

CALIFORNIA JUDICIAL BRANCH

COURTS

SUPREME COURT

- Has 7 justices
- Has courtrooms available in San Francisco, Sacramento, and Los Angeles
- Has discretionary authority to review decisions of the Courts of Appeal and direct responsibility for automatic appeals after death penalty judgments

COURTS OF APPEAL

- Have 106 justices
- Comprise 6 districts, 11 divisions, and 9 court locations
- Review the majority of appealable orders or judgments from the superior courts

SUPERIOR COURTS

- Have 1,778 authorized judgeships
- Comprise 58 courts, 1 in each county, with 1 to 40 locations per court
- Have trial jurisdiction over all felony cases, general civil cases, juvenile and family law cases, and other case types

OVERVIEW

- Largest court system in the nation, serving more than 39 million people—approximately 12 percent of the U.S. population
- Approximately 450 court locations
- Approximately 18,000 court employees
- An estimated 4 million Californians representing themselves
- Approximately 1.5 percent of the state General Fund allocated for the judicial branch in fiscal year 2022–23

BRANCH POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

- Is the constitutionally created policymaking body of the California courts
- Guides fiscal policy and adopts court rules and procedures
- Carries out much of its mission and work through the hundreds of volunteers on its internal committees, advisory committees, and task forces
- Is assisted by its staff to implement its policy and serve the courts, justice partners, and the public through a variety of programs and services

CALIFORNIA JUDICIAL BRANCH— BY THE NUMBERS

- Cases: Court filings per year in the superior courts ≈ 4,500,000; Courts of Appeal ≈ 16,000; and Supreme Court ≈ 6,500
- Jury service: Approximately 9 million Californians are summoned for jury service each year
- Self-represented litigants: Self-help centers in every county, serving millions of people statewide each year
- Language access: Court interpreters certified in 16 languages

THREE COEQUAL BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

