

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

- City ordinance violations

↑ Denotes Appeal

Sources:

www.kscourts.org
www.uscourts.gov

Created by Sara Hofeditz Christensen