787	100
Kansas	46,296	51,731	52,649	53,448	57,411	63,843	70,718	74,893	117
Maine	1,154	956	1,082	1,402	1,498	1,541	1,535	1,093	71
Maryland	5,247	6,309	7,323	7,854	10,312	16,453	16,741	15,374	93
Massachusetts	NA	NA	3,994	4,282	4,829	5,661	5,854	4,987	88
Minnesota	9,000	9,153	8,760	8,322	7,456	8,034	7,493	6,947	86
Missouri	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	70,637	74,040	70,324	100
Nevada	NA	NA	NA	4,794	5,215	5,731	6,129	4,387	77
New Jersey	NA	NA	NA	NA	220,117	239,668	255,851	199,797	83
New York	NA	NA	NA	NA	22,063	23,199	24,449	22,765	98
North Carolina	3,167	4,739	4,824	5,140	5,853	7,122	7,099	6,443	90
North Dakota	3,908	3,930	3,594	3,653	2,886	2,622	2,925	2,908	111
Puerto Rico	4,412	4,936	4,944	5,246	6,692	8,035	9,663	6,339	79
Tennessee	7,651	7,814	8,257	8,600	9,018	9,536	8,921	7,666	80
Texas	57,605	55,567	56,835	46,946	37,851	31,062	29,890	25,532	82
Utah	1,716	300	86	146	1,503	2,457	2,416	2,108	86
Washington	14,996	15,571	14,352	13,970	13,633	14,129	15,440	14,733	104
Wisconsin	NA	NA	42,323	33,911	22,507	20,164	21,371	20,796	103
Total						791,679	806,101	708,119	89

The following states are not included: AL, DE, DC, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, MI, MS, MT, NE, NH, NM, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, VT, VA, WV, WY.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

*Over the period 1985-92, the aggregate total of real property rights cases has tended to rise, contract cases have shown considerable variation, and tort filings have remained relatively flat*

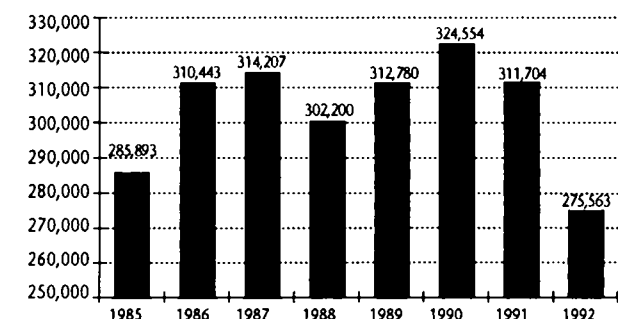
**Figure I.27: Real Property Rights Filings, 1985-92**

State	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1990-92 Index
Arizona	408	536	597	564	652	874	648	498	57
Arkansas	168	179	255	255	300	295	348	532	180
California	1,318	2,075	1,516	2,028	2,161	1,948	1,887	1,648	85
Colorado	18,909	25,179	29,210	33,885	30,002	22,133	17,730	13,405	61
Connecticut	14,694	15,466	21,322	23,752	17,950	27,902	31,629	32,730	117
Delaware	572	559	648	707	668	718	1,089	1,197	167
District of Columbia	89,824	87,740	82,604	79,053	72,019	68,949	67,761	63,851	93
Florida	38,416	47,527	48,933	53,852	60,916	67,360	80,472	74,052	110
Hawaii	258	224	197	217	273	349	360	405	116
Kansas	12,217	14,445	15,518	15,381	15,562	15,830	15,650	14,738	93
Maine	NA	NA	365	483	496	753	1,165	1,378	183
Maryland	257	262	213	186	306	301	243	185	61
Massachusetts	37,693	40,787	42,619	50,439	51,810	59,137	65,305	66,309	112
Minnesota	15,000	15,058	15,761	17,321	27,291	24,973	25,843	24,698	99
Missouri	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	28,741	29,637	29,171	101
Nevada	NA	NA	NA	879	1,062	1,044	1,109	1,039	100
New Jersey	NA	NA	NA	NA	156,153	163,994	172,548	160,506	98
North Carolina	1,200	1,206	1,190	1,399	1,260	1,234	1,262	1,217	99
North Dakota	1,293	1,483	1,647	1,407	1,234	1,076	950	738	69
Ohio	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	22,633	23,323	20,815	92
Puerto Rico	9,442	10,394	8,892	7,910	7,900	7,482	7,841	5,822	78
Tennessee	2,313	2,587	2,650	2,300	2,117	2,222	2,153	2,002	90
Texas	458	453	437	439	440	337	413	361	107
Utah	895	1,011	978	1,003	924	779	734	716	92
Washington	12,161	12,203	13,719	15,107	15,758	15,436	15,268	15,100	98
Total						536,500	565,368	533,113	99

The following states are not included: AL, AK, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, MI, MS, MT, NE, NH, NM, NY, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, VT, VA, WV, WI, WY.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

**Figure I.28: Contract Filings from 17 States**



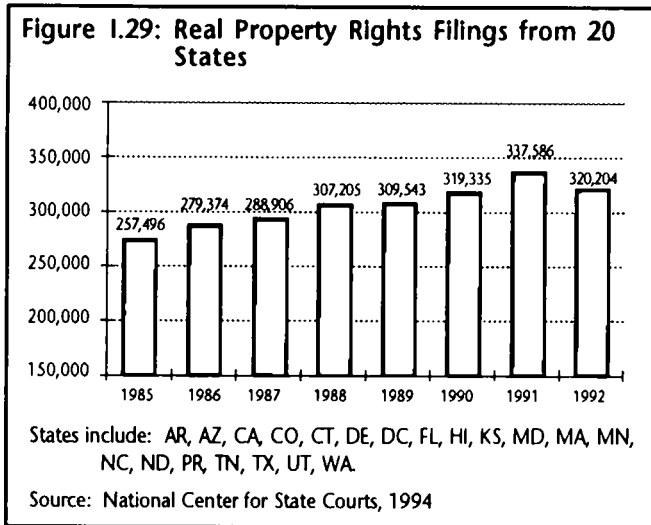
States include: AR, AZ, CO, CT, FL, HI, KS, ME, MD, MN, NC, ND, PR, TN, TX, UT, WA.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

Similarly, **Figure I.29** shows the trend in real property rights filings from 1985 to 1992 for the 20 states that have provided this data for the entire eight-year period.

The aggregate trends for tort, contract, and real property rights show three different patterns over the 1985-92 period: real property rights cases have tended to rise, contract cases have shown substantial year-to-year variation, and tort filings have remained relatively flat. One point of consistency is that all three categories experienced a decline between 1991 and 1992.

**No state has experienced an increase in all three types of general civil cases (i.e., tort, contract, and real property rights) between 1990 and 1992**



- Compared to the base year of 1990, 17 states have experienced a decline in contract filings, and another three states have remained essentially unchanged. Of the five states with rising contract caseloads, only California and Kansas have experienced steady growth.
- Although real property rights filings show the smoothest growth pattern within the general civil category, the variation becomes extreme when the individual states are examined. The 1990 to 1992 trend is split with 8 states showing increases, 13 states showing decreases, and 4 states remaining relatively constant. Three states (Arkansas, Delaware, and Maine) saw their real property rights filings grow by more than 67 percent since 1990, which if trends continue, will double this caseload by next year. Five states had rather steep drops of 22 percent or more since 1990 (Arizona, Colorado, Maryland, North Dakota, and Puerto Rico).

Twenty-two states provide data on all three pieces of the general civil caseload for the years 1990 to 1992. Figure I.30 displays the information on rates of change over this period for tort, contract, and real property rights cases in a simplified

**Figure I.30: Changes in General Civil Filings from 22 States with Comparable Data**

State	Tort Change 1990-92	Contract Change 1990-92	Real Property Rights Change 1990-92
Arizona	-	-	-
Arkansas	o	o	+
California	-	+	-
Colorado	+	-	-
Connecticut	o	-	+
Florida	+	-	+
Hawaii	+	o	+
Kansas	+	+	-
Maine	-	-	+
Maryland	+	-	-
Massachusetts	-	-	+
Minnesota	+	-	o
Missouri	-	o	o
Nevada	+	-	o
New Jersey	-	-	-
North Carolina	+	-	o
North Dakota	-	+	-
Puerto Rico	-	-	-
Tennessee	-	-	-
Texas	+	-	+
Utah	+	-	-
Washington	+	+	-
Total +	11	4	7
Total o	2	3	4
Total -	9	15	11

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

fashion: a "+" indicates an increase, "o" indicates no change, and "-" means a decrease. The main conclusion is that there is little consistency in filing rates for these three types of cases either within or across states.

- There are sufficient differences between tort, contract, and real property rights case-filing patterns to suggest that the factors promoting the increase or the decrease of tort litigation in states are not having parallel effects on contract and real property rights litigation.
- No state shows an increase in all three types of cases during the period 1990-1992.

## Section 4: Domestic Relations Cases in the State Courts

### *Domestic relations cases comprise more than one-third of all civil cases filed in state courts*

The most frequently reported category of civil filings is domestic relations. In 1992, a third of all civil filings in courts of general jurisdiction were domestic relations cases (see Figure I.17). This figure is an underestimate because state courts often consolidate related cases involving the family into one case and reopen cases rather than file new ones when a subsequent order or modification is needed.

#### **What is the largest category of domestic relations cases?**

The domestic relations caseload consists of six main case types: marriage dissolution, support/custody, domestic violence, paternity, adoption, and Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act (URESA). **Figure I.31** and **Figure I.32** summarize the composition of domestic relations caseloads in 23 general jurisdiction and family

courts that report complete and comparable domestic relations data for 1992.

Marriage dissolution cases form the largest caseload category (44 percent), while support/custody and URESA cases account for an additional 19 and 6 percent respectively. Paternity cases comprise 7 percent of the total, and adoption 2 percent. Domestic violence is the third largest category, accounting for 12 percent of the domestic relations caseload for 1992.

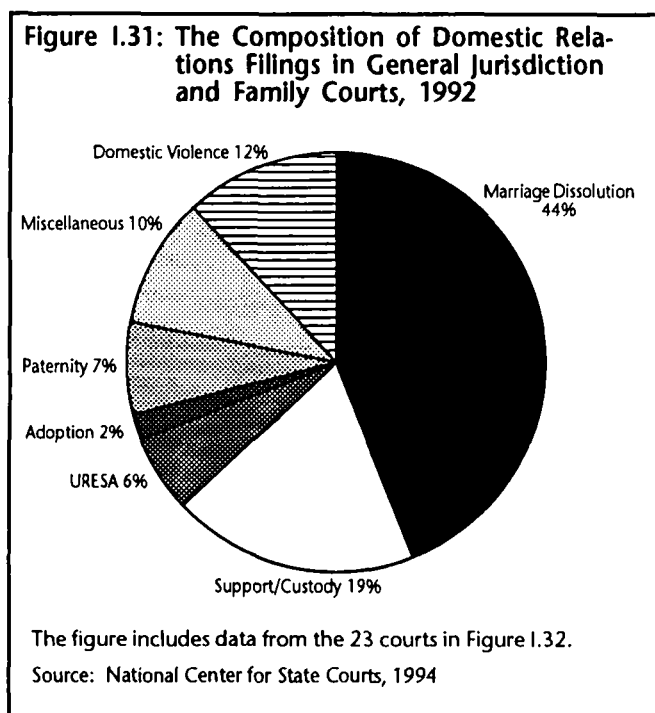
The miscellaneous domestic relations category, which accounts for 10 percent of the total, includes such case types as termination of parental rights, as well as those domestic relations cases that cannot be identified as belonging to one of the other major categories. About half of the states are unable to distinguish domestic violence cases, and consequently include them as part of the miscellaneous domestic relations caseload.

**The number of domestic relations filings from state to state will vary based on different case counting practices.**

Some states consolidate related cases involving the family into one case (e.g., a marriage dissolution involving custody of a child would be considered one case); others reopen cases rather than file new ones when a subsequent order or modification is needed. Whether a state includes enforcement/collection proceedings and temporary injunctions as part of its caseload will also have an impact on the size of the caseload. Figure H, Part V, shows the method of counting civil (including domestic relations) cases in the state trial courts.

#### **How have domestic relations caseloads changed since 1988?**

Domestic relations case filings have increased substantially since 1988 as shown in **Figure I.33**.



# Total domestic relations filings increased by 34 percent between 1988 and 1992

Figure I.32: The Composition of Domestic Relations Filings in General Jurisdiction and Family Courts, 1992

	Marriage Dissolution	Support/ Custody	URESA	Adoption	Paternity	Domestic Violence	Miscel- laneous	Total
<b>General jurisdiction courts</b>								
ALASKA Superior	4,277		1,028	633	847	2,947	0	9,732
ARIZONA Superior	28,413		*	1,548	*	1,776	8,693 *	40,430
ARKANSAS Chancery and Probate	24,602	17,299	2,104	1,697	5,970	2,584	3,535	57,791
COLORADO District, Denver Juvenile & Probate	25,259	895	4,009	1,989	4,912	*	2,164 *	39,228
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Superior	3,491	1,848	1,875	334	3,483	3,012	0	14,043
FLORIDA Circuit	146,164	31,268	24,132	*	*	48,700	54,945 *	305,209
KANSAS District	18,652 *	*	2,608	1,838	2,147	**	7,310 **	32,555
MICHIGAN Circuit	56,771	13,816	4,637	NJ	25,531	*	8,063 *	108,818
MINNESOTA District	17,023		13,689	2,238	*	26,653	1,618 *	61,221
MISSOURI Circuit	33,274	*	3,055	2,276	10,466	23,195	12,990 *	85,256
NEW JERSEY Superior	55,462	139,294 *	*	2,410	*	56,658	866	254,690
NEW MEXICO District	10,937	3,465	1,278	419	747	*	9,299 *	26,145
NEW YORK Supreme and County	65,303	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	65,303
NORTH DAKOTA District	3,177	9,448 *	*	313	1,003	479	93	14,513
OHIO Court of Common Pleas	66,807	74,790	9,208	5,247	32,010	4,962	22,215	215,239
OREGON Circuit	20,814	1,672	5,382	2,022	6,275	13,163	8,308	57,636
PUERTO RICO Superior	18,889		2,557	508	*	*	6,402 *	28,356
TENNESSEE Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery	57,546		5,568	2,764	*	*	866 *	6,744
UTAH District	11,399	171	2,082	1,375	2,669	2,385	63	20,144
WISCONSIN Circuit	22,799	4,755	2,408	1,871	17,894	*	2,079 *	51,806
<b>Family courts</b>								
LOUISIANA Family and Juvenile	2,533	4,168	2,450	914	328	695	1,560	12,648
RHODE ISLAND Family	4,672		4,842	410	959	2,905	424	14,212
VERMONT Family	7,556 *	*	193	NJ	**	3,654	1,722 **	13,125
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>705,820</b>	<b>302,889</b>	<b>93,105</b>	<b>30,806</b>	<b>115,241</b>	<b>193,768</b>	<b>153,215</b>	<b>1,594,844</b>

**Notes:**

When a case type is not reported, an asterisk indicates where it is combined with another case type.

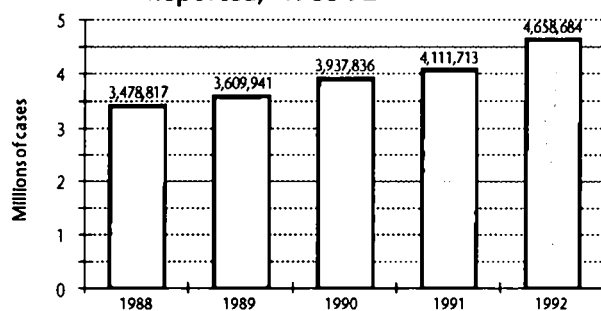
A blank space in the support/custody column indicates that the state does not count support/custody as a separate case, but includes it as part of the marriage dissolution.

Miscellaneous domestic relations filings include unclassified domestic relations cases in AZ, LA, MO, & UT.

NJ = The court does not have jurisdiction over this case type.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

Figure I.33: Total Domestic Relations Filings Reported, 1988-92



The following states are not included: GA, LA, MS, NM, SC, WY.

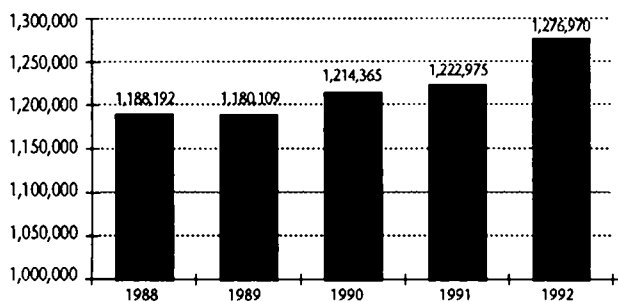
Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

Not only has there been substantial growth in domestic relations caseloads, but these cases often remain in the courts for long periods of time and require ongoing court supervision. Periodic reviews of hearings mandated by state and federal law, for example, of children in foster care and of child support orders continue for as long as the child is in care. This rising demand on judicial resources underlies the growth that is evident within the different types of cases in the domestic relations category.

## The trend is upward for most types of domestic relations cases

Comparable marriage dissolution filing data for 1988 to 1992 are available for 37 states and are shown in Figure I.34. This caseload has increased by 7 percent over the past five years.

Figure I.34: Marriage Dissolution Filings, 1988-92

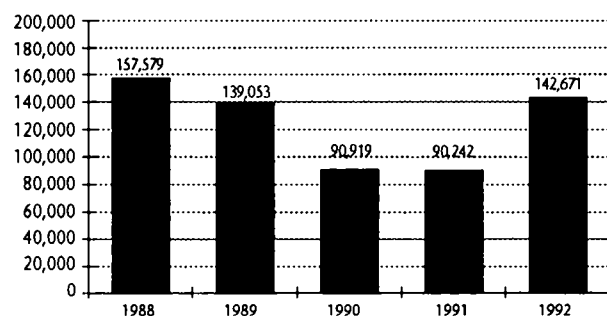


The following states are not included: AL, AZ, GA, IL, KY, LA, MS, MO, NE, NH, NM, OR, SC, WA, WY.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

The URESA caseload declined by 9 percent between 1988 and 1992 in the 18 states that report data (Figure I.36). However, 1992 showed a significant change in the trend with a 58 percent increase over the total in 1991.

Figure I.36: URESA Filings, 1988-92

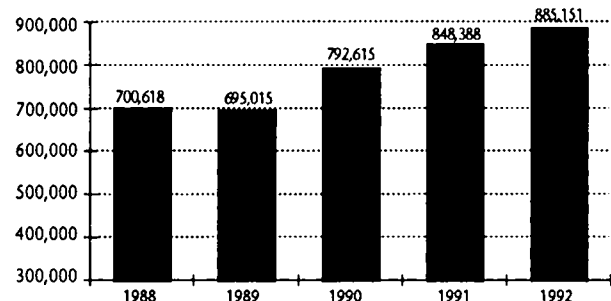


States include: AK, AR, CO, DC, FL, HI, IA, KS, ME, MA, MI, MN, NC, OH, OK, TN, TX, VT.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

Support/custody caseload (shown in Figure I.35) has increased by 26 percent in the 19 states which report data for the five-year period.

Figure I.35: Support/Custody Filings, 1988-92

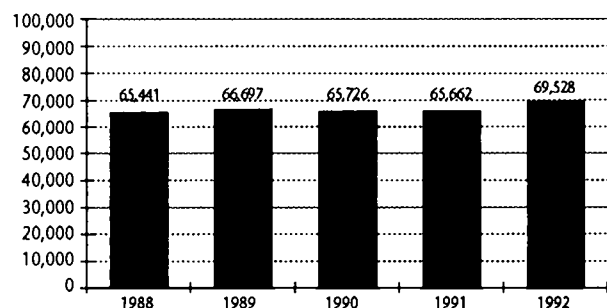


States include: AR, CO, CT, DE, DC, FL, ID, MD, MA, MI, MT, NJ, NY, NC, ND, OH, PA, VA, WI.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

A 6 percent increase occurred in the adoption caseload in the 32 states for which comparable data are available (see Figure I.37).

Figure I.37: Adoption Filings, 1988-92

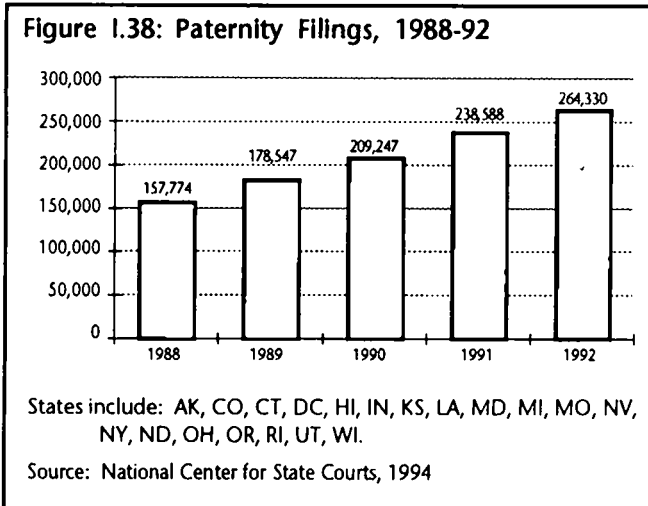


The following states are not included: AL, CA, FL, GA, IL, IA, LA, ME, MS, NC, NM, OK, PR, RI, SC, TX, UT, VT, VA, WY.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

# Domestic violence caseloads have grown by 38 percent since 1989

Paternity caseload in the 19 states reporting comparable data has increased by 68 percent over the five-year period (see Figure I.38).



## What impact does the increasing attention given to domestic violence cases have on the courts?

The recent prominent attention given to the issue of domestic violence has raised questions over the prevalence of these cases in the nation's state courts. By 1988, all 50 states had enacted laws to provide civil and criminal remedies for victims of family violence.<sup>4</sup> Statutory provisions in approximately one-half of the states provide for 24-hour access to the courts for protection orders. Within the past three to four years, 32 states and the District of Columbia had enacted custody statutes that require courts to consider domestic violence when fashioning custody and visitation awards.

Twenty-nine states reported a combined total of 402,435 domestic violence cases in 1992 (see

4 Meredith Hofford and Richard J. Gable, *Significant Interventions: Coordinated Strategies to Deter Family Violence*, Families in Court (National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges 1989); and Barbara J. Hart, *State Codes on Domestic Violence: Analysis, Commentary and Recommendations* (National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges 1992).

**Figure I.39: Domestic Violence Caseload Reported by State Trial Courts, 1992**

State	Total Domestic Violence Filings
Alaska	4,065
Arizona	14,977
Arkansas	2,584
District of Columbia	3,012
Florida	48,700
Idaho	5,488
Indiana	9,211
Iowa	1,678
Kentucky	12,268
Louisiana	695
Maine	8,544
Maryland	6,164
Massachusetts	52,485
Michigan	360
Minnesota	26,653
Missouri	23,195
New Hampshire	4,970
New Jersey	56,658
New York	50,377
North Dakota	479
Ohio	4,962
Oregon	13,163
Rhode Island	3,838
Utah	2,385
Vermont	3,654
Virginia	6,020
Washington	24,957
West Virginia	10,011
Wyoming	882
Total	402,435

The following states are not included: AL, CA, CO, CT, DE, GA, HI, IL, KS, MS, MT, NE, NV, NM, NC, OK, PA, PR, SC, SD, TN, TX, WI.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

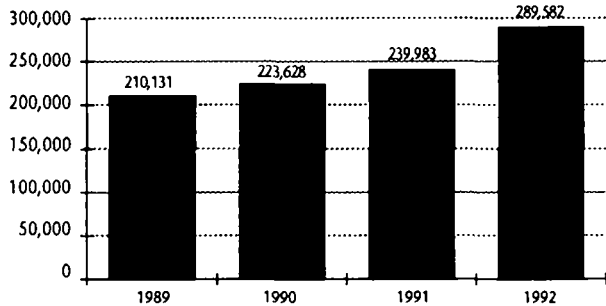
**Figure I.39).** Various referred to as domestic violence, spouse abuse, elder abuse, and requests for protection orders, this caseload has grown by 38 percent over the past four years in the 21 states for which comparable data are available (see **Figure I.40**).<sup>5</sup>

5 Of particular relevance to the courts, the Violence Against Women Act requires that protection orders issued by the courts of one state be accorded "full faith and credit" by other states; provides significant incentives to encourage states to treat domestic violence as a serious crime; and creates training programs for state and federal judges to raise awareness and increase sensitivity about rape, sexual assault, and domestic violence. Joseph R. Biden, *Domestic Violence: A Crime, Not a Quarrel*, Trial (June, 1993)

## *Managing a large number of family related cases creates unique problems for the state courts*

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**Figure I.40: Domestic Violence Case Filings, 1988-92**



States include: AK, AZ, DC, FL, ID, IA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, NH, NJ, NY, ND, OH, RI, VT, VA, WA, WY.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

Despite efforts aimed at clarifying the magnitude of domestic violence caseloads, this case type is currently among the most difficult to count. The primary reason is that the cases cut across traditional court boundaries. Allegations of domestic violence can bring a family concurrently into the criminal court, into the divorce court on a custody issue, and into the juvenile court on a child protection order. An accurate assessment of the scope and the resources required to meet the demands of domestic violence caseloads awaits the future development of a standard, national definition and the modification of automated case

management systems to track the progress of these cases.

Managing large domestic relations caseloads creates unique problems for the state courts. Judges and court managers consistently cite:

- (1) the need for additional resources and facilities;
- (2) the challenges presented by large numbers of pro se litigants; and
- (3) the administrative burden and complexity introduced by frequent changes in the laws governing domestic relations cases.

In response, states have adopted a wide range of case management procedures. One of the most successful procedures has been the use of mediation for contested divorce and divorce-related custody and visitation cases. Referral to mediation tends to reduce the number of contested trials and is also associated with faster case-processing times.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> See, e.g., John Goerd, *Divorce Courts: Case Management, Case Characteristics, and the Pace of Litigation in 16 Urban Jurisdictions* (National Center for State Courts 1992).



## Section 5: Juvenile Caseloads in the State Courts

### *Juvenile filings in 1992 and 1988-92 trends*

Juvenile caseloads reflect the use made of the special procedures (sometimes special jurisdiction trial courts) for hearing cases involving persons defined by state law as juveniles. State trial courts reported a total of 1,730,721 juvenile petitions in 1992.

The juvenile component helps to complete the picture of cases involving the family that are handled in the state courts. In most states, cases involving juveniles are heard in different court levels or divisions from the broad range of domestic relations cases just discussed. An issue of increasing debate is whether families would be better served by consolidating and processing all juvenile and domestic relations cases in a single "family court."

#### **What is the largest category of juvenile cases?**

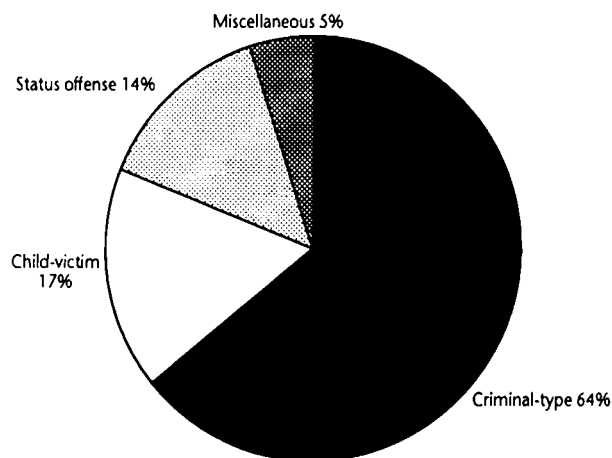
The juvenile caseload consists of three main case types: criminal-type juvenile petition (behavior of a juvenile that would be a crime if committed by an adult), child-victim petition (dependency and neglect), and status offense petition (conduct illegal only for a juvenile, e.g., truancy). Figure I.41 summarizes the composition of juvenile caseloads in the 18 states reporting complete and comparable data for 1992.

**Criminal-type juvenile petition cases form the largest category (64 percent), while child-victim petition and status offense cases account for an additional 17 and 14 percent respectively.**

The miscellaneous juvenile category accounts for 5 percent of the total, and includes such cases as marriages of minors.

7 See Ted Rubin and Victor Flango, Court Coordination of Family Cases (National Center for State Courts 1992).

**Figure I.41: The Composition of Juvenile Filings, 1992**



The figure includes data from the following states: AR, DC, HI, MA, MI, MN, MO, NH, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, PA, TN, UT, WA.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

Figure I.42 displays the actual number of juvenile cases filed in the 18 states that provide comparable data. While juvenile filing levels are related to population, several other factors also bear on observed differences across the states.

- **The number of juvenile filings will vary from state to state based on differences in the age at which an individual is considered either a juvenile or an adult.**

The age at which juvenile jurisdiction transfers to adult court has the greatest impact on the size of a state's caseload and varies from age 13 (for the offenses of murder and kidnapping) in New York to age 19 in Wyoming. (Figure E, Part V, provides the method of counting juvenile cases used by each state and the age at which juvenile jurisdiction transfers to adult court.) Most states transfer jurisdiction at age 18, while several states use a younger age for serious offenses such as murder and kidnapping and a more advanced age for minor offenses.

## Nearly two-thirds of juvenile filings consist of criminal-type petitions

**Figure I.42: The Composition of Juvenile Filings, 1992**

State	Criminal-type	Status Offense	Child-victim	Miscellaneous	Total
Arkansas	10,452	2,707	1,836	NJ	14,995
District of Columbia	5,235	223	1,411	121	6,990
Hawaii	9,954	5,968	1,065	4,632	21,619
Massachusetts	35,562	5,458	2,413	752	44,185
Michigan	53,689	9,376	8,743	NJ	71,808
Minnesota	25,882	11,115	5,314	792	43,103
Missouri	9,350	2,413	5,947	1,865	19,575
New Hampshire	6,038	1,131	919	NJ	8,088
New Mexico	5,753	158	1,231	2,258	9,400
New York	18,283	8,989	30,709	127	58,108
North Carolina	20,401	4,205	6,956	NJ	31,562
North Dakota	6,789	2,248	1,493	NJ	10,530
Ohio	93,104	20,855	27,992	12,151	154,102
Oklahoma	5,979	1,230	1,768	882	9,859
Pennsylvania	49,627	NJ	12,484	NJ	62,111
Tennessee	40,857	14,500	4,053	11,252	70,662
Utah	32,667	6,028	2,340	121	41,156
Washington	26,072	449	4,893	NJ	31,414
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>455,694</b>	<b>97,053</b>	<b>121,567</b>	<b>34,953</b>	<b>709,267</b>

NJ = The court does not have jurisdiction over this case type.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

- The measure of volume is also influenced by another factor: the decision to file the referral of a possible criminal-type juvenile offense as a juvenile petition.

Law enforcement agencies differ in the extent to which they divert juvenile law violators from further penetration into the justice system, thereby influencing the reported number of juvenile cases. Additionally, case-screening practices by juvenile court intake officers vary significantly and create a wide range of referral to petition ratios. Prosecutors have differing authority at the intake juncture, which also will affect these ratios. Finally, the amount of judge time available and the size of

probation officers' caseloads also may influence the number of petitions filed. Rural communities and states tend to file fewer petitions proportionately than more urban jurisdictions; their delinquent offenses may be less serious and more amenable to noncourt or informal handling.

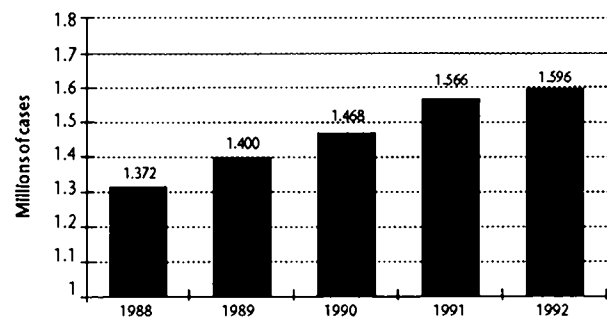
- Procedures for handling dependency, neglect, and abuse cases also vary from state to state.

The frequency with which a child protection agency files juvenile court petitions as opposed to working with a family without court intervention adds to differences among the states in the rate at which juvenile petitions are filed.

### How have juvenile caseloads changed since 1988?

Total juvenile filings have increased by over 16 percent since 1988 in the 46 states that provide comparable case filing data (see Figure I.43).

**Figure I.43: Total Juvenile Filings, 1988-92**



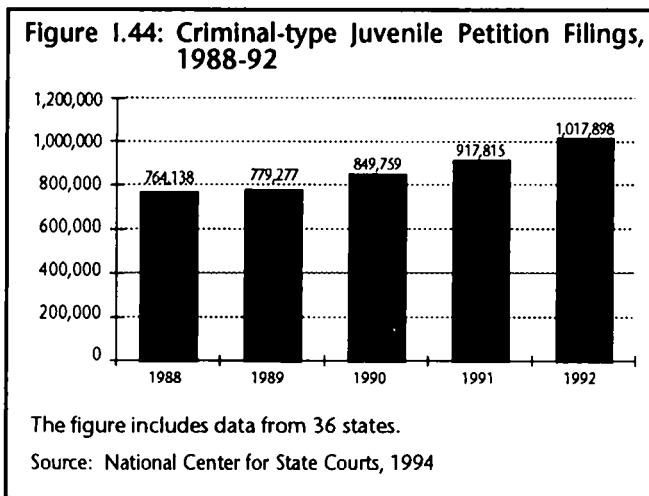
The following states are not included: GA, MS, NV, OK, TN, VT.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

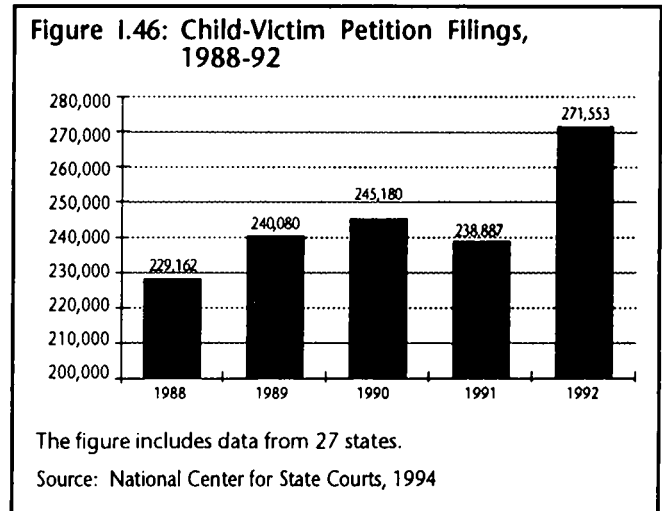
## All types of juvenile cases are on the rise in 1992

A look at the different types of cases that compose the juvenile category shows that all have increased since 1988, but only criminal-type petitions have experienced constant growth throughout the period.

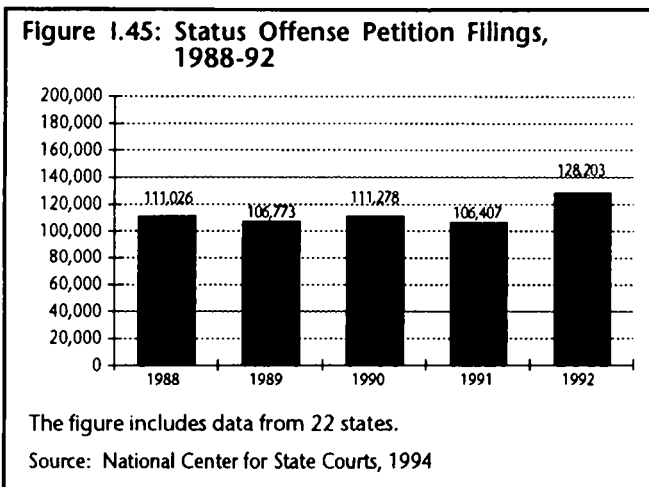
Comparable criminal-type juvenile petition filing data for 1988 to 1992 are available for 36 states and are shown in Figure I.44. This caseload has increased by over 33 percent during the past five years.



Child-victim petition caseload (shown in Figure I.46) grew by 19 percent in the 27 states that report data for the five-year period, with the vast majority of growth occurring between 1991 and 1992.



Status offense caseload (shown in Figure I.45) has increased by 15 percent in the 22 states that report data for the five-year period, but the upward trend is not constant.



# Section 6: Criminal Filings in 1992 and 1985-92 Trends

## Overview of criminal caseloads in the state courts

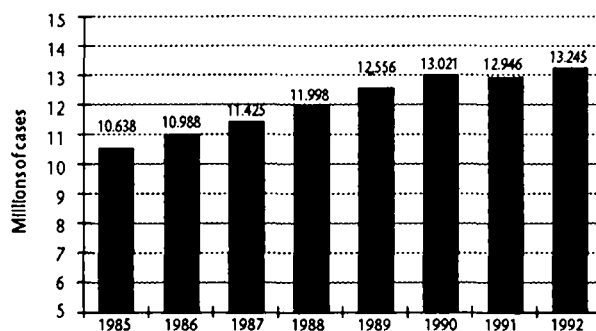
States report the filing of more than 13 million criminal cases in 1992. A closer examination reveals that criminal case filings in general jurisdiction courts (primarily felonies) increased by 4 percent between 1991 and 1992, while criminal filings in limited jurisdiction courts (primarily misdemeanors) increased by 2 percent.

Criminal cases are clearly on the rise. The number of new criminal filings in state courts is up by more than 2.6 million cases in 1992 over what it was in 1985 (Figure I.47). This 25 percent increase in criminal caseload over the past eight years puts significant strain on court personnel and budgets. The data presented in this section seek to clarify the demands currently placed on the system and are essential to assessing the resources required to meet those demands.

### How do criminal caseloads compare across states?

One state has fewer than 20,000 cases whereas another one has nearly two million cases. Reported criminal filings from 47 states are shown in Figure I.48. The figure ranks the states according to the number of total criminal filings and also shows each state's population rank.

**Figure I.47: Total Criminal Filings, 1985-92**



The figure includes data from all states.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

**Figure I.48: Total Criminal Filings in State Courts, 1992**

	State	Filings	Population Ranking
1.	Texas	1,820,957	3
2.	California	1,000,205	1
3.	Pennsylvania	698,733	5
4.	North Carolina	682,762	10
5.	Florida	598,684	4
6.	Ohio	573,573	7
7.	Illinois	558,204	6
8.	Virginia	546,708	12
9.	New York	510,405	2
10.	New Jersey	440,754	9
11.	South Carolina	381,716	25
12.	Alabama	375,145	22
13.	Michigan	367,631	8
14.	Massachusetts	365,865	13
15.	Arizona	320,690	23
16.	Arkansas	290,011	34
17.	Maryland	282,296	19
18.	Louisiana	280,218	21
19.	Washington	248,441	16
20.	Indiana	223,401	14
21.	Kentucky	201,684	24
22.	Minnesota	198,115	20
23.	New Mexico	153,705	38
24.	Missouri	152,055	15
25.	Connecticut	150,396	28
26.	Colorado	143,041	27
27.	West Virginia	141,937	36
28.	Delaware	117,112	47
29.	Wisconsin	109,919	18
30.	Oregon	94,283	30
31.	Nebraska	91,305	37
32.	Puerto Rico	90,894	26
33.	Utah	83,511	35
34.	Oklahoma	77,995	29
35.	Iowa	72,227	31
36.	Idaho	71,928	43
37.	Tennessee	66,604	17
38.	Kansas	58,463	33
39.	Hawaii	48,025	41
40.	Rhode Island	47,209	44
41.	New Hampshire	46,865	42
42.	District of Columbia	44,581	49
43.	Alaska	32,624	50
44.	South Dakota	28,919	46
45.	North Dakota	23,307	48
46.	Mississippi	22,529	32
47.	Vermont	16,590	51

The following states are not included: GA, ME, MT, NV, WY.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

## Population is the best predictor of a state's criminal caseload

- Total criminal filings extend from a low of 16,590 in Vermont to a high of 1,820,957 in Texas. The median number of criminal filings is 152,055, which is represented by Missouri.

The broad difference in the absolute number of criminal cases can be shown in two different ways.

- First, states cluster into categories: 18 states have less than 100,000 criminal cases, and 27 states have between 100,000 and 700,000 criminal cases. Only two states reported more than one million criminal cases in 1992—Texas and California.
- Second, there is a high concentration of criminal filings in a few states: the nine states at the top of Figure 1.47 account for 53 percent of all criminal filings.

### What leads to rising criminal caseloads?

The best predictor of a state's criminal caseload is population. A complete discussion of the reasons is beyond the scope of this *Report*, but it is possible to show the essential importance of population as a key element in determining the size of state criminal caseloads. There is obviously a positive correlation between population and the number of criminal filings (see Figure I.48).<sup>8</sup> The underlying importance of population for the volume of criminal case filings should not, however, obscure other influential factors such as differences in the procedures used by states to decide which cases are to be prosecuted, differences in the underlying crime rate, and even differences in how criminal cases are counted.

<sup>8</sup> There is a positive Pearson Correlation Coefficient of .82 between state population and total criminal filings; the correlation between state population and total civil filings is .88. Both correlations mean that if you know a state's population, it is possible to predict with considerable accuracy how many civil or criminal cases are being filed in its courts.

Figure I.49: Criminal Filings per 100,000 Total Population in General Jurisdiction Courts

	State	Filings	Population Ranking
1.	District of Columbia	7,569	49
2.	Idaho	6,741	43
3.	Massachusetts	6,100	13
4.	Illinois	4,799	6
5.	Connecticut	4,584	28
6.	Minnesota	4,422	20
7.	South Dakota	4,067	46
8.	South Carolina	3,144	25
9.	Missouri	2,928	15
10.	Vermont	2,911	51
11.	Louisiana	2,784	21
12.	Iowa	2,569	31
13.	Oklahoma	2,428	29
14.	Wisconsin	2,195	18
15.	Indiana	1,916	14
16.	North Carolina	1,851	10
17.	Kansas	1,758	33
18.	Virginia	1,718	12
19.	Arkansas	1,623	34
20.	Maryland	1,503	19
21.	Alabama	1,340	22
22.	Tennessee	1,326	17
23.	Florida	1,321	4
24.	New Hampshire	1,196	42
25.	Pennsylvania	1,169	5
26.	Puerto Rico	1,169	26
27.	Delaware	1,100	47
28.	Texas	1,000	3
29.	Hawaii	987	41
30.	Oregon	935	30
31.	Maine	849	40
32.	Arizona	793	23
33.	New Mexico	773	38
34.	Michigan	713	8
35.	New Jersey	691	9
36.	Colorado	679	27
37.	Mississippi	650	32
38.	Rhode Island	647	44
39.	Ohio	593	7
40.	Washington	584	16
41.	California	548	1
42.	Montana	492	45
43.	Alaska	471	50
44.	Kentucky	463	24
45.	Nebraska	452	37
46.	West Virginia	449	36
47.	New York	430	2
48.	North Dakota	328	48
49.	Wyoming	315	52
50.	Utah	267	35

The following states are not included: GA, NV.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

## ***Three out of four states have experienced an increase in total criminal filings between 1990 and 1992***

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To clarify similarities and differences between states in criminal filing rates, **Figure I.49** displays criminal filings in courts of general jurisdiction per 100,000 total population as well as each state's population rank. Focusing on general jurisdiction courts maximizes comparability between the states because the composition of cases handled in these courts (primarily felonies and serious misdemeanors) is fairly consistent across the states. There is much more variability in the types of criminal cases processed and the manner in which they are counted in courts of limited jurisdiction (see Table 10, Part III, for more detail).

- Criminal filing rates tend to be dispersed around the median, which is represented by Pennsylvania and Puerto Rico (1,169).
- Much of the variation disappears, however, when one excludes states that have consolidated the jurisdiction over all criminal cases into a single court level. The top seven states on Figure I.49 (District of Columbia, Idaho, Massachusetts, Illinois, Connecticut, Minnesota, and South Dakota) handle all criminal cases in the general jurisdiction court. Therefore, the filing totals in these seven states include cases that would be handled in limited jurisdiction courts in other states.

Controlling for population reduces the variation between states and provides a way to control for the effects of population size on criminal filing totals.

- Texas and Vermont are at the opposite ends of the spectrum in terms of absolute filings, with Texas reporting nearly 11 times as many filings in their general jurisdiction court as Vermont reports. When population is taken into account, however, the variation falls to less than a factor of three and shows that Vermont actually has a higher rate of criminal filings than Texas.

Vermont has 2,911 criminal filings for every 100,000 people, while Texas has 1,000 filings for every 100,000 people.

- It is perhaps surprising that most of the nation's largest cities that have reputations for high levels of criminal activity (e.g., Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, Detroit, Houston, Newark) are in states that are below the median in terms of criminal filings per 100,000 population.

### **How has volume changed since 1990?**

The nation's courts have experienced a 2 percent increase in total criminal filings between 1990 and 1992. The change in criminal filings in general jurisdiction court systems from 1990 to 1992 is summarized in **Figure I.50**. This "growth index" shows the percentage change in criminal filings that has occurred since 1990. For example, the value of 126 in Alabama indicates that criminal filings in 1992 are 26 percent higher than they were in 1990.

**The overall trend in criminal filings continues upward, but there is significant variation in growth rates among the states.**

- Since 1990, total criminal filings have increased in 35 states, declined in 10 states, and remained unchanged in one state.
- Increases fall into three categories: 14 states had yearly growth rates of 5 percent or less (index value less than 110); 15 states experienced growth of 5 to 10 percent per year (index value between 110 and 120); and in 6 states, the three-year index is 120 or greater, which indicates an average annual increase in criminal filings of 10 percent or more.

## The overwhelming majority of states are experiencing difficulty keeping up with criminal caseloads

Figure I.50: Growth in Total Criminal Filings in General Jurisdiction Courts, 1990-92

State	Growth Index 1990-92
Alabama	126
Alaska	102
Arizona	105
Arkansas	120
California	109
Colorado	112
Connecticut	85
Delaware	111
District of Columbia	111
Florida	92
Hawaii	145
Idaho	107
Illinois	125
Indiana	96
Iowa	119
Kansas	110
Kentucky	115
Louisiana	108
Maine	95
Maryland	123
Massachusetts	93
Michigan	112
Minnesota	111
Missouri	109
Montana	107
Nebraska	111
New Hampshire	104
New Jersey	91
New York	98
North Carolina	116
North Dakota	117
Ohio	117
Oklahoma	104
Oregon	98
Pennsylvania	101
Puerto Rico	116
South Carolina	112
South Dakota	80
Tennessee	103
Texas	105
Utah	105
Virginia	113
Washington	107
West Virginia	119
Wisconsin	123
Wyoming	98

The following states are not included: GA, MS, NV, NM, RI, VT.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

- The declines in criminal filings at the state level are modest. Only the three-year declines in Connecticut and South Dakota exceed 5 percent per year.

### Are courts keeping up with the flow of new criminal cases?

The overwhelming majority of states are not keeping up because the large and expanding criminal caseloads tax court systems. Criminal cases consume a disproportionately large amount of court resources. Constitutional requirements covering the right to counsel in felony and misdemeanor cases ensure that attorneys, judges, and other court personnel will be involved at all critical stages in the processing of criminal cases. Additionally, criminal cases must often be disposed of under tighter time standards than other types of cases. Finally, courts are often required under constitution, statutes, and court rule to give priority to criminal cases, regardless of whether the case is viewed as minor or severe. Because courts must deal with criminal cases expeditiously, the processing of other types of cases may be slowed. Hence, the success of states in disposing of criminal cases is an important indicator of the overall sufficiency of court resources and an important factor influencing not only the pace of criminal litigation but the pace of civil litigation as well.

Criminal-case clearance rates for 1992 are shown in Figure I.51 for the general jurisdiction courts of 47 states.<sup>9</sup>

- Only one in four general jurisdiction court systems reported criminal clearance rates greater than 100 percent.

<sup>9</sup> Complete information relevant to the calculation of criminal-case clearance rates in general and limited jurisdiction courts is displayed in Table 10 (Part III, p.117).

## Only about one state in four managed to keep pace with the flow of new cases

**Figure I.51: Trial Court Clearance Rates for Criminal Cases, 1990-92**

State	General Jurisdiction Courts			Three-year Clearance Rate
	1990	1991	1992	
Montana	125.5	122.0	86.7	111.1
West Virginia	100.9	105.4	108.5	105.2
Illinois	114.9	109.8	91.7	104.6
Kansas	104.6	104.8	103.2	104.2
New Hampshire	93.5	96.8	116.6	102.5
New York	97.9	104.8	102.5	101.7
Pennsylvania	100.3	101.0	102.0	101.1
New Jersey	89.8	105.0	108.9	100.9
Wyoming	101.9	114.2	86.4	100.7
Alaska	100.6	98.9	98.6	99.4
Colorado	102.5	99.5	96.1	99.2
Michigan	99.3	96.4	100.5	98.7
Ohio	98.4	97.0	99.3	98.2
Wisconsin	94.6	100.4	97.9	97.7
Virginia	98.8	96.2	97.9	97.6
Delaware	99.2	95.8	97.8	97.6
Idaho	98.6	98.0	94.9	97.1
Iowa	98.4	96.9	94.9	96.7
Texas	95.7	99.3	95.0	96.6
Arkansas	91.5	99.3	96.5	95.9
Maine	92.5	93.3	101.1	95.6
Oregon	96.2	95.5	93.7	95.1
Puerto Rico	94.4	93.9	95.3	94.5
California	92.8	94.8	94.5	94.1
North Carolina	91.8	95.2	94.1	93.8
Alabama	97.1	93.7	90.6	93.6
Minnesota	92.1	88.3	99.4	93.5
North Dakota	95.3	94.4	89.5	92.9
Maryland	93.1	92.3	92.4	92.6
South Carolina	90.3	88.6	96.7	91.9
Arizona	92.4	93.5	89.5	91.8
Indiana	86.7	92.3	95.1	91.3
Washington	91.2	91.7	89.1	90.7
Nebraska	97.1	81.2	94.7	90.5
Missouri	86.7	91.3	92.6	90.3
Tennessee	81.9	94.9	93.9	90.3
Oklahoma	89.5	89.3	88.8	89.2
Florida	86.8	90.2	88.7	88.5
Kentucky	96.2	87.5	80.8	87.9
Hawaii	82.7	67.7	76.9	75.5
South Dakota		82.1	69.1	
Connecticut	118.7		110.6	
Vermont		95.2	110.3	
Rhode Island		101.1	109.8	
District of Columbia	99.4		92.2	
Utah		103.8	91.6	
Massachusetts	81.5		71.1	

The following states are not included: GA, LA, MS, NV, NM.  
Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

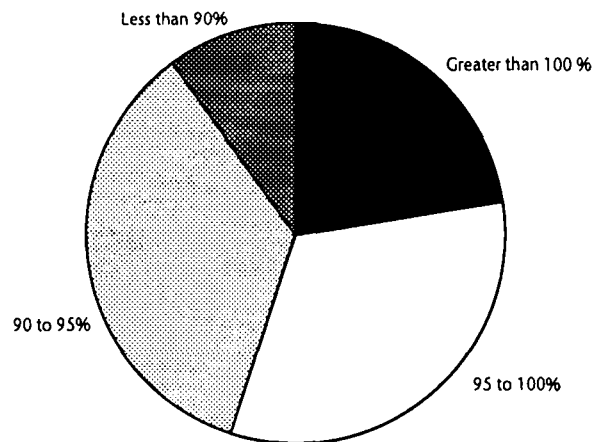
- Eleven states had clearance rates of 90 percent or less, with South Dakota recording the lowest at 69 percent.

Thus, during 1992, only about one state in four managed to keep pace with the flow of new case filings; the remainder added to the inventory of cases pending before their general jurisdiction trial courts.

- The news is mixed on courts' recent success in improving their clearance rates. Relative to 1991, 23 states had lower clearance rates in 1992 and 18 states had higher clearance rates.

Only nine states had three-year clearance rates in excess of 100 percent, while 18 states cleared less than 95 percent of their criminal caseload over the past three years (see Figure I.52). The news is not altogether bad, however, because the clearance rates in 1992 exceed the three-year rate for 23 of the 40 states for which a three-year rate could be

**Figure I.52: Three-year Clearance Rates for Criminal Cases in General Jurisdiction Courts, 1992**



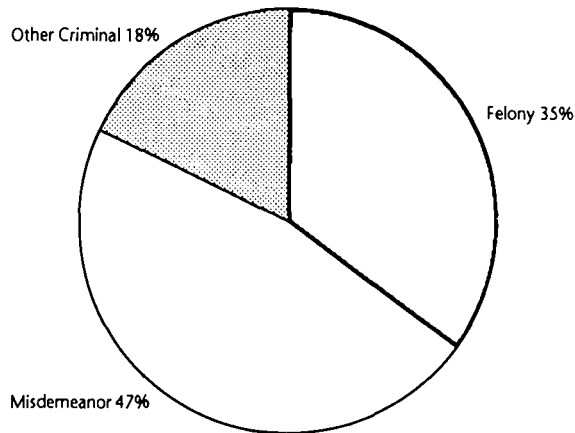
The figure includes data from 40 states.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994



## The bulk of criminal caseloads in general jurisdiction courts are felonies

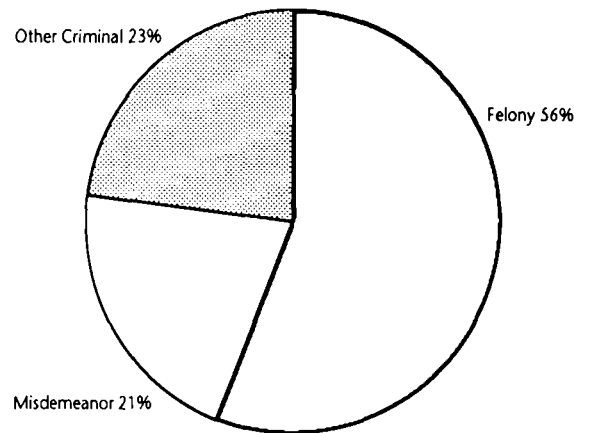
**Figure I.53: The Composition of Criminal Caseload Filings in General Jurisdiction Courts, 1992**



The figure includes data from 15 states.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

**Figure I.54: The Composition of Criminal Caseload Filings in Nonconsolidated Courts, 1992**



The figure includes data from 11 states that have both general and limited jurisdiction courts.

The following states that have only a general jurisdiction court are not included: DC, ID, MA, SD.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

calculated. This implies that clearance rates in 1992 tended to be above the average clearance rates based on the period 1990 to 1992.<sup>10</sup>

### Do felonies comprise the bulk of criminal caseloads?

Felonies do comprise the bulk of caseloads in general jurisdiction courts but not in limited jurisdiction courts. The types of cases brought to criminal courts are primarily composed of (1) felonies and (2) misdemeanors.<sup>11</sup> Figure I.53 and

<sup>10</sup> Criminal clearance rates will also be affected by how a particular court handles bench warrants for failure to appear (FTA). A recent study showed that an average of 20 percent of all felony cases had at least one FTA. John Goerdts et al., *Examining Court Delay* 70 (National Center for State Courts, 1989). Courts differ in how they handle FTAs. Some enter an administrative dismissal after 60 to 180 days, while others keep them on the list of pending cases.

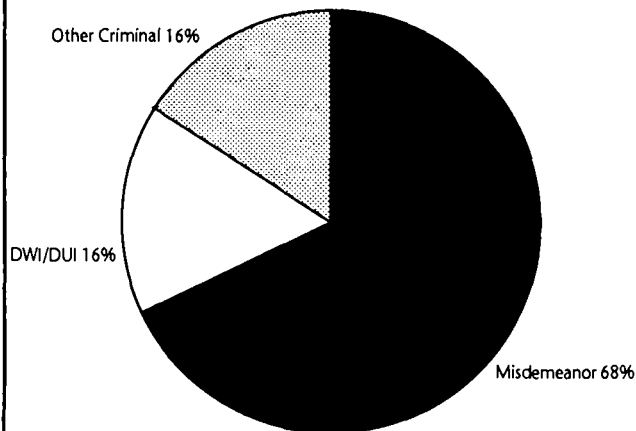
<sup>11</sup> The distinction between felonies and misdemeanors is not the same in all states, but most states define felonies as offenses punishable by one year or more in state prison. Misdemeanors are less serious criminal offenses that are usually punishable by a fine, a short period of incarceration, or both.

Figure I.54 show the distribution of criminal case filings in general jurisdiction and nonconsolidated courts in 1992. When the general jurisdiction courts are grouped regardless of court structure (Figure I.53), felony filings represent 35 percent of the total, while misdemeanors constitute an additional 47 percent. The "other criminal" category, 18 percent of the total, is composed of DWI/DUI, criminal appeals from lower trial courts, and miscellaneous criminal cases (e.g., extradition).

In contrast, a very different picture emerges when one limits the focus solely to general jurisdiction courts in states with a two-tier court structure (Figure I.54). This selection excludes the seven states discussed earlier that have consolidated their general and limited jurisdiction courts into a single court with jurisdiction over all criminal cases and procedures. Because general jurisdiction courts hear primarily felonies and serious misdemeanors, it is understandable that Figure I.54

## Most misdemeanors and DWI/DUI cases are handled in courts of limited jurisdiction

**Figure I.55: The Composition of Criminal Caseload Filings in Limited Jurisdiction Courts, 1992**



The figure includes data from 20 courts in 12 states.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

shows that felonies make up most of the criminal filings (56 percent).

### What is the composition of criminal cases in limited jurisdiction courts?

Criminal filings in limited jurisdiction courts fall into three main categories (see Figure I.55). Misdemeanor filings represent 68 percent of the caseload, DWI/DUI cases 16 percent, and other criminal cases 16 percent of the total. The "other criminal" category is composed of a small number of felony filings (from those limited jurisdiction courts that have felony jurisdiction) and miscellaneous criminal cases.

### How do the number of misdemeanor and DWI/DUI filings vary between limited jurisdiction courts?

As seen in Figure I.55, criminal caseloads in limited jurisdiction courts are composed almost

**Figure I.56: Misdemeanor and DWI/DUI Filings per 100,000 Population, 1992**

State	Misdemeanor	DWI/DUI	Total Criminal
Arizona	6,109	1,467	7,576
Colorado	1,861	1,112	3,443
District of Columbia	3,470	626	7,569
Florida	2,675	443	3,118
Hawaii	2,571	555	3,154
Idaho	4,638	1,420	6,741
Louisiana	3,418	334	3,752
Maryland	3,498	750	4,248
Massachusetts	5,478	421	6,100
New Hampshire	2,359	663	3,023
Ohio	3,355	907	4,613
Puerto Rico	1,113	299	1,412
South Dakota	2,264	1,178	4,067
Texas	8,292	578	9,314
Washington	3,396	858	4,254
Wyoming	2,133	546	2,683

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

exclusively of misdemeanor and DWI/DUI cases. Even though the filing data have been adjusted for population, misdemeanor filings range from a low of 1,113 per 100,000 population in Puerto Rico to 8,292 per 100,000 population in Texas (see Figure I.56). This distribution is not unexpected for two reasons.

- Limited jurisdiction courts have considerable flexibility in how they count criminal cases and at what point the count is taken. States with high misdemeanor filing rates, such as Texas, count each charge filed against each defendant as a separate case and therefore increase their criminal filing totals relative to other states.
- The misdemeanor category contains a mixture of case types with quite different levels of severity. The more serious misdemeanors are likely to be enforced uniformly across the states, but the less serious misdemeanors may not receive the same attention in every state. Local police, prosecution, and adjudication practices are likely to

## *Focusing specifically on DWI/DUI, cases show a basic consistency in filing rates across states*

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vary more for misdemeanors than for any other criminal category.

In contrast, DWI/DUI filings per 100,000 total population show a good deal of consistency. This consistency may reflect the uniform importance given to the arrest, prosecution, and adjudication of DWI/DUI offenders. While several types of criminal cases are the focus of nationwide control

policies (e.g., drug cases), it is difficult to judge the adoption of these policies across the states when the cases of interest are grouped into large categories such as misdemeanor or felony. But focusing on the specific category of DWI/DUI, one can see a basic consistency across states. This suggests that national attention to the problem of drunken driving has led to uniform enforcement of these laws throughout the country.

## Section 7: Focus on Felonies

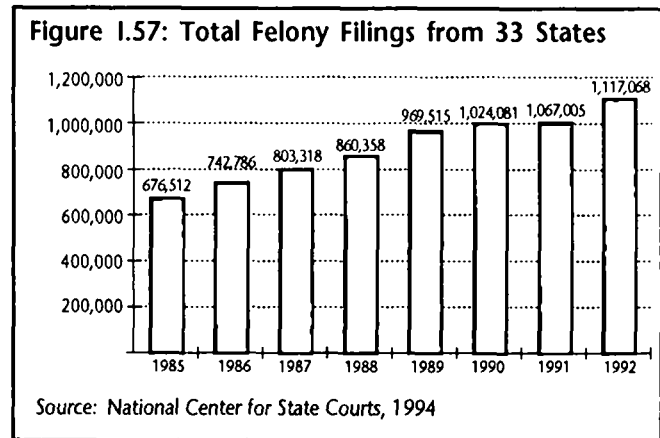
### *Felony caseloads are rising rapidly in courts of general jurisdiction*

Felonies are serious criminal offenses involving both property crimes and crimes of violence. Violent crimes refer to crimes such as homicide, rape, and robbery that may result in injury to a person. Property crimes involve obtaining goods and services through illegal means but do not involve direct threat or harm to an individual (e.g., larceny and auto theft). The line dividing felonies from other criminal offenses varies among states, but felony case filings always include the most serious offenses and exclude the minor offenses. Typically, a felony is an offense for which the minimum prison sentence is one year or more. Changes in felony filing rates are closely watched because serious crime is never far from being the public's number one concern. In addition, judges, court managers, and others working within the criminal justice system know that the timely processing of felony caseloads is important to the overall pace of both criminal and civil litigation.

Comparable felony-filing data covering the period 1985 to 1992 are available for general jurisdiction trial court systems in 33 states. The trend obtained by combining the data from these states is shown in Figure I.57.

- The basic trend over the second half of the 1980s and into the 1990s is clear: felony filings are increasing substantially.
- Total felony filings have increased by over 65 percent since 1985. In aggregate, the nation has faced annual increases in felony filings of about 9 percent consistently throughout this eight-year period.

The number of felony cases filed annually in each court system is detailed in Figure I.58. Examining the change in felony filings that has occurred in each state since 1985 helps clarify the broader aggregate trend. Several types of trends can be identified for felony cases.



- Nearly continuous and often substantial increases were recorded in most jurisdictions. California, Indiana, and North Carolina provide particularly stark examples. The number of felony filings entering the courts in these states each year has doubled since 1985.
- Large increases in the mid-1980s have tapered off to relatively slight increases since 1990 in some states. The growth in felony-filing rates has slowed since 1990 in Alaska, Arizona, Illinois, Texas, and Washington.
- Filing levels may have peaked in some states in 1989 or 1990, since the number of cases has declined subsequently. This is a plausible scenario for Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Wyoming.

Given that the aggregate number of felony filings continues to grow, while simultaneously several different trends have emerged within the states—especially since 1990—it is worth narrowing the focus of the analysis to the last three years. The column labeled “1990-92 Index” at the far right

## Felony filings have increased by over 65 percent since 1985

Figure 1.58: Trends in Felony Filings

State	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1990-92 Index
Alabama	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	31,807	35,066	39,814	125
Alaska	1,782	2,658	2,661	2,526	2,757	2,718	2,442	2,763	102
Arizona	17,295	20,653	21,444	22,176	23,981	26,057	26,140	27,677	106
Arkansas	21,425	21,944	24,805	22,110	24,842	25,755	27,742	31,776	123
California	82,372	94,779	104,906	115,595	132,486	150,975	161,871	164,583	109
Colorado	15,804	16,087	16,223	17,391	19,284	20,212	20,655	22,565	112
Connecticut	4,179	4,512	4,985	6,204	6,194	5,268	4,684	4,102	78
District of Columbia	12,399	16,207	19,986	21,472	21,332	20,138	21,774	17,521	87
Hawaii	2,878	2,842	2,766	2,909	3,115	3,025	3,174	4,675	155
Idaho	4,006	NA	9,875	4,747	5,260	5,725	6,535	7,107	124
Illinois	45,925	47,075	46,342	58,289	69,114	74,541	77,849	78,778	106
Indiana	14,894	18,436	19,804	21,313	26,358	27,681	29,098	28,958	105
Iowa	7,970	7,692	8,230	8,666	10,481	10,884	12,867	14,004	129
Kansas	10,470	11,106	11,500	12,188	12,631	12,197	11,436	13,412	110
Louisiana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	23,621	29,138	27,251	115
Maine	3,656	3,583	3,612	3,657	4,142	4,745	4,571	4,342	92
Massachusetts	NA	NA	6,790	6,075	5,583	6,271	5,796	5,782	92
Minnesota	12,208	12,366	13,008	13,637	13,607	14,747	16,277	16,273	110
Missouri	30,494	32,796	34,971	36,965	39,952	40,968	44,208	47,431	116
New Hampshire	4,198	4,857	5,527	6,079	6,599	6,678	7,345	7,604	114
New Jersey	37,784	38,443	41,198	43,837	53,215	57,223	54,703	51,054	89
New York	51,034	56,356	62,940	67,177	79,025	79,322	78,354	76,814	97
North Carolina	40,915	44,980	51,210	55,284	62,752	69,810	73,908	85,748	123
North Dakota	1,312	1,390	1,487	1,497	1,444	1,637	1,837	1,951	119
Ohio	36,249	38,374	39,376	43,613	51,959	55,949	61,836	65,361	117
Oklahoma	24,673	25,782	26,438	25,997	26,482	27,541	28,325	29,868	108
Oregon	20,682	22,533	24,591	26,859	27,248	28,523	26,050	27,159	95
Puerto Rico	15,516	20,073	20,314	21,532	21,548	23,328	28,340	28,591	123
Rhode Island	4,780	4,360	4,278	6,685	6,740	6,011	5,665	5,764	96
South Dakota	3,088	3,182	3,275	3,257	3,388	4,072	3,675	4,441	109
Texas	93,968	111,331	119,395	122,903	139,611	147,230	144,408	153,853	104
Vermont	1,903	2,178	2,196	2,227	2,131	2,255	2,325	2,816	125
Virginia	43,096	45,646	49,481	53,445	63,304	64,053	70,145	73,889	115
Washington	17,885	19,693	21,071	25,476	28,121	26,914	27,503	28,529	106
West Virginia	4,707	4,546	4,885	4,291	4,121	4,071	4,217	4,446	109
Wisconsin	14,549	14,470	13,802	14,484	17,625	18,738	19,523	20,399	109
Wyoming	1,468	1,466	1,353	1,480	1,591	1,503	1,365	1,282	85
Total						1,100,386	1,145,781	1,188,569	108

The following states are not included: DE, FL, GA, KY, MD, MI, MS, MT, NE, NV, NM, PA, SC, TN, UT.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

of Figure 1.58 shows the percentage change in felony filings that occurred between 1990 and 1992. For example, the index value of 112 for Colorado indicates a 12 percent increase in felony filings between 1990 and 1992, while the index value of 78 in Connecticut shows a drop in felony filings of 22 percent since 1990.

- Caseloads grew in 28 of the 37 jurisdictions examined between 1990 and 1992, with increases ranging from a modest 2 percent in Alaska to a 55 percent increase in Hawaii. Increases in felony filings in excess of 20 percent are seen in Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, and Vermont.

## On average, state courts process about 600 felony cases for every 100,000 individuals in the state

- In just about two-thirds of the states on Figure I.58, 1992 proved to be the historical high-water mark in felony filings.
- There is some evidence that the growth in felony filings may be slowing. There are nine states that experienced declining felony filings since 1990 (up from only four states showing declines during the period 1988-1990) and an additional three states (Indiana, Louisiana, and Minnesota) that posted a drop in felony filings between 1991 and 1992. However, only four states (Connecticut, District of Columbia, New Jersey, and Wyoming) experienced drops of 10 percent or more since 1990.

As discussed earlier, population size is closely linked to total criminal filings and this suggests that as population rises so will the amount of criminal activity. Figure I.59 explores the relationship between changing population and felony filings by displaying the number of felony filings for every 100,000 individuals in the state between 1990 and 1992. The use of population-based rates implicitly imposes a burden for a trend analysis in which caseload must rise more rapidly than the state population to show an increase. Population-adjusted rates facilitate comparisons by identifying the relative size of the felony caseload confronting each state.

- In 1992, population-adjusted felony filing rates range from a low of 96 per 100,000 population in Massachusetts to a high of 2,975 per 100,000 in the District of Columbia. The median is represented by the 593 felony filings per 100,000 population in Ohio.
- More than two-thirds of the states have population-adjusted felony filing rates within 300 filings per 100,000 of the median filing level (293 to 893) in 1992.

Figure I.59: Felony Filings per 100,000 Population

State	1990	1991	1992	1990-92 Index
Alabama	787	858	963	122
Alaska	494	428	471	95
Arizona	711	697	722	102
Arkansas	1,096	1,170	1,325	121
California	507	533	533	105
Colorado	614	612	650	106
Connecticut	160	142	125	78
District of Columbia	3,318	3,641	2,975	90
Hawaii	273	280	403	148
Idaho	569	629	666	117
Illinois	652	674	677	104
Indiana	499	519	511	102
Iowa	392	460	498	127
Kansas	492	458	532	108
Louisiana	560	685	636	114
Maine	386	370	352	91
Maryland	1,166	1,295	1,382	119
Massachusetts	104	97	96	92
Minnesota	337	367	363	108
Missouri	801	857	913	114
New Hampshire	602	665	684	114
New Jersey	740	705	655	89
New York	441	434	424	96
North Carolina	1,053	1,097	1,253	119
North Dakota	256	289	307	120
Ohio	516	565	593	115
Oklahoma	876	892	930	106
Oregon	1,004	892	912	91
Pennsylvania	1,176	1,146	1,169	99
Puerto Rico	709	805	812	115
Rhode Island	599	564	574	96
South Dakota	585	523	625	107
Tennessee	1,140	1,122	1,170	103
Texas	867	832	871	101
Utah	267	244	267	100
Vermont	391	409	493	126
Virginia	1,035	1,116	1,159	112
Washington	553	548	555	100
West Virginia	227	234	245	108
Wisconsin	383	394	407	106
Wyoming	331	297	275	83

The following states are not included: DE, FL, GA, KY, MI, MS, MT, NE, NV, NM, SC.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

Adjusting for population tends to dampen the rate of growth in felony filings because population is also on the rise in most states. The differences in growth rates for raw or unadjusted filings relative

## ***Felony filings increased in three out of four states between 1990 and 1992***

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to population-adjusted filings can be seen by comparing the "1990-92 Index" values for each state on Figure I.58 and Figure I.59. The differences are seldom dramatic, but controlling for population is important for states experiencing rapid population growth. Alaska, for example, is seeing its population rise fast enough that the 2 percent rise in raw filings observed between 1990 and 1992 actually represents a 5 percent decline in population-adjusted felony filings. Other examples include Colorado, where the 12 percent increase in raw felony filings drops by half to 6 percent after controlling for population, and Washington,

where population-adjusted felony filing levels have remained virtually unchanged since 1990 despite a 6 percent increase in raw filings.

In sum, felony caseloads are clearly increasing rapidly in some states. Most states, regardless of geographic region, demonstrate an unambiguous pattern of rising felony case filings. Hence, the expectation is that there will be still more felony cases in the future. This projection has substantial implications for the planning and allocation of court resources.

## Section 8: A Summing-up Exercise

### *The number of cases and cases filed per judge in state and federal courts*

To this point, the *Report* has focused exclusively on the work of the state courts. States have been compared in terms of total volume of cases, with adjustments for differences in population. Additionally, the composition of state court caseloads has been examined. Finally, state court caseloads have been compared over time. Another way to gain perspective on the demand for services in the state courts is to compare the volume and trends of cases entering state as distinct from federal trial courts. The challenge is to establish meaningful points of comparison between the caseloads of the state and federal courts.<sup>12</sup>

A crude comparison can be made based on the total caseloads of the state and federal trial courts, as shown in **Figure I.60**. The cases included in this comparison come from courts of general and limited jurisdiction on the state side and from U.S. district courts, U.S. magistrates, and U.S. bankruptcy courts on the federal side. Briefly stated, the state courts, in aggregate, handle more than 53 times as many cases with fewer than 20 times as many judges as the federal courts. But that is too simplistic a comparison. After all, the state court caseloads are dominated by traffic and local ordinance violation cases that have no counterpart in the federal system and require little, if any judicial attention.

Therefore, to maximize the comparability of the state and federal court systems, the comparison will focus on civil and criminal caseloads in the primary trial courts of each system: the U.S. district courts and the state trial courts of general jurisdiction. This restriction increases confidence that analogous caseloads are being compared. On

<sup>12</sup> See Brian J. Ostrom and Geoff Gallas, *Case Space: Do Workload Considerations Support a Shift from Federal to State Court Systems?*, 14 *State Court Journal* No. 3 (Summer 1990).

**Figure I.60: Aggregate Caseloads: Federal and State Courts, 1992**

All U.S. district courts	Filings	Judges	Filings per judge
Criminal	48,366	649 *	75
Civil	230,509	649 *	355
Bankruptcy courts	977,478	294	3,325
U.S. magistrates	498,977	475	1,050
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,755,330</b>	<b>1,418</b>	<b>1,238</b>
<b>Total state courts</b>			
Criminal	13,245,543	27,874	475
Civil	19,707,374	27,874	707
Juvenile	1,730,721	27,874	62
Traffic	59,102,861	27,874	2,120
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>93,786,499</b>	<b>27,874</b>	<b>3,365</b>

\*U.S. district court judges hear both civil and criminal cases. The 649 figure counts each judge once.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

the criminal side, the U.S. district courts and the state trial courts of general jurisdiction handle primarily felonies, with some serious misdemeanor cases. On the civil side, the state trial courts of general jurisdiction somewhat approximate the dollar limits and case types faced by the U.S. district courts. The similarity is greatest for tort, contract, and real property rights cases; there are, however, some differences in the remainder of the caseload.<sup>13</sup> Nonetheless, civil and criminal filings in the state trial courts of general jurisdiction and the U.S. district courts provide a reasonable basis for comparison (see **Figure I.61**).

<sup>13</sup> For example, domestic relations cases comprise a sizable portion of general jurisdiction court civil caseloads, but are nonexistent in the U.S. district courts. U.S. district courts also have jurisdiction over some civil cases that require a minimum of judicial attention. These include, for example, cases involving defaulted student loans, the overpayment of veterans benefits, and social security claims, as well as Section 1983 cases filed by state prisoners.



## Civil and criminal case filings are rising much more rapidly in state courts than in federal courts

**Figure I.61: Civil and Criminal Filings in U.S. District Courts and State Trial Courts, 1992**

All U.S. district courts	Filings	Judges	Filings per judge
Criminal	48,366	649	75
Civil	230,509	649	355
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>278,875</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>430</b>
<b>All general jurisdiction state courts</b>			
Criminal	4,007,838	9,602	417
Civil	9,550,501	9,602	995
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,558,339</b>	<b>9,602</b>	<b>1,412</b>

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

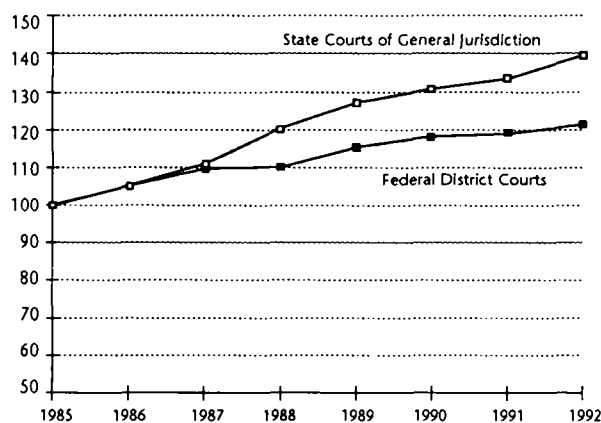
Figure I.62 compares the growth in total criminal filings in state courts of general jurisdiction and U.S. district courts and Figure I.63 makes a similar comparison for civil cases. Because state court caseload volume is of a different order of magnitude than the federal courts—civil and criminal filings in the state courts are 49 times higher than in the U.S. district courts—the comparison is made through the use of index numbers.

Taking 1985 as the base year (index equal to 100), Figures I.62 and I.63 show the percentage growth in civil and criminal cases entering the main trial courts at both the state and federal level.

- Criminal filings are up substantially in both court systems, although the growth rate in the state courts (39 percent) is close to double that in the federal courts (22 percent).
- Civil filings in state courts of general jurisdiction have grown by 21 percent since 1985 and have shown consistent growth throughout the period, while civil filings in the U.S. district courts have declined by 16 percent.

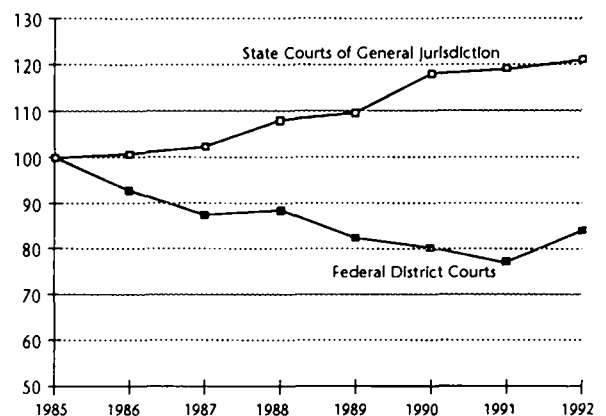
Filings per judge provides a direct means to compare the relative caseloads of the state and federal courts. The state general jurisdiction judiciary handles over 83 times as many criminal cases and 41 times as many civil cases with only 15 times as many judges as the federal judiciary (see Figure I.61).

**Figure I.62: Criminal Filing Trends in State and Federal Courts, 1985-92 Index Values**



Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

**Figure I.63: Civil Filing Trends in State and Federal Courts, 1985-92 Index Values**



Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

***On average, a judge in a state court of general jurisdiction handles more than three times as many civil and criminal case filings as a U.S. district court judge***

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- **On average, a judge in a state court of general jurisdiction processes more than three times as many civil and criminal case filings as a U.S. district court judge.**

It is necessary to know the relationship between caseload and workload before these relative caseloads can be fully interpreted. If, for example, federal court cases are typically more complex than state court cases, then the difference in caseload per judge compensates for the fact that federal cases require more judge time than state court

cases. At this point, the relative complexity of federal and state court cases is primarily a matter of assumption due to the lack of systematic data on the subject. However, evidence on case complexity has important and direct implications for the proper distribution of jurisdiction between state and federal courts (e.g., recent debate about transferring federal drug and diversity-of-citizenship cases to the state courts). It seems reasonable to assemble and examine the evidence before tampering with so fundamental an institution as the state courts.

# *PART II .*

*Appellate Court Caseloads in 1992 and 1985-92 Trends*

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# State Appellate Caseloads in 1992

*An awareness of appellate court caseload statistics is important because the quality of appellate review is influenced by the volume of cases filed each year. In those courts where the number of cases is rising and there is not a commensurate increase in the size of the bench or court staff, more cases means less time for appellate judges to review the record, to read the briefs, to hear oral arguments, to discuss the case, and to prepare orders or opinions resolving the case.<sup>1</sup>*

As appellate caseload volume grows, many argue that the only way for the court to maintain both quality and productivity is to increase the number of judges. If judges are not added, then either quality is diminished or overall court productivity drops and a backlog begins. Thus, there are elements of appellate court caseloads that have a direct bearing on the institutional responsibilities of appellate courts to correct lower court errors, to ensure uniformity in the application of laws, to protect the constitutional rights of litigants, and to clarify the meaning of laws.

Criminal appeals are usually brought by a defendant convicted at trial. These individuals most often allege trial court error, prosecutorial misconduct, or incorrect sentencing (e.g., only one prior conviction, not two). However, about one-quarter to one-third of criminal appeals stem from nontrial proceedings (e.g., pleas and probation revocation hearings). In appeals following jury trials, the most frequent challenges involve rulings on the introduction and sufficiency of evidence. Only a small number of appeals raise constitutional issues (e.g., confession was coerced).

Civil appeals also allege trial court error such as improper jury instructions, allowing inadmissible evidence to be introduced, or misinterpretation, and hence misapplication, of the law. These

appeals generally arise from dispositions on motions (e.g., summary judgment) and, in a smaller number of cases, from jury and bench trials.

This section of the *Report* provides a unique comparative perspective on the volume, trends, and composition of appeals entering the appellate courts in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. A court can use this information to see which other courts face similar caseload pressures and to examine those courts' responses to the pressures. The information is organized in four sections:

- **Section 1: Volume of Appellate Court Caseload** looks at the number of mandatory and discretionary appeals entering state appellate courts. How many appeals are filed? Which states have the most appeals? After adjusting for population, are appellate court caseloads similar or different across the country? What is the appellate court caseload composition? *Pages 50-52.*
- **Section 2: Criminal Cases on Appeal** takes an in-depth look at the composition and processing of criminal appeals.

*Profile of criminal appeals.* What do criminal appeals look like? How many arise from jury trials compared to other proceedings? What is the attrition rate for criminal appeals? *Pages 52-54.*

<sup>1</sup> For more specific information on each appellate court, please consult Parts III, IV, and V.

*Time on appeal.* How long do criminal appeals take to be resolved in the state courts? How does the time on appeal vary between intermediate courts of appeal? Are courts meeting the American Bar Association Time Standards? *Pages 54-55.*

- **Section 3: Filing and Clearance Rates for Appellate Cases** are considered along with the influence of population on appellate filing rates and the success of appellate courts in disposing of their caseload. What is the relationship between each state's total appellate caseload and the size of its population? Are appellate courts keeping up with the new cases that are filed each

year? Are courts having increasing difficulty over time disposing of their caseloads? Do clearance rates vary between mandatory and discretionary caseloads? *Pages 55-59.*

- **Section 4: Trends in Appellate Court Caseloads and Caseload Composition** are traced for civil and criminal appeals in both courts of last resort and intermediate appellate courts. Is the volume of civil and criminal appeals rising, falling, or remaining relatively constant? Do civil and criminal appeals follow the same path? Are the trends consistent across courts? *Pages 60-63.*

## Section 1: Volume of Appellate Caseloads

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*During 1992, more appeals were filed in the 50 states and the District of Columbia than in any preceding year. The total number of filings was 259,276, which is a 5.8 percent increase over 1991. If the rate of increase were to remain constant the rest of the decade, there will be over 350,000 appeals by the year 2000—a cumulative increase of at least 40 percent since 1990.*

The 1992 filings should put state appellate courts on notice that they face a daunting task in coping with rapidly growing caseload. Most of the quarter of a million cases were appeals of right that the state appellate courts are mandated to hear. Mandatory appeals numbered 186,305 in 1992, or 72 percent of the nationwide appellate court caseload. Intermediate appellate courts (IACs), which hear most of the mandatory appeals, saw their share of the mandatory caseload grow from 151,745 to 160,725. Courts of last resort (COLRs), which tend to have few mandatory appeals, saw their share increase from 24,097 to 25,580.

The discretionary caseload of IACs increased by 13 percent—22,968 discretionary petitions in 1992 compared to 20,273 in 1991. A 2 percent change occurred in the volume of discre-

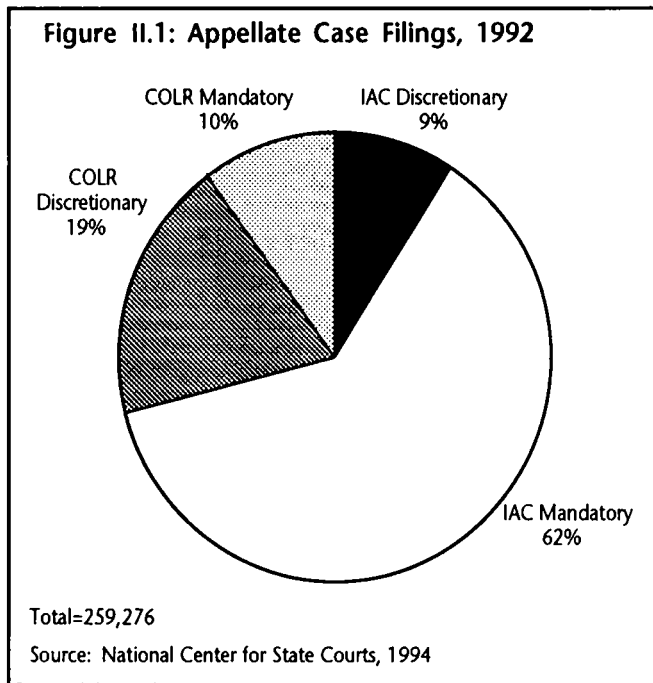
tionary petitions, which commonly are heard by COLRs—in 1992 COLRs heard 50,003 discretionary cases compared to 48,988 in 1991.

- Appellate court caseloads in 1992 continue a long-term trend of increasing volume.
- COLRs and IACs confront increases in the largest segment of their respective caseloads—discretionary petitions for COLRs and mandatory appeals for IACs.
- Intermediate appellate courts handle the bulk of state appellate court caseload.

IACs have most of the appeals (71 percent) (see **Figure II.1**). Furthermore, the largest category of appeals consists of those that fall within the

mandatory jurisdiction of IACs (62 percent). For every discretionary petition that an IAC is asked to

accept, there are nearly seven appeals of right that they should accept.



Eight states are responsible for the majority of the nation's appeals (California, Florida, New York, Texas, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Louisiana). Fluctuations in the volume of appeals in these states shape the national picture significantly. State appellate caseload levels ranged from 302 appeals in Wyoming to 27,031 in California.

The median number of appeals in each state is represented by the 2,830 cases filed in Indiana (see Figure II.2). Half of the states have fewer appeals than Indiana, and half of the states have more appeals. Yet, while this median point conveys important information, further examination of the distribution of caseload levels across the states enhances the descriptive picture.

**Figure II.2: Total Appellate Court Filings, 1992**

State	Total Appellate Court Filings	Total Mandatory Filings	Total Discretionary Filings	Population Ranking
1. California	27,031	14,799	12,232	1
2. Florida	20,980	17,141	3,839	4
3. New York	17,819	13,559	4,260	2
4. Texas	16,633	13,480	3,153	3
5. Michigan	15,387	10,164	5,223	8
6. Pennsylvania	14,405	10,962	3,443	5
7. Ohio	14,023	11,958	2,065	7
8. Louisiana	12,272	4,165	8,107	21
9. Illinois	11,873	9,986	1,887	6
10. New Jersey	10,159	7,278	2,881	9
11. Oregon	6,214	5,332	882	29
12. Arizona	5,994	4,686	1,308	23
13. Washington	5,239	3,819	1,420	16
14. Georgia	5,196	3,161	2,035	11
15. Missouri	4,854	4,083	771	15
16. Alabama	4,780	4,039	741	22
17. Virginia	4,582	741	3,841	12
18. Oklahoma	4,490	3,920	570	28
19. Wisconsin	4,159	3,187	972	18
20. Kentucky	4,101	3,356	745	24
21. Colorado	3,514	2,399	1,115	26
22. Massachusetts	3,493	1,961	1,532	13
23. Minnesota	3,378	2,543	835	20
24. Tennessee	3,365	2,292	1,073	17
25. Maryland	3,029	2,178	851	19
26. Indiana	2,830	1,975	855	14
27. West Virginia	2,357	NJ	2,357	35
28. North Carolina	2,160	1,416	744	10
29. Iowa	2,082	2,082	NJ	30
30. Nebraska	2,081	2,081	NA	36
31. Kansas	2,068	1,573	495	32
32. District of Columbia	1,687	1,643	44	48
33. Connecticut	1,679	1,381	298	27
34. New Mexico	1,545	988	557	37
35. Arkansas	1,533	1,533	NJ	33
36. Utah	1,478	1,418	60	34
37. Nevada	1,129	1,129	NJ	38
38. Mississippi	1,090	1,025	65	31
39. South Carolina	1,032	970	62	25
40. Alaska	1,014	698	316	49
41. Hawaii	849	794	55	40
42. Idaho	800	708	92	42
43. New Hampshire	774	NJ	774	41
44. Rhode Island	681	413	268	43
45. Vermont	636	610	26	50
46. Montana	627	533	94	44
47. Maine	569	569	NA	39
48. Delaware	530	530	NA	46
49. North Dakota	391	391	NJ	47
50. South Dakota	382	354	28	45
51. Wyoming	302	302	NJ	51
Totals	259,276	186,305	72,971	

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

California, Florida, New York, Texas, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Louisiana have a majority of the nation's appeals. Illinois follows very closely with nearly 12,000 total appellate filings. At the other end of the spectrum, 15 states had fewer

than 1,130 appeals in 1992. These states tend to have appellate systems composed only of a court of last resort. In fact, 10 of the 12 states that do not have an intermediate appellate court are part of this group.

## Section 2: Criminal Cases on Appeal

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*By knowing what drives appeals, the administrative leadership of appellate courts learns to better manage the burgeoning number of appeals entering their courts. If data show that disposed cases with particular characteristics have a high appeal rate relative to other cases, alternative management techniques may aid in improving the processing of these cases and allow for more effective use of scarce judicial resources.*

*Currently, there is a paucity of descriptive data on the characteristics of both civil and criminal cases on appeal. This section provides a look at criminal appeals from a study of 19 intermediate appellate courts that examined more than 2,600 cases on appeal.*

*The image of which cases are appealed is conceptually murky because of divergent assumptions. One common belief is that major felony trials result in appeals. On the other hand, every case is believed to be appeal-prone because defendants, most of whom are indigent, are afforded a publicly-appointed attorney and are not assessed the costs of producing a transcript or required to pay filing fees. Hence, whereas high stakes, highly contested cases are seen as automatic appeals, other cases are seen as almost as likely to be appealed because the convicted defendant "has nothing to lose and something to gain, if successful."*

### Profile of Criminal Cases on Appeal

What do appeals look like? What is the relative frequency of appeals arising from jury trials compared to other proceedings? What percentage of appeals involve homicide convictions in contrast to other offense categories? Initial answers to these sorts of questions may be obtained by an inspection of the data in **Figure II.3**.<sup>2</sup>

The following propositions highlight the essential aspects of what the appeals look like.

- Contrary to popular belief, appeals do not arise only from jury trials; approximately

one-third of appeals arise from guilty pleas. Presumably, guilty-plea-based appeals are attributable to the opportunity for defendants to challenge the application of mandatory-minimum sentencing laws, sentencing guidelines, habitual offender statutes and enhancement provisions, and other determinate sentencing schemes. Whereas virtually all appeals challenged only convictions fifteen years ago, the contemporary situation is one where sentencing issues may be the sole or the primary issue on appeal in nearly half of the cases.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Based on findings found in Roger Hanson, Steve Hairston, and Brian Ostrom, *Time on Appeal: Beyond Conjecture* (National Center for State Courts 1993).

<sup>3</sup> Joy Chapper and Roger Hanson, *Intermediate Appellate Courts: Improving Case Processing* (National Center for State Courts 1990).

**Figure II.3: What Do Appeals Look Like?**

Underlying Trial Court Proceeding				
Percentage Arising from Jury Trials	Percentage Arising from Bench Trials	Percentage Arising from Guilty Pleas		
50	19	32		
Most Serious Offense at Conviction				
Homicide	Other Crimes Against the Person	Drug Sale/Possession	Burglary/Theft	Other Types of Felonies
10	34	29	23	4
Type of Sentence Involved				
Prison/Jail	Probation	Fines and Restitution		
86	12	1		
Length of Jail/Prison Sentences				
0-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15 years or more	
48	21	10	21	
Length of Upper Trial Court Case Processing Time				
Median Number of Days from Date of Indictment/Information to Date of Disposition				
Homicide	Other Crimes Against the Person	Drug Sale/Possession	Burglary/Theft	Other Types of Felonies
236	143	149	119	115

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

- Less than a majority of appeals (44 percent) involve convictions of homicide or other crimes against the person (e.g., robbery, rape, kidnapping). The largest category involves other crimes against the person, followed in descending order by drug sale/possession, burglary/theft, homicide and other types of felonies.
- The conventional wisdom that appeals are motivated by the desire to avoid or to minimize incarceration is confirmed. The overwhelming majority (86 percent) of appeals involve sentences where the offender was institutionalized.

- Another possibly surprising characteristic of appeals is the presence of short sentences, although the definition of "short" is in the eye of the beholder. Sentences of five years or less are the most common sentences in 15 of the 19 communities.
- Appeals appear not to fit the image of protracted trial court litigation only to be followed automatically by the prospect of even further litigation at the appellate court level. The typical case that was eventually appealed took 145 days to be resolved in the upper trial court. There was, however, considerable variation across the categories of offenses. For example, the typical homicide appeal took 236 days in the upper trial court, while the average burglary appeal took 119 days.

In summary, the profile of felony convictions that are appealed is surprising in some respects and as expected in other respects. Additionally, there is variation across the communities, although there is more variation in some areas (e.g., type of underlying trial court proceeding), than in others (e.g., most serious offense at conviction, type of sentence).

**Criminal appeal attrition rates range from a high of 35 percent to a low of 5 percent.**

A common assumption is that there is attrition among civil appeals. The expectation that some civil appeals will be decided without a court opinion stems from the prospect that the full-blown appellate process will add to the time and cost of litigation and from the uncertain prospect of a favorable outcome for either the appellant or the appellee. Such a situation is not assumed to occur on the criminal side. Because most appellants are indigent, they bear none of the financial cost of litigation. Appellants are assumed to have time on their hands and assumed to be motivated to do whatever it takes to minimize the unpleasantness of incarceration. If those assumptions hold true, then there should be very few voluntary withdrawals and dismissals on the criminal side. However,



**Figure II.4: Percentage of Appeals that Are Decided Without a Court Opinion**

	Attrition Rate Before Briefing	Attrition Rate After Briefing	Percent Decided by the Court
Chicago	21	14	65
Cleveland	31	2	67
Colorado Springs	11	9	80
Dayton	17	2	81
Detroit	16	2	82
District of Columbia	20	4	76
Houston	8	1	91
Miami	12	2	86
Milwaukee	12	10	78
Phoenix	15	5	80
Pontiac	15	0	85
Portland	34	1	65
St. Paul	22	0	78
San Diego	10	3	87
Santa Ana	15	1	84
Seattle	9	16	75
Waukegan	5	2	93
Wheaton	8	1	91
Wichita	5	0	95

Attrition rates include appeals that are withdrawn voluntarily, abandoned, or dismissed by the court.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

that prediction is not consistent with reality (see Figure II.4).

As with civil appeals, the attrition generally occurs before the close of briefing. Once briefing is completed, the parties have made their input, except for oral argument, which does not occur in every case. At that stage, appellants might as well pursue the appeal to its logical conclusion.

Observable case characteristics are not strongly associated with the attrition rate. There is no significant difference in the attrition rates between various categories of cases, except among cases involving different sentence lengths (see Figure II.5). As the sentences get longer, the attrition rates get smaller. Another pattern concerns the underlying trial court proceeding. Attrition rates are the highest among guilty plea cases (29 percent), followed by bench trials (23 percent), and the lowest among jury trials (16 percent). However, the connection between these two factors and the attrition rates are weak statistically, which means that they may have only negligible impact.

**Figure II.5: Are Some Appeals More Likely to Be Decided Without a Court Opinion?**

	Type of Offense				
	Homicide	Other Crimes Against the Person	Drug Sale/Possession	Burglary/Theft	Other Types of Felonies
Without decision	19%	21%	33%	10%	29%
With decision	81%	79%	77%	80%	72%
	(211)*	(811)	(688)	(574)	(97)
Underlying Trial Court Proceeding					
	Jury Trials	Bench Trials	Guilty Pleas		
Without decision	16%	23%	29%		
With decision	84%	77%	71%		
	(1,156)	(464)	(761)		
Length of Jail/Prison Sentences					
	0-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15 years or more	
Without decision	25%	20%	19%	13%	
With decision	75%	80%	82%	87%	
	(970)	(438)	(172)	(412)	

\* Number in parentheses refers to the number of appeals.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

## Time on Appeal

**Two out of three criminal appeals in the 19 courts failed to be disposed within the ABA's 280-day limit. Milwaukee came closest to making the standard—only 13 percent of its cases took more than 280 days to be resolved.**

Spirited discussion and debate revolve around the issue of appellate court performance standards. The American Bar Association has taken the lead and set forth criteria in one key area—the timeliness of the appellate process.<sup>4</sup> These standards have prompted appellate courts to take a closer look at themselves and to consider ways to reduce delay. The ABA Appellate Court Time Standards require that the length of time from the date of the notice of appeal to the date of the court's opinion for all appeals should be no more than 280

4 Judicial Administration Division, American Bar Association, Standards Relating to Appellate Delay Reduction (American Bar Association 1988).

**Figure II.6: To What Extent Are Appeals Disposed Within the American Bar Association's Time Standards?**

	Percentage of All Appeals Disposed Within 280 Days from the Date of the Notice of Appeal*	Percentage of All Decided Appeals Disposed Within 280 Days from the Date of the Notice of Appeal**
Chicago	26	2
Cleveland	39	10
Colorado Springs	5	0
Dayton	25	20
Detroit	21	8
District of Columbia	11	1
Houston	22	17
Miami	29	17
Milwaukee	87	86
Phoenix	63	55
Pontiac	26	14
Portland	38	12
St. Paul	70	69
San Diego	17	8
Santa Ana	10	4
Seattle	15	7
Waukegan	5	0
Wheaton	7	2
Wichita	10	5

\* Includes voluntary withdrawals, dismissals, and appeals decided by the court.

\*\* Includes only appeals decided by the court.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

days. In Milwaukee (87 percent), Phoenix (63 percent), and St. Paul (70 percent), most appeals satisfy the ABA Standards (see Figure II.6). The pattern among this trio of courts contrasts with the 14 other courts where less than one-third of the appeals satisfy the standards. It is difficult to conclude that appellate courts are approximating the ABA Standards when two out of three appeals exceed the 280-day limit.

Of course, the debate over time standards cannot be resolved on the basis of numbers alone. An understanding of the forces producing delay is essential and that requires the sharing of experiences, the consideration of what other courts are doing to improve themselves, and a willingness to refine ideas in light of practice.

## Section 3: Appellate Filing Rates and Clearance Rates

*What drives the volume of appeals? State population exercises considerable influence on the absolute number of appeals filed in the states—the larger a state's population, the larger the number of appeals filed. Comparative data on state filing and clearance rates are thus available across states by controlling for population, i.e., applying the common standard of comparing appellate case filings and dispositions per 100,000 population.*

### Appellate Court Filing Rates

Undoubtedly, there are many reasons why the volume of appeals changes over time, including the opportunity for indigent criminal defendants to appeal their cases with the support of publicly appointed counsel and the effects of changing economic conditions (e.g., a recession may depress

particular types of litigation and stimulate other types). The full catalog of reasons why appeals are filed is beyond the scope of this *Report*, but it is possible to show the fundamental importance of state population size as a predictor of litigation.

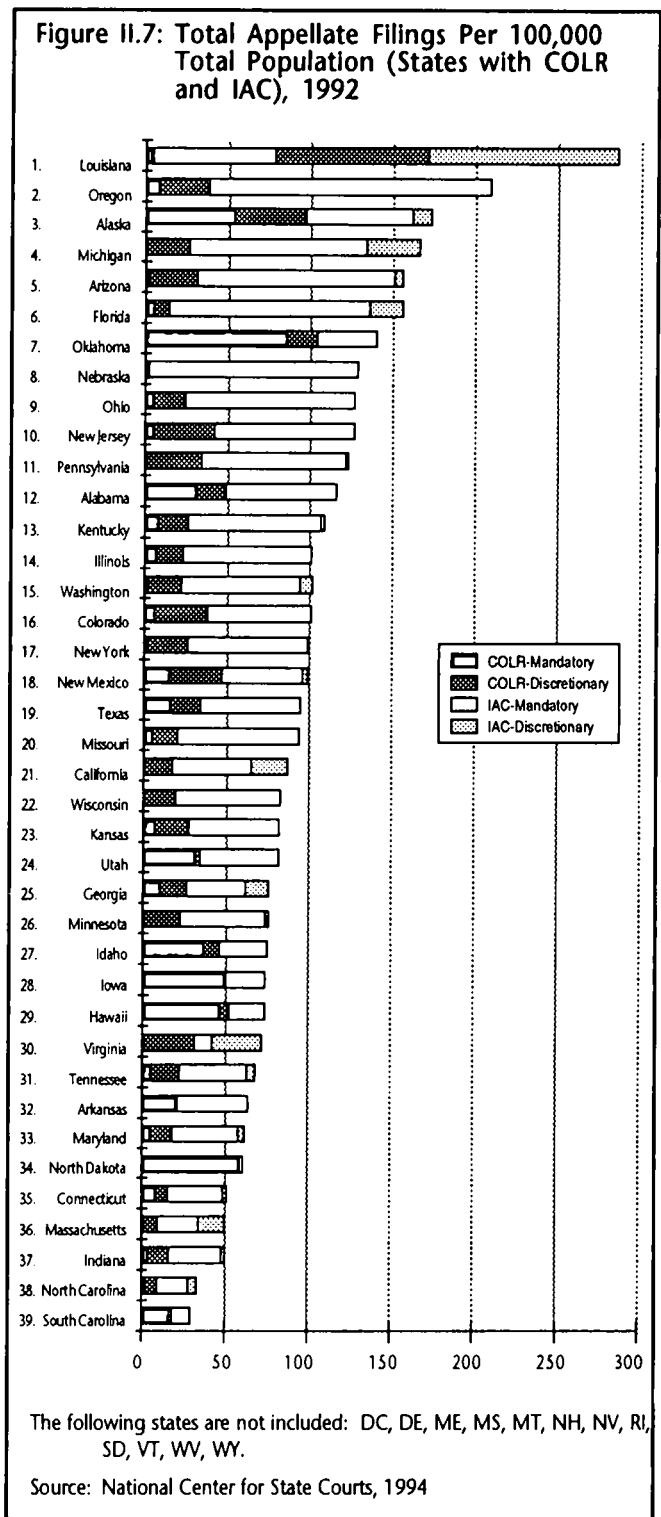
The very strong correspondence between each state's total appellate caseload and the size of its

population is evident by reviewing Figure II.7. Interestingly, the most populous states tend to have a higher than average total of appellate court filings per 100,000 population.

The congruence between caseload and population has at least two important implications. First, states that are experiencing population increases should expect caseload increases, although the exact rate of growth in caseload volume is not directly proportional to population growth alone because of the effects of other factors that may vary from state to state (e.g., a state's litigiousness, social and economic conditions, the accessibility of the courts to potential litigants, crime levels, and so forth). States that experience sharp population growth for a while and then experience limited or no growth should expect parallel fluctuations in the volume of appeals. However, as both the nation and most individual states grow in population, the nation's state appellate court caseloads will rise unless the particular areas of litigation (e.g., direct appellate review of sentencing issues) are completely removed from the systems' jurisdictions and transferred to some other dispute resolution process. Second, the close connection between population size and total caseload levels suggests the need to control for population size when statistical comparisons are made of different state appellate systems. If population is taken into account, do trends across states look similar or different?

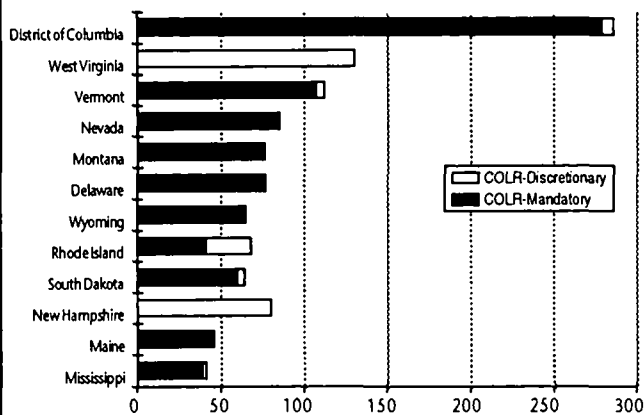
Figure II.7, which includes states with both a COLR and IAC, shows the volume of each of the four basic categories of appeals per 100,000 population. The larger the ratio of appeals to population, the longer the length of the bar. Because population is such an important determinant of the number of appeals, it is not surprising that the appellate-filing rates of most states fall within approximately 50 filings of the median rate of 93 filings per 100,000 population (Missouri). Thus, while Missouri has the 15th largest absolute number of filings, its number of filings per 100,000 population actually is the nation's midpoint rate.

Similarly, the information in Figure II.8, which includes states with a COLR but no IAC, indicates that the ratio of all appeals to population is quite similar across 10 of the 12 states without



intermediate appellate courts (the exceptions are the District of Columbia and West Virginia). Finally, the COLRs without an IAC have one characteristic in common with some of the two-tiered systems. The high frequency of mandatory appeals in the COLRs without an IAC is similar to the dominance of mandatory appeals among those

**Figure II.8: Total Appellate Filings per 100,000 Total Population (States with COLR only), 1992**



Source: Table 2, Part III, National Center for State Courts

states in Figure II.2 that have the largest ratio of filings to population, suggesting that first-level appellate courts, whether they are IACs or COLRs without an IAC, are similar in caseload composition (they tend to have virtually all mandatory jurisdiction, and they handle all or the bulk of their respective state's appeals).

### Appellate Court Clearance Rates

Most appellate courts have problems keeping up with caseload volume. One measure of whether an appellate court is keeping up with its caseload is to calculate the court's clearance rate. A clearance rate is the number of appeals filed in a given year divided by the number of dispositions in the same year. While the two sets of cases are not necessarily identical (cases disposed of in 1992 may have been filed in 1991 or before), this measure can be calculated readily and is a useful gauge of whether there is a balance between the demands for court services and the response of courts to those demands. A rate of 100 percent or more indicates that more cases were disposed of than were taken in that year.

#### Mandatory Caseloads

COLRs are having moderate success in keeping up with their mandatory caseloads: 18 of the 35 states have a three-year clearance rate of 100 percent or greater. Moreover, 15 of the remaining

17 states have clearance rates at 90 percent or more (see Figure II.9).

Clearance rates of mandatory appeals reported by IACs are of more widespread concern (see Figure II.9b). The three-year clearance rates suggest that IACs are experiencing increasing difficulty with their caseloads—only seven states had three-year rates of 100 percent or more. Unfortunately, the remaining 28 IACs handle the bulk of the nation's appeals. (The problem is particularly acute for those courts with three-year rates below 90 percent.)

**Figure II.9: Courts of Last Resort Clearance Rates for Mandatory Appeals, 1990-92**

State	1990	1991	1992	Three-year Clearance Rate
Arizona	176.1	122.0	116.9	138.5
Indiana	130.2	116.7	103.9	117.9
Hawaii	116.3	89.2	143.1	113.9
Vermont	116.1	121.0	100.3	112.1
South Carolina	89.2	165.2	92.7	107.4
South Dakota	107.7	116.9	96.3	107.1
New Jersey	103.6	111.2	104.4	106.8
Washington	93.9	116.1	107.9	105.6
Alaska	100.6	86.0	128.6	104.1
Delaware	114.5	92.8	103.6	103.7
Rhode Island	102.4	106.1	101.9	103.5
Missouri	108.1	101.3	100.4	103.0
District of Columbia	109.0	110.2	89.7	102.9
Louisiana	115.9	95.3	100.0	102.3
New York	95.0	101.4	109.3	101.7
Idaho	105.7	99.7	99.8	101.6
Texas	109.0	103.8	90.2	100.3
Wyoming	91.4	99.7	109.6	100.1
North Dakota	102.3	89.5	109.8	99.9
Florida	96.4	98.9	100.9	98.8
Maryland	93.5	93.8	108.1	98.0
Connecticut	101.4	99.7	90.6	97.5
Ohio	77.5	109.5	107.9	97.2
Maine	99.4	91.3	100.4	96.8
Illinois	93.0	75.3	102.2	96.8
Arkansas	92.9	95.1	101.8	96.7
Kentucky	98.9	90.8	100.0	96.2
North Carolina	87.9	86.9	114.3	95.6
Mississippi	98.2	101.1	85.1	94.5
Nevada	97.1	95.8	87.4	93.4
Georgia	72.8	93.2	109.9	92.1
Minnesota	92.2	81.4	103.9	91.9
Montana	98.6	90.9	82.0	91.0
Alabama		117.1	92.7	
New Mexico	105.4	124.5		

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

**Figure II.9b: Intermediate Appellate Courts Clearance Rates for Mandatory Appeals, 1990-92**

State	1990	1991	1992	Three-year Clearance Rate
New York	114.8	120.6	105.5	113.5
California	112.1	98.9	113.0	108.2
Ohio	101.9	104.9	105.0	104.0
Alabama	94.5	107.1	101.9	101.2
Arkansas	92.7	99.9	110.3	100.7
Colorado	92.8	102.1	106.1	100.2
Louisiana	91.7	99.0	108.8	100.0
Florida	100.8	102.1	95.6	99.4
Idaho	94.9	116.1	89.9	99.2
South Carolina	99.2	88.0	109.7	98.6
Utah	109.9	96.0	92.4	98.5
New Mexico	95.7	100.4	99.3	98.4
Iowa	89.1	104.3	101.8	98.0
Oklahoma	78.5	94.8	122.4	97.5
Alaska	90.2	85.7	119.3	97.4
Minnesota	94.7	99.5	97.3	97.0
Tennessee	89.2	99.7	100.1	96.3
North Carolina	97.0	106.7	84.3	96.1
Missouri	100.1	92.8	95.2	96.0
Connecticut	100.0	97.8	90.2	96.0
New Jersey	89.7	103.1	93.8	95.7
Pennsylvania	98.1	95.7	93.4	95.4
Illinois	97.1	95.5	92.9	95.1
Michigan	85.1	86.6	114.8	94.4
Wisconsin	91.6	99.5	92.3	94.4
Maryland	90.1	89.9	103.2	94.3
Texas	100.9	94.5	86.6	93.3
Kansas	95.9	89.8	92.9	92.8
Oregon	81.3	89.0	99.2	90.1
Kentucky	95.9	81.4	93.3	90.0
Washington	84.5	78.9	94.6	85.9
Arizona	81.5	86.3	87.5	85.1
Georgia	64.4	83.3	101.8	83.3
Massachusetts	74.7	95.0	80.9	83.3
Hawaii	87.0	102.4	67.6	81.1

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

A continuing pattern of low clearance rates means an increasing pending caseload. To improve clearance rates some courts will require increased resources and/or alternative ways of handling cases more efficiently and productively.

#### **Discretionary Caseloads**

An examination of how appellate courts, including both courts of last resort and intermediate appellate courts, are managing discretionary petitions presents a more positive picture than the limited success of IACs in keeping up with manda-

**Figure II.10: Courts of Last Resort Clearance Rates for Discretionary Petitions, 1990-92**

State	1990	1991	1992	Three-year Clearance Rate
Michigan	109.9	109.4	110.0	109.8
Alabama	143.9	80.4	105.5	108.4
Idaho	111.7	84.9	116.3	103.8
Indiana	91.2	93.7	122.8	102.4
Louisiana	106.9	106.4	94.4	102.2
Vermont	112.5	91.7	103.8	102.1
New Jersey	98.6	101.2	103.5	101.7
Alaska	101.7	94.1	107.1	100.9
Florida	96.0	102.8	103.3	100.7
Missouri	101.7	99.0	100.3	100.4
District of Columbia	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
North Carolina	96.0	101.2	102.1	99.3
Rhode Island	111.3	93.5	95.1	99.1
Maryland	97.1	102.0	97.3	98.8
California	96.1	98.3	101.4	98.7
Texas	97.3	102.5	95.1	98.1
Mississippi	92.2	95.0	106.2	97.6
Kentucky	95.4	89.1	110.1	97.6
Minnesota	102.6	89.2	100.8	97.5
Arizona	96.4	98.1	95.6	96.7
Washington	99.1	97.8	92.5	96.3
Hawaii	100.0	100.0	90.9	96.2
West Virginia	97.7	84.1	110.2	95.8
Illinois	94.7	92.7	95.8	94.5
New York	84.6	88.4	98.0	90.2
Ohio	75.5	98.6	90.0	88.3
Oregon	89.4	91.5	82.3	87.6
Wisconsin	86.5	91.2	74.1	83.9
New Hampshire	90.4	91.0	66.5	81.3
Virginia	90.7	66.9	80.2	78.9

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

tory appeals. Discretionary petitions constitute the bulk of the workload for courts of last resort, especially those in a two-tiered appellate system. The three-year clearance rates for 11 of the 30 COLRs for which a three-year rate could be calculated are 100 percent or better (see **Figure II.10**). Hence, COLRs do not enjoy the same degree of success in keeping up with discretionary petitions as they do in keeping up with mandatory cases. Intermediate appellate courts are also experiencing limited success in disposing of discretionary petitions. Three of the 13 states for which data are available achieved three-year clearance rates of 100 percent or more (see **Figure II.10b**).

Thus, the success with which appellate courts meet the demands placed on them is limited. COLRs manage to dispose of mandatory appeals, at

**Figure II.10b: Intermediate Appellate Courts Clearance Rates for Discretionary Petitions, 1990-92**

State	1990	1991	1992	Three-year Clearance Rate
Alaska	104.9	110.0	95.2	103.3
Massachusetts	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Maryland	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Kentucky	128.8	100.3	76.5	99.8
North Carolina	95.6	100.0	100.0	98.4
Georgia	100.0	85.8	100.0	97.1
California	102.8	103.4	83.4	96.7
Louisiana	99.1	91.7	98.3	96.2
Florida	93.5	93.4	90.9	92.6
Minnesota	98.1	82.0	98.5	89.1
Washington	100.9	76.1	90.3	89.1
Arizona	67.5	87.6	84.3	81.6
Tennessee	67.1	75.2	77.4	73.9

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

least in most courts. However, success is less widespread among these courts in handling discretionary petitions, which are the bulk of their work. Furthermore, most IACs are not keeping up in either the discretionary or the mandatory arena. Success is limited to approximately a third of the IACs. The gap between filings and dispositions in IACs is troublesome because this is where the bulk of the appellate caseload resides. A clearance rate that falls below 100 percent affects a large number of cases in both absolute terms and as a proportion of the total appellate court caseload. Hence, courts and policymakers need to join together to assess what can and should be done to alleviate this undesirable situation.

#### **Discretionary Petitions Granted**

On average during 1992, state COLRs granted 14 percent of the discretionary petitions filed.<sup>5</sup> That percentage is derived from Figure II.11, which shows the number of petitions filed, and the number and the percentage granted, for the COLRs of 25 states. In states with an IAC, the precise boundaries of the COLR's jurisdiction become important to understanding the flow of cases to

5 The U.S. Supreme Court accepts for review about 5 percent of the discretionary petitions filed.

**Figure II.11: Discretionary Petitions Granted as a Percentage of Total Discretionary Cases Filed in COLRs, 1992**

State	Number of Petitions Filed	Number of Petitions Granted	Percentage of Petitions Granted
South Carolina	62	62	100.0
New Hampshire	774	329	42.5
South Dakota	28	10	35.7
Hawaii	55	19	34.5
Massachusetts	563	194	34.5
West Virginia	2,357	716	30.4
North Carolina	388	69	17.8
Maryland	658	105	16.0
Wisconsin	972	153	15.7
Alaska	253	39	15.4
Louisiana	3,181	478	15.0
Oregon	882	125	14.2
Minnesota	767	102	13.3
Virginia	1,908	237	12.0
Missouri	771	89	11.5
Texas	3,153	354	11.2
Tennessee	834	87	10.4
Kansas	495	50	10.1
Georgia	1,087	91	8.4
Mississippi	65	5	7.7
Ohio	2,065	149	7.2
Illinois	1,887	127	6.7
Vermont	26	1	3.8
Michigan	2,422	87	3.6
California	5,367	99	1.8

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

the COLR and, possibly, the percentage of petitions that are granted. For example, the types of cases that would go to the IAC in Michigan are filed instead in the COLR in West Virginia, where no IAC has been established and the West Virginia Supreme Court has full discretion over its docket.<sup>6</sup>

Although discretionary jurisdiction enables appellate courts to control their dockets, it does not necessarily resolve the problem of workload. The process of reviewing discretionary petitions is resource intensive and takes an increasing amount of time as the number of discretionary petitions continues to rise.

6 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 III (p. 68), provides information on the percentage of discretionary petitions granted in seven IACs.

## Section 4: Trends in Appellate Court Caseloads and Caseload Composition

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*Caseload composition reflects both an appellate court's subject matter jurisdiction and the nature and volume of its trial court activity. Examining trends in civil and criminal appeals is important because it provides a benchmark for policymakers, judges, and those involved in the day-to-day operation of appellate courts to determine what changes, if any, the courts are experiencing.*

Observers assert a "crisis of volume" because "state appellate court caseloads have on average, doubled every ten years since the Second World War."<sup>7</sup> Such long-term growth emerges from what may appear to be relatively modest year-to-year growth: an average annual increase of 10 percent will double caseload volume in 10 years; an average growth rate of between 6 and 7 percent will increase total volume by two-thirds in 10 years; and an average growth rate of 3 percent will, over 10 years, cause caseload volume to rise by 30 percent. Moreover, appellate courts are not merely confronting more of the same: rather, "as the number of cases has grown, so has the range of complexity. Increasing numbers of complex cases, especially death penalty litigation, require substantial expenditure of judicial time."<sup>8</sup> Volume and complexity combined to bring an intermediate appellate court to many states during the 1970s and to make the 1980s a period of significant institutional innovation, notably through streamlined appellate procedures, settlement conferences, and alternatives to full appellate review.

### Trends in Mandatory Civil Appeals in Intermediate Appellate Courts

**From 1985 to 1992 caseload growth in mandatory civil appeals in IACs has slowed from the rate observed over the past three preceding decades.**

Mandatory civil appeals in IACs grew 6 percent over this time period (or about 1 percent per year).

7 Judicial Administration Division, *supra* note 4, at 11.

8 *Id.*

The limited growth at the national level is attributed to the fact that the IACs in eight states in **Figure II.12** (Arizona, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, and South Carolina) actually experienced a decrease in the number of mandatory civil cases since 1988. Because the national growth rate is positive, some states grew considerably more than the national average. Since 1988, three states—Alabama, Virginia and Wisconsin—are on track to nearly double their mandatory civil appeals by 1998. Annual growth rates in mandatory civil appeals of about 8 percent have led to a substantial five-year growth in states such as Indiana (31 percent) and Michigan (31 percent), while New Mexico nearly doubled its civil caseload during the five-year period. The rates of growth in these courts are of profound significance because many of these cases are complex and involve multiple issues, which place appreciable demands on the court's limited resources.

Finally, more moderate increases were registered in nine states where the civil caseloads increased by 16 percent or less since 1988. However, even these moderate increases in caseload mean that the courts must be increasingly productive to avoid the development of case backlogs.

### Trends in Mandatory Criminal Appeals in Intermediate Appellate Courts

**From 1985 to 1992 IACs have experienced an enormous and rapid growth in mandatory criminal appeals.**

Criminal appeals filed in IACs grew at a rate of 32 percent, which is more than five times greater

**Figure II.12: Trends in Mandatory Civil Appeals in Intermediate Appellate Courts, 1985-92**

State	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	Growth Index 1988-92
Alabama	548	530	584	529	556	651	770	738	140
Arizona	866	952	955	1,051	922	962	961	845	80
Arkansas	626	710	704	422	528	528	542	514	122
California	4,997	5,066	4,892	5,298	5,332	6,443	5,374	5,962	113
Hawaii	87	99	72	66	73	38	36	67	102
Idaho	74	86	77	94	99	85	70	82	87
Illinois	4,056	4,036	3,904	4,324	4,224	4,224	4,530	4,511	104
Indiana	547	540	519	567	654	810	725	744	131
Iowa	526	392	482	555	519	603	522	558	101
Kentucky	2,353	2,031	1,914	1,846	1,827	1,704	1,896	1,717	93
Louisiana	2,635	2,698	2,774	2,877	2,522	2,698	2,715	2,642	92
Maryland	891	865	879	892	912	965	950	933	105
Massachusetts	889	906	1,026	960	1,035	1,024	934	1,200	125
Michigan	N/A	N/A	2,623	2,731	3,223	3,287	3,205	3,576	131
Minnesota	1,250	1,272	1,363	1,487	1,278	1,569	1,293	1,334	90
Missouri	1,911	1,887	1,870	2,136	2,502	2,272	2,291	2,407	113
New Mexico	410	220	197	219	253	289	284	419	191
North Carolina	775	788	781	824	898	813	819	817	99
Ohio	5,632	5,738	5,809	5,971	6,275	4,594	4,672	4,660	78
Oregon	1,002	937	795	894	818	818	924	959	107
Pennsylvania	1,727	1,614	1,339	1,405	1,417	1,589	1,628	1,539	110
South Carolina	372	347	436	303	443	255	274	288	95
Texas	3,416	3,379	3,759	3,873	4,008	3,982	3,936	4,762	123
Virginia	250	197	195	225	209	251	247	317	141
Washington	1,301	1,206	1,353	1,338	1,414	1,533	1,437	1,352	101
Wisconsin	1,713	1,550	1,463	1,439	1,689	1,901	1,978	2,010	140
Total				42,326	43,630	43,888	43,013	44,953	106

Base year for growth index is 1988.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

than the rate of growth in civil appeals, although a limited number of courts (four) did have a decrease in filings since 1988 (see Figure II.13).

Whereas the volume of cases in some IACs in the 1960s and 1970s was doubling every decade, Michigan, Hawaii and Wisconsin have had their criminal caseloads more than double in just five years. Other states that have experienced an average growth of 9 to 20 percent per year over the five-year period include Idaho (78 percent), Indiana (58 percent), Massachusetts (42 percent), Texas (36 percent), and Washington (40 percent).

While there are, on average, more routine criminal appeals than civil appeals, courts have to expend time and effort to dispose of them properly.<sup>9</sup> Because these cases are mandatory and must

be heard by the court, there is little hope for relief unless the court adopts some type of expedited procedure. If courts do not find innovative ways to expedite the routine criminal appeals, they will find themselves with less time to handle the complex civil and criminal cases, and their backlog will continue to grow.

### Trends in Discretionary Civil Appeals in Courts of Last Resort

**From 1988 to 1992 discretionary civil appeals in COLRs increased by 11 percent, although six states experienced no change or a decrease.**

Courts of last resort are able by their jurisdictional nature to decide what types of cases they will hear during any given year. The justices of these courts rarely turn down cases where there is a state constitutional question at issue or where an advisory opinion is sought. From 1987 to 1992, 13

<sup>9</sup> Wold, *Going Through the Motions: The Monotony of Appellate Decision-making*, 62 *Judicature* No. 2 (1978).



**Figure II.13: Trends in Mandatory Criminal Appeals in Intermediate Appellate Courts, 1985-92**

State	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	Growth Index 1988-92
Alabama	1,520	1,537	1,695	1,784	2,132	2,042	1,829	2,027	114
Alaska	445	504	469	433	404	429	454	383	88
Arizona	1,396	1,652	1,645	1,919	1,949	2,418	2,595	2,502	130
Arkansas	220	241	245	285	312	350	361	293	103
California	5,255	4,969	5,093	5,656	6,210	6,569	6,275	7,114	126
Hawaii	39	32	61	53	65	61	52	150	283
Idaho	68	82	82	111	104	115	136	198	178
Illinois	3,468	3,419	3,793	3,708	3,810	3,810	4,177	4,454	120
Indiana	452	490	591	619	828	1,156	1,025	975	158
Iowa	204	160	136	173	159	140	132	126	73
Kentucky	609	596	614	629	717	688	799	802	128
Louisiana	943	997	1,072	1,090	969	1,137	1,009	1,015	93
Maryland	751	779	835	862	929	1,041	1,085	1,023	119
Massachusetts	412	446	408	434	416	544	593	617	142
Michigan	N/A	N/A	2,950	3,222	4,641	6,046	5,585	6,583	204
Minnesota	335	357	407	430	386	417	402	440	102
Missouri	810	751	726	691	700	753	713	749	108
New Mexico	233	427	293	237	328	304	290	282	119
North Carolina	503	516	432	483	477	496	434	433	90
Ohio	3,129	3,096	3,376	3,259	3,541	3,684	3,585	3,535	108
Oregon	1,735	1,753	1,929	1,805	1,675	1,675	2,613	2,293	127
South Carolina	15	0	0	0	1	31	49	59	59
Texas	4,538	4,453	4,098	4,377	4,805	4,080	4,627	5,960	136
Washington	1,051	1,045	1,083	1,281	1,334	1,575	1,728	1,789	140
Wisconsin	521	550	579	575	666	952	992	1,177	205
Total				34,116	37,558	40,513	41,540	44,979	132

Base year for growth index is 1988.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

states were able to provide statistics on the number of discretionary civil petitions filed in their state supreme courts and a growth index has been calculated for the 1988-92 period (see Figure II.14).

Growth at the national level is shaped primarily by the upward trends in California, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia. California is exceptional in that it has experienced an average annual increase in

**Figure II.14: Trends in Discretionary Civil Appeals in Courts of Last Resort, 1987-92**

State	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	Growth Index 1988-92
California	1,092	1,099	1,560	1,633	1,713	1,801	164
Illinois	788	760	686	686	737	711	94
Louisiana	1,131	1,284	1,291	1,262	1,364	1,313	102
Michigan	880	1,036	1,155	1,109	975	1,030	99
Minnesota	321	331	361	338	331	368	111
New York	1,400	1,435	1,532	1,421	1,494	1,349	94
North Carolina	293	297	210	330	273	230	77
Ohio	1,159	1,100	1,066	1,234	1,338	1,342	122
Oregon	271	223	256	256	193	225	101
Virginia	577	574	631	586	702	726	126
Washington	324	276	255	263	283	250	91
West Virginia	422	394	419	417	524	538	137
Wisconsin	488	542	481	474	487	495	91
Total		9,351	9,903	10,009	10,414	10,378	111

Base year for growth index is 1988.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

**Figure II.15: Trends in Discretionary Criminal Appeals in Courts of Last Resort, 1987-92**

State	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	Growth Index 1988-92
California	1,212	1,132	1,459	1,776	1,792	1,923	170
Illinois	800	712	769	769	839	877	123
Louisiana	1,685	1,969	1,837	1,422	1,534	1,740	88
Michigan	1,157	1,567	1,610	1,318	1,218	1,317	78
Minnesota	143	161	187	166	193	217	120
New York	2,800	2,831	2,859	3,066	2,914	2,893	102
North Carolina	316	298	185	191	191	148	50
Ohio	687	670	620	638	646	723	108
Oregon	409	310	218	218	333	350	113
Texas	1,339	1,416	1,792	1,380	1,340	1,691	119
Virginia	344	371	419	536	676	682	184
Washington	327	284	253	293	275	328	115
West Virginia	176	182	168	192	181	168	92
Wisconsin	256	279	325	252	365	324	116
Total		12,182	12,701	12,217	12,497	13,381	110

Base year for growth index is 1988.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1994

discretionary civil appeals of nearly 13 percent since 1987. In comparison, West Virginia, the one state where the jurisdiction of the COLR is entirely discretionary and there is no intermediate appellate court, experienced growth in civil cases at one-half the rate of California (about 7 percent per year).

### Trends in Discretionary Criminal Appeals in Courts of Last Resort

**From 1988 to 1992 COLRs had a 10 percent increase in the total number of discretionary criminal cases filed.**

There is a good deal of variance, however, between the 14 COLRs displayed in both volume and growth (see **Figure II.15**). Four states experienced a decline in discretionary criminal appeals since 1988, and an additional eight states had average annual growth rates of less than 5 percent.

In contrast, the remaining two states (California and Virginia) are experiencing average annual growth rates sufficient to double the number of discretionary criminal filings by 1996. The COLR in California appears to be facing the deepest crisis in volume, in that it has experienced the largest increase in both discretionary civil and criminal appeals since 1988.

With states that are experiencing a rise in the discretionary caseloads, it is important to develop methods of disposing of these cases in a timely manner. From casual observation, the amount of time actually allocated to each discretionary appeal is uncertain given that few are granted and actually decided on the merits. However, any increase in appeals reaching a court of last resort is important because these courts are fixed in size by state constitution, and additional justices are rarely if ever added to the court.

# Conclusions

Appellate caseloads nationally grew by over 5 percent between 1991 and 1992. Moreover, the larger caseloads that a majority of appellate courts experienced in 1992 were part of a trend since 1984.

These trends have profound significance for the operation and performance of the courts. Specifically,

- All types of appeals—but particularly criminal—continue to inundate a number of courts;

- Many courts are having trouble keeping up, and, as a consequence, add to their backlog every year; and
- Most courts are having problems processing cases expeditiously.

National attention should be focused on these empirical facts. Judges, lawyers, court managers, and policymakers should consider the optimum combination of additional resources, more effective management, and procedural innovations that would ensure that every appeal receives individual attention and quality review.

***P***ART III  
*State Court Caseload Tables*

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## ***Part III: 1992 State Court Caseload Tables***

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**TABLE 1: Reported National Caseload for State Appellate Courts, 1992**

Reported Caseload	Filed	Disposed	
<b>Courts of last resort:</b>			
I. Mandatory jurisdiction cases:			
A. Number of reported complete cases .....	21,458	18,530	
Number of courts reporting complete data .....	40	32	
B. Number of reported complete cases that include some discretionary petitions .....	2,479	5,877	
Number of courts reporting complete data with some discretionary petitions .....	6	10	
C. Number of reported cases that are incomplete .....	1,643	1,357	
Number of courts reporting incomplete data .....	4	3	
II. Discretionary jurisdiction petitions:			
A. Number of reported complete petitions .....	48,955	40,459	
Number of courts reporting complete petitions .....	42	32	
B. Number of reported complete petitions that include some mandatory cases .....	0	4,836	
Number of courts reporting complete petitions that include some mandatory cases .....	0	3	
C. Number of reported petitions that are incomplete .....	1,048	5,756	
Number of courts reporting incomplete petitions .....	3	6	
<b>Intermediate appellate courts:</b>			
I. Mandatory jurisdiction cases:			
A. Number of reported complete cases .....	118,058	113,535	
Number of courts reporting complete data .....	36	34	
B. Number of reported complete cases that include some discretionary petitions .....	39,096	44,763	
Number of courts reporting complete data with some discretionary petitions .....	7	9	
C. Number of reported cases that are incomplete .....	3,571	0	
Number of courts reporting incomplete data .....	1	0	
II. Discretionary jurisdiction petitions:			
A. Number of reported complete petitions .....	22,968	18,828	
Number of courts reporting complete petitions .....	20	17	
B. Number of reported complete petitions that include some mandatory cases .....	0	0	
Number of courts reporting complete petitions that include some mandatory cases .....	0	0	
C. Number of reported petitions that are incomplete .....	0	0	
Number of courts reporting incomplete petitions .....	0	0	
<b>Summary section for all appellate courts:</b>			
	Reported filings		
	COLR	IAC	Total
A. Number of reported complete cases/petitions .....	70,413	141,026	211,439
B. Number of reported complete cases/petitions that include other case types .....	2,479	39,096	41,575
C. Number of reported cases/petitions that are incomplete .....	2,691	3,571	6,262
Total .....	75,583	183,693	259,276

**Table 2: Reported Total Caseload for All State Appellate Courts, 1992**

State/Court name:	TOTAL CASES FILED						
	Total mandatory cases filed	Total discretionary petitions filed	Total discretionary petitions granted	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed		Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed granted	
				Number	Filed per judge	Number	Filed per judge
<b>States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court</b>							
<b>ALASKA</b>							
Supreme Court	315	253	39	568	114	354	71
Court of Appeals	383	63	1	446	149	384	128
State Total	698	316	40	1,014	127	738	92
<b>ARIZONA</b>							
Supreme Court	83	1,123	NA	1,206	241		
Court of Appeals	4,603	185	NA	4,788	228		
State Total	4,686	1,308		5,994	231		
<b>ARKANSAS</b>							
Supreme Court	512 C	NA	NA	512	73		
Court of Appeals	1,021	NJ	NJ	1,021	170	1,021	170
State Total	1,533 *			1,533	118		
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>							
Supreme Court	36	5,367	99 A	5,403	772	135	19
Courts of Appeal	14,763	6,865	434	21,628	246	15,197	173
State Total	14,799	12,232	533 *	27,031	285	15,332	161
<b>COLORADO</b>							
Supreme Court	198 A	1,115	NA	1,313	188		
Court of Appeals	2,201	NJ	NJ	2,201	138	2,201	138
State Total	2,399 *	1,115		3,514	153		
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>							
Supreme Court	254	218	NA	472	67		
Appellate Court	1,127	80	NA	1,207	134		
State Total	1,381	298		1,679	105		
<b>FLORIDA</b>							
Supreme Court	649	1,195	NA	1,844	263		
District Courts of Appeal	16,492	2,644	NA	19,136	336		
State Total	17,141	3,839		20,980	328		
<b>GEORGIA</b>							
Supreme Court	706	1,078	91	1,784	255	797	114
Court of Appeals	2,455	957	261	3,412	379	2,716	302
State Total	3,161	2,035	352	5,196	325	3,513	220
<b>HAWAII</b>							
Supreme Court	541	55	19	596	119	560	112
Intermediate Court of Appeals	253	NJ	NJ	253	84	253	84
State Total	794	55	19	849	106	813	102
<b>IDAHO</b>							
Supreme Court	400 C	92	NA	492	98		
Court of Appeals	308	NJ	NJ	308	103	308	103
State Total	708 *	92			800	100	

TOTAL CASES DISPOSED

Total mandatory cases disposed	Total discretionary petitions disposed	Total discretionary petitions granted disposed	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions disposed	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted disposed	Court type	Point at which cases are counted
405	271	NA	676		COLR	1
457	60	NA	517		IAC	1
862	331		1,193			
97	1,074	0	1,171	97	COLR	6
4,026	156	NA	4,182		IAC	6
4,123	1,230		5,353			
521 C	(C)	NA	521		COLR	2
1,126	NJ	NJ	1,126	1,126	IAC	2
1,647 •				1,647		
26	5,440	3,467	5,466	3,493	COLR	6
16,688	5,727	NA	22,415		IAC	2
16,714	11,167		27,881			
(B)	1,286 B	NA			COLR	1
2,335	NJ	NJ	2,335	2,335	IAC	1
	1,286 •					
230	NA	NA			COLR	1
1,017	NA	NA			IAC	1
1,247						
655	1,235	NA	1,890		COLR	1
15,766	2,404	NA	18,170		IAC	1
16,421	3,639		20,060			
776	854	NA	1,630		COLR	2
2,498	957	95	3,455	2,593	IAC	2
3,274	1,811		5,085			
774	50	NA	824		COLR	2
171	NJ	NJ	171	171	IAC	2
945	50		995			
399 C	107	NA	506		COLR	1
277	NJ	NJ	277	277	IAC	4
676 •	107		783			

(continued on next page)



TABLE 2: Reported Total Caseload for All State Appellate Courts, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	TOTAL CASES FILED						
	Total mandatory cases filed	Total discretionary petitions filed	Total discretionary petitions filed granted	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed		Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed granted	
				Number	Filed per judge	Number	Filed per judge
<b>ILLINOIS**</b>							
Supreme Court	860	1,887	127	2,747	392	987	141
Appellate Court	9,126 B	(B)	NA				
State Total	9,986 *						
<b>IOWA</b>							
Supreme Court	1,398	NA	NA				
Court of Appeals	684	NJ	NJ	684	114	684	114
State Total	2,082						
<b>KANSAS</b>							
Supreme Court	184	495	50	679	97	234	33
Court of Appeals	1,389 B	(B)	NA				
State Total	1,573 *						
<b>KENTUCKY</b>							
Supreme Court	316	664	NA	980	140		
Court of Appeals	3,040	81	NA	3,121	223		
State Total	3,356	745		4,101	195		
<b>LOUISIANA</b>							
Supreme Court	157	3,181	478	3,338	477	635	91
Courts of Appeal	4,008	4,926	1,519	8,934	169	5,527	104
State Total	4,165	8,107	1,997	12,272	205	6,162	103
<b>MARYLAND</b>							
Court of Appeals	222	658	105	880	126	327	47
Court of Special Appeals	1,956	193	14	2,149	165	1,970	152
State Total	2,178	851	119	3,029	151	2,297	115
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>							
Supreme Judicial Court	90	563	194	653	93	284	41
Appeals Court	1,871	969	NA	2,840	203		
State Total	1,961	1,532		3,493	166		
<b>MICHIGAN</b>							
Supreme Court	5	2,422	87	2,427	347	92	13
Court of Appeals	10,159 B	2,801	NA	12,960	540		
State Total	10,164 *	5,223		15,387	496		
<b>MINNESOTA</b>							
Supreme Court	229	767	102	996	142	331	47
Court of Appeals	2,314	68	NA	2,382	149		
State Total	2,543	835		3,378	147		
<b>MISSOURI</b>							
Supreme Court	257	771	89	1,028	147	346	49
Court of Appeals	3,826	NJ	NJ	3,826	120	3,826	120
State Total	4,083	771	89	4,854	124	4,172	107
<b>NEBRASKA</b>							
Supreme Court	40 B	(B)	NA				
Court of Appeals	2,041	NA	NA				
State Total	2,081 *						

TOTAL CASES DISPOSED

Total mandatory cases disposed	Total discretionary petitions disposed	Total discretionary petitions granted disposed	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions disposed	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted disposed	Court type	Point at which cases are counted
879	1,808	119	2,687	998	COLR	1
8,481 B	(B)	NA			IAC	1
9,360 *						
1,145 B	184 A	68	1,329	1,213	COLR	1
696	NJ	NJ	696	696	IAC	4
1,841 *	184 *	68	2,025	1,909		
272	NA	NA			COLR	5
1,291 B	(B)	NA			IAC	5
1,563 *						
316	731	NA	1,047		COLR	6
2,836	62	NA	2,898		IAC	3
3,152	793		3,945			
157	3,003	501	3,160	658	COLR	2
4,361	4,842	1,518	9,203	5,879	IAC	2
4,518	7,845	2,019	12,363	6,537		
240	640	NA	880		COLR	2
2,019	193	NA	2,212		IAC	2
2,259	833		3,092			
NA	NA	NA			COLR	2
1,514	969	NA	2,483		IAC	2
(B)	2,665 B	NA			COLR	1
11,662 B	NA				IAC	1
238	773	102	1,011	340	COLR	1
2,252	67	NA	2,319		IAC	1
2,490	840		3,330			
258	773	116	1,031		374	COLR
3,641	NJ	NJ	3,641		3,641	IAC
3,899	773	116	4,672		4,015	
634 B	(B)	NA				COLR
886	NA	NA				
1,520 *						

(continued on next page)

TABLE 2: Reported Total Caseload for All State Appellate Courts, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	TOTAL CASES FILED						
	Total mandatory cases filed	Total discretionary petitions filed	Total discretionary petitions granted	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed		Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed granted	
				Number	Filed per judge	Number	Filed per judge
<b>NEW JERSEY</b>							
Supreme Court	407	2,881	129	3,288	470	536	77
Appellate Div. of Super. Ct.	6,871	0	NA	6,871	229		
State Total	7,278	2,881		10,159	275		
<b>NEW MEXICO***</b>							
Supreme Court	232	504	NA	36	147		
Court of Appeals	756	53	0	809	81	756	76
State Total	988	557		1,545	103		
<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>							
Supreme Court	112	388	69	500	71	181	26
Court of Appeals	1,304	356	73	1,660	138	1,377	115
State Total	1,416	744	142	2,160	114	1,558	82
<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b>							
Supreme Court	377	NJ	NJ	377	75	377	75
Court of Appeals	14	NJ	NJ	14	5	14	5
State Total <sup>391</sup>	391	0	0	391	49	391	49
<b>OHIO</b>							
Supreme Court	581	2,065	149	2,646	378	730	104
Courts of Appeals	11,377	NJ	NJ	11,377	175	11,377	175
State Total	11,958	2,065	149	14,023	195	12,107	168
<b>OREGON</b>							
Supreme Court	230	882	25	1,112	159	355	51
Court of Appeals	5,102	NJ	NJ	5,102	510	5,102	510
State Total	5,332	882	125	6,214	366	5,457	321
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>							
Supreme Court	587	62	62	649	130	649	130
Court of Appeals	383	NJ	NJ	383	64	383	64
State Total	970	62	62	1,032	94	1,032	94
<b>UTAH</b>							
Supreme Court	53	60	NA	613	123		
Court of Appeals	865	NA	NA				
State Total	1,418						
<b>VIRGINIA****</b>							
Supreme Court	63	1,908	237	1,971	282	300	43
Court of Appeals	678	1,933	398 A	2,611	261	1,076	108
State Total	741	3,841	635 •	4,582	270	1,376	81
<b>WASHINGTON</b>							
Supreme Court	126 B	1,020 A	NA	1,146	127		
Court of Appeals	3,693	400	NA	4,093	241		
State Total	3,819 •	1,420 •		5,239	202		
<b>WISCONSIN</b>							
Supreme Court	NJ	972	153	972	139	153	22
Court of Appeals	3,187 B	(B)	NA	3,187	212		
State Total	3,187 •			4,159	189		

TOTAL CASES DISPOSED

Total mandatory cases disposed	Total discretionary petitions disposed	Total discretionary petitions granted disposed	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions disposed	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted disposed	Court type	Point at which cases are counted
425	2,982	NA	3,407		COLR	1
6,445	NJ	NJ	6,445	6,445	IAC	1
6,870	2,982		9,852			
NA	NA	NA			COLR	5
751	5	NA	756		IAC	5
128	396	53	524	181	COLR	2
1,099	356	NA	1,455		IAC	2
1,227	752	2,072				
414	NJ	NJ	414	414	COLR	1
8	NJ	NJ	8	8	IAC	3
422	0	0	422	422		
627	1,859	175	2,486	802	COLR	1
11,944	NJ	NJ	11,944	11,944	IAC	1
12,571	1,859	175	14,430	12,746		
403 B	726	(B)	1,129	403	COLR	1
5,060	NJ	NJ	5,060	5,060	IAC	1
5,463 *	726		6,189	5,463		17
544 B	(B)	NA			COLR	2
420	NJ	NJ	420	420	IAC	4
964 *						
675 B	(B)	NA	675		COLR	1
799 B	(B)	NA	799		IAC	1
1,474 *			1,474			
58	1,530	0	1,588	58	COLR	1
(B)	2,380 B	NA	2,380		IAC	1
	3,910 *		3,968			
136 B	943 A	0	1,079	136	COLR	6
3,493	361	NA	3,854		IAC	6
3,629 *	1,304 *		4,933			
NJ	720	91	720	91	COLR	6
2,942 B	(B)	NA	2,942		IAC	6
2,942 *			3,662			

(continued on next page)

TABLE 2: Reported Total Caseload for All State Appellate Courts, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	TOTAL CASES FILED						
	Total mandatory cases filed	Total discretionary petitions filed	Total discretionary petitions filed granted	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed		Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed granted	
				Number	Filed per judge	Number	Filed per judge
<b>States with no intermediate appellate court</b>							
DELAWARE							
Supreme Court	530 B	0 A	(B)	530	106		
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA							
Court of Appeals	1,643	44	NA	1,687	187		
MAINE							
Supreme Judicial Court	569 B	(B)	NA	569	81		
MISSISSIPPI							
Supreme Court	1,025	65	5	1,090	121	1,030	114
MONTANA							
Supreme Court	533 A	94	NA	627	90		
NEVADA							
Supreme Court	1,129	NJ	NJ	1,129	226	1,129	226
NEW HAMPSHIRE							
Supreme Court	NJ	774	329 A	774	155	329	66
RHODE ISLAND							
Supreme Court	413	268	NA	681	136		
SOUTH DAKOTA							
Supreme Court	354 B	28 A	10	382	76	364	73
VERMONT							
Supreme Court	610	26	1	636	127	611	122
WEST VIRGINIA							
Supreme Court of Appeals	NJ	2,357	716	2,357	471	716	143
WYOMING							
Supreme Court	302	NJ	NJ	302	60	302	60
<b>States with multiple appellate courts at any level</b>							
ALABAMA							
Supreme Court	1,274	741	NA	2,015	224		
Court of Civil Appeals	738	NJ	NJ	738	246	738	246
Court of Criminal Appeals	2,027	NJ	16	2,027	338	2,043	341
State Total	4,039	741		4,780	266		
INDIANA							
Supreme Court	154	731	NA	885	177		
Court of Appeals	1,752	124	69	1,876	144	1,821	140
Tax Court	69	NJ	NJ	69	5	69	5
State Total	1,975	855		2,830	91		

TOTAL CASES DISPOSED

<u>Total mandatory cases disposed</u>	<u>Total discretionary petitions disposed</u>	<u>Total discretionary petitions granted disposed</u>	<u>Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions disposed</u>	<u>Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted disposed</u>	<u>Court type</u>	<u>Point at which cases are counted</u>
549 B	0 A	NA	549		COLR	1
1,474	4	NA	1,518		COLR	1
571 B	(B)	NA	571		COLR	1
872	69	0	941	872	COLR	2
437 A	84 A	NA	521		COLR	1
987	NJ	NJ	987	987	COLR	2
NJ	515	NA	515		COLR	1
421	255	NA	676		COLR	1
341 B	(B)	NA	341		COLR	2
612	27	NA	639		COLR	1
NJ	2,598	948	2,598	948	COLR	1
331	NJ	NJ	331	331	COLR	1
1,181	782	89	1,963	1,270	COLR	1
691	NJ	NJ	691	691	IAC	1
2,127	NJ	NJ	2,127	2,127	IAC	1
3,999	782	89	4,781	4,088		18
160	898	96	1,058	256	COLR	6
1,744	104	55	1,848	1,799	IAC	6
1,744	104	55	1,848	1,799	IAC	6
3,648	1,106	206	4,754	3,854		31

(continued on next page)

TABLE 2: Reported Total Caseload for All State Appellate Courts, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	TOTAL CASES FILED						
	Total mandatory cases filed	Total discretionary petitions filed	Total discretionary petitions filed granted	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed		Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed granted	
				Number	Filed per judge	Number	Filed per judge
<b>NEW YORK</b>							
Court of Appeals	280	4,260	NA	4,540	649		
Appellate Div. of Sup. Ct.	11,187 B	(B)	NA	11,187	238		
Appellate Terms of Sup. Ct.	2,092 B	(B)	NA	2,092	139		
State Total	13,559 *			17,819	258		
<b>OKLAHOMA</b>							
Supreme Court	1,509	570	NA	2,079	231		
Court of Criminal Appeals	1,268	NJ	NJ	1,268	254	1,268	254
Court of Appeals	1,143	NJ	NJ	1,143	95	1,143	95
State Total	3,920	570		4,490	173		
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>							
Supreme Court	270	3,412	259 A	3,682	526	529	76
Superior Court	7,121	NJ	NJ	7,121	475	7,121	475
Commonwealth Court	3,571	31	NA	3,602	400		
State Total	10,962	3,443		14,405	465		
<b>TENNESSEE</b>							
Supreme Court	239	834	87	1,073	215	326	65
Court of Criminal Appeals	1,007	90	NA	1,097	122		
Court of Appeals	1,046	149	45	1,195	100	1,091	91
State Total	2,292	1,073		3,365	129		
<b>TEXAS</b>							
Supreme Court	7	1,462	155	1,469	163	162	18
Court of Criminal Appeal	2,751	1,691	199	4,442	494	2,950	328
Courts of Appeals	10,722	NJ	NJ	10,722	134	10,722	134
State Total	3,480	3,153	354	16,633	170	13,834	141

**COURT TYPE:**

COLR = Court of last resort

IAC = Intermediate appellate court

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

**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:**

NA = Indicates that the data are unavailable. Blank spaces indicate that a calculation is inappropriate.

NJ = This case type is not handled in this court.

**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 has an effect on the state's total.

\*\* Total mandatory cases filed and disposed in the Illinois Supreme Court do not include the **miscellaneous record cases**.

\*\*\* Total mandatory cases filed in the New Mexico Supreme Court do not include **petitions for extension of time** in criminal cases.

\*\*\*\* Total cases filed in the Virginia Supreme Court reflect data reported by the clerk's office. See methodology for further discussion.

TOTAL CASES DISPOSED

Total mandatory cases disposed	Total discretionary petitions disposed	Total discretionary petitions granted disposed	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions disposed	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted disposed	Court type	Point at which cases are counted
306	4,176	165	4,482	471	COLR	1
11,854 B	(B)	0	11,854	11,854	IAC	2
2,157 B	(B)	NA	2,157		IAC	2
14,317 *			18,493			
1,841	442	NA	2,283		COLR	1
1,320	NJ	NJ	1,320	1,320	COLR	2
1,399	NJ	NJ	1,399	1,399	IAC	4
4,560	442		5,002			
441	2,683	NA	3,124		COLR	6
6,428	NJ	NJ	6,428	6,428	IAC	1
3,558 B	(B)	NA			IAC	1
10,427 *						
(B)	885 B	87	885	87	COLR	1
954	55	NA	1,009		IAC	1
1,101	130	NA	1,231		IAC	1
	1,070 *		3,125			
6	1,472	145	1,478	151	COLR	1
2,482	1,526	270	4,008	2,752	COLR	5
9,281	NJ	NJ	9,281	9,281	IAC	1
11,769	2,998	415	14,767	12,184		

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:

California—Supreme Court—Total **discretionary petitions** filed granted data do not include **original proceedings** and **administrative agency** cases.

Colorado—Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** filed data do not include some reopened cases, some **disciplinary matters**, and some **interlocutory decisions**.

Delaware—Supreme Court—Total **discretionary petitions** filed and disposed data do not include some **discretionary interlocutory petitions** and some **discretionary advisory opinions**.

Iowa—Supreme Court—**Discretionary petitions** disposed data do not include some **discretionary original proceedings**.

Kentucky—Supreme Court—Total **discretionary** filed and disposed data do not include some unclassified **discretionary petitions**.

Montana—Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** filed and disposed data do not include **administrative agency, advisory opinions, and original proceedings**. Total **discretionary petitions** disposed data do not include **discretionary criminal** cases.

New Hampshire—Supreme Court—Total **discretionary petitions** filed granted data do not include **disciplinary matters, original proceedings, and juvenile** cases.

Pennsylvania—Supreme Court—Total **discretionary petitions** filed granted data do not include **original proceedings petitions**.

South Dakota—Supreme Court—Total **discretionary petitions** filed data do not include **advisory opinions**, which are reported with mandatory jurisdiction cases.

Virginia—Court of Appeals—Total **discretionary petitions** filed granted data do not include **original proceeding petitions granted**.

(continued on next page)



TABLE 2: Reported Total Caseload for All State Appellate Courts, 1992. (continued)

Washington—Supreme Court—Total **discretionary petitions** filed and disposed data do not include some **discretionary petitions**.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Colorado—Supreme Court—Total **discretionary petitions** disposed data include all **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

Delaware—Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** filed and disposed data include some **discretionary petitions**, and filed data include **discretionary petitions that were granted**.

Illinois—Appellate Court—Total **mandatory** filed and disposed data include all **discretionary petitions**.

Iowa—Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** disposed data include some **discretionary petitions that were dismissed** by the Court, which are reported with **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

Kansas—Court of Appeals—Total **mandatory** filed and disposed data include all **discretionary petitions**.

Maine—Supreme Judicial Court—Total **mandatory** filed and disposed data include **discretionary petitions**.

Michigan—Supreme Court—Total **discretionary petitions** disposed data include **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

—Court of Appeals—Total **mandatory** filed and disposed data include **discretionary petitions**.

Nebraska—Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** filed and disposed data include all **discretionary petitions**.

New York—Appellate Divisions of Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** filed and disposed data include all **discretionary petitions**.

—Appellate Terms of Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** filed and disposed data include all **discretionary petitions**.

Oregon—Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** disposed data include all **discretionary petitions granted disposed**.

Pennsylvania—Commonwealth Court—Total **mandatory** cases disposed data include some **discretionary petitions**.

South Carolina—Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** disposed data include all **discretionary petitions** that were disposed.

South Dakota—Total **mandatory** filed data include **discretionary advisory opinions**. Total **mandatory** disposed data include all **discretionary petitions**.

Tennessee—Supreme Court—Total **discretionary petitions** disposed data include all **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

Utah—Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** disposed data include all **discretionary petitions**.

—Court of Appeals—Total **mandatory** disposed data include all **discretionary petitions**.

Virginia—Court of Appeals—Total **discretionary petitions** disposed data include all **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

Washington—Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** filed and disposed data include some **discretionary petitions**.

Wisconsin—Court of Appeals—Total **mandatory** filed and disposed data include **discretionary interlocutory decisions**.

C: The following courts' data are both incomplete and overinclusive:

Arkansas—Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** filed and disposed data include a few **discretionary petitions**, but do not include **mandatory attorney disciplinary** cases and **certified questions from the federal courts**.

Idaho—Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** filed and disposed data include **discretionary original proceedings, interlocutory decisions and advisory opinions**, but do not include **mandatory interlocutory decisions**.

**TABLE 3: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Mandatory Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1992**

<u>State/Court name:</u>	<u>Court type</u>	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Disposed</u>	<u>Disposed as a percent of filed</u>	<u>Number of judges</u>	<u>Filed per judge</u>	<u>Filed per 100,000 population</u>
<b>States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court</b>							
<b>ALASKA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	315	405	129	5	63	54
Court of Appeals	IAC	383	457	119	3	128	65
State Total		698	862	123	8	87	119
<b>ARIZONA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	83	97	117	5	17	2
Court of Appeals	IAC	4,603	4,026	87	21	219	120
State Total	4,686	4,123	88	26	180	122	
<b>ARKANSAS</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	512 C	521 C	102	7	73	21
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,021	1,126	110	6	170	43
State Total		1,533 *	1,647 *	107	13	118	64
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	36	26	72	7	5	1
Courts of Appeal	IAC	14,763	16,688	113	88	168	48
State Total		14,799	16,714	113	95	156	48
<b>COLORADO</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	198 A	NA		7	28	6
Court of Appeals	IAC	2,201	2,335	106	16	138	63
State Total		2,399 *			23	104	69
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	254	230	91	7	36	8
Appellate Court	IAC	1,127	1,017	90	9	125	34
State Total		1,381	1,247	90	16	86	42
<b>FLORIDA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	649	655	101	7	93	5
District Courts of Appeal	IAC	16,492	15,766	96	57	289	122
State Total		17,141	16,421	96	64	268	127
<b>GEORGIA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	706	776	110	7	101	10
Court of Appeals	IAC	2,455	2,498	102	9	273	36
State Total		3,161	3,274	104	16	198	47
<b>HAWAII</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	541	774	143	5	108	47
Intermediate Court of Appeals	IAC	253	171	68	3	84	22
State Total		794	945	119	8	99	68
<b>IDAHO</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	400 C	399 C	100	5	80	37
Court of Appeals	IAC	308	277	90	3	103	29
State Total		708 *	676 *	95	8	89	66
<b>ILLINOIS</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	860	879	102	7	123	7
Appellate Court	IAC	9,126 B	8,481 B	93	50	183	78
State Total		9,986 *	9,360 *	94	57	175	86

(continued on next page)

TABLE 3: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Mandatory Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed per judge	Filed per 100,000 population
<b>IOWA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,398	1,145 B		9	155	50
Court of Appeals	IAC	684	696	102	6	114	24
State Total		2,082	1,841 *		15	139	74
<b>KANSAS</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	184	272	148	7	26	7
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,389 B	1,291 B	93	10	139	55
State Total		1,573 *	1,563 *	99	17	93	62
<b>KENTUCKY</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	316	316	100	7	45	8
Court of Appeals	IAC	3,040	2,836	93	14	217	81
State Total		3,356	3,152	94	21	160	89
<b>LOUISIANA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	157	157	100	7	22	4
Courts of Appeal	IAC	4,008	4,361	109	53	76	93
State Total		4,165	4,518	108	60	69	97
<b>MARYLAND</b>							
Court of Appeals	COLR	222	240	108	7	32	5
Court of Special Appeals	IAC	1,956	2,019	103	13	150	40
State Total		2,178	2,259	104	20	109	44
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>							
Supreme Judicial Court	COLR	90	NA		7	13	2
Appeals Court	IAC	1,871	1,514	81	14	134	31
State Total		1,961			21	93	33
<b>MICHIGAN</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	5	NA		7	1	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	10,159 B	11,662 B	115	24	423	108
State Total		10,164			31	328	108
<b>MINNESOTA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	229	238	104	7	33	5
Court of Appeals	IAC	2,314	2,252	97	16	145	52
State Total		2,543	2,490	98	23	111	57
<b>MISSOURI</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	257	258	100	7	37	5
Court of Appeals	IAC	3,826	3,641	95	32	120	74
State Total		4,083	3,899	95	39	105	79
<b>NEBRASKA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	40 B	634 B	1,585	7	6	2
Court of Appeals	IAC	2,041	886	43	7	292	127
State Total		2,081 *	1,520	73	14	149	130
<b>NEW JERSEY</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	407	425	104	7	58	5
Appellate Div. of Super. Ct.	IAC	6,871	6,445	94	30	229	88
State Total		7,278	6,870	94	37	197	93
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	232	NA		5	46	15
Court of Appeals	IAC	756	751	99	10	76	48
State Total		988			15	66	62

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TABLE 3: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Mandatory Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1992. (continued)

<u>State/Court name:</u>	<u>Court type</u>	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Disposed</u>	<u>Disposed as a percent of filed</u>	<u>Number of judges</u>	<u>Filed per judge</u>	<u>Filed per 100,000 population</u>
<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	112	128	114	7	16	2
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,304	1,099	84	12	109	19
State Total		1,416	1,227	87	19	75	21
<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	377	414	110	5	75	59
Court of Appeals	IAC	14	8	57	3	5	2
State Total		391	422	108	8	49	61
<b>OHIO</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	581	627	108	7	83	5
Courts of Appeals	IAC	11,377	11,944	105	65	175	103
State Total		11,958	12,571	105	72	166	109
<b>OREGON</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	230	403 B		7	33	8
Court of Appeals	IAC	5,102	5,060	99	10	510	171
State Total		5,332	5,463 *		17	314	179
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	587	544 B		5	117	16
Court of Appeals	IAC	383	420	110	6	64	11
State Total		970	964 *		11	88	27
<b>UTAH</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	553	675 B		5	111	31
Court of Appeals	IAC	865	799 B		7	124	48
State Total		1,418	1,474 *		12	118	78
<b>VIRGINIA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	63	58	92	7	9	1
Court of Appeals	IAC	678	(B)		10	68	11
State Total		741	58	8	17	44	12
<b>WASHINGTON</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	126 B	136 B	108	9	14	2
Court of Appeals	IAC	3,693	3,493	95	17	217	72
State Total		3,819 *	3,629 *	95	26	147	74
<b>WISCONSIN</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	NJ	NJ		7		
Court of Appeals	IAC	3,187 B	2,942 B	92	15	212	64
State Total		3,187 *	2,942 *	92	22	145	64
<b>States with no intermediate appellate court</b>							
<b>DELAWARE</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	530 B	549 B	104	5	106	77
<b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b>							
Court of Appeals	COLR	1,643	1,474	90	9	183	279
<b>MAINE</b>							
Supreme Judicial Court	COLR	569 B	571 B	100	7	81	46
<b>MISSISSIPPI</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,025	872	85	9	114	39

(continued on next page)

TABLE 3: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Mandatory Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1992. (continued)

<u>State/Court name:</u>	<u>Court type</u>	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Disposed</u>	<u>Disposed as a percent of filed</u>	<u>Number of judges</u>	<u>Filed per judge</u>	<u>Filed per 100,000 population</u>
<b>MONTANA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	33 A	437 A	82	7	76	65
<b>NEVADA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,129	987	87	5	226	85
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	NJ	NJ		5		
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	413	421	102	5	83	41
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	354 B	341 B	96	5	71	50
<b>VERMONT</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	610	612	100	5	122	107
<b>WEST VIRGINIA</b>							
Supreme Court of Appeals	COLR	NJ	NJ		5		
<b>WYOMING</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	302	331	110	5	60	65
<b>States with multiple appellate courts at any level</b>							
<b>ALABAMA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,274	1,181	93	9	142	31
Court of Civil Appeals	IAC	738	691	94	3	246	18
Court of Criminal Appeals	IAC	2,027	2,127	105	6	338	49
State Total		4,039	3,999	99	18	224	98
<b>INDIANA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	154	160	104	5	31	3
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,752	1,744	100	13	135	31
Tax Court	IAC	69	43	62	1	69	1
State Total		1,975 *	1,947	99	19	104	35
<b>NEW YORK</b>							
Court of Appeals	COLR	280	306	109	7	40	2
Appellate Div. of Sup. Ct.	IAC	11,187 B	11,854 B	106	47	238	62
Appellate Terms of Sup. Ct.	IAC	2,092 B	2,157 B	103	15	139	12
State Total		13,559 *	14,317 *	106	69	197	75
<b>OKLAHOMA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,509	1,841	122	9	168	47
Court of Criminal Appeals	COLR	1,268	1,320	104	5	254	39
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,143	1,399	122	12	95	36
State Total		3,920	4,560	116	26	151	122
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	270	441	163	7	39	2
Superior Court	IAC	7,121	6,428	90	15	475	59
Commonwealth Court	IAC	3,571	3,558 B		9	397	30
State Total		0,962	10,427 *		31	354	91

(continued on next page)

TABLE 3: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Mandatory Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed per judge	Filed per 100,000 population
<b>TENNESSEE</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	239	NA		5	48	5
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,046	1,101	105	12	87	21
Court of Criminal Appeals	IAC	1,007	954	95	9	112	20
State Total		2,292			26	88	46
<b>TEXAS</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	7	6	86	9	1	0
Court of Criminal Appeal	COLR	2,751	2,482	90	9	306	16
Courts of Appeals	IAC	10,722	9,281	87	80	134	61
State Total		13,480	11,769	87	98	138	76

**COURT TYPE:**

COLR = Court of Last Resort  
 IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court

**NOTE:**

NA = Data are unavailable. Blank spaces indicate that a calculation is inappropriate.  
 NJ = This case type is not handled in this court.  
 — = Inapplicable  
 (B) = **Mandatory jurisdiction** cases cannot be separately identified and are reported with **discretionary petitions**. (See Table 4.)

**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 effect on the state total.

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:  
 Colorado—Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** filed data do not include some reopened cases, some **disciplinary matters**, and some **interlocutory decisions**.  
 Montana—Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** filed and disposed data do not include **administrative agency appeals, advisory opinions, and original proceedings**.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:  
 Delaware—Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** filed and disposed data include some **discretionary petitions** and **discretionary petitions that were granted**.  
 Illinois—Appellate Court—Total **mandatory** filed and disposed data include all **discretionary petitions**.  
 Iowa—Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** disposed data include some **discretionary cases that were dismissed**.  
 Kansas—Court of Appeals—Total **mandatory** filed and disposed data include all **discretionary petitions**.

C: The following courts' data are both incomplete and overinclusive:  
 Arkansas—Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** filed and disposed data include a few **discretionary petitions**, but do not include **mandatory attorney disciplinary cases** and **certified questions from the federal courts**.  
 Idaho—Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** filed and disposed data include **discretionary original proceedings, interlocutory decisions, and advisory opinions**, but do not include **mandatory interlocutory decisions**.

Maine—Supreme Judicial Court —Total **mandatory** filed and disposed data include **discretionary petition** cases.

Michigan—Court of Appeals—Total **mandatory** filed and disposed data include **discretionary petitions**.

Nebraska—Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** filed and disposed data include all **discretionary petitions**.

New York—Appellate Divisions of Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** filed and disposed data include **discretionary petitions**.

—Appellate Terms of Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** filed and disposed data include **discretionary petitions**.

Oregon—Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** disposed data include **discretionary petitions that were granted**.

Pennsylvania—Commonwealth Court—Total **mandatory** disposed data include some **discretionary cases**.

South Carolina—Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** disposed data include all **discretionary petitions that were disposed**.

South Dakota—Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** filed and disposed data include **discretionary advisory opinions**.

Utah—Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** disposed data include **discretionary petitions**.

—Court of Appeals—Total **mandatory** disposed data include all **discretionary petitions**.

Washington—Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** filed and disposed data include some **discretionary petitions**.

Wisconsin—Court of Appeals—Total **mandatory** filed and disposed data include **discretionary interlocutory decisions**.

**TABLE 4: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions in State Appellate Courts, 1992**

<u>State/Court name:</u>	<u>Court type</u>	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Disposed</u>	<u>Disposed as a percent of filed</u>	<u>Number of judges</u>	<u>Filed per judge</u>	<u>Filed per 100,000 population</u>
<b>States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court</b>							
<b>ALASKA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	253	271	107	5	51	43
Court of Appeals	IAC	63	60	95	3	21	11
State Total		316	331	105	8	40	54
<b>ARIZONA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,123	1,074	96	5	225	29
Court of Appeals	IAC	185	156	84	21	9	5
State Total		1,308	1,230	94	26	50	34
<b>ARKANSAS</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	NA	NA		7		
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		6		
State Total					13		
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	5,367	5,440	101	7	767	17
Courts of Appeal	IAC	6,865	5,727	83	88	78	22
State Total		12,232	11,167	91	95	129	40
<b>COLORADO</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,115	1,286 B		7	159	32
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		16		
State Total		1,115	1,286 *		23	48	32
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	218	NA		7	31	7
Appellate Court	IAC	80	NA		9	9	2
State Total		298			16	19	9
<b>FLORIDA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,195	1,235	103	7	171	9
District Courts of Appeal	IAC	2,644	2,404	91	57	46	20
State Total		3,839	3,639	95	64	60	28
<b>GEORGIA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,078	854	79	7	154	16
Court of Appeals	IAC	957	957	100	9	106	14
State Total		2,035	1,811	89	16	127	30
<b>HAWAII</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	55	50	91	5	11	5
Intermediate Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	3			
State Total		55	50	91	8	7	5
<b>IDAHO</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	92	107	116	5	18	9
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		3		
State Total		92	107	116	8	12	9
<b>ILLINOIS</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,887	1,808	96	7	270	16
Appellate Court	IAC	NA	NA		50		
State Total					57		

(continued on next page)

TABLE 4: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions in State Appellate Courts, 1992 (continued)

<u>State/Court name:</u>	<u>Court type</u>	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Disposed</u>	<u>Disposed as a percent of filed</u>	<u>Number of judges</u>	<u>Filed per judge</u>	<u>Filed per 100,000 population</u>
<b>IOWA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	NA	184 A		9		
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		6		
State Total			184 *		15		
<b>KANSAS</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	495	NA		7	71	20
Court of Appeals	IAC	(B)	(B)		10		
State Total		495			17	29	20
<b>KENTUCKY</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	664	731	110	7	95	18
Court of Appeals	IAC	81	62	77	14	6	2
State Total		745	793	106	21	35	20
<b>LOUISIANA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	3,181	3,003	94	7	454	74
Courts of Appeal	IAC	4,926	4,842	98	53	93	115
State Total		8,107	7,845	97	60	135	189
<b>MARYLAND</b>							
Court of Appeals	COLR	658	640	97	7	94	13
Court of Special Appeals	IAC	193	193	100	13	15	4
State Total		851	833	98	20	43	17
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>							
Supreme Judicial Court	COLR	563	NA		7	80	9
Appeals Court	IAC	969	969	100	14	69	16
State Total		1,532			21	73	26
<b>MICHIGAN</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	2,422	2,665 B		7	346	26
Court of Appeals	IAC	2,801	(B)		24	117	30
State Total		5,223			31	168	55
<b>MINNESOTA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	767	773	101	7	110	17
Court of Appeals	IAC	68	67	99	16	4	2
State Total		835	840	101	23	36	19
<b>MISSOURI</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	771	773	100	7	110	15
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		32		
State Total		771	773	100	39	20	15
<b>NEBRASKA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	NA	NA		7		
Court of Appeals	IAC	NA	NA		7		
State Total					14		
<b>NEW JERSEY</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	2,881	2,982	104	7	412	37
Appellate Div. of Super. Ct.	IAC	0	0		30		
State Total		2,881	2,982	104	37	78	37
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	504	NA		5	101	32
Court of Appeals	IAC	53	5	9	10	5	3
State Total		557			15	37	35

(continued on next page)



TABLE 4: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions in State Appellate Courts, 1992 (continued)

<u>State/Court name:</u>	<u>Court type</u>	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Disposed</u>	<u>Disposed as a percent of filed</u>	<u>Number of judges</u>	<u>Filed per judge</u>	<u>Filed per 100,000 population</u>
<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	388	396	102	7	55	6
Court of Appeals	IAC	356	356	100	12	30	5
State Total		744	752	101	19	39	11
<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	NJ	NJ		5		
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		3		
State Total		0	0		8	0	0
<b>OHIO</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	2,065	1,859	90	7	295	19
Courts of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		65		
State Total		2,065	1,859	90	72	29	19
<b>OREGON</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	882	726	82	7	126	30
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		10		
State Total		882	726	82	17	52	30
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	62	NA		5	12	2
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		6		
State Total		62			11	6	2
<b>UTAH</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	60	(B)		5	12	3
Court of Appeals	IAC	NA	(B)		7		
State Total					12		
<b>VIRGINIA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,908	1,530	80	7	273	30
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,933	2,380	123	10	193	30
State Total		3,841	3,910	102	17	226	60
<b>WASHINGTON</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,020 A	943 A	92	9	113	20
Court of Appeals	IAC	400	361	90	17	24	8
State Total		1,420 *	1,304 *	92	26	55	28
<b>WISCONSIN</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	972	720	74	7	139	19
Court of Appeals	IAC	NA	NA		15		
State Total					22		
<b>States with no intermediate appellate court</b>							
<b>DELAWARE</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	0 A	0 A		5		
<b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b>							
Court of Appeals	COLR	44	44	100	9	5	7
<b>MAINE</b>							
Supreme Judicial Court	COLR	(B)	(B)		7		
<b>MISSISSIPPI</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	65	69	106	9	7	2

(continued on next page)

TABLE 4: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions in State Appellate Courts, 1992 (continued)

<u>State/Court name:</u>	<u>Court type</u>	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Disposed</u>	<u>Disposed as a percent of filed</u>	<u>Number of judges</u>	<u>Filed per judge</u>	<u>Filed per 100,000 population</u>
<b>MONTANA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	94	84 A		7	13	11
<b>NEVADA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	NJ	NJ		5		
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	74	515	67	5	155	70
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	268	255	95	5	54	27
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	28 A	NA		5	6	4
<b>VERMONT</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	26	27	104	5	5	5
<b>WEST VIRGINIA</b>							
Supreme Court of Appeals	COLR	2,357	2,598	110	5	471	130
<b>WYOMING</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	NJ	NJ		5		
<b>States with multiple appellate courts at any level</b>							
<b>ALABAMA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	741	782	106	9	82	18
Court of Civil Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		3		
Court of Criminal Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		6		
State Total		741	782	106	18	41	18
<b>INDIANA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	731	898	123	5	146	13
Court of Appeals	IAC	124	104	84	13	10	2
Tax Court	IAC	NJ	NJ		1		
State Total		855 *	1,002	117	19	45	15
<b>NEW YORK</b>							
Court of Appeals	COLR	4,260	4,176	98	7	609	24
Appellate Div. of Sup. Ct.	IAC	(B)	(B)		47		
Appellate Terms of Sup. Ct.	IAC	(B)	(B)		15		
State Total					69		
<b>OKLAHOMA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	570	442	78	9	63	18
Court of Criminal Appeals	COLR	NJ	NJ		5		
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		12		
State Total		570	442	78	26	22	18
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	3,412	2,683	79	7	487	28
Superior Court	IAC	NJ	NJ		15		
Commonwealth Court	IAC	31	NA		9	3	0
State Total		3,443			31	111	29

(continued on next page)

TABLE 4: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions in State Appellate Courts, 1992 (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed per judge	Filed per 100,000 population
<b>TENNESSEE</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	834	885 B		5	167	17
Court of Appeals	IAC	149	130	87	12	12	3
Court of Criminal Appeals	IAC	90	55	61	9	10	2
State Total		1,073	1,070 •		26	41	21
<b>TEXAS</b>							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,462	1,472	101	9	162	8
Court of Criminal Appeal	COLR	1,691	1,526	90	9	188	10
Courts of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		80		
State Total		3,153	2,998	95	98	32	18

**COURT TYPE:**

COLR = Court of Last Resort

IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court

**NOTE:**

NA = Data are unavailable. Blank spaces indicate that a calculation is inappropriate.

NJ = This case type is not handled in this court.

(B) = **Discretionary petitions** cannot be separately identified and are reported with **mandatory** cases. (See Table 3).

**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 effect on the state's total.

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:

Delaware—Supreme Court—Total **discretionary petitions** filed and disposed data do not include some **discretionary interlocutory petitions** and some **discretionary advisory opinions** that are reported with **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

Iowa—Supreme Court—**Discretionary petitions** disposed data do not include some **discretionary original proceedings**.

Montana—Supreme Court—Total **discretionary petitions** disposed do not include **criminal** cases.

South Dakota—Supreme Court—Total **discretionary petitions** filed data do not include **discretionary advisory opinions**, which are reported with **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

Washington—Supreme Court—Total **discretionary petitions** filed and disposed data do not include some **discretionary petitions** that are reported with **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Colorado—Supreme Court—Total **discretionary petitions** disposed data include all **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

Michigan—Supreme Court—Total **discretionary petitions** disposed data include **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

Tennessee—Supreme Court—Total **discretionary petitions** disposed data include all **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

**TABLE 5: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions Granted in State Appellate Courts, 1992**

State/Court name:	Court type	Discretionary petitions:			Granted as a percent of filed	Disposed as a percent of granted	Number of judges	Filed granted per judge
		filed	filed granted	granted disposed				
<b>States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court</b>								
<b>ALASKA</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	253	39	NA	15		5	8
Court of Appeals	IAC	63	1	NA	2		3	0
State Total		316	40				13	
<b>ARIZONA</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	1,123	NA	0			5	
Court of Appeals	IAC	185	NA	NA			21	
State Total		1,308						
<b>ARKANSAS</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	NA	NA	NA			7	
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			6	
State Total								
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	5,367	99 A	3,467			7	14
Courts of Appeal	IAC	6,865	434	NA	6		88	5
State Total		12,232	533 *					
<b>COLORADO</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	1,115	NA	NA			7	
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			16	
State Total		1,115						
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	218	NA	NA			7	
Appellate Court	IAC	80	NA	NA			9	
State Total		298						
<b>FLORIDA</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	1,195	NA	NA			7	
District Courts of Appeal	IAC	2,644	NA	NA			57	
State Total		3,839						
<b>GEORGIA</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	1,078	91	NA	8		7	13
Court of Appeals	IAC	957	261	95	27	36	9	29
State Total		2,035	352				17	
<b>HAWAII</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	55	19	NA	35		5	4
Intermediate Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			3	
State Total		55		19				35
<b>IDAHO</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	92	NA	NA			5	
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			3	
State Total		92						
<b>ILLINOIS</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	1,887	127	119	7	94	7	18
Appellate Court	IAC	NA	NA	NA			50	
State Total								

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TABLE 5: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions Granted in State Appellate Courts, 1992 (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Discretionary petitions:			Granted as a percent of filed	Disposed as a percent of granted	Number of judges	Filed granted per judge
		filed	filed granted	granted disposed				
<b>IOWA</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	NA	NA	68			9	
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			6	
State Total				68				
<b>KANSAS</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	495	50	NA	10		7	7
Court of Appeals	IAC	NA	NA	NA			10	
State Total								
<b>KENTUCKY</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	664	NA	NA			7	
Court of Appeals	IAC	81	NA	NA			14	
State Total		745						
<b>LOUISIANA</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	3,181	478	501	15	105	7	68
Courts of Appeal	IAC	4,926	1,519	1,518	31	100	53	29
State Total		8,107	1,997	2,019	25	101	60	33
<b>MARYLAND</b>								
Court of Appeals	COLR	658	105	NA	16		7	15
Court of Special Appeals	IAC	193	14	NA	7		13	1
State Total		851	119				14	
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>								
Supreme Judicial Court	COLR	563	194	NA	34		7	28
Appeals Court	IAC	969	NA	NA			14	
State Total		1,532						
<b>MICHIGAN</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	2,422	87	NA	4		7	12
Court of Appeals	IAC	2,801	NA	NA			24	
State Total		5,223						
<b>MINNESOTA</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	767	102	102	13	100	7	15
Court of Appeals	IAC	68	NA	NA			16	
State Total		835						
<b>MISSOURI</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	771	89	116	12	130	7	13
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			32	
State Total		771	89		116	12	130	
<b>NEBRASKA</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	NA	NA	NA			7	
Court of Appeals	IAC	NA	NA	NA			7	
State Total								
<b>NEW JERSEY</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	2,881	129	NA	4		7	18
Appellate Div. of Super. Ct.	IAC	0	NA	NA			30	
State Total		2,881						

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TABLE 5: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions Granted in State Appellate Courts, 1992 (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Discretionary petitions:			Granted as a percent of filed	Disposed as a percent of granted	Number of judges	Filed granted per judge
		filed	filed granted	granted disposed				
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	504	NA	NA			5	
Court of Appeals	IAC	53	0	NA			10	
State Total		557						
<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	388	69	53	18	77	7	10
Court of Appeals	IAC	356	73	NA	21		12	6
State Total		744	142				19	
<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	NJ	NJ	NJ			5	
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			3	
State Total		0	0	0				
<b>OHIO</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	2,065	149	175	7	117	7	21
Courts of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			65	
State Total		2,065	149	175	7	117		
<b>OREGON</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	882	125	NA	14		7	18
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			10	
State Total		882	125		14			
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	62	62	NA	100		5	12
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			6	
State Total		62	62		100			
<b>UTAH</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	60	NA	NA			5	
Court of Appeals	IAC	NA	NA	NA			7	
State Total								
<b>VIRGINIA</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	1,908	237	0	12		7	34
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,933	398 A	NA			10	40
State Total		3,841	635 *					
<b>WASHINGTON</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	1,020 A	NA	0			9	
Court of Appeals	IAC	400	NA	NA			17	
State Total		1,420 *						
<b>WISCONSIN</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	972	153	91	16	59	7	22
Court of Appeals	IAC	NA	NA	NA			15	
State Total								
<b>States with no intermediate appellate court</b>								
<b>DELAWARE</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	0 A	NA	NA			5	
<b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b>								
Court of Appeals	COLR	44	NA	NA			9	

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TABLE 5: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions Granted in State Appellate Courts, 1992 (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Discretionary petitions:			Granted as a percent of filed	Disposed as a percent of granted	Number of judges	Filed granted per judge
		filed	filed granted	granted disposed				
MAINE								
Supreme Judicial Court	COLR	NA	NA	NA			7	
MISSISSIPPI								
Supreme Court	COLR	65	5	0	8		9	1
MONTANA								
Supreme Court	COLR	94	NA	NA			7	
NEVADA								
Supreme Court	COLR	NJ	NJ	NJ			5	
NEW HAMPSHIRE								
Supreme Court	COLR	774	329	NA	43		5	66
RHODE ISLAND								
Supreme Court	COLR	268	NA	NA			5	
SOUTH DAKOTA								
Supreme Court	COLR	28	10	NA	36		5	2
VERMONT								
Supreme Court	COLR	26	1	NA	4		5	0
WEST VIRGINIA								
Supreme Court of Appeals	COLR	2,357	716	948	30	132	5	143
WYOMING								
Supreme Court	COLR	NJ	NJ	NJ			5	
<b>States with multiple appellate courts at any level</b>								
ALABAMA								
Supreme Court	COLR	741	NA	89			9	
Court of Civil Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			3	
Court of Criminal Appeals	IAC	NJ	16	NJ			6	3
State Total		741		89				
INDIANA								
Supreme Court	COLR	731	NA	96			5	
Court of Appeals	IAC	124	69	55	56	80	13	5
Tax Court	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			1	
State Total		855		151				
NEW YORK								
Court of Appeals	COLR	4,260	NA	165			7	
Appellate Div. of Sup. Ct.	IAC	NA	NA	0			47	
Appellate Terms of Sup. Ct.	IAC	NA	NA	NA			15	
State Total								
OKLAHOMA								
Supreme Court	COLR	570	NA	NA			9	
Court of Criminal Appeals	COLR	NJ	NJ	NJ			5	
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			12	
State Total		570						

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TABLE 5: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions Granted in State Appellate Courts, 1992 (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Discretionary petitions:			Granted as a percent of filed	Disposed as a percent of granted	Number of judges	Filed granted per judge
		filed	filed granted	granted disposed				
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	3,412	259 A	NA			7	37
Superior Court	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			15	
Commonwealth Court	IAC	31	NA	NA			9	
State Total		3,443						
<b>TENNESSEE</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	834	87	87	10	100	5	17
Court of Appeals	IAC	149	45	NA	30		12	4
Court of Criminal Appeals	IAC	90	NA	NA			9	
State Total		1,073						
<b>TEXAS</b>								
Supreme Court	COLR	1,462	155	145	11	94	9	17
Court of Criminal Appeal	COLR	1,691	199	270	12	136	9	22
Courts of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			80	
State Total		3,153	354	415	11	117		

**COURT TYPE:**

COLR = Court of Last Resort  
 IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court

**NOTE:**

NA = Data are unavailable. Blank spaces indicate that a calculation is inappropriate.  
 NJ = This case type is not handled in this court.

**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 effect on the state's total.

**A:**

The following courts' data are incomplete:  
 California—Supreme Court—Total **discretionary petitions** filed granted data do not include **original proceedings** and **administrative agency** cases.  
 Delaware—Supreme Court—Total **discretionary petitions** granted filed data do not include some **discretionary interlocutory petitions** and some **discretionary advisory opinions**.  
 Pennsylvania—Supreme Court—Total **discretionary petitions** filed granted data do not include **original proceedings petitions**.  
 Virginia—Court of Appeals—Total **discretionary petitions** filed granted data do not include **original proceedings petitions granted**.  
 Washington—Supreme Court—Total **discretionary petitions** granted filed data do not include some cases reported with **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.



**TABLE 6: Opinions Reported by State Appellate Courts, 1992**

State/Court name:	Opinion count is by:		Composition of opinion count:			Total dispositions by signed opinion	Number of authorized justices/judges	Number of lawyer support personnel
	case	written document	signed opinions	per curiam opinions	memos/orders			
<b>States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court</b>								
<b>ALASKA</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	O	190	5	11
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	O	O	110	3	8
<b>ARIZONA</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	NA	5	16
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	some	292	21	48
<b>ARKANSAS</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	X	435	7	15
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	O	700	6	16
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	89	7	50
Courts of Appeal	X	O	X	X	some	11,718	88	206
<b>COLORADO</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	216	7	14
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	O	some	411	16	32
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	193	7	14
Appellate Court	X	O	X	X	some	428	9	14
<b>FLORIDA</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	231	7	15
District Courts of Appeal	X	O	X	X	O	334	57	102
<b>GEORGIA</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	350	7	17
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	O	O	2,065	9	28
<b>HAWAII</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	242	5	14
Intermediate Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	X	160	3	6
<b>IDAHO</b>								
Supreme Court	O	X	X	X	X	NA	5	11
Court of Appeals	O	X	X	X	O	NA	3	6
<b>ILLINOIS</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	176	7	24
Appellate Court	X	O	X	X	some	2,234	50	88
<b>IOWA</b>								
Supreme Court	O	X	X	O	O	240	9	16
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	O	O	623	6	6
<b>KANSAS</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	200	7	7
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	some	947	10	21

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TABLE 6: Opinions Reported by State Appellate Courts, 1992 (continued)

State/Court name:	Opinion count is by:		Composition of opinion count:			Total dispositions by signed opinion	Number of authorized justices/ judges	Number of lawyer support personnel
	case	written document	signed opinions	per curiam opinions	memos/ orders			
<b>KENTUCKY</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	NA	7	11
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	some	NA	14	22
<b>LOUISIANA</b>								
Supreme Court	O	X	X	X	some	91	7	27
Courts of Appeal	O	X	X	X	X	3,190	53	158
<b>MARYLAND</b>								
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	O	O	133	7	14
Court of Special Appeals	X	O	X	O	O	241	13	29
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>								
Supreme Judicial Court	O	X	X	O	O	234	7	20
Appeals Court	O	X	X	X	X	210	14	31
<b>MICHIGAN</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	75	7	15
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	some	331	24	84
<b>MINNESOTA</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	O	156	7	10
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	O	O	1,304	16	36
<b>MISSOURI</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	112	7	15
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	some	1,677	32	54
<b>NEW JERSEY</b>								
Supreme Court	O	X	X	O	O	78	7	24
Appellate Div. of Super. Ct.	X	O	X	X	X	3,623	30	60
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	some	147	5	10
Court of Appeals	O	X	X	O	O	605	10	20
<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	some	NA	7	19
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	O	X	960	12	28
<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	282	5	11
Court of Appeals	X	O	O	O	O	8	3	1
<b>OHIO</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	X	NA	7	20
Courts of Appeals	X	O	X	O	X	7,781	65	varies
<b>OREGON</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	116	7	10
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	O	O	691	10	18
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	233	5	19
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	O	379	6	11

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TABLE 6: Opinions Reported by State Appellate Courts, 1992 (continued)

State/Court name:	Opinion count is by:		Composition of opinion count:			Total dispositions by signed opinion	Number of authorized justices/judges	Number of lawyer support personnel
	case	written document	signed opinions	per curiam opinions	memos/orders			
<b>UTAH</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	103	5	12
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	O	273	7	9
<b>VIRGINIA</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	145	7	23
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	O	623	10	12
<b>WASHINGTON</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	135	9	23
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	some	1,542	17	32
<b>WISCONSIN</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	87	7	10
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	O	O	850	15	25
<b>States with no intermediate appellate court</b>								
<b>DELAWARE</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	O	72	5	5
<b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b>								
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	O	333	9	27
<b>MAINE</b>								
Supreme Judicial Court	O	X	X	O	O	275	7	9
<b>MISSISSIPPI</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	X	386	9	38
<b>MONTANA</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	O	324	7	14
<b>NEBRASKA</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	X	333	7	14
<b>NEVADA</b>								
Supreme Court	O	X	X	X	O	174	5	22
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	179	5	12
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	O	126	5	17
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	166	5	1
<b>VERMONT</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	O	138	5	8
<b>WEST VIRGINIA</b>								
Supreme Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	some	263	5	20
<b>WYOMING</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	209	5	12

(continued on next page)

TABLE 6: Opinions Reported by State Appellate Courts, 1992 (continued)

State/Court name:	Opinion count is by:		Composition of opinion count:			Total dispositions by signed opinion	Number of authorized justices/judges	Number of lawyer support personnel
	case	written document	signed opinions	per curiam opinions	memos/orders			
<b>States with multiple appellate courts at any level</b>								
<b>ALABAMA</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	738	9	18
Court of Civil Appeals	X	O	X	X	X	448	3	6
Court of Criminal Appeals	X	O	X	O	some	466	6	16
<b>INDIANA</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	160	5	13
Court of Appeals	X	X	X	X	X	1,769	13	10
Tax Court	X	X	X	X	X	0	1	2
<b>NEW YORK</b>								
Court of Appeals	O	X	X	O	O	118	7	28
Appellate Div. of Sup. Ct.	O	X	X	X	some	NA	47	25
Appellate Terms of Sup. Ct.	O	X	X	X	some	NA	15	171
<b>OKLAHOMA</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	NA	9	16
Court of Criminal Appeals	X	O	X	X	O	NA	5	12
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	X	1,399	12	12
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	O	284	7	NA
Superior Court	X	O	X	X	X	NA	15	NA
Commonwealth Court	O	X	X	X	X	1,664	9	58
<b>TENNESSEE</b>								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	211	5	12
Court of Criminal Appeals	X	O	X	X	some	840	9	9
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	some	842	12	12
<b>TEXAS</b>								
Supreme Court	O	X	X	O	O	127	9	44
Court of Criminal Appeal	X	O	X	O	O	206	9	30
Courts of Appeals	X	O	X	O	O	5,717	80	217

**CODES:**

X = Court follows this method when counting opinions.

O = Court does not follow this method when counting opinions.

NA = Data are not available.

**TABLE 7: Reported National Civil and Criminal Caseloads for State Trial Courts, 1992**

<u>Reported Caseload</u>	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Disposed</u>
<b>Civil cases:</b>		
I. General jurisdiction courts:		
A. Number of reported complete civil cases .....	4,933,044	3,589,619
Number of courts reporting complete civil data .....	38	34
B. Number of reported complete civil cases that include other case types .....	2,457,702	1,996,789
Number of courts reporting complete civil data that include other case types .....	18	13
C. Number of reported civil cases that are incomplete .....	1,921,067	2,814,557
Number of courts reporting civil cases that are incomplete .....	7	10
D. Number of reported civil cases that are incomplete and include noncivil case types .....	238,728	398,688
Number of courts reporting civil cases that are incomplete and include noncivil case types .....	2	3
II. Limited jurisdiction courts:		
A. Number of reported complete civil cases .....	6,232,016	4,500,674
Number of courts reporting complete civil data .....	52	41
B. Number of reported complete civil cases that include other case types .....	193,436	30,943
Number of courts reporting complete civil data that include other case types .....	2	1
C. Number of reported civil cases that are incomplete .....	3,731,421	3,980,552
Number of courts reporting civil cases that are incomplete .....	19	25
D. Number of reported civil cases that are incomplete and include noncivil case types .....	0	90,635
Number of courts reporting civil cases that are incomplete and include noncivil case types .....	0	1
<b>Criminal cases:</b>		
I. General jurisdiction courts:		
A. Number of reported complete criminal cases .....	1,569,361	1,488,549
Number of courts reporting complete criminal data .....	30	28
B. Number of reported complete criminal cases that include other case types .....	654,823	627,364
Number of courts reporting complete criminal data that include other case types .....	10	10
C. Number of reported criminal cases that are incomplete .....	1,064,570	716,113
Number of courts reporting criminal cases that are incomplete .....	11	10
D. Number of reported criminal cases that are incomplete and include noncriminal case types .....	719,084	782,871
Number of courts reporting criminal cases that are incomplete and include noncriminal case types .....	3	3
II. Limited jurisdiction courts:		
A. Number of reported complete criminal cases .....	2,615,796	2,049,601
Number of courts reporting complete criminal data .....	18	17
B. Number of reported complete criminal cases that include other case types .....	2,328,007	2,009,576
Number of courts reporting complete criminal data that include other case types .....	18	15
C. Number of reported criminal cases that are incomplete .....	1,978,756	2,051,891
Number of courts reporting criminal cases that are incomplete .....	11	10
D. Number of reported criminal cases that are incomplete and include noncriminal case types .....	2,315,146	2,190,966
Number of courts reporting criminal cases that are incomplete and include noncriminal case types .....	13	14

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TABLE 7: Reported National Civil and Criminal Caseloads for State Trial Courts, 1992. (continued)

**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 . . . . .	4,933,004	1,569,361	6,232,016	2,615,796	11,165,020	4,185,157
2. Total number of reported complete cases that include other case types . . . . .	2,457,702	654,823	193,436	2,328,007	2,651,138	2,982,830
3. Total number of reported cases that are incomplete . . . . .	1,921,067	1,064,570	3,731,421	1,978,756	5,652,488	3,043,326
4. Total number of reported cases that are incomplete and include other case types . . .	238,728	719,084	0	2,315,146	238,728	3,034,230
Total (incomplete) . . . . .	9,550,501	4,007,838	10,156,873	9,237,705	19,707,374	13,245,543

**TABLE 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1992**

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Parking	Criminal unit of count	Support/ custody	Grand total filings and qualifying footnotes	Grand total dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
<b>ALABAMA</b>								
Circuit	G	2	G	6	174,639 B	166,052 B	95	4,222
District	L	1	B	1	573,098 B	568,652 B	99	13,856
Municipal	L	1	M	1	985,148 A	711,511 A	72	23,819
Probate	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
<b>ALASKA</b>								
Superior	G	1	B	6	19,856 C	19,359 C	97	3,383
District	L	3	B	5	109,656	109,334	100	18,681
State Total					129,512 *	128,693 *	99	22,063
<b>ARIZONA</b>								
Superior	G	2	D	6	142,457	140,106	98	3,718
Tax	G	2	I	1	1,906	1,785	94	50
Justice of the Peace	L	1	Z	1	628,645	596,506	95	16,405
Municipal	L	1	Z	1	1,006,941	993,661	99	26,277
State Total					1,779,949	1,732,058	97	46,450
<b>ARKANSAS</b>								
Chancery and Probate	G	2	I	3	88,925	83,318	94	3,707
Circuit	G	1	A	1	62,098	61,220	99	2,588
City	L	1	A	1	30,163	17,932	59	1,257
County	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
Court of Common Pleas	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
Justice of the Peace	L	2	A	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	A	1	695,480 A	445,903 A	64	28,990
Police	L	1	A	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>								
Superior	G	2	B	6	1,041,335 A	974,210 A	94	3,374
Justice	L	3	B	1	397,272 A	340,687 A	86	1,287
Municipal	L	3	B	1	14,718,109	13,750,358	93	47,682
State Total					16,156,716 *	15,065,255 *	93	52,343
<b>COLORADO</b>								
District, Denver Juvenile, Denver Probate	G	2	D	3	133,317 B	121,156 B	91	3,842
Water	G	2	I	1	965	951	99	28
County	L	2	D	1	678,120 B	391,878 C		19,542
Municipal	L	1	I	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>								
Superior	G	6	E	5 **	558,868 B	591,020 B	106	17,033
Probate	L	2	I	1	57,860	NA		1,763
State Total					616,728 *			18,797
<b>DELAWARE</b>								
Court of Chancery	G	2	I	1	3,493	3,356	96	507
Superior	G	2	B	1	14,533 B	12,998 B	89	2,109
Alderman's	L	4	A	1	31,446	31,045	99	4,564
Court of Common Pleas	L	2	A	1	55,759	54,972	99	8,093
Family	L	2	B	3 **	44,500	45,755	103	6,459
Justice of the Peace	L	2	A	1	316,695 A	291,109 A	92	45,964
Municipal Court of Wilmington	L	5	A	1	46,236	45,488	98	6,711
State Total					512,662 *	484,723 *	95	74,407

(continued on next page)

TABLE 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Parking	Criminal unit of count	Support/custody	Grand total filings and qualifying footnotes	Grand total dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
<b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b>								
Superior	G	6	B	6 **	210,098	203,738 A		35,670
<b>FLORIDA</b>								
Circuit	G	2	E	4	878,218	676,382	77	6,511
County	L	5	A	1	4,116,768	3,500,591	85	30,522
State Total					4,994,986	4,176,973	84	37,033
<b>GEORGIA</b>								
Superior	G	2	G	3	284,132	282,207	99	4,209
Civil	L	2	M	1	NA	NA		
County Recorder's	L	1	M	1	NA	NA		
Juvenile	L	2	I	1	41,600 A	36,168 A	87	616
Magistrate	L	2	B	1	492,077 A	428,864 A	87	7,289
Municipal	L	2	M	1	NA	NA		
Municipal and City of Atlanta	L	1	M	1	NA	NA		
Probate	L	2	B	1	108,772 A	82,629 A		1,611
State	L	2	G	1	589,735 A	495,165 A	84	8,736
State Total								
<b>HAWAII</b>								
Circuit	G	2	G	6	63,892 B	62,506 B	98	5,508
District	L	4	A	1	850,299	866,866	102	73,302
State Total					914,191 *	929,372 *	102	78,810
<b>IDAHO</b>								
District	G	3	D	6 **	393,022 A	386,676 A	98	36,834
<b>ILLINOIS</b>								
Circuit	G	4	G	6 **	4,316,069 B	4,932,235 B	114	37,108
<b>INDIANA</b>								
Probate	G	2	I	1	2,783	2,603	94	49
Superior and Circuit	G	3	B	5	679,171 A	687,720 A	101	11,995
City and Town	L	3	B	1	226,408	246,101	109	3,999
County	L	4	B	1	184,997	184,795	100	3,267
Municipal Court of Marion County	L	3	B	1	160,520 A	154,884 A	96	2,835
Small Claims Court of Marion County	L	2	I	1	72,724	69,169	95	1,284
State Total					1,326,603 *	1,345,272 *	101	23,430
<b>IOWA</b>								
District	G	3	B	6	938,228 B	923,361 C		33,365
<b>KANSAS</b>								
District	G	4	B	6 **	494,284	491,405	99	19,591
Municipal	L	1	B	1	452,579 A	411,137 A	91	17,938
State Total					946,863 *	902,542 *	95	37,529
<b>KENTUCKY</b>								
Circuit	G	2	B	6	86,696	77,051	89	2,309
District	L	3	B	1	696,561 B	647,899 B	93	18,550
State Total					783,257 *	724,950 *	93	20,859

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TABLE 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Parking	Criminal unit of count	Support/ custody	Grand total filings and qualifying footnotes	Grand total dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
<b>LOUISIANA</b>								
District	G	1	Z	6	530,054 B	NA		12,364
Family and Juvenile	G	2	I	4 ***	33,647	22,801	68	785
City and Parish	L	1	B	1	769,937	653,820	85	17,960
Justice of the Peace	L	1	I	1	NA	NA		
Mayor's	L	1	I	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
<b>MAINE</b>								
Superior	G	2	E	6	19,524 B	19,682 B	101	1,581
Administrative	L	2	I	1	454	416	92	37
District	L	4	E	5	274,248 B	226,921 C		22,206
Probate	L	2	I	1	13,684	NA		1,108
State Total					307,910 *			
<b>MARYLAND</b>								
Circuit	G	2	B	6 **	256,445 B	223,157 B	87	5,225
District	L	1	B	1	2,098,872	1,260,978 A		42,764
Orphan's	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>								
Trial Court of the Commonwealth	G	1	D	5 **	1,387,150 A	1,010,910 A		23,127
<b>MICHIGAN</b>								
Circuit	G	2	B	6 **	239,508	246,901	103	2,538
Court of Claims	G	2	I	1	667	730	109	7
Recorder's Court of Detroit	G	1	B	1	16,690	16,621	100	177
District	L	4	B	1	2,855,384 A	2,838,570 A	99	30,257
Municipal	L	4	B	1	32,832 A	33,401 A	102	348
Probate	L	2	I	1	195,628	130,703 A		2,073
State Total					3,340,709 *	3,266,926 *		35,400
<b>MINNESOTA</b>								
District	G	4	B	6	1,837,087	1,751,309	95	41,006
<b>MISSISSIPPI</b>								
Chancery	G	1	I	5	62,536 B	NA		2,392
Circuit	G	1	B	1	39,009 B	NA		1,492
County	L	1	B	1	40,739 B	NA		1,558
Family	L	1	I	1	1,129	NA		43
Justice	L	1	B	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	B	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
<b>MISSOURI</b>								
Circuit	G	2	G	6 **	872,722 A	842,171 A	96	16,806
Municipal	L	1	I	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
<b>MONTANA</b>								
District	G	2	G	3	28,043	23,955	85	3,403
Water	G	2	I	1	NA	NA		
Workers' Compensation	G	2	I	1	NA	NA		
City	L	1	B	1	NA	NA		
Justice of the Peace	L	1	B	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	B	1	NA	NA		
State Total								

(continued on next page)

TABLE 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Parking	Criminal unit of count	Support/custody	Grand total filings and qualifying footnotes	Grand total dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
<b>NEBRASKA</b>								
District	G	2	B	5	61,158 B	58,622 B	96	3,808
County	L	1	B	1	421,561 A	427,604 A	101	26,249
Separate Juvenile	L	2	I	1	3,064	NA		191
Workers' Compensation	L	2	I	1	539	516	96	34
State Total					486,322 *			30,282
<b>NEVADA</b>								
District	G	2	Z	2	48,163 A	NA		3,629
Justice	L	1	Z	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	Z	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>								
Superior	G	2	A	5	44,795	50,135	112	4,032
District	L	4	A	1	277,199	247,272	89	24,950
Municipal	L	4	A	1	2,378	1,718	72	214
Probate	L	2	I	1	7,307	7,816 A		1,558
State Total					341,679	306,941 *		30,754
<b>NEW JERSEY</b>								
Superior	G	2	B	6 **	1,184,966	1,026,485 A		15,213
Municipal	L	4	B	1	6,039,160	6,404,655	106	77,534
Tax	L	2	I	1	16,300	9,224	57	209
State Total					7,240,426	7,440,364 *		92,957
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>								
District	G	2	E	6	80,826	80,379	99	5,112
Magistrate	L	3	E	1	143,168 A	106,433 A	74	9,056
Metropolitan Ct. of Bernalillo County	L	3	E	1	313,677 A	268,385 A	86	19,840
Municipal	L	1	I	1	NA	NA		
Probate	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
<b>NEW YORK</b>								
Supreme and County Civil Court of the City of New York	G	2	E	1	316,228 B	309,914 B	98	1,745
Court of Claims	L	2	I	1	596,804 A	473,903 A	79	3,294
Criminal Court of the City of New York	L	2	E	1	2,107	1,727	82	12
District and City	L	2	E	1	407,704 A	313,016 A	77	2,250
Family	L	4	E	1	1,414,245 A	1,400,663 A	99	7,805
Surrogates'	L	2	I	4	585,612	590,438	101	3,232
Town and Village Justice	L	2	I	1	120,608	107,830	89	666
State Total					NA	NA		
<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>								
Superior	G	2	E	1	246,487	227,906	92	3,602
District	L	6	E	6 **	2,253,872	2,184,923 A		32,937
State Total					2,500,359	2,412,829 *		36,539
<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b>								
District	G	4	B	6 **	32,996	32,062	97	5,188
County	L	1	E	1	99,090 A	100,481 A	101	15,580
Municipal	L	1	B	1	NA	35,994 A		
State Total						168,537 *		

(continued on next page)

TABLE 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Parking	Criminal unit of count	Support/ custody	Grand total filings and qualifying footnotes	Grand total dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
<b>OHIO</b>								
Court of Common Pleas	G	2	B	6 **	736,823 B	731,716 B	99	6,689
County	L	5	B	1	242,523	244,499	101	2,202
Court of Claims	L	2	I	1	9,127	7,523	82	83
Mayor's	L	1	B	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	5	B	1	2,315,102	2,325,011	100	21,016
State Total								
<b>OKLAHOMA</b>								
District	G	2	J	6	431,001	412,412	96	13,418
Court of Tax Review	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
Municipal Court Not of Record	L	1	I	1	NA	NA		
Municipal Criminal Court of Record	L	1	I	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
<b>OREGON</b>								
Circuit	G	2	E	6 **	147,872	128,335 A		4,967
Tax	G	2	I	1	578	514	89	19
County	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
District	L	1	E	1	72,281 A	493,746 A	105	15,864
Justice	L	3	E	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	3	A	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>								
Court of Common Pleas	G	2	B	4	517,249 A	537,142 A	104	4,307
District Justice	L	4	B	1	2,316,801	2,085,633	90	19,292
Philadelphia Municipal	L	2	B	1	206,727 B	202,243 B	98	1,721
Philadelphia Traffic	L	1	I	1	259,447 A	127,390 A		2,160
Pittsburgh City Magistrates	L	4	B	1	351,422	NA		2,926
State Total					3,651,646 *			
<b>PUERTO RICO</b>								
Superior	G	2	J	6	118,605	121,483	102	3,368
District	L	2	J	1	195,364 A	185,080 A	95	5,547
Municipal	L	1	I	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>								
Superior	G	2	D	1	16,506 B	7,139 A		1,642
Workers' Compensation	G	2	I	1	15,994	19,263	120	1,591
District	L	2	A	1	77,861 A	76,840 A	99	7,747
Family	L	2	I	6	23,031	13,621 A		2,292
Municipal	L	1	I	1	NA	NA		
Probate	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
Administrative Adjudication	L	1	I	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>								
Circuit	G	2	B	1	165,819 B	164,980 B	99	4,602
Family	L	2	I	6 **	92,557	87,096	94	2,569
Magistrate	L	4	B	1	965,000 A	955,373 A	99	26,783
Municipal	L	4	B	1	424,536	423,699	100	11,783
Probate	L	2	I	1	24,081	24,383	101	668
State Total					1,671,993 *	1,655,531 *	99	46,406
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>								
Circuit	G	3	A	4	216,357	199,827 A		30,430

(continued on next page)

TABLE 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Parking	Criminal unit of count	Support/custody	Grand total filings and qualifying footnotes	Grand total dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
<b>TENNESSEE</b>								
Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery	G	2	Z	6 **	193,171 A	178,649 A	92	3,845
Probate	G	2	I	1	3,714	1,555 A		74
General Sessions	L	1	M	6 **	NA	NA		
Juvenile	L	2	I	1	77,651	95,532 B		1,546
Municipal	L	1	M	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
<b>TEXAS</b>								
District	G	2	B	6 **	644,326	648,376	101	3,649
County-level	L	2	B	6 **	653,334	553,871 A		3,700
Justice of the Peace	L	4	A	1	2,241,911 A	2,059,509 A	92	12,698
Municipal	L	4	A	1	5,922,069 A	4,711,431 A	80	33,541
State Total					9,461,640 *	7,973,187 *		53,589
<b>UTAH</b>								
District	G	2	J	3	40,343 B	38,953 B	97	2,225
Circuit	L	4	B	1	317,861 B	363,140 B	114	17,532
Justice	L	4	B	1	260,588 A	250,743 A	96	14,373
Juvenile	L	2	I	1	42,381	44,742	106	2,338
State Total					661,173 *	697,578 *	106	36,468
<b>VERMONT</b>								
District	G	2	D	4 ***	33,453	34,764	104	5,869
Family	G	2	D	4 ***	15,570	14,965	96	2,732
Superior	G	2	B	5	8,108	8,627	106	1,422
Environmental	L	2	I	1	10	7	70	2
Probate	L	2	I	1	4,809	5,772	120	844
State Total					61,950	64,135	104	
<b>VIRGINIA</b>								
Circuit	G	2	A	3	226,165	215,368	95	3,547
District	L	4	A	4	3,495,887	3,574,324	102	54,820
State Total					3,722,052	3,789,692	102	58,367
<b>WASHINGTON</b>								
Superior	G	2	D	6	207,585 B	185,287 B	89	4,042
District	L	4	C	1	960,615 A	1,014,609 A		18,704
Municipal	L	4	C	1	1,267,641 A	622,129 A		24,681
State Total					2,435,841 *	1,822,025 *		47,427
<b>WEST VIRGINIA</b>								
Circuit	G	2	J	5	67,790 B	64,588 B	95	3,741
Magistrate	L	2	J	1	304,345	301,402	99	16,796
Municipal	L	1	A	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
<b>WISCONSIN</b>								
Circuit	G	3	D	6 **	1,032,658	1,032,497	100	20,624
Municipal	L	3	A	1	NA	409,612 A		
State Total						1,442,109 *		
<b>WYOMING</b>								
District	G	2	J	5	3,400 A	11,856 A	88	2,876
County	L	1	J	4	115,294	115,148 A		24,741
Justice of the Peace	L	1	J	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	A	1	NA	NA		
State Total								

TABLE 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1992. (continued)

**NOTE:** All 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.

NA = 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
- 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 effect on the state's total.

- A: The following courts' data are incomplete:
  - Alabama—Municipal Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include cases from 19 municipalities.
  - Arkansas—Municipal Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include any data from 3 municipalities and partial data from 13 others.
  - California—Superior Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include partial data from one court.
    - Justice Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include partial data from one court.
  - Delaware—Justice of the Peace Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include DWI/DUI cases.
  - District of Columbia—Superior Court—Grand total disposed data do not include most **child-victim petition** cases.
  - Georgia—Juvenile Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include cases from 50 counties, and are less than 75% complete. Data for this court are for 1991.
    - Magistrate Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **misdemeanor** cases, any data from one county, and partial data from 27 counties.
    - Probate Court—Grand total filed data do not include any **civil** cases from 60 of 159 counties, and partial **civil** data from 25 counties, any **criminal** and **traffic** cases from 34 counties, and partial **criminal** and **traffic** data from 12 courts, and are less than 75% complete. Disposed data do not include any **civil** cases, any **criminal** and **traffic** data from 34 counties, and partial **criminal** and **traffic** data from 12 courts, and are less than 75% complete.
    - State Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include any data from 27 of 62 courts, partial data from one court, and are less than 75% complete. Data for this court are for 1991.
  - Idaho—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **mental health** and **parking** cases.
  - Indiana—Superior and Circuit Courts—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **civil appeals**, **criminal appeals** and some **support/custody** cases.

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TABLE 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1992. (continued)

<p>—Municipal Court of Marion County—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include <b>appeals of trial court</b> cases.</p> <p>Kansas—Municipal Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include <b>parking</b> cases and partial year data from several courts.</p> <p>Maryland—District Court—Grand total disposed data do not include <b>ordinance violation, parking</b> and most <b>civil</b> cases, and are less than 75% complete.</p> <p>Massachusetts—Trial Court of the Commonwealth-- Grand total filed data do not include some domestic relations cases. Disposed data do not include <b>civil</b> cases from the Housing Court Department, <b>criminal</b> cases from the Boston Municipal Court and Housing Court Departments, <b>DWI/DUI</b> and <b>criminal appeals</b> cases from the District Court Department, most <b>moving traffic violation</b> cases, from the Boston Municipal Court Department, <b>ordinance violation</b> and <b>miscellaneous criminal</b> cases most <b>juvenile</b> data from the Juvenile Court Department, and some <b>juvenile</b> data from the District Court Department, and are less than 75% complete.</p> <p>Michigan—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include <b>parking</b> cases.</p> <p>—Municipal Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include <b>parking</b> cases.</p> <p>—Probate Court—Grand total disposed data do not include <b>paternity, miscellaneous domestic relations, mental health, miscellaneous civil, and adoption</b> cases, and are less than 75% complete.</p> <p>Missouri—Circuit Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include those <b>ordinance violation</b> cases heard by municipal judges.</p> <p>Nebraska—County Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include <b>parking</b> cases.</p> <p>Nevada—District Court—Grand total filed data do not include <b>felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, miscellaneous criminal</b>, and all <b>juvenile</b> cases, and are less than 75% complete.</p> <p>New Hampshire—Probate Court—Grand total disposed data do not include some <b>estate</b> and some <b>miscellaneous civil</b> cases.</p> <p>New Jersey—Superior Court—Grand total disposed data do not include some <b>estate</b> cases.</p> <p>New Mexico—Magistrate Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include some cases due to incomplete reporting.</p> <p>—Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include <b>miscellaneous traffic</b> cases.</p> <p>New York—Civil Court of the City of New York—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include <b>administrative agency appeals</b> cases.</p> <p>—Criminal Court of the City of New York—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include <b>moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic, and some ordinance violation</b> cases.</p> <p>—District and City Courts—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include <b>administrative agency appeals</b> cases.</p>	<p>North Carolina—District Court—Grand total disposed data do not include <b>miscellaneous civil</b> cases.</p> <p>North Dakota—County Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include <b>parking</b> cases.</p> <p>—Municipal Court—Grand total disposed data do not include <b>ordinance violation</b> and <b>parking</b> cases, and are less than 75% complete.</p> <p>Oregon—Circuit Court—Grand total disposed data do not include <b>juvenile</b> cases.</p> <p>—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include <b>parking</b> cases.</p> <p>Pennsylvania—Court of Common Pleas—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include some <b>civil appeals</b> and some <b>criminal appeals</b> cases.</p> <p>—Philadelphia Traffic Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include <b>ordinance violation, parking, and miscellaneous traffic</b> cases, and are less than 75% complete. Disposed data also do not include most <b>moving traffic violation</b> cases.</p> <p>Puerto Rico—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include <b>small claims</b> cases.</p> <p>Rhode Island—Superior Court—Grand total disposed data do not include <b>civil</b> cases.</p> <p>—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include <b>mental health</b> cases. Disposed data also do not include <b>miscellaneous domestic relations and administrative agency appeals</b>.</p> <p>—Family Court—Grand total disposed data do not include <b>paternity</b> and <b>URES A</b> cases.</p> <p>South Carolina—Magistrate Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include <b>ordinance violation</b> cases.</p> <p>South Dakota—Circuit Court—Grand total disposed data do not include <b>adoption, estate, administrative agency appeals, and juvenile</b> data.</p> <p>Tennessee—Circuit, Criminal and Chancery Courts—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include <b>miscellaneous criminal and traffic/other violation</b> cases.</p> <p>—Probate Court—Grand total disposed data do not include cases from Shelby County and are less than 75% complete.</p> <p>Texas—County-level Court—Grand total disposed data do not include <b>estate</b> and <b>mental health</b> cases.</p> <p>—Justice of the Peace Court—Grand total filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of 91%.</p> <p>—Municipal Court—Grand total filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of 94%.</p> <p>Utah—Justice Court—Grand total filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of 85%.</p> <p>Washington—District Court—Grand total filed data do not include cases from four districts. Disposed data do not include cases from three districts.</p> <p>—Municipal Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include any cases from 29 courts and partial data from 8 courts. Disposed data do not include any cases from 30</p>
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TABLE 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1992. (continued)

courts and partial data from 7 courts, including Seattle Municipal Court, which handled more than half the total filings statewide. Disposed data are less than 75% complete.

Wisconsin—Municipal Court—Grand total disposed data do not include data from 44 of 196 municipalities.

Wyoming—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include cases from two counties that did not report.

—County Court—Grand total disposed data do not include **trial court civil appeals** and **criminal appeals** cases.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Alabama—Circuit Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.

—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **preliminary hearing proceedings**.

Colorado—District, Denver Juvenile, and Denver Probate Courts—Grand total filed and disposed data include extraditions, revocations, parole, and release from commitment hearings.

—County Court—Grand total filed data include some **preliminary hearing proceedings**.

Connecticut—Superior Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**, some **extraordinary writs**, and **ordinance violation** cases handled by the Centralized Infractions Bureau.

Delaware—Superior Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings** and **extraordinary writs**.

Hawaii—Circuit Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **criminal postconviction remedy proceedings**.

Illinois—Circuit Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include some **preliminary hearing proceedings**.

Iowa—District Court—Grand total filed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.

Kentucky—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **sentence review only proceedings**.

Louisiana—District Court—Grand total filed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.

Maine—Superior Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy** and **sentence review only proceedings**.

—District Court—Grand total filed data include **preliminary hearing proceedings**.

Maryland—Circuit Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **estate** cases from the Orphan's Court, and some **postconviction remedy and sentence review only proceedings**.

Mississippi—Chancery Court—Grand total filed data include **extraordinary writs**.

—Circuit Court—Grand total filed data include **extraordinary writs**.

—County Court—Grand total filed data include **preliminary hearing proceedings**.

Nebraska—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.

New York—Supreme and County Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.

Ohio—Court of Common Pleas—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.

Pennsylvania—Philadelphia Municipal Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **preliminary hearing proceedings**.

Rhode Island—Superior Court—Grand total filed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.

South Carolina—Circuit Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.

Tennessee—Juvenile Court—Grand total disposed data are somewhat inflated. Disposed data are counted by number of actions rather than number of referrals.

Utah—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy** and **sentence review only proceedings**.

—Circuit Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.

Washington—Superior Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings** and **extraordinary writs**.

West Virginia—Circuit Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings** and **extraordinary writs**.

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

Alaska—Superior Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **extraordinary writs**, orders to show cause, unfair trade practices, and **postconviction remedy proceedings**, but do not include **criminal appeals** cases.

Colorado—County Court—Grand total disposed data include some **preliminary hearing proceedings**, but do not include cases from Denver County Court.

Iowa—District Court—Grand total disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**, but do not include some **miscellaneous domestic relations** cases and all **juvenile** cases.

Maine—District Court—Grand total disposed data include **preliminary hearing proceedings**, but do not include cases disposed by the District Court Violations Bureau (DCVB).

**TABLE 9: Reported Total State Trial Court Civil Caseload, 1992**

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Support/custody:		Total civil filings and qualifying footnotes	Total civil dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
		(a) method of count code	(b) decree change counted as				
<b>ALABAMA</b>							
Circuit	G	6	NF	102,022	99,491	98	2,467
District	L	1		76,796	175,846	99	4,275
Probate	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							
<b>ALASKA</b>							
Superior	G	6	R	15,255 B	15,059 B	99	2,599
District	L	5		18,751	19,105	102	3,194
State Total				34,006 *	34,164 *	100	5,793
<b>ARIZONA</b>							
Superior	G	6	NF	97,588	98,802	101	2,547
Tax	G	1		1,906	1,785	94	50
Justice of the Peace	L	1		122,814	119,729	97	3,205
Municipal	L	1		12,714	12,617	99	332
State Total				235,022	232,933	99	6,133
<b>ARKANSAS</b>							
Chancery and Probate	G	3	R	73,930	69,182	94	3,082
Circuit	G	1		23,158	23,651	102	965
City	L	1		491	23	5	20
Justice of the Peace	L	1		NA	NA		
County	L	1		NA	NA		
Court of Common Pleas	L	1		NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1		62,343 A	35,305 A	57	2,599
Police	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>							
Superior	G	6	NC	735,674 A	697,782 A	95	2,383
Justice	L	1		25,698 A	22,487 A	88	83
Municipal	L	1		1,155,938	1,175,884	102	3,745
State Total				1,917,310 *	1,896,153 *	99	6,212
<b>COLORADO</b>							
District, Denver Juvenile, Denver Probate	G	3	R	87,897	81,579	93	2,533
Water	G	1		965	951	99	28
County	L	1		163,467	114,623 A		4,711
State Total				252,329	197,153 *		7,272
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>							
Superior	G	5 **	NC	184,822 C	189,472 C	103	5,633
Probate	L	1		57,860	NA		1,763
State Total				242,682 *			7,397
<b>DELAWARE</b>							
Court of Chancery	G	1		3,493	3,356	96	507
Superior	G	1		6,952 B	5,585 B	80	1,009
Court of Common Pleas	L	1		5,481	5,157	94	796
Family	L	3 **	R	29,480 B	30,943 B		4,279
Justice of the Peace	L	1		31,494	31,942	101	4,571
State Total				76,900 *	76,983 *		11,161

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TABLE 9: Reported Total State Trial Court Civil Caseload, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Support/custody:		Total civil filings and qualifying footnotes	Total civil dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
		(a) method of count code	(b) decree change counted as				
<b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b>							
Superior	G	6 **	R	139,764	137,581	98	23,729
<b>FLORIDA</b>							
Circuit	G	4	R	580,858	442,072	76	4,306
County	L	1		333,682	298,488	89	2,474
State Total				914,540	740,560	81	6,780
<b>GEORGIA</b>							
Superior	G	3	NF	187,417	188,048	100	2,776
Civil	L	1		NA	NA		
Magistrate	L	1		422,378 A	396,461 A	94	6,257
Municipal	L	1		NA	NA		
Probate	L	1		20,360 A	NA		302
State	L	1		209,216 A	118,196 A	56	3,099
State Total							
<b>HAWAII</b>							
Circuit	G	6	R	30,166 B	30,234 B	100	2,601
District	L	1		26,947	29,314	109	2,323
State Total				57,113 *	59,548 *	104	4,924
<b>IDAHO</b>							
District	G	6 **	R	70,528 A	69,643 A	99	6,610
<b>ILLINOIS</b>							
Circuit	G	6 **	R	753,131	719,616	96	6,475
<b>INDIANA</b>							
Probate	G	1		2,008 A	1,824 A	91	35
Superior and Circuit	G	5	R	270,158 A	267,646 A	99	4,771
City and Town	L	1		14,201	14,633	103	251
County	L	1		54,306	52,897	97	959
Municipal Court of Marion County	L	1		10,315 A	10,121 A	98	182
Small Claims Court of Marion County	L	1		72,724	69,169	95	1,284
State Total				423,712 *	416,290 *	98	7,483
<b>IOWA</b>							
District	G	6	NF	158,232 B	157,465 C		5,627
<b>KANSAS</b>							
District	G	6 **	NC	173,699	169,648	98	6,885
<b>KENTUCKY</b>							
Circuit	G	6	R	69,309	62,996	91	1,846
District	L	1		161,541 A	143,174 A	89	4,302
State Total				230,850 *	206,170 *	89	6,148
<b>LOUISIANA</b>							
District	G	6	NF	174,915 B	NA		4,080
Family and Juvenile	G	4 ***	NF	12,654	8,303	66	295
City and Parish	L	1		67,177	52,782	79	1,567
Justice of the Peace	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							

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TABLE 9: Reported Total State Trial Court Civil Caseload, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Support/custody:		Total civil filings and qualifying footnotes	Total civil dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
		(a) method of count code	(b) decree change counted as				
<b>MAINE</b>							
Superior	G	6	NC	6,371	6,497	102	516
Administrative	L	1		454	416	92	37
District	L	5	NC	46,828	44,156	94	3,792
Probate	L	1		13,684	NA		1,108
State Total				67,337			
<b>MARYLAND</b>							
Circuit	G	6 **	NF	149,318 B	124,919 B	84	3,042
District	L	1		799,943	7,277 A		16,299
Orphan's	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>							
Trial Court of the Commonwealth	G	5 **	R	517,500 A	534,411 A		8,628
<b>MICHIGAN</b>							
Circuit	G	6 **	NC	188,931	95,925	104	2,002
Court of Claims	G	1		667	730	109	7
District	L	1		417,689	429,755	103	4,426
Municipal	L	1		796	732	92	8
Probate	L	1		108,212	48,266 A		1,147
State Total				716,295	675,408 *		7,590
<b>MINNESOTA</b>							
District	G	6	NF	232,660	227,742	98	5,193
<b>MISSISSIPPI</b>							
Chancery	G	5	NF	58,728 B	NA		2,247
Circuit	G	1		22,012 B	NA		842
County	L	1		25,321	NA		969
Family	L	1		NA	NA		
Justice	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							
<b>MISSOURI</b>							
Circuit	G	6 **	NF	269,942	268,331	99	5,198
<b>MONTANA</b>							
District	G	3	R	22,336	19,077	85	2,711
Water	G	1		NA	NA		
Workers' Compensation	G	1		NA	NA		
City	L	1		NA	NA		
Justice of the Peace	L	1		NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							
<b>NEBRASKA</b>							
District	G	5	R	53,906 C	51,751 C	96	3,357
County	L	1		64,409	63,168	98	4,011
Workers' Compensation	L	1		539	516	96	34
State Total				118,854 *	115,435 *	97	7,401
<b>NEVADA</b>							
District	G	2	R	48,160	NA		3,629
Justice	L	1		NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							

(continued on next page)

TABLE 9: Reported Total State Trial Court Civil Caseload, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Support/custody:		Total civil filings and qualifying footnotes	Total civil dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
		(a) method of count code	(b) decree change counted as				
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>							
Superior	G	5	R	31,510	34,650	110	2,836
District	L	1		37,007	29,890	81	3,331
Municipal	L	1		207	112	54	19
Probate	L	1		17,307	7,816 A		1,558
State Total				86,031	72,468 *		7,744
<b>NEW JERSEY</b>							
Superior	G	6 **	R	1,022,461	857,078 A		13,127
Tax	L	1		16,300	9,224	57	209
State Total				1,038,761	866,302 *		13,336
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>							
District	G	6	R	59,210	59,391	100	3,745
Magistrate	L	1		15,102 A	10,925 A	72	955
Metropolitan Ct. of Bernalillo County	L	1		9,271	10,533	114	586
Probate	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							
<b>NEW YORK</b>							
Supreme and County Civil Court of the City of New York	G	1		238,299 B	230,069 B	97	1,315
Court of Claims	L	1		596,804 A	473,903 A	79	3,294
District and City	L	1		2,107	1,727	82	12
Family	L	1		244,395 A	242,708 A	99	1,349
Family Surrogates'	L	4	R	527,504	528,777	100	2,911
Town and Village Justice	L	1		120,608	107,830	89	666
State Total	L	1		NA	NA		
<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>							
Superior	G	1		119,814	108,650	91	1,751
District	L	6 **	R	479,483	421,742 A		7,007
State Total				599,297	530,392 *		8,758
<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b>							
District	G	6 **	NF	19,821	18,887	95	3,117
County	L	1		15,012	14,376	96	2,360
State Total				34,833	33,263	95	5,477
<b>OHIO</b>							
Court of Common Pleas	G	6 **	R	411,134 B	405,282 B	99	3,732
County	L	1		20,437	20,949	103	186
Court of Claims	L	1		9,127	7,523	82	83
Municipal	L	1		378,702	382,423	101	3,438
State Total				819,400 *	816,177 *	100	7,438
<b>OKLAHOMA</b>							
District	G	6	R	192,762	190,462	99	6,001
Court of Tax Review	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							

(continued on next page)

TABLE 9: Reported Total State Trial Court Civil Caseload, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Support/custody:		Total civil filings and qualifying footnotes	Total civil dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
		(a) method of count code	(b) decree change counted as				
<b>OREGON</b>							
Circuit	G	6 **	R	100,960 B	101,906 B	101	3,391
Tax	G	1		578	514	89	19
County	L	1		NA	NA		
District	L	1		90,464	89,065	98	3,039
Justice	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>							
Court of Common Pleas	G	4	NF	314,722 A	333,345 A	106	2,621
District Justice	L	1		244,937	233,891	95	2,040
Philadelphia Municipal	L	1		129,218 A	125,079 A	97	1,076
Pittsburgh City Magistrates	L	1		6,201	NA		52
State Total				695,078 *			
<b>PUERTO RICO</b>							
Superior	G	6	NF	67,009	72,941	109	1,903
District	L	1		83,791 A	75,669 A	90	2,379
State Total				150,800 *	148,610 *	99	4,282
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>							
Superior	G	1		10,002 B	NA		995
Workers' Compensation	G	1		15,994	19,263	120	1,591
District	L	1		37,156 A	39,953 A		3,697
Family	L	6	R	14,212	5,869 A		1,414
Probate	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>							
Circuit	G	1		52,530 B	55,466 B	106	1,458
Family	L	6 **	NF	72,388	68,430	95	2,009
Magistrate	L	1		156,330	154,335	99	4,339
Probate	L	1		24,081	24,383	101	668
State Total				305,329 *	302,614 *	99	8,474
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>							
Circuit	G	4	NC	44,399	41,847 A		6,245
<b>TENNESSEE</b>							
Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery	G	6 **	R	126,567	116,094	92	2,519
Probate	G	1		3,714	1,555 A		74
General Sessions	L	6 **	R	NA	NA		
Juvenile	L	1		6,989	6,088	87	139
State Total							
<b>TEXAS</b>							
District	G	6 **	R	450,758 B	463,518 B	103	2,553
County-level	L	6 **	R	163,956 B	90,635 C		929
Justice of the Peace	L	1		238,551 A	195,960 A	82	1,351
Municipal	L	1		11,669 A	11,669 A	100	66
State Total				864,934 *	761,782 *		4,899
<b>UTAH</b>							
District	G	3	R	35,510 B	34,524 B	97	1,959
Circuit	L	1		116,489	155,843	134	6,425
Justice	L	1		2,494 A	2,283 A	92	138
State Total				154,493 *	192,650 *	125	8,521

(continued on next page)

TABLE 9: Reported Total State Trial Court Civil Caseload, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Support/custody:		Total civil filings and qualifying footnotes	Total civil dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
		(a) method of count code	(b) decree change counted as				
<b>VERMONT</b>							
District	G	4 ***	NC	14,015	13,492	96	2,459
Family	G	4 ***	NC	13,590	13,192	97	2,384
Superior	G	5	NC	8,102	8,613	106	1,421
Environmental	L	1		10	7	70	2
Probate	L	1		4,809	5,772	120	844
State Total				40,526	41,076	101	
<b>VIRGINIA</b>							
Circuit	G	3	R	116,600	108,107	93	1,828
District	L	4	R	1,322,163 A	1,350,740 A	102	20,733
State Total				1,438,763 *	1,458,847 *	101	22,562
<b>WASHINGTON</b>							
Superior	G	6	R	146,190 B	134,654 B	92	2,846
District	L	1		37,842 A	100,536 A		2,684
Municipal	L	1		385 A	322 A		7
State Total				284,417 *	235,512 *		5,538
<b>WEST VIRGINIA</b>							
Circuit	G	5	R	52,525 B	48,838 B	93	2,899
Magistrate	L	1		48,814	53,167	109	2,694
State Total				101,339 *	102,005 *	101	5,593
<b>WISCONSIN</b>							
Circuit	G	6 **	NF	344,216 B	346,735 B	101	6,875
<b>WYOMING</b>							
District	G	5	R	10,477 A	9,426 A		2,248
County	L	4	R	20,502	19,468 A		4,400
Justice of the Peace	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							

**NOTE:** All 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.

NA = Data are not available

**JURISDICTION CODES:**

G = General Jurisdiction

L = Limited Jurisdiction

**SUPPORT/CUSTODY CODES:**

(a) Method of count 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

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TABLE 9: Reported Total State Trial Court Civil Caseload, 1992. (continued)

(b) Decree change counted as:

NC = Not counted/collected

NF = New filing

R = Reopened case

**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 effect on the state's total.

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:

Arkansas—Municipal Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include any cases from 3 municipalities, and partial data from 13 others.

California—Superior Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include partial data from one court.

—Justice Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include partial data from one court.

Colorado—County Court—Total **civil** disposed data do not include cases from Denver County.

Georgia—Magistrate Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include any cases from one county, and partial data from 27 counties.

—Probate Court—Total **civil** filed data do not include any cases from 60 of 159 counties, and partial data from 25 counties, and are less than 75% complete.

—State Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include any cases from 27 of 62 courts, and partial data from one court, and are less than 75% complete. Data for this court are for 1991.

Idaho—District Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include **mental health** cases.

Indiana—Probate Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include **miscellaneous domestic relations** cases.

—Superior and Circuit Courts—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include **civil appeals** and **support/custody** cases.

—Municipal Court of Marion County—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include **appeals of trial court** cases.

Kentucky—District Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include **paternity** cases.

Maryland—District Court—Total **civil** disposed data do not include **tort, contract, real property rights, small claims, and miscellaneous civil** cases, and are less than 75% complete.

Massachusetts—Trial Court of the Commonwealth—Total **civil** filed data do not include some **domestic relations** cases. Disposed data do not include some **real property rights** and some **small claims** cases.

Michigan—Probate Court—Total **civil** disposed data do not include **adoption, paternity, miscellaneous domestic relations, mental health, and miscellaneous civil** cases and are less than 75% complete.

New Hampshire—Probate Court—Total **civil** disposed data do not include some **estate** and some **miscellaneous civil** cases.

New Jersey—Superior Court—Total **civil** disposed data do not include some **estate** cases.

New Mexico—Magistrate Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include some cases due to incomplete reporting by several counties.

New York—Civil Court of the City of New York—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include **administrative agency appeals** cases.

—District and City Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include **administrative agency appeals** cases.

North Carolina—District Court—Total **civil** disposed data do not include **miscellaneous civil** cases.

Pennsylvania—Court of Common Pleas—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include some **civil appeals** cases.

—Philadelphia Municipal Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include **miscellaneous domestic relations** cases.

Puerto Rico—District Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include **small claims** cases.

Rhode Island—District Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include **mental health** cases. Disposed data also do not include **miscellaneous domestic relations** and **administrative agency appeals**.

—Family Court—Total **civil** disposed data do not include **URESA** and **paternity** cases.

South Dakota—Circuit Court—Total **civil** disposed data do not include **adoption, estate, and administrative agency appeals** cases.

Tennessee—Probate Court—Total **civil** disposed data do not include cases from Shelby County, and are less than 75% complete.

Texas—Justice of the Peace Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of 91%.

—Municipal Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of 94%.

Utah—Justice Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data represent only those courts that are automated (a reporting rate of 85%).

Virginia—District Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include some **domestic relations** cases.

Washington—District Court—Total **civil** filed data do not include cases from four districts. Disposed data do not include cases from three districts.

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TABLE 9: Reported Total State Trial Court Civil Caseload, 1992. (continued)

—Municipal Court—Total **civil** filed data do not include any cases from 29 courts and partial data from 8 courts. Disposed data do not include any cases from 30 courts and partial data from 7 courts.

Wyoming—District Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include cases from two counties that did not report.

—County Court—Total **civil** disposed data do not include **trial court civil appeals** cases.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Alaska—Superior Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **extraordinary writs**, orders to show cause, unfair trade practices, and **postconviction remedy proceedings**.

Delaware—Superior Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **extraordinary writs**.

—Family Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **status offense petition** cases.

Hawaii—Circuit Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **criminal postconviction remedy proceedings**.

Iowa—District Court—Total **civil** filed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.

Louisiana—District Court—Total **civil** filed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.

Maryland—Circuit Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **estate** cases from the Orphan's Court.

Mississippi—Chancery Court—Total **civil** filed data include **extraordinary writs**.

—Circuit Court—Total **civil** filed data include **extraordinary writs**.

New York—Supreme and County Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.

Ohio—Court of Common Pleas—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.

Oregon—Circuit Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **criminal appeals** cases.

Rhode Island—Superior Court—Total **civil** filed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.

South Carolina—Circuit Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.

Texas—District Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **child-victim petition** cases.

—County-level Court—Total **civil** filed data include **child-victim petition** cases.

Utah—District Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include some **postconviction remedy proceedings**.

Washington—Superior Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings** and **extraordinary writs**.

West Virginia—Circuit Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings** and **extraordinary writs**.

Wisconsin—Circuit Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **criminal appeals** cases.

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

Connecticut—Superior Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**, and some **extraordinary writs**, but do not include **mental health** cases.

Iowa—District Court—Total **civil** disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**, but do not include some **miscellaneous domestic relations** cases.

Nebraska—District Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**, but do not include **civil appeals** cases.

Texas—County-level Court—Total **civil** disposed data include **child-victim petition** cases, but do not include **probate/wills/intestate, guardianship/conservatorship/trusteeship**, and **mental health** cases, and are less than 75% complete. The court conducted 80,346 probate hearings and 24,364 mental health hearings during the year.

**TABLE 10: Reported Total State Trial Court Criminal Caseload, 1992**

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unit of count	Point of filing	Total criminal filings and qualifying footnotes	Total criminal dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 adult population
<b>ALABAMA</b>							
Circuit	G	G	A	55,406 B	50,204 B	91	1,811
District	L	B	B	150,226 B	146,468 B	97	4,909
Municipal	L	M	B	169,513 C	165,181 C		5,540
State Total				375,145 *	361,853 *		12,260
<b>ALASKA</b>							
Superior	G	B	A	2,763 A	2,725 A	99	687
District	L	B	B	29,861 B	29,208 B	98	7,428
State Total				32,624 *	31,933 *	98	8,115
<b>ARIZONA</b>							
Superior	G	D	A	30,373	27,174	89	1,091
Justice of the Peace	L	Z	B	73,322	65,718	90	2,633
Municipal	L	Z	B	216,995	207,262	96	7,792
State Total				320,690	300,154	94	11,515
<b>ARKANSAS</b>							
Circuit	G	A	A	38,940	37,569	96	2,200
City	L	A	B	7,881 B	4,566 B	58	445
Justice of the Peace	L	A	B	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	A	B	243,190 C	158,709 C	65	13,740
Police	L	A	B	NA	NA		
State Total							
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>							
Superior	G	B	A	169,018 A	159,789 A	95	753
Justice	L	B	B	38,950 C	32,912 C	84	174
Municipal	L	B	B	792,237 C	733,765 C	93	3,530
State Total				1,000,205 *	926,466 *	93	4,456
<b>COLORADO</b>							
District, Denver Juvenile, Denver Probate	G	D	B	23,571 B	22,656 B	96	920
County	L	D	B	119,470 B	57,731 C		4,665
State Total				143,041 *	80,387 *		5,585
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>							
Superior	G	E	A	150,396 C	166,350		5,992
<b>DELAWARE</b>							
Superior	G	B	A	7,581 B	7,413 B	98	1,466
Alderman's	L	A	B	6,184 B	6,594 B	107	1,196
Court of Common Pleas	L	A	B	5,227 A	NA		1,011
Family	L	B	B	4,538	4,463	98	878
Justice of the Peace	L	A	B	72,766 A	68,488 A	94	14,075
Municipal Court of Wilmington	L	A	B	20,816 C	20,355 C	98	4,026
State Total				117,112 *			22,652
<b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b>							
Superior	G	B	G	44,581	41,125 A		9,445
<b>FLORIDA</b>							
Circuit	G	E	A	178,120	157,999	89	1,716
County	L	A	B	420,564	378,812	90	4,051
State Total				598,684	536,811	90	5,767

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TABLE 10: Reported Total State Trial Court Criminal Caseload, 1992. (continued)

<u>State/Court name:</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Unit of court</u>	<u>Point of filing</u>	<u>Total criminal filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Total criminal dispositions and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Dispositions as a percentage of filings</u>	<u>Filings per 100,000 adult population</u>
<b>GEORGIA</b>							
Superior	G	G	A	96,715 B	94,159 B	97	1,953
Civil	L	M	M	NA	NA		
County Recorder's	L	M	M	NA	NA		
Magistrate	L	B	B	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	M	M	NA	NA		
Municipal and City of Atlanta	L	M	M	NA	NA		
Probate	L	B	A	2,991 A	2,683 A	90	60
State	L	G	A	124,494 C	113,546 C		2,515
State Total							
<b>HAWAII</b>							
Circuit	G	G	B	11,444	8,795	77	1,320
District	L	A	C	36,581 A	35,842 A	98	4,219
State Total				48,025 *	44,637 *	93	5,539
<b>IDAHO</b>							
District	G	D	F	71,928	68,235	95	9,681
<b>ILLINOIS</b>							
Circuit	G	G	A	558,204 C	512,025 C		6,489
<b>INDIANA</b>							
Superior and Circuit	G	B	A	108,459 A	103,151 A	95	2,582
City and Town	L	B	F	44,410 B	51,015 B	115	1,057
County	L	B	F	37,799	37,130	98	900
Municipal Court of Marion County	L	B	F	32,733	30,359	93	779
State Total				223,401 *	221,655 *	99	5,318
<b>IOWA</b>							
District	G	B	A	72,227 A	68,569 A	95	3,477
<b>KANSAS</b>							
District	G	B	C	44,353	45,773	103	2,404
Municipal	L	B	C	14,110 A	15,339 A	109	765
State Total				58,463 *	61,112 *	105	3,169
<b>KENTUCKY</b>							
Circuit	G	B	A	17,387	14,055	81	623
District	L	B	F	184,297 B	161,756 B	88	6,603
State Total				201,684 *	175,811 *	87	7,226
<b>LOUISIANA</b>							
District	G	Z	A	119,360	NA		3,915
City and Parish	L	B	F	160,858	131,686	82	5,276
State Total				280,218			9,190
<b>MAINE</b>							
Superior	G	E	A	10,484 C	10,601 C	101	1,129
District	L	E	F	40,612 C	39,290 C	97	4,372
State Total				51,096 *	49,891 *	98	5,500
<b>MARYLAND</b>							
Circuit	G	B	A	73,790 B	68,217 B	92	2,004
District	L	B	A	208,506	217,400	104	5,663
State Total				282,296 *	285,617 *	101	7,667

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TABLE 10: Reported Total State Trial Court Criminal Caseload, 1992. (continued)

<u>State/Court name:</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Unit of count</u>	<u>Point of filing</u>	<u>Total criminal filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Total criminal dispositions and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Dispositions as a percentage of filings</u>	<u>Filings per 100,000 adult population</u>
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>							
Trial Court of the Commonwealth	G	D	B	365,865 A	260,245 C		7,929
<b>MICHIGAN</b>							
Circuit	G	B	A	50,577	50,976	101	730
Recorder's Court of Detroit	G	B	A	16,690	16,621	100	241
District	L	B	B	297,252 B	303,598 B	102	4,291
Municipal	L	B	B	3,112 B	2,821 B	91	45
State Total				367,631 *	374,016 *	102	5,306
<b>MINNESOTA</b>							
District	G	B	B	198,115 B	196,860 B	99	6,051
<b>MISSISSIPPI</b>							
Circuit	G	B	B	16,997	NA		911
County	L	B	B	5,532 B	NA		296
Justice	L	B	B	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	B	B	NA	NA		
State Total							
<b>MISSOURI</b>							
Circuit	G	G	G	152,055	140,878	93	3,957
<b>MONTANA</b>							
District	G	G	A	4,050	3,513	87	677
City	L	B	B	NA	NA		
Justice of the Peace	L	B	B	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	B	B	NA	NA		
State Total							
<b>NEBRASKA</b>							
District	G	B	A	7,252 B	6,871 B	95	621
County	L	B	F	84,053 B	79,334 B	94	7,202
State Total				91,305 *	86,205 *	94	7,824
<b>NEVADA</b>							
District	G	Z	A	3 A	NA		
Justice	L	Z	B	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	Z	B	NA	NA		
State Total							
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>							
Superior	G	A	A	13,285	15,485	117	1,599
District	L	A	B	33,221	28,480	86	3,998
Municipal	L	A	B	359	202	56	43
State Total				46,865	44,167	94	5,640
<b>NEW JERSEY</b>							
Superior	G	B	A	53,835	60,119	112	908
Municipal	L	B	B	386,919	375,944	97	6,529
State Total				440,754	436,063	99	7,438
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>							
District	G	E	A	12,216	11,843	97	1,099
Magistrate	L	E	B	25,096 C	19,518 C	78	2,257
Metropolitan Ct. of Bernalillo County	L	E	B	116,393 B	49,472 B	43	10,467
State Total				153,705 *	80,833 *	53	

(continued on next page)

TABLE 10: Reported Total State Trial Court Criminal Caseload, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unit of court	Point of filing	Total criminal filings and qualifying footnotes	Total criminal dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 adult population
<b>NEW YORK</b>							
Supreme and County Criminal Court of the City of New York	G	E	A	77,929	79,845	102	569
District and City Town and Village Justice	L	E	D	217,288	211,688	97	1,586
State Total	L	E	B	215,188 B	203,293 B	94	1,571
	L	E	B	NA	NA		
<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>							
Superior District	G	E	A	126,673	119,256	94	2,445
State Total	L	E	G	556,089 C	551,149 C	99	10,733
				682,762 *	670,405 *	98	13,178
<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b>							
District	G	B	A	2,084	1,866	90	449
County	L	E	F	21,223	23,242	110	4,574
Municipal	L	B	B	NA	NA		
State Total							
<b>OHIO</b>							
Court of Common Pleas	G	B	C	65,361	64,871	99	797
County	L	B	E	37,988 B	37,483 B	99	463
Mayor's	L	B	E	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	B	E	470,224 B	459,257 B	98	5,737
State Total							
<b>OKLAHOMA</b>							
District	G	J	A	77,995 B	69,294 B	89	3,313
<b>OREGON</b>							
Circuit	G	E	G	27,829 A	26,087 A	94	1,259
District	L	E	G	66,454	69,019	104	3,006
Justice	L	E	B	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	A	B	NA	NA		
State Total							
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>							
Court of Common Pleas	G	B	A	140,416 A	143,199 A	102	1,532
District Justice	L	B	B	505,243 B	437,824 B	87	5,513
Philadelphia Municipal	L	B	B	43,086 C	42,622 C	99	470
Pittsburgh City Magistrates	L	B	B	9,988 B	NA		109
State Total				698,733 *			
<b>PUERTO RICO</b>							
Superior	G	J	B	41,165	39,213	95	1,739
District	L	J	B	49,729	48,519	98	2,101
State Total				90,894	87,732	97	3,840
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>							
Superior	G	D	A	6,504	7,139	110	842
District	L	A	B	40,705 B	36,887 B	91	5,273
State Total				47,209 *	44,026 *	93	6,115
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>							
Circuit	G	B	A	113,289	109,514	97	4,262
Magistrate	L	B	E	182,385 C	180,887 C	99	6,862
Municipal	L	B	E	86,042	86,011	100	3,237
State Total				381,716 *	376,412 *	99	14,361

(continued on next page)

TABLE 10: Reported Total State Trial Court Criminal Caseload, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unit of count	Point of filing	Total criminal filings and qualifying footnotes	Total criminal dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 adult population
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>							
Circuit	G	A	B	28,919	19,976	69	5,704
<b>TENNESSEE</b>							
Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery General Sessions	G	Z	A	66,604 A	62,555 A	94	1,763
Municipal	L	M	M	NA	NA		
State Total	L	M	M	NA	NA		
<b>TEXAS</b>							
District	G	B	A	176,540	167,642	95	1,403
County-level	L	B	F	465,444	380,710 A		3,699
Justice of the Peace	L	A	B	547,853 A	427,606 A	78	4,354
Municipal	L	A	B	631,120 A	437,042 A	69	5,015
State Total				1,820,957 *	1,413,000 *		14,470
<b>UTAH</b>							
District	G	J	A	4,833 B	4,429 B	92	417
Circuit	L	B	A	45,263 C	45,389 C	100	3,905
Justice	L	B	B	33,415 C	29,912 C	90	2,883
State Total				83,511 *	79,730 *	95	7,205
<b>VERMONT</b>							
District	G	D	C	16,584	18,278	110	3,893
Superior	G	B	A	6	14	233	1
State Total				16,590	18,292	110	3,894
<b>VIRGINIA</b>							
Circuit	G	A	A	109,565 B	107,261 B	98	2,275
District	L	A	E	437,143 A	468,781 A	107	9,079
State Total				546,708 *	576,042 *	105	11,354
<b>WASHINGTON</b>							
Superior	G	D	F	29,981	26,720	89	793
District	L	C	B	129,960 A	128,392 A		3,437
Municipal	L	C	B	88,500 A	87,008 A		2,341
State Total				248,441 *	242,120 *		6,571
<b>WEST VIRGINIA</b>							
Circuit	G	J	A	8,135	8,830	109	592
Magistrate	L	J	E	133,802	133,666	100	9,738
Municipal	L	A	B	NA	NA		
State Total							
<b>WISCONSIN</b>							
Circuit	G	D	C	109,919 A	107,646 A	98	2,989
Municipal	L	A	B	NA	NA		
State Total							
<b>WYOMING</b>							
District	G	J	A	1,467 A	1,267 A	86	447
County	L	J	B	12,505 A	NA		3,813
Justice of the Peace	L	J	B	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	A	B	NA	NA		
State Total							

TABLE 10: Reported Total State Trial Court Criminal Caseload, 1992. (continued)

**NOTE:** All 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.

NA = 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  
= 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 effect on the state's total.

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:

- Alaska—Superior Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include **criminal appeals** cases.
- California—Superior Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include partial data from one court.
- Delaware—Court of Common Pleas—Total **criminal** filed data do not include most **misdemeanor** cases.  
—Justice of the Peace Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include **DWI/DUI** cases.
- District of Columbia—Superior Court—Total **criminal** disposed data do not include **DWI/DUI** cases.
- Georgia—Probate Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include any cases from 34 of 159 counties, partial data from 12 counties, do not include **DWI/DUI** cases, which are reported with **traffic/other violation** data, and are less than 75% complete.
- Hawaii—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include some **misdemeanor** cases.
- Indiana—Superior and Circuit Courts—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include **criminal appeals** cases.
- Iowa—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include some **misdemeanor** cases.
- Kansas—Municipal Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include partial year data from several courts.
- Massachusetts—Trial Court of the Commonwealth—Total **criminal** filed data do not include some **misdemeanor** cases.
- Nevada—District Court—Total **criminal** filed data do not include **felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, and miscellaneous criminal** cases and are less than 75% complete.
- Oregon—Circuit Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include **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 Courts-- Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include **miscellaneous criminal** cases.
- Texas—County-level Court—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 91%.  
—Municipal Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of 94%.
- Virginia—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include **DWI/DUI** cases.
- Washington—District Court—Total **criminal** filed data do not include cases from four districts. Disposed data do not include cases from three districts.  
—Municipal Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include cases from 37 courts. Disposed data also do not include cases from Seattle Municipal Court and are less than 75% complete.

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TABLE 10: Reported Total State Trial Court Criminal Caseload, 1992. (continued)

Wisconsin—Circuit Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include **criminal appeals** and uncontested first offense **DWI/DUI** cases.

Wyoming—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include cases from two counties that did not report.

—County Court—Total **criminal** filed data do not include reopened **misdemeanor** and reopened **DWI/DUI** cases.

**B:** The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Alabama—Circuit Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.

—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 violation** cases and all **ordinance violation** cases.

Arkansas—City Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **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.

—County Court—Total **criminal** filed data include some **preliminary hearing proceedings**.

Delaware—Superior Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.

—Alderman's Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases.

Georgia—Superior Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include all **traffic/other violation** cases. Data for this court are for 1991.

Indiana—City and Town Courts—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include some **ordinance violation** and some unclassified traffic cases.

Kentucky—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases and **sentence review only proceedings**.

Maryland—Circuit Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include some **postconviction remedy** and **sentence review only proceedings**.

Michigan—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases.

—Municipal Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases.

Minnesota—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases.

Mississippi—County Court—Total **criminal** filed data include **preliminary hearing proceedings**.

Nebraska—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **civil appeals** cases.

—County Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases.

New Mexico—Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases.

New York—District and City Courts—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases.

Ohio—County Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases.

—Municipal Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases.

Oklahoma—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases.

Pennsylvania—District Justice Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases.

—Pittsburgh City Magistrates Court—Total **criminal** filed data include **ordinance violation** cases.

Rhode Island—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **moving traffic violation** and **ordinance violation** cases.

Utah—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include some **postconviction remedy** and **sentence review only proceedings**.

Virginia—Circuit Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases.

**C:** The following courts' data are incomplete and overinclusive:

Alabama—Municipal Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases, but do not include data that were unavailable from 19 municipalities. Disposed data also do not include acquittals and nolle prosequi dispositions for **DWI/DUI** cases.

Arkansas—Municipal Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases, but do not include data from several municipalities.

California—Justice Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include some **ordinance violation** cases, but do not include **DWI/DUI** cases and partial data from one court.

—Municipal Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data include some **ordinance violation** cases, but do not include **DWI/DUI** cases.

Colorado—County Court—Total **criminal** disposed data include some **preliminary hearing proceedings**, but do not include **DWI/DUI** cases and data from Denver County Court.

Connecticut—Superior Court—Total **criminal** filed 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 most **DWI/DUI** cases.

Georgia—State Court—Total **criminal** filed data include **traffic/other violation** cases from five of 62 courts, but do not include some **DWI/DUI** cases, any data from 27 courts,

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TABLE 10: Reported Total State Trial Court Criminal Caseload, 1992. (continued)

<p>partial data from one court, and are less than 75% complete. Disposed data include <b>traffic/other violation</b> cases from five courts, but do not include some <b>DWI/DUI</b> cases, any data from 28 courts, partial data from one court, and are less than 75% complete. Data for this court are for 1991.</p>	<p>New Mexico—Magistrate Court—Total <b>criminal</b> filed and disposed data include some <b>traffic</b> cases, but do not include some cases due to incomplete reporting by several counties.</p>
<p>Illinois—Circuit Court—Total <b>criminal</b> filed data include some <b>preliminary hearing proceedings</b> and some <b>ordinance violation</b> cases, but do not include <b>DWI/DUI</b> cases for courts downstate. Disposed data include some <b>preliminary hearing</b> and <b>ordinance violation</b> cases, but do not include any <b>DWI/DUI</b> cases.</p>	<p>North Carolina—District Court—Total <b>criminal</b> filed and disposed data include some <b>ordinance violation</b> cases, but do not include <b>DWI/DUI</b> cases.</p>
<p>Maine—Superior Court—Total <b>criminal</b> filed and disposed data include <b>ordinance violation</b> cases, and <b>postconviction remedy</b> and <b>sentence review only proceedings</b>, but do not include <b>DWI/DUI</b> and some <b>criminal appeals</b> cases.</p> <p>—District Court—Total <b>criminal</b> filed and disposed data include <b>preliminary hearing proceedings</b> and some <b>ordinance violation</b> cases, but do not include <b>DWI/DUI</b> and some <b>misdemeanor</b> cases, and are less than 75% complete.</p>	<p>Pennsylvania—Philadelphia Municipal Court—Total <b>criminal</b> filed and disposed data include <b>preliminary hearing proceedings</b>, but do not include some <b>misdemeanor</b> cases.</p>
<p>Massachusetts—Trial Court of the Commonwealth—Total <b>criminal</b> disposed data include some <b>moving traffic violation</b> cases, but do not include some cases from the Boston Municipal, Juvenile, District, and Housing Court Departments.</p>	<p>South Carolina—Magistrate Court—Total <b>criminal</b> filed and disposed data include <b>miscellaneous juvenile</b> cases, but do not include <b>DWI/DUI</b> cases. (Filed data were estimated using percentages provided by the AOC.)</p> <p>Utah—Circuit Court—Total <b>criminal</b> filed and disposed data include <b>postconviction remedy proceedings</b>, but do not include some <b>miscellaneous criminal</b> cases.</p> <p>—Justice Court—Total <b>criminal</b> filed and disposed data include some <b>moving traffic violation</b> cases, but represent a reporting rate of 85% (only those courts that are automated).</p>

**TABLE 11: Reported Total State Trial Court Traffic/Other Violation Caseload, 1992**

<u>State/court name:</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Parking</u>	<u>Total traffic filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Total traffic dispositions and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Dispositions as a percentage of filings</u>	<u>Filings per 100,000 total population</u>
<b>ALABAMA</b>						
District	L	1	220,825	223,016	101	5,339
Municipal	L	1	815,635 A	546,330 A	67	19,720
State Total			1,036,460 *	769,346 *	74	25,059
<b>ALASKA</b>						
District	L	3	60,969 A	60,969 A	100	10,387
<b>ARIZONA</b>						
Justice of the Peace	L	1	432,509	411,059	95	11,287
Municipal	L	1	777,232	773,782	100	20,283
State Total			1,209,741	1,184,841	98	
<b>ARKANSAS</b>						
City	L	1	21,791 A	13,343 A	61	908
Municipal	L	1	389,947 A	251,889 A	65	16,255
Police	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>						
Justice	L	3	332,624 C	285,288 C	86	1,078
Municipal	L	3	12,769,934 C	11,840,709 C	93	41,371
State Total			13,102,558 *	12,125,997 *	93	
<b>COLORADO</b>						
County	L	2	395,183	219,524 C		11,389
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>						
Superior	G	6	206,846 C	218,787 B		6,304
<b>DELAWARE</b>						
Alderman's	L	4	25,262 A	24,451 A	97	3,666
Court of Common Pleas	L	2	45,051 B	49,815 B		6,539
Family	L	2	450	364	81	65
Justice of the Peace	L	2	212,435	190,679	90	30,832
Municipal Court of Wilmington	L	5	25,420 C	25,133 C	99	3,689
State Total			308,618 *	290,442 *	94	
<b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b>						
Superior	G	6	18,763	19,058 B		3,186
<b>FLORIDA</b>						
County	L	5	3,362,522	2,823,291	84	24,930
<b>GEORGIA</b>						
Superior	G	2	NA	NA		
County Recorder's	L	1	NA	NA		
Juvenile	L	2	5,201 A	4,799 A	92	77
Magistrate	L	2	69,699 A	32,403 A	46	1,032
Municipal and City of Atlanta	L	1	NA	NA		
Probate	L	2	85,421 C	79,946 C	94	1,265
State	L	2	256,025 C	263,423 C		3,792
State Total						

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TABLE 11: Reported Total State Trial Court Traffic/Other Violation Caseload, 1992. (continued)

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
<b>HAWAII</b>						
Circuit	G	2	663	610	92	57
District	L	4	786,771 B	801,710 B	102	67,825
State Total			787,434 *	802,320 *	102	
<b>IDAHO</b>						
District	G	3	238,680 A	237,237 A	99	22,369
<b>ILLINOIS</b>						
Circuit	G	4	2,960,470 C	3,665,155 C		25,453
<b>INDIANA</b>						
Superior and Circuit	G	3	265,766	284,358	107	4,694
City and Town	L	3	167,797 A	180,453 A	108	2,964
County	L	4	92,892	94,768	102	1,641
Municipal Court of Marion County	L	3	117,472	114,404	97	2,075
State Total			643,927 *	673,983 *	105	
<b>IOWA</b>						
District	G	3	700,006 B	697,327 B	100	24,894
<b>KANSAS</b>						
District	G	4	258,863 A	259,404 A	100	10,260
Municipal	L	1	438,469 A	395,798 A	90	17,379
State Total			697,332 *	655,202 *	94	
<b>KENTUCKY</b>						
District	L	3	305,031 A	305,175 A	100	8,123
<b>LOUISIANA</b>						
District	G	1	228,725	NA		5,335
City and Parish	L	1	534,752	464,102	87	12,474
Justice of the Peace	L	1	NA	NA		
Mayor's	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
<b>MAINE</b>						
Superior	G	2	2,669 C	2,584 C	97	216
District	L	4	182,051 C	139,111 C	76	14,741
State Total			184,720 *	141,695 *	77	
<b>MARYLAND</b>						
District	L	1	1,085,216	1,031,252 A		22,111
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>						
Trial Court of the Commonwealth	G	1	459,600 B	200,265 C		7,663
<b>MICHIGAN</b>						
District	L	4	2,140,443 A	2,105,217 A	98	22,681
Municipal	L	4	28,924 A	29,848 A	103	306
Probate	L	2	15,608	15,222	98	165
State Total			2,184,975 *	2,150,287 *	98	
<b>MINNESOTA</b>						
District	G	4	1,363,209 A	1,285,620 A	94	30,429

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TABLE 11: Reported Total State Trial Court Traffic/Other Violation Caseload, 1992. (continued)

<u>State/court name:</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Parking</u>	<u>Total traffic filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Total traffic dispositions and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Dispositions as a percentage of filings</u>	<u>Filings per 100,000 total population</u>
MISSISSIPPI						
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
MISSOURI						
Circuit	G	2	431,150 A	413,896 A	96	8,303
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
MONTANA						
City	L	1	NA	NA		
Justice of the Peace	L	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
NEBRASKA						
County	L	1	268,104 A	280,066 A	104	16,694
NEVADA						
Justice	L	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
NEW HAMPSHIRE						
District	L	4	198,883	182,242	92	17,901
Municipal	L	4	1,812	1,404	77	163
State Total			200,695	183,646	92	
NEW JERSEY						
Municipal	L	4	5,652,241	6,028,711	107	72,567
NEW MEXICO						
Magistrate	L	3	102,970 C	75,990 C	74	6,513
Metropolitan Ct. of Bernalillo County	L	3	188,013 A	208,380 A	111	
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
NEW YORK						
Criminal Court of the City of New York	L	2	190,416 A	101,328 A	53	1,051
District and City	L	4	954,662 A	954,662 A	100	5,269
Town and Village Justice	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
NORTH CAROLINA						
District	L	6	1,186,738 C	1,180,565 C	99	17,342
NORTH DAKOTA						
District	G	4	561	NA		88
County	L	1	62,855 A	62,863 A	100	9,883
Municipal	L	1	NA	35,994 C		
State Total						
OHIO						
Court of Common Pleas	G	2	106,226	106,574	100	964
County	L	5	184,098 A	186,067 A	101	1,671
Mayor's	L	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	5	1,466,176 A	1,483,331 A	101	13,310
State Total						

(continued on next page)

TABLE 11: Reported Total State Trial Court Traffic/Other Violation Caseload, 1992. (continued)

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
<b>OKLAHOMA</b>						
District	G	2	150,385 A	145,105 A	96	4,682
Municipal Court Not of Record	L	1	NA	NA		
Municipal Criminal Court of Record	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
<b>OREGON</b>						
Circuit	G	2	414	342	83	14
District	L	1	315,363 A	335,662 A	106	10,593
Justice	L	3	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	3	NA	NA		
State Total						
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>						
District Justice	L	4	1,566,621 A	1,413,918 A	90	13,045
Philadelphia Municipal	L	2	34,423 B	34,542 B	100	287
Philadelphia Traffic	L	1	259,447 A	127,390 A		2,160
Pittsburgh City Magistrates	L	4	335,233 A	NA		2,792
State Total			2,195,724 *			
<b>PUERTO RICO</b>						
District	L	2	61,844	60,892	98	1,756
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>						
District	L	2	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
Administrative Adjudication	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>						
Family	L	2	NA	NA		
Magistrate	L	4	626,285 C	620,151 C	99	17,382
Municipal	L	4	338,494	337,688	100	9,395
State Total						
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>						
Circuit	G	3	138,004	138,004	100	19,410
<b>TENNESSEE</b>						
Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery	G	2	NA	NA		
General Sessions	L	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
<b>TEXAS</b>						
County-level	L	2	20,033	79,123 B		113
Justice of the Peace	L	4	1,455,507 A	1,435,943 A	99	8,244
Municipal	L	4	5,279,280 A	4,262,720 A	81	29,901
State Total			6,754,820 *	5,777,786 *		
<b>UTAH</b>						
Circuit	L	4	156,109 B	161,908 B	104	8,611
Justice	L	4	224,679 A	218,548 A	97	12,393
Juvenile	L	2	1,225	1,275	104	68
State Total			382,013 *	381,731 *	100	

(continued on next page)

TABLE 11: Reported Total State Trial Court Traffic/Other Violation Caseload, 1992. (continued)

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
VERMONT						
District	G	2	2,854	2,994	105	501
VIRGINIA						
Circuit	G	2	NA	NA		
District	L	4	1,624,603 B	1,645,978 B	101	25,476
State Total						
WASHINGTON						
District	L	4	692,813 A	785,681 A		13,489
Municipal	L	4	1,178,756 A	534,799 A		22,951
State Total			1,871,569 *	1,320,480 *		
WEST VIRGINIA						
Magistrate	L	2	121,729	114,569	94	6,718
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
WISCONSIN						
Circuit	G	3	537,747 B	537,772 B	100	10,740
Municipal	L	3	NA	409,612 C		
State Total				947,384 *		
WYOMING						
County	L	1	82,287 B	95,680 B		17,658
Justice of the Peace	L	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						

**NOTE:** Parking violations are defined as part of the traffic/other violation caseload. However, states and courts within a state differ to the extent in 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. All 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.

NA = 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 effect on the state's total.

- A: The following courts' data are incomplete:
  - Alabama—Municipal Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** cases and represent data from 247 of 266 municipalities.
  - Alaska—District Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include some **moving traffic violation** cases and all **ordinance violation** cases.
  - Arkansas—City Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** cases.

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TABLE 11: Reported Total State Trial Court Traffic/Other Violation Caseload, 1992. (continued)

<p>—Municipal Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data do not include <b>ordinance violation</b> cases and are missing all data from several municipalities.</p>	<p>North Dakota—County Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data do not include <b>parking</b> cases, and are less than 75% complete.</p>
<p>Delaware—Alderman's Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data do not include <b>ordinance violation</b> cases.</p>	<p>Ohio—County Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data do not include <b>ordinance violation</b> cases. —Municipal Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data do not include <b>ordinance violation</b> cases.</p>
<p>Georgia—Juvenile Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data do not include cases from 50 counties, and are less than 75% complete. Data for this court are for 1991.</p>	<p>Oklahoma—District Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data do not include <b>ordinance violation</b> cases.</p>
<p>—Magistrate Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data do not include any cases from one county, and partial data from 27 counties.</p>	<p>Oregon—District Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data do not include <b>parking</b> cases.</p>
<p>Idaho—District Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data do not include <b>parking</b> cases.</p>	<p>Pennsylvania—District Justice Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data do not include <b>ordinance violation</b> cases.</p>
<p>Indiana—City and Town Courts—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data do not include some <b>ordinance violation</b> and some unclassified traffic cases.</p>	<p>—Philadelphia Traffic Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data do not include <b>ordinance violation, parking, and miscellaneous traffic</b> cases, and are less than 75% complete. Disposed data also do not include most <b>moving traffic violation</b> cases. —Pittsburgh City Magistrates Court—Total <b>traffic/ other violation</b> filed data do not include <b>ordinance violation</b> cases.</p>
<p>Kansas—District Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data do not include juvenile <b>traffic</b> cases.</p>	<p>Texas—Justice of the Peace Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of 91%.</p>
<p>—Municipal Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data do not include <b>parking</b> cases, and partial year data from several courts.</p>	<p>—Municipal Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of 94%.</p>
<p>Kentucky—District Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data do not include <b>ordinance violation</b> cases.</p>	<p>Utah—Justice Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data do not include some <b>moving traffic violation</b> cases, and represent a reporting rate of 85%.</p>
<p>Maryland—District Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> disposed data do not include <b>parking</b> and <b>ordinance violation</b> cases.</p>	<p>Washington—District Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed data do not include cases from four districts. Disposed data do not include cases from three districts.</p>
<p>Michigan—District Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data do not include <b>ordinance violation</b> and <b>parking</b> cases.</p>	<p>—Municipal Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data do not include cases from 37 courts. Disposed data also do not include cases from Seattle Municipal Court, which handled more than one-half of the total case filings for the municipal courts statewide. Disposed data are therefore less than 75% complete.</p>
<p>—Municipal Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data do not include <b>ordinance violation</b> and <b>parking</b> cases.</p>	<p>B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:</p>
<p>Minnesota—District Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data do not include <b>ordinance violation</b> cases.</p>	<p>Connecticut—Superior Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> disposed data include <b>ordinance violation</b> cases disposed by the Centralized Infractions Bureau.</p>
<p>Missouri—Circuit Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data do not include those <b>ordinance violation</b> cases heard by municipal judges.</p>	<p>Delaware—Court of Common Pleas—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed data include most <b>misdemeanor</b> cases. Disposed data include all <b>felony</b> and <b>misdemeanor</b> cases.</p>
<p>Nebraska—County Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data do not include <b>ordinance violation</b> and <b>parking</b> cases.</p>	<p>District of Columbia—Superior Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> disposed data include <b>DWI/DUI</b> cases.</p>
<p>New Mexico—Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County-- Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data do not include <b>ordinance violation</b> and <b>miscellaneous traffic</b> cases.</p>	<p>Hawaii—District Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data include some <b>misdemeanor</b> cases.</p>
<p>New York—Criminal Court of the City of New York—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data do not include <b>moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic,</b> and some <b>ordinance violation</b> cases and are less than 75% complete.</p>	<p>Iowa—District Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data include some <b>misdemeanor</b> cases.</p>
<p>—District and City Courts—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data do not include <b>ordinance violation</b> cases.</p>	<p>(continued on next page)</p>

TABLE 11: Reported Total State Trial Court Traffic/Other Violation Caseload, 1992. (continued)

<p>Massachusetts—Trial Court of the Commonwealth—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed data include some <b>misdemeanor</b> cases.</p> <p>Pennsylvania—Philadelphia Municipal Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data include <b>miscellaneous domestic relations</b> and some <b>misdemeanor</b> cases.</p> <p>Texas—County-level Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> disposed data include some <b>criminal appeals</b> cases.</p> <p>Utah—Circuit Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data include some <b>miscellaneous criminal</b> cases.</p> <p>Virginia—District Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data include <b>DWI/DUI</b> cases.</p> <p>Wisconsin—Circuit Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data include uncontested first offense <b>DWI/DUI</b> cases.</p> <p>Wyoming—County Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed data include reopened <b>misdemeanor</b> and reopened <b>DWI/DUI</b> cases. Disposed data include all <b>misdemeanor</b> and all <b>DWI/DUI</b> cases.</p>	<p>—State Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data include some <b>DWI/DUI</b> cases, but do not include data from 32 of 62 courts, and are less than 75% complete. Disposed data also include <b>misdemeanor</b> cases from one court. Data for this court are for 1991.</p> <p>Illinois—Circuit Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed data include some <b>DWI/DUI</b> cases, but do not include some <b>ordinance violation</b> cases. Disposed data include all <b>DWI/DUI</b> cases, but do not include some <b>ordinance violation</b> cases.</p> <p>Maine—Superior Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data include <b>DWI/DUI</b> and some <b>criminal appeals</b> cases, but do not include <b>ordinance violation</b> cases.</p> <p>—District Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data include <b>DWI/DUI</b> and some <b>misdemeanor</b> cases, but do not include some <b>ordinance violation</b> cases. Disposed data also do not include cases disposed by the District Court Violations Bureau (DCVB).</p> <p>Massachusetts—Trial Court of the Commonwealth—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> disposed data include some <b>misdemeanor</b> cases, but do not include <b>ordinance violation</b> and most <b>moving traffic</b> cases.</p> <p>New Mexico—Magistrate Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data include some <b>DWI/DUI</b> cases, but do not include some cases reported with <b>criminal</b> data and other cases due to incomplete reporting.</p> <p>North Carolina—District Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data include <b>DWI/DUI</b> cases, but do not include some <b>ordinance violation</b> cases.</p> <p>North Dakota—Municipal Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> disposed data include <b>DWI/DUI</b> cases, but do not include <b>ordinance violation</b> and <b>parking</b> cases, and are less than 75% complete.</p> <p>South Carolina—Magistrate Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data include <b>DWI/DUI</b> cases, but do not include <b>ordinance violation</b> cases.</p> <p>Wisconsin—Municipal Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> disposed data include <b>DWI/DUI</b> cases, but do not include cases from several municipalities.</p>
<p>C: The following courts' data are incomplete and overinclusive:</p> <p>California—Justice Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data include <b>DWI/DUI</b> cases, but do not include some <b>ordinance violation</b> cases and partial data from one court.</p> <p>—Municipal Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data include <b>DWI/DUI</b> cases, but do not include some <b>ordinance violation</b> cases.</p> <p>Colorado—County Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> disposed data include <b>DWI/DUI</b> cases, but do not include data from Denver County Court.</p> <p>Connecticut—Superior Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed data include <b>DWI/DUI</b> cases, but do not include <b>ordinance violation</b> cases.</p> <p>Delaware—Municipal Court of Wilmington—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data include most <b>DWI/DUI</b> cases, but do not include <b>ordinance violation</b> cases.</p> <p>Georgia—Probate Court—Total <b>traffic/other violation</b> filed and disposed data include <b>DWI/DUI</b> cases, but do not include data from 34 of 159 counties, partial data from 12 counties, and are less than 75% complete.</p>	

**TABLE 12: Reported Total State Trial Court Juvenile Caseload, 1992**

<u>State/court name:</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Point of filing</u>	<u>Total juvenile filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Total juvenile dispositions and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Dispositions as a percentage of filings</u>	<u>Filings per 100,000 juvenile population</u>
<b>ALABAMA</b>						
Circuit	G	A	7,211	16,357	95	1,600
District	L	A	25,251	23,322	92	2,347
State Total			42,462	39,679	93	
<b>ALASKA</b>						
Superior	G	C	1,838	1,575	86	994
District	L	I	75	52	69	41
State Total			1,913	1,627	85	
<b>ARIZONA</b>						
Superior	G	C	14,496	14,130	97	1,385
<b>ARKANSAS</b>						
Chancery and Probate	G	C	14,995	14,136	94	2,384
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>						
Superior	G	C	136,643 A	116,639 A	85	1,622
<b>COLORADO</b>						
District, Denver Juvenile, Denver Probate	G	A	21,849	16,921	77	2,404
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>						
Superior	G	F	16,804 B	16,411 B	98	2,180
<b>DELAWARE</b>						
Family	L	C	10,032 A	9,985 A		5,833
<b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b>						
Superior	G	B	6,990	5,974 A		5,974
<b>FLORIDA</b>						
Circuit	G	A	119,240	76,311	64	3,839
<b>GEORGIA</b>						
Juvenile	L	A	36,399 A	31,369 A	86	2,022
<b>HAWAII</b>						
Circuit	G	F	21,619	22,867	106	7,378
<b>IDAHO</b>						
District	G	C	11,886	11,561	97	3,669
<b>ILLINOIS</b>						
Circuit	G	C	44,264	35,439	80	1,461
<b>INDIANA</b>						
Probate	G	C	775 B	779 B	101	53
Superior and Circuit	G	C	34,788 B	32,565 B	94	2,381
State Total			35,563 *	33,344 *	94	
<b>IOWA</b>						
District	G	A	7,763	NA		1,056
<b>KANSAS</b>						
District	G	C	17,369 B	16,580 B	95	2,562

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TABLE 12: Reported Total State Trial Court Juvenile Caseload, 1992. (continued)

<u>State/court name:</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Point of filing</u>	<u>Total juvenile filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Total juvenile dispositions and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Dispositions as a percentage of filings</u>	<u>Filings per 100,000 juvenile population</u>
KENTUCKY District	L	C	45,692 B	37,794 B	83	4,740
LOUISIANA District	G	C	7,054	NA		570
Family and Juvenile	G	C	20,993	14,498	69	1,696
City and Parish	L	C	7,150	5,250	73	578
State Total			35,197			
MAINE District	L	C	4,757	4,364	92	1,555
MARYLAND Circuit	G	C	33,337	30,021	90	2,719
District	L	C	5,207	5,049	97	425
State Total			38,544	35,070	91	
MASSACHUSETTS Trial Court of the Commonwealth	G	C	44,185	15,989 C		3,193
MICHIGAN Probate	L	C	71,808	67,215	94	2,862
MINNESOTA District	G	C	43,103	41,087	95	3,574
MISSISSIPPI Chancery	G	C	3,808	NA		509
County	L	C	9,886	NA		1,322
Family	L	C	1,129 B	NA		151
State Total			14,823 *			
MISSOURI Circuit	G	C	19,575	19,066	97	1,450
MONTANA District	G	C	1,657	1,365	82	733
NEBRASKA County	L	C	4,995	5,036	101	1,138
Separate Juvenile	L	C	3,064	NA		698
State Total			8,059			
NEVADA District	G	C	NA	NA		
NEW HAMPSHIRE District	L	C	8,088	6,660	82	2,889
NEW JERSEY Superior	G	F	108,670	109,288	101	5,833
NEW MEXICO District	G	C	9,400	9,145	97	2,004

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TABLE 12: Reported Total State Trial Court Juvenile Caseload, 1992. (continued)

<u>State/court name:</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Point of filing</u>	<u>Total juvenile filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Total juvenile dispositions and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Dispositions as a percentage of filings</u>	<u>Filings per 100,000 juvenile population</u>
NEW YORK Family	L	C	58,108	61,661	106	1,314
NORTH CAROLINA District	L	C	31,562	31,467	100	1,899
NORTH DAKOTA District	G	C	10,530	11,309 B		6,122
OHIO Court of Common Pleas	G	E	154,102	154,989	101	5,465
OKLAHOMA District	G	G	9,859	7,551	77	1,149
OREGON Circuit	G	C	18,669	NA		2,437
PENNSYLVANIA Court of Common Pleas	G	F	62,111	60,598	98	2,184
PUERTO RICO Superior	G	C	10,431	9,329	89	
RHODE ISLAND Family	L	C	8,819	7,752	88	3,785
SOUTH CAROLINA Family	L	C	20,169 B	18,666 B	93	2,134
Magistrate	L	I	NA	NA		
State Total						
SOUTH DAKOTA Circuit	G	B	5,035	NA		2,468
TENNESSEE General Sessions	L	B	NA	NA		
Juvenile	L	B	70,662	89,444 B		5,671
State Total						
TEXAS District	G	C	17,028 A	17,216 A	101	336
County-level	L	C	3,901 A	3,403 A	87	77
State Total			20,929 *	20,619 *	99	
UTAH Juvenile	L	C	41,156	43,467	106	6,293
VERMONT Family	G	C	1,980	1,773	90	1,375
VIRGINIA District	L	C	111,978 B	108,825 B	97	7,169
WASHINGTON Superior	G	A	31,414	23,913	76	2,318

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TABLE 12: Reported Total State Trial Court Juvenile Caseload, 1992. (continued)

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
WEST VIRGINIA Circuit	G	C	7,130	6,920	97	1,628
WISCONSIN Circuit	G	C	40,776	40,344	99	3,066
WYOMING District	G	C	1,456 A	1,163 A	80	1,055

**NOTE:** All 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.

NA= 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

**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 effect on the state's total.

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:

- California—Superior Court—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data do not include partial data from one court.
- Delaware—Family Court—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data do not include **status offense** cases.
- District of Columbia—Superior Court—Total **juvenile** disposed data do not include most **child-victim petition** cases and are less than 75% complete.
- Georgia—Juvenile Court—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data do not include cases from 50 counties, and are less than 75% complete. Data for this court are for 1991.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

- Connecticut—Superior Court—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data include **mental health** cases.
- Indiana—Probate Court—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data include **miscellaneous domestic relations** cases.
- Superior and Circuit Courts—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data include some **support/custody** cases.
- Kansas—District Court—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data include juvenile **traffic/other violation** cases.
- Kentucky—District Court—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data include **paternity** cases.
- Mississippi—Family Court—Total **juvenile** filed data include **adoption** and **paternity** cases.
- North Dakota—District Court—Total **juvenile** disposed data include **traffic/other violation** cases.
- South Carolina—Family Court—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data include **traffic/other violation** cases.
- Tennessee—Juvenile Court—Total **juvenile** disposed data are somewhat inflated. Disposed data are counted by number of actions rather than number of referrals.
- Virginia—District Court—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data include some **miscellaneous domestic relations** cases.

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

- Massachusetts—Trial Court of the Commonwealth—Total **juvenile** disposed data include juvenile **traffic** cases from the District Court Department, but do not include most cases from the Juvenile Court Department and some cases from the District Court Department. The data are less than 75% complete.

**TABLE 13: Mandatory Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1985-1992**

State/Court name:	Number of filings and qualifying footnotes							
	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
<b>States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court</b>								
<b>ALASKA</b>								
Supreme Court	334	318	368	363	342	347	356	315
Court of Appeals	446	505	469	435	40	429	454	383
<b>ARIZONA</b>								
Supreme Court	81 A	118 A	116 A	112 A	159 A	92	100	83
Court of Appeals	2,843	3,352	3,451	3,902	3,858	4,491	4,746	4,603
<b>ARKANSAS</b>								
Supreme Court	439 C	411 C	459 C	400 C	443 C	482 C	534 C	512 C
Court of Appeals	846	951	949	899	1,079	1,096	1,200	1,021
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>								
Supreme Court	284 A	236 A	315 A	319 A	380 A	522	31	36
Courts of Appeal	10,252	10,035	9,985	10,954	11,542	13,012	13,024	14,763
<b>COLORADO</b>								
Supreme Court	200	205	214	197	205	228	202	198
Court of Appeals	1,626	1,862	1,930	1,946	2,012	2,269	2,147	2,201
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>								
Supreme Court	NA	NA	58	86	274	281	302	254
Appellate Court	934 B	953 B	945	995	985	1,107	1,091	1,127
<b>FLORIDA</b>								
Supreme Court	597	629	581	510	642	617	662	649
District Cts. of Appeal	12,262	13,502	13,861	14,195	13,924	14,386	15,670	16,492
<b>GEORGIA</b>								
Supreme Court	692 B	616 B	640 B	639 B	674	690	696	706
Court of Appeals	1,946 B	2,666 B	2,071 B	2,306 B	2,361 B	2,384	2,265	2,455
<b>HAWAII</b>								
Supreme Court	496 B	604 B	616 B	715 B	650 B	489	688	541
Intermediate Ct. of App.	132	132	134	120	140	138	123	253
<b>IDAHO</b>								
Supreme Court	348 B	288 B	289 B	382 B	366 B	349	398 B	400 B
Court of Appeals	149	174	181	227	221	215	224	308
<b>ILLINOIS</b>								
Supreme Court	167	218	176	275	153	199	182	860
Appellate Court	7,611 B	7,550 B	7,954 B	8,119 B	8,139 B	8,191 B	8,785 B	9,126 B
<b>IOWA</b>								
Supreme Court	NA	1,528	877 B	801 B	1,303	1,211	1,355	1,398
Court of Appeals	730	552	618	728	678	743	654	684
<b>KANSAS</b>								
Supreme Court	177	189	214	347	179	165	147	184
Court of Appeals	1,087 B	1,131 B	1,127 B	1,176 B	1,154 B	1,201 B	1,297 B	1,389 B
<b>KENTUCKY</b>								
Supreme Court	282	251	261	258	304	281	357	316
Court of Appeals	3,156	2,769	2,691	2,665	2,712	2,569	2,882	3,040

Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes

1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
287	355	291	394	298	349	306	405
406	589	429	403	431	387	389	457
87 A	70 A	86 A	79 A	133 A	162	122	97
2,953	3,445	3,372	3,240	3,478	3,659	4,095	4,026
451 C	404 C	416 C	457 C	421 C	448 C	508 C	512 C
895	840	983	827	978	1,016	1,199	1,126
NA	NA	73	101	46	20	28	26
NA	NA	10,669	10,577	13,886	14,584	12,880	16,688
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1,396	1,590	1,602	2,028	2,193	2,105	2,192	2,335
NA	NA	NA	NA	296 B	285	301	230
877 B	1,055 B	893	1,026	1,135	1,107	1,067	1,017
639	644	548	534	580	595	655	655
12,540	12,847	13,591	13,559	14,073	14,503	15,994	15,766
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	502	649	776
NA	NA	1,961 B	1,986 B	1,918 B	1,535	1,886	2,498
516 B	691 B	579 B	609 B	749 B	565	614	774
105	132	142	129	138	120	126	171
333 B	359 B	295 B	332 B	347 B	369	397 B	399 B
282	174	174	162	231	204	260	277
152	207	152	292	191	185	137	879
6,961 B	7,007 B	7,451 B	7,648 B	7,722 B	7,951 B	8,387 B	8,481 B
868 B	933 B	944 B	899 B	970 B	947 B	1,110	1,145
637	589	578	669	799	662	682	696
344	331	333	459	290	267	291	272
989 B	1,106 B	1,143 B	1,174 B	1,218 B	1,152 B	1,165 B	1,291 B
259	253	271	302	305	278	324	316
2,757	2,661	2,304	2,243	2,438	2,463	2,347	2,836

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TABLE 13: Mandatory Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1985-1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Number of filings and qualifying footnotes							
	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
<b>States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court</b>								
<b>LOUISIANA</b>								
Supreme Court	79 B	112	135	124	108	82	106	157
Courts of Appeal	3,578 B	3,695	3,846	3,967	3,562	3,835	3,782	4,008
<b>MARYLAND</b>								
Court of Appeals	218 B	238 B	233 B	242 B	205 B	261	259	222
Court of Spec. Appeals	1,642	1,644	1,714	1,754	1,841	2,006	2,035	1,956
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>								
Supreme Judicial Court	129	86	72	96	75	86	81	90
Appeals Court	1,301 B	1,352 B	1,434 B	1,394 B	1,451 B	1,568	1,527	1,871
<b>MICHIGAN</b>								
Supreme Court	3	4	5	4	4	2	2	5
Court of Appeals	5,187	NA	8,186 B	8,559 B	10,951 B	12,340 B	11,825 B	10,159 B
<b>MINNESOTA</b>								
Supreme Court	NA	175	241	271	248	282	269	229
Court of Appeals	NA	1,767	1,924	2,065	1,772	2,157	1,828	2,314
<b>MISSOURI</b>								
Supreme Court	NA	NA	NA	219	227	247	371	257
Court of Appeals	3,166	3,147	3,055	3,315	3,659	3,565	3,706	3,826
<b>NEBRASKA</b>								
Supreme Court	997 B	1,014 B	1,196 B	1,103 B	1,497 B	1,207 B	834 B	40 B
Court of Appeals	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	2,041
<b>NEW JERSEY</b>								
Supreme Court	227	236	349	357	413	387	501	407
Appellate Div. of Super. Ct.	6,037 B	6,106 B	6,277 B	6,458 B	6,492 B	7,007	6,569	6,871
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>								
Supreme Court	303	325	320	296	368	297	310	232
Court of Appeals	662	671	604	648	777	797	768	756
<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>								
Supreme Court	222	249	182	147	109	116	137	112
Court of Appeals	1,375 B	1,381 B	1,265 B	1,351 B	1,378 B	1,408	1,325	1,304
<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b>								
Supreme Court	338	377	382	367	397	429	456	377
Court of Appeals	NC	NC	NC	9	0	13	0	14
<b>OHIO</b>								
Supreme Court	442	491	422	500	535	685	592	581
Court of Appeals	9,522	9,683	9,983	10,005	10,771	10,721	11,031	11,377
<b>OREGON</b>								
Supreme Court	180	145	176	192	217	194	197	230
Court of Appeals	3,981	4,146	4,305	3,739	3,795	4,584	5,123	5,102
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>								
Supreme Court	451	519	511	624	463	602	339	587
Court of Appeals	391	351	440	307	448	370	425	383

Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes

1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
NA	71	123	134	105	95	101	157
NA	3,944	3,380	3,429	3,646	3,517	3,745	4,361
232 B	188 B	222 B	183 B	221 B	244	243	240
1,807	1,552	1,777	1,762	1,811	1,808	1,824	2,019
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,171	1,450	1,214
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	7,502 B	8,497 B	8,983 B	10,503 B	10,237 B	11,662 B
NA	157	204	250	242	260	219	238
NA	1,848	1,916	1,949	1,872	2,042	1,818	2,252
NA	NA	NA	222	227	267	376	258
3,177	3,206	3,259	3,145	3,331	3,568	3,440	3,641
NA	NA	964 B	1,094 B	1,277 B	1,022 B	1,420 B	634 B
NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	886
251	237	381	349	383	401	556	425
6,056 B	6,611 B	6,400 B	6,494 B	6,531 B	6,284	6,770	6,445
NA	NA	NA	NA	365 A	313	386	NA
NA	NA	853 B	690 B	741 B	763 B	771	751
183	245	192	213	95	102	119	128
1,464 B	1,626 B	1,310 B	1,272 B	1,188 B	1,366	1,414	1,099
335	357	357	405	381	439	408	414
NC	NC	NC	13	0	7	6	8
383	414	380	462	457	531	648	627
9,491	9,296	9,393	9,668	9,871	10,928	11,569	11,944
296 B	262 B	313 B	322 B	301 B	271 B	257 B	403 B
3,784	4,014	4,232	3,985	3,601	3,725	4,558	5,060
NA	NA	596 B	385 B	537 B	537 B	560 B	544 B
398	374	368	367	377	367	374	420

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TABLE 13: Mandatory Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1985-1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Number of filings and qualifying footnotes							
	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
<b>States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court</b>								
<b>UTAH</b>								
Supreme Court	628	623	474	443	498	566	553	553
Court of Appeals	NA	NA	560 A	721	764	629	755	865
<b>VIRGINIA</b>								
Supreme Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	13	20	63
Court of Appeals	538	419	422	455	443	464	490	678
<b>WASHINGTON</b>								
Supreme Court	194 B	162 B	135 B	123 B	101 B	148 B	137 B	126 B
Court of Appeals	3,270	3,535	3,238	3,157	3,222	3,653	3,789	3,693
<b>WISCONSIN</b>								
Supreme Court	91	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Court of Appeals	2,358	2,053	2,185	2,147	2,355	2,853 B	2,970 B	3,187 B
<b>States with no intermediate appellate court</b>								
<b>DELAWARE</b>								
Supreme Court	406 B	417 B	397 B	473 B	517 B	483 B	473 B	530 B
<b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b>								
Court of Appeals	1,770 B	1,556	1,500	1,624	1,515	1,650	1,567	1,643
<b>MAINE</b>								
Supreme Judicial Court	NA	59 A	631 C	528 C	540 C	622 C	646 C	569 C
<b>MISSISSIPPI</b>								
Supreme Court	815	1,010	891	919	773	961	912	1,025
<b>MONTANA</b>								
Supreme Court	NA	566	546	597	627	633 A	636 A	533 A
<b>NEVADA</b>								
Supreme Court	777	853	856	991	997	1,089	1,080	1,129
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>								
Supreme Court	403	389	323	410	455	465	445	413
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>								
Supreme Court	358 B	363 B	422 B	428 B	387 B	403 B	366 B	354 B
<b>VERMONT</b>								
Supreme Court	575	550	538	620	619	590	542	610
<b>WYOMING</b>								
Supreme Court	306	342	320	357	321	314	301	302
<b>States with multiple appellate courts at any level</b>								
<b>ALABAMA</b>								
Supreme Court	798	827	998	829	908	998	1,00	1,274
Court of Civil Appeals	548	530	584	529	556	651	770	738
Court of Criminal Appeals	1,520	1,537	1,695	1,784	2,132	2,042	1,953	2,027

Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes

1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
NA	NA	521 B	617 B	642 B	556 B	560 B	675 B
NA	NA	NA	NA	785 B	691 B	725 B	799 B
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	13	13	58
216	476	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
184 B	209 B	148 B	154 B	127 B	139 B	159 B	136 B
2,994	3,238	3,870	3,289	2,902	3,086	2,991	3,493
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2,501	2,178	2,206	2,368	2,414	2,612	2,955	2,942
373 B	415 B	419 B	407 B	480 B	553 B	439 B	549 B
1,568 B	1,568 B	1,595	1,602	1,598	1,798	1,727	1,474
506 A	521 A	495 A	507 C	517 C	618 C	590 C	571 C
853	912	831	793	840	944	922	872
NA	355	NA	NA	618 B	624 A	578 A	437 A
867	854	1,013	922	1,047	1,057	1,035	987
393	478	402	403	396	476	472	421
NA	NA	NA	463 B	484 B	434 B	428 B	341 B
506 B	535 B	527 B	593 B	624 B	685 B	656 B	612
347	327	302	334	363	287	300	331
797	940	1,017	994	620	569	750	1,181
516	548	518	576	528	641	673	691
1,424	1,745	1,819	1,774	1,927	1,904	2,243	2,127

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TABLE 13: Mandatory Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1985-1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Number of filings and qualifying footnotes							
	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
<b>INDIANA</b>								
Supreme Court	NA	NA	409	NA	336	199	210	154
Court of Appeals	1,037 B	1,073 B	1,149 B	1,222 B	1,516	1,966	1,779	1,752
Tax Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	69	69
<b>NEW YORK</b>								
Court of Appeals	NA	680	409	324	330	302	289	280
Appellate Div. of Sup. Ct.	135 C	NA	9,205 B	10,740 B	11,338 B	10,577 B	10,339 B	11,187 B
Appellate Terms of Sup. Ct.	NA	NA	2,208 B	2,192 B	2,461 B	2,245 B	2,201 B	2,092 B
<b>OKLAHOMA</b>								
Supreme Court	1,128	788	1,105	809	862	1,033	732	1,509
Court of Appeals	635	971	931	1,362	1,373	1,323	1,184	1,143
Court of Criminal Appeals	NA	NA	980 B	1,046 B	1,192 B	1,445 B	1,244 B	1,268
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>								
Supreme Court	142	92	80	121	94	225	97	270
Commonwealth Court	3,554	3,737 A	3,030 A	3,164 A	3,115 A	3,491	3,774	3,571 A
Superior Court	5,878 B	5,989 B	6,137 B	6,439 B	6,040 B	6,291	6,743	7,121
<b>TENNESSEE</b>								
Supreme Court	139	146	170	161	161	107	192	239
Court of Appeals	999	1,173	1,003	889	889	980	961	1,046
Court of Criminal Appeals	850 B	885 B	811 B	994	994	1,002	899	1,007
<b>TEXAS</b>								
Supreme Court	1	2	3	3	3	3	2	7
Court of Criminal Appeals	1,998	2,221	2,450	3,578	3,504	2,281	2,189	2,751
Courts of Appeals	7,954	7,832	7,857	8,250	8,813	8,062	8,563	10,722

Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes

1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
359	470	384	380	418	259	245	160
1,062 B	1,116 B	1,130 B	1,137 B	1,334	1,657	2,162	1,744
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	43	43
401	350	369	369	295	287	293	306
135 C	NA	13,392 B	13,225 B	14,534 B	12,540 B	12,885 B	11,854 B
NA	NA	2,133 B	2,124 B	2,034 B	2,179 B	2,235 B	2,157 B
149 A	174 A	813 B	852 B	NA	NA	NA	1,841
693	856	728	1,215	1,337	1,038	1,123	1,399
404	536	626	693	773	774	814	1,320
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	441
NA	NA	4,053 B	4,392 B	3,973 B	3,519 B	3,551 B	3,558 B
8,355 B	7,410 B	6,253 B	6,416 B	6,218 B	6,079	6,514	6,428
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1,010	1,330	1,033	1,015 B	1,015 B	924	932	954
891 B	946 B	747 B	794 B	794 B	843 B	923	1,101
1	2	3	3	1	3	2	6
2,084	2,027	2,448	3,546	3,806	2,487	2,273	2,482
7,981	8,161	7,824	7,984	8,416	8,134	8,091	9,281

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TABLE 13: Mandatory Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1985-1992. (continued)

**COURT TYPE:**

COLR = Court of last resort

IAC = Intermediate appellate court

**NOTE:**

NA = Indicates that the data are unavailable.

NC = Indicates that the court did not exist during that year.

**QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:**

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

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:

Arizona—Supreme Court—Filed data for 1985-1989 do not include **mandatory judge disciplinary** cases.

California—Supreme Court—Filed data for 1985-1989 do not include **judge disciplinary** cases.

Maine—Supreme Judicial Court—Filed data for 1986 and 1985-1987 disposed data do not include **mandatory disciplinary and advisory opinion** cases.

Montana—Supreme Court—Data for 1990 do not include **advisory opinions** and some **original proceedings**. Data for 1991 and 1992 do not include **administrative agency, advisory opinions, and original proceedings**.

New Mexico—Supreme Court—Disposed data for 1989 do not include **criminal or administrative agency** cases.

Oklahoma—Supreme Court—Disposed data for 1985-1986 do not include **mandatory appeals of final judgments, mandatory disciplinary cases and mandatory interlocutory decisions**.

Pennsylvania—Commonwealth Court—Filed data for 1986-1989 and 1992 do not include transfers from the Superior Court and Court of Common Pleas.

Utah—Court of Appeals—Filed data for 1987 represent an 11-month reporting period.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Connecticut—Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** disposed data include some **discretionary petitions**.

—Appellate Court—Data for 1985-1986 include a few **discretionary petitions that were granted review**.

Delaware—Supreme Court—Data for 1985-1992 include some **discretionary petitions** and filed data include **discretionary petitions that were granted**.

District of Columbia—Court of Appeals—Data for 1985 include **discretionary petitions that were granted** and refiled as appeals.

Georgia—Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** filed data for 1985-1988 include a few **discretionary petitions that were granted** and refiled as appeals.

—Court of Appeals—Total **mandatory** data for 1985-1989 include all **discretionary petitions that were granted** and refiled as appeals.

Hawaii—Supreme Court—Data for 1985-1989 include a few **discretionary petitions granted**.

Idaho—Supreme Court—Data for 1985-1989 and 1991-1992 include **discretionary petitions that were granted**.

Illinois—Appellate Court—Data for 1985-1992 include all **discretionary petitions**.

Indiana—Court of Appeals—Data for 1985-1988 include all **discretionary petitions**.

Iowa—Supreme Court—Filed data for 1987-1988 include some **discretionary petitions that were dismissed** by the court. Disposed data for 1985-1990 include some **discretionary petitions that were dismissed** by the court.

Kansas—Court of Appeals—Filed data for 1985-1992 include a few **discretionary petitions that were granted**. Disposed data for 1985-1992 include all **discretionary petitions**.

Louisiana—Supreme Court—Filed data for 1985 include a few **discretionary appeals**.

—Courts of Appeal—Filed data for 1985 include refiled **discretionary petitions that were granted review**.

Maryland—Court of Appeals—Data for 1985-1989 include **discretionary petitions that were granted**, and refiled as appeals.

Massachusetts—Appeals Court—Filed data for 1985-1989 include all **discretionary petitions**.

Michigan—Court of Appeals—Data for 1987-1992 include **discretionary petitions**.

Montana—Supreme Court—Disposed data for 1989 include **discretionary petitions**.

Nebraska—Supreme Court—Data for 1985-1992 include **discretionary petitions**.

New Jersey—Appellate Division of Superior Court-- Data for 1985-1989 include all **discretionary petitions that were granted**.

New Mexico—Court of Appeals—Disposed data for 1987-1990 include **interlocutory decisions**.

New York—Appellate Divisions and Terms of Supreme Court—Data for 1987-1992 include all **discretionary petitions**.

North Carolina—Court of Appeals—**Mandatory** data for 1985-1989 include a few **discretionary petitions that were granted** and refiled as appeals. Data include some cases where relief, not review, were granted.

Oklahoma—Supreme Court—Disposed data for 1987 and 1988 include **granted discretionary petitions that were disposed**.

—Court of Criminal Appeals—Data for 1987-1991 include all **discretionary petitions**.

Oregon—Supreme Court—Disposed data for 1985-1992 include all **discretionary petitions that were granted**.

Pennsylvania—Superior Court—Data for 1985-1989 include all **discretionary petitions disposed that were granted**.

—Commonwealth Court—Disposed data for 1987-1992 include some discretionary cases.

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TABLE 13: Mandatory Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1985-1992. (continued)

South Carolina—Supreme Court—Disposed data for 1987-1992 include some **discretionary petitions**.

South Dakota—Supreme Court—Data for 1985-1992 include **discretionary advisory opinions**.

Tennessee—Court of Appeals—Disposed data for 1988-1989 include **discretionary petitions**.

—Court of Criminal Appeals—Filed data for 1985-1987 and disposed data for 1985-1991 include all **discretionary petitions**.

Utah—Supreme Court—Disposed data for 1987-1992 include all **discretionary petitions**.

—Court of Appeals—Disposed data for 1989-1992 include all **discretionary petitions**.

Vermont—Supreme Court—Disposed data for 1985-1991 include **discretionary petitions that were granted** and decided.

Washington—Supreme Court—Data for 1985-1992 include some **discretionary petitions**.

Wisconsin—Court of Appeals—Filed data for 1990-1992 include **discretionary interlocutory decisions**.

C: The following courts' data are both incomplete and overinclusive:

Arkansas—Supreme Court—Data for 1985-1992 include a few **discretionary petitions**, but do not include **mandatory attorney disciplinary cases** and **certified questions from the federal courts**.

Maine—Supreme Judicial Court—Filed data for 1987-1992 and disposed data for 1988-1992 include **discretionary petitions**, but do not include **mandatory disciplinary and advisory opinion cases**.

New York—Appellate Divisions of Supreme Court—Data for 1985 footnote could not be determined because of manner reported.

**TABLE 14: Discretionary Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1985-1992**

State/Court name:	Number of filings and qualifying footnotes							
	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
<b>States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court</b>								
<b>ALASKA</b>								
Supreme Court	194	313	219	244	251	231	256	253
Court of Appeals	64	83	54	62	62	61	60	63
<b>ARIZONA</b>								
Supreme Court	1,161 B	1,156 B	995 B	1,018 B	1,004 B	1,044 B	1,082	1,123
Court of Appeals	40	49	51	60	52	83	113	185
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>								
Supreme Court	4,346	4,808	4,558	4,351	4,214	4,622	4,992	5,367
Courts of Appeal	5,938	6,234	6,732	7,005	6,966	7,236	7,025	6,865
<b>COLORADO</b>								
Supreme Court	767	783	756	825	993	1,072	1,063	1,115
<b>FLORIDA</b>								
Supreme Court	1,175	1,097	1,270	1,316	1,111	1,303	1,324	1,195
District Courts of Appeal	1,975	2,294	2,282	2,285	2,259	2,457	2,591	2,644
<b>GEORGIA</b>								
Supreme Court	975	980	1,006	998	1,101	1,079	1,085	1,078
Court of Appeals	641	647	733	717	809	794	450	957
<b>HAWAII</b>								
Supreme Court	41	43	57	45	42	43	32	55
<b>IDAHO</b>								
Supreme Court	92	77	82	76	91	77	93	92
<b>ILLINOIS</b>								
Supreme Court	1,579	1,637	1,673	1,558	1,558	1,582	1,673	1,887
<b>IOWA</b>								
Supreme Court	NA	352	327	371	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>KANSAS</b>								
Supreme Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	526	461	500	495
<b>KENTUCKY</b>								
Supreme Court	813	847	693 A	686 A	748 A	753 A	788 A	664
Court of Appeals	96	94	90	92	89	59	314	81
<b>LOUISIANA</b>								
Supreme Court	2,313 A	2,455	2,673	2,657	2,776	2,684	2,298	3,181
Courts of Appeal	2,538	3,016	3,541	3,877	4,189	3,980	4,844	4,926
<b>MARYLAND</b>								
Court of Appeals	713	607	655	682	598	626	646	658
Court of Special Appeals	192	240	294	220	230	204	254	193
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>								
Supreme Judicial Court	1,336	1,473	336	563	592	444	501	563
Appeals Court	NA	NA	NA	886	959	916	950	969

Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes

1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
197	290	231	255	243	235	241	271
54	99	54	66	56	64	66	60
1,078 B	1,156 B	1,054 B	905 B	995 B	1,006 B	1,061	1,074
45	48	45	63	53	56	99	156
NA	NA	4,004	4,052	4,442	4,442	4,907	5,440
NA	NA	6,776	7,334	7,070	7,438	7,266	5,727
NA	NA	1,036 B	1,001 B	1,215 B	1,261 B	1,326 B	1,286 B
1,123	1,260	1,223	1,426	965	1,251	1,361	1,235
1,683	1,751	1,887	1,839	1,893	2,297	2,421	2,404
NA	NA	1,524 B	1,615 B	1,885 B	1,559 B	986 B	854
NA	NA	701	683	706	794	386	957
39	45	58	42	45	43	32	50
99	71	76	84	88	86	79	107
1,673	1,622	1,633	1,482	1,484	1,498	1,551	1,808
497 A	520 A	317 A	291 A	303 A	311 A	501	184 A
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1,044	898	706 A	678 A	640 A	718 A	702 A	731
87	107	71	77	89	76	315	62
NA	2,230	2,660	2,404	2,633	2,870	3,084	3,003
NA	2,935	3,460	3,802	4,138	3,945	4,440	4,842
678	700	562	776	543	608	659	640
192	185	294	220	230	204	254	193
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	916	950	969

(continued on next page)

TABLE 14: Discretionary Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1985-1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Number of filings and qualifying footnotes							
	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
<b>States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court</b>								
<b>MICHIGAN</b>								
Supreme Court	2,069	2,042	2,082	2,662	2,805	2,507	2,233	2,422
Court of Appeals	2,249	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2,801
<b>MISSOURI</b>								
Supreme Court	NA	NA	NA	900	857	809	710	771
<b>NEBRASKA</b>								
Supreme Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Court of Appeals	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NA
<b>NEW JERSEY</b>								
Supreme Court	1,053 A	1,382 A	1,382 A	1,354 A	1,482 A	1,217 A	2,907	2,881
Appellate Div. of Super. Ct.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>								
Supreme Court	155	202	350	295	366	414	364	504
Court of Appeals	68	52	57	64	44	46	49	53
<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>								
Supreme Court	620	735	676	636	447	626	492	388
Court of Appeals	484	546	483	446	385	451	415	356
<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b>								
Supreme Court	NA	NA	NA	6	0	NA	NA	NA
Court of Appeals	NC	NC	NC	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>OHIO</b>								
Supreme Court	1,644	1,733	1,846	1,770	1,686	1,872	1,984	2,065
<b>OREGON</b>								
Supreme Court	903	990	1,086	857	709	791	845	882
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>								
Supreme Court	NA	24 A	32 A	26 A	43 A	61	95	62
<b>UTAH</b>								
Supreme Court	42	51	30	61	36	48	33	60
Court of Appeals	NA	NA	10	20	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>VIRGINIA</b>								
Supreme Court	1,043	1,193	1,441	1,439	1,573	1,775	1,936	1,908
Court of Appeals	1,103	1,113	1,201	1,291	1,523	1,570	1,853	1,933
<b>States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court</b>								
<b>WASHINGTON</b>								
Supreme Court	906 C	897 C	1,151 C	947 A	821 A	891 A	881 A	1,020 A
Court of Appeals	320	371	346	372	318	351	355	400
<b>WISCONSIN</b>								
Supreme Court	761	836	869	915	896	842	992	972
Court of Appeals	228	241	221	228	191	NA	NA	NA

Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes

1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
2,314 B NA	2,397 B NA	2,168 B NA	2,254 B NA	2,453 B NA	2,755 NA	2,444 NA	2,665 NA
NA	NA	NA	902	871	823	703	773
NA NC	NA NC	NA NC	NA NC	NA NC	NA NC	NA NC	NA NA
1,025 A NA	1,378 A NA	1,411 A NA	1,398 A NA	1,472 A NA	1,200 A NA	2,941 NA	2,982 NA
NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	344 NA	402 NA	334 9	NA 5
665 462	748 560	637 483	727 446	397 385	601 431	498 415	396 356
NA NC	NA NC	NA NC	5 NA	0 NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA
1,428	1,532	1,598	1,621	1,372	1,413	1,956	1,859
873	1,013	1,042	871	733	707	773	726
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA
1,321 637	1,095 881	1,169 1,743	1,655 1,454	1,800 1,777	1,610 2,140	1,295 2,308	1,530 2,380
907 C 283	786 C 317	1,093 C 388	1,060 A 388	829 A 305	883 A 354	862 A 270	943 A 361
699 228	765 241	725 188	866 162	802 148	728 NA	905 NA	720 NA

(continued on next page)



TABLE 14: Discretionary Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1985-1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Number of filings and qualifying footnotes							
	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
<b>States with no intermediate appellate court</b>								
DELAWARE								
Supreme Court	3 A	3 A	4 A	4 A	6 A	1 A	0	0
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA								
Court of Appeals	81	76	96	61	49	45	36	44
MAINE								
Supreme Judicial Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
MISSISSIPPI								
Supreme Court	4	3	2	0	43	64	80	65
MONTANA								
Supreme Court	NA	36	25	31	6	NA	NA	94
NEW HAMPSHIRE								
Supreme Court	574 A	534 A	516 A	504	567	627	597	774
RHODE ISLAND								
Supreme Court	288	168	219	189	179	177	201	268
SOUTH DAKOTA								
Supreme Court	17 A	32 A	27 A	35 A	39 A	49	31	28 A
VERMONT								
Supreme Court	19	24	31	32	34	32	36	26
WEST VIRGINIA								
Supreme Court of Appeals	1,372	1,585	2,037	1,621	1,644	1,623	3,180	2,357
<b>States with multiple appellate courts at any level</b>								
ALABAMA								
Supreme Court	606	763	713	765	806	867	1,028	741
INDIANA								
Supreme Court	NA	NA	404	NA	565	690	822	731
Court of Appeals	NA	NA	NA	NA	81	112	93	124
<b>States with multiple appellate courts at any level</b>								
NEW YORK								
Court of Appeals	NA	NA	NA	4,280	4,411	4,499	4,420	4,260
OKLAHOMA								
Supreme Court	295	340	293	295	443	446	388	570
Court of Criminal Appeals	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes

1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
3 A	4 A	3 A	5 A	5 A	0 A	0	2
77	72	87	65	49	45	36	44
68	67	40	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
4	3	2	0	32	59	76	69
NA	19	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	84
602 A	415 A	451 A	543	532	567	543	515
219	199	241	178	169	197	188	255
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
20	21	26	32	35	36	33	27
1,268	1,396	1,909	1,775	1,735	1,586	2,675	2,598
588	582	654	603	1,104	1,248	1,248	782
325	355	437	494	599	629	770	898
NA	NA	NA	NA	76	116	106	104
3,505	3,549	3,478	3,392	3,621	3,808	3,907	4,176
NA	NA	237	231	NA	NA	NA	442
267	264	283	291	312	412	412	NA

(continued on next page)

TABLE 14: Discretionary Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1985-1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Number of filings and qualifying footnotes							
	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>								
Supreme Court	2,579	2,242	1,936	2,207	2,227	3,645	3,456	3,412
Commonwealth Court	81	NA	115	45	29	36	128	31
<b>TENNESSEE</b>								
Supreme Court	772	765	758	758	820	731	775	834
Court of Appeals	82	74	77	77	103	109	131	149
Court of Criminal Appeals	NA	NA	NA	NA	67	55	71	90
<b>TEXAS</b>								
Supreme Court	1,169	1,228	1,176	1,243	1,126	1,206	1,283	1,462
Court of Criminal Appeals	1,360	1,360	1,339	1,416	1,792	1,380	1,340	1,691

**COURT TYPE:**

COLR = Court of last resort

IAC = Intermediate appellate court

**NOTE:**

NA = Indicates that the data are unavailable.

NC = Indicates that the court did not exist during that year.

**QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:**

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

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:

Delaware—Supreme Court—Data for 1985-1990 do not include some **discretionary interlocutory decision cases**.

Iowa—Supreme Court—Disposed data for 1985-1990 and 1992 do not include some **discretionary original proceedings**.

Kentucky—Supreme Court—Data for 1987-1991 do not include some **unclassified discretionary petitions**.

Louisiana—Supreme Court—Filed data for 1985 do not include some **discretionary petitions**.

New Hampshire—Supreme Court—Data for 1985-1987 include **discretionary judge disciplinary cases**.

New Jersey—Supreme Court—Data for 1985-1990 do not include **discretionary interlocutory decisions**.

South Carolina—Supreme Court—Filed data for 1986-1989 do not include **discretionary petitions** that were denied or otherwise dismissed/withdrawn or settled.

South Dakota—Supreme Court—Filed data for 1985-1989 and 1992 do not include **advisory opinions**.

Washington—Supreme Court—Data for 1988-1992 do not include some **discretionary cases**.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Arizona—Supreme Court—Data for 1985-1990 include **mandatory judge disciplinary cases**.

Colorado—Supreme Court—Disposed data for 1987-1992 include **mandatory jurisdiction cases**.

Georgia—Supreme Court—Disposed data for 1987-1991 represent some double counting because they include all **mandatory appeals and discretionary appeals that were granted** and refiled as appeals.

Michigan—Supreme Court—Disposed data for 1985-1989 include a few **mandatory jurisdiction cases**.

C: The following courts' data are both incomplete and overinclusive:

Washington—Supreme Court—Data for 1985-1987 include **mandatory certified questions from the federal courts**, but do not include some **discretionary petitions**.

Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes

1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2,683
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	1,087	1,087	1,057	772	708	885
82	74	77	77	97	74	115	130
NA	NA	NA	NA	35	36	37	55
1,187	1,166	1,261	1,168	1,096	1,166	1,301	1,472
1,046	1,100	1,672	1,437	2,107	1,352	1,387	1,526

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**TABLE 15: Felony Caseload in State Trial Courts, 1985-1992**

State/Court name:	Number of filings and qualifying footnotes							
	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
<b>General jurisdiction courts</b>								
ALABAMA Circuit	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	31,807	35,066	39,814
ALASKA Superior	NA	2,658	2,661	2,526	2,757	2,718	2,442	2,763
ARIZONA Superior	17,295	20,653	21,444	22,176	23,981	26,057 B	26,140 B	27,677 B
ARKANSAS Circuit	21,425 B	21,944 B	24,805 B	22,110 B	24,842 B	25,755 B	27,742 B	31,776 B
CALIFORNIA Superior	82,372 B	94,779 B	104,906 B	115,595 B	132,486 C	150,975 C	161,871 C	164,583 C
COLORADO District	15,804	16,087	16,223	17,391	19,284	20,212	20,655	22,565
CONNECTICUT Superior*	4,179	4,512	4,985	6,204	6,194	5,268	4,684	4,102
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Superior	12,399	16,207	19,986	21,472	21,332	20,138	21,774	17,521
FLORIDA Circuit	NA	146,449 B	159,701 B	184,532 B	199,111 B	192,976 B	186,732 B	177,186 B
GEORGIA Superior	36,182	37,146	45,104	53,984	63,977	66,275	70,339	NA
HAWAII Circuit*	2,878 C	2,842 C	2,766 C	2,909 C	3,115 C	3,025 C	3,174 C	4,675 B
IDAHO District	4,006	NA	NA	4,747	5,260	5,725	6,535	7,107
ILLINOIS Circuit	45,925 B	47,075 B	46,342 B	58,289 B	69,114 B	74,541 C	77,849 B	78,778 B
INDIANA Superior and Circuit	14,894 B	18,436 B	19,804 B	21,313 B	26,358 B	27,681 B	29,098 B	28,958 B
IOWA District	7,970 B	7,692 B	8,230 B	8,666 B	10,481 B	10,884 B	12,867 B	14,004 B
KANSAS District	10,470	11,106	11,500	12,188	12,631	12,197	11,436	13,412
KENTUCKY Circuit	13,439 B	13,380 B	13,500 B	12,518 B	14,411 B	14,881 B	15,078 B	17,032 B
LOUISIANA District	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	23,621	29,138	27,251

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TABLE 15: Felony Caseload in State Trial Courts, 1985-1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Number of filings and qualifying footnotes							
	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
MAINE Superior	3,656	3,583	3,612	3,657	4,142	4,745	4,571	4,342
MARYLAND Circuit	NA	44,656 C	50,939 C	53,229 C	56,775 C	55,755 C	62,935 C	67,828 C
MASSACHUSETTS Trial Court of the Commonwealth	NA	NA	6,790	6,075	5,583	6,271	5,796	5,782
MINNESOTA District	12,208	12,366	13,008	13,637	13,607	14,747	16,277	16,273
MISSOURI Circuit	30,494 B	32,796 B	34,971 B	36,965 B	39,952 B	40,968 B	44,208 B	47,431 B
MONTANA District	2,574 C	2,591 C	2,443 C	2,726 C	2,710 C	2,966 C	3,140 C	NA
NEBRASKA District	NA	NA	3,445 B	4,024 B	4,823 B	5,105 B	5,348 B	5,738 B
NEW HAMPSHIRE Superior	4,198	4,857	5,527	6,079	6,599	6,678	7,345	7,604
NEW JERSEY Superior	37,784	38,443	41,198	43,837	53,215	57,223	54,703	51,054
NEW MEXICO District	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	916
NEW YORK Supreme and County*	51,034 B	56,356 B	62,940 B	67,177 B	79,025 B	79,322 B	78,354 B	76,814 B
NORTH CAROLINA Superior	40,915	44,980	51,210	55,284	62,752	69,810	73,908	85,748
NORTH DAKOTA District	1,312 B	1,390 B	1,487 B	1,497 B	1,444 B	1,637 B	1,837 B	1,951
OHIO Court of Common Pleas	36,249	38,374	39,376	43,613	51,959	55,949	61,836	65,361
OKLAHOMA District	4,673 B	25,782 B	26,438 B	25,997 B	26,482 B	27,541 B	28,325 B	29,868 B
OREGON Circuit	20,682	22,533	24,591	26,859	27,248	28,523	26,050	27,159
PENNSYLVANIA Court of Common Pleas	NA	98,880 B	106,972 B	113,605 B	128,478 B	139,699 B	137,046 B	140,416 B
PUERTO RICO Superior	15,516 B	20,073 B	20,314 B	21,532 B	21,548 B	23,328 B	28,340 B	28,591 B
RHODE ISLAND Superior	4,780	4,360	4,278	6,685	6,740	6,011	5,665	5,764

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TABLE 15: Felony Caseload in State Trial Courts, 1985-1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Number of filings and qualifying footnotes							
	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
SOUTH DAKOTA Circuit	3,088	3,182	3,275	3,257	3,388	4,072	3,675	4,441
TENNESSEE Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery	NA	38,656 B	41,533 B	NA	50,412 B	55,622 B	55,587 B	58,771 B
TEXAS District	93,968	111,331	119,395	122,903	139,611	147,230	144,408	153,853
UTAH District	NA	5,055 B	4,320 B	4,182 B	4,215 B	4,608 B	4,316 B	4,833 B
VERMONT District Superior	1,897 6	2,177 1	2,111 85	2,115 112	1,993 138	2,202 53	2,319 6	2,810 6
VIRGINIA Circuit	43,096	45,646	49,481	53,445	63,304	64,053	70,145	73,889
WASHINGTON Superior	17,885	19,693	21,071	25,476	28,121	26,914	27,503	28,529
WEST VIRGINIA Circuit	4,707 B	4,546 B	4,885 B	4,291 B	4,121 B	4,071 B	4,217 B	4,446 B
WISCONSIN Circuit	14,549	14,470	13,802	14,484	17,625	18,738	19,523	20,399 A
WYOMING District	1,468	1,466	1,353	1,480	1,591	1,503	1,365	1,282 A
<b>Limited jurisdiction courts</b>								
CALIFORNIA Justice Municipal	10,700 B 145,133 B	10,571 B 163,959 B	11,640 B 185,995 B	12,076 B 197,176 B	11,628 C 210,615 B	11,025 C 228,340 C	6,732 143,266	6,616 A 147,750
COLORADO County	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	15,522 B	16,286 B
DELAWARE Court of Common Pleas	520	726	819	804	787	736	912	574
HAWAII District	230	256	235	229	409	508	407	318
INDIANA County Municipal Court of Marion County	8,623 B NA	8,437 B 8,789 B	8,271 B 8,517 B	7,602 B 6,451 B	7,261 B 7,045 B	7,443 B 5,803 B	7,465 B 5,027 B	8,048 B 5,596 B
MAINE District	NA	NA	4,263 B	4,936 B	5,255 B	5,520 B	5,522 B	4,756 B

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TABLE 15: Felony Caseload in State Trial Courts, 1985-1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Number of filings and qualifying footnotes							
	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
<b>MICHIGAN</b>								
District	NA	18,568	20,445	20,036	22,029	23,217	23,936	21,789
Municipal	NA	307	178	191	264	186	226	275
<b>OHIO</b>								
County	1,199	1,048	1,139	1,112	1,278	1,349	1,478	1,267
Municipal	16,561	18,371	20,222	23,643	31,475	33,552	37,685	37,474
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>								
District Justice	NA	NA	52,331 B	55,352 B	64,095 B	67,348 B	NA	71,189 B
<b>UTAH</b>								
Circuit	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	8,900	9,708 B
<b>VIRGINIA</b>								
District	42,412	49,685	51,358	52,739	57,786	60,909	66,344	65,737

**NOTE:** The footnoting scheme has been consolidated. Footnotes for 1985-1987 have been translated into the footnote scheme for 1988 through 1992.

NA = Data were unavailable or not comparable.

**QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:**

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:

California—Justice Court—**Felony** data for 1992 do not include partial year data for one court.

Wisconsin—Circuit Court—**Felony** data for 1992 do not include some cases reported with unclassified criminal.

Wyoming—District Court—**Felony** data for 1992 do not include cases from two counties.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Arizona—Superior Court—**Felony** data for 1990-1992 include **DWI/DUI** cases.

Arkansas—Circuit Court—**Felony** data include **DWI/DUI** cases.

California—Superior Court—**Felony** data for 1985-1988 include **DWI/DUI** cases.

—Justice Court—**Felony** data for 1985-1988 include **preliminary hearing** bindovers and transfers.

—Municipal Court—**Felony** data for 1985-1989 include **preliminary hearing** bindovers and transfers.

Colorado—County Court—**Felony** data include some **preliminary hearing proceedings**.

Florida—Circuit Court—**Felony** data include **misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, and miscellaneous criminal** cases.

Hawaii—Circuit Court—**Felony** data for 1992 include **misdemeanor** cases.

Illinois—Circuit Court—**Felony** data for 1985-1989 and 1991-1992 include **preliminary hearings** for courts "downstate."

Indiana—Superior and Circuit Courts—**Felony** data include **DWI/DUI** cases.

—County Court—**Felony** data include **DWI/DUI** cases.

—Municipal Court of Marion County—**Felony** data include **DWI/DUI** cases.

Iowa—District Court—**Felony** data include third-offense **DWI/DUI** cases.

Kentucky—Circuit Court—All **felony** data include **misdemeanor** cases. 1985-1990 data also include **sentence review only** and **postconviction remedy proceedings**.

Maine—District Court—**Felony** data include **preliminary hearings**.

Missouri—Circuit Court—**Felony** data include some **DWI/DUI** cases.

Nebraska—District Court—**Felony** data include **misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, and miscellaneous criminal** cases.

New York—Supreme and County Courts—**Felony** data include **DWI/DUI** cases.

North Dakota—District Court—**Felony** data for 1985-1991 include **sentence review only** and **postconviction remedy proceedings**.

Oklahoma—District Court—**Felony** data include some **miscellaneous criminal** cases.

Pennsylvania—Court of Common Pleas—**Felony** data include **misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, and some criminal appeals** cases.

—District Justice Court—**Felony** data include **DWI/DUI** cases.

Puerto Rico—Superior Court—**Felony** data include **appeals**.

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TABLE 15: Felony Caseload in State Trial Courts, 1985-1992. (continued)

Tennessee—Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery Court—**Felony** data include **misdemeanor** and some **criminal appeals** cases.

Utah—District Court—**Felony** data include **misdemeanor** and **criminal appeals** cases, and some **postconviction remedy** and **sentence review only proceedings**.

—Circuit Court—**Felony** data for 1992 include **DWI/DUI** cases.

West Virginia—Circuit Court—**Felony** data include **DWI/DUI** cases.

Hawaii—Circuit Court—**Felony** data for 1985-1991 include **misdemeanor** cases, but do not include reopened prior cases.

Illinois—Circuit Court—**Felony** data for 1990 include **preliminary hearings** for courts downstate, but do not include some reinstated and transferred cases.

Maryland—Circuit Court—**Felony** data include some **misdemeanor** cases, but do not include some cases.

Montana—District Court—**Felony** data include some **trial court civil appeals**, but do not include some cases reported with unclassified criminal data.

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

California—Superior Court—**Felony** data for 1989 include **DWI/DUI** cases, but do not include partial year data from several courts. Data for 1990 include **DWI/DUI** cases, but do not include partial year data from one court. Data for 1991 include **DWI/DUI** cases, but do not include data from one court. Data for 1992 include **DWI/DUI** cases, but do not include partial year data from one court.

—Justice Court—**Felony** data for 1989 and 1990 include **preliminary hearing** bindovers and transfers, but do not include partial year data from several courts for 1989, and one court for 1990.

—Municipal Court—**Felony** data for 1990 include **preliminary hearing** bindovers and transfers, but do not include partial year data from one court.

\* Additional court information:

Connecticut—Superior Court—Figures for felony filings do not match those reported in the 1985 and 1986 *State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Reports*. Felony filings have been adjusted to include only triable felonies so as to be comparable to 1987 through 1992 data.

Hawaii—Circuit Court—Figures for felony filings do not match those reported in the 1985 and 1986 *State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Reports*. Misdemeanor cases have been included to allow comparability with 1987 through 1992 data.

New York—Supreme and County Courts—These courts experienced a significant increase in the number of filings due to the change to an individual calendaring system in 1986.

**TABLE 16: Tort Caseload in State Trial Courts, 1985-1992**

State/Court name:	Number of filings and qualifying footnotes							
	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
<b>General jurisdiction courts</b>								
ALASKA Superior	2,096	2,344	1,664	937	851	826	838	815
ARIZONA Superior	10,748	11,888	12,260	20,490	12,559	15,418	15,442	13,842
ARKANSAS Circuit	5,382	5,541	5,606	5,132	5,000	5,045	5,099	5,098
CALIFORNIA Superior	112,049 A	130,206 A	137,455 A	132,378 A	131,900 A	121,960 A	114,298 A	109,219 A
COLORADO District*	4,537	6,145	3,666	4,506	5,490	5,886	6,295	6,151
CONNECTICUT Superior	12,742	13,754	15,385	15,741	16,955	16,477	16,266	16,250
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Superior	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3,605	5,424
FLORIDA Circuit*	NA	35,535	35,453	35,986	38,415	40,748	44,257	43,458
HAWAII Circuit	1,676 A	1,749 A	1,785 A	1,736 A	1,793 A	2,065 A	2,365 A	2,689 A
IDAHO District	2,010 A	2,118 A	1,757 A	1,453 A	1,478 A	1,417 A	1,257 A	1,325 A
INDIANA Superior and Circuit	NA	NA	NA	NA	5,697	6,719	7,910	8,043
KANSAS District	4,061	4,273	4,380	4,595	4,513	4,010	4,076	4,338
MAINE Superior	2,072	2,044	1,786	1,776	1,950	1,878	1,686	1,643
MARYLAND Circuit	10,120 A	12,373 A	12,938 A	14,170 A	14,274 A	14,908 A	16,270 A	15,612 A
MASSACHUSETTS Trial Court of the Commonwealth	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	76,806 A	74,641 A	68,341 A
MICHIGAN Circuit	22,811	32,612	29,756	30,966	32,663	38,784	31,869	34,497
MINNESOTA District	NA	10,356	10,739	10,125	9,658	7,135	7,252	7,460
MISSOURI Circuit	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	21,680	21,245	19,999

(continued on next page)

TABLE 16: Tort Caseload in State Trial Courts, 1985-1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Number of filings and qualifying footnotes							
	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
MONTANA District	1,870	1,836	1,792	1,541	1,613	1,651	1,518	NA
NEVADA District	NA	NA	NA	4,329	4,799	5,295	5,871	6,185
NEW JERSEY Superior*	NA	NA	NA	NA	71,367 A	72,463 A	73,614 A	67,380 A
NEW MEXICO District	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,578
NEW YORK Supreme and County*	NA	NA	NA	53,104	62,189	65,026	65,767	72,189
NORTH CAROLINA Superior	8,062	8,897	8,981	7,639	7,879	8,175	8,656	9,361
NORTH DAKOTA District	512	561	551	552	602	744	531	411
OHIO Court of Common Pleas	25,518	28,225	29,375	28,614	29,039	34,488	34,422	33,196
OREGON Circuit	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5,999	5,568
PUERTO RICO Superior	4,388 B	4,558 B	4,811 B	4,077 B	5,579 B	6,095 B	6,569 B	5,610 B
TENNESSEE Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery	12,565	13,167	13,597	NA	13,501	13,453	13,223	13,100
TEXAS District	37,596	38,238	40,764	36,597	36,710	39,648	44,088	46,762
UTAH District	1,245 B	2,527 B	1,335 B	1,404 B	1,233 B	1,631 B	1,729 B	1,979 B
WASHINGTON Superior	9,747	19,515	8,007	8,746	10,146	10,147	11,375	11,142
WISCONSIN Circuit	NA	NA	9,545	9,534	9,152	9,669	8,865	8,835
WYOMING District	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	504 A
<b>Limited jurisdiction courts</b>								
ALASKA District	860 A	4,069 A	1,071 A	445 A	474 A	341 A	462 A	501 A
FLORIDA County	NA	42,229	52,491	53,992	57,375	60,796	75,796	77,321

(continued on next page)

TABLE 16: Tort Caseload in State Trial Courts, 1985-1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Number of filings and qualifying footnotes							
	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
<b>HAWAII</b>								
District	652	738	937	781	870	1,062	969	999
<b>INDIANA</b>								
County	NA	NA	NA	NA	52	44	97	113
Municipal Court of Marion County	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	51	340	220
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>								
Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County	NA	NA	1,497	1,401	1,835	1,357	1,749	NA
<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b>								
County	NA	NA	22	28	18	12	NA	NA
<b>OHIO</b>								
County	464	463	406	410	528	430	461	413
Municipal	12,992	13,999	15,505	15,373	15,078	14,674	15,316	14,968
<b>OREGON</b>								
District	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2,101	1,983
<b>PUERTO RICO</b>								
District	1,579 B	1,779 B	1,729 B	1,860 B	2,010 B	1,932 B	1,951 B	2,942 B
<b>TEXAS</b>								
County-level	8,242	9,833	11,314	12,188	11,437	12,355	14,201	14,009

**NOTE:** The footnoting scheme has been consolidated. Footnotes for 1985-1987 have been translated into the footnote scheme for 1988 through 1992.

NA = Data were unavailable or not comparable.

New Jersey—Superior Court—**Tort** data do not include some cases reported with unclassified civil cases.

Wyoming—District Court—**Tort** data for 1992 do not include cases from two counties.

**QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:**

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:

Alaska—District Court—**Tort** data do not include filings in the low volume District Courts, which are reported with unclassified civil cases.

California—Superior Court—**Tort** data do not include **medical malpractice** and **product liability** cases. **Tort** data for 1989 also do not include partial data from several courts. Data for 1990 and 1992 also do not include partial data from one court. Data for 1991 also do not include data from one court.

Hawaii—Circuit Court—**Tort** data do not include a small number of District Court transfers reported with other civil cases.

Idaho—District Court—**Tort** data do not include some cases reported with unclassified civil cases.

Maryland—Circuit Court—**Tort** data do not include some cases reported with unclassified civil cases.

Massachusetts—Trial Court of the Commonwealth—**Tort** data do not include cases from the Boston Municipal Court Department.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Puerto Rico—Superior Court—**Tort** data include **appeals**.  
—District Court—**Tort** data include **appeals**.

Utah—District Court—**Tort** data include de novo **appeals** from the Justice Court.

• Additional court information:

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

Florida—Circuit Court—The large increase in tort filings for 1991 is due in part to the filing of 1,113 asbestos cases in Miami in July of 1991.

New Jersey—Superior Court—The unit of count changed in 1989, so data from previous years are not comparable.

New York—Supreme and County Court—The unit of count changed in 1988, so data from previous years are not comparable.

***P**ART IV*  
*1992 State Court Structure Charts*

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# Overview of State Trial and Appellate Court Structure in 1992

American courts inhabit two different though related realms—state and federal. There are currently 50 states and, therefore, 50 state trial and appellate systems. Separate systems similar to the state courts also exist in the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.<sup>1</sup>

## Trial Court Structure

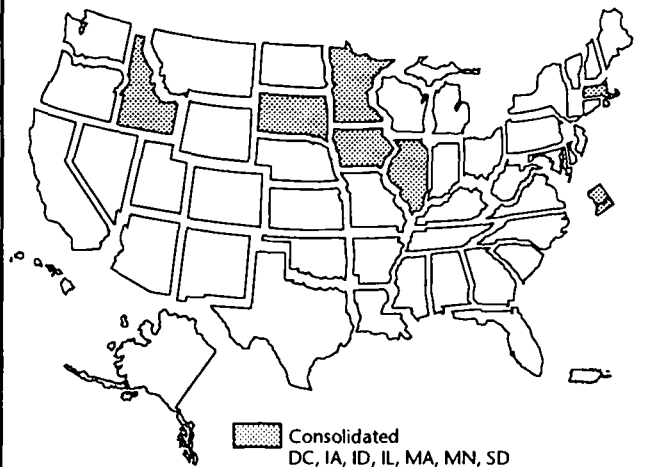
The federal judiciary and the 52 state courts are similar in broad outline, but they vary in the detail of their organization and jurisdiction. Whereas the federal courts are relatively uniform throughout the country, state trial court systems vary greatly in structure, and none are simple to describe. In general, there are four types of state court systems: (1) consolidated, (2) complex, (3) mixed, and (4) mainly consolidated. Differences in court structure and jurisdiction are important to understanding

<sup>1</sup> There are territorial courts in the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, court statistics are not collected from these territorial courts.

caseload data from a state. Hence, some important dimensions on which state trial court systems differ need to be reviewed before examining and comparing state caseloads in more detail.

The conventional wisdom of state court reform stresses the virtues of consolidation. In trial courts, two dimensions on which this is manifest are the uniformity and the simplicity of jurisdiction. Uniform jurisdiction means that all trial courts at each level have identical authority to decide cases. Simplicity in jurisdiction means that the allocation of subject matter jurisdiction does not overlap between levels. The degree of consolidation offers a related basis for classification, reflecting the extent to which states have merged limited and

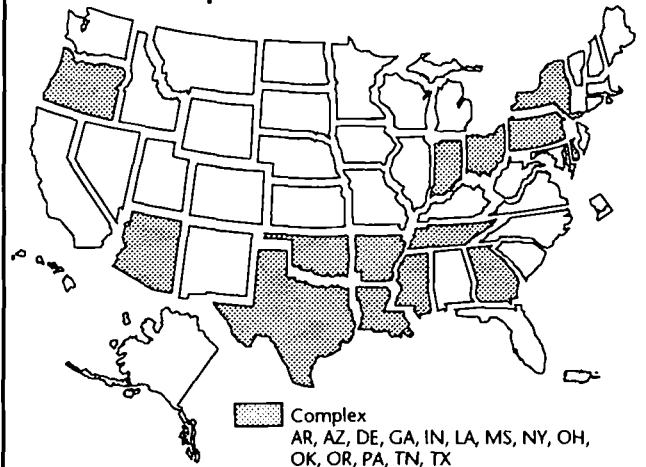
**MAP IV.1 Trial Court Structure, 1992  
Consolidated Court Structure**



Six states and the District of Columbia have consolidated their trial courts into a single court with jurisdiction over all cases and procedures.

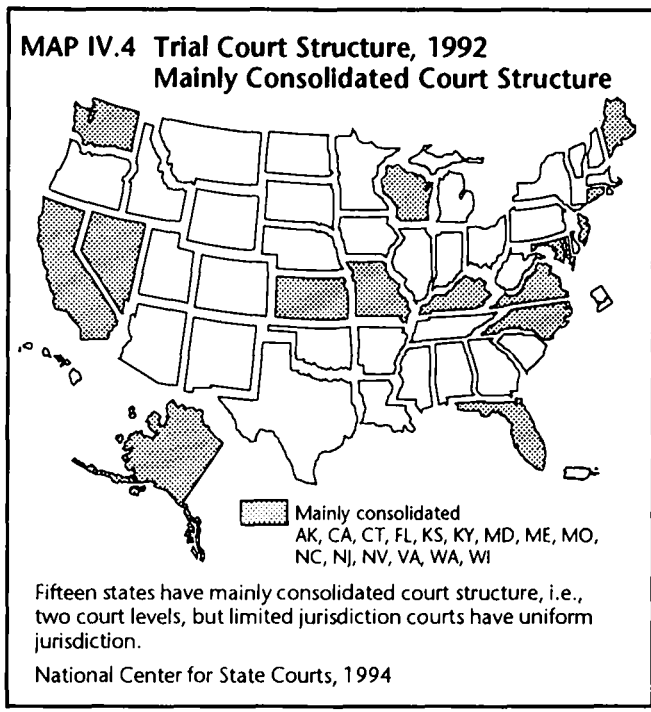
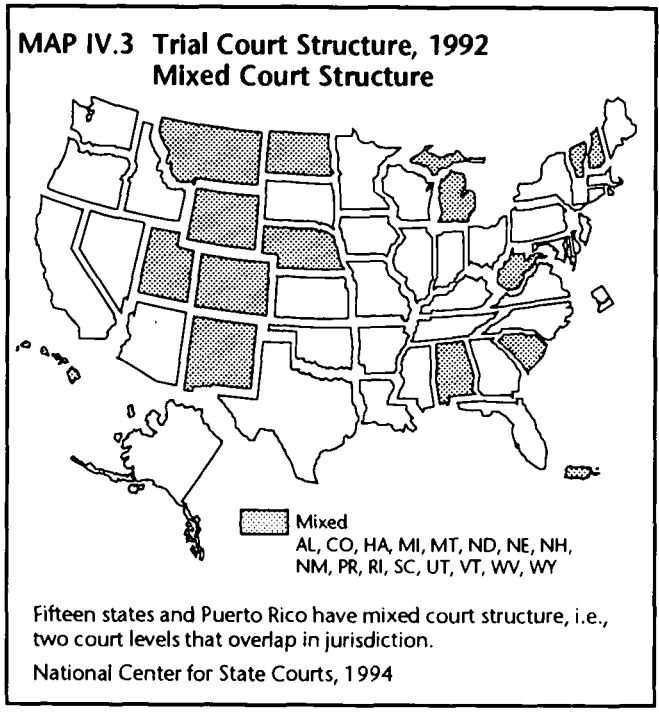
National Center for State Courts, 1994

**MAP IV.2 Trial Court Structure, 1992  
Complex Court Structure**



Fourteen states have complex court structure, i.e., 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 general jurisdiction courts.

National Center for State Courts, 1994

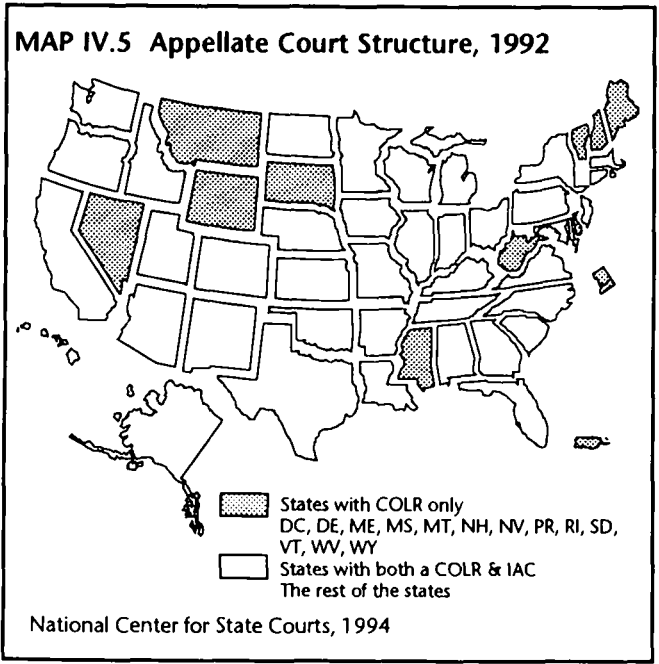


special jurisdiction courts. Maps IV.1 through IV.4 summarize the differences in state court structure during 1992.

**Appellate Court Structure**

Appeals are heard by two types of appellate courts: (1) courts of last resort and (2) intermediate

appellate courts. Each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have a court of last resort (COLR), usually designated the state supreme court. These courts were generally established early in each state's history. In contrast, the intermediate appellate court (IAC), usually named the state court of appeals, is a more contemporary development. In 1957 only 13 states had permanent intermediate appellate courts; by 1991 there were permanent intermediate appellate courts in all but 11 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.<sup>2</sup> Map IV.5 displays the geographic distribution of states with only a COLR and states with both a COLR and an IAC.



In those states with both types of appellate courts, parties challenging trial court decisions generally bring their appeal first to the intermediate appellate court. For virtually all criminal appeals, the intermediate appellate court must accept the case because the court's jurisdiction is mandatory. However, because intermediate appellate courts tend to have some limited discretion to

2 Additionally, North Dakota has been operating for the past several years with a temporary IAC that operates when the North Dakota Supreme Court deems it appropriate. It seems reasonable to expect that additional states may establish an intermediate appellate court as a way of handling appellate caseload pressures.

determine which civil cases they will hear, all civil appeals are not necessarily accepted.<sup>3</sup> After the intermediate appellate court hears a case and reaches a decision, a party dissatisfied with the decision may petition the court of last resort for further review.<sup>4</sup> The court of last resort, which generally has broad discretionary jurisdiction in both criminal and civil appeals, must first decide whether to accept the case for review. If the petition is granted, then the court of last resort hears the case and renders a decision. On the other hand, if the petition is denied, the litigation terminates, and the intermediate appellate court's ruling stands. The clearest exception to this pattern of review occurs in those states with capital punishment. In all instances, death-penalty appeals bypass the intermediate appellate court and go directly to the court of last resort. A geographic representation of how states with both a COLR and IAC allocate mandatory and discretion-

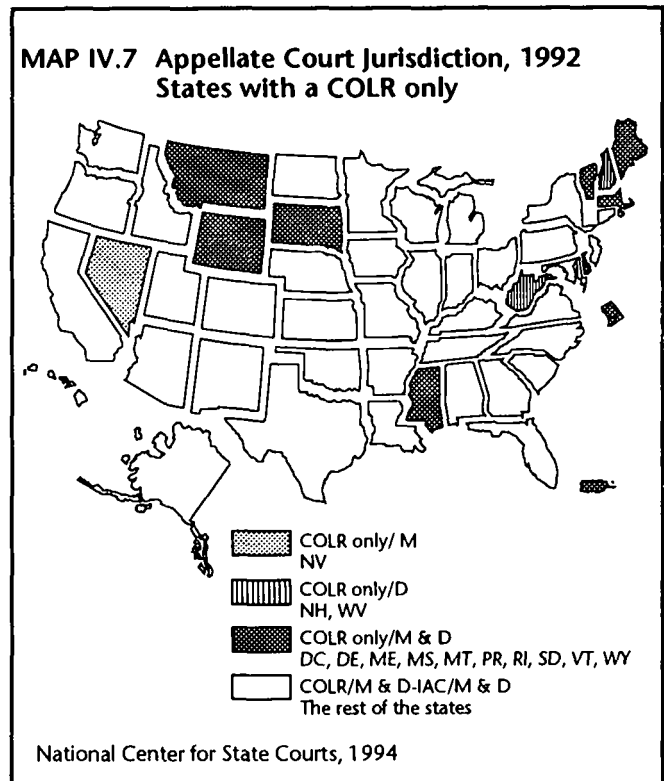
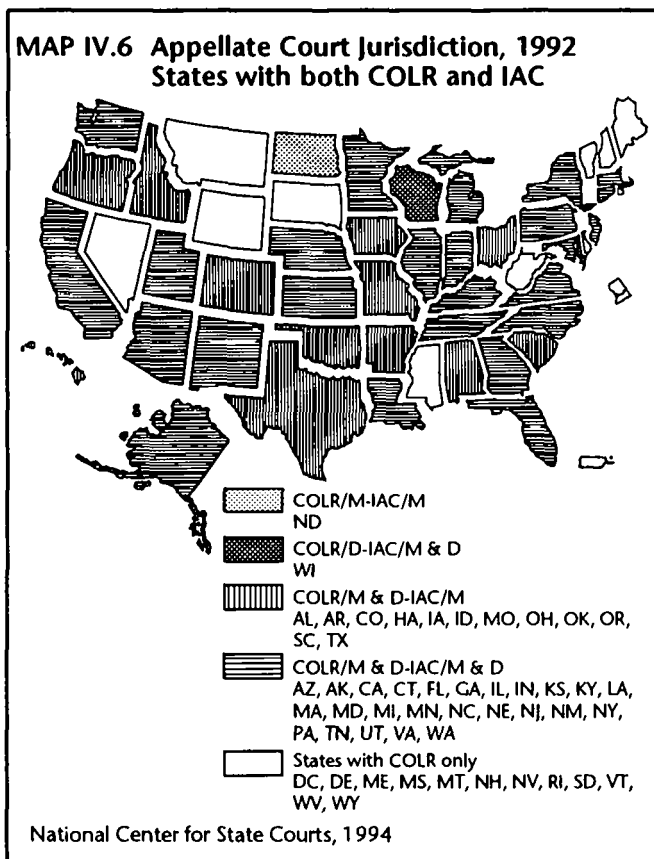
3 Discretionary jurisdiction should not be assumed to be a light responsibility. The process of screening petitions is very labor-intensive and imposes a burden on courts in addition to work necessary to decide the cases that they do choose to hear.

ary jurisdiction between the two levels is shown in Map IV.6.

In those states where there is no intermediate appellate court, civil and criminal litigants bring their appeals directly to the court of last resort. In these 11 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, the court of last resort tends to resemble an intermediate appellate court in terms of its caseload levels and trends. This is because the jurisdiction of these courts of last resort commonly is mandatory, which is also true for most intermediate appellate courts. As seen in Map IV.7, however, there are two exceptions. New Hampshire and West Virginia have courts of last resort with exclusively discretionary jurisdiction, although neither state has an intermediate appellate court.<sup>5</sup>

4 The fact that appellate courts must accept some cases does not mean, of course, that the courts render a decision in each case. Some cases are withdrawn or settled before the court reaches a decision, or are dismissed by the court.

5 The court structure charts provide a point of reference for further distinctions among appellate court structures.





# Understanding the Court Structure Charts

The court structure charts summarize in a one-page diagram the key features of each state's court organization. The format meets two objectives: (1) it is comprehensive, indicating all court systems in the state and their interrelationships, and (2) it describes the jurisdiction of the 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 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 case types. 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 case types, which define a court system's subject matter jurisdiction, require the most explanation.

## Appellate Courts

The rectangle representing each appellate court contains information on the number of authorized justices; the number of geographic divisions, if any; whether court decisions are made en banc, in panels, or both; and the Court Statistics Project case types that are heard by the court. The case types are shown separately for mandatory and discretionary cases. The case types 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: 1989 Edition*.

An appellate court can have both mandatory and discretionary jurisdiction over the same Court Statistics Project case type. This arises, in part, because the Court Statistics Project case types are defined broadly in order to be applicable to every state's courts. There are, for example, only two appellate Court Statistics Project case types for criminal appeals: capital and noncapital. A court

may have mandatory jurisdiction over felony cases, but discretionary jurisdiction over misdemeanors. The list of case types would include "criminal" for both mandatory and discretionary jurisdiction. The duplication of a case type under both headings can also occur if appeals from one lower court for that case type 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 case types. These include civil, criminal, traffic/other

violation, and juvenile. Where a case type 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 case type 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 amount jurisdiction for general civil cases. In criminal cases, jurisdiction is distinguished between "felony," where the court can try a felony case to verdict and sentencing, and "preliminary hearings," 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 case types 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 impanel 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.

Some trial courts are totally funded from local sources and some 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.

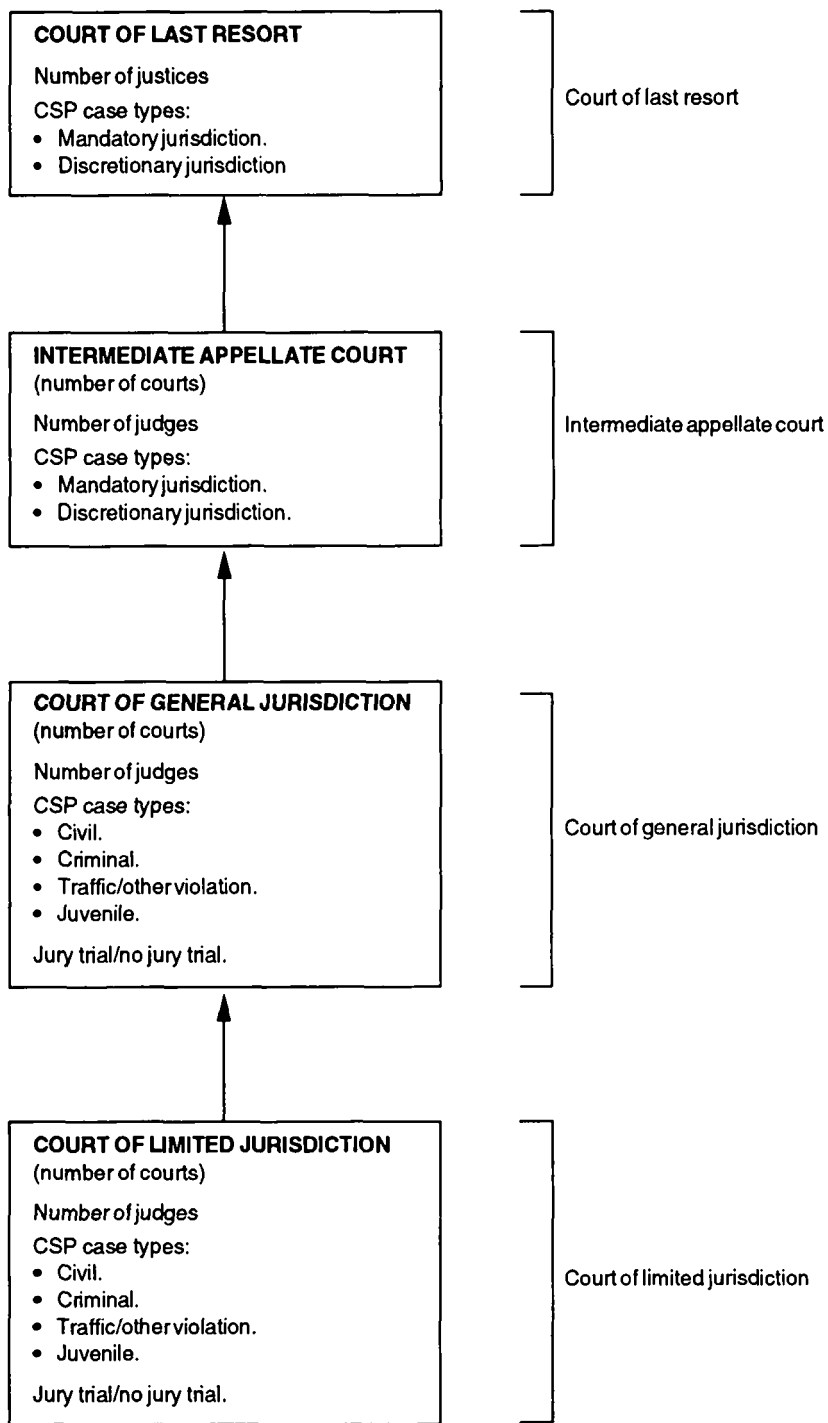
## Symbols and Abbreviations

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" is listed as a case type, 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 have both an "A" designation and to have "administrative agency appeals" listed as a case type. 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.

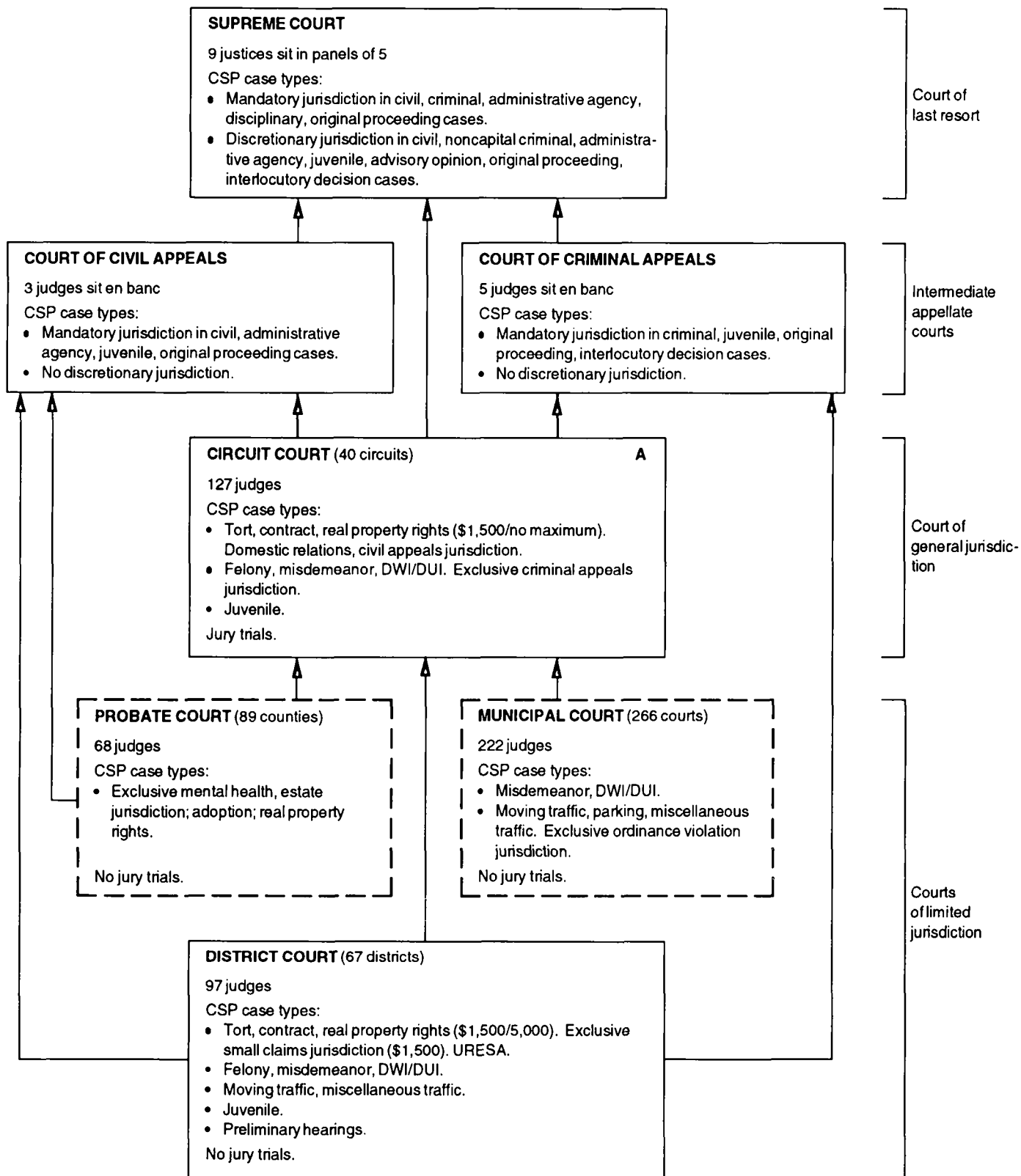
The number of justices or judges is sometimes stated as "FTE." This represents "full-time equivalent" authorized judicial positions. "DWI/DUI" stands for "driving while intoxicated/driving under the influence." The "SC" abbreviation stands for "small claims." The dollar amount jurisdiction for civil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

*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 case types, 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.*

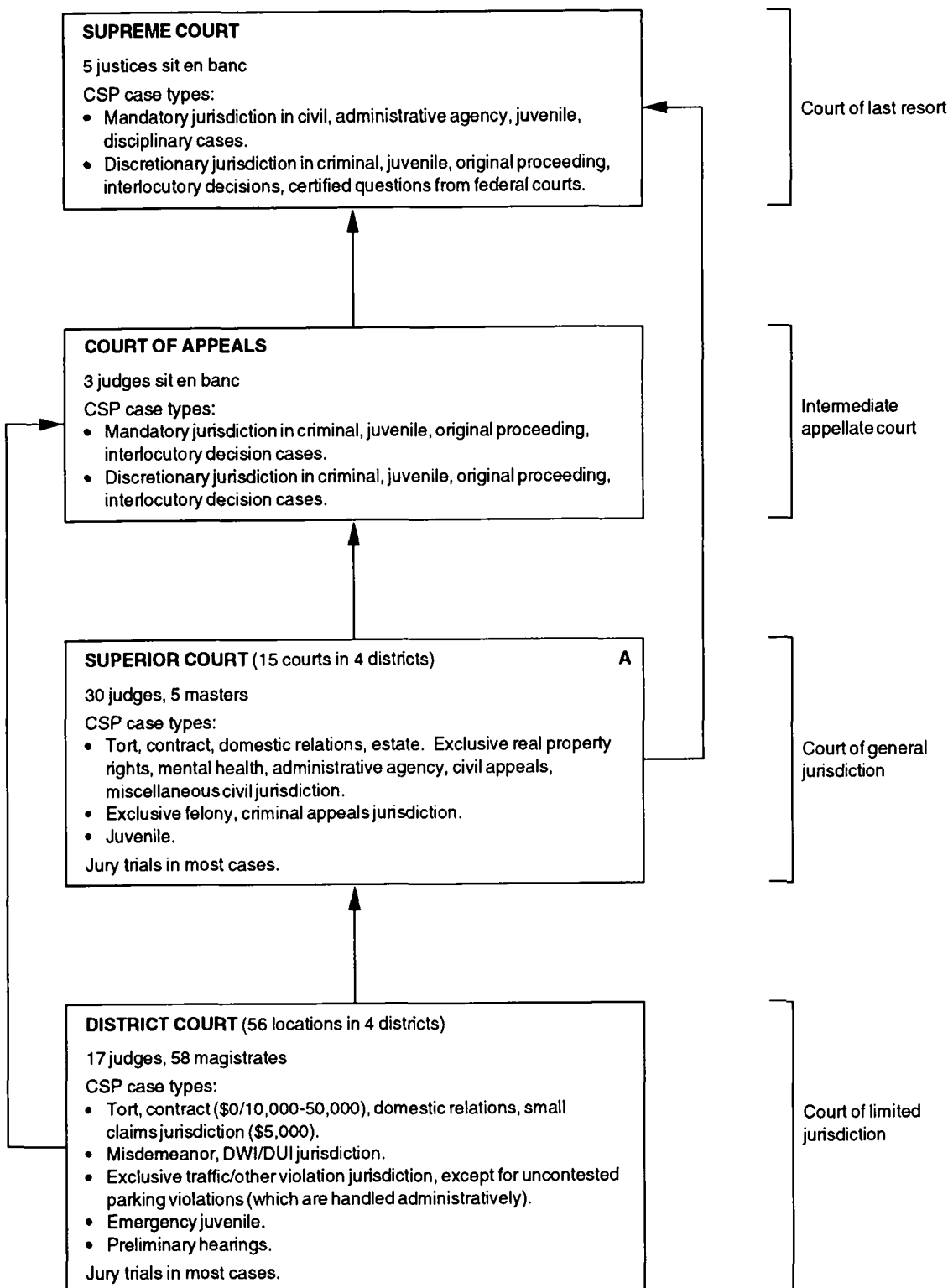
## STATE COURT STRUCTURE PROTOTYPE, 1992



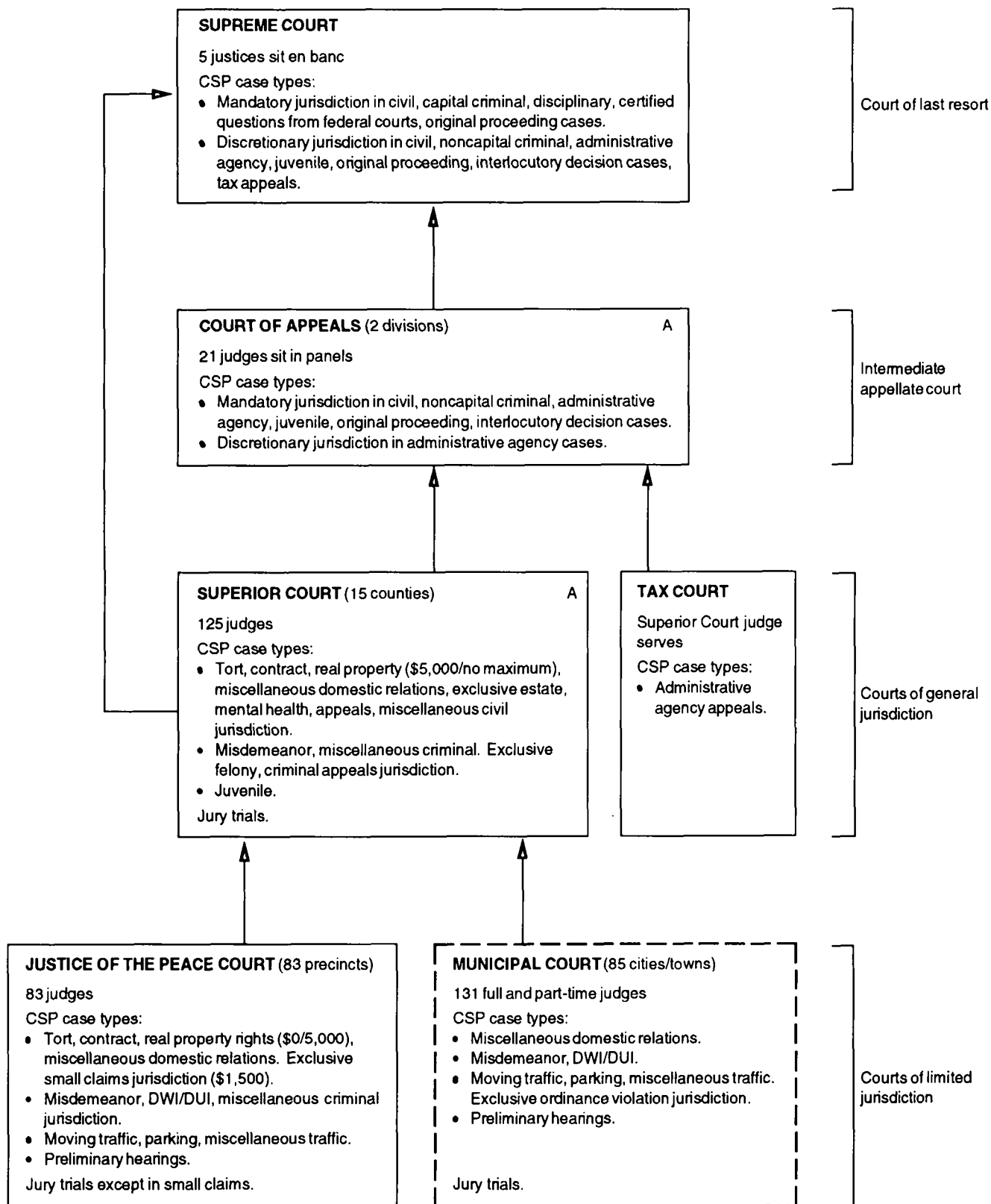
## ALABAMA COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



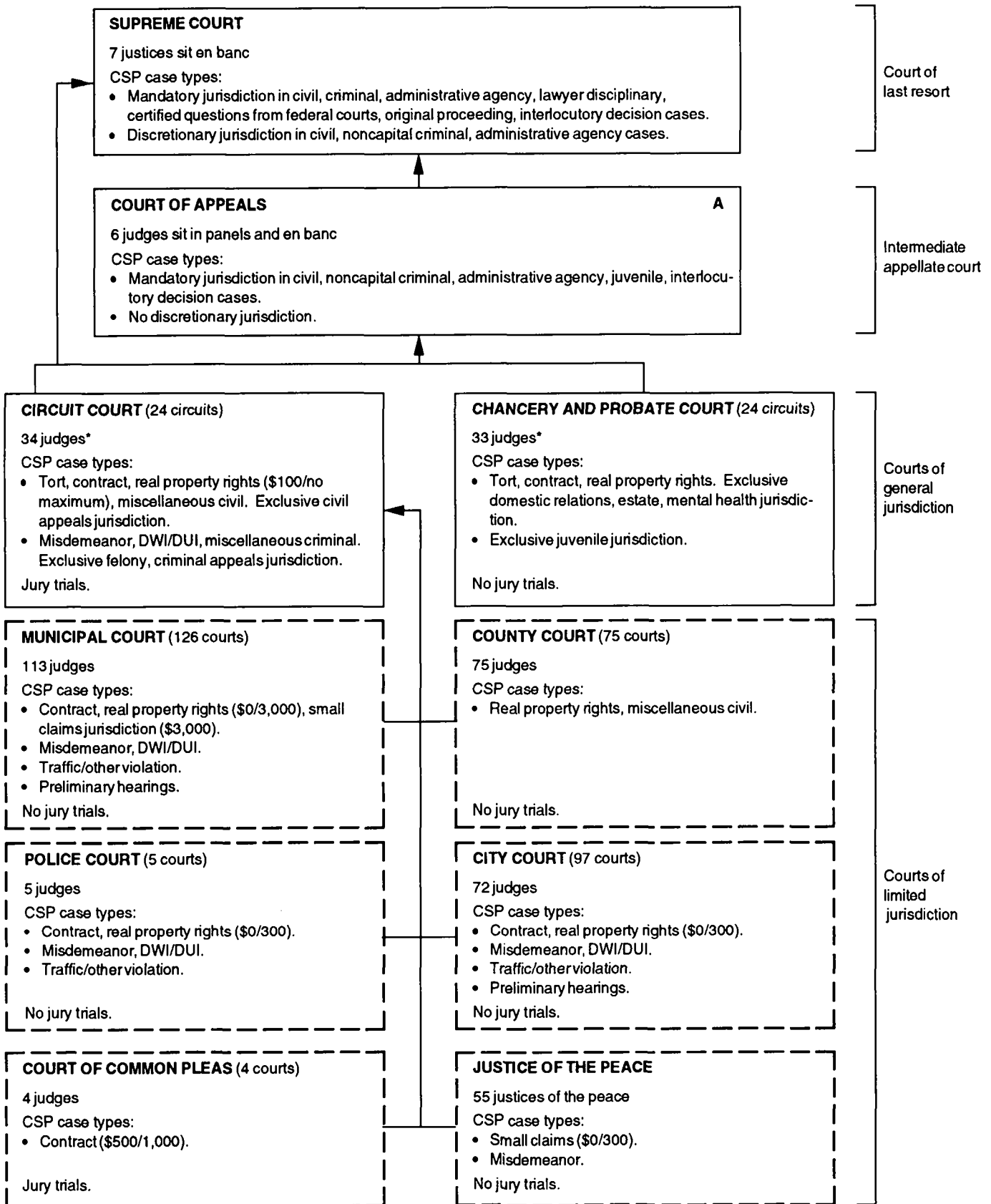
## ALASKA COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



## ARIZONA COURT STRUCTURE, 1992

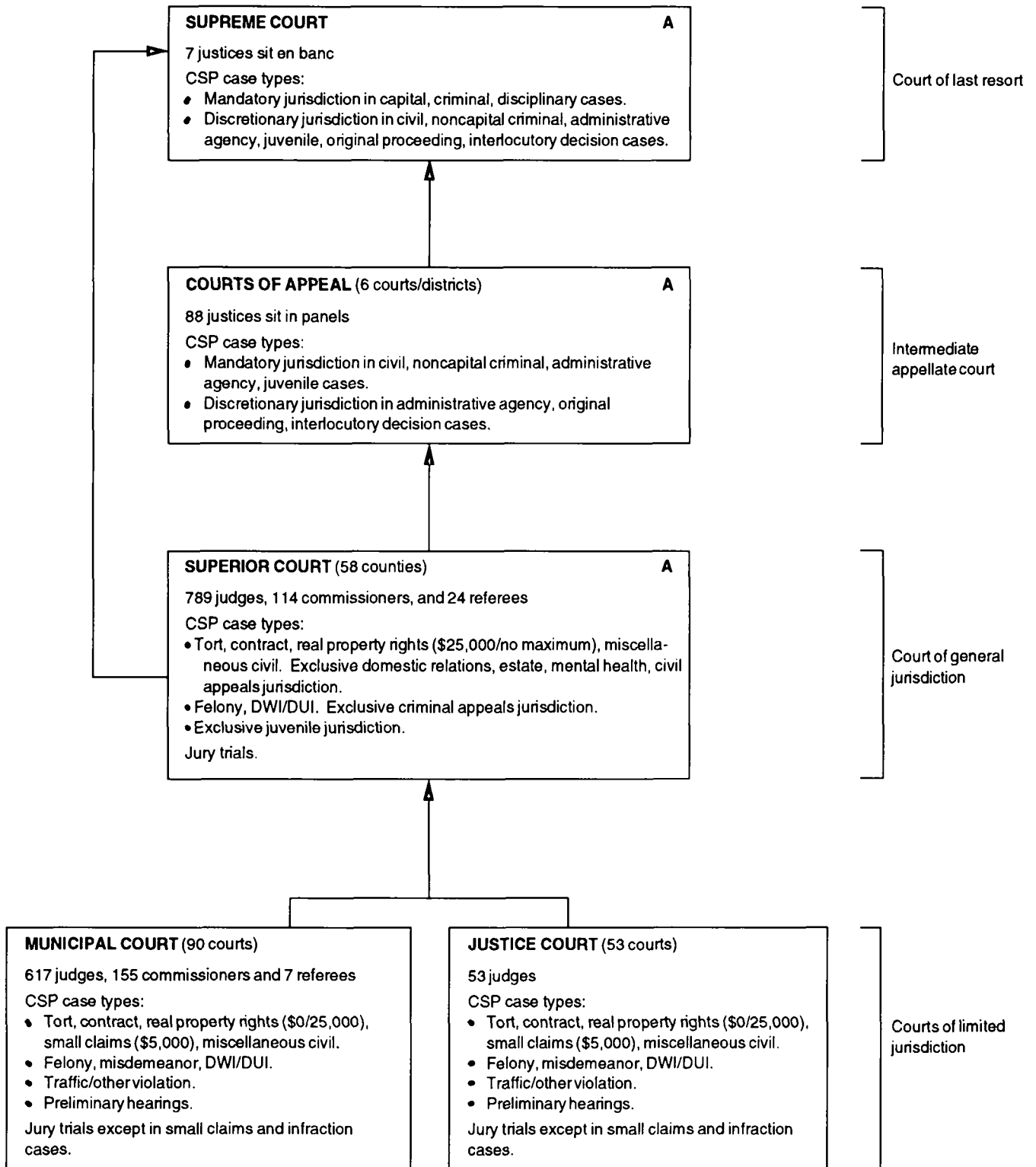


## ARKANSAS COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



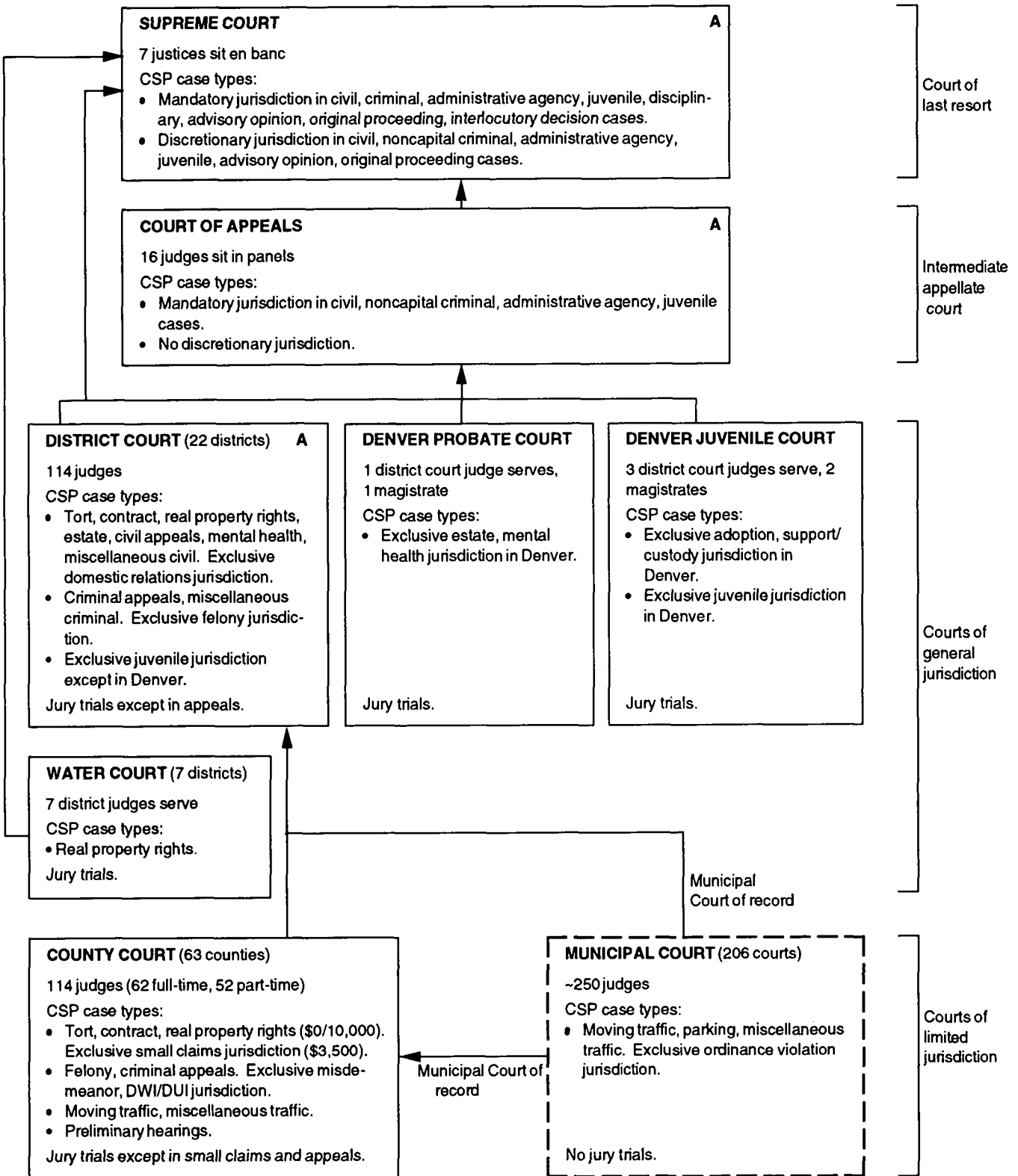
\* Thirty-two additional judges serve both circuit and chancery courts, 20 of which are primarily responsible for the juvenile division of chancery court.

## CALIFORNIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1992

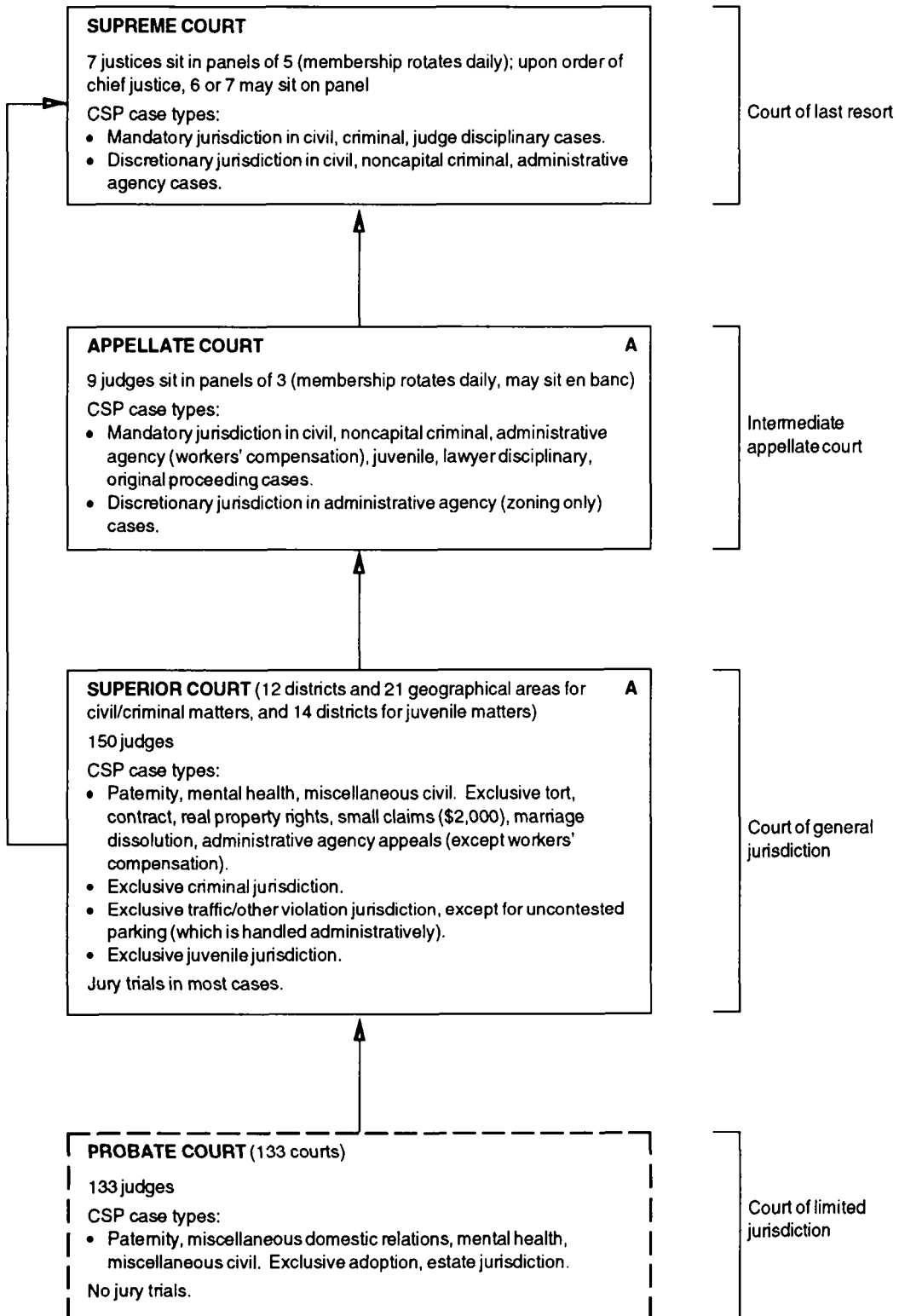




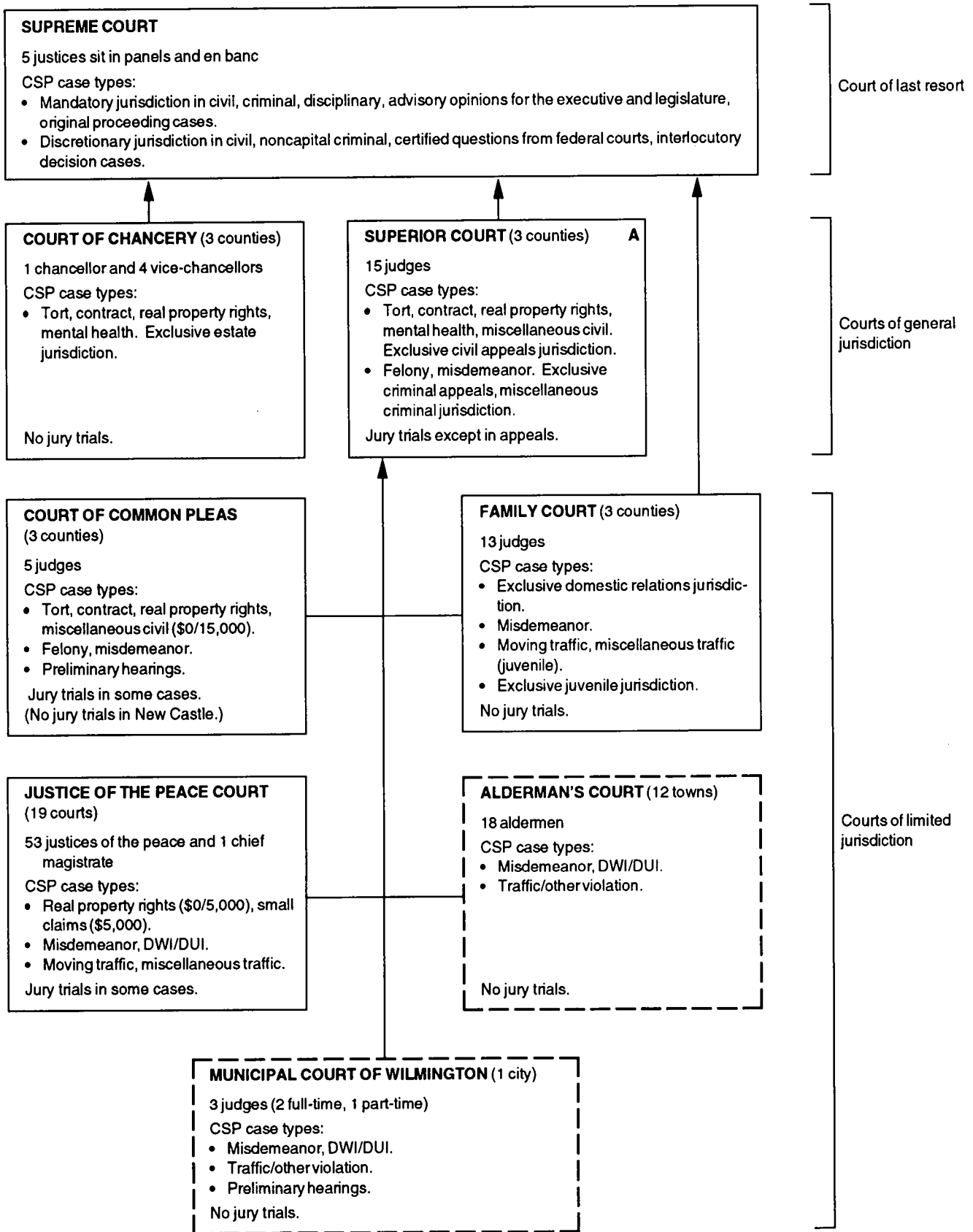
## COLORADO COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



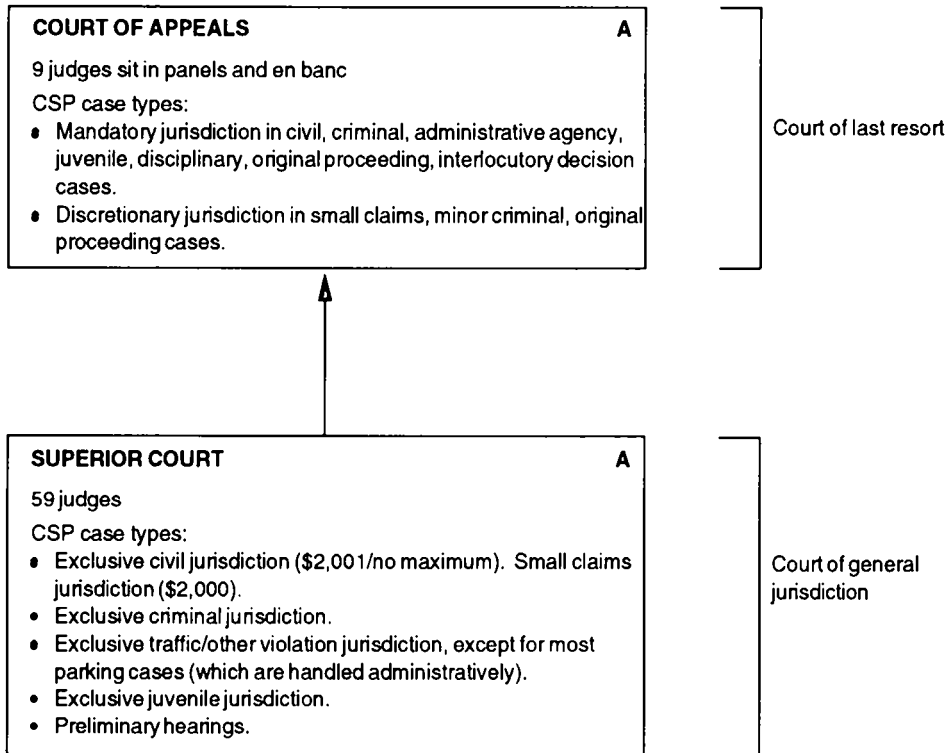
## CONNECTICUT COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



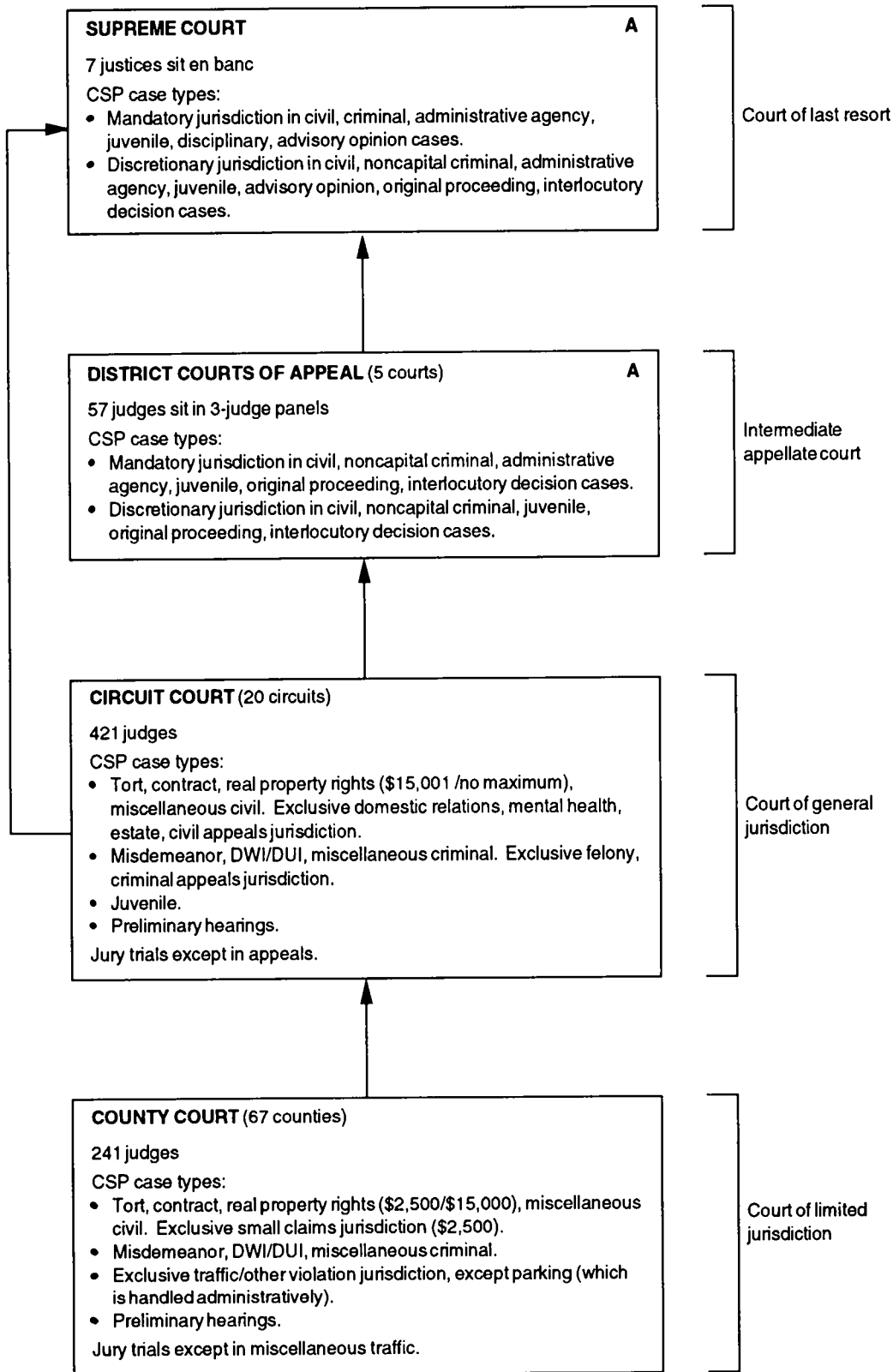
## DELAWARE COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



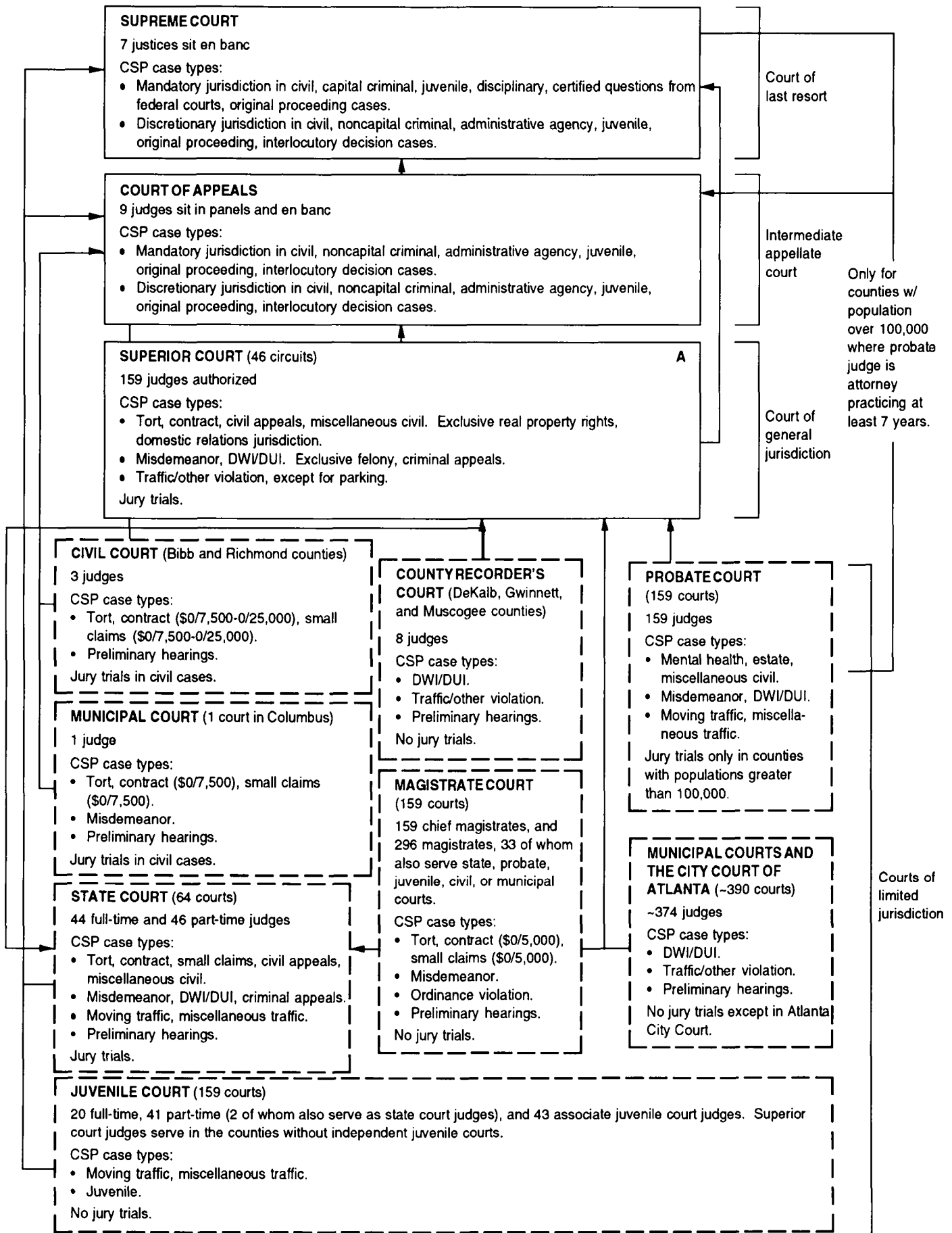
## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



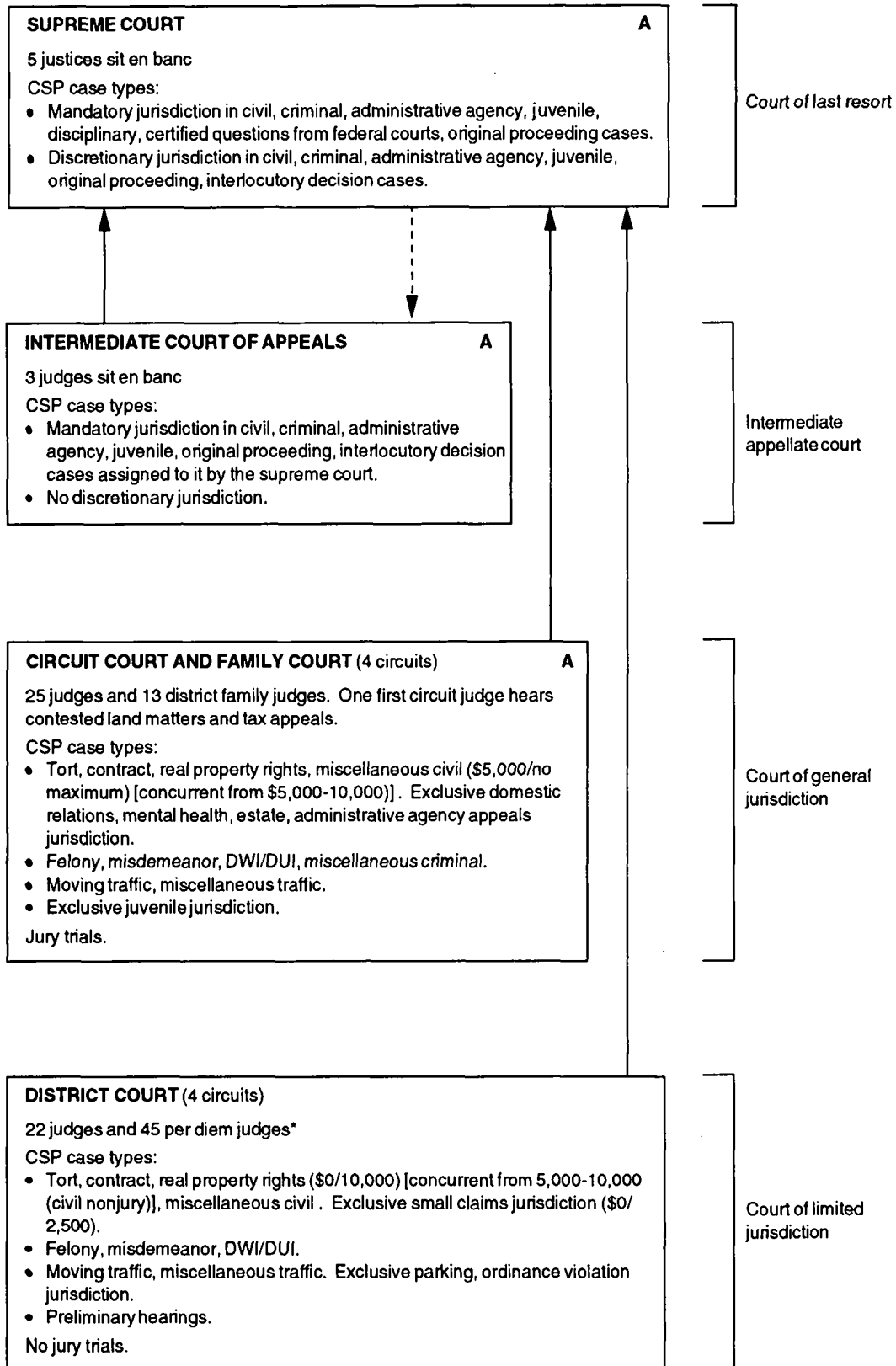
## FLORIDA COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



## GEORGIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



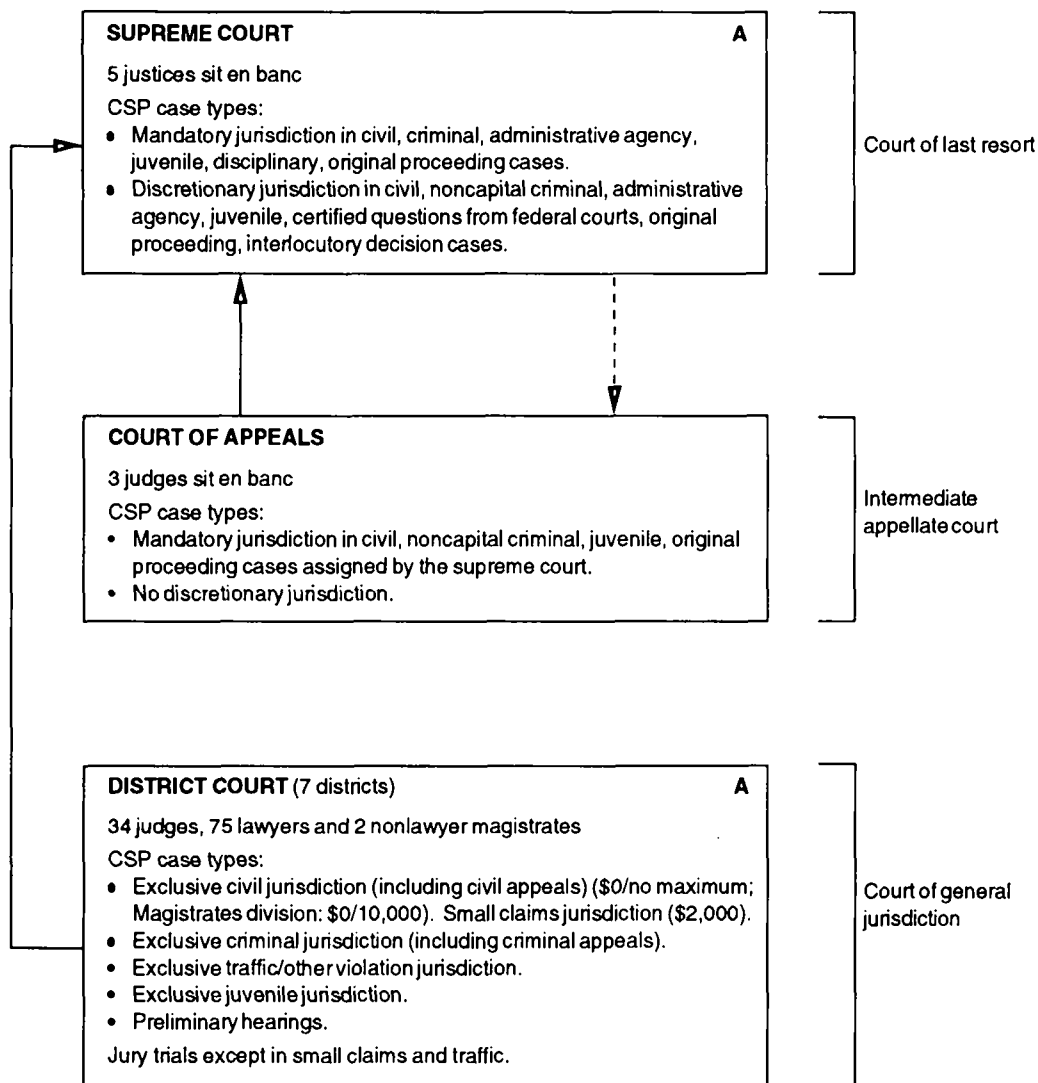
## HAWAII COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



— — Indicates assignment of cases.

\* Some per diem judges are assigned to serve as per diem district and family court judges in the first circuit.

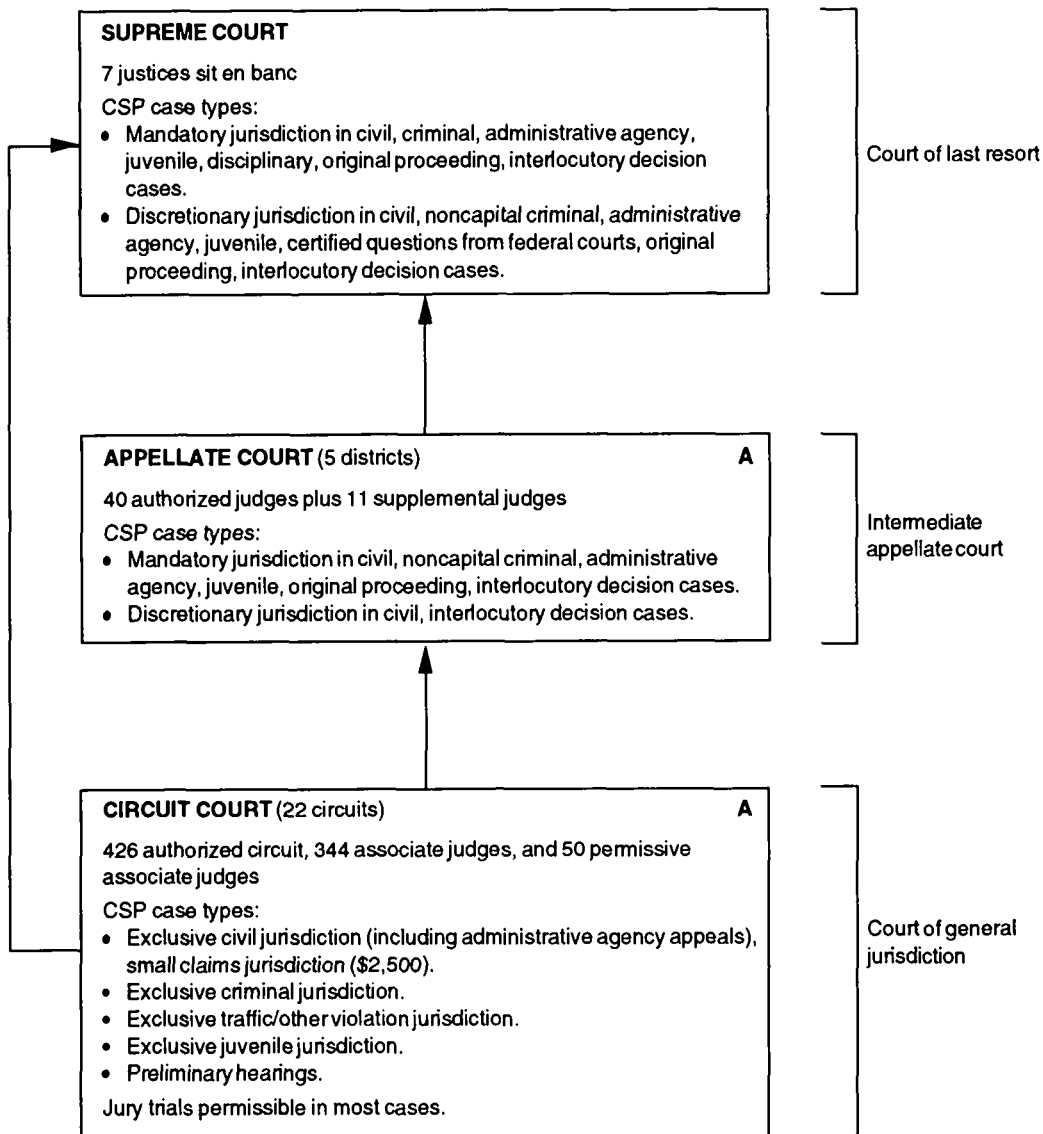
## IDAHO COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



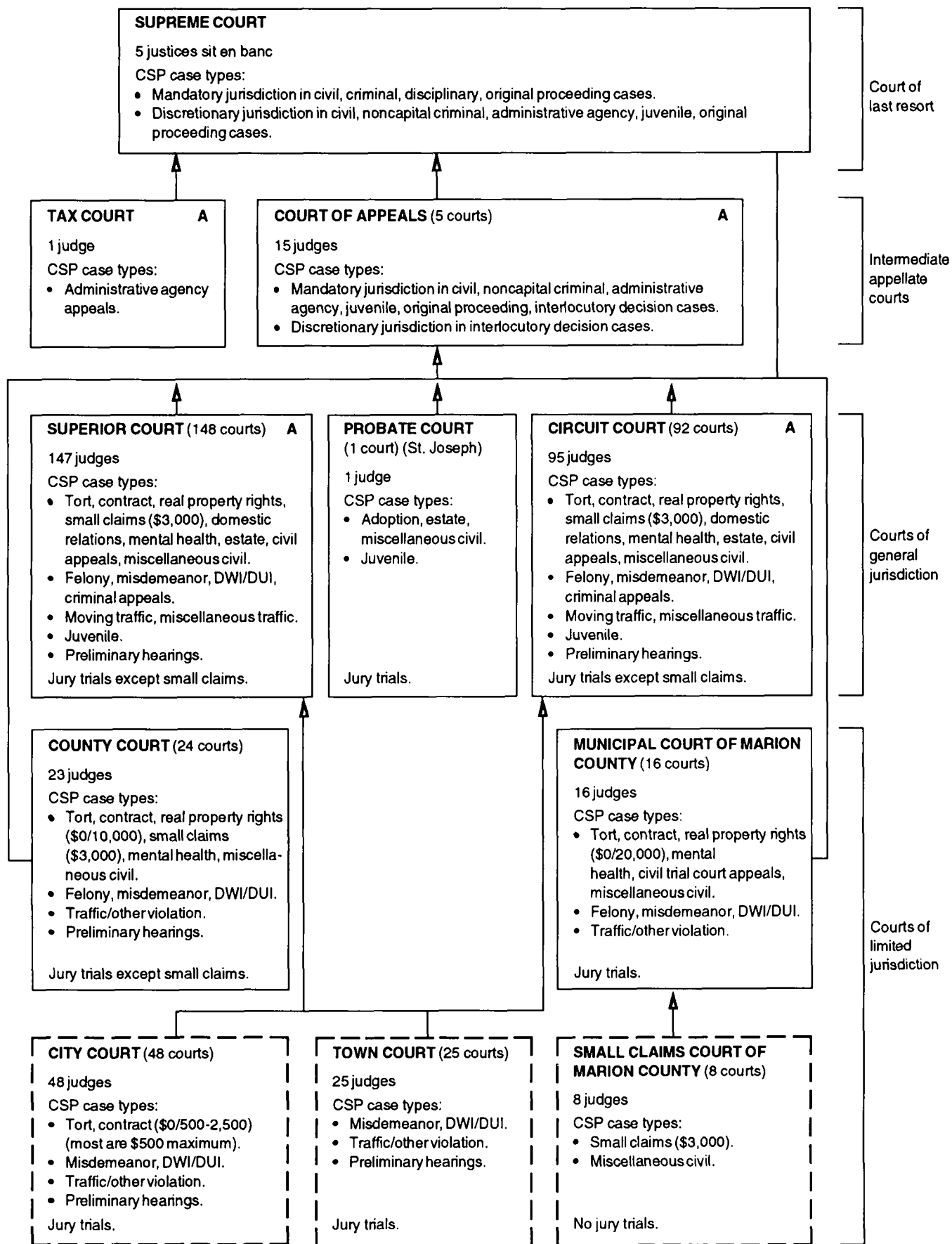
-- Indicates assignment of cases.



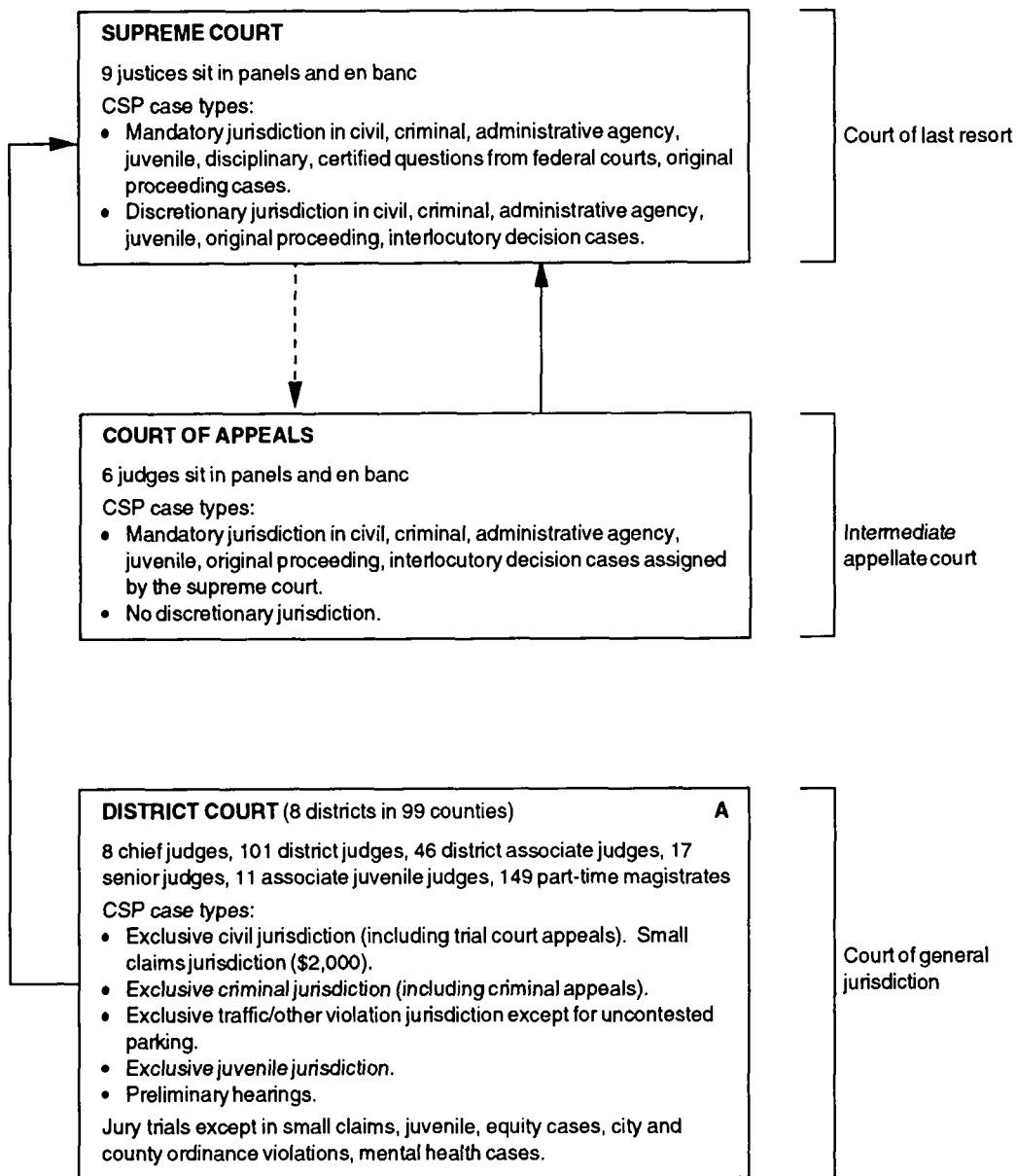
## ILLINOIS COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



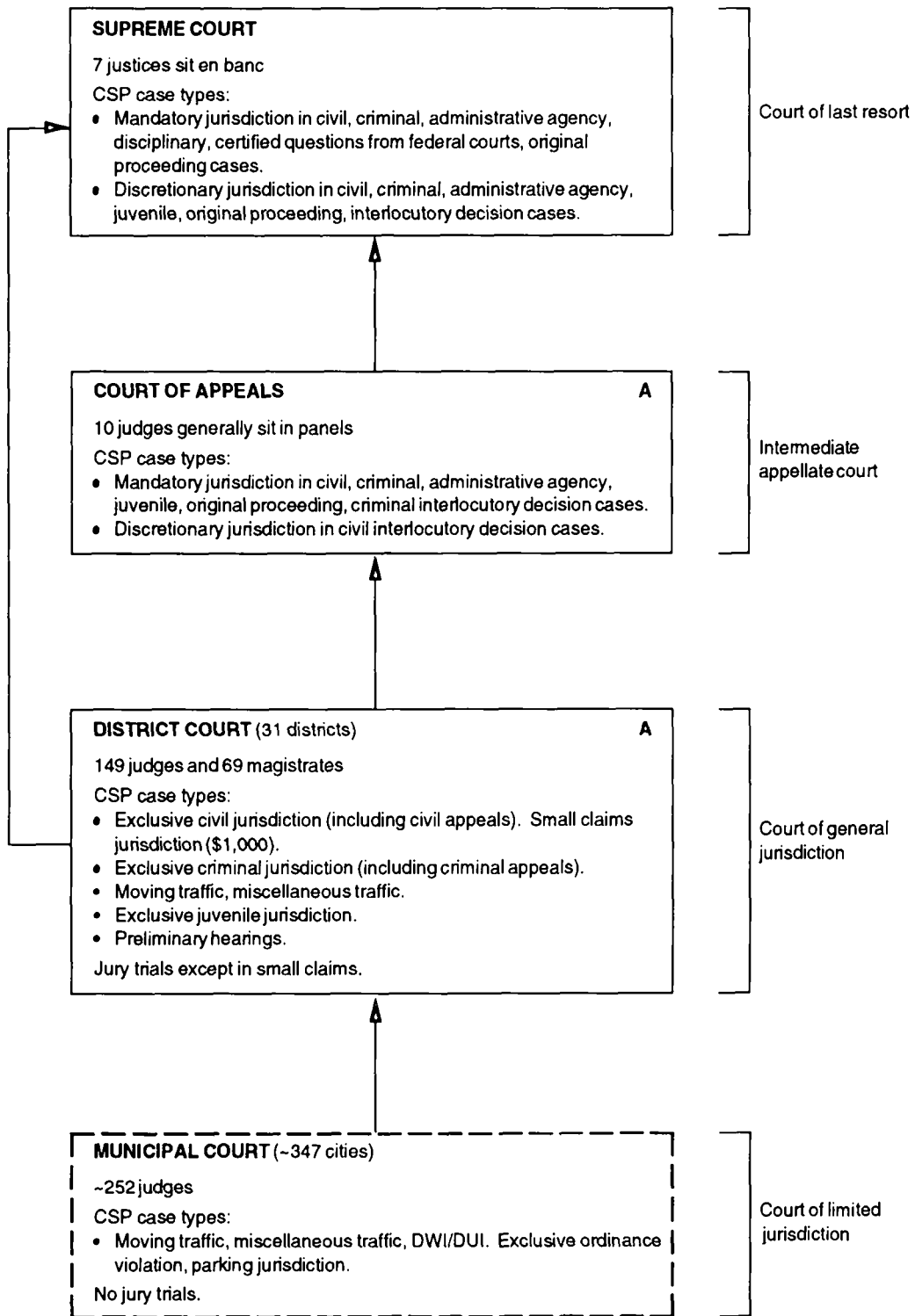
## INDIANA COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



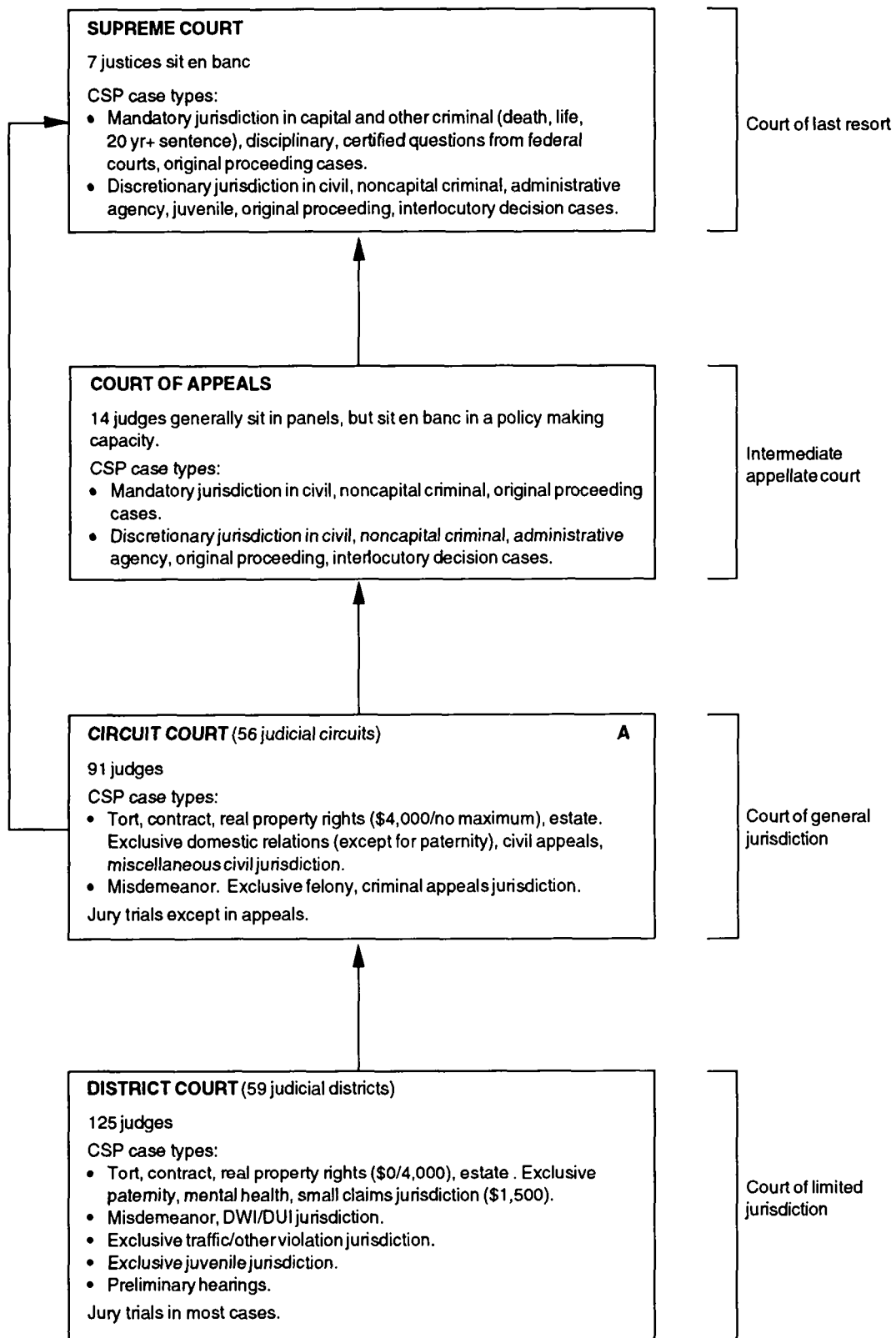
## IOWA COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



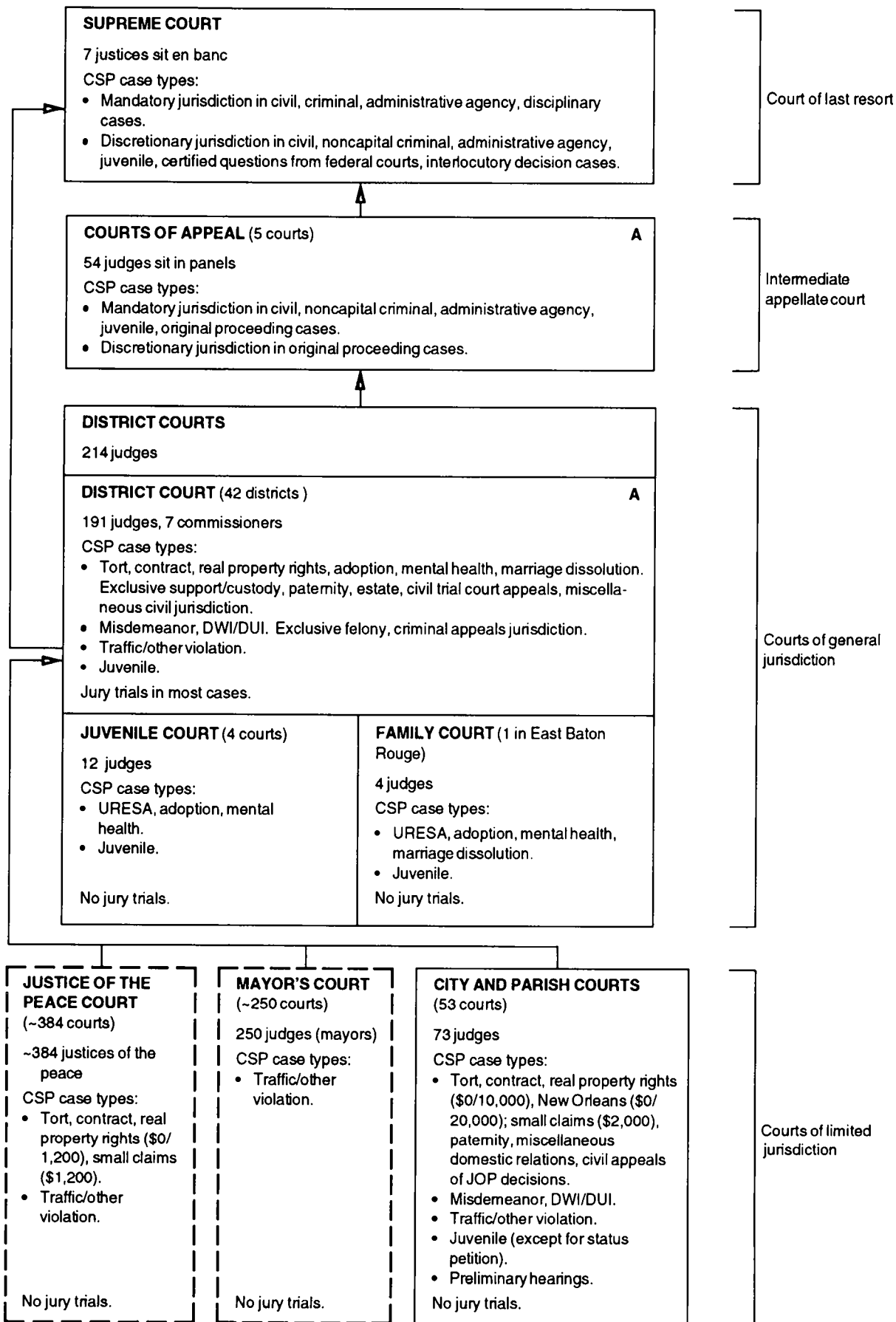
## KANSAS COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



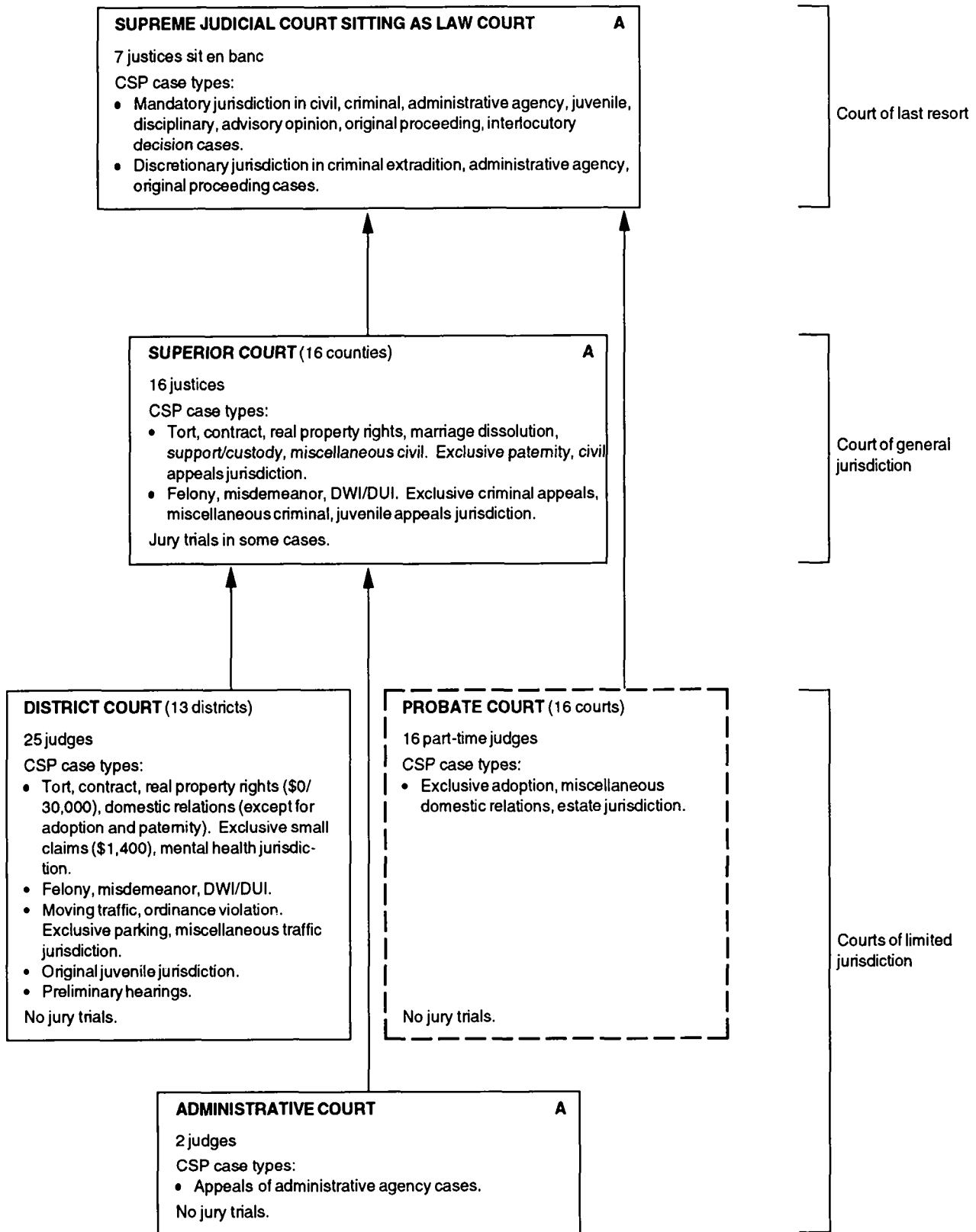
## KENTUCKY COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



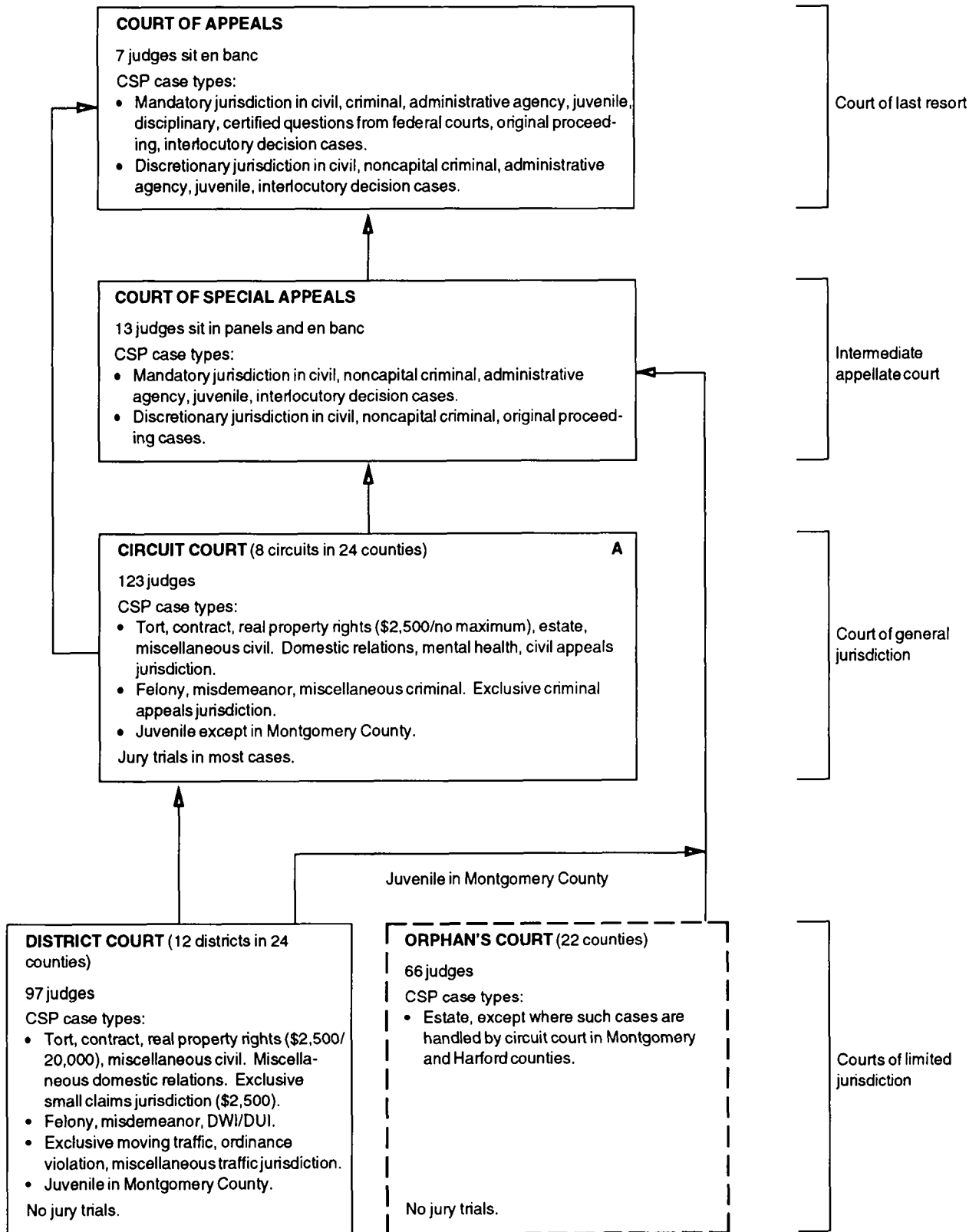
## LOUISIANA COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



## MAINE COURT STRUCTURE, 1992

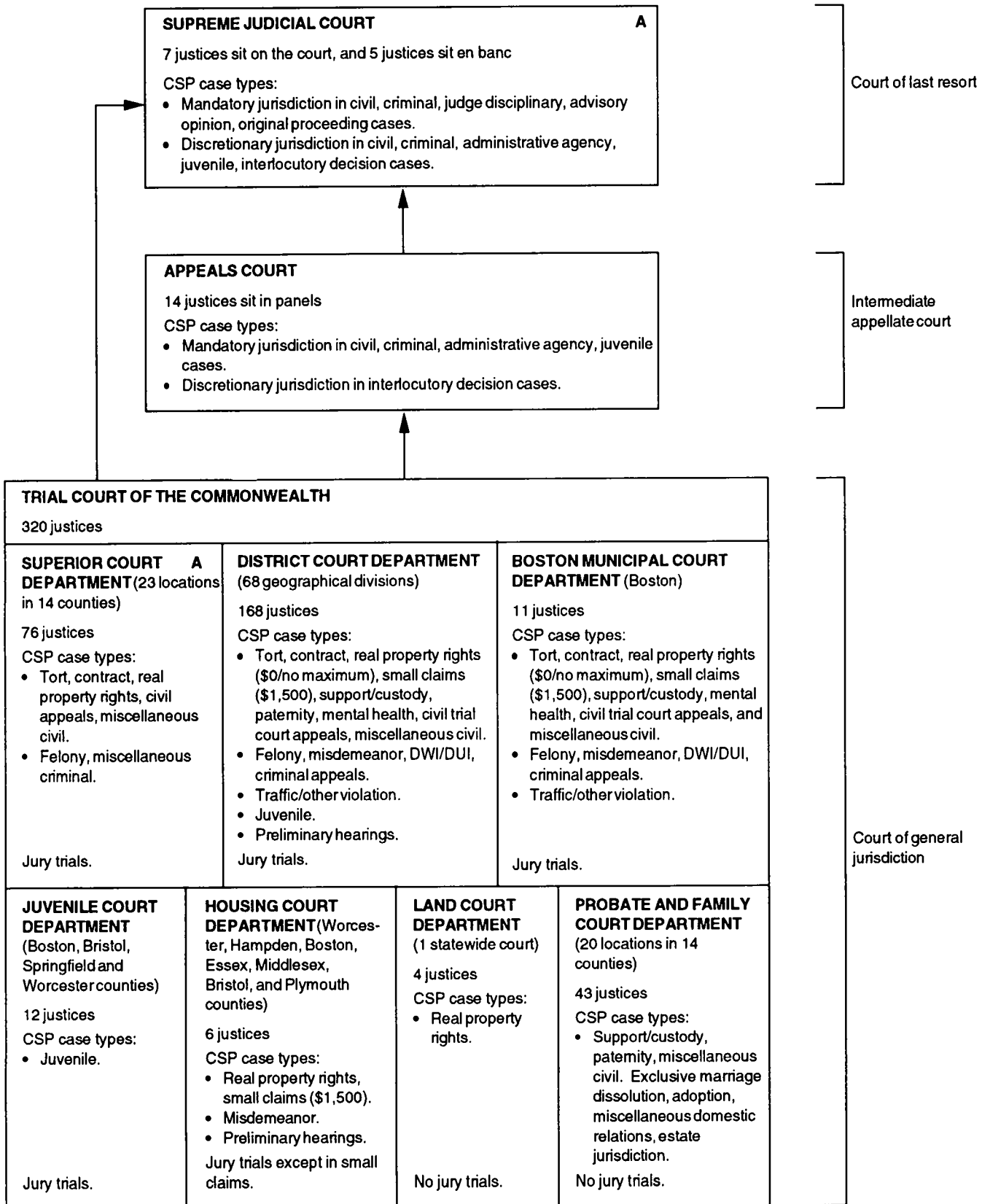


## MARYLAND COURT STRUCTURE, 1992

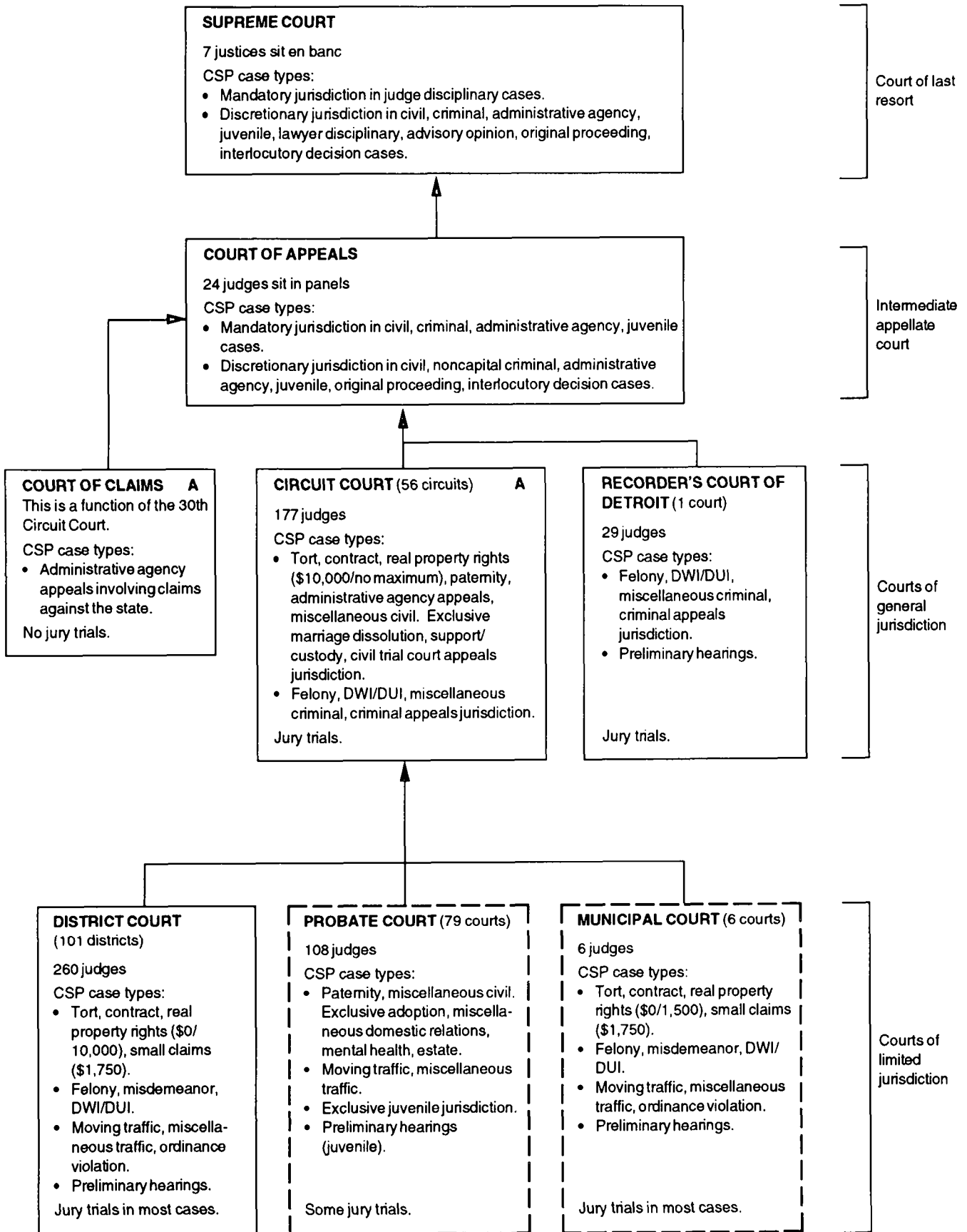




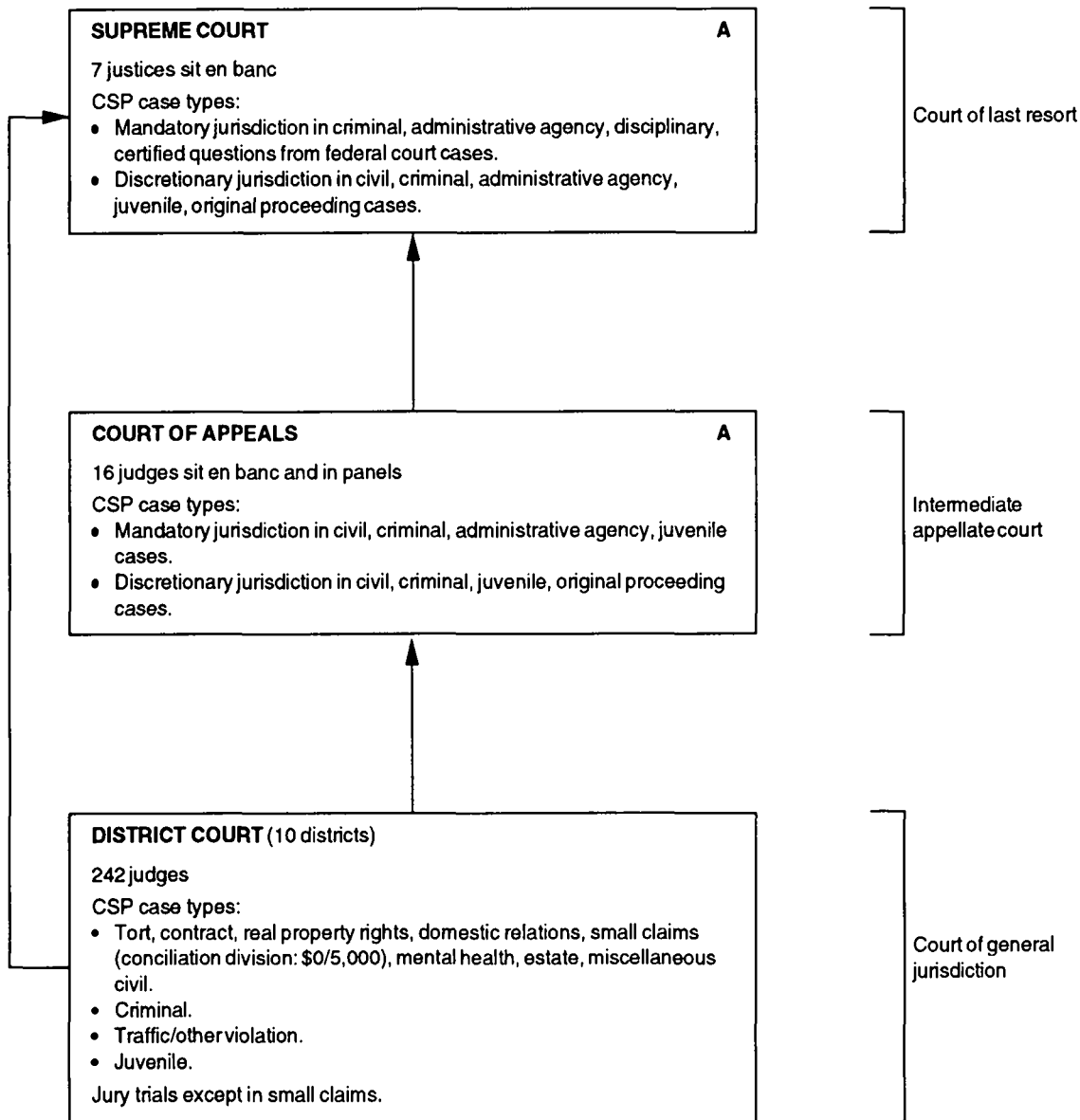
## MASSACHUSETTS COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



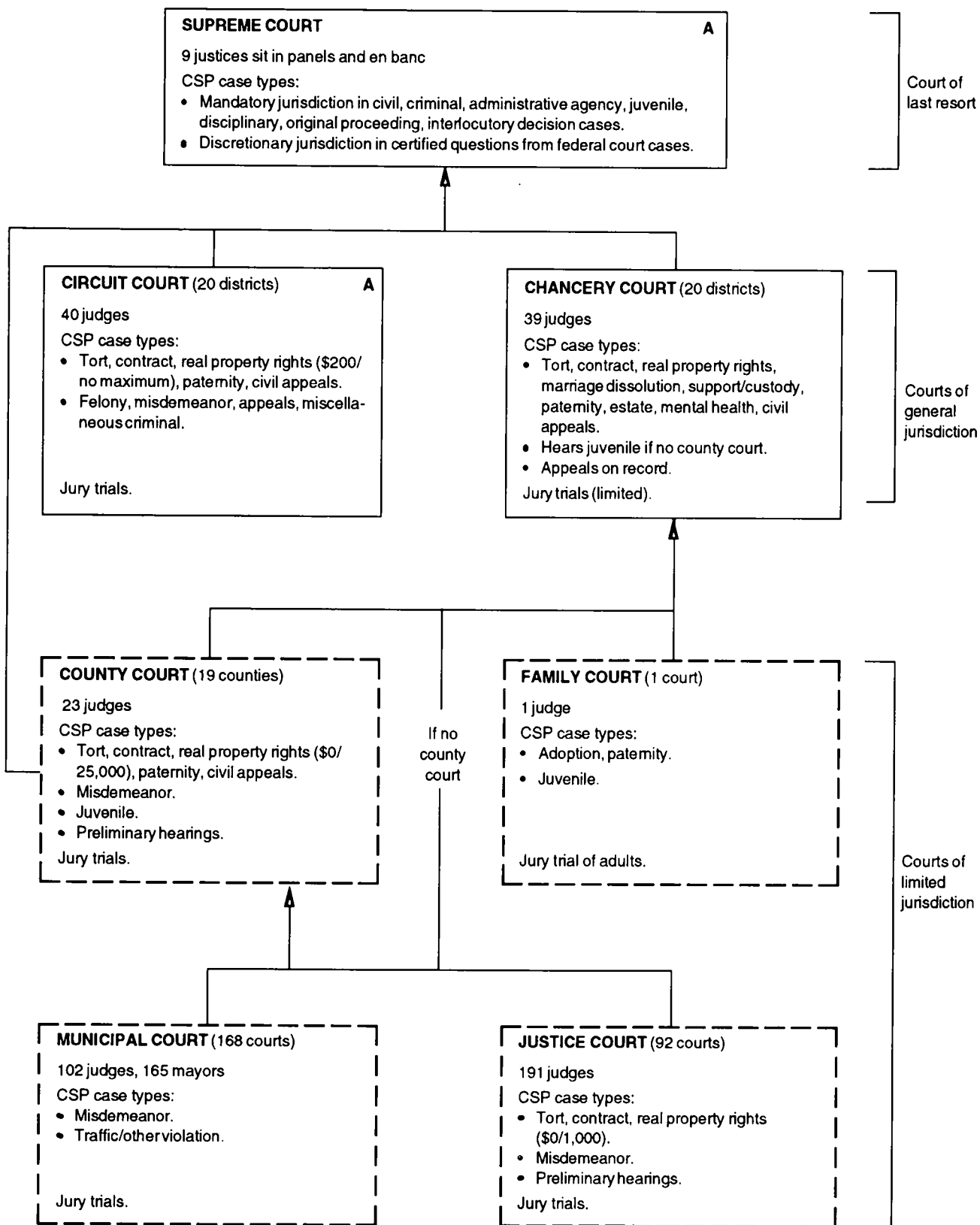
## MICHIGAN COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



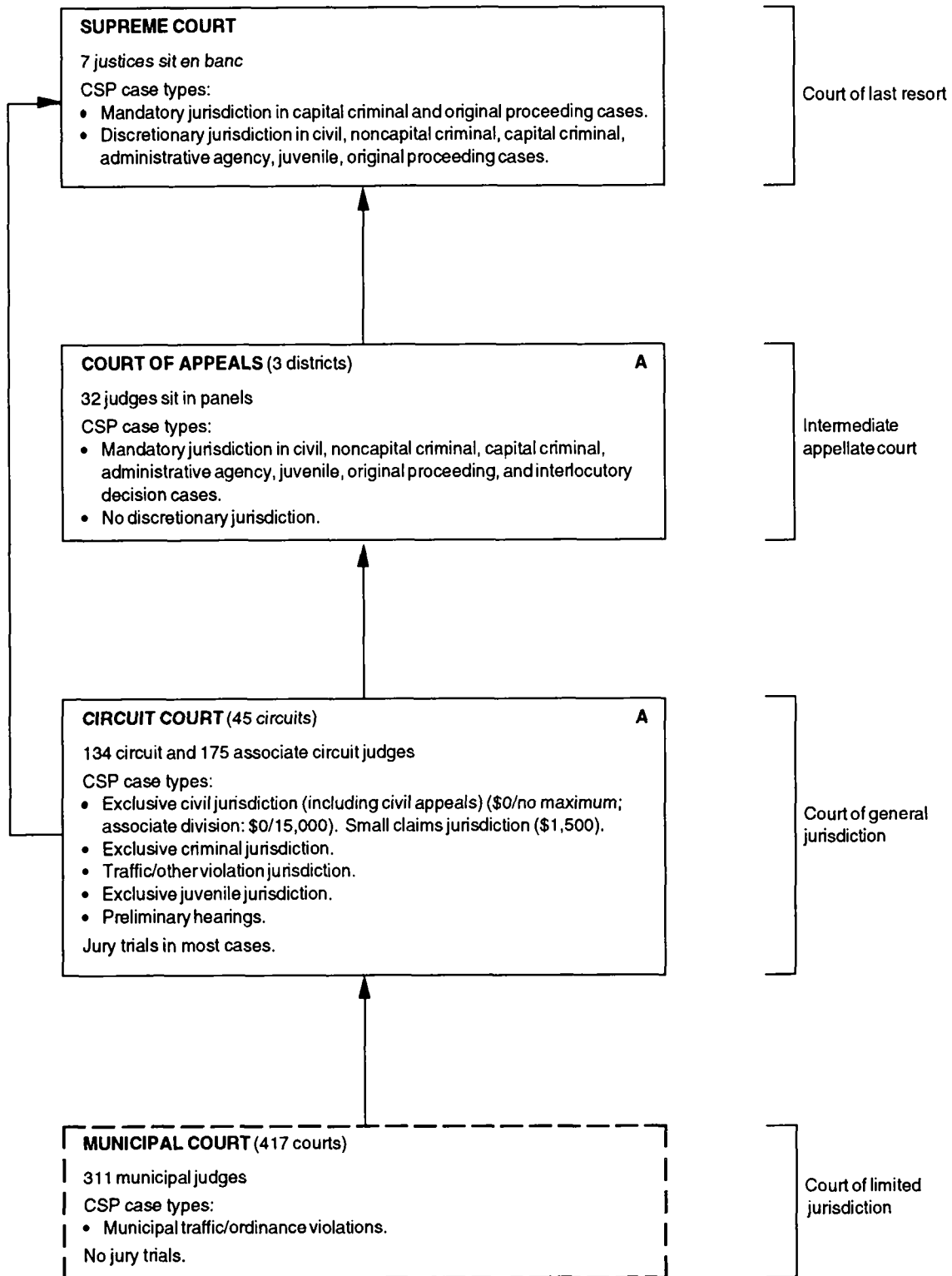
## MINNESOTA COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



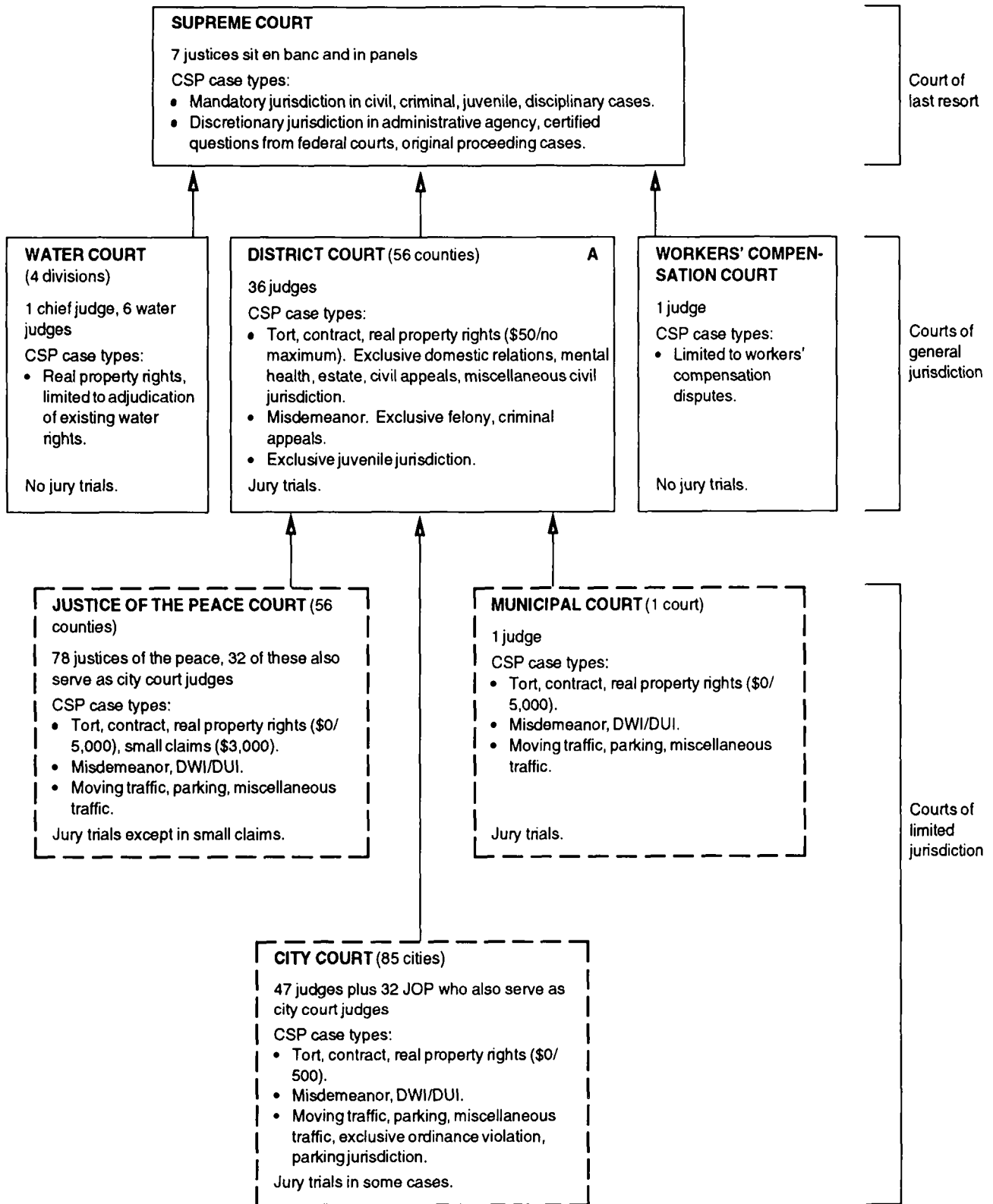
## MISSISSIPPI COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



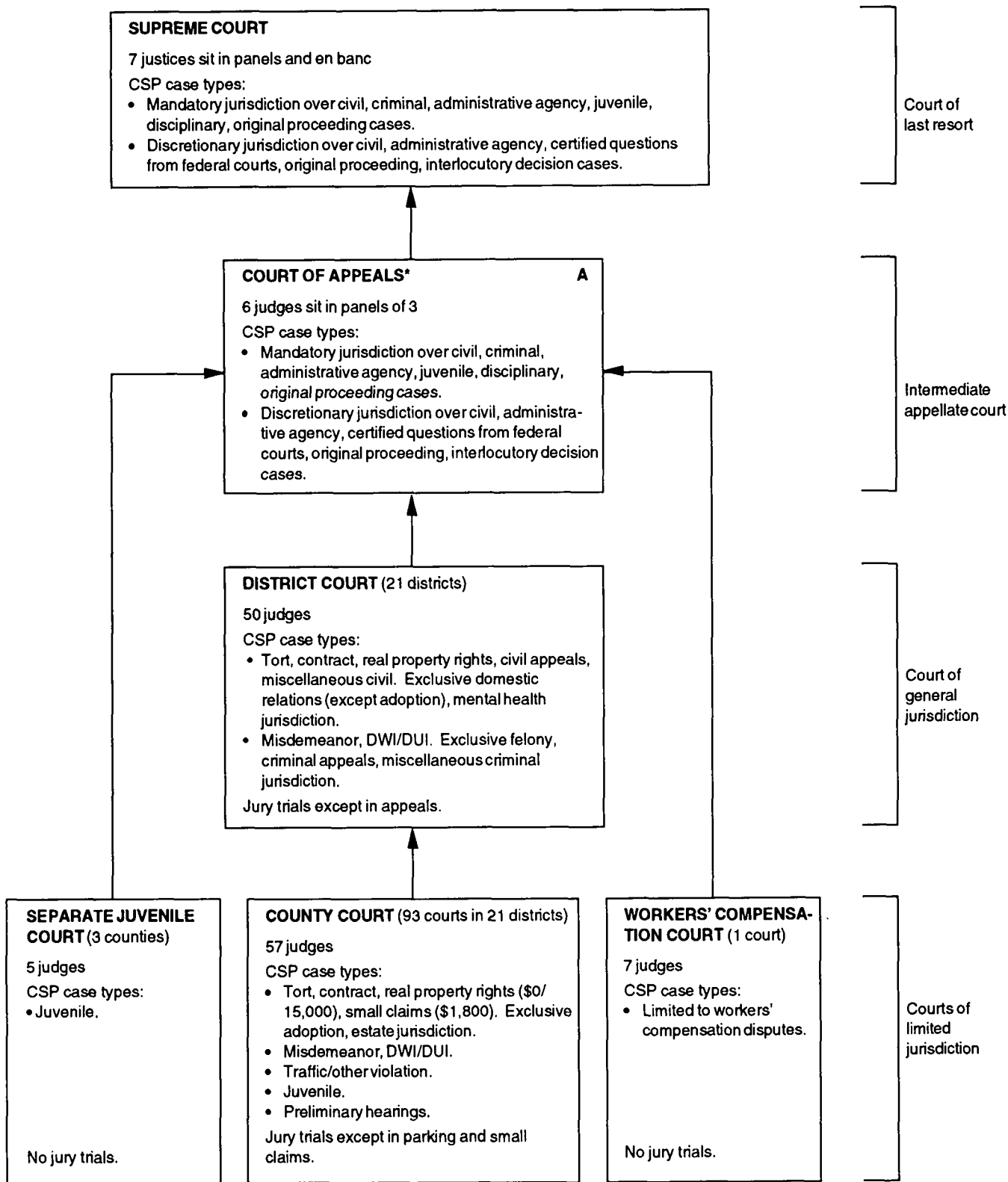
## MISSOURI COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



## MONTANA COURT STRUCTURE, 1992

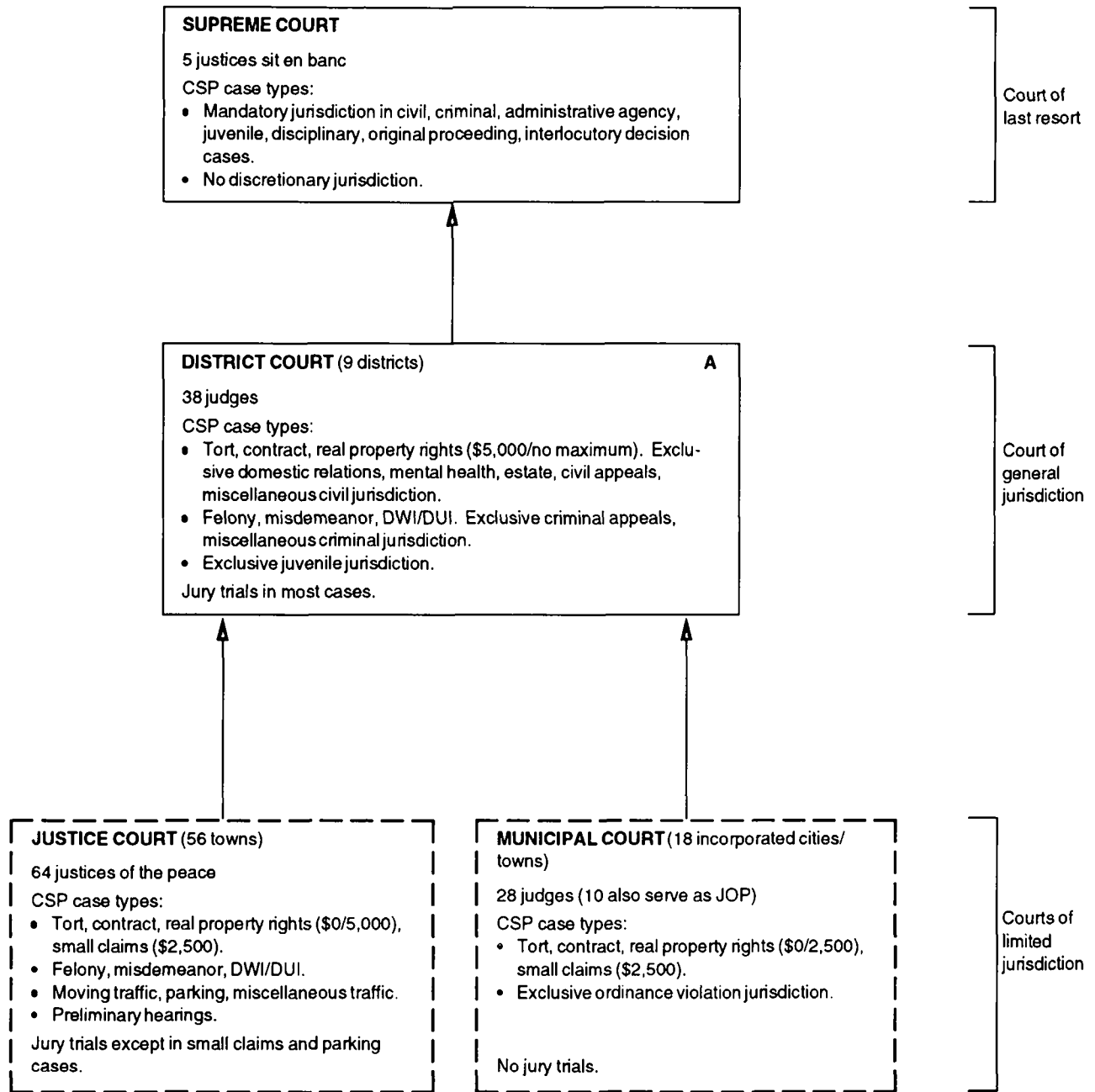


## NEBRASKA COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



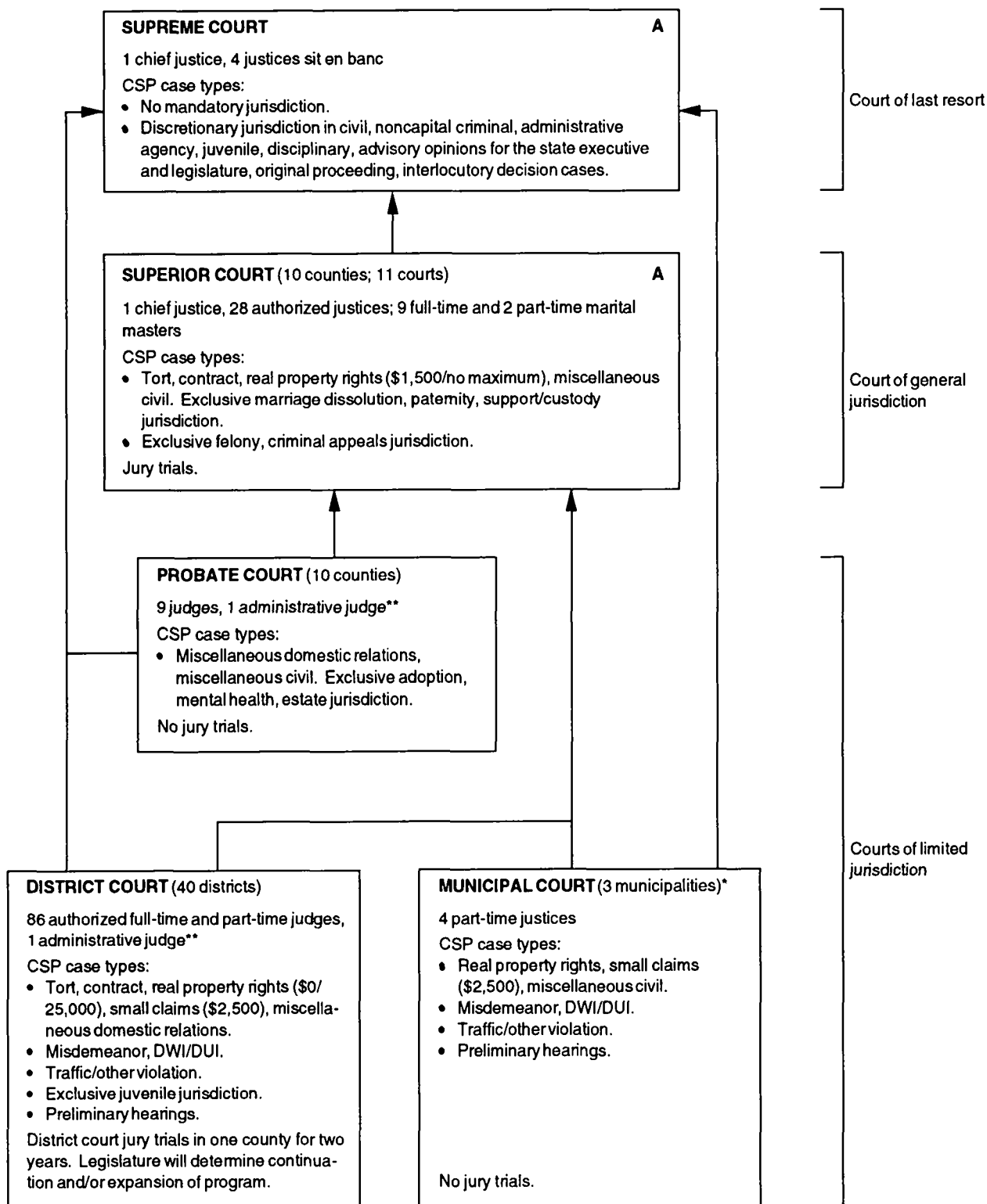
\* The Nebraska Court of Appeals was established September 6, 1991.

## NEVADA COURT STRUCTURE, 1992





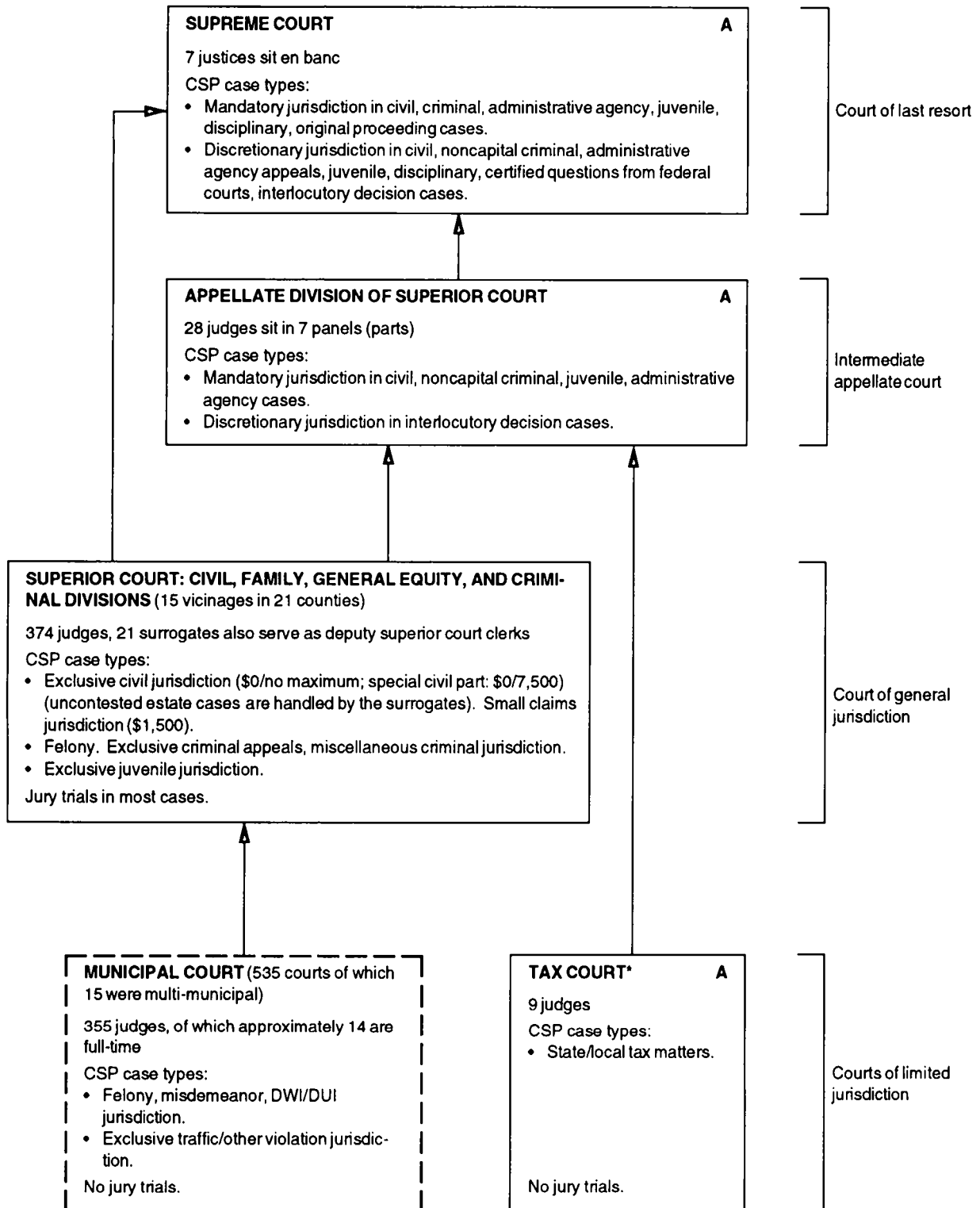
## NEW HAMPSHIRE COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



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

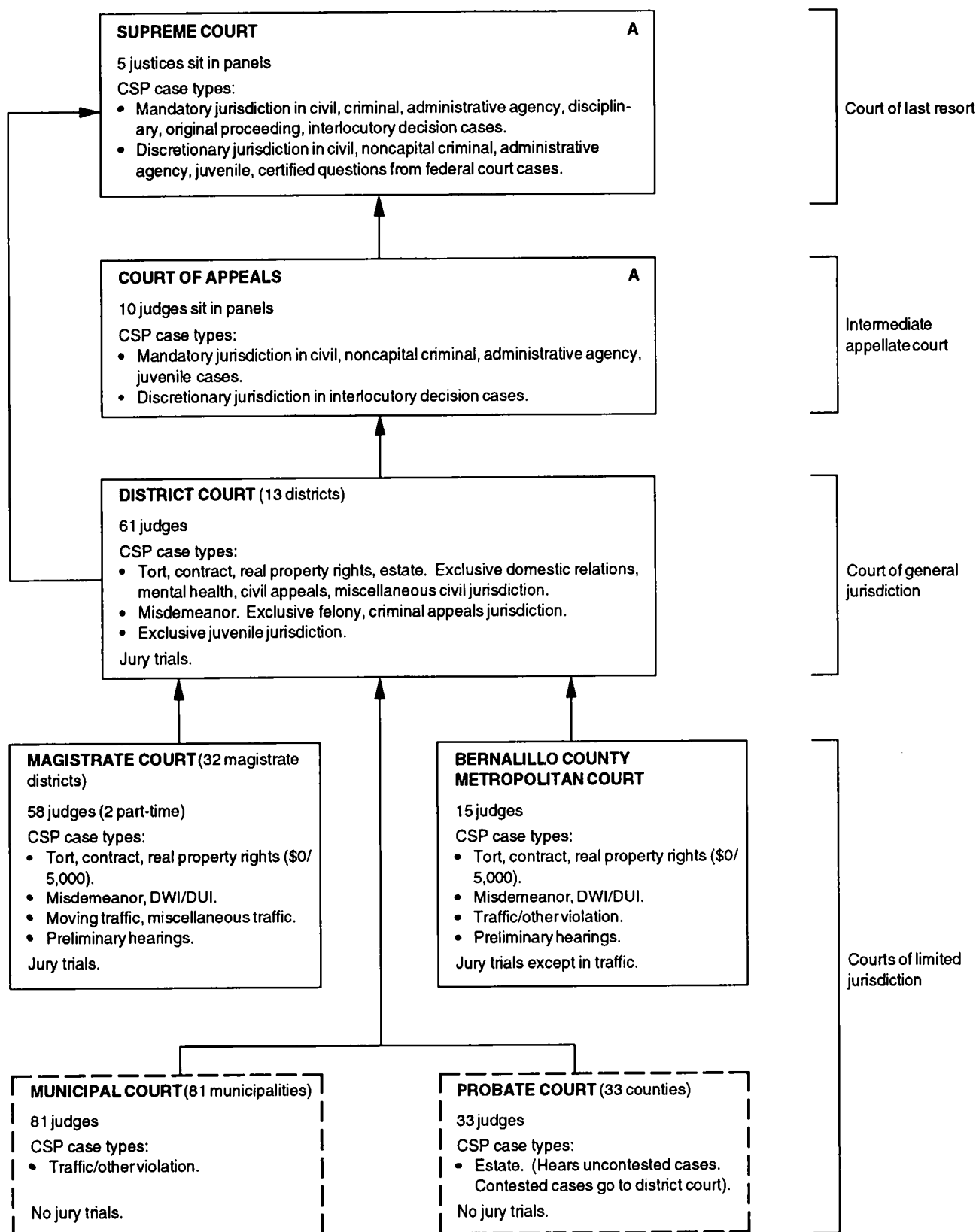
\*\* Administrative judges also sit on the bench.

## NEW JERSEY COURT STRUCTURE, 1992

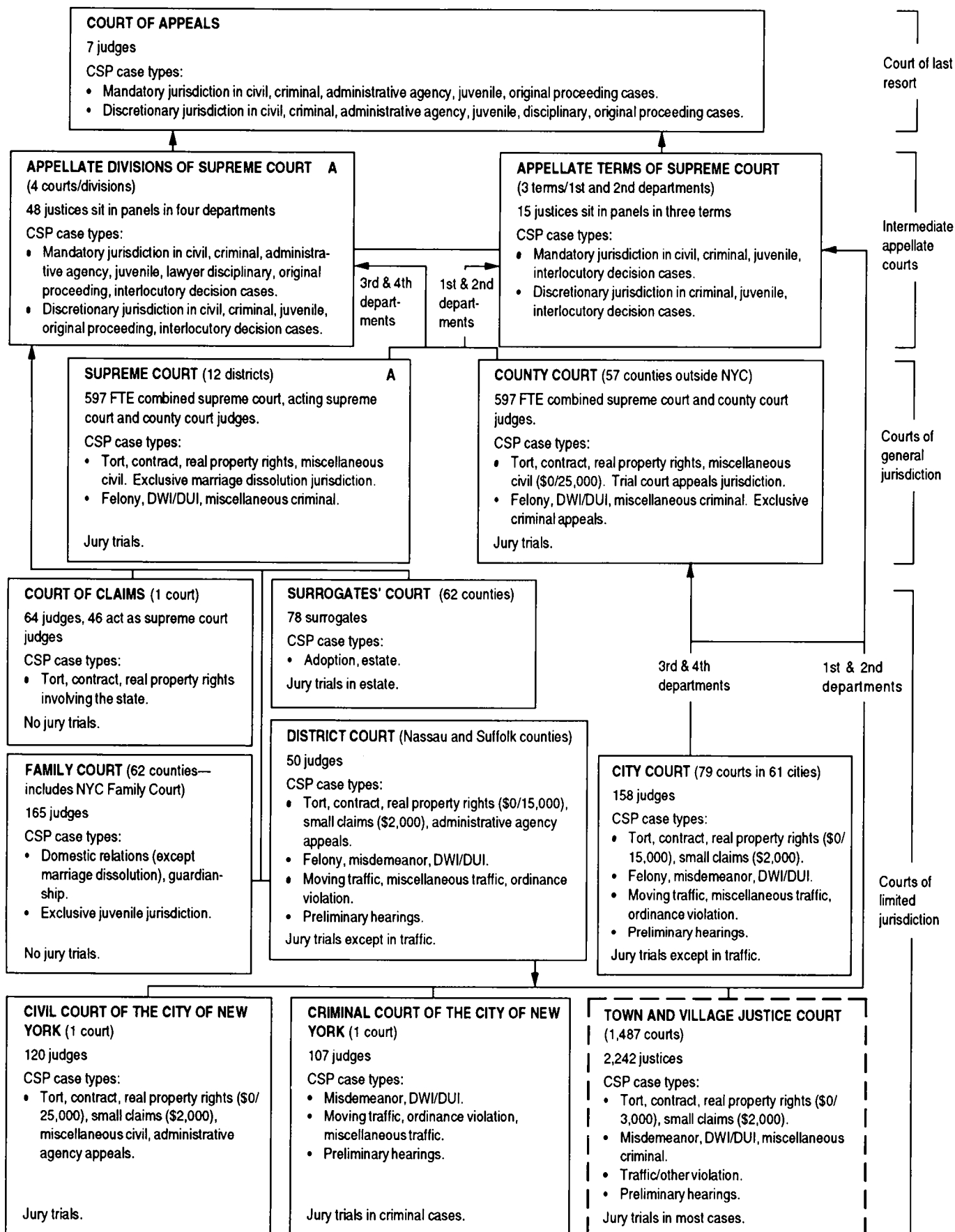


\* Tax court is considered a limited jurisdiction court because of its specialized subject matter. Nevertheless, it receives appeals from administrative bodies and its cases are appealed to the intermediate appellate court. Tax court judges have the same general qualifications and terms of service as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

## NEW MEXICO COURT STRUCTURE, 1992

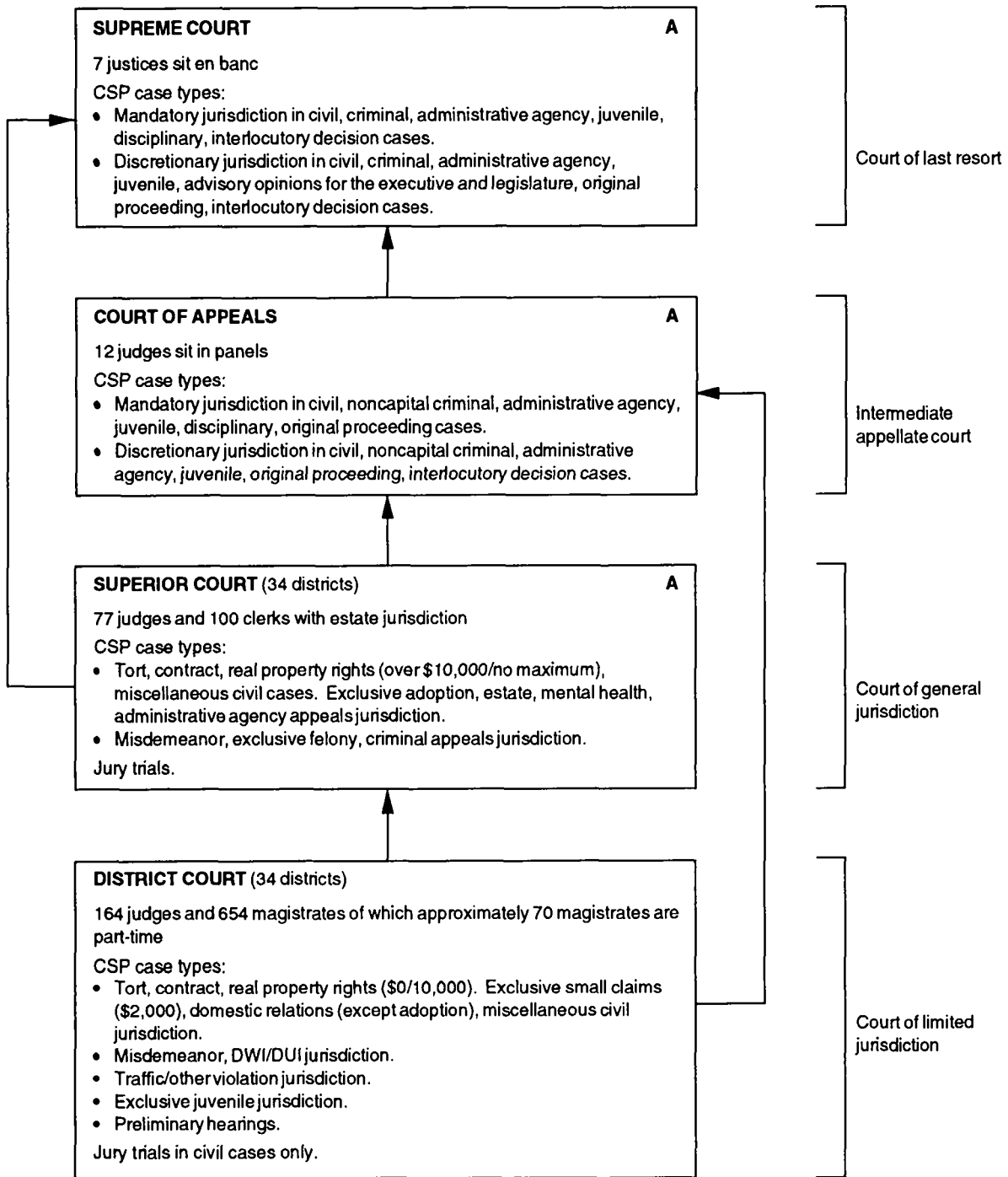


## NEW YORK COURT STRUCTURE, 1992\*

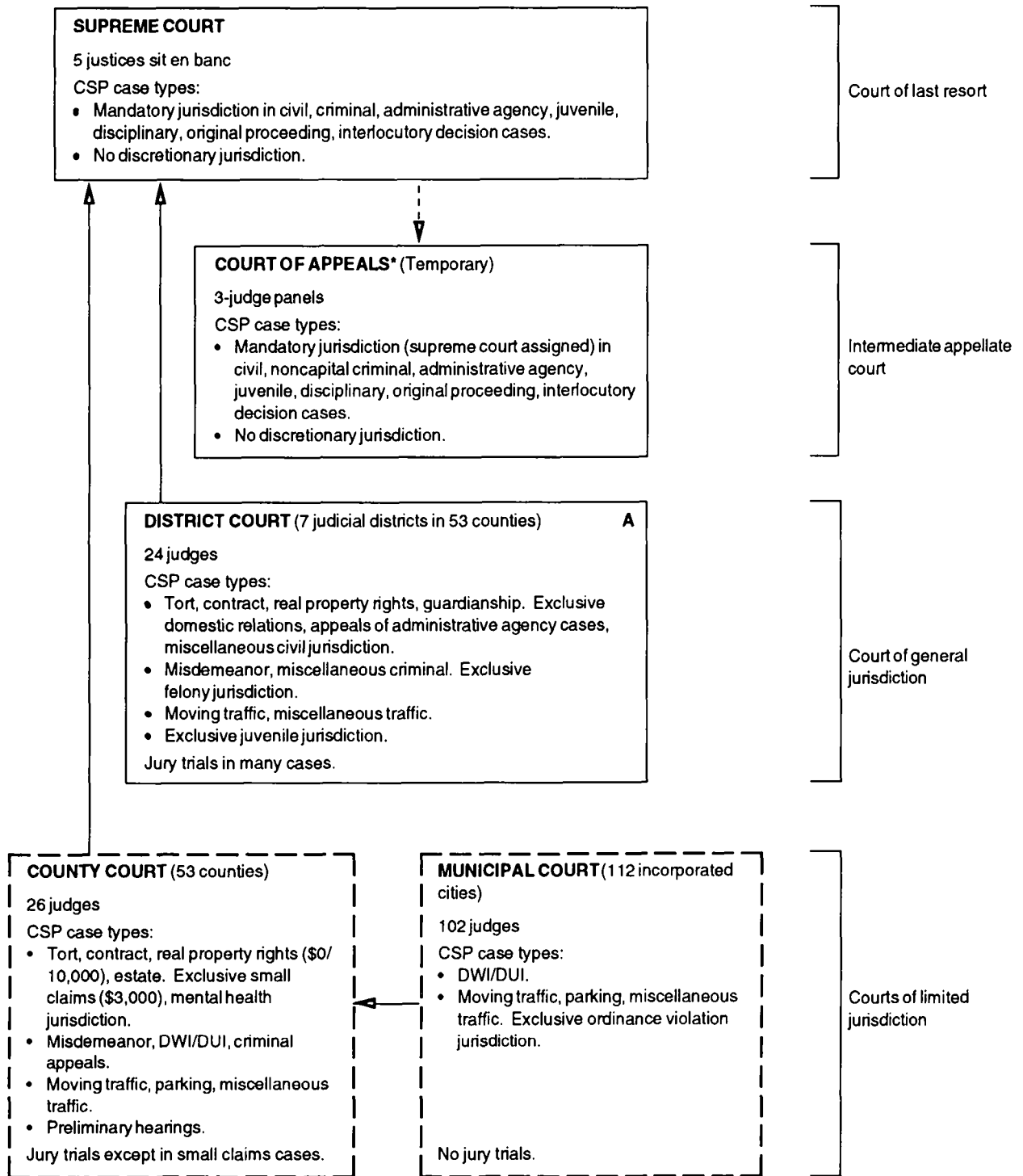


\* Unless otherwise noted numbers reflect statutory authorization. Many judges sit in more than one court so the number of judgeships indicated in this chart does not reflect the actual number of judges in the system.

## NORTH CAROLINA COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



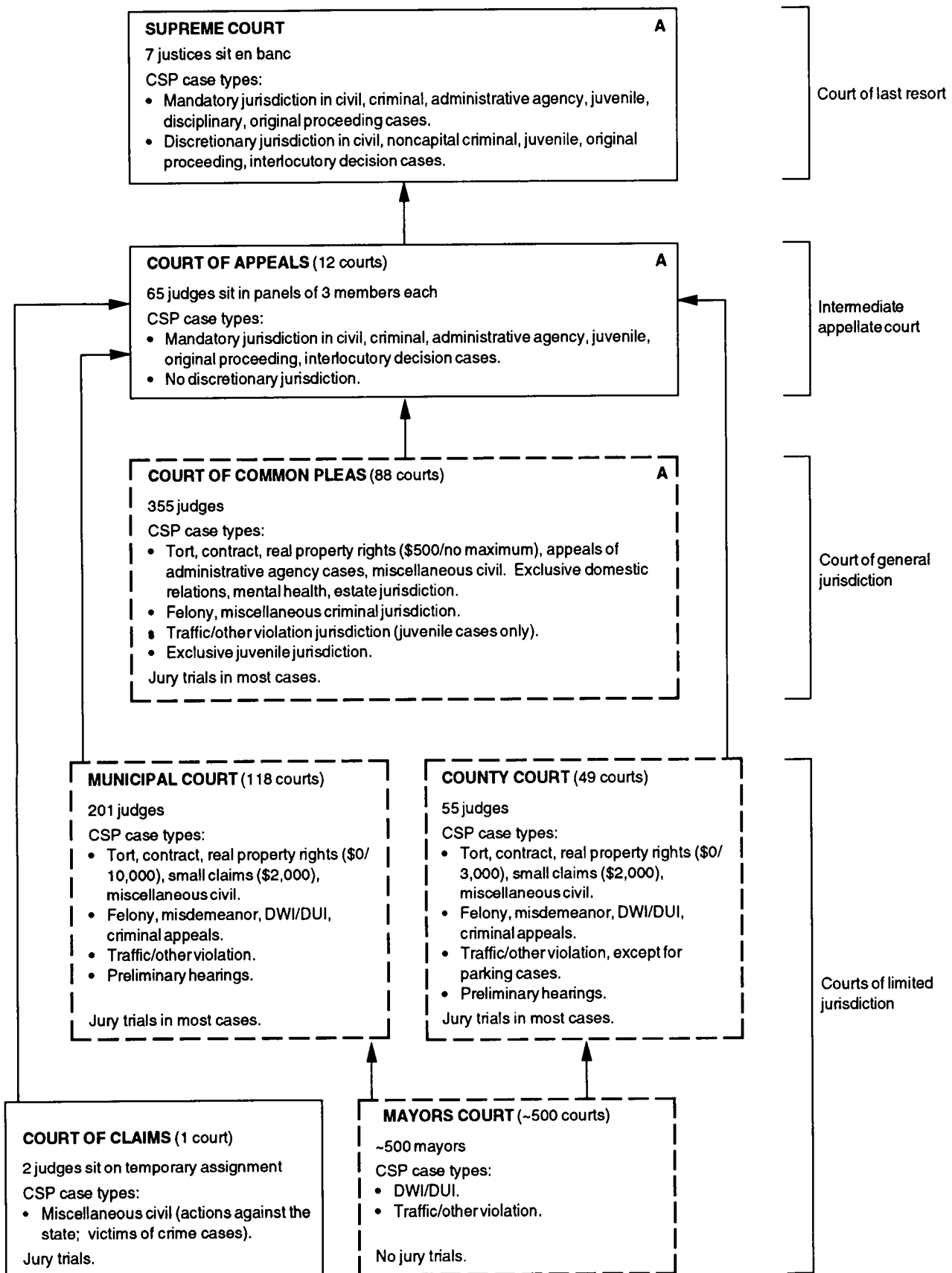
## NORTH DAKOTA COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



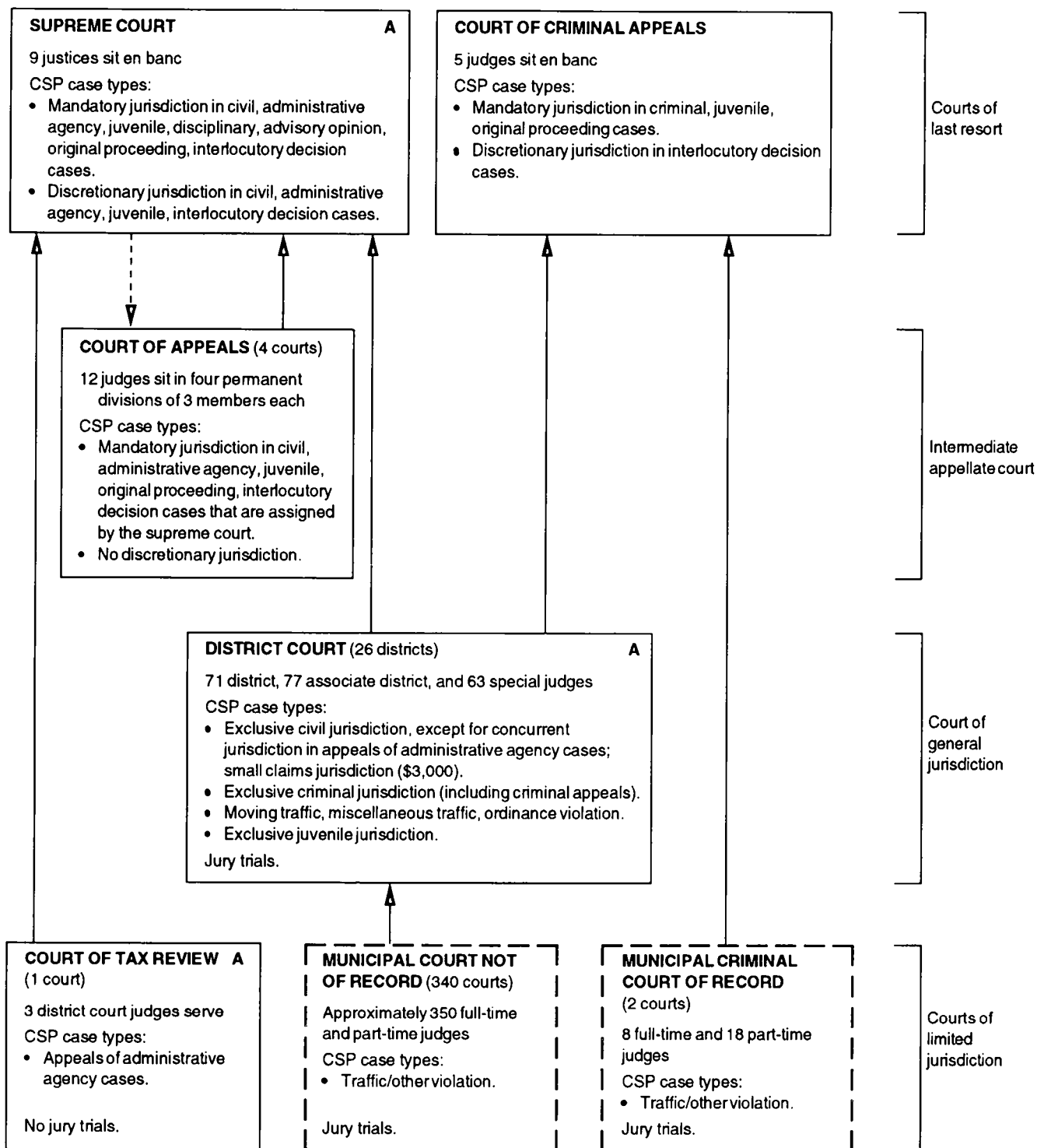
— — Indicates assignment of cases.

\* Effective July 1, 1987 through January 1, 1996, a temporary court of appeals is established to exercise appellate and original jurisdiction as delegated by the supreme court.

# OHIO COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



## OKLAHOMA COURT STRUCTURE, 1992

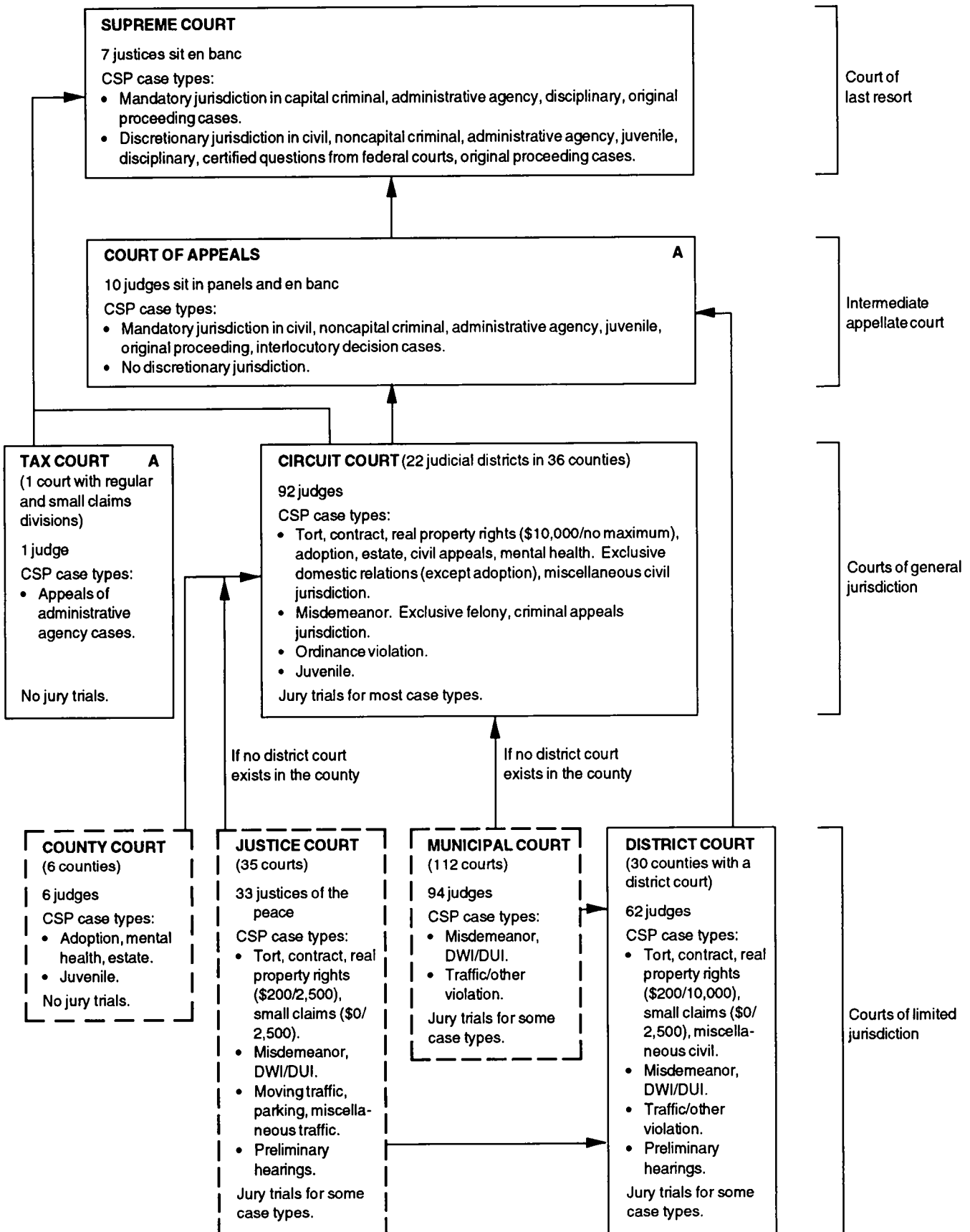


— — Indicates assignment of cases.

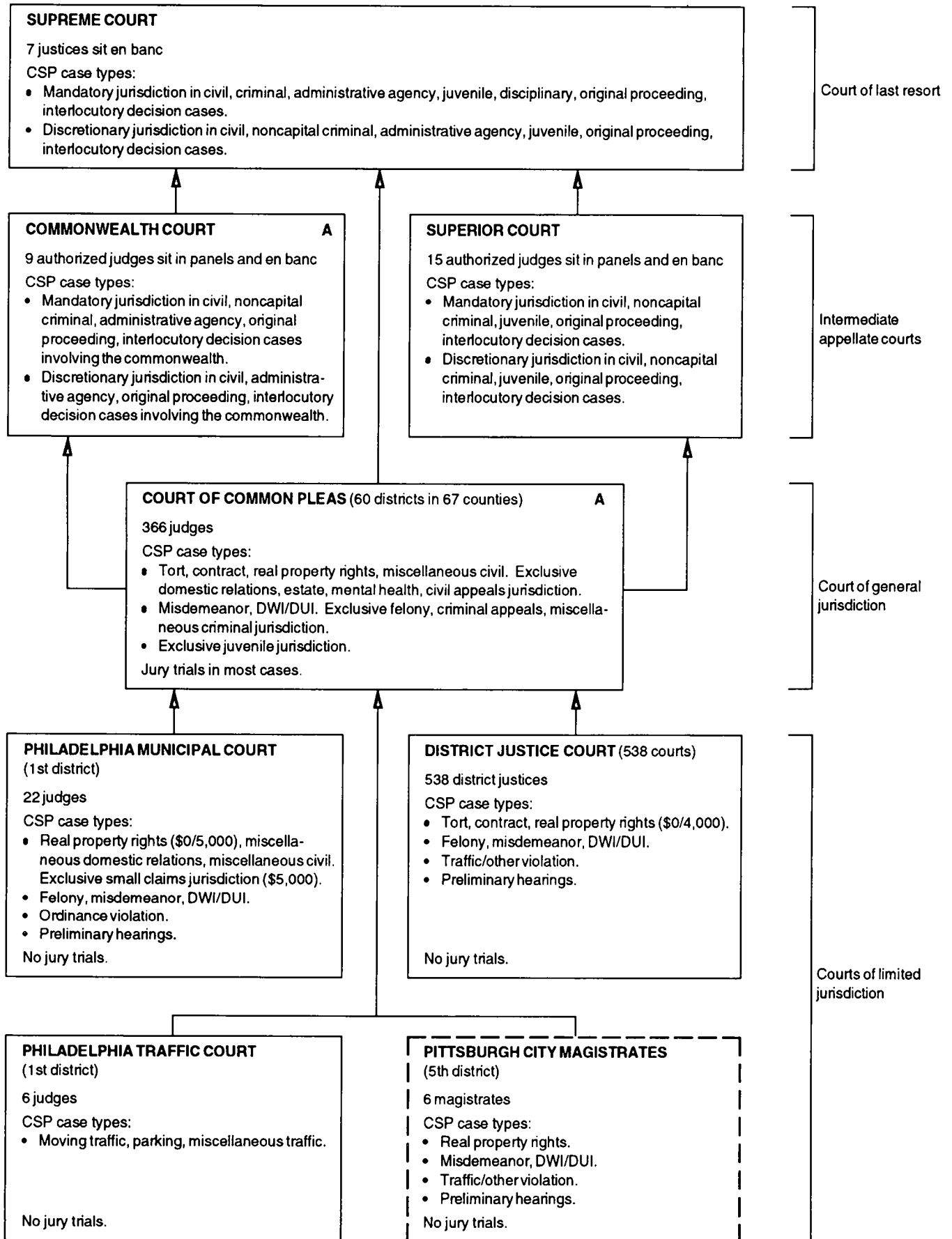
Oklahoma has a workers' compensation court, which hears complaints that are handled exclusively by administrative agencies in other states.



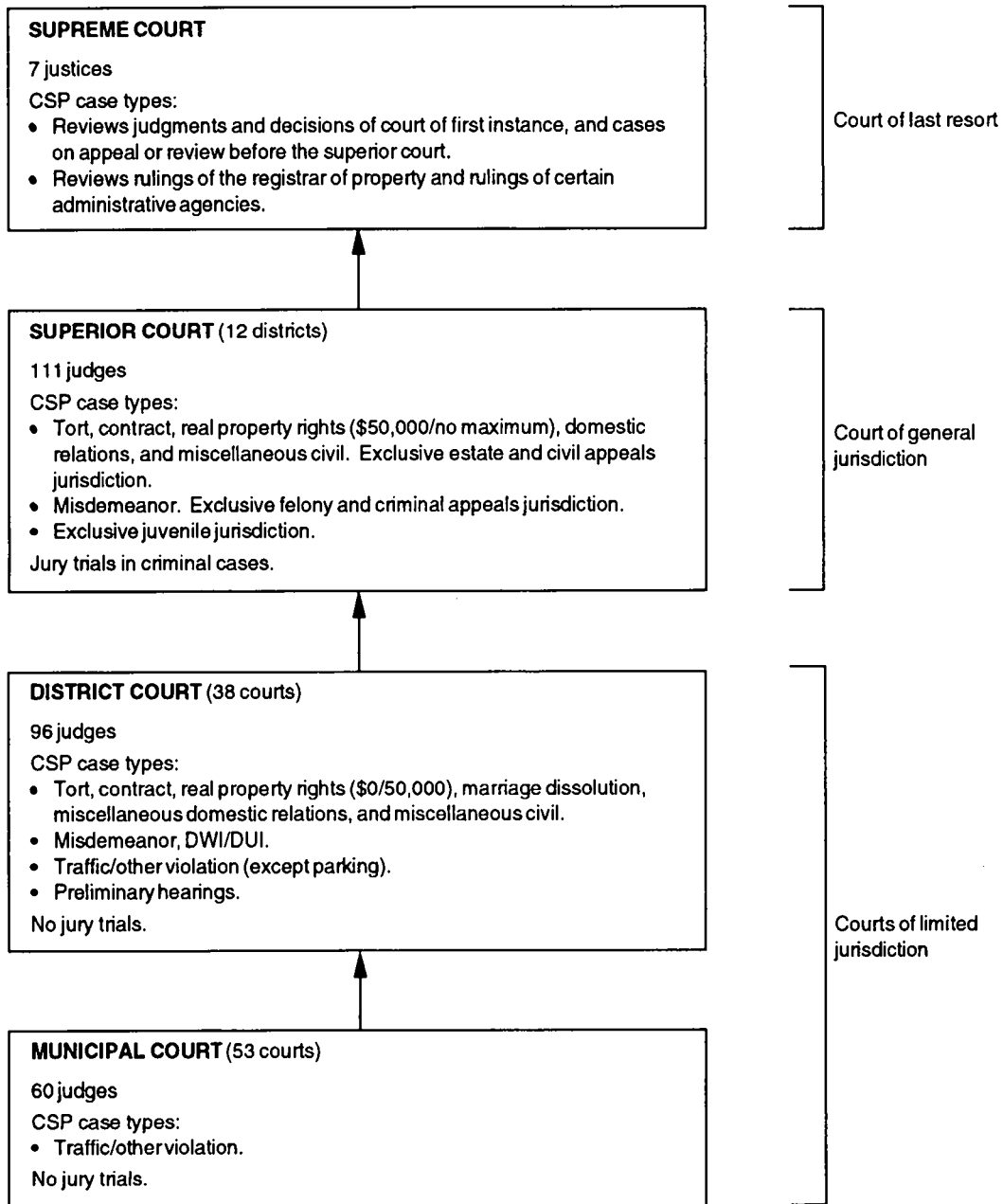
# OREGON COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



## PENNSYLVANIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1992

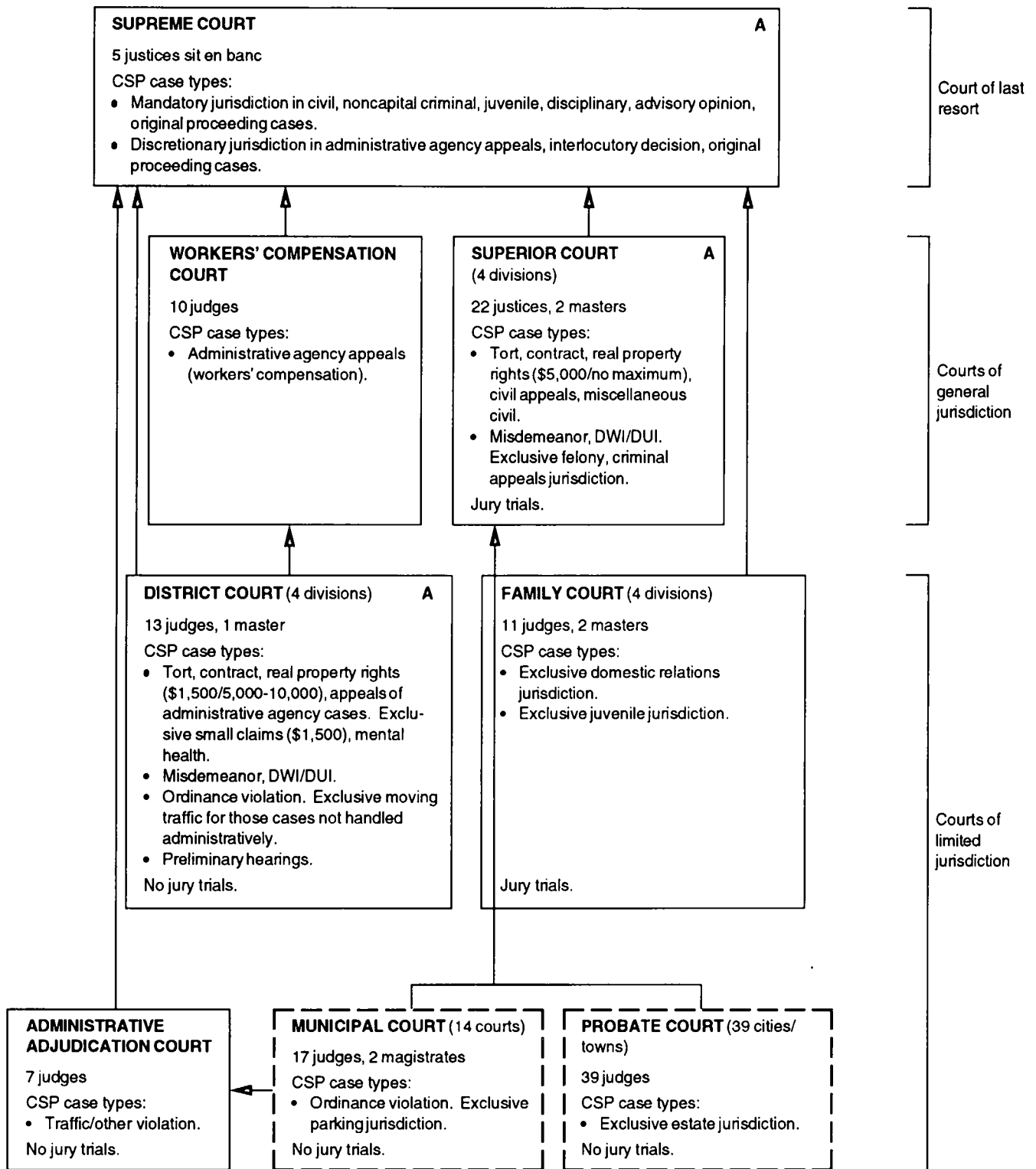


**PUERTO RICO COURT STRUCTURE, 1992**

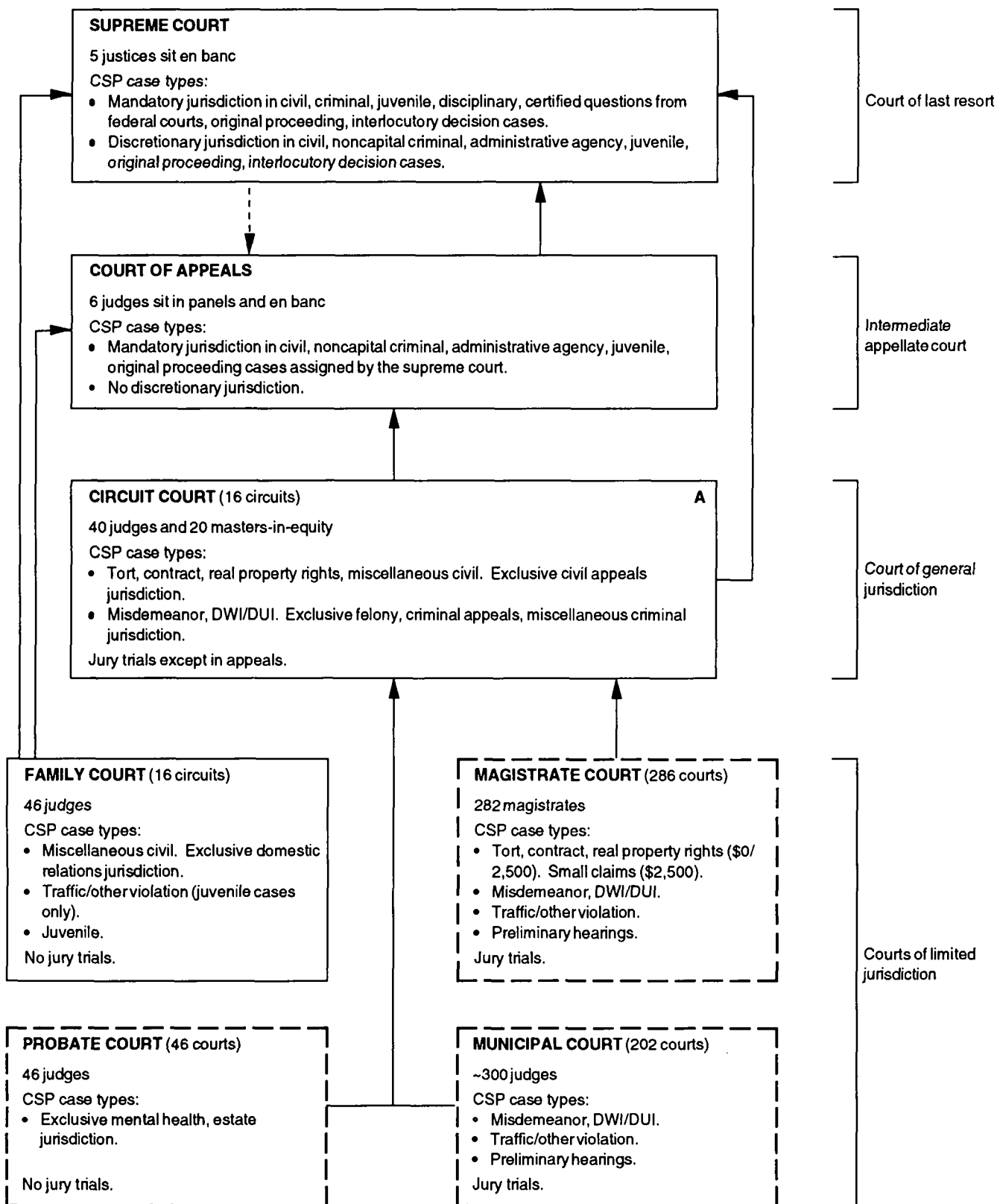


Note: Since June 30, 1991, the justice of the peace court was eliminated according to Law #17 of July 21, 1990. This jurisdiction is now with the municipal court.

## RHODE ISLAND COURT STRUCTURE, 1992

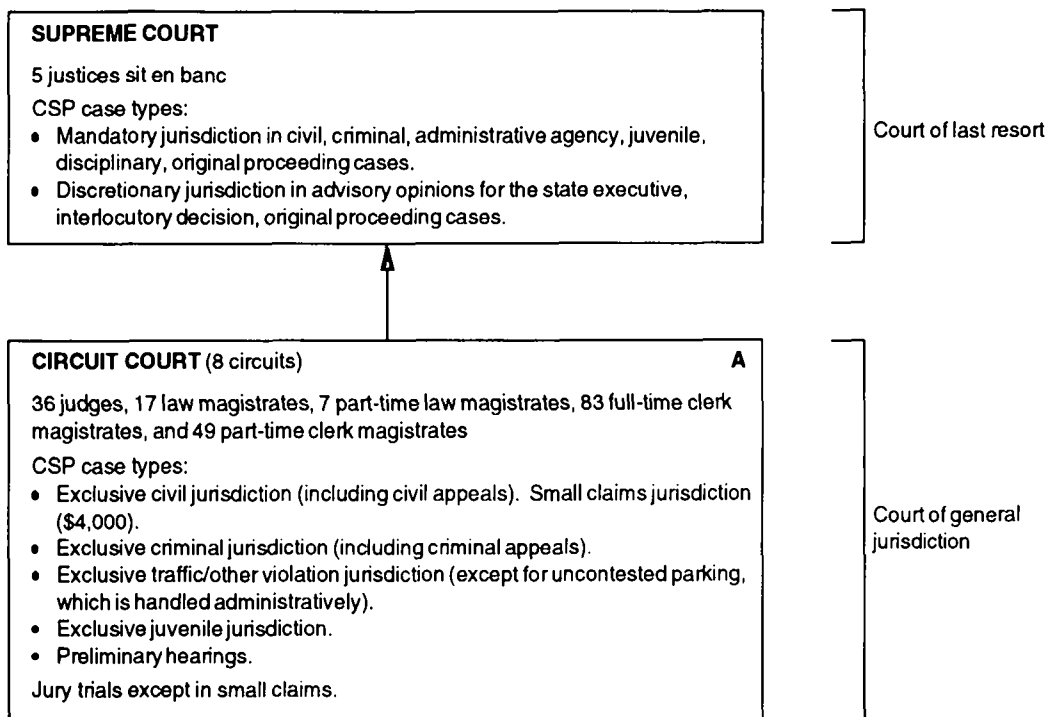


## SOUTH CAROLINA COURT STRUCTURE, 1992

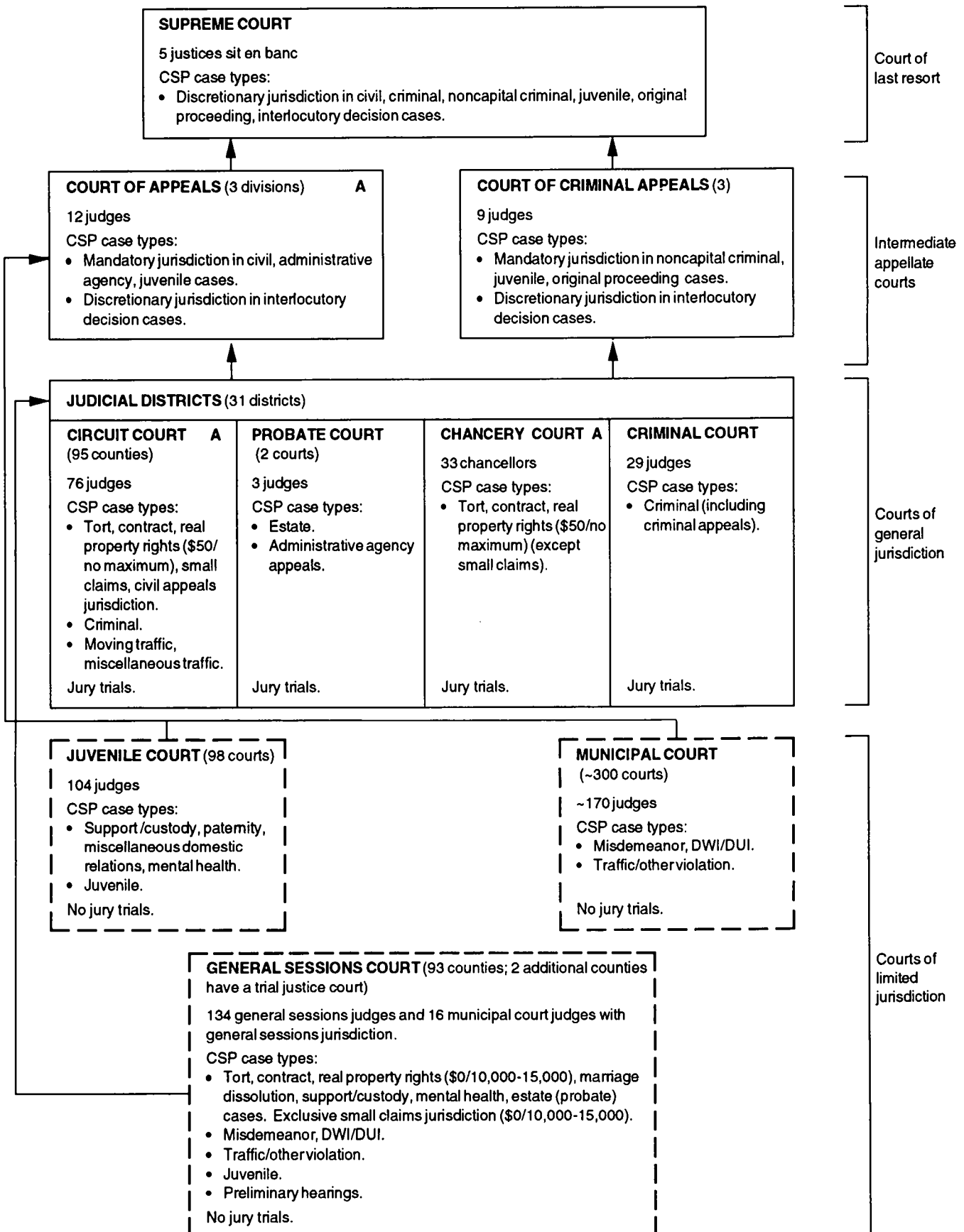


— — Indicates assignment of cases.

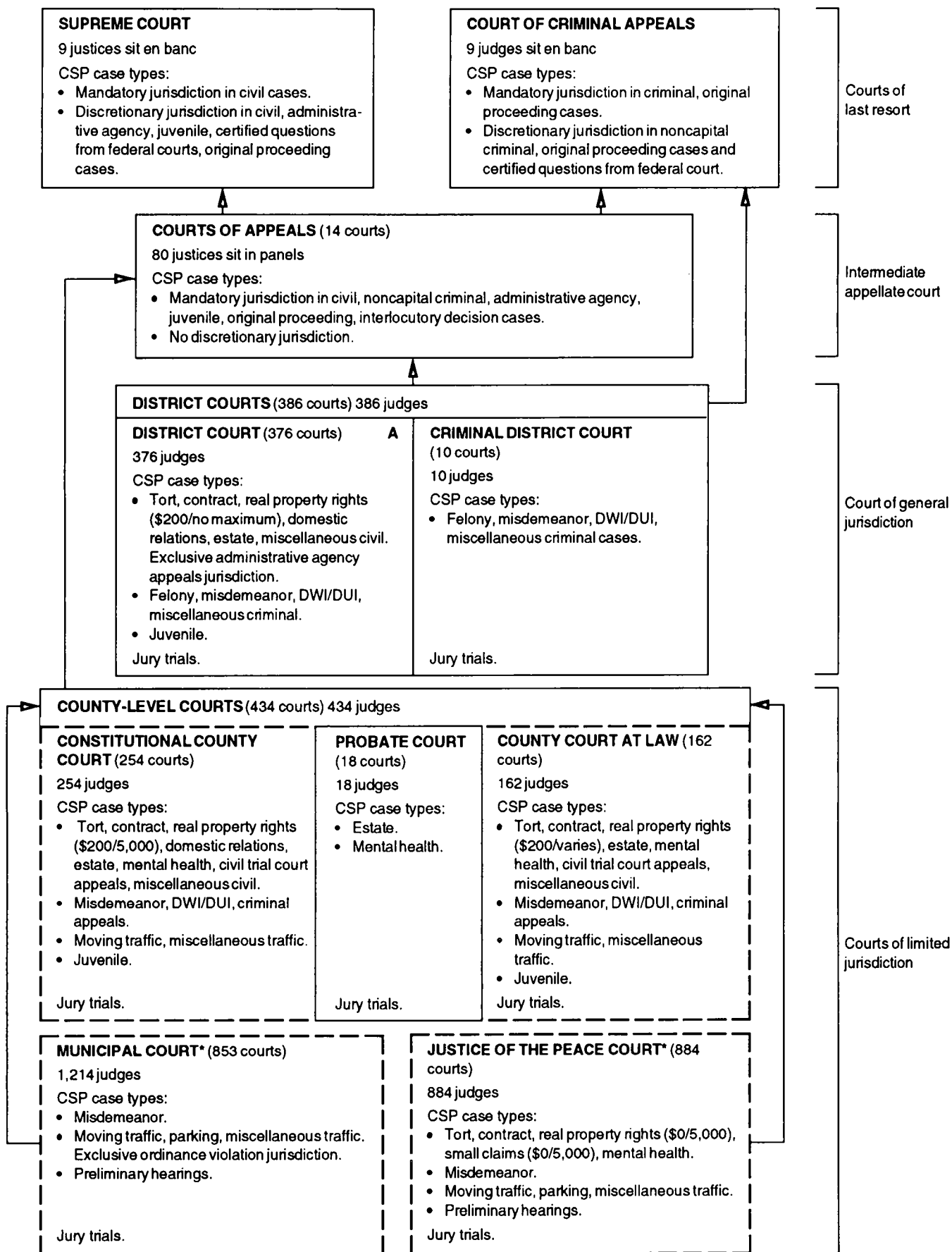
## SOUTH DAKOTA COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



## TENNESSEE COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



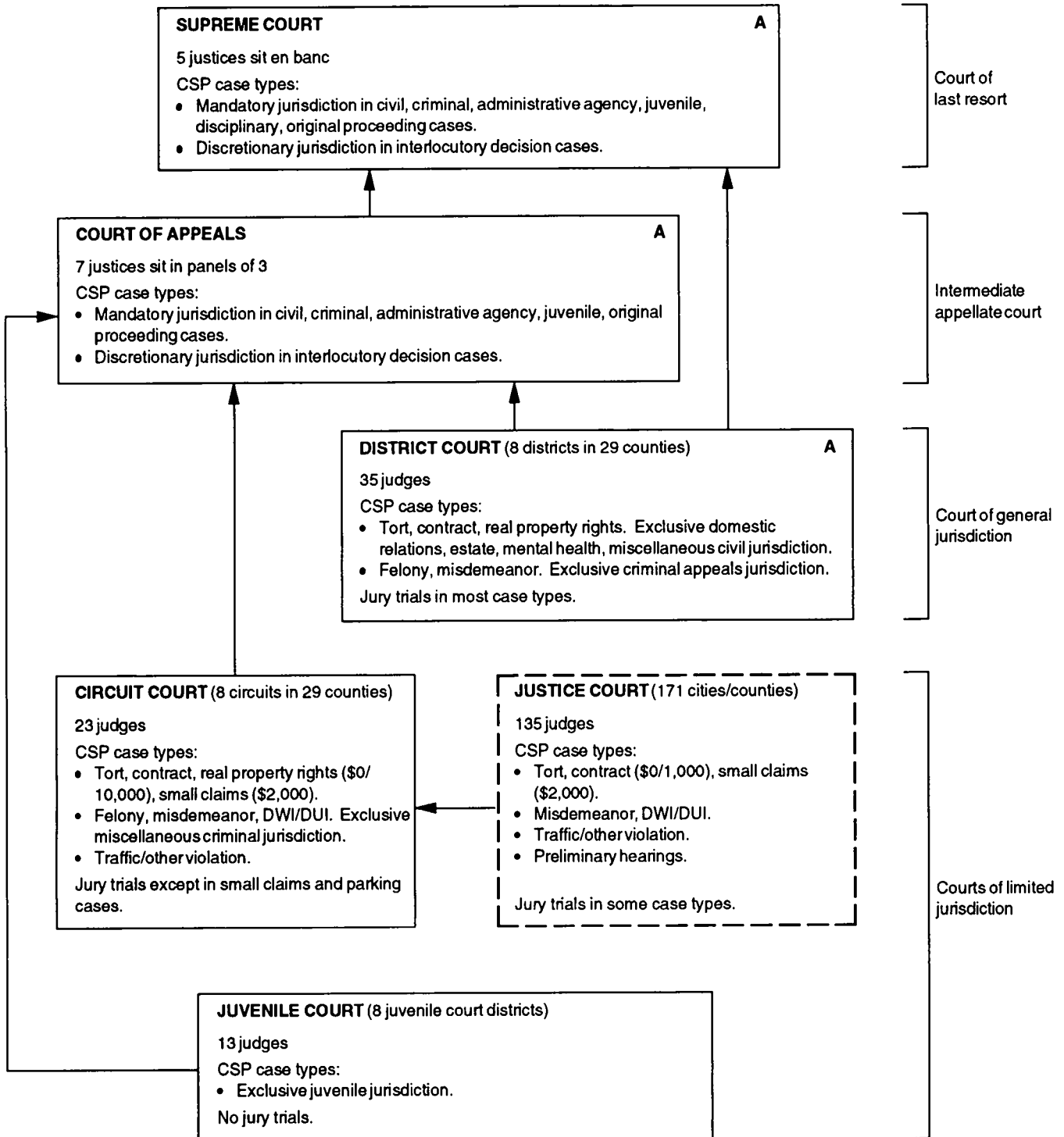
## TEXAS COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



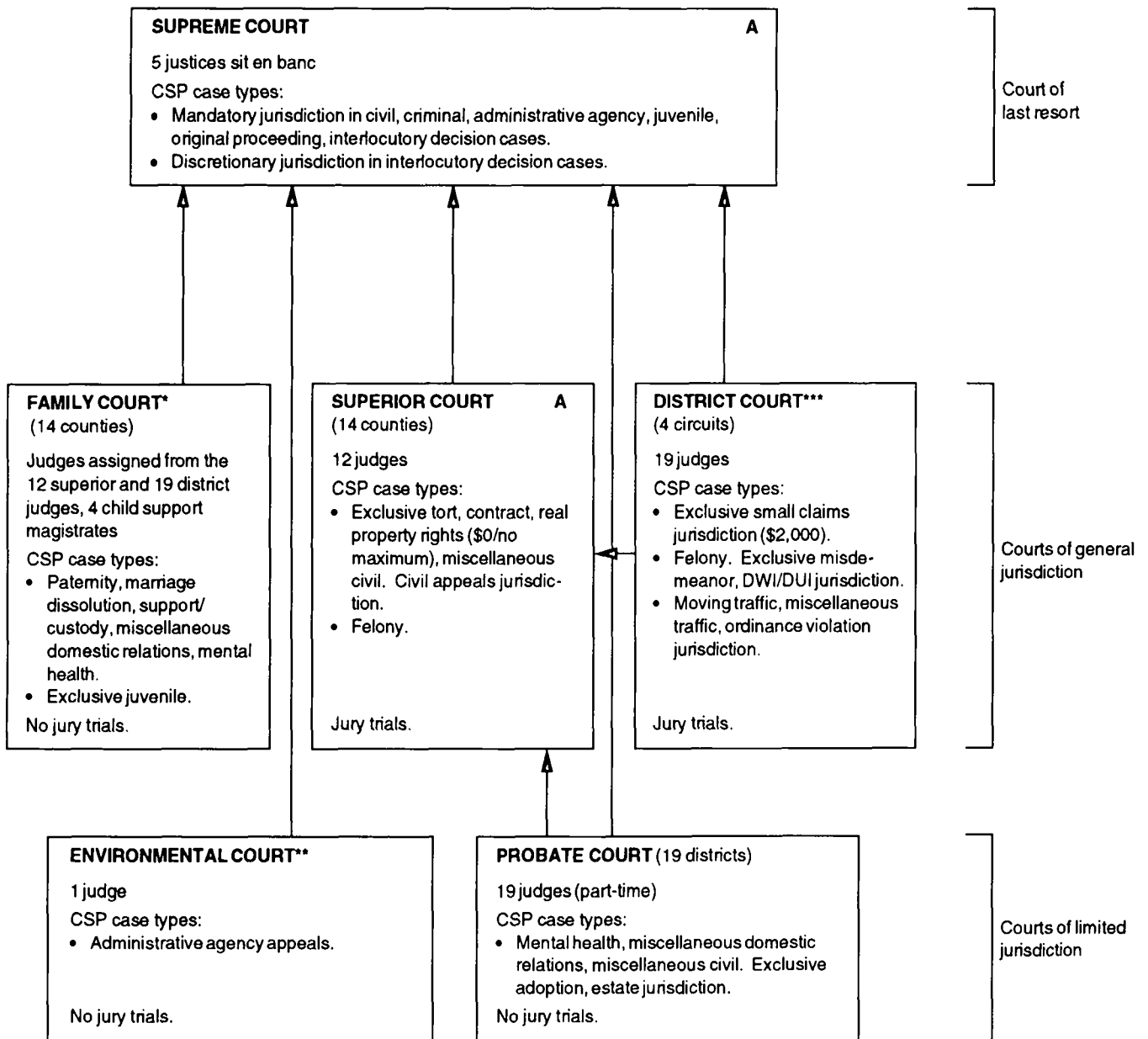
\* Some municipal and justice of the peace courts may appeal to the district court.



## UTAH COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



## VERMONT COURT STRUCTURE, 1992

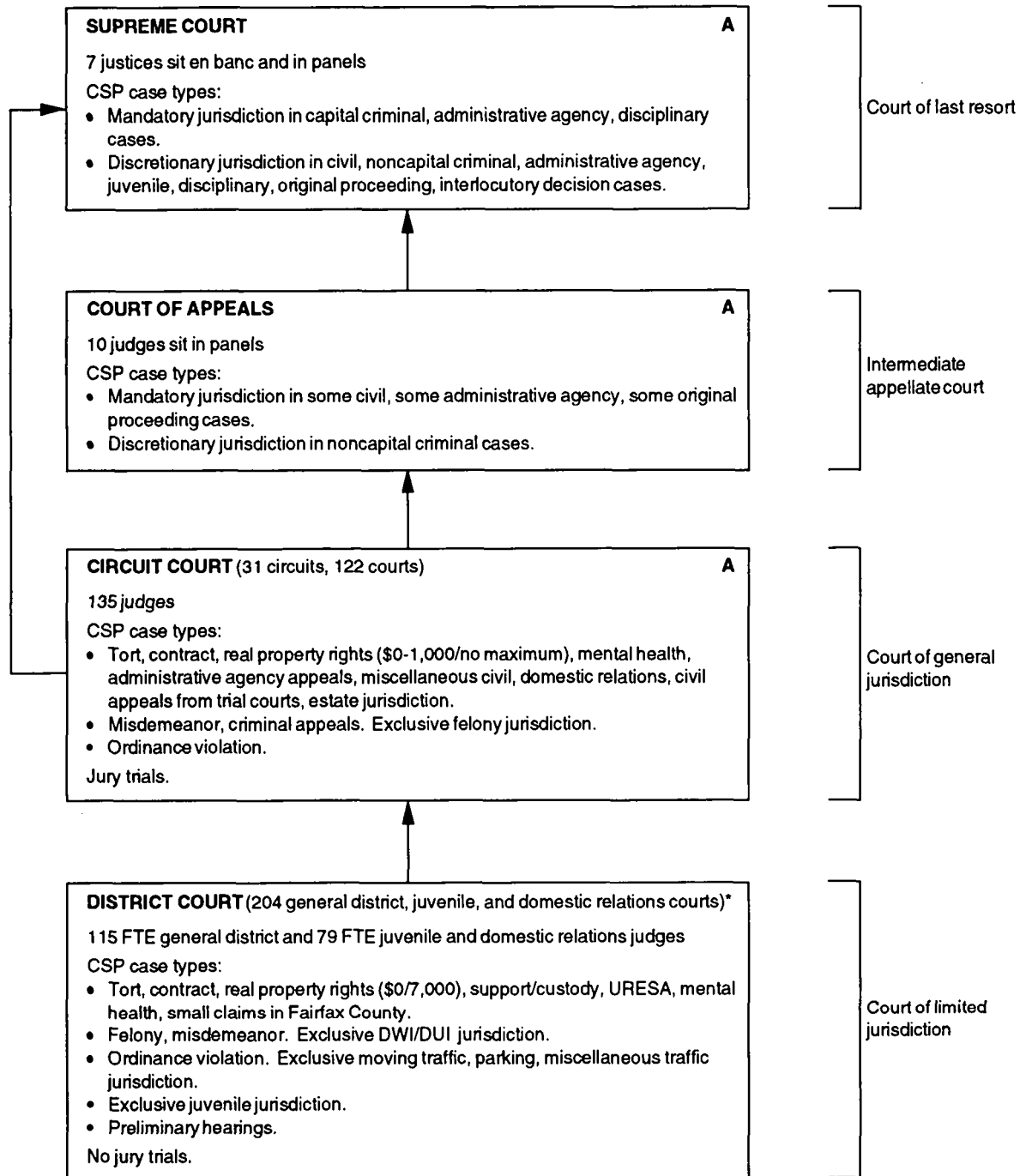


\* Vermont established a family court in 1991.

\*\* Vermont established an environmental court in 1990.

\*\*\* 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.

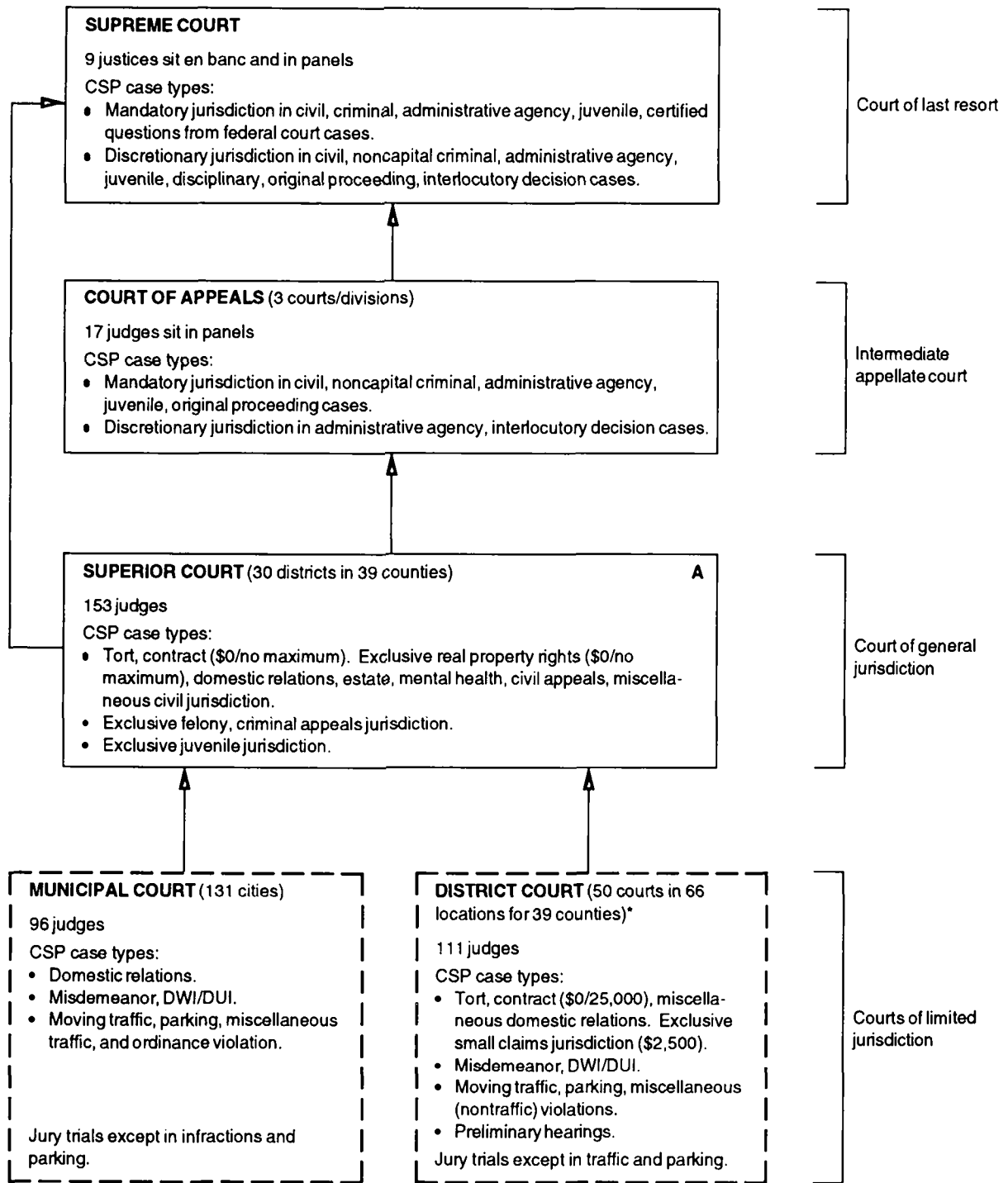
## VIRGINIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



- 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.

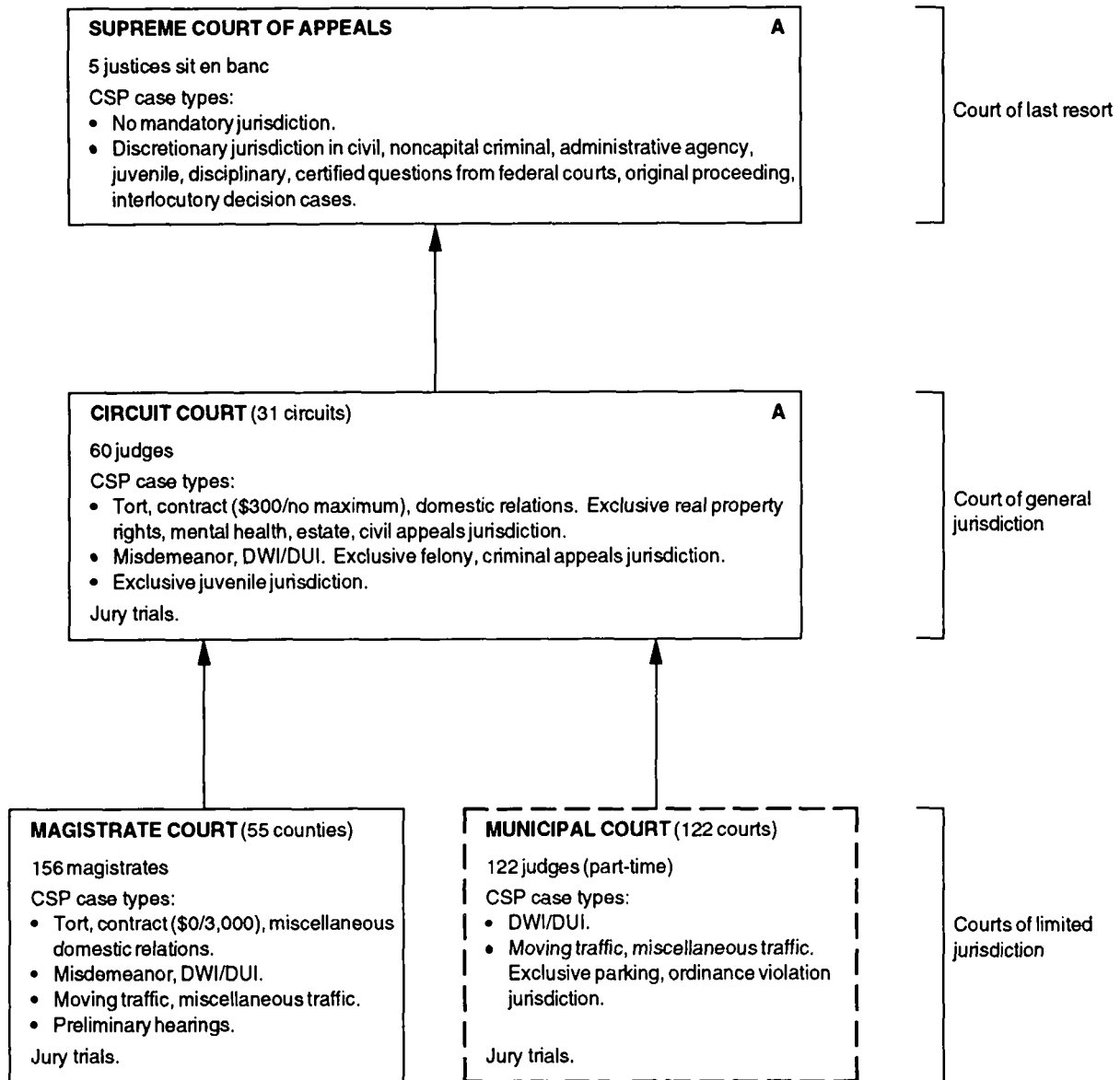
NOTE: A family court pilot project authorized by legislation passed in the 1989 session of the general assembly became operational on January 2, 1990, and concluded its two-year pilot operation on December 31, 1991.

## WASHINGTON COURT STRUCTURE, 1992

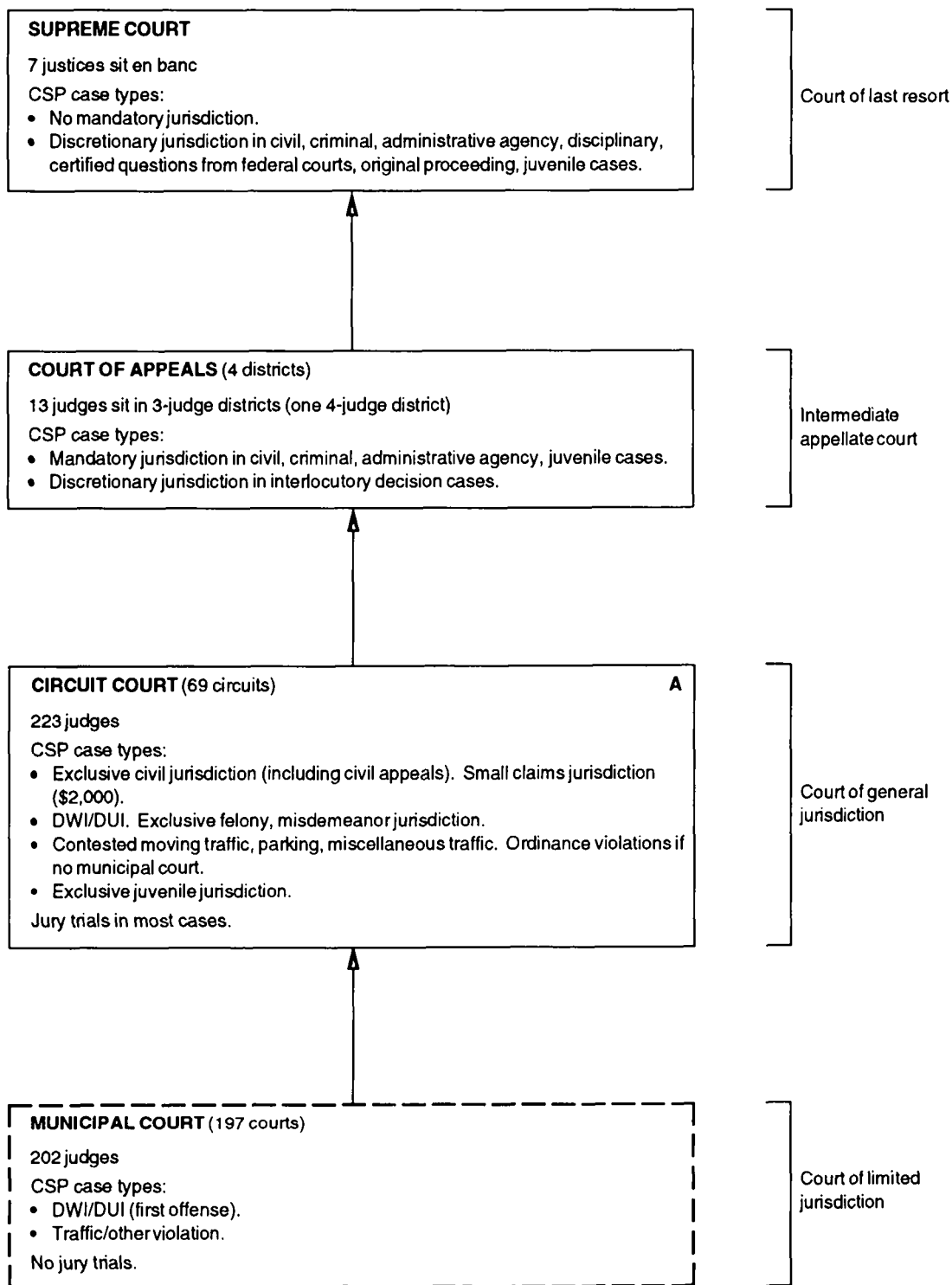


\* District court provides services to municipalities that do not have a municipal court.

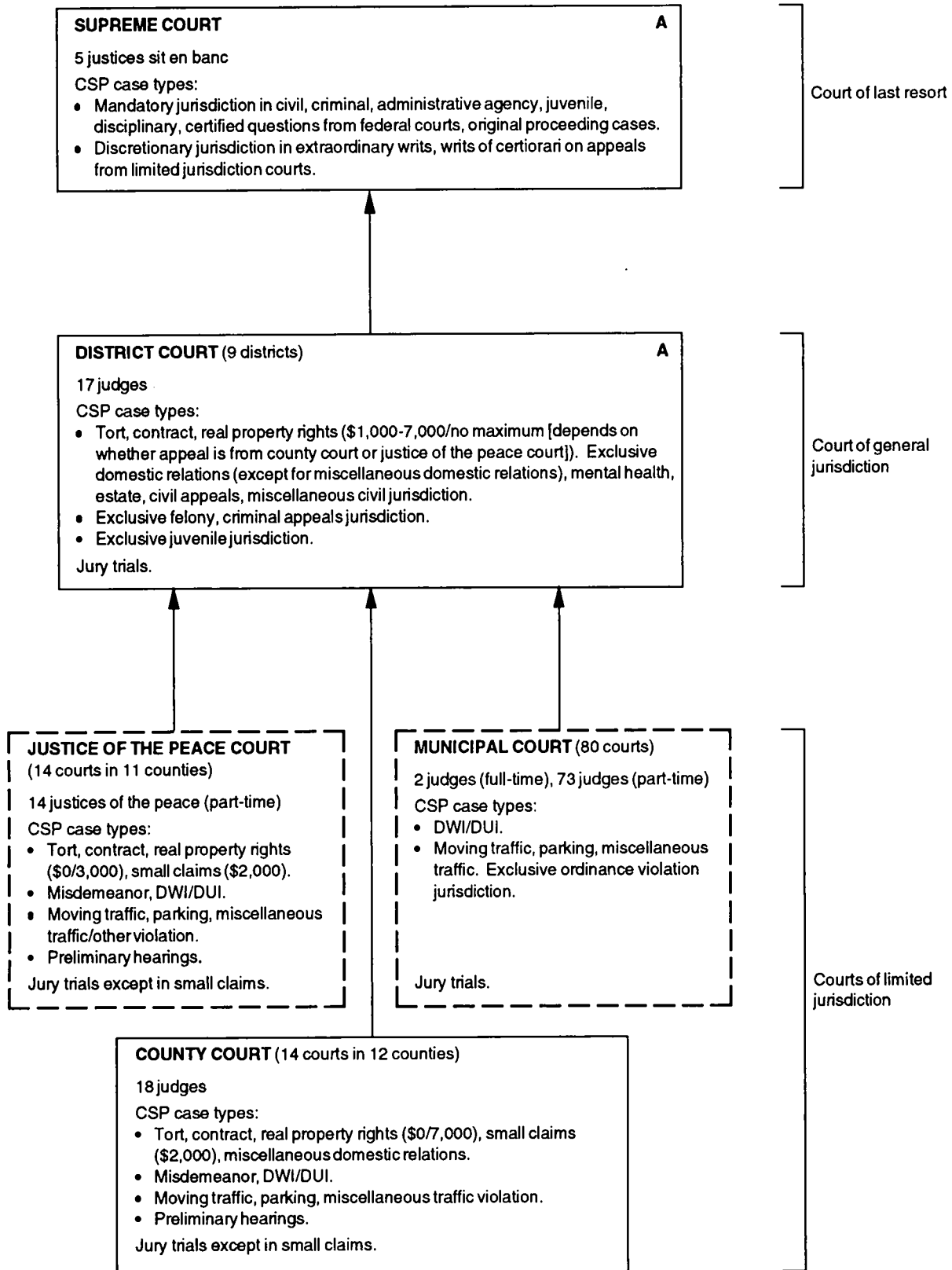
## WEST VIRGINIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



## WISCONSIN COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



## WYOMING COURT STRUCTURE, 1992



***P***ART V  
*Jurisdiction and State Court Reporting Practices*

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**FIGURE A: Reporting Periods for All State Courts, 1992**

State	Reporting periods			
	January 1, 1992 to December 31, 1992	July 1, 1991 to June 30, 1992	September 1, 1991 to August 31, 1992	October 1, 1991 to September 30, 1992
Alabama	X Municipal Court			X
Alaska		X		
Arizona		X		
Arkansas		X		
California		X		
Colorado		X		
Connecticut	X Probate Court	X		
Delaware		X		
District of Columbia	X			
Florida	X			
Georgia	X Court of Appeals Superior Court State Court Juvenile Court	X Magistrate Court Probate Court	X Supreme Court (Aug. 1, 1991 - July 31, 1992)	
Hawaii		X		
Idaho	X			
Illinois	X			
Indiana	X			
Iowa	X			
Kansas		X		
Kentucky		X		
Louisiana	X			
Maine	X Supreme Court	X (Trial Courts)		
Maryland		X		
Massachusetts	X (District Court Department only)	X Trial Court (all but District Court Department)		X Supreme Judicial Court Appeals Court
Michigan	X Court of Appeals (Trial Courts)	X Supreme Court		
Minnesota	X			
Mississippi	X			
Missouri		X		
Montana	X Supreme Court District Court	X City Court Justice of the Peace Court Municipal Court		
Nebraska	X Supreme Court Court of Appeals District Court County Court Separate Juvenile	X Workers' Compensation Court		

(continued on next page)

FIGURE A: Reporting Periods for All State Courts, 1992. (continued)

State	Reporting periods			
	January 1, 1992 to December 31, 1992	July 1, 1991 to June 30, 1992	September 1, 1991 to August 31, 1992	October 1, 1991 to September 30, 1992
Nevada	X District Court		X Supreme Court (April 1991 - March 1992)	
New Hampshire	X Supreme Court Superior Court District Court Municipal Court	X Probate Court		
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: State administrative offices of the courts.

**FIGURE B: Methods of Counting Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1992**

State/Court name:	Court type	Case counted at:				Case filed with:		Does the court count reinstated/reopened cases in its count of new filings?		
		Filing of				Trial court	Appellate court	No	Rarely	Yes, or frequently as new case
		Notice of appeal	the trial record	Record plus briefs	Other point					
<b>ALABAMA:</b>										
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	X	0	0
<b>ALASKA:</b>										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
<b>ARIZONA:</b>										
Supreme Court	COLR	X-CR	0	0	X*	0	0	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	X-CR*	X*	X*	X	0	X (except industrial cases & civil petition or special action)	0 (only industrial cases & civil petition for special action)	0	0
<b>ARKANSAS:</b>										
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
<b>CALIFORNIA:</b>										
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
<b>COLORADO:</b>										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
<b>CONNECTICUT:</b>										
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
<b>DELAWARE:</b>										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	X	0	0
<b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:</b>										
Court of Appeals	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		

(continued on next page)

FIGURE B: Methods of Counting Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1992. (continued)

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

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FIGURE B: Methods of Counting Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Case counted at:				Case filed with:		Does the court count reinstated/reopened cases in its count of new filings?		
		Filing of				Trial court	Appellate court	No	Rarely	Yes, or frequently as new case
		Notice of appeal	the trial record	Record plus briefs	Other point					
<b>IOWA:</b>										
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 (if appeal from trial court)	X	0	X	0	0
<b>KANSAS:</b>										
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
<b>KENTUCKY:</b>										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	0	0	X*	X (COLR if review is sought from IAC)	X	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	0	0	X	X	0	X	0	0
<b>LOUISIANA:</b>										
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
<b>MAINE:</b>										
Supreme Judicial Court Sitting as Law Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X (if remanded)	0	X (if new appeal)
<b>MARYLAND:</b>										
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
<b>MASSACHUSETTS:</b>										
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, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Case counted at:				Case filed with:		Does the court count reinstated/reopened cases in its count of new filings?		
		Filing of				Trial court	Appellate court	No	Rarely	Yes, or frequently as new case
		Notice of appeal	the trial record	Record plus briefs	Other point					
MICHIGAN: Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	X (if remanded w/jurisdiction retained)	0 X	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	X	0	0	0	X	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	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
NEVADA: Supreme Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
NEW HAMPSHIRE: Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	X (if remanded & jurisdiction retained)	0	X
NEW JERSEY: Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
Appellate Division of Superior Court	IAC	X	0	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		

(continued on next page)

FIGURE B: Methods of Counting Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Case counted at:				Case filed with:		Does the court count reinstated/reopened cases in its count of new filings?		
		Filing of				Trial court	Appellate court	No	Rarely	Yes, or frequently as new case
		Notice of appeal	the trial record	Record plus briefs	Other point					
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 mand 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
OKLAHOMA: Supreme Court	COLR	X*	0	0	0	X	0	X*	0	X*
Court of Criminal Appeals	COLR	0 (notice plus transcript)	X	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		

(continued on next page)

FIGURE B: Methods of Counting Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Case counted at:				Case filed with:		Does the court count reinstated/reopened cases in its count of new filings?		
		Filing of				Trial court	Appellate court	No	Rarely	Yes, or frequently as new case
		Notice of appeal	the trial record	Record plus briefs	Other point					
<b>PENNSYLVANIA:</b>										
Supreme Court	COLR	X (direct appeal only)	0	0	X (discretionary certiorari granted)	X*	X*	X (if re-instated 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	0 (ADM. AGY.)	0	X
<b>PUERTO RICO:</b>										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	CR	CV	X IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		X IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY
<b>RHODE ISLAND:</b>										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	0	X	0	0	X
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA:</b>										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	X	X	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	0	0	TRANSFER	0	0	X	0	0
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA:</b>										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
<b>TENNESSEE:</b>										
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		
<b>TEXAS:</b>										
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		
<b>UTAH:</b>										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X (ADM. AGY.)	0	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	X	0	X	0

(continued on next page)



FIGURE B: Methods of Counting Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Case counted at:				Case filed with:		Does the court count reinstated/reopened cases in its count of new filings?		
		Filing of				Trial court	Appellate court	No	Rarely	Yes, or frequently as new case
		Notice of appeal	the trial record	Record plus briefs	Other point					
<b>VERMONT:</b>										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	X
								(if dismissed & reinstated)		(if after final decision or if statistical period has ended)
<b>VIRGINIA:</b>										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
<b>WASHINGTON:</b>										
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
<b>WEST VIRGINIA:</b>										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
								(Counted as new filings as of 8/86)		
<b>WISCONSIN:</b>										
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
<b>WYOMING:</b>										
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.  
 X = Yes  
 0 = No

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.

**FOOTNOTES\***

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

Arizona-Court of Appeals: Civil cases are counted when the fee is paid within 30 days after trial record is filed. Juvenile/industrial/habeas corpus cases are counted at receipt of notice or at receipt of the trial record.

Source: 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, 1992**

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unlimited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property	Limited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property	Small claims			
		Minimum/maximum	Minimum/maximum	Maximum dollar amount	Jury trials	Summary procedures	Lawyers permitted
<b>ALABAMA:</b>							
Circuit Court	G	\$1,500/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	L	-	\$1,500/\$5,000	\$1,500	No	Yes	Optional
<b>ALASKA:</b>							
Superior Court	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	L	-	0/\$50,000	\$5,000	No	Yes	Yes
<b>ARIZONA:</b>							
Superior Court	G	\$5,000/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
Justice of the Peace Court	L	-	0/\$5,000	\$1,500	No	Yes	No
<b>ARKANSAS:</b>							
Circuit Court	G	\$100/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
Court of Common Pleas	L	-	\$500/\$1,000 (contract only)	-	-	-	-
Municipal Court	L	-	0/\$3,000 (contract and real property)	\$3,000	No	Yes	No
City Court, Police Court	L	-	0/\$300 (contract and real property)	-	-	-	-
Justice of the Peace	L	-	-	\$300	No	Yes	No
<b>CALIFORNIA:</b>							
Superior Court	G	\$25,000/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
Municipal Court	L	-	0/\$25,000	\$5,000	No	Yes	No
Justice Court	L	-	0/\$25,000	\$5,000	No	Yes	No
<b>COLORADO:</b>							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
Water Court	G	0/No maximum (only real property)	-	-	-	-	-
County Court	L	-	0/\$10,000	\$3,500	No	Yes	No
<b>CONNECTICUT:</b>							
Superior Court	G	0/No maximum	-	\$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
<b>DELAWARE:</b>							
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/\$5,000	\$5,000	No	Yes	Yes
Alderman's Court	L	-	-	\$2,500	No	Yes	Yes
<b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:</b>							
Superior Court	G	\$2,001/No maximum (no minimum for real property)	-	\$2,000	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>FLORIDA:</b>							
Circuit Court	G	\$15,001/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
County Court	L	-	\$2,500/\$15,000	\$2,500	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, 1992.  
(continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unlimited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property	Limited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property	Small claims			
		Minimum/maximum	Minimum/maximum	Maximum dollar amount	Jury trials	Summary procedures	Lawyers permitted
<b>GEORGIA:</b>							
Superior Court	G	0/No maximum	-	No max	Yes	No	Yes
State Court	L	0/No maximum (No real property)	-	No max	Yes	No	Yes
Civil Court (Bibb & Richmond counties only)	L	-	0/\$7,500 - 0/\$25,000 (Bibb) - (Richmond)	\$25,000	Yes	Yes	Yes
Magistrate Court	L	-	0/\$5,000 (No real property)	\$5,000	No	Yes	Yes
Municipal Court (Columbus)	L	-	0/\$7,500	\$7,500	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>HAWAII:</b>							
Circuit Court	G	\$5,000/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	L	-	0/\$10,000 (No maximum in summary possession or ejectment)	\$2,500 (Except in residential security de- posit cases)	No	Yes	Yes
<b>IDAHO:</b>							
District Court: (Magistrates Division)	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
	L	-	0/\$10,000	\$2,000	No	Yes	No
<b>ILLINOIS:</b>							
Circuit Court	G	0/No maximum	-	\$2,500	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>INDIANA:</b>							
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)	-	-	-	-
<b>IOWA:</b>							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	-	\$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
<b>KANSAS:</b>							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	-	\$1,000	No	Yes	No
<b>KENTUCKY:</b>							
Circuit Court	G	\$4,000/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	L	-	0/\$4,000	\$1,500	No	Yes	Yes
<b>LOUISIANA:</b>							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
City Court, Parish Court (New Orleans City Court)	L	-	0/\$10,000	\$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
Justice of the Peace Court	L	-	0/ \$1,200	\$1,200	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, 1992.  
(continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unlimited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property	Limited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property	Small claims			
		Minimum/maximum	Minimum/maximum	Maximum dollar amount	Jury trials	Summary procedures	Lawyers permitted
<b>MAINE:</b>							
Superior Court	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	L	-	0/\$30,000	\$1,400	No	Yes	Yes
<b>MARYLAND:</b>							
Circuit Court	G	\$2,500/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	L	0/No maximum (real property)	\$2,500/\$20,000 (tort, contract)	\$2,500	No	Yes	Yes
<b>MASSACHUSETTS:</b>							
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
<b>MICHIGAN:</b>							
Circuit Court	G	\$10,000/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	L	-	0/\$10,000	\$1,750	No	Yes	No
Municipal Court	L	-	0/ \$1,500	\$1,750	No	Yes	No
<b>MINNESOTA:</b>							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	-	\$5,000	No	Yes	Yes
<b>MISSISSIPPI:</b>							
Circuit Court	G	\$200/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
County Court	L	0/\$25,000	-	-	-	-	-
Justice Court	L	0/\$1,000	-	-	-	-	-
<b>MISSOURI:</b>							
Circuit Court	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
(Associate Division)	L	-	0/\$15,000	\$1,500	No	Yes	Yes
<b>MONTANA:</b>							
District Court	G	\$50/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
Justice of the Peace Court	L	-	0/\$5,000	\$3,000	No	Yes	No
Municipal Court	L	-	0/\$5,000	\$3,000	No	Yes	No
City Court	L	-	0/ \$500	-	-	-	-
<b>NEBRASKA:</b>							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
County Court	L	-	0/\$15,000	\$1,800	No	Yes	No
<b>NEVADA:</b>							
District Court	G	\$5,000/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
Justice Court	L	-	0/\$5,000	\$2,500	No	Yes	Yes
Municipal Court	L	-	0/\$2,500	-	-	-	-
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE:</b>							
Superior Court	G	\$1,500/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	L	-	0/\$25,000	\$2,500	No	Yes	Yes
Municipal Court	L	-	0/ \$2,500 (only landlord-tenant, and small claims)	\$2,500	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, 1992.  
(continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unlimited dollar amount	Limited dollar amount	Small claims			
		torts, contracts, real property	torts, contracts, real property	Maximum dollar amount	Jury trials	Summary procedures	Lawyers permitted
		Minimum/maximum	Minimum/maximum				
<b>NEW JERSEY:</b>							
Superior Court (Law Division and Chancery Division)	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
(Law Division, Special Civil Part)	L	-	0/\$7,500	\$1,500	No	Yes	Yes
<b>NEW MEXICO:</b>							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
Magistrate Court	L	-	0/\$5,000	-	-	-	-
Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County	L	-	0/\$5,000	-	-	-	-
<b>NEW YORK:</b>							
Supreme Court	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
County Court	G	-	0/\$25,000	-	-	-	-
Civil Court of the City of New York	L	-	0/\$25,000	\$2,000	-	Yes	Yes
City Court	L	-	0/\$15,000	\$2,000	-	Yes	Yes
District Court	L	-	0/\$15,000	\$2,000	-	Yes	Yes
Court of Claims	L	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
Town Court and Village Justice Court	L	-	0/\$3,000	\$2,000	-	Yes	Yes
<b>NORTH CAROLINA:</b>							
Superior Court	G	\$10,000/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	L	-	0/\$10,000	\$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
<b>NORTH DAKOTA:</b>							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
County Court	L	-	0/\$10,000	\$3,000	No	Yes	Varies
<b>OHIO:</b>							
Court of Common Pleas	G	\$500/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
County Court	L	-	0/\$3,000	\$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
Municipal Court	L	-	0/\$10,000	\$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
<b>OKLAHOMA:</b>							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	-	\$3,000	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>OREGON:</b>							
Circuit Court	G	\$10,000/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	L	-	\$200/\$10,000	\$2,500	No	Yes	No
Justice Court	L	-	\$200/\$2,500	\$2,500	No	Yes	No
<b>PENNSYLVANIA:</b>							
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)	-	-	-	-
<b>PUERTO RICO:</b>							
Superior Court	G	\$50,000/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	L	-	0/\$50,000	-	-	-	-

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FIGURE C: Dollar Amount Jurisdiction for Original Tort, Contract, Real Property Rights, and Small Claims Filings in State Trial Courts, 1992.  
(continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unlimited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property	Limited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property	Small claims			
		Minimum/maximum	Minimum/maximum	Maximum dollar amount	Jury trials	Summary procedures	Lawyers permitted
<b>RHODE ISLAND:</b>							
Superior Court	G	\$5,000/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	L	-	\$1,500/\$5,000- \$10,000	\$1,500	No	Yes	Yes
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA:</b>							
Circuit Court	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
Magistrate Court	L	-	0/\$2,500 (no max. in landlord-tenant)	\$2,500	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA:</b>							
Circuit Court	G	0/No maximum	-	\$4,000	No	Yes	Yes
<b>TENNESSEE:</b>							
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 popula- tion over 700,000)	\$10,000	No	Yes	Yes
<b>TEXAS:</b>							
District Court	G	\$200/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
County Court at Law, Consti- tutional County Court	L	-	\$200/varies	-	-	-	-
Justice of the Peace Court	L	-	0/\$5,000	\$5,000	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>UTAH:</b>							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
Circuit Court	L	-	0/\$10,000	\$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
Justice Court	L	-	0/\$1,000	\$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
<b>VERMONT:</b>							
Superior Court	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	G	-	-	\$2,000	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>VIRGINIA:</b>							
Circuit Court	G	0-\$1,000/No maximum 0/No maximum(real property)	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	L	-	0/\$7,000	-	-	-	-
<b>WASHINGTON:</b>							
Superior Court	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	L	-	0/\$25,000	\$2,500	No	Yes	No
<b>WEST VIRGINIA:</b>							
Circuit Court	G	\$300/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
Magistrate Court	L	-	0/\$3,000 (No real property)	-	-	-	-

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FIGURE C: Dollar Amount Jurisdiction for Original Tort, Contract, Real Property Rights, and Small Claims Filings in State Trial Courts, 1992.  
(continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unlimited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property	Limited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property	Small claims			
		Minimum/maximum	Minimum/maximum	Maximum dollar amount	Jury trials	Summary procedures	Lawyers permitted
<b>WISCONSIN:</b>							
Circuit Court	G	0/No maximum	-	\$2,000	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>WYOMING:</b>							
District Court	G	\$1,000-\$7,000/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
County Court	L	-	0/\$7,000	\$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
Justice of the Peace Court	L	-	0/\$3,000	\$2,000	No	Yes	Yes

**JURISDICTION CODES:**

- G = General jurisdiction court.
- L = Limited jurisdiction court.
- = Information not available.

Source: State administrative offices of the courts.

**FIGURE D: Criminal Case Unit of Count Used by State Trial Courts, 1992**

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Point of counting a criminal case	Number of defendants		Contents of charging document		
			One	One or more	Single charge	Single incident (set # of charges per case)	Single incident (unlimited # of charges)
<b>ALABAMA:</b>							
Circuit Court	G	Information/Indictment		X			X
District Court	L	Complaint	X				X
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X		X		
<b>ALASKA:</b>							
Superior Court	G	Indictment	X		multiple charges		X
District Court	L	Complaint	X		multiple counts		X
<b>ARIZONA:</b>							
Superior Court	G	Information/indictment	X				
Justice of the Peace Court	L	Complaint				Varies with prosecutor*	
Municipal Court	L	Complaint				Varies with prosecutor*	
<b>ARKANSAS:</b>							
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment		X			
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X		X		
City Court, Police Court	L	Complaint	X		X		
<b>CALIFORNIA:</b>							
Superior Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X
Justice Court	L	Complaint	X				X
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X				X
<b>COLORADO:</b>							
District Court	G	Complaint	X				X
County Court	L	Complaint/summons	X				X
<b>CONNECTICUT:</b>							
Superior Court	G	Information	X				(varies among local police departments)
<b>DELAWARE:</b>							
Superior Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X
Family Court	L	Petition	X				X
Justice of the Peace Court	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		
<b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:</b>							
Superior Court	G	Complaint/information/indictment	X				X
<b>FLORIDA:</b>							
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment	X				(prosecutor decides)
County Court	L	Complaint	X				X

(continued on next page)



FIGURE D: Criminal Case Unit of Count Used by State Trial Courts, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Point of counting a criminal case	Number of defendants		Contents of charging document			
			One	One or more	Single charge	Single incident (set # of charges per case)	Single incident (unlimited # of charges)	One or more incidents
<b>GEORGIA:</b>								
Superior Court	G	Indictment/accusation		X			X	
State Court	L	Accusation/citation		X			X	
Magistrate Court	L	Accusation/citation	X				X	
Probate Court	L	Accusation/citation	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						
<b>HAWAII:</b>								
Circuit Court	G	Complaint/indictment	X				X	(most serious charge)
District Court	L	First appearance information	X		X			
<b>IDAHO:</b>								
District Court (Magistrates Division)	G	Information	X					X
	L	Complaint	X					X
<b>ILLINOIS:</b>								
Circuit Court	G	Complaint/information/indictment		X			X	
<b>INDIANA:</b>								
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)
<b>IOWA:</b>								
District Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	
<b>KANSAS:</b>								
District Court	G	First appearance	X				X	
<b>KENTUCKY:</b>								
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	
District Court	L	Complaint/citation	X				X	
<b>LOUISIANA:</b>								
District Court	G	Information/indictment	Varies				Varies	
City and Parish Court	L	Information/complaint	X		X			
<b>MAINE:</b>								
Superior Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	
District Court	L	Information/complaint	X		X			

(continued on next page)

FIGURE D: Criminal Case Unit of Count Used by State Trial Courts, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Point of counting a criminal case	Number of defendants		Contents of charging document			
			One	One or more	Single charge	Single incident (set # of charges per case)	Single incident (unlimited # of charges)	One or more incidents
<b>MARYLAND:</b>								
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	
District Court	L	Citation/information	X				X	
<b>MASSACHUSETTS:</b>								
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
<b>MICHIGAN:</b>								
Circuit Court	G	Information	X			Varies, depending on prosecutor		
District Court	L	Complaint	X			Varies, depending on prosecutor		
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X			Varies, depending on prosecutor		
<b>MINNESOTA:</b>								
District Court	G	Complaint	X				X	
<b>MISSISSIPPI:</b>								
Circuit Court	G	Indictment	X				X	
County Court	L	Indictment	X				X	
Justice Court	L	Indictment	X				X	
<b>MISSOURI:</b>								
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment		X			X	
(Associate Division)	L	Complaint/information		X			X	
<b>MONTANA:</b>								
District Court	G	Information/indictment		X			X	
Justice of Peace Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
City Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
<b>NEBRASKA:</b>								
District Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	(not consistently observed statewide)
County Court	L	Information/complaint	X				X	
<b>NEVADA:</b>								
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		
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE:</b>								
Superior Court	G	Information/indictment	X		X			
District Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
<b>NEW JERSEY:</b>								
Superior Court (Law Division)	G	Accusation/indictment	X				X	X
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X				X	X

(continued on next page)

FIGURE D: Criminal Case Unit of Count Used by State Trial Courts, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Point of counting a criminal case	Number of defendants		Contents of charging document		
			One	One or more	Single charge	Single incident (set # of charges per case)	Single incident (unlimited # of charges)
<b>NEW MEXICO:</b>							
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
<b>NEW YORK:</b>							
Supreme Court	G	Defendant/indictment	X				Varies depending on prosecutor
County Court	G	Defendant/indictment	X				Varies depending on prosecutor
Criminal Court of the City of New York	L	Defendant/docket	X				Varies depending on prosecutor
District Court and City Court	L	Defendant/docket	X				Varies depending on prosecutor
Town Court and Village Justice Court	L	N/A					
<b>NORTH CAROLINA:</b>							
Superior Court	G	Transfer (from District Court) Indictment (when case originates in Superior Court)	X				Varies depending on prosecutor
District Court	L	Warrant/summons (includes citations, Magistrates order, misdemeanor statement of charges)	X				Varies depending on prosecutor
<b>NORTH DAKOTA:</b>							
District Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X (may vary)
County Court	L	Complaint/information	X				Varies
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X				X
<b>OHIO:</b>							
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					
<b>OKLAHOMA:</b>							
District Court	G	Information/indictment		X			X
<b>OREGON:</b>							
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		
<b>PENNSYLVANIA:</b>							
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 Ct.	L	Complaint	X				X
<b>PUERTO RICO:</b>							
Superior Court	G	Accusation	X		X		
District Court	L	Filing of Charge	X		X		

(continued on next page)

FIGURE D: Criminal Case Unit of Count Used by State Trial Courts, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Point of counting a criminal case	Number of defendants		Contents of charging document			
			One	One or more	Single charge	Single incident (set # of charges per case)	Single incident (unlimited # of charges)	One or more incidents
<b>RHODE ISLAND:</b>								
Superior Court	G	Information/indictment		X				X
District Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA:</b>								
Circuit Court	G	Warrant/summons	X		X			
Magistrate Court	L	Warrant/summons	X		X			
Municipal Court	L	Warrant/summons	X		X			
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA:</b>								
Circuit Court	G	Complaint	X				X	
<b>TENNESSEE:</b>								
Circuit Court and Criminal Court	G	Information/indictment	Not consistent statewide					
General Sessions Court	L	No data reported						
Municipal Court	L	No data reported						
<b>TEXAS:</b>								
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 Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
<b>UTAH:</b>								
District Court	G	Information		X				X
Circuit Court	L	Information/citation	X				X	
Justice Court	L	Citation	X				X	
<b>VERMONT:</b>								
District Court	G	Arraignment	X					X
<b>VIRGINIA:</b>								
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment	X		X			
District Court	L	Warrant/summons	X		X			
<b>WASHINGTON:</b>								
Superior Court	G	(Original) Information	X					X
District Court	L	Complaint/citation	X			X (2 max)		
Municipal Court	L	Complaint/citation	X			X (2 max)		
<b>WEST VIRGINIA:</b>								
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment	X					X
Magistrate Court	L	Complaint			X			X
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
<b>WISCONSIN:</b>								
Circuit Court	G	Initial appearance	X					X
Municipal Court	L	Citation*	X		X			

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FIGURE D: Criminal Case Unit of Count Used by State Trial Courts, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Point of counting a criminal case	Number of defendants		Contents of charging document			
			One	One or more	Single charge	Single incident (set # of charges per case)	Single incident (unlimited # of charges)	One or more incidents
<b>WYOMING:</b>								
District Court	G	Information/indictment		X				X
County Court	L	Citation/information		X				X
Justice of the Peace Court	L	Citation/information		X				X
Municipal Court	L	Citation/information	X		X			

**JURISDICTION CODES:**

- 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 administrative offices of the courts.

**FIGURE E: Juvenile Unit of Count Used in State Trial Courts, 1992**

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Filings are counted		Disposition counted		Age at which juvenile jurisdiction transfers to adult courts
		At intake or referral	At filing of petition or complaint	At adjudication of petition	At disposition of juvenile	
<b>ALABAMA:</b>						
Circuit Court	G		X	X		18
District Court	L		X	X		18
<b>ALASKA:</b>						
Superior Court	G		X	X		18
<b>ARIZONA:</b>						
Superior Court	G		X	X		18
<b>ARKANSAS:</b>						
Chancery Court	G		X		X	18
<b>CALIFORNIA:</b>						
Superior Court	G		X	X		18
<b>COLORADO:</b>						
District Court (includes Denver Juvenile Court)	G		X		X	18
<b>CONNECTICUT:</b>						
Superior Court	G	X			X	16
<b>DELAWARE:</b>						
Family Court	L		X	X		18
<b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:</b>						
Superior Court	G	X			X	18*
<b>FLORIDA:</b>						
Circuit Court	G		X	X		18
<b>GEORGIA:</b>						
Superior Court and Juvenile Court	G (special)		X		X	17*
<b>HAWAII:</b>						
Circuit Court	G (Family Court Division)	X		X		16
<b>IDAHO:</b>						
District Court	G		X	X		18
<b>ILLINOIS:</b>						
Circuit Court	G		X		X	17 (15 for first-degree murder, aggravated criminal sexual assault, armed robbery, robbery with a firearm, and unlawful use of weapons on school grounds)

(continued on next page)

FIGURE E: Juvenile Unit of Count Used in State Trial Courts, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Filings are counted		Disposition counted		Age at which juvenile jurisdiction transfers to adult courts
		At intake or referral	At filing of petition or complaint	At adjudication of petition	At disposition of juvenile	
<b>INDIANA:</b>						
Superior Court and Circuit Court	G		X	X		18
Probate Court	L		X	X		18
<b>IOWA:</b>						
District Court	G		X	Disposition data are not collected		18
<b>KANSAS:</b>						
District Court	G		X		X	18 14 (for traffic violation) 16 (for fish and game or charged with felony with two prior juvenile adjudications, which would be considered a felony)
<b>KENTUCKY:</b>						
District Court	L		X	X		18
<b>LOUISIANA:</b>						
District Court	G		X	X		17
Family Court and Juvenile Court	G		X	X		15 (for first- and second-degree murder, manslaughter, and aggravated rape)
City Court	L		X	X		16 (for armed robbery, aggravated burglary, and aggravated kidnapping)
<b>MAINE:</b>						
District Court	L		X		X	18
<b>MARYLAND:</b>						
Circuit Court	G		X		X	18
District Court	L		X		X	18
<b>MASSACHUSETTS:</b>						
Trial Court of the Commonwealth:	G					
District Court Dept.			X	X		17
Juvenile Court Dept.			X	X		17
<b>MICHIGAN:</b>						
Probate Court	L		X		X	17
<b>MINNESOTA:</b>						
District Court	G		X	X		18

(continued on next page)

FIGURE E: Juvenile Unit of Count Used in State Trial Courts, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Filings are counted		Disposition counted		Age at which juvenile jurisdiction transfers to adult courts	
		At intake or referral	At filing of petition or complaint	At adjudication of petition	At disposition of juvenile		
<b>MISSISSIPPI:</b>							
County Court	L		X	X			
Family Court	L		X	X			
<b>MISSOURI:</b>							
Circuit Court	G		X	X		17	
<b>MONTANA:</b>							
District Court	G		X		X	18	
<b>NEBRASKA:</b>							
Separate Juvenile Court	L		X		X	18	
County Court	L		X		X	18	
<b>NEVADA:</b>							
District Court	G		Varies by district		Varies by district		18*
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE:</b>							
District Court	L		X		X	18 16 (for traffic violation) 15 (for some felony charges)	
<b>NEW JERSEY:*</b>							
Superior Court	G	X		X		18 complaint	
<b>NEW MEXICO:</b>							
District Court	G		X	X		18	
<b>NEW YORK:</b>							
Family Court	L		X		X	16 (except for specified felonies, 13, 14, 15)	
<b>NORTH CAROLINA:</b>							
District Court	L		X (first filing only)	X		16	
<b>NORTH DAKOTA:</b>							
District Court	G		X		X	18	
<b>OHIO:</b>							
Court of Common Pleas	G	X (warrant)			X	18	
<b>OKLAHOMA:</b>							
District Court	G		X (case number)	X		18	
<b>OREGON:</b>							
Circuit Court	G		X	Dispositions are not counted		18	
County Court	L		X			18	

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FIGURE E: Juvenile Unit of Count Used in State Trial Courts, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Filings are counted		Disposition counted		Age at which juvenile jurisdiction transfers to adult courts
		At intake or referral	At filing of petition or complaint	At adjudication of petition	At disposition of juvenile	
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 Juvenile Court	L L	X X			X X	18 18
TEXAS: District Court County Court at Law, Constitutional County Court, Probate Court	G L		X X		X X	17 17
UTAH: Juvenile Court	L		X		X	18
VERMONT: Family Court	G		X		X	16
VIRGINIA: District Court	L		X		X	18
WASHINGTON: Superior Court	G		X	X		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.

**FOOTNOTES\***

District of Columbia-Depending on the severity of the offense a juvenile between the ages of 16-18 can be charged as an adult.

Georgia-Age 18 for deprived juveniles.

New Jersey-All signed juvenile delinquency complaints are filed with the court and are docketed upon receipt (and therefore counted). Once complaints have been docketed they are screened by Court Intake Services and decisions are made as to how complaints will be processed (e.g., diversion, court hearings, etc.)

Nevada-Unless certified at a younger age because of felony charged.

Source: State administrative offices of the courts.

**FIGURE F: State Trial Courts with Incidental Appellate Jurisdiction, 1992**

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Administrative Agency Appeals	Trial Court Appeals		Type of Appeal	Source of Trial Court Appeal
			Civil	Criminal		
ALABAMA: Circuit Court	G	X	X	X	de novo	District, Probate, Municipal Courts
ALASKA: Superior Court	G	X	O	O	de novo	
		X	X	X	on the record	District Court
ARIZONA: Superior Court	G	X	X	X	de novo (if no record)	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, and Justice of the Peace
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 not of record	Municipal Court
CONNECTICUT: Superior Court	G	X	X	O	de novo or on the record	Probate Court
DELAWARE: Superior Court	G	O	X	X	de novo	Municipal Court of Wilmington, Alderman's, Justice of Peace Courts
		X	X	X (arbitration)	on the record	Superior Court
						Court of Common Pleas
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Superior Court	G	X	O	O	on the record	Office of Employee Appeals, 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

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FIGURE F: State Trial Courts with Incidental Appellate Jurisdiction, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Administrative Agency Appeals	Trial Court Appeals		Type of Appeal	Source of Trial Court Appeal
			Civil	Criminal		
GEORGIA: Superior Court	G	X	X	O	de novo or on the record	Probate Court, Magistrate Court
		O	O	X	de novo, on the record, or certiorari	Probate Court, Municipal Court, Magistrate Court, County Recorder's Court
State Court	L	O O	X O	O X	certiorari on the record	Magistrate Court County Recorder's Court
HAWAII: Circuit Court	G	X	O	O	de novo	
IDAHO: District Court	G	X (small claims only) O	X X	X O	de novo on the record	Magistrates Division Magistrates Division
ILLINOIS: Circuit Court	G	X	O	O	on the record	
INDIANA: Superior Court and Circuit Court Municipal Court of Marion County	G L	X O	X X	X O	de novo de novo	City and Town Courts Small Claims Court of Marion County
IOWA: District Court	G	X O	O X	O X	de novo on the record	Magistrates Division
KANSAS: District Court	G	X	X	X	criminal on the record civil on the record	Criminal (from Municipal Court) Civil (from limited jurisdiction judge)
KENTUCKY: Circuit Court	G	X	X	X	on the record	District Court
LOUISIANA: District Court	G	X	X	X	on the record de novo	City and Parish Justice of the Peace, Mayor's Courts
MAINE: Superior Court	G	X	X	X	on the record	District Court, Administrative Court
MARYLAND: Circuit Court	G	X	X	X	de novo, on the record	District Court

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FIGURE F: State Trial Courts with Incidental Appellate Jurisdiction, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Administrative Agency Appeals	Trial Court Appeals		Type of Appeal	Source of Trial Court Appeal
			Civil	Criminal		
<b>MASSACHUSETTS:</b> Superior Court Department	G	X	X	O	de novo, on the record	Other departments
District Court Department and Boston Municipal Court	G	X	X	X	de novo, first instance	Other departments
<b>MICHIGAN:</b> Circuit Court	G	X	X	X	de novo  on the record	Municipal Court  District, Municipal, and Probate Courts
<b>MINNESOTA:</b> District Court	G	O	X		de novo	Conciliation Division
<b>MISSISSIPPI:</b> Circuit Court	G	X	X	X	on the record	County and Municipal Courts
Chancery Court	G	X	X	X	on the record	Commission
<b>MISSOURI:</b> Circuit Court	G	X  X	O  X	O  O	on the record  de novo	  Municipal Court, Associate Divisions
<b>MONTANA:</b> District Court	G	X  O	X  O	O  X	de novo and on the record  de novo	Justice of Peace, Municipal, City Courts, and State Boards
<b>NEBRASKA:</b> District Court	G	X  O	O  X	O  X	de novo on the record on the record	  County Court
<b>NEVADA:</b> District Court	G	X O O	X O O	X X X	on the record de novo de novo on the record	Justice Court Municipal Court Municipal Court designated court of record
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE:</b> Superior Court	G	X	O	X	de novo	District, Municipal, Probate Courts
<b>NEW JERSEY:</b> Superior Court	G	O	O	X	de novo on the record	Municipal Court
<b>NEW MEXICO:</b> District Court	G	X	X	X	de novo	Magistrate, Probate, Municipal, Bernalillo County Metropolitan Courts

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FIGURE F: State Trial Courts with Incidental Appellate Jurisdiction, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Administrative Agency Appeals	Trial Court Appeals		Type of Appeal	Source of Trial Court Appeal
			Civil	Criminal		
NEW YORK: County Court	G	O	X	X	on the record	City, Town and Village Justice Courts
NORTH CAROLINA: Superior Court	G	X X X	O O O	X O O	de novo de novo on the record on the record	District Court
NORTH DAKOTA: District Court County Court	G L	X O	O X	O X	Varies de novo	Municipal Court
OHIO: Court of Common Pleas County Court Municipal Court Court of Claims	G L L L	X O O X	O O O O	O X X O	de novo and on the record de novo de novo de novo	Mayor's Court Mayor's Court
OKLAHOMA: District Court Court of Tax Review	G L	X X	O O	X O	de novo on the record de novo on the record	Municipal Court Not of Record
OREGON: Circuit Court Tax Court	G G	X X	X O	X O	on the record on the record	County Court, Municipal Court (in counties with no District Court), Justice Court (in counties with no District Court)
PENNSYLVANIA: Court of Common Pleas	G	X O	X O	O X	on the record de novo	Philadelphia Municipal Court, District Justice, Philadelphia Traffic, Pittsburgh City Magistrates Court
PUERTO RICO: Superior Court	G	X	X	X	-	District Court
RHODE ISLAND: Superior Court District Court	G L	X O X	O X O	O X O	on the record de novo on the record	District, Municipal, Probate Courts
SOUTH CAROLINA: Circuit Court	G	X	X	X	de novo on the record	Magistrate, Probate, Municipal Courts

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FIGURE F: State Trial Courts with Incidental Appellate Jurisdiction, 1992. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Administrative Agency Appeals	Trial Court Appeals		Type of Appeal	Source of Trial Court Appeal
			Civil	Criminal		
SOUTH DAKOTA: Circuit Court	G	X	O	O	de novo and on the record	Magistrates Division
		O	X	X	de novo	
TENNESSEE: Circuit, Criminal and Chancery Courts	G	X	X	X	de novo	General Sessions, Municipal, and Juvenile Courts
TEXAS: District Court	G	X	O	O	de novo	Municipal Court not of record, Justice of the Peace Courts
					de novo on the record	
County-level Courts	L	O	X	X	de novo	Municipal Court not of record, Justice of the Peace Courts
					de novo on the record	
UTAH: District Court	G	X	X	X	de novo	Justice of the Peace
Circuit Court	L	O	X	X	de novo	Justice of the Peace Courts
VERMONT: Superior Court	G	X	X	O	de novo or on the record	Probate Court, Small Claims from District Court
District Court	G	O	X	O	de novo or on the record	Probate Court, Traffic Complaint Bureau
VIRGINIA: Circuit Court	G	X	O	O	on the record	District Court
		O	X	X	de novo	
WASHINGTON: Superior Court	G	X	X	X	de novo and de novo on the record	District, Municipal Courts
WEST VIRGINIA: Circuit Court	G	X	O	O	on the record	Municipal Court
		O	X	X	de novo	
WISCONSIN: Circuit Court	G	O	X	X	de novo	Municipal Court
				(first offense DWI/DUI only)		
WYOMING: District Court	G	X	X	X	de novo on the record	Justice of the Peace, Municipal, County Courts

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FIGURE F: State Trial Courts with Incidental Appellate Jurisdiction, 1992. (continued)

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**JURISDICTION CODES:**

- G = General jurisdiction court.
- L = Limited jurisdiction court.
- = Information not available.
- X = Yes
- O = No

**Definitions of types of appeal:**

**certiorari:** An appellate court case category in which a petition is presented to an appellate court asking the court to review the judgment of a trial court or administrative agency, or the decision of an intermediate appellate court.

**first instance:** If dissatisfied with the de novo verdict of the judge, defendant can go before the jury.

**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 and results in 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:** State administrative offices of the courts.

**FIGURE G: Number of Judges/Justices in State Courts, 1992**

State:	Court(s) of last resort	Intermediate appellate court(s)	General jurisdiction court(s)	Limited jurisdiction court(s)
ALABAMA	9	8	127	387 (includes 222 part-time judges)
ALASKA	5	3	35 (includes 5 masters)	75 (includes 58 magistrates)
ARIZONA	5	21	125	214 (includes 83 justices of the peace, 55 part-time judges)
ARKANSAS	7	6	99	324 (includes 55 justices of the peace)
CALIFORNIA	7	88	927 (includes 114 commissioners and 24 referees)	832 (includes 155 commissioners and 7 referees)
COLORADO	7	16	117 (includes 3 magistrates)	364 (includes 52 part-time judges)
CONNECTICUT	7	9	150	133
DELAWARE	5	-	20 (includes 1 chancellor and 4 vice-chancellors)	93 (includes 53 justices of the peace, 1 chief magistrate, 18 aldermen, 1 part-time judge)
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	9	-	59	-
FLORIDA	7	57	421	241
GEORGIA	7	9	159 (authorized)	1,193 (includes 87 part-time judges, 159 chief magistrates, 296 full-time and 33 part-time magistrates, and 43 associate juvenile court judges)
HAWAII	5	3	38 (includes 13 family court judges)	67 (includes 45 per diem judges)
IDAHO	5	3	111 (includes 75 lawyer and 2 nonlawyer magistrates)	-
ILLINOIS	7	51 (includes 11 supplemental judges)	820 (includes 344 associate judges and 50 permissive associate judges)	-
INDIANA	5	16 (includes 1 tax court judge)	234	128
IOWA	9	6	332 (includes 149 part-time magistrates, and 11 associate juvenile judges)	-
KANSAS	7	10	218 (includes 69 district magistrates)	252
KENTUCKY	7	14	91	125
LOUISIANA	7	54	214 (includes 7 commissioners)	707 (includes 384 justices of the peace, 250 mayors)
MAINE	7	-	16	43 (includes 16 part-time judges)
MARYLAND	7	13	123	163
MASSACHUSETTS	7	14	320	-
MICHIGAN	7	24	206	373
MINNESOTA	7	16	242 *	- *
MISSISSIPPI	9	-	79 (includes 39 chancellors)	482 (includes 165 mayors, 191 justices of the peace)
MISSOURI	7	32	309	311
MONTANA	7	-	44	126 (includes 32 justices of the peace that also serve on the city court)
NEBRASKA	7	6 *	50	69
NEVADA	5	-	38	92 (includes 64 justices of the peace)

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FIGURE G: Number of Judges/Justices in State Courts, 1992. (continued)

State:	Court(s) of last resort	Intermediate appellate court(s)	General jurisdiction court(s)	Limited jurisdiction court(s)
NEW HAMPSHIRE	5	–	40 (includes 9 full-time & 2 part-time marital masters)	101 (includes part-time judges)
NEW JERSEY	7	28	395 (includes 21 surrogates)	364 (includes 341 part-time judges)
NEW MEXICO	5	10	61	187
NEW YORK	7	63	597	2,938 (includes 78 surrogates, 2,242 justices of the peace)
NORTH CAROLINA	7	12	177 (includes 100 clerks who hear uncontested probate part-time)	818 (includes 654 magistrates of which approximately 70 are part-time)
NORTH DAKOTA	5	3 *	24	128
OHIO	7	65	355	758 (includes 500 mayors)
OKLAHOMA	14	12	211 (includes 63 special judges)	376 (includes part-time judges)
OREGON	7	10	93	195 (includes 33 justices of the peace)
PENNSYLVANIA	7	24	343	572 (includes 538 district justices and 6 magistrates)
PUERTO RICO	7	–	111	156
RHODE ISLAND	5	–	34 (includes 2 masters)	92 (includes 3 masters, 2 magistrates)
SOUTH CAROLINA	5	6	60 (includes 20 masters-in-equity)	674 (includes 282 magistrates)
SOUTH DAKOTA	5	–	192 (includes 7 part-time law magistrates, 17 law magistrates, 83 full-time clerk magistrates, 49 part-time clerk magistrates)	–
TENNESSEE	5	21	141 (includes 33 chancellors)	408
TEXAS	18	80	386	2,532 (includes 884 justices of the peace)
UTAH	5	7	35	171 (includes 135 justices of the peace)
VERMONT	5	–	35 (includes 4 magistrates)	20 (part-time)
VIRGINIA	7	10	135	194 (includes 79 FTE juvenile and domestic relations judges)
WASHINGTON	9	17	153	207
WEST VIRGINIA	5	–	60	278 (includes 156 magistrates and 122 part-time judges)
WISCONSIN	7	13	223	202
WYOMING	5	–	17	107 (includes 14 part-time justices of the peace and 73 part-time judges)
<b>Total</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>9,602</b>	<b>18,272</b>

– = 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.

Source: State administrative offices of the courts.

**FOOTNOTES\***

Minnesota—General jurisdiction and limited jurisdiction courts were consolidated in 1987.

Nebraska—The Nebraska Court of Appeals was established September 6, 1991.

North Dakota—Court of Appeals effective July 1, 1987 through January 1, 1996. A temporary court of appeals was established to exercise appellate and original jurisdiction as delegated by the supreme court.

**FIGURE H: Method of Counting Civil Cases in State Trial Courts, 1992**

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?
<b>ALABAMA:</b>					
Circuit Court	G	New filings		No	No
District Court	L	New filings		No	No
<b>ALASKA:</b>					
Superior Court	G	Reopened		No	No
District Court	L	Reopened		No	No
<b>ARIZONA:</b>					
Superior Court	G	New filings		No	No
Justice of the Peace Court	L	New filings		No	No
<b>ARKANSAS:</b>					
Circuit Court	G	Reopened		No	No
Chancery and Probate Court	G	Reopened		No	No
<b>CALIFORNIA:</b>					
Superior Court	G	Reopened	Retried cases	No	No
Municipal Court	L	Reopened	Retried cases	No	NA
Justice Court	L	Reopened	Retried cases	No	NA
<b>COLORADO:</b>					
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	NA		NA	NA
<b>CONNECTICUT:</b>					
Superior Court	G	New filings		No	No if heard separately (rarely occurs)
<b>DELAWARE:</b>					
Court of Chancery	G	Reopened		No	No
Superior Court	G	New filings reopened	If remanded Case rehearing	No	Yes/No
Justice of the Peace Court	L	New filings		No	Yes/No
Family Court	L	New filings are heard separately Reopened if rehearing of total case	If part of original proceeding	No	No
Court of Common Pleas	L	New filings reopened	If remanded rehearing	No	No
Alderman's Court	L	New filings reopened	If remanded rehearing	No	No
<b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:</b>					
Superior Court	G	Reopened		Yes/No	Yes/No
<b>FLORIDA:</b>					
County Court	L	Reopened		Yes/No	Yes/No
Circuit Court	G	Reopened		Yes/No	Yes/No

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FIGURE H: Method of Counting Civil Cases in State Trial Courts, 1992. (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?
<b>GEORGIA:</b>					
Superior Court	G	New filings		Yes	No
Civil Court	L	NC		NC	NC
State Court	L	New filings		Yes	No
Probate Court	L	New filings		NC	NC
Magistrate Court	L	New filings		Yes	No
Municipal Court	L	NC		NC	NC
<b>HAWAII:</b>					
Circuit Court	G	New filings		Yes/Yes Special proceedings	Yes/Yes Circuit Court: Special proceedings
Family Court	G	New filings			Yes/No
District Court	L	New filings		No	Yes/No (included as new case filing)
<b>IDAHO:</b>					
District Court	G	Reopened		Yes/No	No
<b>ILLINOIS:</b>					
Circuit Court	G	Reopened		No	No
<b>INDIANA:</b>					
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
City Court	L	NA	NA	NA	N/Applicable
Small Claims Court of Marion County	L	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>IOWA:</b>					
District Court	G	New filings		Contempt actions are counted as separate cases; other enforcement proceedings are not counted	No
<b>KANSAS:</b>					
District Court	G	Reopened		No	Yes/No
<b>KENTUCKY:</b>					
Circuit Court	G	Reopened		No	Yes/Yes
District Court	L	Reopened		No	Yes/Yes
<b>LOUISIANA:</b>					
District Court	G	New filings		Yes/Yes	Yes/No
Juvenile Court	G	New filings		Yes/Yes	No
Family Court	G	New filings		No	No
City & Parish Courts	L	New filings		Yes/No	No
<b>MAINE:</b>					
Superior Court	G	New filings		No	Yes/No
District Court	L	NC		No	No
Probate Court	L	NC		No	No

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FIGURE H: Method of Counting Civil Cases in State Trial Courts, 1992. (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?
<b>MARYLAND:</b>					
Circuit Court	G	Reopened, but included with new filings		No	NA
District Court	L		NA	NA	Yes/No
<b>MASSACHUSETTS:</b>					
Trial Court of the Commonwealth:					
Superior Court Dept.	G	NC		NA	Yes/No
District Court Dept.	G	NC		Yes/Yes	NA
Boston Municipal Court Dept.	G	NC		Yes/Yes	NA
Housing Court Dept.	G	NC		Yes/Yes	NA
Land Court Dept.	G	NC		N/Applicable	NA
<b>MICHIGAN:</b>					
Court of Claims	G	Reopened		No	No
Circuit Court	G	Reopened		No	No
District Court	L	New filings		NA	NA
Municipal Court	L	New filings		NA	NA
<b>MINNESOTA:</b>					
District Court	G	Identified separately	No	No	
<b>MISSISSIPPI:</b>					
Circuit Court	G	NA		NA	NA
Chancery Court	G	NA		NA	NA
County Court	L	NA		NA	NA
Family Court	L	NA		NA	NA
Justice Court	L	NA		NA	NA
<b>MISSOURI:</b>					
Circuit Court	G	New filings		Yes/No	Yes/No
<b>MONTANA:</b>					
District Court	G	New filings		Yes/Yes	Yes/No
Justice of the Peace Court	L	NA		NA	NA
Municipal Court	L	NA		NA	NA
City Court	L	NA		NA	NA
<b>NEBRASKA:</b>					
District Court	G	Reopened		No	No
County Court	L	Reopened		No	No
<b>NEVADA:</b>					
District Court	G	Reopened	May not be reopened but refers back to original case	Varies/Varies	Varies
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE:</b>					
Superior Court	G	Reopened		No	No
District Court	L	NC		No	No
Municipal Court	L	NC		No	No

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FIGURE H: Method of Counting Civil Cases in State Trial Courts, 1992. (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?
<b>NEW JERSEY:</b>					
Superior Court: Civil, Family, General Equity, and Criminal Divisions	G	Reopened		Yes/No	Yes/No (except for domestic violence)
<b>NEW MEXICO:</b>					
District Court	G	Reopened		Yes/Yes	No
Magistrate Court	L	Reopened		No	No
Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County	L	Reopened		No	No
<b>NEW YORK:</b>					
Supreme Court	G	Reopened		Yes/No	Yes/No
County Court	L	NC		No	No
Court of Claims	L	NC		No	No
Family Court	L	Reopened		Yes/No	No
District Court	L	NC		No	No
City Court	L	NC		No	No
Civil Court of the City of New York	L	NC		No	No
Town & Village Justice Court	L	NC		No	No
<b>NORTH CAROLINA:</b>					
Superior Court	G	NC		No	No
District Court	L	NC		Yes/No	No
<b>NORTH DAKOTA:</b>					
District Court	G	New filings		Yes/Yes (only counted if a hearing was held)	Yes/Yes
County Court	L	New filings		No	No
<b>OHIO:</b>					
Court of Common Pleas	G	Reopened		Yes/No (are counted separately in domestic relations cases)	Yes/No
Municipal Court	L	Reopened		Yes	Yes
County Court	L	Reopened		Yes	Yes
Court of Claims	L	NA		NA	NA
<b>OKLAHOMA:</b>					
District Court	G	Reopened		No	No
<b>OREGON:</b>					
Circuit Court	G	Reopened, not counted		Yes/No	Yes/No
Justice Court	L	NA		NA	NA
Municipal Court	L	NA		NA	NA
District Court	L	Reopened, not counted		NA	NA
<b>PENNSYLVANIA:</b>					
Court of Common Pleas	G	Reopened		No	No
District Justice Court	L	New filings		NA	NA
<b>PUERTO RICO:</b>					
Superior Court	G	New filings		Yes/No	No
District Court	L	New filings		Yes/No	No

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FIGURE H: Method of Counting Civil Cases in State Trial Courts, 1992. (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?
<b>RHODE ISLAND:</b>					
Superior Court	G	Reopened		No	Yes/No
District Court	L	Reopened		No	Yes/Yes
Family Court	L	Reopened		No	Yes/Yes
Probate Court	L	NA		NA	NA
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA:</b>					
Circuit Court	G	New filings		No	No (Permanent
Family Court	L	New filings		No	No injunctions
Magistrate Court	L	New filings		No	No are counted
Probate Court	L	New filings		No	No as a new filing)
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA:</b>					
Circuit Court	G	NC		No	Yes/No
<b>TENNESSEE:</b>					
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)
<b>TEXAS:</b>					
District Court	G	Reopened		No	No
Constitutional County Court	L	Reopened		No	No
County Court at Law	L	Reopened		No	No
Justice Court	L	New filings		No	No
<b>UTAH:</b>					
District Court	G	NC		No	Yes/Yes
Circuit Court	L	NC		No	Yes/Yes
Justice Court	L	NC		No	Yes/Yes
<b>VERMONT:</b>					
Superior Court	G	NC		No	Yes/No
District Court	G	Reopened		No	Yes/No
Family Court	G	NC		No	Yes/No
Probate Court	L	NC		No	N/Applicable
<b>VIRGINIA:</b>					
Circuit Court	G	Reopened	Reinstated cases		
District Court	L	New filings		Yes/No	No
<b>WASHINGTON:</b>					
Superior Court	G	Reopened		No	Yes/No
Municipal Court	L	New filings		NA	NA
District Court	L	New filings		No	NA
<b>WEST VIRGINIA:</b>					
Circuit Court	G	NC		No	Yes/No
Magistrate Court	L	NC		No	N/Applicable

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FIGURE H: Method of Counting Civil Cases in State Trial Courts, 1992. (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?
WISCONSIN: Circuit Court	G	New filings	Identified with R (reopened) suffix, but included in total count	No	Yes/Yes
WYOMING: District Court	G	Reopened		No	No
Justice of the Peace Court	L	Reopened		No	NA
County Court	L	Reopened		No	NA

**JURISDICTION CODES:**

G = General Jurisdiction Court

L = Limited Jurisdiction Court

NA = Information is not available

NC = Information is not collected/counted

N/Applicable = Civil case types heard by this court are not applicable to this figure.

Source: State administrative offices of the courts.

# *A*PPENDIX A

*Using State Court Caseload Statistics*

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# Using State Court Caseload Statistics

*The secret language of statistics, so appealing in a fact-minded culture, is employed to sensationalize, confuse, and oversimplify. Statistical methods and statistical terms are necessary in reporting the mass data of social and economic trends, business conditions, "opinion" polls, the census. But without writers who use the words with honesty and understanding and readers who know what they mean, the result can be ... nonsense.<sup>1</sup>*

This appendix provides an overview to the uses, ingredients, and interpretation of state court caseload statistics. This examination is offered at a time of significant improvements to the quality of court statistics in general and to the comparability of those statistics across the states in particular. To help realize the potential of caseload statistics, three main questions are considered: Why are caseload statistics useful? What are their ingredients? How can they address practical problems?

This is not a "technical" appendix. Although it is assumed that the reader has an interest in what courts are doing, there is no expectation of statistical expertise. Moreover, virtually all courts and states currently possess the basic information required to use caseload statistics. A count of the number of cases filed and disposed by month, quarter, or year is all that is needed to get started. Part of the message, however, is that with a small additional investment in effort, the potential exists to appreciably enhance a court's capacity to identify and solve emerging problems and to authoritatively present the case for the court system's achievements and resource needs.

## Why Are Caseload Statistics Useful?

Argued in the abstract, caseload statistics are important because they are analogous to the financial information business firms use to orga-

nize their operations. Because a court case is the one common unit of measurement available to all court managers, caseload statistics are the single best way to describe what courts are doing currently and to predict what they will do.

The pragmatic justification for caseload statistics is more compelling. Few would argue that the state courts are currently funded at a generous level. State budget offices routinely cast a cold eye on requests for additional judgeships, court support staff, or court facilities. Because the executive and legislative branches of government are sophisticated producers and consumers of statistics, comparable expertise is needed by the judicial branch. Skillfully deployed caseload statistics provide powerful evidence for justifying claims to needed resources.

Occasionally, information on the combined caseload of all the state courts becomes imperative. State courts as a whole are disadvantaged in debates over where to draw the jurisdictional boundaries between the federal and state court systems. Current controversies include diversity-of-citizenship in civil matters and drug cases, which the recent *Report of the Federal Courts Study Committee* proposed be transferred out of the federal courts and into the state courts.<sup>2</sup> What would be the impact of such proposals? Only comprehensive state court caseload statistics can answer this question.

<sup>1</sup> Darrell Huff, *How to Lie with Statistics*. New York: W. W. Horton, 1954, p.8.

<sup>2</sup> Judicial Council of the United States, Federal Courts Study Committee. *Report of the Federal Courts Study Committee: April 2, 1990*. Philadelphia: Federal Courts Study Committee, 1990.

In response to perceived difficulties in using caseload statistics, it must be noted that they are simply counts of court activity. They are not inherently complex or obscure. The day-to-day activities of most court systems can generate the basic information that translates into caseload statistics. No extraordinary effort is required.

Like other statistics, however, caseload statistics are susceptible to twists and turns that can mislead or distort. Those twists and turns become particularly troublesome when comparisons are made across courts in any one state or among states. Yet, valid comparisons are potentially powerful tools for managing a court system, for determining and justifying the need for additional resources, and for planning.

Frequent reference is made throughout this *Report* to a model approach for collecting and using caseload information.<sup>3</sup> The Conference of State Court Administrators and the National Center for State Courts jointly developed that approach over the last 17 years. The key to the approach is comparison: comparison among states and comparison over time. The COSCA/NCSC approach makes comparison possible, although at times it highlights some aspects that remain problematic when building a comprehensive statistical profile of the work of state appellate and trial courts nationally.

## What Are the Ingredients of Caseload Statistics?

Five types of information are required for efficient caseload statistics: (1) *counts* of pending, filed, and disposed cases; (2) the *method* by which the count is taken (i.e., the unit of count that constitutes a case and the point at which the count is taken); (3) the *composition* of the counting categories (the specific types of cases that are included); (4) *court structure and jurisdiction to decide cases*; and (5) statistical *adjustments* that enhance the comparability and usefulness of case counts.

<sup>3</sup> The current status of that approach is elaborated in the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary* (1989 edition).

**Counts** are taken of the number of cases that are pending at the start of a reporting period, the number of cases filed during the period, the number of cases disposed of during the period, and the number of cases left pending at the end of the period. Counts of caseloads are typically organized according to the major types of cases (civil, criminal, juvenile, traffic/other ordinance violations). However, there is still only limited uniformity among the states in the degree of detail or the specific case categories used despite the direction offered by the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary*.

**Methods** for taking counts vary. The greatest variation occurs in what, precisely, a court counts as a case. Some courts actually count the number of a particular kind of document, such as an indictment in a criminal case. In other courts, each defendant or perhaps even each individual charge is counted as a criminal case. There is also variation in the point in the litigation process when the count is taken. For example, some appellate courts count cases when the notice of appeal is filed, others when the trial court record is filed, and still others when both the trial court record *and* briefs are filed with the court.

**Composition** refers to the construction of caseload reporting categories that contain similar types of cases for which counts are taken of pending, filed, or disposed of cases. Once a standard is defined for the types of cases that belong in a category, it becomes possible to compare court caseloads. The standard for the *Report* series is defined in the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary*.

A count can be complete, meaning that it includes all of the types of cases in the definition; incomplete in that it omits some case types that should be included; overinclusive in that it includes some case types that should not be included; or both incomplete and overinclusive. For instance, the model approach treats an accusation of driving while intoxicated (DWI/DUI) as part of a court's criminal caseload. If a state includes such offenses with traffic cases rather than criminal cases, the criminal caseload statistics will be incomplete, and the traffic caseload statistics will be overinclusive.

**Court structure and jurisdiction to decide cases** indicate whether a count includes all of the relevant cases for a given locality or state. Two or more courts in a jurisdiction may share the authority to decide a particular type of case. Thus, in many states, both a court of general jurisdiction and a court of limited jurisdiction may hear misdemeanor cases. Similarly, complaints in torts or contracts below a set maximum dollar amount can often be filed in either court.

In some courts, jurisdiction is restricted to specific proceedings. An example is a preliminary hearing in a lower court to determine whether a defendant should be bound over for trial in the court of general jurisdiction.

Information on court structure and jurisdiction is therefore essential to the use of any state's caseload statistics. Each state has established various levels and types of courts. The lack of uniformity in court structure and jurisdiction even extends to the names given to the courts of various levels. The supreme court in most states is the court of last resort, the appellate court with final jurisdiction over all appeals within the state. In New York, however, the title supreme court denotes the main general jurisdiction trial court. A knowledge of court structure and jurisdiction is necessary before one can determine whether like is being compared to like.

**Adjustments** help make counts of cases more interpretable. Case-filings per 100,000 population provide a standard measure of caseload levels that adjusts for differences in population among the states. The number of case dispositions as a percentage of case filings in a given time period offers a clearance rate, a summary measure of whether a court or state is keeping up with its incoming caseload. The number of case filings or case dispositions per judge is a useful expression of the workload confronting a court.

Such simple adjustments transform counts of cases into comparable measures of court activity. It is also possible to make adjustments to counts of cases to estimate the impact of missing information or to make allowances for differences in methods of count used by state courts. Other calculations reveal important aspects of court

activity. For example, the percentage of petitions granted by an appellate court indicates how many cases will be heard on the merits, which require briefing and oral arguments or other steps that create substantial demands on court time and resources.

## **How Should Caseload Statistics Be Used to Solve Problems?**

Caseload statistics can form a response to certain types of problems that courts face. One set of problems relates to the volume of cases that a court must hear and to the composition of that caseload. Drug cases offer an example. Have drug filings risen more rapidly than other types of criminal cases? Are drug cases more likely to be disposed of at trial than other felonies? Do they take longer to resolve in the trial court? How common is it for drug cases to be appealed? How does the trend in drug filings in one section of the country compare with trends in other regions?

A related set of problems revolves around the adequacy of court resources. How many cases are typically handled by a judge in the state courts? As caseloads continue to rise, have judicial resources kept pace? Is the provision of judicial support staff in one state adequate when compared to the staff in another state with comparable filings or dispositions per judge?

A third set of problems relates to the pace of litigation. Are more new cases being filed annually than the court is disposing of during the year, thus increasing the size of the pending caseload? How long do cases take to be resolved in the trial court? In the appellate court? What proportion of cases is disposed of within the court's or ABA time standards?

The model approach developed by COSCA and the NCSC answers such questions. Virtually all states, as well as many individual trial courts, publish their caseload statistics in annual reports. Yet the diverse methods that states employ to collect information on caseloads restrict the usefulness of the resulting information. It may seem as if courts in one state use the mark, others the yen, and still others the dollar. This section looks at

how caseload information can be organized nationally to address problems facing state court systems and individual courts.

## Comparability

The caseload statistics from each state are collated into a coherent, comprehensive summary of all state court activity and published annually as part of the *Report* series. The report contains tables, charts, and figures that are often lengthy and crowded with symbols and explanatory matter. This does not negate the underlying simplicity or usefulness of caseload statistics as counts of court activity.

The available statistics reflect the varied responses individual trial courts and states have made to such practical problems as what constitutes a case, whether to count a reopened case as a new filing, and whether a preliminary hearing binding a defendant over to a court of general jurisdiction is a case or merely an event equivalent to a motion.

Comparability is a more substantial issue than completeness. Six main reporting categories are used in the *Report* series. Appellate caseloads are divided into mandatory and discretionary cases. Trial court caseloads are divided into criminal, civil, juvenile, and traffic/other ordinance violation cases. Abbreviated definitions of these categories are:

### APPELLATE COURT

*mandatory case:* appeals of right that the court must hear and decide on the merits

*discretionary case:* petitions requesting court review that, if granted, will result in the case being heard and decided on its merits

### TRIAL COURT

*civil case:* requests for an enforcement or protection of a right or the redress or prevention of a wrong

*criminal case:* charges of a state law violation

*juvenile petition:* cases processed through the special procedures that a state established to handle matters relating to individuals defined as juveniles

*traffic/other ordinance violation:* charges that a traffic ordinance or a city, town, or village ordinance was violated

*These categories represent the lowest common denominator: what one can reasonably expect most states to provide.*

The advent of automated information systems means that states increasingly collect more detailed information, distinguishing tort cases from other civil filings and personal injury cases from other tort filings. Similarly, some states distinguish between various types of felonies and misdemeanors within their criminal caseloads, including the separation of drug cases from others.

Another aspect of comparability is whether the caseload count from a particular court includes all the relevant cases for a given locality or state. In some states, one court may have complete jurisdiction over a particular type of case, while in others the jurisdiction is shared between two or more courts. For example, to get a complete count of discretionary filings at the appellate level, one may only have to check the count in the COLR (states without an intermediate appellate court (IAC) or states where the IAC has only mandatory jurisdiction) or it may be necessary to examine both the COLR and the IAC (states that allocate discretionary jurisdiction to both the COLR and IAC). Therefore, when making comparisons with state court caseload statistics, it is essential to have an awareness of the variation in court structure and jurisdiction.

Part IV of the *Report* contains charts that summarize in a one-page diagram the key features of each state's court organization. The format meets two objectives: (1) it is comprehensive, indicating all court systems in the state and their interrelationships; and (2) it describes the jurisdiction of the court systems using a comparable set of

terminology and symbols. The court structure charts employ the common terminology developed by the NCSC Court Statistics Project for reporting court statistics.

The charts identify all the state courts in operation during the year and describe each court system's geographic and subject matter jurisdiction. The charts also provide basic descriptive information, such as the number of authorized judicial posts and whether funding is primarily local or state. Routes of appeal are indicated by lines, with an arrow showing which court receives the appeal or petition.

## Conclusion

Caseload statistics are less complex and more practical than often imagined. By following relatively simple steps, courts, state court administrative offices, trial court administrative offices, trial court administrators, and others can more effectively use the statistics that they currently produce. A useful point of reference when considering an upgrade to the quality and quantity of information currently being collected is the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary*.

The flexibility and power of automated record systems means that the information compiled nationally to describe state court caseloads is becoming more comparable year by year. Caseload data available for the 1990s will be significantly more similar across the states than what has been

published in the past. Differences among states in the criminal and juvenile unit of count will continue to make comparisons tentative for those cases. Still, those differences do not affect comparisons of clearance rates or of trends.

What can be done to realize the potential that caseload statistics offer for planning and policymaking? There are three priorities. First, reliable statistics on the size of the active pending caseload are needed. Unless courts routinely review their records to identify inactive cases, an accurate picture of their backlogs is not possible. Second, information on the number of cases that reach key stages in the adjudication process would be an important addition. How many "trial notes of issue" are filed in civil cases? In what proportion of civil cases is no answer ever filed by the defendant? Third, revisions to court record systems should consider the feasibility of including information on the workload burden being imposed on the court through pretrial conferences, hearings, and trial settings.

Accurate and comprehensive statistics are ultimately important because they form part of the currency when public policy is debated and decided in a "fact-minded culture." Those organizations and interests that master the statistics that describe their work and output are at an advantage in the competition for scarce public resources. The *Report* series offers the state court community a resource for both examining itself and representing its case to the larger commonwealth.

# *A*PPENDIX *B*

*Methodology*

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# Methodology

## Court Statistics Project: Goals and Organization

The Court Statistics Project of the National Center for State Courts compiles and reports comparable court caseload data from the 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Project publications and technical assistance encourage greater uniformity in how individual state courts and state court administrative offices collect and publish caseload information. Progress toward these goals should result in more meaningful and useful caseload information for judges, court managers and court administrators.

The *State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Report* 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. COSCA, through its Court Statistics Committee, provides policy guidance and review. The Court Statistics Committee includes members of COSCA and representatives of state court administrative office senior staff, the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks, the National Association for Court Management, and the academic community. Preparation of the 1992 caseload report was funded by an on-going grant from the State Justice Institute (SJI-07X-C-B-007-P93-1) to the NCSC.

In addition to preparing publications, the Court Statistics Project responds to over 600 requests for information and assistance each year. These requests come from a variety of sources, including state court administrative offices, local courts, individual judges, federal and state agen-

cies, legislators, the media, academic researchers, students and NCSC staff.

## Evolution of the Court Statistics Project

During the Court Statistics Project's original data compilation efforts, the *State of the Art* and *State Court Caseload Statistics: 1975 Annual Report*, classification problems arose from the multitude of categories and terms used by the states to report their caseloads. 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 minimum, be included in state court annual reports. The *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary* provides common terminology, definitions, and usage for reporting appellate and trial court caseloads. Terms reporting data on case disposition methods are provided in the *Dictionary* and in other project publications. The classification scheme and associated definitions serve as a model framework for developing comparable and useful data. A new edition of the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary* was published in 1989, consolidating and revising the original 1980 version and the 1984 *Supplement*.

The *Court Case Management Information Systems Manual*, which was produced jointly with the State Judicial Information Systems Project, is another vehicle through which the Court Statistics Project seeks to improve the quality and usefulness of court statistics. The manual outlines the steps that build a court information system that provides the data needed both for daily court operations and for

long-term case management, resource allocation, and strategic planning.

Once a set of recommended terms was adopted, the project's focus shifted to assessing the comparability of caseload data 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 counting of cases in the trial courts and resulted in the *1984 State Trial Court Jurisdiction Guide for Statistical Reporting*. 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. Key information from the guide is updated annually as part of the preparation for a new caseload *Report*. The introduction to the 1981 *Report* details the impact of the *Trial Court Jurisdiction Guide* on the Court Statistics Project data collection and the introduction to the 1984 *Report* describes the effect of the *Appellate Court Jurisdiction Guide*.

Much of the court jurisdictional information contained in the 1987 and subsequent *Reports* is the result of research for *State Court Organization 1987*, another project publication. *State Court Organization 1987* is a reference book that describes the organization and management of the state courts.

The first caseload *Report* contained 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* in the series (1976) again presented available data for appellate courts and courts of general jurisdiction, but 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 presentation based on completeness and comparability. The 1981 *Report*, incorporating the reporting structure in the *1984 Trial Court Jurisdiction Guide*, organized the caseload data by comparable jurisdic-

tions. To make the series current with the publication of the 1984 *Report*, 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. Published data are typically official state court annual reports, which vary widely in form and detail. Although constituting the most reliable and valid data available at the state level, they arrive from statistical data filed monthly, quarterly, or annually by numerous local jurisdictions and, in most states, several trial and appellate court systems. Moreover, these caseload statistics are primarily collected to assist states in managing their own systems and are not prepared specifically for inclusion in the COSCA/NCSC caseload statistics report 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 are updated by state court administrative office staff.

Extensive 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 also 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); and special characteristics regarding subject matter jurisdiction and court structure. Appendix C lists the source of each state's 1992 caseload statistics.

## Data Collection Procedures

The following outline summarizes the major tasks involved in compiling the 1992 caseload data reported in this volume:



A. The 1992 state reports were evaluated to note changes in the categories and terminology used for data reporting, changes in the range of available data, and changes in the state's court organization or jurisdiction. This entailed a direct comparison of the 1992 material with the contents of individual states' 1991 annual reports. Project staff used a copy of each state's 1991 trial and appellate court statistical spreadsheets, trial and appellate court jurisdiction guides and the state court structure chart as worksheets for gathering the 1992 data. Use of the previous year's spreadsheets provides the data collector with a reference point to identify and replicate the logic used in the data collection and ensure consistency over time in the *Report* series. The caseload data were entered onto the 1992 spreadsheets. Caseload terminology is defined by the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary, 1989*. Prototypes of appellate and trial court statistical spreadsheets can be found in Appendix D.

B. Caseload numbers were screened for significant changes from the previous year. A record that documents and, where possible, explains such changes is maintained. This process serves as another reliability check by identifying statutory, organizational, or procedural changes that potentially had an effect on the size of the reported court caseload.

C. The data were then transferred from the handwritten copy to computer databases that are created as EXCEL spreadsheets. Mathematical formulas are embedded in each spreadsheet to compute the caseload totals. The reliability of the data collection and data entry process was verified through an independent review by another project staff member of all decisions made by the original data collector. Linked spreadsheets contain the information on the number of judges, court jurisdiction, and state population needed to generate caseload tables for the 1992 *Report*.

D. After the data were entered and checked for entry errors and internal consistency, individual spreadsheets were generated for the appellate and trial courts using EXCEL software. The spreadsheet relates the total for each model reporting category to the category or categories the state used to report its caseload numbers.

E. Trial court spreadsheets for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico were sent directly to the states' administrative offices of the courts for verification. This fairly recent step in the data collection process (which began with the 1989 *Report*) provided further assurance of data accuracy and also yielded a bonus when 10 states either added caseload data that in previous years had not been reported or provided additional information which resulted in changes to the footnotes to the data. For the 1992 *Report*, the Court Statistics Project undertook several additional efforts to improve the completeness and comparability of the trial court data.

1. Tort, contract, and real property rights data continued to be the focus of a data improvement effort. Each state that did not publish or routinely provide it was contacted concerning the availability of tort, contract, and real property rights data. New Mexico and Wyoming were able to provide a breakdown of tort, contract, and real property rights data in conformance with the Court Statistics Project prototype. Alabama was able to provide tort and contract data for the first time.
2. Tennessee Juvenile Court does not report data to the administrative office of the courts. Court Statistics Project staff contacted the Tennessee Juvenile Court directly and obtained caseload statistics for 1992.

F. Appellate court statistical spreadsheets were sent for review and verification to the appellate court clerks in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Twenty states responded to project staff's letter asking for caseload statistics at the end of their reporting period. The letters were sent in January to those states that report data on a calendar year basis and in July to those states that report data on a fiscal year basis. (Note: The Court Statistics Project reported data for the Virginia Supreme Court that were provided by the clerk's office. These data do not correspond with data reported by the Virginia Administrative Office of the Courts, due to different reporting methods. The administrative office of the courts reported all cases that were disposed in 1992, including cases

that were filed in previous years. The clerk's office of the Virginia Supreme Court reported only those cases that were filed and disposed in 1992.)

G. Finally, the caseload tables in Part III and the smaller tables supporting the text of Parts I and II were generated. The spreadsheet for each court system is directly linked to the tables, each itself created as an EXCEL spreadsheet, and once all of the 1992 data had been entered and verified, these links were automatically updated. This updating procedure allows all of the 1992 data to be placed on one large spreadsheet that is then used to generate the tables for Part III of the *Report*. Trend databases are maintained separately using SPSS PC and contain selected categories of appellate and trial court caseloads.

## Variables

Four basic types of data elements are 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.

For trial courts, emphasis is placed on reporting the total number of civil, criminal, juvenile, and traffic/other ordinance violation cases according to the model reporting format. Each of these major case types can be reduced to more specific caseload categories. For example, civil cases consist of tort, contract, real property rights, small claims, mental health, estate, domestic relations cases, trial court civil appeals, and appeals of administrative agency cases. In some instances, these case types can be further refined; for example, domestic relations cases can be divided into marriage dissolution, URESA, support/custody, adoption, domestic violence, and paternity cases.

Currently, only filing and disposition numbers are entered into the database for each case type. Data on pending cases were routinely collected by the project staff until serious comparability problems were identified when compiling the 1984 *Report*. Some courts provide data that include active cases only; others include active and inactive cases. The COSCA Court Statistics Committee recommended that the collection of pending

caseload be deferred until a study determines whether and how 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. Before the use of EXCEL spreadsheets for reporting statistical data, the main purpose of the profile was to translate the terminology used by the states when reporting statistical information into generic terms recommended by the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary*. Each court's spreadsheet captures the state's terminology, and the jurisdiction guide format has been streamlined. The jurisdictional profile currently collects information on number of courts, number of judges, methods of counting cases, availability of jury trials, dollar amount jurisdiction of the court, and time standards for case processing.

There are also statistical spreadsheets and jurisdiction guides for each state appellate court. Two major case types are used on the statistical spreadsheet: mandatory cases that the court must hear on the merits as appeals of right, and discretionary petition cases that the court decides whether to accept and then reach a decision on the merits. The statistical spreadsheet also contains the number of petitions granted where it can be determined. Mandatory and discretionary petitions are further differentiated by whether the case is a review of a final trial court judgment or some other matter, such as a request for interlocutory or postconviction relief. Where possible, the statistics are classified according to subject matter, chiefly civil, criminal, juvenile, disciplinary, or administrative agency.

The appellate court jurisdiction guide contains information about each court, including number of court locations, number of justices/judges, number of legal support personnel, point at which appeals are counted as cases, procedures used to review discretionary petitions, and use of panels.

## Graphics as a Method of Displaying Caseload Data

The 1985 and 1986 *Reports* used maps to summarize the data contained in the main

caseload tables. Subsequent *Reports* also use maps as a method for displaying information, but limit their role to summarizing court structure and jurisdiction, and describing caseload comparability.

Instead of maps, the 1992 *Report* makes extensive use of pie charts and bar graphs to summarize caseload data and trends. In the charts and graphs displaying 1992 caseload data, states are usually arrayed by filing rate, from highest to lowest, so that the midpoint and the distribution of rates can be easily determined. A state is excluded from a graph only if the state's relevant data is less than 75 percent complete. While efforts are made to note in the graph why states are not included, it is incorrect to conclude that a state omitted from the graph did not report data to the project. The only definitive statement of data availability can be found in the detailed caseload tables of Part III.

## Footnotes

Footnotes indicate the degree to which a court's statistics conform to the Court Statistics Project's reporting categories defined in the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary*. Footnoted caseload statistics are either overinclusive in that they contain case types other than those defined for the term in the *Dictionary*, or are underinclusive in that some case types defined for the term in the *Dictionary* are not included. It is possible for a caseload statistic to contain inapplicable case types while also omitting those which are applicable, making the total or subtotal simultaneously overinclusive and underinclusive.

The 1992 *Report* uses a simplified system of footnotes. An "A" footnote indicates that the caseload statistic for a statewide court system does not include some of the recommended case types; a "B" footnote indicates that the statistic includes some extraneous case types; a "C" footnote indicates that the data are both incomplete and overinclusive. The text of the footnote explains for each court system how the caseload data differ

from the reporting category recommended in the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary*. Caseload statistics that are not qualified by a footnote conform to the *Dictionary's* definition.

Case filings and dispositions are also affected by the unit and method of count used by the states, differing subject matter and dollar amount jurisdiction, and different court system structures. Most of these differences are described in the figures found in Part V of this volume and summarized in the court structure chart for each state in Part IV. The most important differences are reported in summary form in the main caseload tables.

## Variations in Reporting Periods

As indicated in Figure A (Part V), 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.

This report reflects court organization and jurisdiction in 1992. Since 1975, new courts have been created at both the appellate and trial levels, additional courts report data to the Court Statistics Project, courts may have merged and/or changed counting or reporting methods. The dollar amount limits of civil jurisdiction in many trial courts also vary. Care is therefore required when comparing 1992 data to previous years. The trend analysis used in this report offers a model for undertaking such comparisons.

## Final Note

Comments, corrections, and suggestions are a vital part of the work of the Court Statistics Project. Users of the *Report* are encouraged to write to the Director, Court Statistics Project, National Center for State Courts, 300 Newport Avenue, Williamsburg, Virginia, 23187-8798.

# **A**PPENDIX C

*Sources of 1992 State Court Caseload Statistics*

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# *Sources of 1992 State Court Caseload Statistics*

State	Courts of Last Resort	Intermediate Appellate	General Jurisdiction	Limited Jurisdiction
Alabama	Alabama Judicial System Annual Report, 1992	Alabama Judicial System Annual Report, 1992	Alabama Judicial System Annual Report, 1992	Alabama Judicial System Annual Report, 1992. Unpublished data were provided by the Municipal Court.
Alaska	Alaska Court System 1992 Annual Report	Alaska Court System 1992 Annual Report	Alaska Court System 1992 Annual Report	Alaska Court System 1992 Annual Report
Arizona	The Arizona Courts Data Book, 1992	The Arizona Courts Data Book, 1992	The Arizona Courts Data Book, 1992	The Arizona Courts Data Book, 1992
Arkansas	Annual Report of the Arkansas Judiciary FY 1991-1992	Annual Report of the Arkansas Judiciary FY 1991-1992	Annual Report of the Arkansas Judiciary FY 1991-1992	Annual Report of the Arkansas Judiciary FY 1991-1992
California	1993 Annual Report, Judicial Council of California	1993 Annual Report, Judicial Council of California. Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk.	Judicial Council of California Annual Data Reference, 1991-1992	Judicial Council of California Annual Data Reference, 1991-1992
Colorado	Colorado Judicial Department Annual Report 1992 Statistical Supplement	Colorado Judicial Department Annual Report 1992 Statistical Supplement	Colorado Judicial Department Annual Report 1992 Statistical Supplement	Colorado Judicial Department Annual Report 1992 Statistical Supplement
Connecticut	Unpublished data were provided by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator.
Delaware	1992 Annual Report of the Delaware Judiciary	-----	1992 Annual Report of the Delaware Judiciary	1992 Annual Report of the Delaware Judiciary
District of Columbia	District of Columbia Courts Annual Report, 1992	-----	District of Columbia Courts Annual Report, 1992. Unpublished data were provided by the Executive Officer.	-----
Florida	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator and the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator and the Department of Highways, Safety, and Motor Vehicles.
Georgia	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Court of Appeals.	1992 data were unavailable. 1991 data were reported.	Nineteenth Annual Report on the Work of the Georgia Courts, July 1, 1991- June 30, 1992. In courts where 1992 data were unavailable, 1991 data were reported.

State	Courts of Last Resort	Intermediate Appellate	General Jurisdiction	Limited Jurisdiction
Hawaii	The Judiciary State of Hawaii: Annual Report 1992 and Statistical Supplement 1991-1992	The Judiciary State of Hawaii: Annual Report 1992 and Statistical Supplement 1991-1992	The Judiciary State of Hawaii: Annual Report 1992 and Statistical Supplement 1991-1992	The Judiciary State of Hawaii: Annual Report 1992 and Statistical Supplement 1991-1992
Idaho	The Idaho Courts Annual Report Appendix, 1992	The Idaho Courts Annual Report Appendix, 1992	The Idaho Courts Annual Report Appendix, 1992	.....
Illinois	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of the Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of the Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of the Courts.	.....
Indiana	1992 Indiana Judicial Report	1992 Indiana Judicial Report	1992 Indiana Judicial Report	1992 Indiana Judicial Report
Iowa	1992 Annual Statistical Report. Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk.	1992 Annual Statistical Report. Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk.	1992 Annual Statistical Report	.....
Kansas	Annual Report of the Courts of Kansas: 1991-1992 FY	Annual Report of the Courts of Kansas: 1991-1992 FY	Annual Report of the Courts of Kansas: 1991-1992 FY	Annual Report of the Courts of Kansas: 1991-1992 FY
Kentucky	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Court of Appeals.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of Courts.
Louisiana	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	1992 Annual Report of the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court of Louisiana	1992 Annual Report of the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court of Louisiana. Unpublished data were provided by the Judicial Administrator.	1992 Annual Report of the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court of Louisiana. Unpublished data were provided by the Judicial Administrator.
Maine	State of Maine Judicial Branch Annual Report, FY 92	.....	State of Maine Judicial Branch Annual Report, FY 92	State of Maine Judicial Branch Annual Report, FY 92
Maryland	Annual Report of the Maryland Judiciary 1991-1992	Annual Report of the Maryland Judiciary 1991-1992	Annual Report of the Maryland Judiciary 1991-1992. Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.	Annual Report of the Maryland Judiciary 1991-1992
Massachusetts	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Appeals Court.	Massachusetts Trial Court Interim Report, 1992. Unpublished data were provided by the Administrator of Courts.	.....
Michigan	The Michigan State Courts Annual Report Statistical Supplement	The Michigan State Courts Annual Report Statistical Supplement	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.
Minnesota	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	.....
Mississippi	Supreme Court of Mississippi 1992 Annual Report	.....	Supreme Court of Mississippi 1992 Annual Report	Supreme Court of Mississippi 1992 Annual Report
Missouri	Supplement to the Missouri Judicial Report, Fiscal Year 1992	Supplement to the Missouri Judicial Report, Fiscal Year 1992	Unpublished data were provided by the State Courts Administrator.	Data were not available.
Montana	Unpublished data were provided by the Court Administrator of the Supreme Court.	.....	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Data were not available.
Nebraska	Nebraska Supreme Court 1992 Annual Report	.....	Nebraska Supreme Court 1992 Annual Report	Nebraska Supreme Court 1992 Annual Report
Nevada	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	.....	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of Courts.	Data were not available.

State	Courts of Last Resort	Intermediate Appellate	General Jurisdiction	Limited Jurisdiction
New Hampshire	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	-----	Unpublished data were provided by the Director, AOC.	Unpublished data were provided by the Director, AOC.
New Jersey	Annual Report 91-92. Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Annual Report 91-92. Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Appellate Court.	NJ Judiciary: Superior Court Caseload Reference Guide, 1988-1992. Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of Courts.
New Mexico	New Mexico State Courts, 1992 Annual Report	New Mexico State Courts, 1992 Annual Report	New Mexico State Courts, 1992 Annual Report	New Mexico State Courts, 1992 Annual Report
New York	1992 Annual Report of the Clerk of Court, Court of Appeals of the State of New York. Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk.	1992 Annual Report of the Clerk of Court, Court of Appeals of the State of New York. Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk.	Unpublished data were provided by the Chief Administrator of Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Chief Administrator of Courts.
North Carolina	Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.	Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of Courts.
North Dakota	North Dakota Courts Annual Report, 1992	North Dakota Courts Annual Report, 1992	North Dakota Courts Annual Report, 1992. Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.	North Dakota Courts Annual Report, 1992. Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.
Ohio	Ohio Courts Summary, 1992	Ohio Courts Summary, 1992	Ohio Courts Summary, 1992	Ohio Courts Summary, 1992
Oklahoma	State of Oklahoma, The Judiciary: Annual Report FY 92	State of Oklahoma, The Judiciary: Annual Report FY 92	State of Oklahoma, The Judiciary: Annual Report FY 92 and Statistical Appendix	Data were not available.
Oregon	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.
Pennsylvania	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.
Puerto Rico	Not available.	-----	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of Courts.
Rhode Island	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk.	-----	Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.	Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.
South Carolina	SC Judicial Department Annual Report, 1992	SC Judicial Department Annual Report, 1992	SC Judicial Department Annual Report, 1992. Additional unpublished data were provided.	SC Judicial Department Annual Report, 1992
South Dakota	SD Courts, The State of the Judiciary and 1992 Annual Report of SD Unified Judicial System	-----	SD Courts, The State of the Judiciary and 1992 Annual Report of SD Unified Judicial System	-----
Tennessee	Unpublished data were provided by the Executive Secretary.	Unpublished data were provided by the Executive Secretary.	Tennessee Judicial Council Annual Report and Statistical Supplement, 1991-92. Unpublished data were provided by the Clerks of Probate Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Director of the Juvenile Court Information System.
Texas	Texas Judicial System Annual Report, FY 1992	Texas Judicial System Annual Report, FY 1992	Texas Judicial System Annual Report, FY 1992	Texas Judicial System Annual Report, FY 1992

State	Courts of Last Resort	Intermediate Appellate	General Jurisdiction	Limited Jurisdiction
Utah	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Appellate Court.	Utah State Courts 1993 Annual Report. Additional unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Utah State Courts 1993 Annual Report. Additional unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.
Vermont	Judicial Statistics, State of Vermont for Year Ending June 30, 1992	-----	Judicial Statistics, State of Vermont for Year Ending June 30, 1992	Judicial Statistics, State of Vermont for Year Ending June 30, 1992
Virginia	Virginia State of the Judiciary Report 1992	Virginia State of the Judiciary Report 1992	Virginia State of the Judiciary Report 1992	Virginia State of the Judiciary Report 1992
Washington	The Report of the Courts of Washington, 1992	The Report of the Courts of Washington, 1992	The Report of the Courts of Washington, 1992	1992 Caseloads of the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction of Washington State
West Virginia	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk.	-----	Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.	Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.
Wisconsin	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Court of Appeals.	Unpublished data were provided by the Director of State Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Director of State Courts.
Wyoming	Unpublished data were provided by the Court Coordinator.	-----	Unpublished data were provided by the Court Coordinator.	Unpublished data were provided by the Court Coordinator.



# **A**PPENDIX D

*Prototypes of State Appellate Court and Trial Court  
Statistical Spreadsheets*

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# Prototype of State Appellate Court Statistical Spreadsheet

State Name, Court Name  
 Court of last resort or intermediate appellate court  
 Number of divisions/departments, number of authorized justices/judges  
 Total population

	<u>Beginning pending</u>	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Disposed</u>	<u>End pending</u>
<b>MANDATORY JURISDICTION:</b>				
Appeals of final judgments:				
Civil				
Criminal:				
Capital criminal				
Other criminal				
Total criminal				
Juvenile				
Administrative agency				
Unclassified				
Total final judgments				
Other mandatory cases:				
Disciplinary matters				
Original proceedings				
Interlocutory decisions				
Advisory opinions				
Total other mandatory				
Total mandatory cases				
	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Filed Petitions Granted</u>	<u>Disposed</u>	<u>Filed Petitions Granted Disposed</u>
<b>DISCRETIONARY JURISDICTION:</b>				
Petitions of final judgment:				
Civil				
Criminal				
Juvenile				
Administrative agency				
Unclassified				
Total final judgments				
Other discretionary petitions:				
Disciplinary matters				
Original proceedings				
Interlocutory decisions				
Advisory opinions				
Total other discretionary				
Total discretionary cases				
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>				
<b>OTHER PROCEEDINGS:</b>				
Rehearing/reconsideration requests				
Motions				
Other matters				
Number of supplemental judges/justices				
Number of independent appellate courts at this level				

	MANNER OF DISPOSITION					
	Predecision disposition (dismissed/withdrawn/settled)	Opinions		Decision without opinion (memo/order)	Transferred	Other
		Signed opinion	Per curiam opinion			
<b>MANDATORY JURISDICTION:</b>						
Appeals of final judgment						
Civil						
Criminal						
Juvenile						
Administrative agency						
Unclassified						
Other mandatory cases:						
Disciplinary matters						
Original proceedings						
Interlocutory decisions						
Total mandatory jurisdiction cases						
<b>DISCRETIONARY JURISDICTION:</b>						
Petitions of final judgments:						
Civil						
Criminal						
Juvenile						
Administrative agency						
Unclassified						
Other discretionary petitions						
Disciplinary matters						
Original proceedings						
Total discretionary cases						
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>						

TYPE OF DECISION IN MANDATORY CASES/GRANTED PETITIONS OF FINAL JUDGMENT

	Civil	Criminal	Juvenile	Administrative agency	Other mandatory cases	Total
<b>Opinions:</b>						
Affirmed						
Modified						
Reversed						
Remanded						
Mixed						
Dismissed						
Other						
<b>Total decisions:</b>						
Affirmed						
Modified						
Reversed						
Remanded						
Mixed						
Dismissed						
Other						

TYPE OF DECISION IN OTHER DISCRETIONARY PETITIONS

	Petition granted	Petition denied	Other
<b>Other discretionary petitions:</b>			
Disciplinary matters			
Original proceedings			
<b>Total discretionary jurisdiction cases</b>			

	TIME INTERVAL DATA (MONTH/DAYS)											
	Notice of appeal or ready for hearing			Ready for hearing or 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
<b>MANDATORY JURISDICTION:</b>												
Appeals of final judgment												
Civil												
Criminal												
Juvenile												
Administrative agency												
Unclassified												
Other mandatory cases												
Disciplinary matters												
Original proceedings												
Interlocutory decisions												
Total mandatory jurisdiction cases												
<b>DISCRETIONARY JURISDICTION:</b>												
Petitions of final judgments												
Civil												
Criminal												
Juvenile												
Administrative agency												
Unclassified												
Other discretionary petitions												
Disciplinary matters												
Original proceedings												
Interlocutory decisions												
Advisory opinions												
Total discretionary jurisdiction cases												
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>												

AGE OF PENDING CASELOAD (DAYS)

	Not ready for hearing									Ready for hearing			Submitted or oral argument completed
	Awaiting court reporter's transcript			Awaiting appellant's brief			Awaiting respondent's brief			Ready for hearing			Average age of pending caseload
	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	
<b>MANDATORY JURISDICTION:</b>													
Appeals of final judgment													
Civil													
Criminal													
Juvenile													
Administrative agency													
Unclassified													
Other mandatory cases													
Disciplinary matters													
Original proceedings													
Interlocutory decisions													
Total mandatory jurisdiction cases													
<b>DISCRETIONARY JURISDICTION:</b>													
Petitions of final judgments													
Civil													
Criminal													
Juvenile													
Administrative agency													
Unclassified													
Other discretionary petitions													
Disciplinary matters													
Original proceedings													
Interlocutory decisions													
Advisory opinions													
Total discretionary jurisdiction cases													
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>													

# Prototype of State Trial Court Statistical Spreadsheet

State Name, Court Name  
 Court of general jurisdiction or court of limited jurisdiction  
 Number of circuits or districts, number of judges  
 Total population

	<u>Beginning Pending</u>	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Disposed</u>	<u>End Pending</u>
<b>CIVIL:</b>				
Tort:				
Auto tort				
Product liability				
Medical malpractice				
Unclassified tort				
Miscellaneous tort				
Total Tort				
Contract				
Real property rights				
Small claims				
Domestic relations:				
Marriage dissolution				
Support/custody				
URESAs				
Adoption				
Paternity				
Domestic violence				
Miscellaneous				
Unclassified				
Total domestic relations				
Estate:				
Probate/wills/intestate				
Guardianship/conservatorship/trusteeship				
Miscellaneous estate				
Unclassified estate				
Total estate				
Mental health				
Appeal:				
Appeal of administrative agency case				
Appeal of trial court case				
Total civil appeals				
Miscellaneous civil				
Unclassified civil				
Total civil				
<b>CRIMINAL:</b>				
Felony				
Misdemeanor				
DWI/DUI				
Appeal				
Miscellaneous criminal				
Unclassified criminal				
Total Criminal				
<b>TRAFFIC/OTHER VIOLATION:</b>				
Moving traffic violation				
Ordinance violation				
Parking violation				
Miscellaneous traffic				
Unclassified traffic				
Total traffic/other violation				

Prototype of State Trial Court Statistical Spreadsheet (continued)

	<u>Beginning Pending</u>	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Disposed</u>	<u>End Pending</u>
JUVENILE:				
Criminal-type petition				
Status offense				
Child-victim petition				
Miscellaneous juvenile				
Unclassified juvenile				
Total juvenile				

GRAND TOTAL

Drug cases

OTHER PROCEEDINGS:

- Postconviction remedy
- Preliminary hearings
- Sentence review only
- Extraordinary writs
- Total other proceedings

MANNER OF CIVIL DISPOSITIONS

	<u>Uncontested/ Default</u>	<u>Dismissed</u>	<u>Withdrawn</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Transferred</u>	<u>Arbitration</u>	<u>Total</u>
CIVIL:							
Tort:							
Auto tort							
Product liability							
Medical malpractice							
Unclassified tort							
Miscellaneous tort							
Total Tort							
Contract							
Real property rights							
Small claims							
Domestic relations:							
Marriage dissolution							
Support/custody							
URESAs							
Adoption							
Paternity							
Domestic violence							
Miscellaneous							
Unclassified							
Total domestic relations							
Estate:							
Probate/wills/intestate							
Guardianship/conservatorship							
/trusteeship							
Miscellaneous estate							
Unclassified estate							
Total estate							
Mental health							
Appeal:							
Appeal of administrative agency case							
Appeal of trial court case							
Total civil appeals							
Miscellaneous civil							
Unclassified civil							
Total civil							

MANNER OF CRIMINAL DISPOSITIONS AND TYPE OF DECISION

	<u>Felony</u>	<u>Misdemeanor</u>	<u>DWI/DUI</u>	<u>Appeal</u>	<u>Miscellaneous criminal</u>	<u>Total</u>
Jury trial:						
Conviction						
Guilty plea						
Acquittal						
Dismissed						
Nonjury 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

	<u>Moving traffic violation</u>	<u>Ordinance violation</u>	<u>Parking violation</u>	<u>Miscellaneous traffic violation</u>	<u>Total</u>
Jury trial:					
Conviction					
Guilty plea					
Acquittal					
Dismissed					
Nonjury trial:					
Conviction					
Guilty plea					
Acquittal					
Dismissed					
Dismissed/nolle prosequi					
Bail forfeiture					
Parking fines					
Transferred					
Other					
Total dispositions					



MANNER OF DISPOSITION: TRIALS

	Trial				Trial		
	Jury	Nonjury	Total		Jury	Nonjury	Total
<b>CIVIL:</b>				<b>CRIMINAL:</b>			
Tort:				Felony			
Auto tort				Misdemeanor			
Product liability				DWI/DUI			
Medical malpractice				Appeal			
Unclassified tort				Miscellaneous criminal			
Miscellaneous tort				Unclassified criminal			
Total Tort				Total criminal			
Contract							
Real property rights				<b>TRAFFIC/OTHER VIOLATION:</b>			
Small claims				Moving traffic violation			
Domestic relations:				Ordinance violation			
Marriage dissolution				Parking violation			
Support/custody				Miscellaneous traffic			
URESAs				Unclassified traffic			
Adoption				Total traffic/other violation			
Paternity							
Domestic violence				<b>JUVENILE:</b>			
Miscellaneous				Criminal-type petition			
Unclassified				Status offense			
Total domestic relations				Child-victim petition			
Estate:				Miscellaneous juvenile			
Probate/wills/intestate				Unclassified juvenile			
Guardianship/conservatorship				Total juvenile			
/trusteeship							
Miscellaneous estate				<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			
Unclassified estate							
Total estate							
Mental health							
Appeal:							
Appeal of administrative agency case							
Appeal of trial court case							
Total civil appeals							
Miscellaneous civil							
Unclassified civil							
Total civil							

Prototype of State Trial Court Statistical Spreadsheet (continued)

	AGE OF PENDING CASELOAD (DAYS)							Average age of pending cases
	0-30 days	31-60 days	61-90 days	91-180 days	181-360 days	361-720 days	over 720 days	
CIVIL:								
Tort:								
Auto tort								
Product liability								
Medical malpractice								
Unclassified tort								
Miscellaneous tort								
Total Tort								
Contract								
Real property rights								
Small claims								
Domestic relations:								
Marriage dissolution								
Support/custody								
URESAs								
Adoption								
Paternity								
Domestic violence								
Miscellaneous								
Unclassified								
Total domestic relations								
Estate:								
Probate/wills/intestate								
Guardianship/conservatorship/trusteeship								
Miscellaneous estate								
Unclassified estate								
Total estate								
Mental health								
Appeal:								
Appeal of administrative agency case								
Appeal of trial court case								
Total civil appeals								
Miscellaneous civil								
Unclassified civil								
Total civil								

	AGE OF PENDING CASELOAD (DAYS)							Average age of pending cases
	<u>0-30 days</u>	<u>31-60 days</u>	<u>61-90 days</u>	<u>91-180 days</u>	<u>181-360 days</u>	<u>361-720 days</u>	<u>over 720 days</u>	
<b>CRIMINAL:</b>								
Felony								
Misdemeanor								
DWI/DUI								
Appeal								
Miscellaneous criminal								
Unclassified criminal								
Total criminal								
<b>TRAFFIC/OTHER VIOLATION:</b>								
Moving traffic violation								
Ordinance violation								
Parking violation								
Miscellaneous traffic								
Unclassified traffic								
Total traffic/other violation								
<b>JUVENILE:</b>								
Criminal-type petition								
Status offense								
Child-victim petition								
Miscellaneous juvenile								
Unclassified juvenile								
Total juvenile								
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>								
Drug cases								
<b>OTHER PROCEEDINGS:</b>								
Postconviction remedy								
Preliminary hearings								
Sentence review only								
Extraordinary writs								
Total other proceedings								

# *A*PPENDIX *E*

*State Populations*

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# State Populations

## Resident Population, 1992

State or territory	Population (in thousands)		
	1992 Juvenile	1992 Adult	1992 Total
Alabama .....	1,076	3,060	4,136
Alaska .....	185	402	587
Arizona .....	1,047	2,785	3,832
Arkansas .....	629	1,770	2,399
California .....	8,423	22,444	30,867
Colorado .....	909	2,561	3,470
Connecticut .....	771	2,510	3,470
Delaware .....	172	517	689
District of Columbia .....	117	472	589
Florida .....	2,106	10,382	13,488
Georgia .....	1,800	4,951	6,751
Hawaii .....	293	867	1,160
Idaho .....	324	743	1,067
Illinois .....	3,029	8,602	11,631
Indiana .....	1,461	4,201	5,662
Iowa .....	735	2,077	2,812
Kansas .....	678	1,845	2,523
Kentucky .....	964	2,791	3,755
Louisiana .....	1,238	3,049	4,287
Maine .....	306	929	1,235
Maryland .....	1,226	3,682	4,908
Massachusetts .....	1,384	4,614	5,998
Michigan .....	2,509	6,928	9,437
Minnesota .....	1,206	3,274	4,480
Mississippi .....	748	1,866	2,614
Missouri .....	1,350	3,843	5,193
Montana .....	226	598	824
Nebraska .....	439	1,167	1,606
Nevada .....	338	989	1,327
New Hampshire .....	280	831	1,111
New Jersey .....	1,863	5,926	7,789
New Mexico .....	469	1,112	1,581
New York .....	4,422	13,697	18,119
North Carolina .....	1,662	5,181	6,843
North Dakota .....	172	464	636
Ohio .....	2,820	8,196	11,016
Oklahoma .....	858	2,354	3,212
Oregon .....	766	2,211	2,977
Pennsylvania .....	2,844	9,165	12,009
Puerto Rico .....	1,155	2,367	3,522

(continued on next page)

State Populations (continued)

Resident Population, 1992

State or territory	Population (in thousands)		
	1992 Juvenile	1992 Adult	1992 Total
Rhode Island .....	233	772	1,005
South Carolina .....	945	2,658	3,603
South Dakota .....	204	507	711
Tennessee .....	1,246	3,778	5,024
Texas .....	5,072	12,584	17,656
Utah .....	654	1,159	1,813
Vermont .....	144	426	570
Virginia .....	1,562	4,815	6,377
Washington .....	1,355	3,781	5,136
West Virginia .....	438	1,374	1,812
Wisconsin .....	1,330	3,677	5,007
Wyoming .....	138	328	466

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1993.

## Total State Population for Trend Tables, 1986-92

State or territory	Population (in thousands)						
	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
• Alabama	4,053	4,083	4,103	4,119	4,041	4,089	4,136
Alaska	533	525	523	527	550	570	587
Arizona	3,319	3,386	3,489	3,557	3,665	3,750	3,832
Arkansas	2,372	2,388	2,394	2,407	2,351	2,372	2,399
California	26,981	27,663	28,315	29,064	29,760	30,380	30,867
Colorado	3,267	3,296	3,301	3,316	3,294	3,377	3,470
Connecticut	3,189	3,211	3,235	3,239	3,287	3,291	3,281
Delaware	633	644	660	672	666	680	689
District of Columbia	625	622	618	604	607	598	589
Florida	11,675	12,023	12,335	12,671	12,938	13,277	13,488
Georgia	6,104	6,222	6,342	6,436	6,478	6,623	6,751
Hawaii	1,063	1,083	1,099	1,112	1,108	1,135	1,160
Idaho	1,002	998	1,003	1,014	1,007	1,039	1,067
Illinois	11,551	11,582	11,612	11,658	11,431	11,543	11,631
Indiana	5,503	5,531	5,555	5,593	5,544	5,610	5,622
Iowa	2,850	2,834	2,834	2,838	2,777	2,795	2,812
Kansas	2,460	2,476	2,495	2,513	2,478	2,495	2,523
Kentucky	3,729	3,727	3,726	3,727	3,685	3,713	3,755
Louisiana	4,502	4,461	4,407	4,383	4,220	4,252	4,287
Maine	1,173	1,187	1,205	1,222	1,228	1,235	1,235
Maryland	4,463	4,535	4,624	4,694	4,781	4,860	4,908
Massachusetts	5,832	5,855	5,888	5,912	6,016	5,996	5,988
Michigan	9,144	9,200	9,239	9,274	9,295	9,368	9,437
Minnesota	4,214	4,246	4,307	4,352	4,375	4,432	4,480
Mississippi	2,625	2,625	2,620	2,621	2,573	2,592	2,614
Missouri	5,066	5,103	5,142	5,160	5,117	5,158	5,193
Montana	819	809	805	805	799	808	824
Nebraska	1,597	1,594	1,602	1,611	1,578	1,593	1,606
Nevada	964	1,007	1,054	1,109	1,202	1,284	1,327
New Hampshire	1,027	1,057	1,086	1,106	1,109	1,105	1,111
New Jersey	7,620	7,672	7,720	7,736	7,730	7,760	7,789
New Mexico	1,479	1,500	1,506	1,528	1,515	1,548	1,581
New York	17,772	17,825	17,910	17,950	17,990	18,058	18,119
North Carolina	6,334	6,413	6,490	6,570	6,629	6,737	6,843
North Dakota	679	672	667	661	639	635	636
Ohio	10,753	10,784	10,855	10,908	10,847	10,939	11,016
Oklahoma	3,305	3,272	3,241	3,223	3,146	3,175	3,212
Oregon	2,698	2,724	2,766	2,820	2,842	2,922	2,977
Pennsylvania	11,888	11,936	12,001	12,039	11,882	11,961	12,009
Puerto Rico	3,267	3,274	3,294	3,291	3,521	3,522	3,522
Rhode Island	975	986	993	996	1,003	1,004	1,005
South Carolina	3,376	3,425	3,471	3,512	3,487	3,560	3,603
South Dakota	708	709	713	716	696	703	711
Tennessee	4,803	4,855	4,896	4,939	4,877	4,953	5,024
Texas	16,685	16,789	16,840	16,991	16,987	17,349	17,656
Utah	1,665	1,680	1,688	1,707	1,723	1,770	1,813
Vermont	541	548	557	566	563	567	570
Virginia	5,787	5,904	6,016	6,097	6,187	6,286	6,377
Washington	4,463	4,538	4,648	4,760	4,867	5,018	5,136
West Virginia	1,919	1,897	1,876	1,857	1,793	1,801	1,812
Wisconsin	4,785	4,807	4,854	4,867	4,892	4,955	5,007
Wyoming	507	490	479	474	454	460	466

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1993.