



CALIFORNIA'S STATE COURTS

The California Court system serves 38 million people annually. The system is divided into 4 sections: the policy branches; superior courts, courts of appeal, and the supreme court.

III FOUNDATION FOR
DEMOCRACY & JUSTICE

SUPERIOR COURTS

- 58 courts, 1 in each county, with anywhere from 1 to 46 locations and 2019 authorized judgeships
- Superior Courts have trial jurisdiction over all felony cases, all general civil cases, juvenile and family cases, and other case types
- If a plaintiff loses their case in superior court, they can appeal their case to the Court of Appeal

COURTS OF APPEAL

- 6 Districts, 19 divisions, 9 court locations, and 105 Justices
- Reviews the majority of appealable orders or judgments from superior courts
- Plaintiffs may appeal to the Supreme Court if they lose

SUPREME COURT

- 1 Court, but hears oral arguments in San Francisco, Sacramento, and Los Angeles with 6 Associate Justices and 1 Chief Justice
- Discretionary authority to review decisions of the Courts of appeal and responsibility for automatic appeals after death penalty judgements
- 7,813 filings last year, 94 dispositions by written opinion

POLICY BRANCHES

- Independent branches that oversee and support California's courts, such as: Commission on Judicial Performance (Protects the integrity of the courts) and State Bar of California (Protects integrity of attorneys)

