

Role of a Judge

Judge presides over the trial from a desk, called a bench.



Judges:

- Ensure the rules of court are followed by everyone
- Presides over court proceedings and ensures that order is maintained
- Determines whether any of the evidence presented is illegal or improper.
- Provides instructions to the jury before they begin their deliberations at the conclusion of a trial, ensuring that the jury determines the facts
- In the event of a bench trial, where there is no jury, the judge must determine the facts and decide the case.
- Sentence convicted criminal defendants

There are three types of judges

Magisterial District or Municipal Court Judge
Local District Courts



Common Pleas Judge
County Courts



Appellate Court Judge
Commonwealth, Superior and Supreme Courts



Number of judges per court

Supreme



Common Pleas



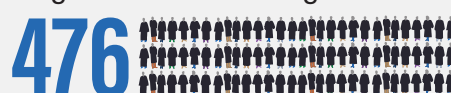
Superior



Commonwealth



Magisterial District Judge




Philadelphia Municipal Court



AOPC

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
of PENNSYLVANIA COURTS

 PA Commission
on **Judicial
Independence**
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania