

California State Courts

Over 2000 judicial officers

Approximately 21,000 court employees

Court Structure

- Trial courts
 - Superior Courts
 - 58 total
 - One per county
 - They handle all criminal and civil cases
- Appellate courts
 - California Court of Appeals
 - 6 appellate districts
 - 105 judges total
 - They do not conduct trials
 - They deal with appeals
 - San Jose is home to the 6th Appellate District
 - It covers Monterey, San Benito, Santa — , and Santa Clara Counties
- California Supreme Court
 - 7 justices
 - 12 year terms
 - 1 chief justice
 - Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero
 - 6 associate justices

Process for higher courts in California

- Recommendations to the Governor by the Commission on Judicial Nominee Evaluation
- Governor appoints
- Commission on judicial appointments confirms or not
- 12-year terms with retention elections
- Nonpartisan elections

Judges, like any California government official, are subject to recall