

Sample Answers The Federal and State Court System

The Federal Court System

The U.S. Supreme Court

- This is the highest court in the United States.
- The Supreme Court is structured with eight justices and a Chief Justice.
- This court has the power to hear appeals from U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeal and from state supreme courts.
- The Supreme Court has the power of judicial review.
- The U.S. Supreme Court is an appellate court.

U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeal

- There are 12 circuits in the U.S.
- These courts have panels of three judges that hear cases.
- This court has the power to hear appeals from U.S. District Courts.
- The U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeal are appellate courts.

U.S. District Courts

- There are 94 district courts in the U.S.
- The courts are structured with a judge and a jury.
- This court level is where most federal cases start.
- This court has the power to hear civil and criminal cases related to federal laws.
- The U.S. District Courts are trial courts.

The Florida State Court System

The Florida Supreme Court

- This is the highest court in Florida and is located in Tallahassee.
- The FL Supreme Court is structured with seven justices, one justice serves as Chief Justice.
- This court has the power to hear appeals from the District Courts of Appeal as well as other cases as assigned from the FL Legislature.
- The Florida Supreme Court is an appellate court.

Florida District Courts of Appeal

- There are 5 districts in Florida.
- The courts have panels of three judges that hear cases.
- This court has the power to hear appeals from Florida Circuit Courts.
- The Florida District Courts of Appeal are appellate courts.

Florida Circuit Courts

- There are 20 circuit courts in Florida.
- The courts are structured with a judge and a jury.
- This court has the power to hear trials on cases not assigned to county courts and appeals from county courts.
- The Florida Circuit Courts are trial and appellate courts.

Florida County Courts

- There is a county court in every Florida county.
- The courts are structured with a judge.
- This court has the power of minor arguments between citizens and minor criminal offenses.
- The Florida County Courts are trial courts.

Information adapted from: <http://www.uscourts.gov/about-federal-courts/court-role-and-structure>, <http://www.flcourts.org/>, and http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/pub_info/system2.shtml.