



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

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

MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT (7 MEMBERS)
<p style="text-align: center;">Appeals from:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Court of Appeals decisions</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Trial court decisions in all first degree murder convictions and other decisions if Supreme Court chooses to bypass the Court of Appeals</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tax Court decisions</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Original Actions:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Writs of Prohibition** Writs of Habeas Corpus*** Writs of Mandamus****</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Legislative election disputes</p>
MINNESOTA COURT OF APPEALS (19 MEMBERS)
<p style="text-align: center;">Appeals from:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Trial court decisions, except first-degree murder convictions</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Decisions of Commissioner of Economic Security</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Administrative agency decisions, except Tax Court & Workers' Compensation Court</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Original Actions:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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.</p>
MINNESOTA TRIAL (DISTRICT) COURTS (295 JUDGESHIPS, 10 JUDICIAL DISTRICTS)
<p style="text-align: center;">Civil Actions</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Criminal Cases</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Family</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Juvenile</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Probate</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Violations of city ordinances</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Appeals from:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Conciliation Court*</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Conciliation Division: Civil disputes up to \$15,000</p>
<p><small>*Called trial de novo-actually a new trial, not just a review of the conciliation court.</small></p> <p><small>**Writ of prohibition-asks that a governmental body or official be prevented from doing something that might cause harm.</small></p> <p><small>***Habeas corpus-a complaint alleging that someone has been unlawfully confined and is asking for release.</small></p> <p><small>****Mandamus-asks that a governmental body or official be commanded to perform a specific act.</small></p>