

Federal & State Courts Systems



Federal Courts System

- Examples of jurisdictional matters:
- the constitutionality of a law
 - the laws and treaties of the U.S.
 - ambassadors and public ministers
 - disputes between two or more states
 - admiralty law
 - bankruptcy cases

Kansas State Courts System

- Examples of jurisdictional authority:
- divorce and child custody matters
 - probate and inheritance issues
 - real estate questions
 - juvenile matters
 - most criminal cases
 - most contract disputes
 - most traffic violations
 - most personal injury cases

United States Supreme Court
(1 court – 9 justices)

U.S. Courts of Appeals
(13 courts – 179 judges)

Kansas Supreme Court
(1 court – 7 justices)
selected by the governor from a list of three qualified individuals submitted by the Nomination Commission following one year in office, a retention election for a six-year term is held with no term limits

- Original jurisdiction over quo warranto (challenges to warrants), mandamus (orders to public authorities, and habeas corpus (challenge to imprisonment) actions
- Appeals from district courts in capital cases and cases where statute is declared unconstitutional
- Appeals from Court of Appeals when constitutional question arises for the first time as a result of its decision
- Discretionary review of cases decided by Court of Appeals
- Cases transferred from Court of Appeals

U.S. District Courts
(94 courts – 677 judges)
at least one in each district, the District of Columbia & Puerto Rico

- Original jurisdiction over nearly all categories of federal cases, both civil and criminal matters
- *District Courts for the Virgin Islands, Guam and Northern Mariana Islands have also have original jurisdiction over bankruptcy actions

Bankruptcy Courts

- Exclusive jurisdiction over bankruptcy cases.
- *includes State Courts

Kansas Court of Appeals
(1 court – 14 judges)
sit in 3 judge panels & serve four-year terms

- Original jurisdiction over habeas corpus actions
- Appellate jurisdiction over civil and criminal district court decisions
- Reviews administrative actions as provided by law

Certain Major Felonies & Certain Constitutional Questions

District Courts
(31 Districts – 105 counties)

- Original jurisdiction over all matters unless provided by law
- Appellate jurisdiction over municipal court decisions
- Reviews administrative actions as provided by law

Municipal Courts

↑ Denotes Appeal

Sources: