

The Structure of Georgia's Court System

Court	How Judges are Selected	Number of Courts	Jurisdiction	Responsibilities
State	Elected to 4 year terms (countywide, non-partisan elections)	70	Limited (One County)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Misdemeanors -Preliminary Criminal Case Hearings -Civil Cases -Can also issue search warrants
Juvenile	Appointed by superior court judges to 4 year term	159	Limited (One County)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Delinquent & Unruly offences by children under 17 -Deprived & neglected children under 18 -Minors seeking permission to marry or join military
Probate	Elected to 4 year terms (countrywide, non-partisan elections)	159	Limited (One County)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wills & estates -Marriage licenses -Firearms licenses -Appointing legal guardians -Traffic violations (for counties with no state courts) -Misdemeanors (for counties with no state courts) -Violations of game and fish laws
Magistrate	Either elected or appointed (depending on county)	159	Limited (One County)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Issue warrants -Minor criminal cases -Civil cases (\$15,000 or less) -Civil disputes -Search and arrest warrants
Superior	Elected to 4 year terms (circuit-wide, non-partisan elections)	49 (circuits)	Original	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Civil trials -Criminal Trials -Felony Trials -Divorce cases -Land titles
Court of Appeals	12 judges assigned to 4 panels. Elected to 6 year terms (statewide, non-partisan elections)	4 (divisions)	Appellate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reviews civil and criminal cases previously heard by trial courts
Supreme	6 Justices & 1 Chief Justice. Elected to 6 year terms (statewide, non-partisan elections)	1	Appellate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reviews decisions made in civil or criminal cases by trial or Court of Appeals -Determine if laws are constitutional -Challenges to elections -Death Sentences