

THE SUPERIOR COURT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1895

with seven judges elected for ten year terms. Today the Court has 15 elected judges and six senior judges that hear over 7,500 appeals a year. The Superior Court is one of the busiest courts in the nation. The court hears appeals from criminal, civil, family and orphans' court decisions. It also has original jurisdiction for review of applications under the Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance Control Act.



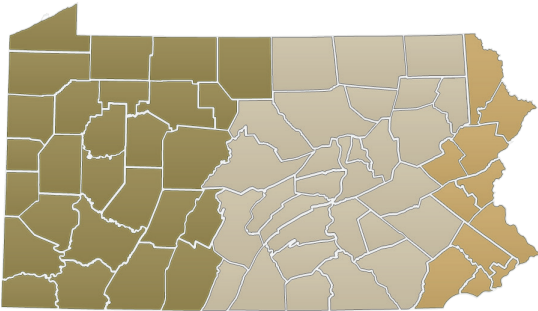
For a complete history of the Superior Court, the late Judge Patrick R. Tamilia with John J. Hare, published *Keystone of Justice, The Pennsylvania Superior Court*.

To find out more detailed information about the court, including opinions, filing fees, filing office, visit
www.pacourts.us/courts/superior-court/

THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

INSIDE THE WORKINGS OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

Pennsylvania's intermediate appellate court



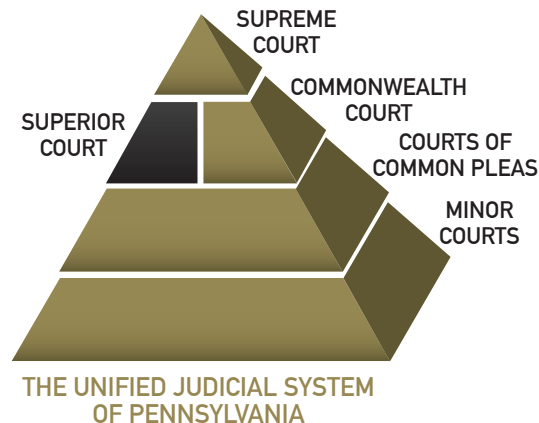
DEPARTMENTS

The Superior Court is divided into three districts — Western, Middle and Eastern. These districts have a Prothonotary to accept the filings, schedule the panel sessions and maintain the records for each appeal.

Central Legal Staff has offices in each of the three districts, and serves the Court by screening the filed appeals and motions, preparing bench memos as needed, clearing all court memorandum and opinions before filing (ensure the decision is not in conflict with another decision). Additionally, the Reporter's Office is the liaison with the official publisher of all Court decisions.

PANELS

The judges sit in panels of three, normally in Pittsburgh, Harrisburg and Philadelphia. Appeals are filed as either submitted on the record or for oral argument. Each judge hears cases in all three districts. Each panel has a different rotation of judges. Several times a year, the judges take the panels "on the road", bringing the cases to local counties to give litigants and the public the opportunity to see the court in action. Sometimes these panels have an accompanying local bar association continuing legal education seminar.



The Court occasionally sits as a nine judge panel—an *en banc* court—to hear cases which deal with evolving law. These special sessions are televised by Pennsylvania Cable Network.

Though it is an intermediate appellate court, the Superior Court is the court of last resort for most cases that are appealed. The Court does not hear cases involving a matter dealing with a governmental agency or law, which fall under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Court.

JUDGES

The Superior Court Judges elect one of its commissioned judges to serve as their President Judge for a term of five years.

The Judges of the Court participate in various legal education programs as both presenters and attendees. They are active in their communities and the bar associations throughout the state. All Judges are required to obtain 12 continuing education credits a year.