



Chief Judge Elizabeth A. Metzger
Circuit Court Judge
19th Judicial Circuit

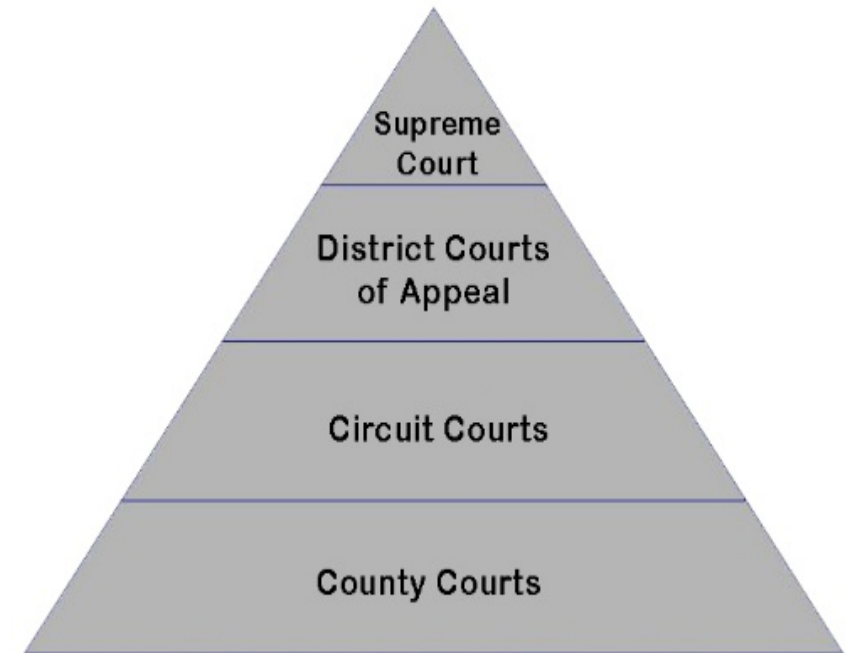
FLORIDA COURTS

- Article V of the Constitution of Florida addresses the Judicial Branch
 - Florida Supreme Court
 - Five District Courts of Appeal
 - Twenty Circuit Courts
 - Sixty-seven County Courts
- Each layer of the Florida judicial system has a distinct role in providing justice to all Floridians

COURT SYSTEM ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

APPELLATE COURTS

- Florida Supreme Court
- District Courts of Appeal

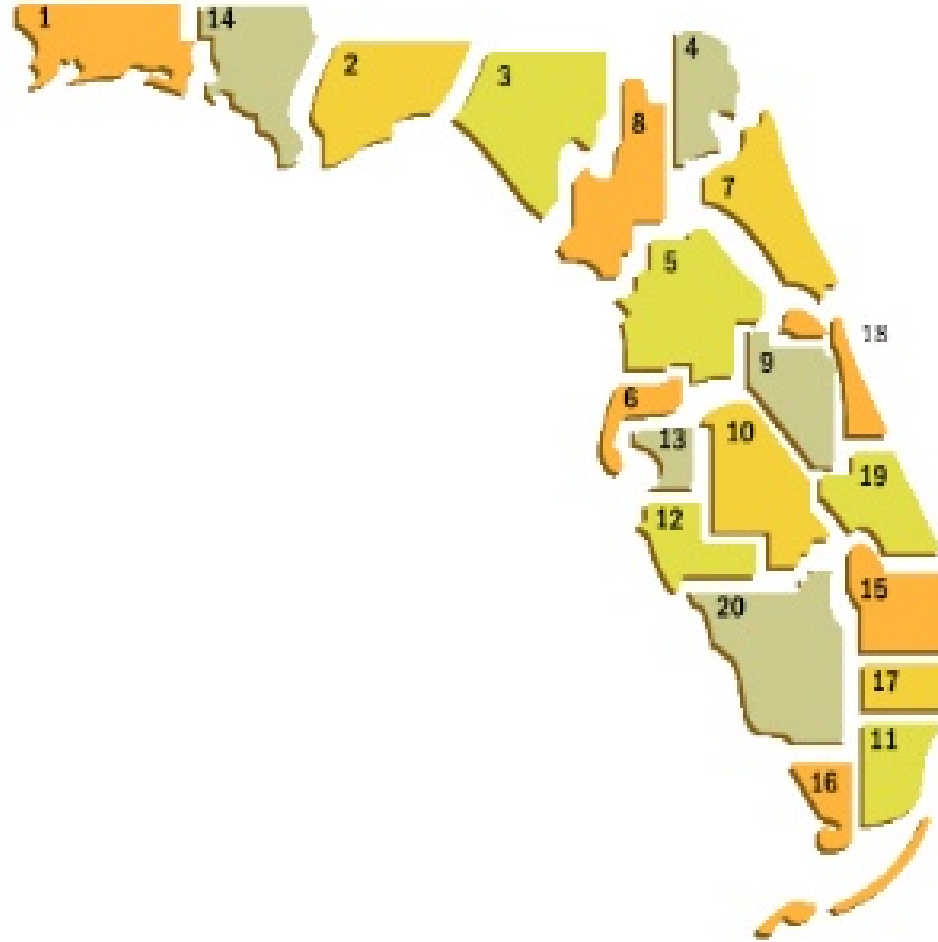


COURT SYSTEM ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

TRIAL COURTS:

- Trial Courts - CIRCUIT
 - 20 Judicial Circuits
- Trial Courts - COUNTY
 - The Florida Constitution requires **ONE** county court in each of Florida's 67 counties.

TRIAL COURTS - CIRCUIT



TRIAL COURTS - CIRCUIT

JURISDICTION

The jurisdiction of circuit courts includes, civil disputes involving more than \$15,000; Probate of estates; Guardianships; cases relating to juveniles; criminal prosecutions for felonies; Domestic Relations.

TRIAL COURTS - COUNTY

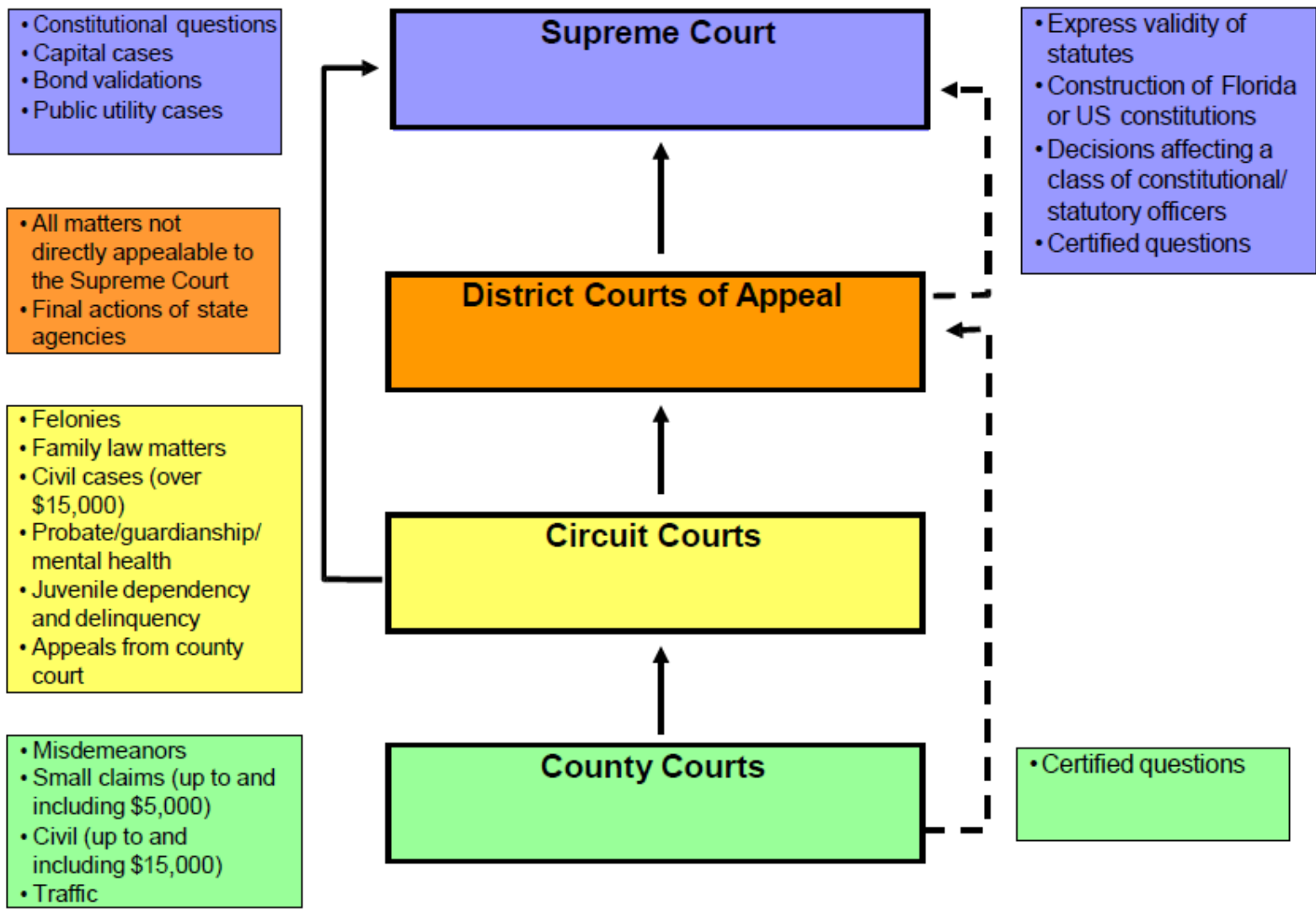
ORGANIZATION

- One county court in each of Florida's 67 counties.
- Number of judges in each county court varies.
- County judges are eligible for assignment to circuit court.

TRIAL COURTS - COUNTY

JURISDICTION

- The jurisdiction of county courts includes civil disputes involving \$15,000 or less.
- Referred to as "the people's courts" as courts' work involves primarily citizen disputes: traffic offenses, less serious criminal matters (misdemeanors), and relatively small monetary disputes.



CHIEF JUDGE

- Primary responsibility: Manage the circuit.
- Exercise admin. supervision over the circuit and county courts, includes judges and court personnel.
- Decides court closures for hurricane.
- Electronic Media:
 - Website - Circuit19.org
 - Social Media - Facebook; Twitter

CIRCUIT JUDGES

MULTIPLE COUNTIES:

Honorable Elizabeth A. Metzger, Chief Judge:

Specialty courts throughout the circuit (Mental Health Court, Drug Court, Veteran's Court), probate and guardianship, assist with felony, family, civil and juvenile throughout the circuit.

CIRCUIT JUDGES

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY:

Honorable Cynthia Cox: Felony, Mental Health Court/Veteran's Court

Honorable Victoria Griffin: Dependency, Delinquency, Probate, Guardianship, Adult Drug Court, Delinquency and Dependency Drug Court

Honorable Paul Kanarek: Civil

Honorable Robert Pegg: Domestic relations

CIRCUIT JUDGES

MARTIN COUNTY:

Honorable Barbara Bronis: Dependency, Delinquency, Civil non-jury, Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Honorable Steven Levin: Felony Drug Court

Honorable Michael McNicholas: Domestic relations, Member

Honorable Lawrence Mirman: Felony

Honorable William Roby: Civil Jury Trial and Mortgage Foreclosure

Honorable Elizabeth Metzger: Probate, Guardianship, MHC

CIRCUIT JUDGES

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY:

Honorable Laurie Buchanan: Civil, Probate, Guardianship,
Dependency

Honorable Michael Heisey: Domestic Relations, Felony, Substance
Abuse and Mental Health

Honorable Elizabeth Metzger: Mental Health Court

CIRCUIT JUDGES

ST. LUCIE COUNTY:

Honorable Sherwood Bauer, Jr: Domestic Relations

Honorable Robert Belanger: Non-Jury Civil including Residential Mortgage Foreclosure, First Appearances, Veteran's Court

Honorable Cynthia Cox: Assist with Mental Health Court along with Judge Metzger

Honorable Janet C. Croom: Civil Jury Trials, Probate, Guardianship, Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Honorable James McCann: Dependency, Delinquency

CIRCUIT JUDGES

ST. LUCIE COUNTY CONTINUED:

Honorable Steven Levin, Administrative: Felony, Adult Drug Court, Juvenile Drug Court

Honorable Dan Vaughn: Felony

Honorable Charles Schwab: Domestic Relations

Honorable Gary L. Sweet: Felony

COUNTY JUDGES

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY:

Honorable David C. Morgan: 50% Indian River County Court Cases

Honorable Joe A. Wild: 50% Indian River County Court Cases

MARTIN COUNTY:

Honorable Kathleen H. Roberts: 1/2 Martin County Court Cases

Honorable Darren Steele: 1/2 Martin County Court Cases

COUNTY JUDGES

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY:

Honorable Jerald D. Bryant: County Court Cases, Delinquency, Truancy, Adult Felony and Misdemeanor Drug Court, Juvenile Drug Court

ST. LUCIE COUNTY:

Honorable Edmond W. Alonzo: County Court Civil and Landlord/Tenant, Traffic infractions involving serious injury or death, Traffic Hearing Officer recusals/disqualifications, Small Claims including Replevin

Honorable Daryl Isenhower: County Criminal Cases, Small Claims including Replevin, Collections Court

Honorable Kathryn Nelson: County Criminal Cases, Misdemeanor Drug Court

Honorable Philip J. Yacucci: County Criminal Cases, Domestic Violence Diversion, County Ordinance Cases

SPECIALTY COURTS

ABOUT OUR SPECIALTY COURTS:

- **The 1st Drug Court:** Martin County 2001. Currently, we have 11 Drug Courts.
- **The 1st Mental Health Court:** St. Lucie County 2006. Currently, we have 4 Mental Health Courts.
- **The 1st Veteran's Court:** Indian River County 2013. Currently, 2 Veteran's Courts.

SPECIALTY COURTS

ABOUT OUR SPECIALTY COURTS (continued):

- **In 2017 Drug Court served:**
 - 300 participants in St. Lucie County ; 140 graduated
 - 149 participants in Martin County; 74 graduated
 - 102 participants in Okeechobee County; 30 graduated
 - 137 participants in Indian River County; 35 graduated
 - 9 Drug free babies born in Drug Court
 - Recidivism rate for all Drug Court Programs: 12%-16%

SPECIALTY COURTS

ABOUT OUR SPECIALTY COURTS (continued):

- In 2017 Mental Health Court served
 - SLC total served: 1428; recidivism rate 12%
 - Martin County total served 269; recidivism rate 15%
 - Indian River County total served 217; recidivism rate 11%

STORM CLOSURE EXAMPLE

To see the video, please go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMjAOHqlyFs>

