

The United States Federal Court System

1789-Present

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U.S. Courts,
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- The National Center for State Courts promotes the rule of law and improves the administration of justice in state courts and courts around the world.

National Center for State Courts

- John Adams- Drafter of Article III of the Massachusetts Constitution of 1780
- Montesquieu, Polybius, Cicero, John Locke
- Alexander Hamilton
- “It equally proves, that though individual oppression may now and then proceed from the courts of justice, the general liberty of the people can never be endangered from that quarter; I mean so long as the judiciary remains truly distinct from both the legislature and the Executive. For I agree, that "there is no liberty, if the power of judging be not separated from the legislative and executive powers.”
- William Howard Taft

The Foundations

- SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the supreme court of the United States shall consist of a chief justice and five associate justices, any four of whom shall be a quorum, and shall hold annually at the seat of government two sessions, the one commencing the first Monday of February, and the other the first Monday of August.
- —Judiciary Act of 1789

Judiciary Act of 1789

Structure of the Federal Judiciary

One Supreme Court

13 Courts of Appeal

94 District Courts

90 Bankruptcy Courts

Multi-District Litigation Panel

Court of Claims and International
Trade

Judicial Conference of the United States

- The statute says the Judicial Conference will:
- Comprehensively survey business conditions in the courts of the United States;
- Plan assignments of judges to or from courts of appeals or district courts, where necessary;
- Submit suggestions to the various courts that promote uniform management procedures and the expeditious conduct of court business;
- Exercise authority provided in chapter 16 of title 28 United States Codes for the review of circuit council conduct and disability orders filed under that chapter; and
- Continuously study the operation and effect of the general rules of practice and procedure in the federal courts, as prescribed by the Supreme Court pursuant to law.
- The Judicial Conference also supervises the Director of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts in his role as the administrative officer of the courts of the United States under 28 U.S.C. § 604. In addition, certain statutes authorize the Judicial Conference to act in a variety of specific areas dealing with the administration of the courts.



- Committee on Administration of the Bankruptcy System, 1968-present
- Committee on Audits and Administrative Office Accountability, 2009-present
- Committee on the Budget, 1959-Present
- Committee on Codes of Conduct, 1987-Present
- Committee on Court Administration and Case Management, 1990-Present
- Committee on Criminal Law, 1992-present
- Committee on Defender Services, 1987-present
- Committee on Federal-State Jurisdiction, 1987-present
- Executive Committee
- Committee on Financial Disclosure, 1992-present
- Committee on Financial Disclosure
- Among others

Judicial Conference Committees

- Budget, Procurement and Human Resource Decentralization
- Work Measurement Formulas
- IT Support
- 1100 Employees for 26.000 total employees. Philippines, 400 central office employees for 32,000 employees.
- Supports Judicial Conference Committees

Administrative Office of U.S. Courts

- For the most part, federal courts only hear:
- Cases in which the United States is a party;
- Cases involving violations of the U.S. Constitution or federal laws (under federal-question jurisdiction);
- Cases between citizens of different states if the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000 (under diversity jurisdiction); and
- Bankruptcy, copyright, patent, and maritime law cases.
- In some cases, both federal and state courts have jurisdiction. This allows parties to choose whether to go to state court or to federal court.

Jurisdiction Of Federal Courts

The Establishment of the U.S. Professional Court Manager

In August 1969, soon after he became chief justice of the United States, Warren E. Burger observed, "The courts of this country need management, which busy and overworked judges, with drastically increased caseloads, cannot give. We need a corps of trained administrators or managers to manage and direct the machinery so that judges can concentrate on their primary duty of judging. Such managers do not now exist, except for a handful who are almost entirely confined to state court systems. We must literally create a corps of court administrators or managers and do it at once."

- Technical Complexity
- Workload
- Public Expectations

**Modern Title: Productivity
Engineer.**
