COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA – UNIFIED JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Current as of October 31, 2016

SUPREME COURT
(Constitution Art. V, §2)
(42 Pa.C.S. §§ 501, 502)

Court Administrator of Pennsylvania
(Const. Art. V, §10)
(42 Pa.C.S. §1901)

Legislative Reapportionment Commission
(Const. Art. II, §17)
(42 Pa.C.S. §725(1))

Judicial Conduct Board; Court of Judicial Discipline
(Const. Art. V, §18)
(42 Pa.C.S. §§ 725(2), 1601, 2101)

Minor Judiciary Education Board
(42 Pa.C.S. §§ 725(3), 2131)

Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners
(B.A.R. 104)
(42 Pa.C.S. §725(4))

The Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania
(R.D.E. 205)
(42 Pa.C.S. §725(5))

Supreme Court Extraordinary Appellate Jurisdiction
(King's Bench Power)
(42 Pa.C.S. §726)
Power to assume plenary jurisdiction at any stage of the proceedings over any matter pending before a court or district justice involving an issue of immediate public importance

Appeals as of Right
(42 Pa.C.S. §723)
Appeals in matters (1) originally commenced in Commonwealth Court except where constituted appeal from lower court, and (2) arising in the Board of Finance and Revenue

Discretionary Allowance
(42 Pa.C.S. §§ 724, 9781)
Appeals (except discretionary aspects of sentence) to Supreme Court upon allowance of any two justices.

Supreme Court Original Jurisdiction

Type	42 Pa.C.S. §
1. Habeas corpus.	721(1)
2. Mandamus or prohibition to inferior courts.	721(2)
3. Quo warranto as to officers of statewide jurisdiction.	721(3)

Commonwealth Court Original and Other Jurisdiction

Type	42 Pa.C.S. §
1. Jurisdiction of actions against Commonwealth entities except eminent domain, non-ancillary habeas corpus and post-conviction relief, and tort claims.	761(a)(1)
2. Concurrent jurisdiction of actions by Commonwealth entities except by eminent domain.	761(a)(2)
3. Insurance receiverships, etc.	761(a)(3)
4. Ancillary matters.	761(c).
5. Commonwealth employee arbitration.	763(b)
6. Certain statewide election matters.	764
7. Confidential data matters.	8722

COMMONWEALTH COURT
(Constitution Art. V, §4)
(42 Pa.C.S. §§ 561, 562)

Transfer of Cases
(42 Pa.C.S. §705)
Same or related questions of fact, law or discretion

SUPERIOR COURT
(Const. Art. V, §3)
(42 Pa.C.S. §§ 541, 542)

Superior Court Original Jurisdiction
(42 Pa.C.S. §741)
Ancillary mandamus or prohibition to inferior courts and writs of habeas corpus

Appellate Jurisdiction

Type	42 Pa.C.S. §
1. Actions involving Commonwealth, except habeas corpus, post-conviction.	762(a)(1)
2. Violations of rules, regulation or orders of or regulatory statutes administered by Commonwealth agencies.	762(a)(2)
3. Appeals from Commonwealth agencies.	762(a)(3)
4. Local government cases.	762(a)(4), (a)(7).
5. Nonprofit corporation matters.	762(a)(5)
6. Eminent domain.	762(a)(6)

Direct Appeals to Supreme Court

Type	42 Pa.C.S. §
1. Matters prescribed by rule, i.e., enforcement of certain subpoenas (R.A.P. 702) and appeals in conservatorship proceedings (R.D.E. 329).	722(1)
2. Right to public office.	722(2)
3. Matters affecting members of the judiciary.	722(3)
4. Automatic review of death sentences.	722(4)
5. Supersession of a district attorney, or relating to investigating grand jury.	722(5)
6. Right to issue public debt.	722(6)
7. Judgment declaring unconstitutional any law except a local ordinance or resolution.	722(7)
8. Right to practice law.	722(8)

Appellate Jurisdiction
(42 Pa.C.S. §742)
Appeals in all matters not within exclusive jurisdiction to the Supreme Court or the Commonwealth Court under Code §§722 or 762 including most noncapital criminal cases and civil cases to which the Commonwealth is not a party, e.g., tort (except cases involving a political subdivision), contract, nongovernmental equity (except eminent domain and nonprofit corporation), domestic relations, and estates and fiduciary.

Direct Appeals from Commonwealth Administrative Agencies
(42 Pa.C.S. § 763)
Appeals of any order of a Commonwealth agency that is not appealable to Supreme Court under 42 Pa.C.S. §725 or to the Courts of Common Pleas under 42 Pa.C.S. §933

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
(Constitution Art. V, Section 5)
(42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 9)

Original Jurisdiction
Unlimited except as otherwise provided by law
(Const. Art. V, §5(b))
(42 Pa.C.S. §931)

Commonwealth Agency Appeals
(42 Pa.C.S. §933(a)(1))
Birth record, certain Vehicle Code, Workers' Compensation determinations, certain Liquor Code, inheritance tax, Labor and industry determinations, Department of Commerce determinations.

Appellate Jurisdiction
(42 Pa.C.S. §932)
All appeals

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All appeals

Commonwealth Administrative Agencies

Community, Problem Solving & Housing Courts
(Const. Art. V, §6(a))
(42 Pa.C.S. §§ 916, 917, 1101)

Magisterial District Court
(Const. Art. V, §7)
(42 Pa.C.S. §1511)

Philadelphia Municipal Court
(Const. Art. V, §6(c))
(42 Pa.C.S. §1121)

Pittsburgh Municipal Court
(Const. Art. V, §21)
(42 Pa.C.S. §1141)

Local Administrative Agencies

Award of Arbitrators except involving Commonwealth

AOPC
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE of PENNSYLVANIA COURTS