

# Oklahoma Court System

<u>Supreme Court</u>	Highest court in Oklahoma--nine justices, one from each of the nine Supreme Court districts appointed by the governor from a list of three nominees submitted by a Judicial Nominating Commission. After a six-year term voters decide whether the judge will remain in office for another six-year term.
<u>Court of Criminal Appeals</u>	Final authority for criminal cases -- three judges selected and retained in the same way as Supreme Court justices.
<u>Court of Civil Appeals</u>	Four divisions (two in Tulsa and two in Oklahoma city) -- each division has three judges elected for six years. Created to lessen the burden of the cases heard by the Oklahoma Supreme Court, this court handles only cases passed on to it from the Supreme Court, so usually its decisions are not appealed to the Supreme Court.
District Courts	Court of original jurisdiction for court cases involving state law. The Small Claims Court, one type of district court, can resolve claims to \$1,500 without the complainant hiring a lawyer. In Oklahoma, there are 26 district courts served by 71 judges (usually appointed, then elected for four-year terms).
Municipal Courts	Court deals with both criminal and traffic violations of city and town ordinances; judges may be selected by the city council/commission or appointed by the mayor
<u>Workers' Compensation Court</u>	Court hears cases of on-the-job injuries occurring within the scope of employment
Court of Tax Review	Court hears complaints relating to advalorem taxation