

About the Superior Court of Pennsylvania

Established in

1895

Cases are heard by **three-judge panels** sitting in the Court's **three districts: Pittsburgh, Harrisburg and Philadelphia.**

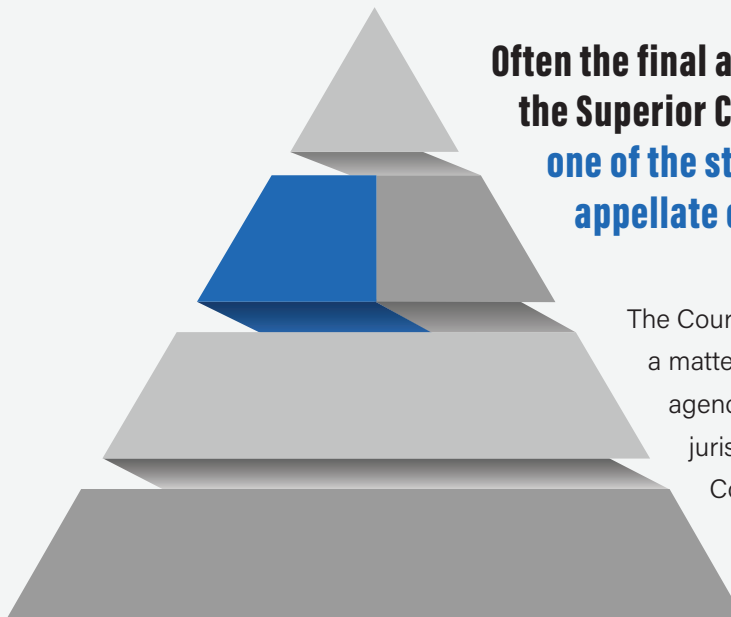


Occasionally, especially complex cases will be decided by a panel of nine judges, called an *en banc* panel.

15 judges



The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania appoints up to five senior judges to assist with workload.



Often the final arbiter of legal disputes, the Superior Court of Pennsylvania is one of the state's two intermediate appellate courts.

The Court does not hear cases involving a matter dealing with a governmental agency or law, which fall under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Court.

The Superior Court hears appeals from the Courts of Common Pleas in Pennsylvania's 67 counties to determine if errors were made at the trial court level. Virtually all criminal and most civil appeals come to the Superior Court – one of the busiest and most productive appellate courts in the country.

Since 2018, the Court has disposed of 5,500 - 8,000 cases per year.

From time to time, the Legislature has expanded the Court's jurisdiction, and today it decides appeals touching almost every aspect of life and commerce in the state.

Some examples include:

- Family law matters such as child custody, visitation, adoption, divorce and support
- Criminal matters ranging from summary offenses to felonies
- Matters concerning wills and estates
- Property disputes
- Damages for breach of contract or personal injury

Judges serve

10-year terms

up to age 75.



The Superior Court judges elect one of its commissioned judges to serve as **president judge** for a term of five years.