

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COURT SYSTEM

SUPREME COURT

Five Justices

- Has mandatory jurisdiction, by court rule, in most cases arising from trial courts, and discretionary jurisdiction in appeals and some criminally related matters
- Issues advisory opinions for the state executive and legislative branches
- Provides a public Law Library
- Provides centralized support services to the courts in the areas of budget, finance, technology, personnel, and security through the Administrative Office of the Courts

SUPERIOR COURT

24 Justices sit in 10 counties

- Hears cases involving torts, contracts, real property rights, and other civil matters (\$1,500 minimum, no maximum)
- Has jurisdiction over marriage dissolution and custody/support cases
- Has jurisdiction over felonies
- Hears misdemeanor appeals from District Court
- Holds jury trials

FAMILY DIVISION

Currently located in six counties

- Will be expanding into Merrimack County in spring 2007, into Strafford County in FY 2008, and Cheshire and Hillsborough Counties in FY 2009
- Has jurisdiction over all types of family law matters including divorce, child custody and visitation, child support, juvenile matters, domestic violence, guardianship of minors, and adoptions

PROBATE COURT

10 Judges sit in 10 counties

- Has jurisdiction over cases dealing with adoption, termination of parental rights, guardianships, trusts, wills, estates, and involuntary commitments



DISTRICT COURT

67 full- and part-time Justices sit in 35 District Courts

- Hears civil cases involving torts, contracts, and real property (\$0-25,000)
- Hears small claims (\$0-5,000)
- Has jurisdiction over misdemeanors, traffic violations
- District Court hears domestic violence petitions concurrent with Superior Court and juvenile matters