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JUDICIAL BRANCH

THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

United States Supreme Court Building
One First Street NE., Washington, DC 20543
Phone, 202–479–3000

Members:

Chief Justice of the United States	WILLIAM H. REHNQUIST
Associate Justices	JOHN PAUL STEVENS, SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR, ANTONIN SCALIA, ANTHONY M. KENNEDY, DAVID H. SOUTER, CLARENCE THOMAS, RUTH BADER GINSBURG, STEPHEN G. BREYER

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Librarian	SHELLEY L. DOWLING
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Article III, section 1, of the Constitution of the United States provides that ''[t]he judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish.'' The Supreme Court of the United States was created in accordance with this provision and by authority of the Judiciary Act of September 24, 1789 (1 Stat. 73). It was organized on February 2, 1790.

The Supreme Court comprises the Chief Justice of the United States and such number of Associate Justices as may be fixed by Congress. Under that authority, and by virtue of act of June 25, 1948 (28 U.S.C. 1), the number of Associate Justices is eight. Power to nominate the Justices is vested in the President of the United States, and appointments are made with the advice and consent of the Senate. Article III, section 1, of the Constitution further provides that ''[t]he Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.'' A Justice may, if so desired, retire at the age of 70 after serving for 10 years as a Federal judge or at age 65 after 15 years of service.

The Clerk, the Reporter of Decisions, the Librarian, and the Marshal are appointed by the Court to assist in the performance of its functions. Other Court officers, including the Administrative Assistant, the Court Counsel, the Curator, the Director of Data Systems, and the Public Information Officer, are appointed by the Chief Justice to assist him with the administrative aspects of his position.

The library is open to members of the bar of the Court, attorneys for the various Federal departments and agencies, and Members of Congress. Only members of the bar of the Court may practice before the Supreme Court.

The term of the Court begins, by law, the first Monday in October of each year and continues as long as the business before the Court requires, usually until about the end of June. Six members constitute a quorum. Approximately 7,000 cases are passed upon in the course of a term. In addition, some 1,200 applications of various kinds are filed each year that can be acted upon by a single Justice.

Jurisdiction According to the Constitution (art. III, sec. 2), ''[t]he judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority;—to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls;—to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;—to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party;—to Controversies between two or more States;—between a State and Citizens of another State;—between Citizens of different States;—between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

''In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.''

Appellate jurisdiction has been conferred upon the Supreme Court by various statutes, under the authority given Congress by the Constitution. The basic statute effective at this time in conferring and controlling jurisdiction of the Supreme Court may be found in 28 U.S.C. 1251, 1253, 1254, 1257–1259, and various special statutes. Congress has no authority to change the original jurisdiction of this Court.

Rulemaking Power Congress has from time to time conferred upon the Supreme Court power to prescribe rules of procedure to be followed by the lower courts of the United States. Pursuant to these statutes there are now in force rules promulgated by the Court to govern civil and criminal cases in the district courts, bankruptcy proceedings, admiralty cases, appellate proceedings, and the trial of misdemeanors before U.S. magistrate judges.

For further information concerning the Supreme Court, contact the Public Information Office, United States Supreme Court Building, 1 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20543. Phone, 202–479–3211.

Lower Courts

Article III of the Constitution declares, in section 1, that the judicial power of the United States shall be invested in one Supreme Court and in ''such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish.'' The Supreme Court has held that these constitutional courts '' . . . share in the exercise of the judicial power defined in that section, can be invested with no other jurisdiction, and have judges who hold office during good behavior, with no power in Congress to provide otherwise.''

United States Courts of Appeals The courts of appeals are intermediate appellate courts created by act of March 3, 1891 (28 U.S.C. ch. 3), to relieve the Supreme Court of considering all appeals in cases originally decided by the Federal trial courts. They are empowered to review all final decisions and certain

interlocutory decisions (18 U.S.C. 3731, 3734; 28 U.S.C. 1291, 1292) of district courts. They also are empowered to review and enforce orders of many Federal administrative bodies. The decisions of the courts of appeals are final except as they are subject to discretionary review or appeal in the Supreme Court.

The United States is divided geographically into 12 judicial circuits, including the District of Columbia. Each circuit has a court of appeals (28 U.S.C. 41, 1294). Each of the 50 States is assigned to one of the circuits, and the Territories are assigned variously to the first, third, and ninth circuits. There is also a Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, which has nationwide jurisdiction defined by subject matter. At present each court of appeals has from 6 to 28 permanent circuit judgeships (179 in all), depending upon the amount of judicial work in the circuit. Circuit judges hold their offices during good behavior as provided by Article III, section 1, of the Constitution. The judge senior in commission who is under 70 years of age (65 at inception of term), has been in office at least 1 year, and has not previously been chief judge, serves as the chief judge of the circuit for a 7-year term. One of the justices of the Supreme Court is assigned as circuit justice for each of the 13 judicial circuits. Each court of appeals normally hears cases in panels consisting of three judges but may sit *en banc* with all judges present.

The judges of each circuit by vote determine the size of the judicial council for the circuit, which consists of the chief judge and an equal number of circuit and district judges. The council considers the state of Federal judicial business in the circuit and may ''make all necessary and appropriate orders for [its] effective and expeditious administration . . .'' (28 U.S.C. 332). The chief judge of each circuit summons annually a judicial conference of all circuit and district judges in the circuit, and sometimes members of the bar, to discuss the business of the Federal courts of the circuit (28 U.S.C. 333). The chief judge of each circuit and a district judge elected from each of the 12 geographical circuits, together with the chief judge of the Court of International Trade, serve as members of the Judicial Conference of the United States, over which the Chief Justice of the United States presides. This is the governing body for the administration of the Federal judicial system as a whole (28 U.S.C. 331).

United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit This court was established under Article III of the Constitution pursuant to the Federal Courts Improvement Act of 1982 (28 U.S.C. 1 note), as successor to the former United States Court of Customs and Patent Appeals and the United States Court of Claims. The jurisdiction of the court is nationwide (as provided by 28 U.S.C. 1295) and includes appeals from the district courts in patent cases; appeals from the district courts in contract, and certain other civil actions in which the United States is a defendant; and appeals from final decisions of the U.S. Court of International Trade, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, and the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals. The jurisdiction of the court also includes the review of administrative rulings by the Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. International Trade Commission, Secretary of Commerce, agency boards of contract appeals, and the Merit Systems Protection Board, as well as rulemaking of the Department of Veterans Affairs; review of decisions of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Ethics concerning discrimination claims of Senate employees; and review of a final order of an entity to be designated by the President concerning discrimination claims of Presidential appointees.

The court consists of 12 circuit judges. It sits in panels of three or more on each case and may also hear or rehear a case *en banc.* The court sits principally in Washington, DC, and may hold court wherever any court of appeals sits (28 U.S.C. 48).

Judicial Circuits—United States Courts of Appeals

Circuit	Judges	Official Station
	District of Columbia Circuit	
(*Clerk:* Mark J. Langer; *Circuit Executive:* Linda Ferren; Washington, DC)	*Circuit Justice*	
	Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist	
	Circuit Judges	
	Harry T. Edwards, *Chief Judge*	Washington, DC
	Patricia M. Wald	Washington, DC
	Laurence H. Silberman	Washington, DC
	James L. Buckley	Washington, DC
	Stephen F. Williams	Washington, DC
	Douglas H. Ginsburg	Washington, DC
	David Bryan Sentelle	Washington, DC
	Karen LeCraft Henderson	Washington, DC
	A. Raymond Randolph	Washington, DC
	Judith W. Rogers	Washington, DC
	David S. Tatel	Washington, DC
	(Vacancy)	
	First Circuit	
Districts of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Puerto Rico (*Clerk:* William H. Ng; *Circuit Executive:* Vincent F. Flanagan; Boston, MA)	*Circuit Justice*	
	Justice David H. Souter	
	Circuit Judges	
	Juan R. Torruella, *Chief Judge*	San Juan, PR
	Bruce M. Selya	Providence, RI
	Conrad K. Cyr	Bangor, ME
	Michael Boudin	Boston, MA
	Norman H. Stahl	Concord, NH
	Sandra L. Lynch	Boston, MA
	Second Circuit	
Districts of Vermont, Connecticut, northern New York, southern New York, eastern New York, and western New York (*Clerk:* George Lange III; *Circuit Executive:* Steven Flanders; New York, NY)	*Circuit Justice*	
	Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg	
	Circuit Judges	
	Jon O. Newman, *Chief Judge*	Hartford, CT
	Amalya Lyle Kearse	New York, NY
	Ralph K. Winter, Jr.	New Haven, CT
	Roger J. Miner	Albany, NY
	J. Daniel Mahoney	Milford, CT
	John M. Walker, Jr.	New York, NY
	Joseph M. McLaughlin	New York, NY
	Dennis G. Jacobs	New York, NY
	Pierre N. Leval	New York, NY
	Guido Calabresi	New Haven, CT
	Jose A. Cabranes	New Haven, CT
	Fred I. Parker	Burlington, VT
	(Vacancy)	
	Third Circuit	
Districts of New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, middle Pennsylvania, western Pennsylvania, Delaware, and the Virgin Islands (*Clerk:* P. Douglas Sisk; *Circuit Executive:* Toby D. Slawsky; Philadelphia, PA)	*Circuit Justice*	
	Justice David H. Souter	
	Circuit Judges	
	Dolores Korman Sloviter, *Chief Judge*	Philadelphia, PA
	Edward R. Becker	Philadelphia, PA
	Walter K. Stapleton	Wilmington, DE
	Carol Los Mansmann	Pittsburgh, PA
	Morton I. Greenberg	Trenton, NJ
	Anthony J. Scirica	Philadelphia, PA
	Robert E. Cowen	Trenton, NJ
	Richard Lowell Nygaard	Erie, PA
	Samuel A. Alito, Jr.	Newark, NJ
	Jane R. Roth	Wilmington, DE
	Timothy K. Lewis	Pittsburgh, PA
	Theodore A. McKee	Philadelphia, PA
	H. Lee Sarokin	Newark, NJ

Judicial Circuits—United States Courts of Appeals—Continued

Circuit	Judges	Official Station
	Fourth Circuit	
Districts of Maryland, northern West Virginia, southern West Virginia, eastern Virginia, western Virginia, eastern North Carolina, middle North Carolina, western North Carolina, and South Carolina (*Clerk:* Bert M. Montague; *Circuit Executive:* Samuel W. Phillips; Richmond, VA)	*Circuit Justice* Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist	
	Circuit Judges	
	James Harvie Wilkinson III, *Chief Judge*	Charlottesville, VA
	Sam J. Ervin III	Morganton, NC
	Donald S. Russell	Spartanburg, SC
	H. Emory Widener, Jr.	Abingdon,VA
	Kenneth K. Hall	Charleston, WV
	Francis D. Murnaghan, Jr.	Baltimore, MD
	William W. Wilkins, Jr.	Greenville, SC
	Paul V. Niemeyer	Baltimore, MD
	Clyde H. Hamilton	Columbia, SC
	J. Michael Luttig	Alexandria, VA
	Karen J. Williams	Orangeburg, SC
	M. Blane Michael	Charleston, WV
	Diana Gribbon Motz	Baltimore, MD
	(2 vacancies)	
	Fifth Circuit	
Districts of northern Mississippi, southern Mississippi, eastern Louisiana, middle Louisiana, western Louisiana, northern Texas, southern Texas, eastern Texas, and western Texas (*Clerk:* Charles R. Fulbruge III; *Circuit Executive:* Gregory A. Nussel; New Orleans, LA)	*Circuit Justice* Justice Antonin Scalia	
	Circuit Judges	
	Henry A. Politz, *Chief Judge*	Shreveport, LA
	Carolyn Dineen King	Houston, TX
	William L. Garwood	Austin, TX
	E. Grady Jolly	Jackson, MS
	Patrick E. Higginbotham	Dallas, TX
	W. Eugene Davis	Lafayette, LA
	Edith H. Jones	Houston, TX
	Jerry Edwin Smith	Houston, TX
	John M. Duhe, Jr.	Lafayette, LA
	Rhesa H. Barksdale	Jackson, MS
	Jacques L. Wiener, Jr.	Shreveport, LA
	Emilio M. Garza	San Antonio, TX
	Harold R. Demoss, Jr.	Houston, TX
	Fortunado P. Benavides	Austin, TX
	Carl E. Stewart	Shreveport, LA
	Robert M. Parker	Tyler, TX
	James L. Dennis	New Orleans, LA
	Sixth Circuit	
Districts of northern Ohio, southern Ohio, eastern Michigan, western Michigan, eastern Kentucky, western Kentucky, eastern Tennessee, middle Tennessee, and western Tennessee (*Clerk:* Leonard Green; *Circuit Executive:* James A. Higgins; Cincinnati, OH)	*Circuit Justice* Justice John Paul Stevens	
	Circuit Judges	
	Gilbert S. Merritt, *Chief Judge*	Nashville, TN
	Damon J. Keith	Detroit, MI
	Cornelia G. Kennedy	Detroit, MI
	Boyce F. Martin, Jr.	Louisville, KY
	H. Ted Milburn	Chattanooga, TN
	David A. Nelson	Cincinnati, OH
	James L. Ryan	Detroit, MI
	Danny J. Boggs	Louisville, KY
	Alan E. Norris	Columbus, OH
	Richard F. Suhrheinrich	Lansing, MI
	Eugene E. Siler, Jr.	London, KY
	Alice M. Batchelder	Medina, OH
	Martha Craig Daughtrey	Nashville, TN
	Karen Nelson Moore	Cleveland, OH
	Ransey Guy Cole	Columbus, OH
	(Vacancy)	
	Seventh Circuit	
Districts of northern Indiana, southern Indiana, northern Illinois, central Illinois,	*Circuit Justice* Justice John Paul Stevens	

Judicial Circuits—United States Courts of Appeals—Continued

Circuit	Judges	Official Station
southern Illinois, eastern Wisconsin, and western Wisconsin (*Clerk:* Thomas F. Strubbe; *Circuit Executive:* Collins T. Fitzpatrick; Chicago, IL)	*Circuit Judges*	
	Richard A. Posner, *Chief Judge*	Chicago, IL
	Walter J. Cummings	Chicago, IL
	John L. Coffey	Milwaukee, WI
	Joel M. Flaum	Chicago, IL
	Frank H. Easterbrook	Chicago, IL
	Kenneth F. Ripple	South Bend, IN
	Daniel A. Manion	South Bend, IN
	Michael S. Kanne	Lafayette, IN
	Ilana Diamond Rovner	Chicago, IL
	Diane P. Wood	Chicago, IL
	Terence T. Evans	Milwaukee, WI
Eighth Circuit		
Districts of Minnesota, northern Iowa, southern Iowa, eastern Missouri, western Missouri, eastern Arkansas, western Arkansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota (*Clerk:* Michael Ellis Gans; *Circuit Executive:* June L. Boadwine; St. Louis, MO, and St. Paul, MN)	*Circuit Justice*	
	Justice Clarence Thomas	
	Circuit Judges	
	Richard S. Arnold, *Chief Judge*	Little Rock, AR
	Theodore McMillian	St. Louis, MO
	George G. Fagg	Des Moines, IA
	Pasco M. Bowman II	Kansas City, MO
	Roger L. Wollman	Sioux Falls, SD
	Frank J. Magill	Fargo, ND
	Clarence Arlen Beam	Lincoln, NE
	James B. Loken	St. Paul, MN
	David R. Hansen	Cedar Rapids, IA
	Morris S. Arnold	Little Rock, AR
	Diana E. Murphy	Minneapolis, MN
Ninth Circuit		
Districts of northern California, eastern California, central California, southern California, Oregon, Nevada, Montana, eastern Washington, western Washington, Idaho, Arizona, Alaska, Hawaii, Territory of Guam, and District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands (*Clerk:* Cathy A. Catterson; *Circuit Executive:* Gregory B. Walters; San Francisco, CA)	*Circuit Justice*	
	Justice Sandra Day O'Connor	
	Circuit Judges	
	Procter Hug, Jr., *Chief Judge*	Reno, NV
	James R. Browning	San Francisco, CA
	Mary M. Schroeder	Phoenix, AZ
	Betty B. Fletcher	Seattle, WA
	Harry Pregerson	Woodland Hills, CA
	Stephan Reinhardt	Los Angeles, CA
	Robert R. Beezer	Seattle, WA
	Cynthia Holcomb Hall	Pasadena, CA
	Charles E. Wiggins	Reno, NV
	Melvin Brunetti	Reno, NV
	Alex Kozinski	Pasadena, CA
	John T. Noonan, Jr.	San Francisco, CA
	David R. Thompson	San Diego, CA
	Diarmuid F. O'Scannlain	Portland, OR
	Edward Leavy	Portland, OR
	Stephen S. Trott	Boise, ID
	Ferdinand F. Fernandez	Pasadena, CA
	Pamela A. Rymer	Pasadena, CA
	Thomas G. Nelson	Boise, ID
	Andrew J. Kleinfeld	Fairbanks, AK
	Michael D. Hawkins	Phoenix, AZ
	A. Wallace Tashima	Los Angeles, CA
	Sidney R. Thomas	Billings, MT
	(5 vacancies)	
Tenth Circuit		
Districts of Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Kansas, eastern Oklahoma, western Oklahoma, northern Oklahoma, and New Mexico (*Clerk:* Patrick J. Fisher; *Circuit Executive:* Robert L. Hoecker;	*Circuit Justice*	
	Justice Stephen G. Breyer	
	Circuit Judges	
	Stephanie K. Seymour, *Chief Judge*	Tulsa, OK
	John C. Porfilio	Denver, CO
	Stephen H. Anderson	Salt Lake City, UT
	Deanell Reece Tacha	Lawrence, KS
	Bobby R. Baldock	Roswell, NM

Judicial Circuits—United States Courts of Appeals—Continued

Circuit	Judges	Official Station
Denver, CO)	Wade Brorby	Cheyenne, WY
	David M. Ebel	Denver, CO
	Paul J. Kelly, Jr.	Santa Fe, NM
	Robert H. Henry	Oklahoma City, OK
	Mary Beck Briscoe	Topeka, KS
	Carlos F. Lucero	Denver, CO
	Michael R. Murphy	Salt Lake City, UT
Eleventh Circuit		
Districts of northern Georgia, middle Georgia, southern Georgia, northern Florida, middle Florida, southern Florida, northern Alabama, middle Alabama, southern Alabama (*Clerk:* Miguel J. Cortez, Jr.; *Circuit Executive:* Norman E. Zoller; Atlanta, GA)	*Circuit Justice*	
	Justice Anthony M. Kennedy	
	Circuit Judges	
	Gerald B. Tjoflat, *Chief Judge*	Jacksonville, FL
	Phyllis A. Kravitch	Atlanta, GA
	Joseph Woodrow Hatchett	Tallahassee, FL
	R. Lanier Anderson III	Macon, GA
	J.L. Edmondson	Atlanta, GA
	Emmett Ripley Cox	Mobile, AL
	Stanley F. Birch, Jr.	Atlanta, GA
	Joel F. Dubina	Montgomery, AL
	Susan H. Black	Jacksonville, FL
	Edward E. Carnes	Montgomery, AL
	Rosemary Barkett	Miami, FL
	(Vacancy)	

Federal Circuit—Washington, DC

Circuit Justice
Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist

Chief Judge
Glenn L. Archer, Jr.

Judges
Giles S. Rich
Pauline Newman
Haldane Robert Mayer
Paul R. Michel
S. Jay Plager
Alan D. Lourie
Raymond C. Clevenger III
Randall R. Rader
Alvin A. Schall
William C. Bryson
(Vacancy)

Clerk: Francis X. Gindhart
Administrative Services Officer: Ruth A. Butler

United States District Courts The district courts are the trial courts of general Federal jurisdiction. Each State has at least one district court, while the larger States have as many as four. Altogether there are 89 district courts in the 50 States, plus the one in the District of Columbia. In addition, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has a district court with jurisdiction corresponding to that of district courts in the various States.

At present, each district court has from 2 to 28 Federal district judgeships, depending upon the amount of judicial work within its territory. Only one judge is usually required to hear and decide a case in a district court, but in some limited cases it is required that three judges be called together to comprise the court (28 U.S.C. 2284). The judge senior in commission who is under 70 years of age (65 at inception of term), has been in office for at least 1 year, and has not previously been chief judge, serves as chief judge for a 7-year term. There are altogether 610 permanent district judgeships in the 50 States and 15 in the District of Columbia. There are 7 district judgeships in Puerto Rico. District judges hold their offices during good behavior as provided by Article III, section 1, of the Constitution. However, Congress may create temporary judgeships for a court with the provision that when a vacancy occurs in that district, such vacancy shall not be filled. Each district court has one or more United States magistrate judges and bankruptcy judges, a clerk, a United States attorney, a United States marshal, probation officers, court reporters, and their staffs. The jurisdiction of the district courts is set forth in title 28, chapter 85, of the United States Code and at 18 U.S.C. 3231.

Cases from the district courts are reviewable on appeal by the applicable court of appeals.

Territorial Courts Pursuant to its authority to govern the Territories (art. IV, sec. 3, clause 2, of the Constitution), Congress has established district courts in the territories of Guam and the Virgin Islands. The District Court of the Canal Zone was abolished on April 1, 1982, pursuant to the Panama Canal Act of 1979 (22 U.S.C. 3601 note). Congress has also established a district court in the Northern Mariana Islands, which presently is administered by the United States under a trusteeship agreement with the United Nations. These Territorial courts have jurisdiction not only over the subjects described in the judicial article of the Constitution but also over many local matters that, within the States, are decided in State courts. The district court of Puerto Rico, by contrast, is established under Article III, is classified like other ''district courts,'' and is called a ''court of the United States'' (28 U.S.C. 451). There is one judge each in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, and two in the Virgin Islands. The judges in these courts are appointed for terms of 10 years.

For further information concerning the lower courts, contact the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building, One Columbus Circle NE., Washington, DC 20544. Phone, 202–273–1120

United States Court of International Trade This court was originally established as the Board of United States General Appraisers by act of June 10, 1890, which conferred upon it jurisdiction theretofore held by the district and circuit courts in actions arising under the tariff acts (19 U.S.C. ch. 4). The act of May 28, 1926 (19 U.S.C. 405a), created the United States Customs Court to supersede the Board; by acts of August 7, 1939, and June 25, 1948 (28 U.S.C. 1582, 1583), the court was integrated into the United States court structure, organization, and procedure. The act of July 14, 1956 (28 U.S.C. 251), established the court as a court of record of the United States under Article III of the Constitution.

The Customs Courts Act of 1980 (28 U.S.C. 251) constituted the court as the United States Court of International Trade and revised provisions relating to its jurisdiction. The Court of International Trade has all the powers in law and equity of a district court.

The Court of International Trade has jurisdiction over any civil action against the United States arising from Federal laws governing import transactions. This includes classification and valuation cases, as well as authority to review certain agency determinations under the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (19 U.S.C. 2501) involving antidumping and countervailing duty matters. In addition, it has exclusive jurisdiction of civil actions to review determinations as to the eligibility of workers, firms, and communities for adjustment assistance under the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2101). Civil actions commenced by the United States to recover customs duties, to recover on a customs bond, or for certain civil penalties alleging fraud or negligence are also within the exclusive jurisdiction of the court.

The court is composed of a chief judge and eight judges, not more than five of whom may belong to any one political party. Any of its judges may be temporarily designated and assigned by the Chief Justice of the United States to sit as a court of appeals or district court judge in any circuit or district. The court has a clerk and deputy clerks, a librarian, court reporters, and other supporting personnel. Cases before the court may be tried before a jury. Under the Federal Courts Improvement Act of 1982 (28 U.S.C. 1295), appeals are taken to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and ultimately review may be sought in appropriate cases in the Supreme Court of the United States.

The principal offices are located in New York, NY, but the court is empowered to hear and determine cases arising at any port or place within the jurisdiction of the United States.

For further information, contact the Clerk, United States Court of International Trade, One Federal Plaza, New York, NY 10007. Phone, 212–264–2814.

Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation The Panel, created by act of April 29,

1968 (28 U.S.C. 1407), and consisting of seven Federal judges designated by the Chief Justice from the courts of appeals and district courts, is authorized to temporarily transfer to a single district, for coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings, civil actions pending in different districts that involve one or more common questions of fact.

For further information, contact the Clerk, Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation, Room G–255, Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building, One Columbus Circle NE., Washington, DC 20002. Phone, 202–273–2800.

Special Courts

The Supreme Court has held that ''. . . Article III [of the Constitution] does not express the full authority of Congress to create courts, and that other Articles invest Congress with powers in the exertion of which it may create inferior courts and clothe them with functions deemed essential or helpful in carrying those powers into execution.'' Such courts, known as legislative courts, have functions which ''. . . are directed to the execution of one or more of such powers and are prescribed by Congress independently of section 2 of Article III; and their judges hold office for such term as Congress prescribes, whether it be a fixed period of years or during good behavior.'' Appeals from the decisions of these courts, with the exception of the U.S. Tax Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, may be taken to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Appeals from the decisions of the Tax Court may be taken to the court of appeals in which judicial circuit the case was initially heard. Certain decisions of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces are reviewable by writ of certiorari in the Supreme Court.

United States Court of Federal Claims

The Claims Court was established on October 1, 1982, as an Article I court (28 U.S.C. 171, Article I, U.S. Constitution). The Claims Court succeeds to the original jurisdiction of the former Court of Claims, as provided for in 28 U.S.C. 1491 *et seq.* Its name was changed to the United States Court of Federal Claims by the Federal Courts Administration Act of 1992 (28 U.S.C. 1 note, 106 Stat. 4516). The Court is composed of a chief judge, designated by the President, and 15 associate judges. All judges are appointed for 15-year terms by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

The court has jurisdiction over claims seeking money judgments against the United States. A claim must be founded upon either: the United States Constitution; an act of Congress; the regulation of an executive department; an express or implied-in-fact contract with the United States; or damages, liquidated or unliquidated, in cases not sounding in tort.

If a bidder files a claim with the Court before the award of a Government contract, it has jurisdiction to grant declaratory judgments and equitable relief. Under the Contract Disputes Act (41 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), the Court may render judgments upon a claim by or against a contractor, or any dispute between a contractor and the United States Government arising under the act.

The Congress, from time to time, also grants the Court jurisdiction over specific types of claims against the United States. The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, established by 42 U.S.C. 300aa–10 (the Vaccine Act), is an example of such special jurisdiction.

The Court also reports to Congress on bills referred by either the House of Representatives or the Senate.

Judgments of the Court are final and conclusive on both the claimant and the United States. All judgments are subject to appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Collateral to any judgment, the Court may issue orders directing the restoration to office or status of any claimant or the correction of applicable records.

The Court's jurisdiction is nationwide. Trials are conducted before individual judges at locations most convenient and least expensive to citizens.

For further information, contact the Clerk, United States Court of Federal Claims, 717 Madison Place NW., Washington, DC 20005. Phone, 202–219–9657.

United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces This court was established under Article I of the Constitution of the United States pursuant to act of May 5, 1950, as amended (10 U.S.C. 867). Subject only to certiorari review by the Supreme Court of the United States in a limited number of cases, the court serves as the final appellate tribunal to review court-martial convictions of all the Armed Forces. It is exclusively an appellate criminal court, consisting of five civilian judges who are appointed for 15-year terms by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. The court is called upon to exercise jurisdiction to review the record in all cases:

—extending to death;

—certified to the court by a Judge Advocate General of an armed force or by the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, acting for the Coast Guard; or

—petitioned by accused who have received a sentence of confinement for 1 year or more, and/or a punitive discharge.

The court also exercises authority under the All Writs Act (28 U.S.C. 1651 (a)).

In addition, the judges of the court are required by law to work jointly with the senior uniformed lawyer from each armed force, the Chief Counsel of the Coast Guard, and two members of the public appointed by the Secretary of Defense, to make an annual comprehensive survey and to report annually to the Congress on the operation and progress of the military justice system under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and to recommend improvements wherever necessary.

For further information, contact the Clerk, United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, 450 E Street NW., Washington, DC 20442–0001. Phone, 202–761–1448. Fax, 202–761–4672.

United States Tax Court This is a court of record under Article I of the Constitution of the United States (26 U.S.C. 7441). Currently an independent judicial body in the legislative branch, the court was originally created as the United States Board of Tax Appeals, an independent agency in the executive branch, by the Revenue Act of 1924 (43 Stat. 336) and continued by the Revenue Act of 1926 (44 Stat. 105), the Internal Revenue Codes of 1939, 1954, and 1986. The name was changed to the Tax Court of the United States by the Revenue Act of 1942 (56 Stat. 957), and the Article I status and change in name to United States Tax Court were effected by the Tax Reform Act of 1969 (83 Stat. 730).

The court is composed of 19 judges. Its strength is augmented by senior judges who may be recalled by the chief judge to perform further judicial duties and by 14 special trial judges who are appointed by the chief judge and serve at the pleasure of the court. The chief judge is elected biennially from among the 19 judges of the court.

The Tax Court tries and adjudicates controversies involving the existence of deficiencies or overpayments in income, estate, gift, and generation-skipping transfer taxes in cases where deficiencies have been determined by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue. It also hears cases commenced by transferees and fiduciaries who have been issued notices of liability by the Commissioner.

The Tax Court has jurisdiction to redetermine excise taxes and penalties imposed on private foundations. Similar jurisdiction over excise taxes has been conferred with regard to public charities, qualified pension plans, and real estate investment trusts.

At the option of the individual taxpayer, simplified procedures may be utilized for the trials of small tax cases, provided that in a case conducted under these procedures the decision of the court would be final and not subject to review by any court. The jurisdictional maximum for such cases is $10,000 for any disputed year.

In disputes relating to public inspection of written determinations by the Internal Revenue Service, the Tax Court has jurisdiction to restrain disclosure or to obtain additional disclosure of written determinations or background file documents and, at the request of any person, to order disclosure of the identity of any person to whom the written determination pertains, if there has been a third party contact noted on the determination made public.

The Tax Court has jurisdiction to render declaratory judgments relating to the qualification of retirement plans, including pension, profit-sharing, stock bonus, annuity, and bond purchase plans; the tax-exempt status of a charitable organization, qualified charitable donee, private foundation, or private operating foundation; and the status of interest on certain governmental obligations. Additional jurisdiction was conferred on the Tax Court by the Technical and Miscellaneous Revenue Act of 1988 (102 Stat. 3342). Such jurisdiction includes injunctive authority over certain procedure assessments, authority to review certain jeopardy assessments and jeopardy levies, and authority to hear and decide appeals by taxpayers from the denial of administrative costs by the Internal Revenue Service.

All decisions, other than small tax case decisions, are subject to review by the courts of appeals and thereafter by the Supreme Court of the United States upon the granting of a writ of certiorari.

The office of the court and all of its judges are located in Washington, DC, with the exception of a field office located in Los Angeles, CA. The court conducts trial sessions at various locations within the United States as reasonably convenient to taxpayers as practicable. Each trial session is conducted by a single judge or a special trial judge. All proceedings are public and are conducted judicially in accordance with the court's Rules of Practice and the rules of evidence applicable in trials without a jury in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. A fee of $60 is prescribed for the filing of a petition. Practice before the court is limited to practitioners admitted under the court's Rules.

For further information, contact the Administrative Office, United States Tax Court, 400 Second Street NW., Washington, DC 20217. Phone, 202–606–8751.

United States Court of Veterans Appeals The United States Court of Veterans Appeals was established on November 18, 1988 (102 Stat. 4105, 38 U.S.C. 4051) pursuant to Article I of the Constitution, and given exclusive jurisdiction to review decisions of the Board of Veterans Appeals. However, the Court may not review the schedule of ratings for disabilities or actions of the Secretary in adopting or revising that schedule. Decisions of the Court of Veterans Appeals may be appealed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

The Court consists of a chief judge and at least two, but not more than six, associate judges. All judges are appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate for terms of 15 years.

The court's principal office is in the District of Columbia, but the Court can also act at any place within the United States.

For further information, contact the Clerk, United States Court of Veterans Appeals, Suite 900, 625 Indiana Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20004–2950. Phone, 202–501–5970.

Other Courts There have also been created two courts of local jurisdiction for the District of Columbia: the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and the Superior Court.

Business of the Federal Courts

The business of all the Federal courts described here, except the Court of Military Appeals, the Tax Court, the Court of Veterans Appeals, and the District of Columbia courts, is discussed in detail in the text and tables of the *Annual Report of the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts (1940–94).*