



Court Jurisdiction

Minnesota Judicial Branch

Vision

The general public and those who use the court system will refer to it as accessible, fair, consistent, responsive, free of discrimination, independent, and well managed.

Mission

To provide justice through a system that assures equal access for the fair and timely resolution of cases and controversies.

MINNESOTA JUDICIAL BRANCH

135 Minnesota Judicial Center
25 Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

www.mncourts.gov

THE THREE LEVELS OF COURTS IN MINNESOTA AND THE JURISDICTION OF EACH IS DEPICTED BELOW:

MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT (7 MEMBERS)

Appeals from:

Court of Appeals decisions
Trial court decisions if Supreme Court chooses to bypass the Court of Appeals
Tax Court decisions
Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals

Original Actions:

Review of all first-degree murder convictions
Writs of Prohibition** Writs of Habeas Corpus*** Writs of Mandamus****
Legislative election disputes

MINNESOTA COURT OF APPEALS (19 MEMBERS)

Appeals from:

Trial court decisions, except first-degree murder convictions
Decisions of Commissioner of Economic Security
Administrative agency decisions, except Tax Court & Workers' Compensation Court

Original Actions:

Writs of mandamus or prohibition, which order a trial judge or public official to perform a specified act, such as permitting media coverage of a hearing.

MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURTS (289 JUDGESHIPS, 10 JUDICIAL DISTRICTS)

Civil Actions
Criminal Cases
Family
Juvenile
Probate
Violations of city ordinances

Appeals from:

Conciliation Court*

Conciliation Division: Civil disputes up to \$10,000

*Called trial de novo — actually a new trial, not just a review of the conciliation court.

**Writ of prohibition — asks that a governmental body or official be prevented from doing something that might cause harm.

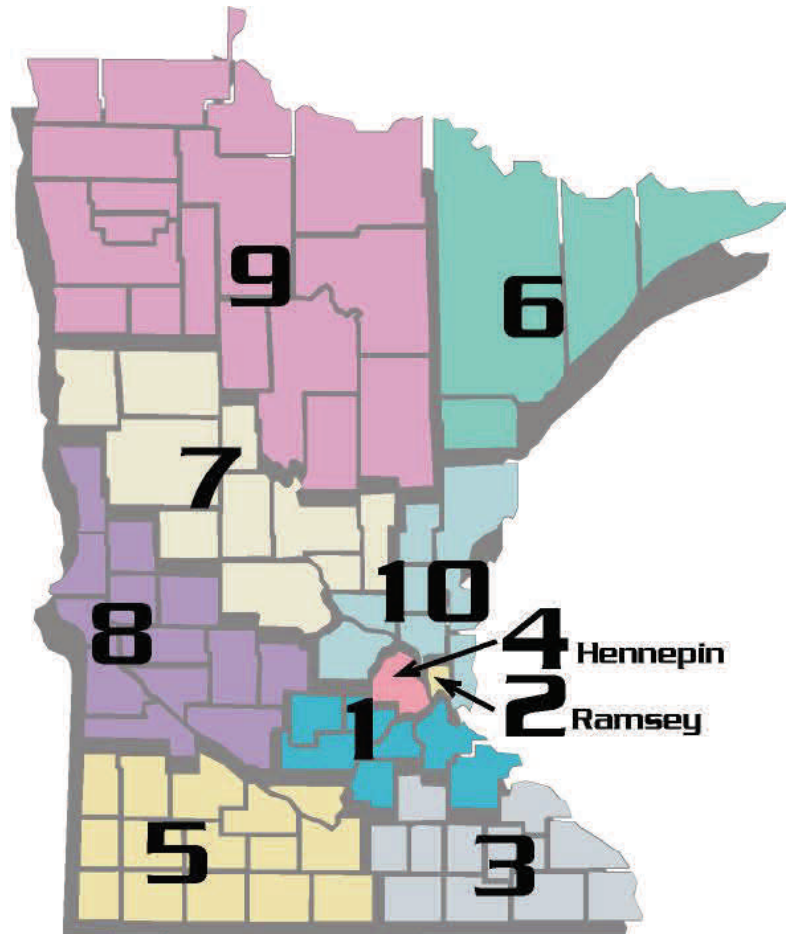
***Habeas corpus — a complaint alleging that someone has been unlawfully confined and is asking for release.

****Mandamus — asks that a governmental body or official be commanded to perform a specific act.

Judicial Branch Demographics

Minnesota's Judicial Districts

<u>First</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Third</u>	<u>Fourth</u>	<u>Fifth</u>
Carver Dakota Goodhue LeSueur McLeod Scott Sibley	Ramsey	Dodge Fillmore Freeborn Houston Mower Olmsted Rice Steele Wabasha Waseca Winona	Hennepin	Blue Earth Brown Cottonwood Faribault Jackson Lincoln Lyon Martin Murray Nicollet Nobles Pipestone Redwood Rock Watonwan
<u>Sixth</u>	<u>Seventh</u>	<u>Eighth</u>	<u>Ninth</u>	<u>Tenth</u>
Carlton Cook Lake St. Louis	Becker Benton Clay Douglas Mille Lacs Morrison Otter Tail Stearns Todd Wadena	Big Stone Chippewa Grant Kandiyohi LacQuiParle Meeker Pope Renville Stevens Swift Traverse Wilkin Yellow Medicine	Aitkin Beltrami Cass Clearwater Crow Wing Hubbard Itasca Kittson Koochiching Lake-Woods Mahnommen Marshall Norman Pennington Polk Red Lake Roseau	Anoka Chisago Isanti Kanabec Pine Sherburne Washington Wright



- **The Judicial Branch operates through three levels of courts:**
The Supreme Court, The Court of Appeals and The District Courts
- **Method of Selecting Judges:** Justice and judges are elected to a term of 6 years in a general election. For the district court, vacancies between general elections are filled by appointment by the governor from a list compiled by the Commission on Judicial Selection. For the appellate courts, vacancies between general elections are filled by appointment by the governor. Justices and judges appointed by the Governor must run for election at the first general election at least one year after taking office.
- **Judicial Term of Office:** 6 years
- **Number of Judgeships:** 315
 - Supreme Court—7
 - Court of Appeals - 19
 - District Courts - 289
- **Permanent Full-Time Employee Positions (including judges):** 2,900
- **Judicial Districts:** 10
- **Funding:** State-funded
- **Number of Judicial Branch hearing facilities:** 99