

# JUDICIAL BRANCH

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## 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  
Associate Justices

WILLIAM H. REHNQUIST  
JOHN PAUL STEVENS, SANDRA DAY  
O'CONNOR, ANTONIN SCALIA,  
ANTHONY M. KENNEDY, DAVID  
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### *Officers:*

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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. Article III, section 2 of the Constitution defines the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court is comprised of the Chief Justice of the United States and such number of Associate Justices as may be fixed by Congress, which is currently fixed at eight (28 U.S.C. 1).

The President nominates the Justices 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."

Court officers assist the Court in the performance of its functions. They

include the Administrative Assistant to the Chief Justice, the Clerk, the Reporter of Decisions, the Librarian, the Marshal, the Director of Budget and Personnel, the Court Counsel, the Curator, the Director of Data Systems, and the Public Information Officer.

**Appellate Jurisdiction** 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.

**Court Term** The term of the Court begins on the first Monday in October and lasts until the first Monday in October of the next year. Approximately 7,000 cases are filed with the Court in the course of a term, and some 1,200 applications of various kinds are filed each year that can be acted upon by a single Justice.

**Access to Facilities** The Supreme Court is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal legal holidays. Unless the Court or Chief Justice orders otherwise, the Clerk's office is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal legal holidays. The library is open to members of the bar of the Court, attorneys for the various Federal departments and agencies, and Members of Congress.

**For further information concerning the Supreme Court, contact the Public Information Office, United States Supreme Court Building, One 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; 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 review on writ of certiorari by 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



## Judicial Circuits—United States Courts of Appeals—Continued

Circuit	Judges	Official Station
	(2 vacancies)	
<b>First Circuit</b>		
Districts of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Puerto Rico ( <i>Clerk</i> : Phoebe Morse; <i>Circuit Executive</i> : Vincent F. Flanagan; Boston, MA)	<i>Circuit Justice</i> Justice David H. Souter  <i>Circuit Judges</i> Juan R. Torruella, <i>Chief Judge</i> Bruce M. Selya Michael Boudin Norman H. Stahl Sandra L. Lynch Kermit V. Lipetz	Hato Rey, PR Providence, RI Boston, MA Concord, NH Boston, MA Portland, ME
<b>Second Circuit</b>		
Districts of Vermont, Connecticut, northern New York, southern New York, eastern New York, and western New York ( <i>Clerk</i> : Roseann B. MacKechnie; <i>Circuit Executive</i> : Karen Milton; New York, NY)	<i>Circuit Justice</i> Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg  <i>Circuit Judges</i> Ralph K. Winter, Jr., <i>Chief Judge</i> Amalya Lyle Kearse John M. Walker, Jr. Dennis G. Jacobs Pierre N. Leval Guido Calabresi Jose A. Cabranes Fred I. Parker Rosemary S. Pooler Robert D. Sack Sonia Sotomayor Chester J. Straub Robert A. Katzmann	New Haven, CT New York, NY New Haven, CT New York, NY New York, NY New Haven, CT New Haven, CT Burlington, VT Syracuse, NY New York, NY New York, NY New York, NY New York, NY
<b>Third Circuit</b>		
Districts of New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, middle Pennsylvania, western Pennsylvania, Delaware, and the Virgin Islands ( <i>Clerk</i> : (vacancy); <i>Circuit Executive</i> : Toby D. Slawsky; Philadelphia, PA)	<i>Circuit Justice</i> Justice David H. Souter  <i>Circuit Judges</i> Edward R. Becker, <i>Chief Judge</i> Dolores Korman Sloviter Carol Los Mansmann Morton I. Greenberg Anthony J. Scirica Richard Lowell Nygaard Samuel A. Alito, Jr. Jane R. Roth Thomas L. Ambro Theodore A. McKee Marjorie O. Rendell (3 vacancies)	Philadelphia, PA Philadelphia, PA Pittsburgh, PA Trenton, NJ Philadelphia, PA Erie, PA Newark, NJ Wilmington, DE Philadelphia, PA Philadelphia, PA Philadelphia, PA
<b>Fourth Circuit</b>		
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 ( <i>Clerk</i> : Patricia S. Connor; <i>Circuit Executive</i> : Samuel W. Phillips; Richmond, VA)	<i>Circuit Justice</i> Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist  <i>Circuit Judges</i> James Harvie Wilkinson III, <i>Chief Judge</i> H. Emory Widener, Jr. Francis D. Murnaghan, Jr. William W. Wilkins, Jr. Paul V. Niemeyer J. Michael Luttig Karen J. Williams M. Blane Michael Diana Gribbon Motz Robert B. King William B. Traxler, Jr. (4 vacancies)	Charlottesville, VA Abingdon, VA Baltimore, MD Greenville, SC Baltimore, MD Alexandria, VA Orangeburg, SC Charleston, WV Baltimore, MD Charleston, WV Greenville, SC

Judicial Circuits—United States Courts of Appeals—Continued

Circuit	Judges	Official Station
<b>Fifth Circuit</b>		
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)	<i>Circuit Justice</i> Justice Antonin Scalia	
	<i>Circuit Judges</i> Carolyn Dineen King, <i>Chief Judge</i> E. Grady Jolly Patrick E. Higginbotham W. Eugene Davis Edith H. Jones Jerry Edwin Smith Rhesa H. Barksdale Jacques L. Wiener, Jr. Emilio M. Garza Harold R. Demoss, Jr. Fortunado P. Benavides Carl E. Stewart Robert M. Parker James L. Dennis (3 vacancies)	Houston, TX Jackson, MS Dallas, TX Lafayette, LA Houston, TX Houston, TX Jackson, MS New Orleans, LA San Antonio, TX Houston, TX Austin, TX Shreveport, LA Tyler, TX New Orleans, LA
<b>Sixth Circuit</b>		
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)	<i>Circuit Justice</i> Justice John Paul Stevens	
	<i>Circuit Judges</i> Boyce F. Martin, Jr., <i>Chief Judge</i> Gilbert S. Merritt Danny J. Boggs Alan E. Norris Richard F. Suhrheinrich Eugene E. Siler, Jr. Alice M. Batchelder Martha Craig Daughtrey Karen Nelson Moore Ransey Guy Cole, Jr. Eric L. Clay Ronald Lee Gilman (4 vacancies)	Louisville, KY Nashville, TN Louisville, KY Columbus, OH Lansing, MI London, KY Medina, OH Nashville, TN Cleveland, OH Columbus, OH Detroit, MI Memphis, TN
<b>Seventh Circuit</b>		
Districts of northern Indiana, southern Indiana, northern Illinois, central Illinois, southern Illinois, eastern Wisconsin, and western Wisconsin (Clerk: Gino J. Agnello; Circuit Executive: Collins T. Fitzpatrick; Chicago, IL)	<i>Circuit Justice</i> Justice John Paul Stevens	
	<i>Circuit Judges</i> Richard A. Posner, <i>Chief Judge</i> John L. Coffey Joel M. Flaum Frank H. Easterbrook Kenneth F. Ripple Daniel A. Manion Michael S. Kanne Ilana Diamond Rovner Diane P. Wood Terence T. Evans (Vacancy)	Chicago, IL Milwaukee, WI Chicago, IL Chicago, IL South Bend, IN South Bend, IN Lafayette, IN Chicago, IL Chicago, IL Milwaukee, WI
<b>Eighth Circuit</b>		
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: Millie B. Adams; St. Louis, MO)	<i>Circuit Justice</i> Justice Clarence Thomas	
	<i>Circuit Judges</i> Roger L. Wollman, <i>Chief Judge</i> Richard S. Arnold Theodore McMillian Pasco M. Bowman II Clarence Arlen Beam James B. Loken David R. Hansen	Sioux Falls, SD Little Rock, AR St. Louis, MO Kansas City, MO Lincoln, NE Minneapolis, MN Cedar Rapids, IA

## Judicial Circuits—United States Courts of Appeals—Continued

Circuit	Judges	Official Station
	Morris S. Arnold Diana E. Murphy (2 vacancies)	Little Rock, AR Minneapolis, MN
<b>Ninth Circuit</b>		
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)	<i>Circuit Justice</i> Justice Sandra Day O'Connor  <i>Circuit Judges</i> Procter Hug, Jr., <i>Chief Judge</i> James R. Browning Mary M. Schroeder Harry Pregerson Stephan Reinhardt Alex Kozinski Diarmuid F. O'Scannlain Stephen S. Trott Ferdinand F. Fernandez Pamela A. Rymel Thomas G. Nelson Andrew J. Kleinfeld Michael D. Hawkins A. Wallace Tashima Sidney R. Thomas Barry G. Silverman William A. Fletcher Susan P. Graber M. Margaret McKeown Ronald M. Gould Kim M. Wardlaw Raymond C. Fisher Richard A. Paez Marsha L. Berzon Richard C. Tallman (3 vacancies)	Reno, NV San Francisco, CA Phoenix, AZ Woodland Hills, CA Los Angeles, CA Pasadena, CA Portland, OR Boise, ID Pasadena, CA Pasadena, CA Boise, ID Fairbanks, AK Phoenix, AZ Pasadena, CA Billings, MT Phoenix, AZ San Francisco, CA Portland, OR Seattle, WA Seattle, WA Pasadena, CA Pasadena, CA Los Angeles, CA San Francisco, CA Seattle, WA
<b>Tenth Circuit</b>		
Districts of Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Kansas, eastern Oklahoma, western Oklahoma, northern Oklahoma, and New Mexico (Clerk: Patrick J. Fisher; Circuit Executive: Robert L. Hoecker; Denver, CO)	<i>Circuit Justice</i> Justice Stephen G. Breyer  <i>Circuit Judges</i> Stephanie K. Seymour, <i>Chief Judge</i> Deanell Reece Tacha Bobby R. Baldock Wade Brorby David M. Ebel Paul J. Kelly, Jr. Robert H. Henry Mary Beck Briscoe Carlos F. Lucero Michael R. Murphy (2 vacancies)	Tulsa, OK Lawrence, KS Roswell, NM Cheyenne, WY Denver, CO Santa Fe, NM Oklahoma City, OK Lawrence, KS Denver, CO Salt Lake City, UT
<b>Eleventh Circuit</b>		
Districts of northern Georgia, middle Georgia, southern Georgia, northern Florida, middle Florida, southern Florida, northern Alabama, middle Alabama, southern Alabama (Clerk: Thomas Kahn; Circuit Executive: Norman E. Zoller; Atlanta, GA)	<i>Circuit Justice</i> Justice Anthony M. Kennedy  <i>Circuit Judges</i> R. Lanier Anderson III, <i>Chief Judge</i> Gerald B. Tjoflat J.L. Edmondson Emmett Ripley Cox Stanley F. Birch, Jr. Joel F. Dubina Susan H. Black Edward E. Carnes Rosemary Barkett Frank Mays Hull Stanley Marcus Charles R. Wilson	Macon, GA Jacksonville, FL Atlanta, GA Mobile, AL Atlanta, GA Montgomery, AL Jacksonville, FL Montgomery, AL Miami, FL Atlanta, GA Miami, FL Tampa, FL

**Federal Circuit—Washington, DC**

*Circuit Justice*  
 Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist

*Chief Judge*  
 Haldane Robert Mayer

*Judges*  
 Pauline Newman  
 Paul R. Michel  
 S. Jay Plager  
 Alan D. Lourie  
 Raymond C. Clevenger III  
 Randall R. Rader  
 Alvin A. Schall  
 William C. Bryson  
 Arthur J. Gajarsa  
 Richard Linn  
 Timothy B. Dyk

*Clerk:* Jan Horbaly  
*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 619 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, 202-273-0107.**

**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 Court Act of 1980 (28 U.S.C. 251) constituted the court as the United States Court of International Trade.

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, 202-502-2800.**

## **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 trial 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 16 judges, one of whom is designated by the President as chief judge. 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 either before or after 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 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 matters over which the Court has jurisdiction are set forth in the various sections of title 26 of the U.S. Code.

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 \$50,000 for any disputed year.

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 Appeals for Veterans Claims** The United States Court of Veterans Appeals was established on November 18, 1988 (102 Stat. 4105, 38 U.S.C. 7251) pursuant to Article I of the Constitution, and given exclusive jurisdiction to review decisions of the Board of Veterans Appeals. The court was renamed the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims by the Veterans Programs Enhancement Act of 1998 (38 U.S.C. 7251 note). 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 Appeals for Veterans Claims may be appealed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

The court consists of seven judges appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for 15-year terms. One of the judges serves as chief judge.

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 Appeals for Veterans Claims, Suite 900, 625 Indiana Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20004-2950. Phone, 202-501-5970. Internet, [www.vetapp.uscourts.gov](http://www.vetapp.uscourts.gov).**

**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

Appeals for the Armed Forces, the Tax Court, the Court Appeals for Veterans Claims, 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 (1940-99)*.

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS**

*One Columbus Circle NE., Washington, DC 20544  
Phone, 202-502-2600*

Director	LEONIDAS RALPH MECHAM (VACANCY)
Deputy Director	CLARENCE A. (PETE) LEE, JR.
Associate Director, Management and Operations	
Audit Officer	DAVID L. GELLMAN
Management Coordination and Planning Officer	CATHY A. MCCARTHY
Program Assessment Officer	DUANE REX LEE
Associate Director and General Counsel	WILLIAM R. BURCHILL, JR.
Deputy General Counsel	ROBERT K. LOESCHE
Assistant Director, Office of Judicial Conference Executive Secretariat	KAREN K. SIEGEL
Deputy Assistant Director	WENDY JENNIS
Assistant Director, Office of Legislative Affairs	MICHAEL W. BLOMMER
Deputy Assistant Director	ARTHUR E. WHITE
Assistant Director, Office of Public Affairs	CHARLES D. CONNOR
Deputy Assistant Director	DAVID A. SELLERS
Assistant Director, Office of Court Programs	NOEL J. AUGUSTYN
Deputy Assistant Director for Court Administration	GLEN K. PALMAN
Chief, Appellate Court and Circuit Administration Division	JOHN P. HEHMAN
Chief, Bankruptcy Court Administration Division	GLEN K. PALMAN
Chief, Court Administration Policy Staff	ABEL J. MATTOS
Chief, Defender Services Division	THEODORE J. LIDZ
Chief, District Court Administration Division	ROBERT LOWNEY
Chief, Federal Corrections and Supervision Division	JOHN M. HUGHES
Assistant Director, Office of Facilities and Security	ROSS EISENMAN
Deputy Assistant Director	WILLIAM J. LEHMAN
Chief, Court Security Office	DENNIS P. CHAPAS
Chief, Policy and Resource Management Staff	SARA K. WALTERS
Chief, Space and Facilities Division	RODGERS A. STEWART
Assistant Director, Office of Finance and Budget	GEORGE H. SCHAFER