

CALIFORNIA JUDICIAL BRANCH

COURTS

SUPREME COURT

- Has 7 justices
- Hears oral arguments in San Francisco, Sacramento, and Los Angeles
- Has discretionary authority to review decisions of the Courts of Appeal and direct responsibility for automatic appeals after death penalty judgments

COURTS OF APPEAL

- Have 105 justices
- Comprise 6 districts, 19 divisions, and 9 court locations
- Review the majority of appealable orders or judgments from the superior courts

SUPERIOR COURTS

- Have 1,714 authorized judgeships (50 more authorized in 2008 but still unfunded)
- Comprise 58 courts, 1 in each county, with 1 to 38 locations per court
- Have trial jurisdiction over all felony cases, all general civil cases, juvenile and family law cases, and other case types

OVERVIEW

- The largest court system in the nation, serving more than 39 million people—approximately 12 percent of the U.S. population
- Approximately 500 court locations
- Approximately 18,000 court employees
- An estimated 4.5 million Californians representing themselves
- Approximately 1.4 percent of the state General Fund allocated for the judicial branch in fiscal year 2016–2017

BRANCH POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

- Is the constitutionally created policymaking body of the California courts
- Guides fiscal policy and adopts court rules and procedures
- Carries out much of its mission and work through the more than 500 volunteers of its internal committees, advisory committees, and task forces
- Is assisted by its staff to implement its policy and serve the courts, justice partners, and the public through a variety of programs and services

CALIFORNIA JUDICIAL BRANCH— BY THE NUMBERS

- Cases: Court filings per year in the superior courts ≈ 7 million; Courts of Appeal ≈ 20,000; and Supreme Court ≈ 8,000
- Jury service: Approximately 2.6 million Californians completing jury service each year
- Self-represented litigants: Self-help centers in every county, serving more than 500,000 people per year in 118 locations
- Language access: Court interpreters certified in 16 languages

THREE COEQUAL BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

