

State Court Structure Charts

Understanding the State Court Structure Charts

Alabama	Louisiana	Ohio
Alaska	Maine	Oklahoma
Arizona	Maryland	Oregon
Arkansas	Massachusetts	Pennsylvania
California	Michigan	Puerto Rico
Colorado	Minnesota	Rhode Island
Connecticut	Mississippi	South Carolina
Delaware	Missouri	South Dakota
District of Columbia	Montana	Tennessee
Florida	Nebraska	Texas
Georgia	Nevada	Utah
Hawaii	New Hampshire	Vermont
Idaho	New Jersey	Virginia
Illinois	New Mexico	Washington
Indiana	New York	West Virginia
Iowa	North Carolina	Wisconsin
Kansas	North Dakota	Wyoming
Kentucky		

Understanding the Court Structure Charts

The court structure charts summarize in one-page diagrams the key features of each state's court organization. The format meets two objectives: (1) it is comprehensive, indicating all court systems in the state and their interrelationship, and (2) it describes the jurisdiction of the court systems, using a standard set of terminology and symbols. The court structure charts employ the common terminology developed by the National Center for State Courts' Court Statistics Project (CSP) for reporting caseload statistics.

The charts also provide basic descriptive information, such as the number of authorized justices, judges, and magistrates (or other judicial officers). Each court system's subject matter jurisdiction is indicated using the Court Statistics Project case types. Information is also provided on the use of districts, circuits, or divisions in organizing the courts within the system and the number of courts.

CSP Case Types

The *State Court Guide to Statistical Reporting* organizes cases into a three-level hierarchy. The first, and broadest, level is the case *category*, which consists of civil, domestic relations, criminal, juvenile, and traffic/other violations cases. The second level, the case *sub-category*, refers to classes of cases within the case category. For example, tort cases are a sub-category of civil cases and felony cases are a sub-category of criminal cases. The third level of the organizational hierarchy is the *case type*. The case type is the most precise descriptor of the case in question. Case types can further refine the cases within a sub-category (e.g., DWI/DUI is a case type within the sub-categories of both felony and misdemeanor cases) or they can describe a case within a case category (e.g., adoption is a case type within the domestic relations case category).

For the purposes of both simplicity and consistency with previous volumes of this publication, the court structure charts use the term "case type" to refer to each court system's subject matter jurisdiction, even if the jurisdiction listed is actually a case category or a case sub-category. In most instances, the case category is listed when the court in question has jurisdiction over all of the case types within the category. In turn, the case sub-category is listed when the court has jurisdiction over all of the case types within the case sub-category. Case types are listed individually when (1) the case type does not fall under a case sub-category or (2) the court has jurisdiction only over that specific case type.

Appellate Courts

The rectangle representing each appellate court contains information on the number of authorized justices; the number of geographic divisions, if any; whether court decisions are made en banc, in panels, or both; if the court assigns cases to another court (mainly from a court of last resort to an intermediate appellate court); and the Court Statistics Project case types that are heard by the court. The case types are shown separately for mandatory and discretionary cases. The case types themselves are defined in other Court Statistics Project publications, specifically the *State Court Guide to Statistical Reporting*.

An appellate court can have both mandatory and discretionary jurisdiction over the same Court Statistics Project case type. This arises, in part, because the Court Statistics Project case types are defined broadly to be applicable to every state's courts. There are, for example, only two appellate Court Statistics Project case types for criminal appeals: capital and noncapital. A court may have mandatory jurisdiction over felony cases, but discretionary jurisdiction over misdemeanors. The list of case types would include "criminal" for both mandatory and discretionary jurisdiction. The duplication of a case type under both headings can also occur if appeals from one lower court for that case type are mandatory while appeals from another lower court are discretionary. Also, statutory provisions or court rules in some states automatically convert a mandatory appeal into a discretionary petition—for example, when an appeal is not filed within a specified time limit. A more comprehensive

description of each appellate court's subject matter jurisdiction can be found in *Appellate Court Procedures, 1998*.

Trial Courts

The rectangle representing each trial court also lists the applicable Court Statistics Project case types. These include civil, domestic relations, criminal, juvenile, and traffic/other violations. If a case type is simply listed, the court system shares jurisdiction over it with other courts. The presence of exclusive jurisdiction is always explicitly stated.

The absence of a case type from a list means that the court does not have that subject matter jurisdiction. The dollar amount jurisdiction is shown when there is an upper or a lower limit to the cases that can be filed in a court. A dollar limit is not listed if a court does not have a minimum or maximum dollar amount jurisdiction for general civil cases. In criminal cases, jurisdiction is distinguished between "felony," which means the court can try a felony case to verdict and sentencing, and "preliminary hearings," which applies to those limited jurisdiction courts that can conduct preliminary hearings that bind a defendant over for trial in a higher court.

Trial courts can have what is termed incidental appellate jurisdiction. The presence of such jurisdiction over the decisions of other courts is noted in the list of case types as either "civil appeals," "criminal appeals," or "administrative agency appeals." A trial court that hears appeals directly from an administrative agency has an "A" in the upper-right corner of the rectangle.

For each trial court, the chart states the authorized number of judges and whether the court can impanel a jury. The rectangle representing the court also indicates the number of districts, divisions, or circuits into which the court system is divided. These subdivisions are stated using the court system's own terminology. The descriptions, therefore, are not standardized across states or court systems.

Some trial courts are totally funded from local sources; others receive some form of state funds. Locally funded court systems are noted within the rectangle. The absence of the words "locally funded" indicates that some or all of the funding is derived from state funds.

Symbols and Abbreviations

A legend is included with each state structure chart that defines the symbols and abbreviations used in the charts. Readers should be aware that, while the legend is the same for each state, not every state contains all of the elements shown in the legend. The legend consists of three symbols and five abbreviations. The symbols indicate the court level (a thicker border on the rectangle of a court denotes an appellate level court while a thinner border denotes a trial level court) and the route of appeal (indicated by an arrow). The abbreviations are as follows: "COLR" for court of last resort, "IAC" for intermediate appellate court, "GJC" for general jurisdiction court, "LJC" for limited jurisdiction court, and "A" for direct appeal from an administrative agency decision.

As stated above, an "A" in the upper-right corner of a rectangle, representing either an appellate court or a trial court, indicates that the court receives appeals directly from the decision of an administrative agency. If "administrative agency appeals" is listed as a case type, the court hears appeals from decisions of another court on an administrative agency's actions. It is possible for a court to have both an "A" designation and to have "administrative agency appeals" listed as a case type. Such a court hears appeals directly from an administrative agency ("A") and has appellate jurisdiction over the decision of a lower court that has already reviewed the decision of the administrative agency.

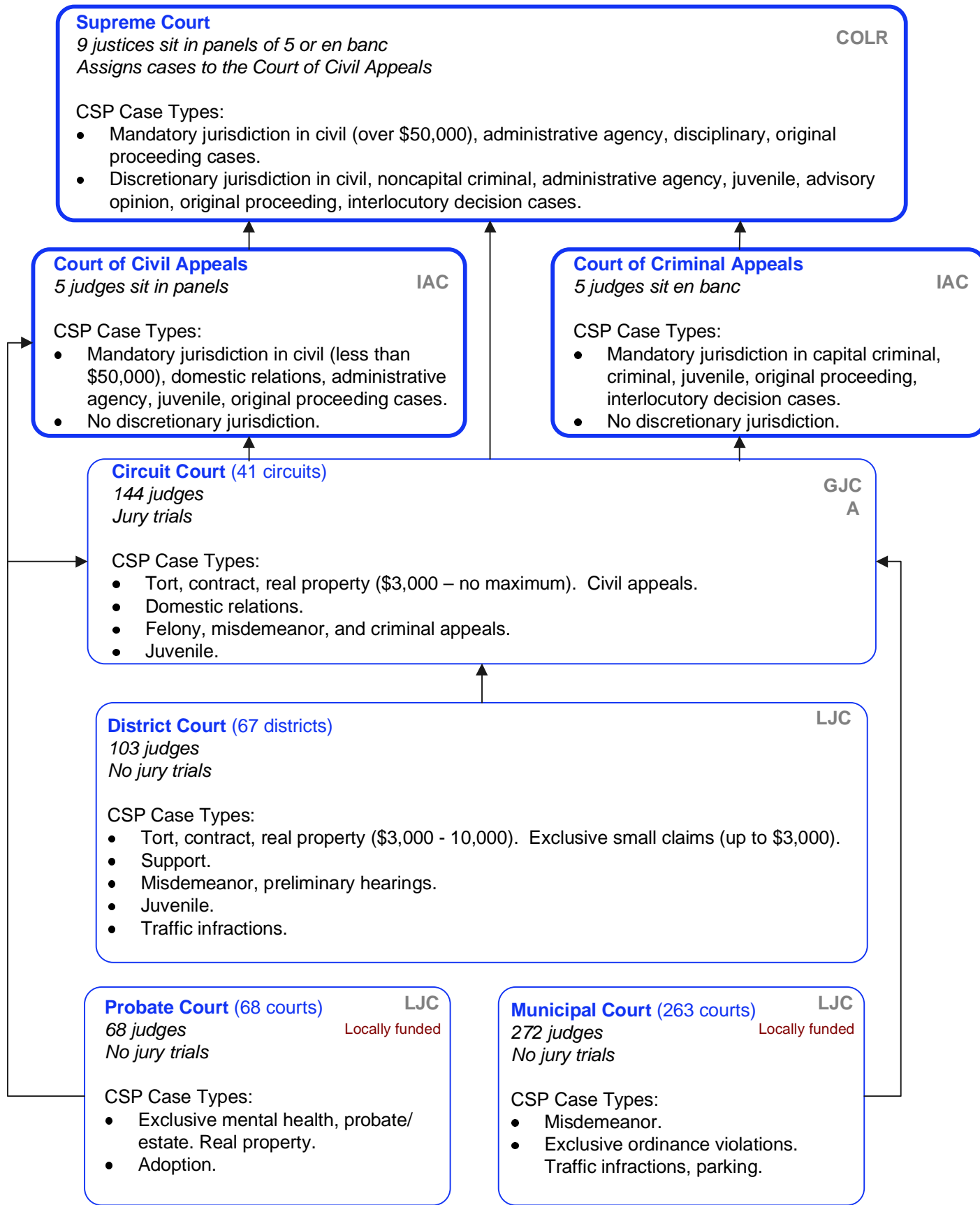
The number of justices or judges is sometimes stated as "FTE." This represents "full-time equivalent" authorized judicial positions. "DWI/DUI" stands for "driving while intoxicated/driving under the influence." The dollar

amount jurisdiction for civil cases is indicated in parentheses with a dollar sign. Where the small claims dollar amount jurisdiction is different, it is noted.

The court structure charts are convenient summaries. They do not substitute for the detailed descriptive material contained in the tables of *State Court Organization, 2004*. Moreover, they are based on the Court Statistics Project's terminology and categories. This means that a state may have established courts that are not included in these charts. Some states have courts of special jurisdiction to receive complaints on matters that are more typically directed to administrative boards and agencies. Since these courts adjudicate matters that do not fall within the Court Statistics Project case types, they are not included in the charts. The existence of such courts, however, is recognized in a footnote to the state's court structure chart.

Alabama

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2006)



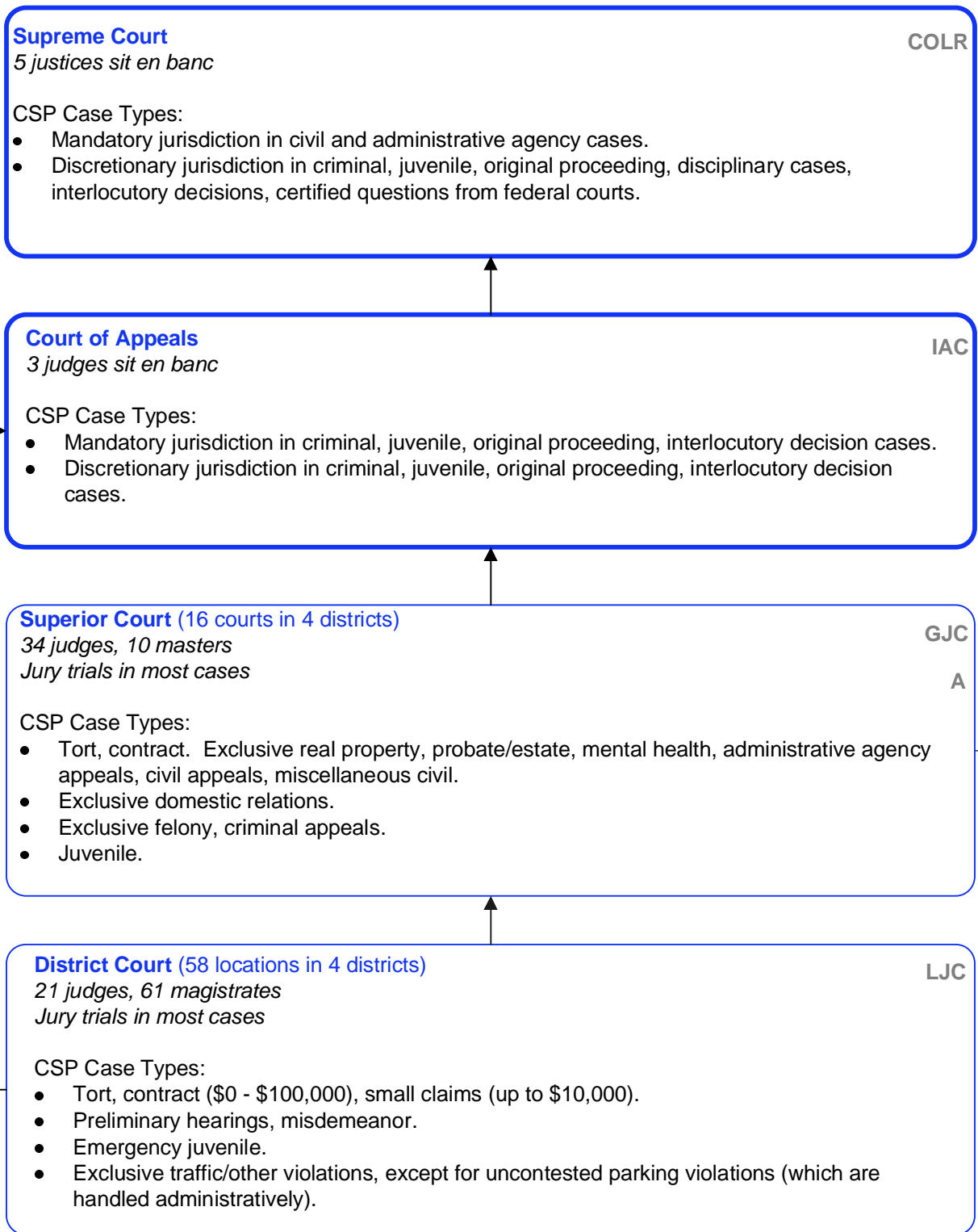
Legend

- = Appellate level
- = Trial level



COLR = Court of Last Resort
 IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court
 GJC = General Jurisdiction Court
 LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court
 A = Appeal from Admin. Agency
 ↑ = Route of appeal

Alaska

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2006)



Legend

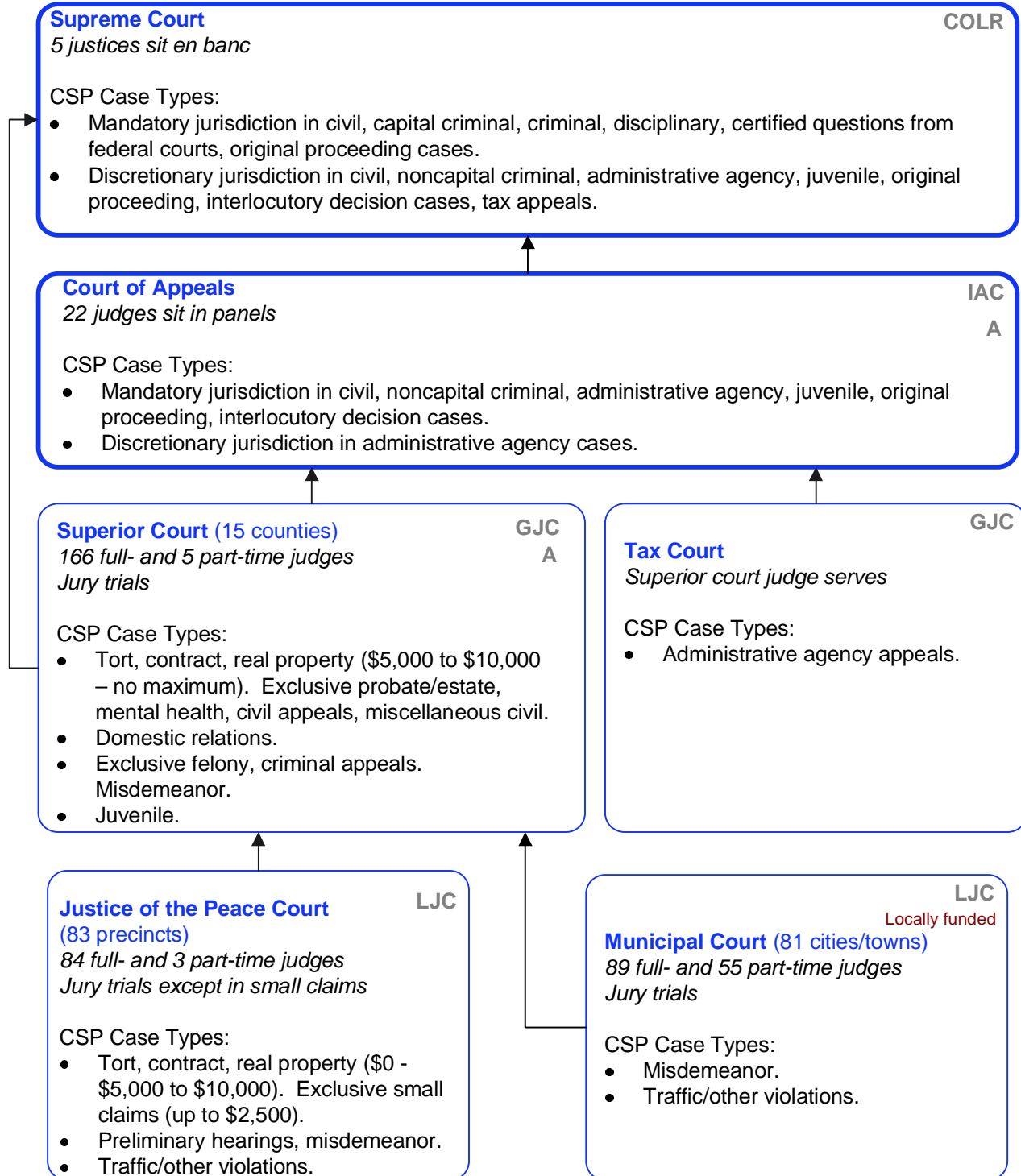
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COLR = Court of Last Resort
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Arizona

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2006)



Legend

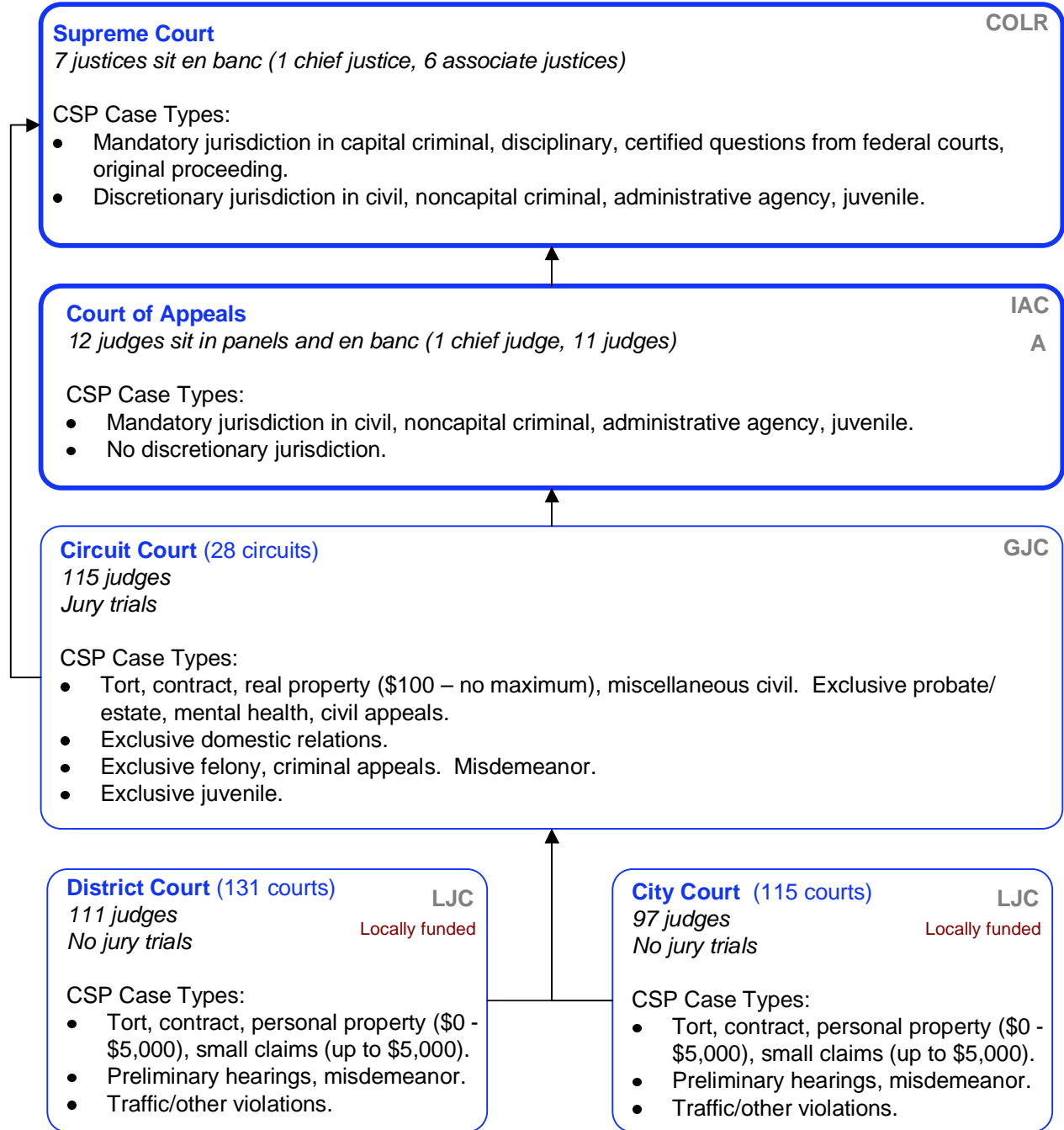
 = Appellate level

 = Trial level

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IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court
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LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court
A = Appeal from Admin. Agency
↑ = Route of appeal

Arkansas

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2006)



Legend

= Appellate level

= Trial level

COLR = Court of Last Resort
IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court
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A = Appeal from Admin. Agency

↑ = Route of appeal

Note: In 2001, Arkansas combined the Chancery and Probate Court with the Circuit Court and reduced the number of limited jurisdiction courts from six to two by combining the County, Police, Common Pleas, and Justice of the Peace courts into the Municipal Court which was renamed and is now the District Court.

California

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2006)

Supreme Court

7 justices sit en banc

COLR

A

CSP Case Types:

- Mandatory jurisdiction in capital criminal, disciplinary cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.



Courts of Appeal (6 courts/districts)

105 justices sit in panels

IAC

A

CSP Case Types:

- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in administrative agency, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.



Superior Court (58 counties)

1,498 judges, 424 commissioners and referees

Jury trials except in appeals, domestic relations, and juvenile cases


GJC

A

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property (\$25,000 – no maximum), miscellaneous civil. Exclusive small claims (up to \$5,000), probate/estate, mental health, civil appeals. [Limited jurisdiction: tort, contract, real property (\$0 - \$25,000).]
- Exclusive domestic relations.
- Exclusive criminal.
- Exclusive juvenile.
- Exclusive traffic/other violations.

Legend

 = Appellate level

 = Trial level

COLR = Court of Last Resort

IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court

GJC = General Jurisdiction Court

LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court

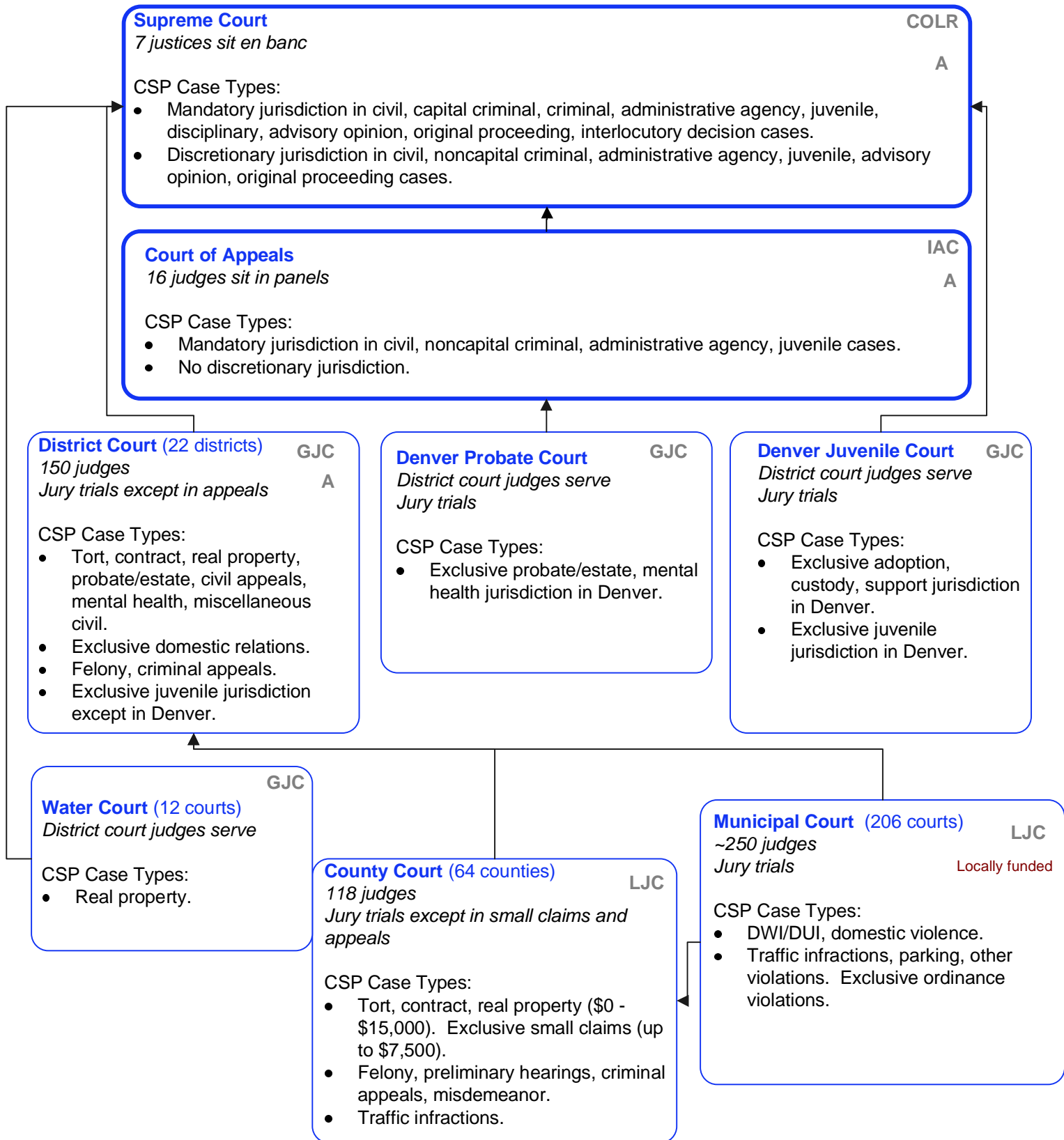
A = Appeal from Admin. Agency

↑ = Route of appeal

AOC Web site: <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov>

Colorado

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2006)



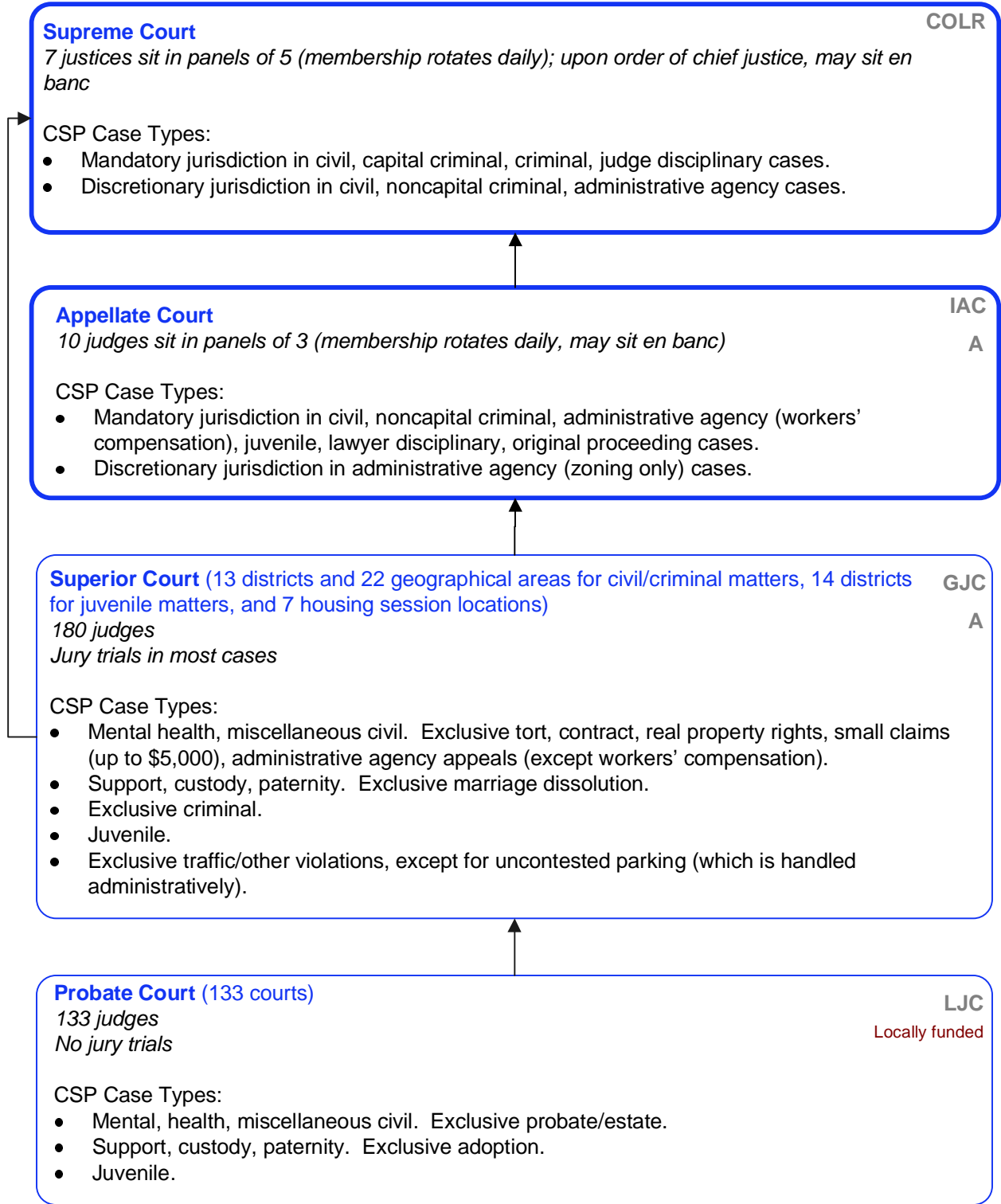
Legend

- = Appellate level
- = Trial level

COLR = Court of Last Resort
IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court
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Connecticut

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2006)



Legend

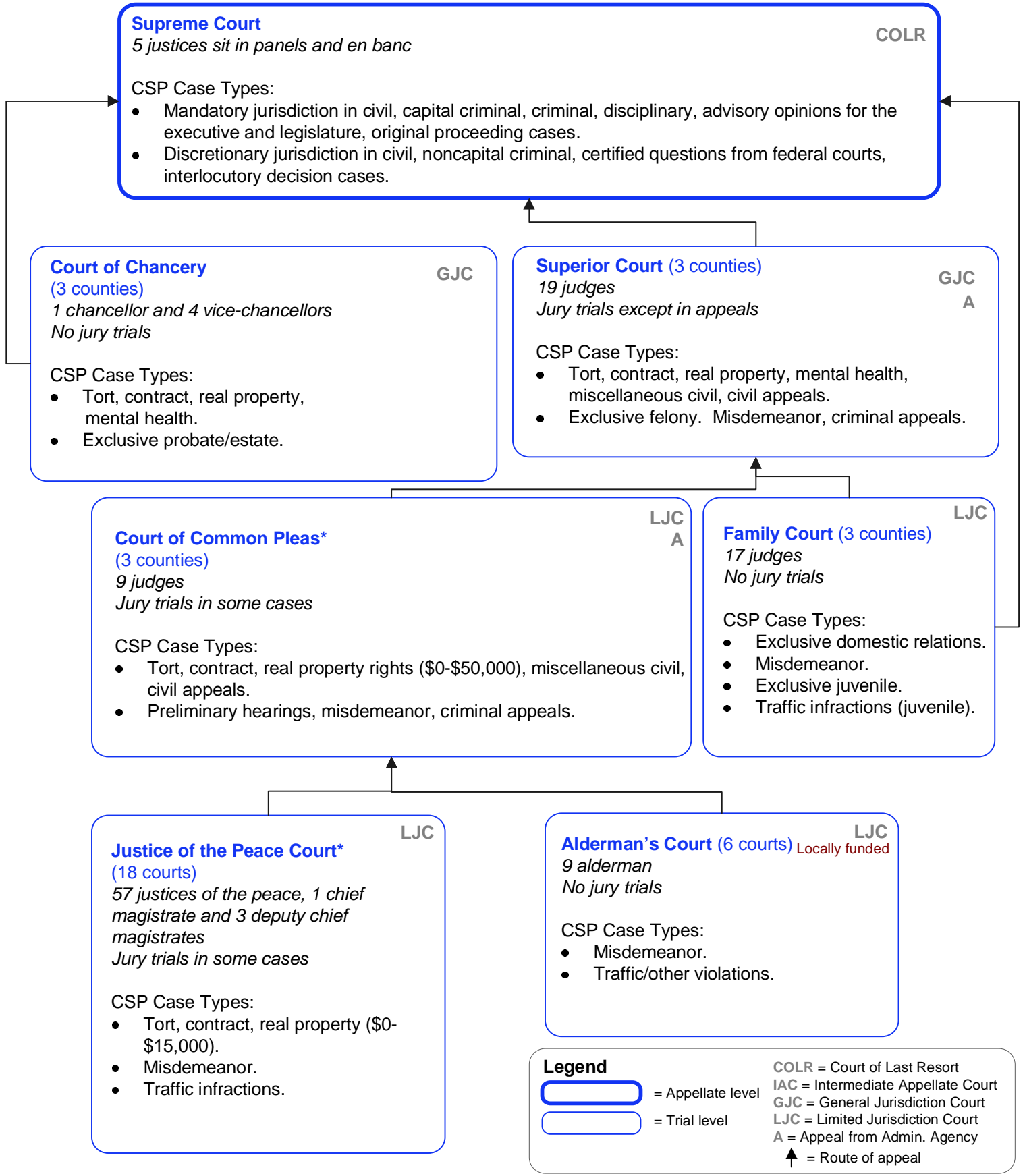
= Appellate level

= Trial level

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 ↑ = Route of appeal

Delaware

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2006)



* The Municipal Court of Wilmington was eliminated effective May 1, 1998, and a new Justice of the Peace Court was created in Wilmington.

District of Columbia

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2006)

Court of Appeals

9 judges sit in panels and en banc

COLR

A

CSP Case Types:

- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in small claims, minor criminal, original proceeding cases.



Superior Court

83 judges (includes 24 magistrate judges)


GJC

A

CSP Case Types:

- Exclusive civil (\$5,001 - no maximum). Small claims (up to \$5,000).
- Exclusive domestic relations.
- Exclusive criminal.
- Exclusive juvenile.
- Exclusive traffic/other violations, except for most parking cases (which are handled administratively).

Legend

 = Appellate level

 = Trial level


COLR = Court of Last Resort

IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court

GJC = General Jurisdiction Court

LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court

A = Appeal from Admin. Agency

 = Route of appeal

AOC Web site:<http://www.dcsc.gov>

Florida

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2006)

Supreme Court

7 justices sit en banc

COLR

A

CSP Case Types:

- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, advisory opinion cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, advisory opinion, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

District Courts of Appeal (5 courts)

62 judges sit in 3-judge panels

IAC

A

CSP Case Types:

- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

Circuit Court (20 circuits)

564 judges

Jury trials except in appeals

GJC

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property (\$15,001 – no maximum), miscellaneous civil. Exclusive mental health, probate/estate, civil appeals.
- Exclusive domestic relations.
- Exclusive felony, criminal appeals.
- Juvenile.

County Court (67 counties)


302 judges

LJC

CSP Case Types:

- Tort contract, real property (\$5,001 - \$15,000), miscellaneous civil. Exclusive small claims (up to \$5,000).
- Exclusive misdemeanor. Preliminary hearings.
- Exclusive traffic/other violations, except parking (which is handled administratively).

Legend

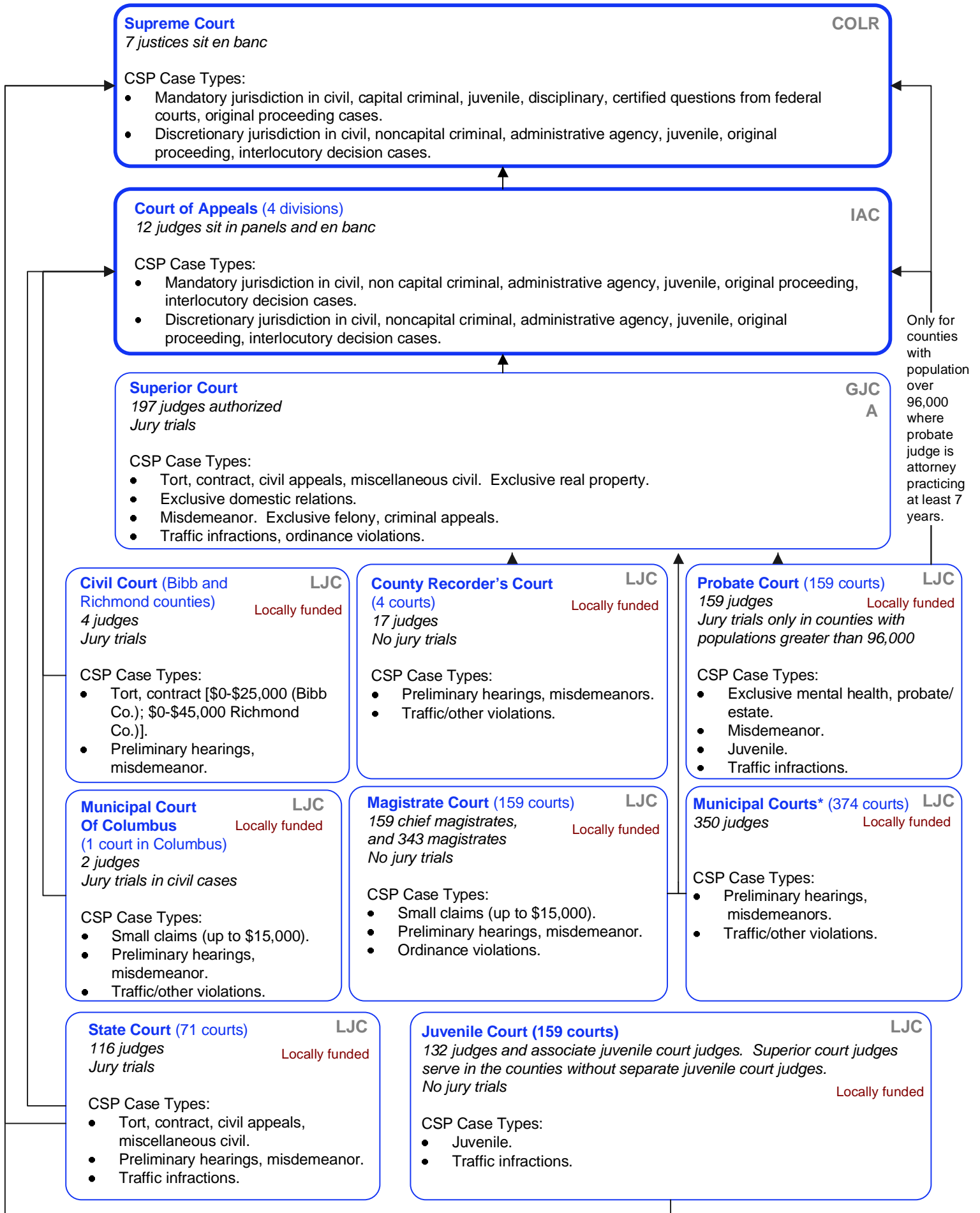
 = Appellate level

 = Trial level

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A = Appeal from Admin. Agency
↑ = Route of appeal

Georgia

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2006)



*In 2006, the City Court of Atlanta merged with the Municipal Court of Atlanta.

Legend

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 = Trial level

COLR = Court of Last Resort
 IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court
 GJC = General Jurisdiction Court
 LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court
 A = Appeal from Admin. Agency
 ↑ = Route of appeal

AOC Web site: <http://www.georgiacourts.org>

Hawaii

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2006)

Supreme Court

COLR

5 justices sit en banc

assigns cases to the intermediate Court of Appeals

A

CSP Case Types:

- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

Intermediate Court of Appeals

IAC

6 judges sit in panels of 3

A

CSP Case Types:

- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, interlocutory decision cases assigned to it by the supreme court.
- No discretionary jurisdiction.

Circuit Court and Family Court (4 circuits)

GJC

33 circuit judges, 3 of which are designated Family Court judges,

plus 12 District Family Court judges

Jury trials

A

CSP Case Types:

- Tort contract, real property (\$10,000 – no maximum) [concurrent from \$10,000-\$20,000], miscellaneous civil. Exclusive mental health, probate/estate, administrative agency appeals
- Exclusive domestic relations.
- Exclusive juvenile.
- Traffic infractions.

District Court (4 circuits)

LJC

23 judges*


No jury trials

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property (\$0 - \$20,000) [concurrent from \$10,000-\$20,000 (civil nonjury)], miscellaneous civil. Exclusive small claims up to (\$3,500).
- Preliminary hearings, misdemeanor.
- Traffic infractions. Exclusive parking, ordinance violations.

*Excludes per diem judges.

Legend

 = Appellate level

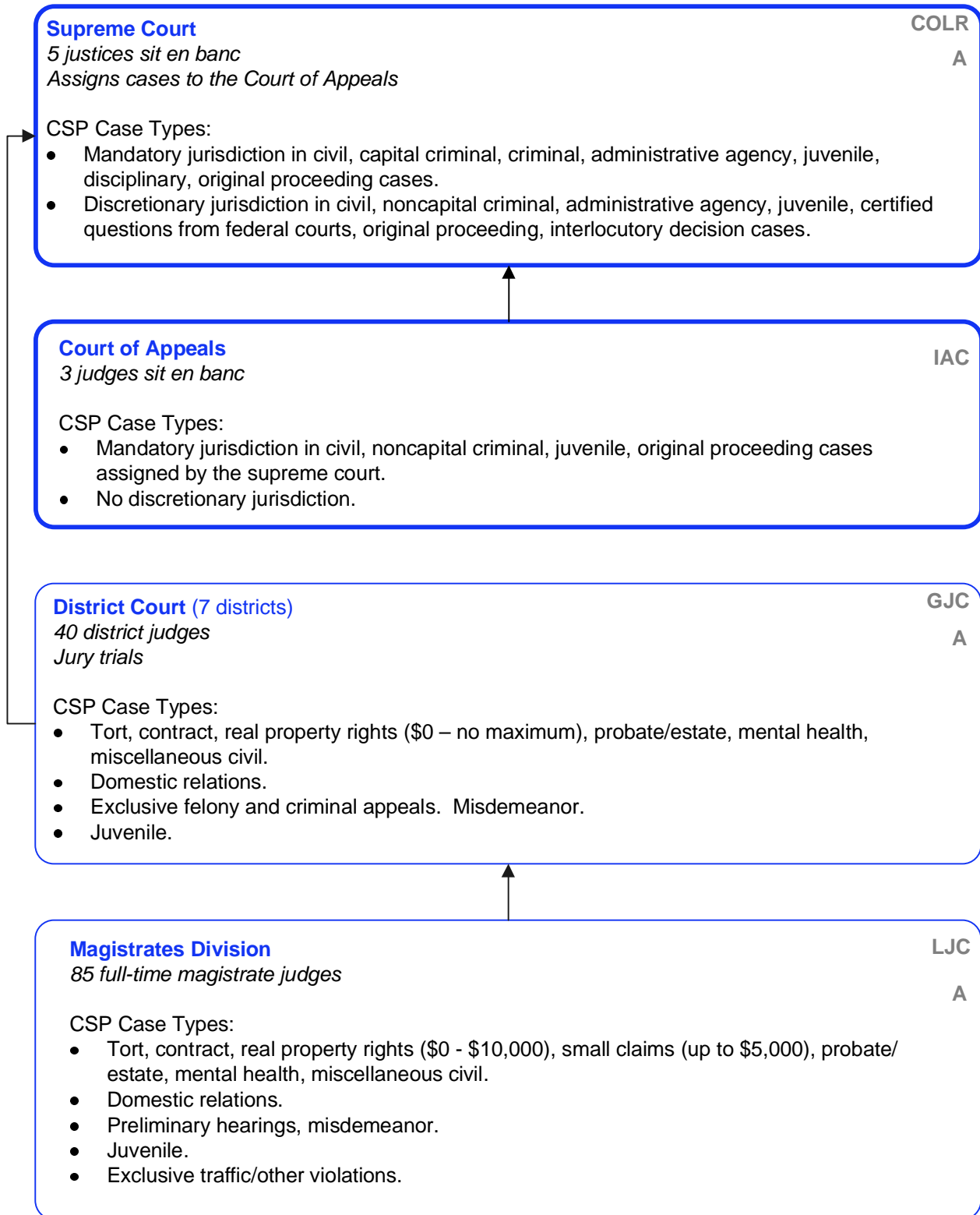
 = Trial level

COLR = Court of Last Resort
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AOC Web site: <http://www.courts.state.hi.us>



Idaho

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2006)



Note: The Magistrates Division of the District Court functions as a limited jurisdiction court.

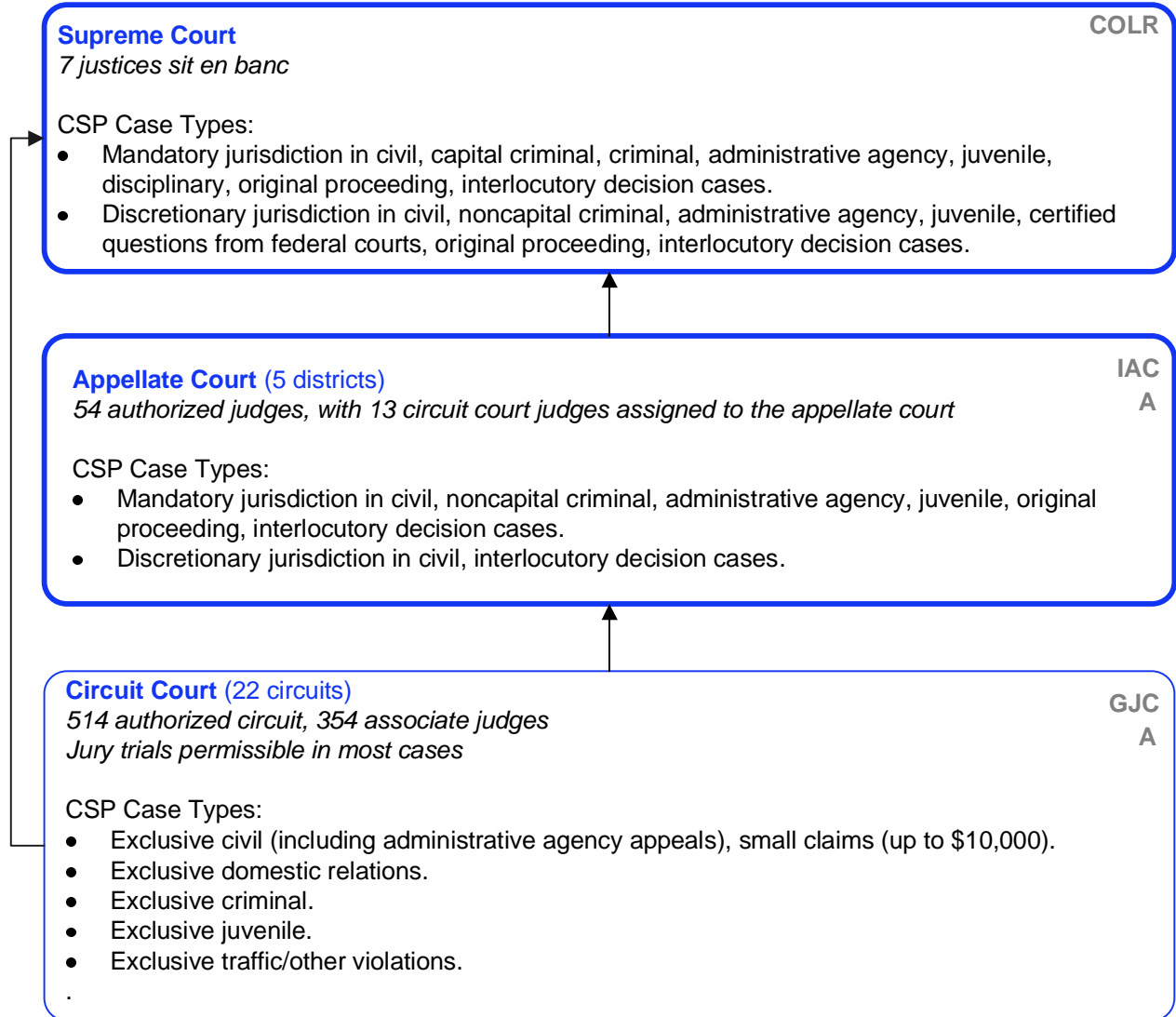
Legend

-  = Appellate level
-  = Trial level



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Illinois


(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2006)



Legend

-  = Appellate level
 = Trial level

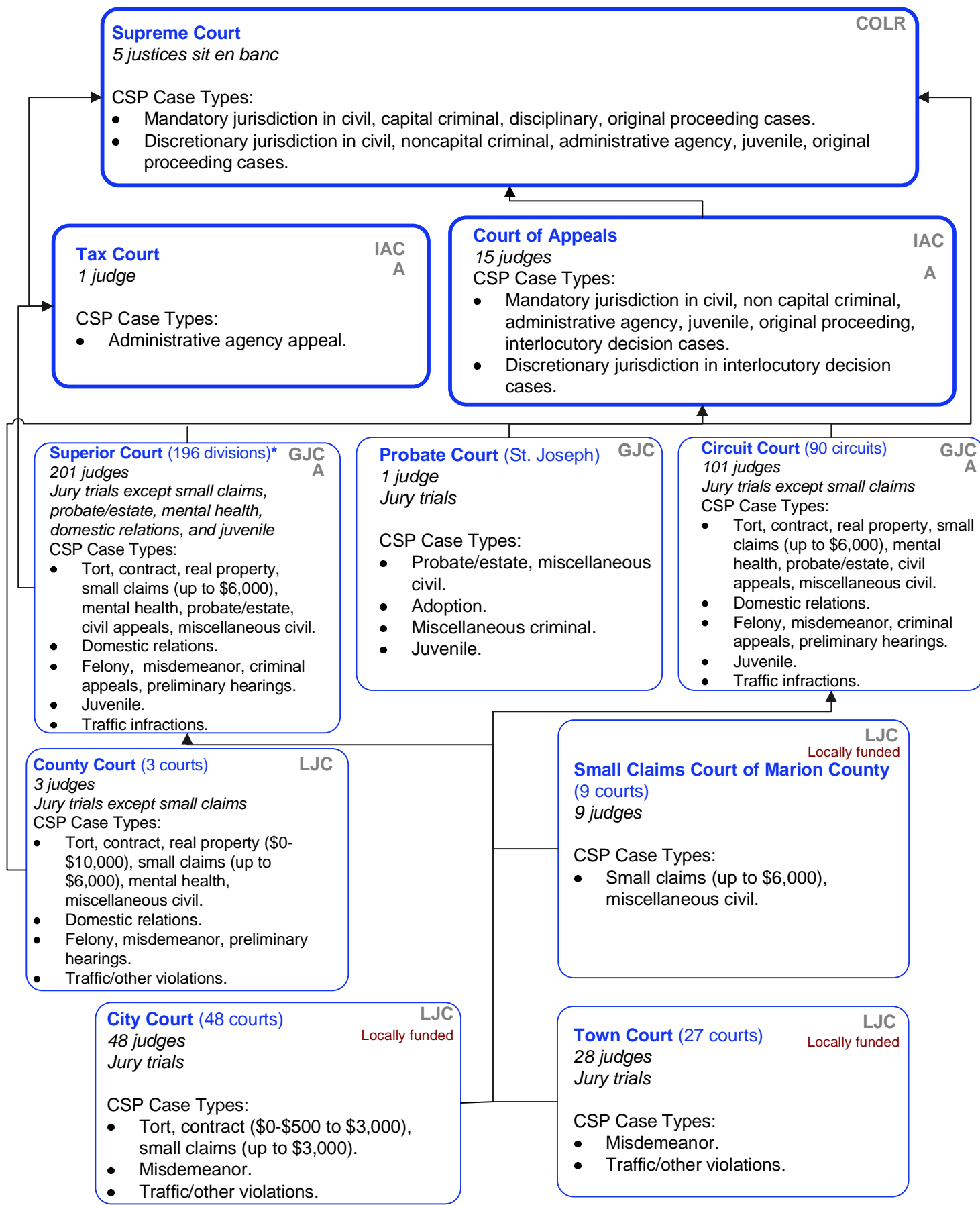
COLR = Court of Last Resort
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GJC = General Jurisdiction Court
LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court
A = Appeal from Admin. Agency

 = Route of appeal

AOC Web site: <http://www.state.il.us/court>

Indiana

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2006)



* Effective January 1, 1996, all Municipal Courts became Superior Courts.

Legend

 = Appellate level
 = Trial level

COLR = Court of Last Resort
IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court
GJC = General Jurisdiction Court
LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court
A = Appeal from Admin. Agency
↑ = Route of appeal

Iowa

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2006)

Supreme Court

COLR

*7 justices sit en banc**

Assigns cases to the Court of Appeals

CSP Case Types:

- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.

Court of Appeals

IAC

9 judges sit in panels and en banc

CSP Case Types:

- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases assigned by the supreme court.
- No discretionary jurisdiction.

District Court (8 districts in 99 counties)


GJC
A

*116 authorized district judges, 57 district associate judges, 9 FTE** senior judges, 12 associate juvenile judges, 149 part-time magistrates, and 1 associate probate judge*
Jury trials except in small claims, juvenile, equity cases, city and county ordinance violations, mental health cases

CSP Case Types:

- Exclusive civil (including trial court appeals). Small claims (up to \$5,000).
- Exclusive domestic relations.
- Exclusive criminal (including criminal appeals).
- Exclusive juvenile.
- Exclusive traffic/other violations, except for uncontested parking.

Legend

 = Appellate level

 = Trial level

COLR = Court of Last Resort

IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court

GJC = General Jurisdiction Court

LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court

A = Appeal from Admin. Agency

↑ = Route of appeal

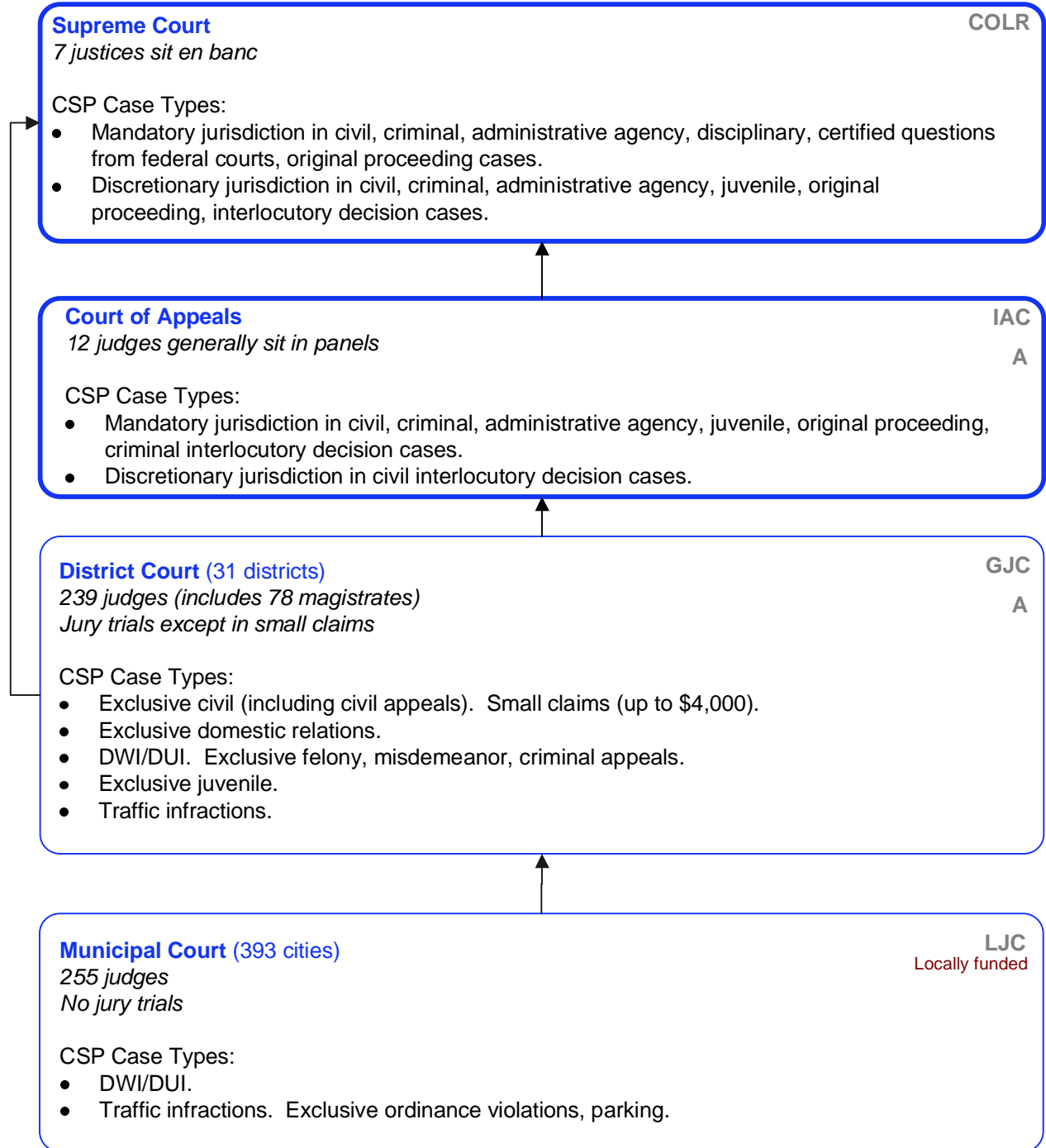
AOC Web site: <http://www.judicial.state.ia.us>

* As of January 2000, the court no longer sits in panels; it decides en banc.



** Includes 37 senior judges who work ¼ time (13 weeks/year).

Kansas

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2006)



Legend

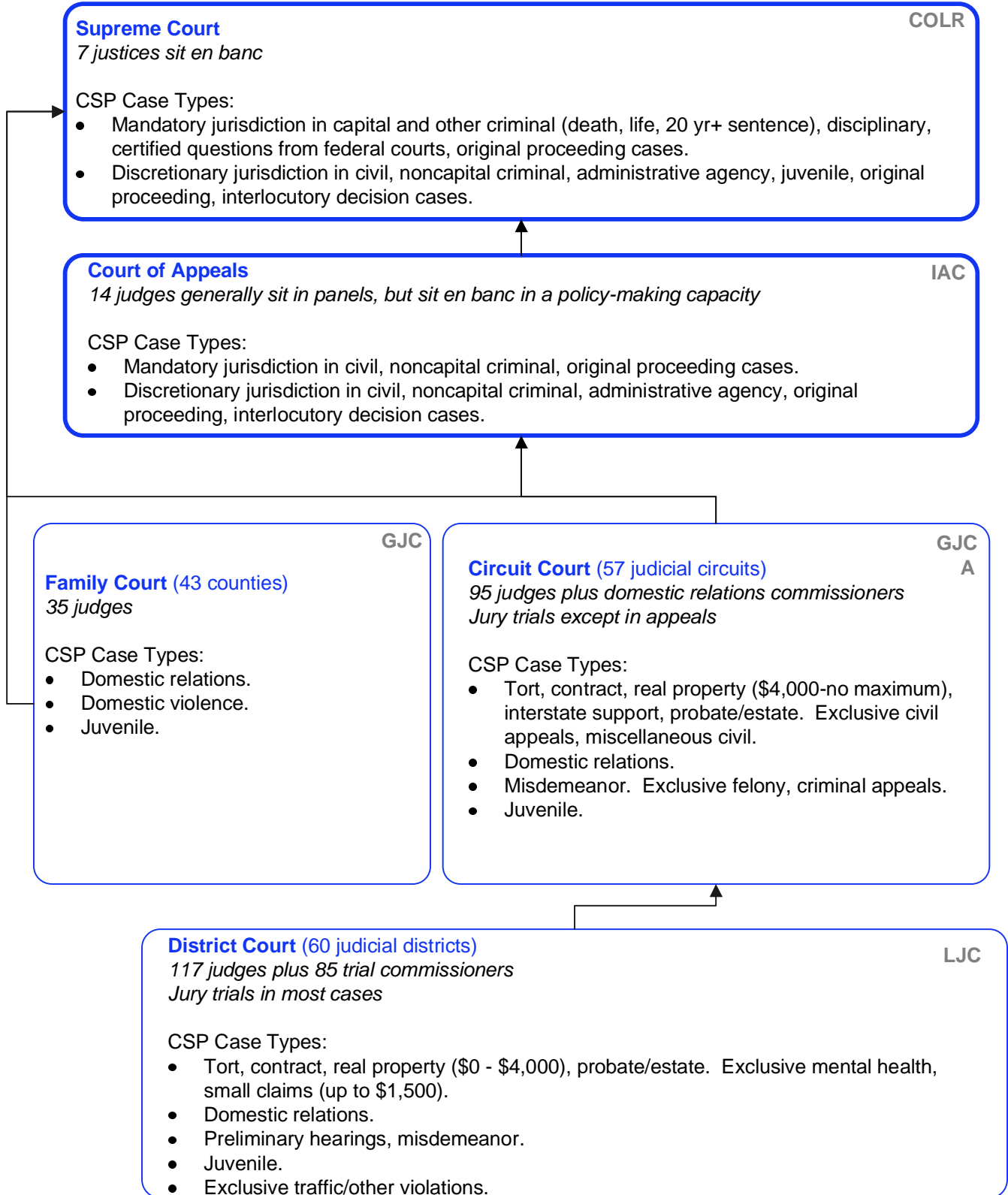
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AOC Web site: <http://www.kscourts.org>

Kentucky

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2006)



Legend

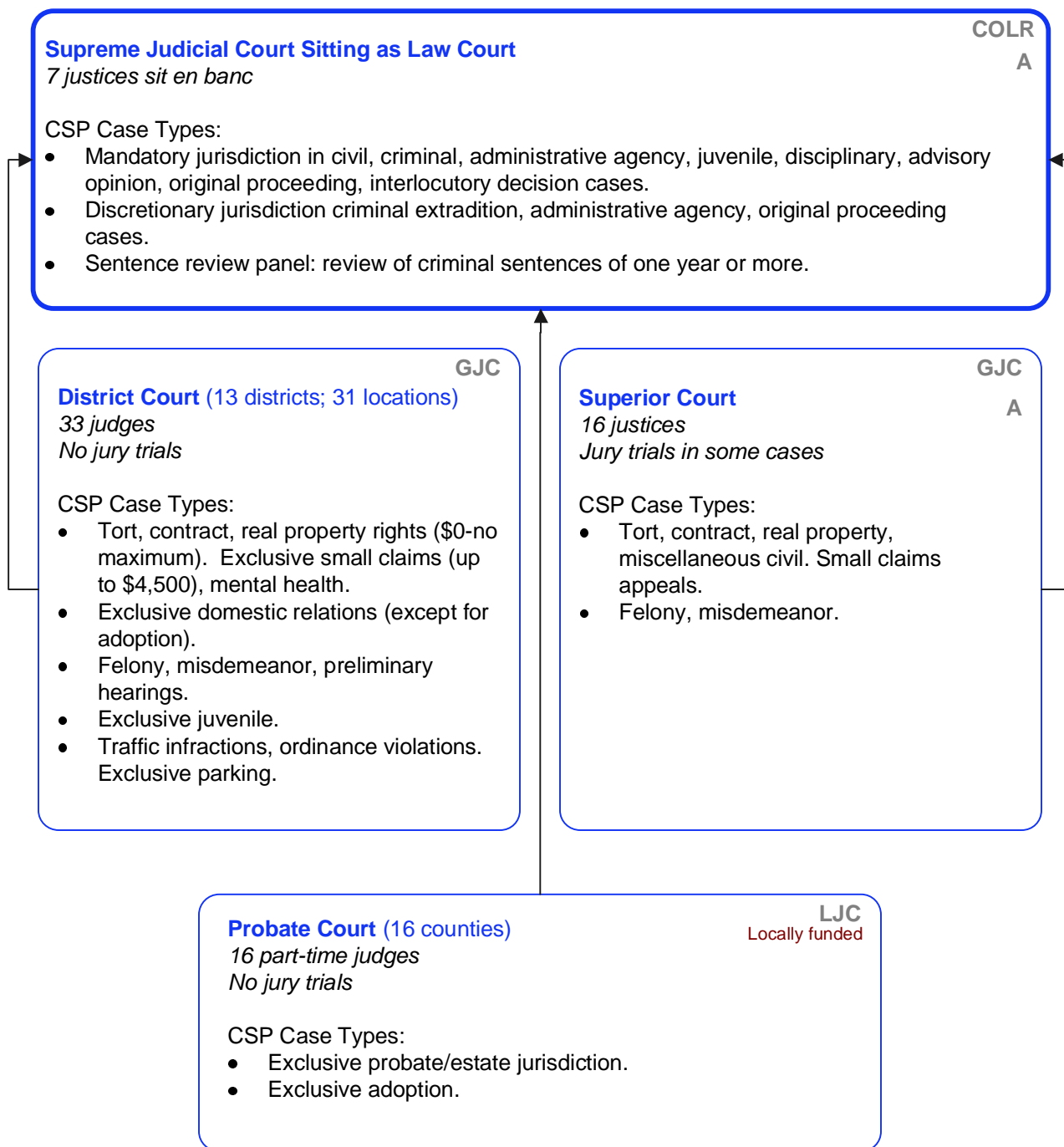
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 ↑ = Route of appeal

Note: There are also 26 senior status judges who can serve on any court except the Supreme Court.

Maine

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2006)



*The Administrative Court was eliminated effective March 15, 2001, with the caseload absorbed by the District Court.

Legend

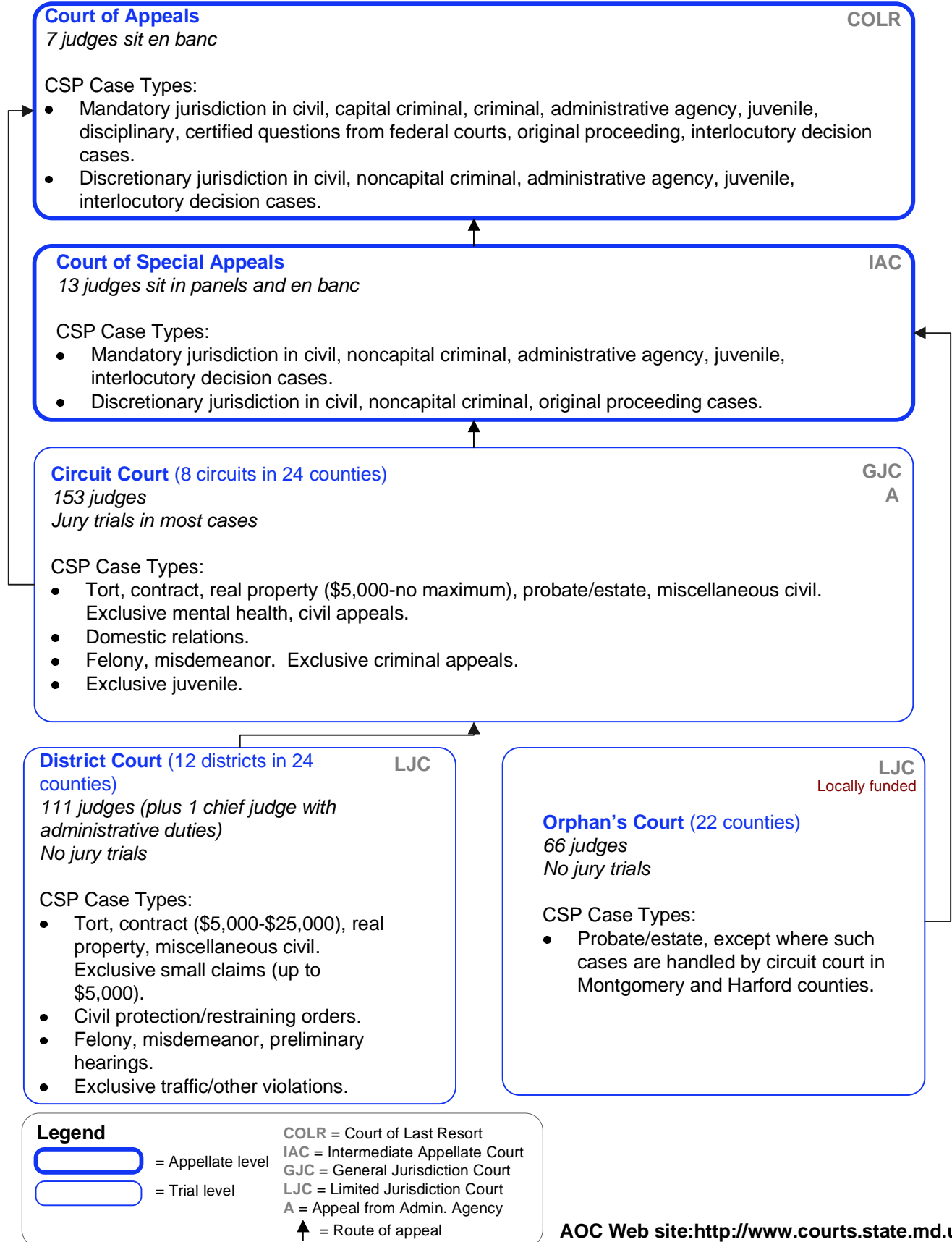
- = Appellate level
- = Trial level

COLR = Court of Last Resort
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 GJC = General Jurisdiction Court
 LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court
 A = Appeal from Admin. Agency
 ↑ = Route of appeal

AOC Web site: <http://www.courts.state.me.us>

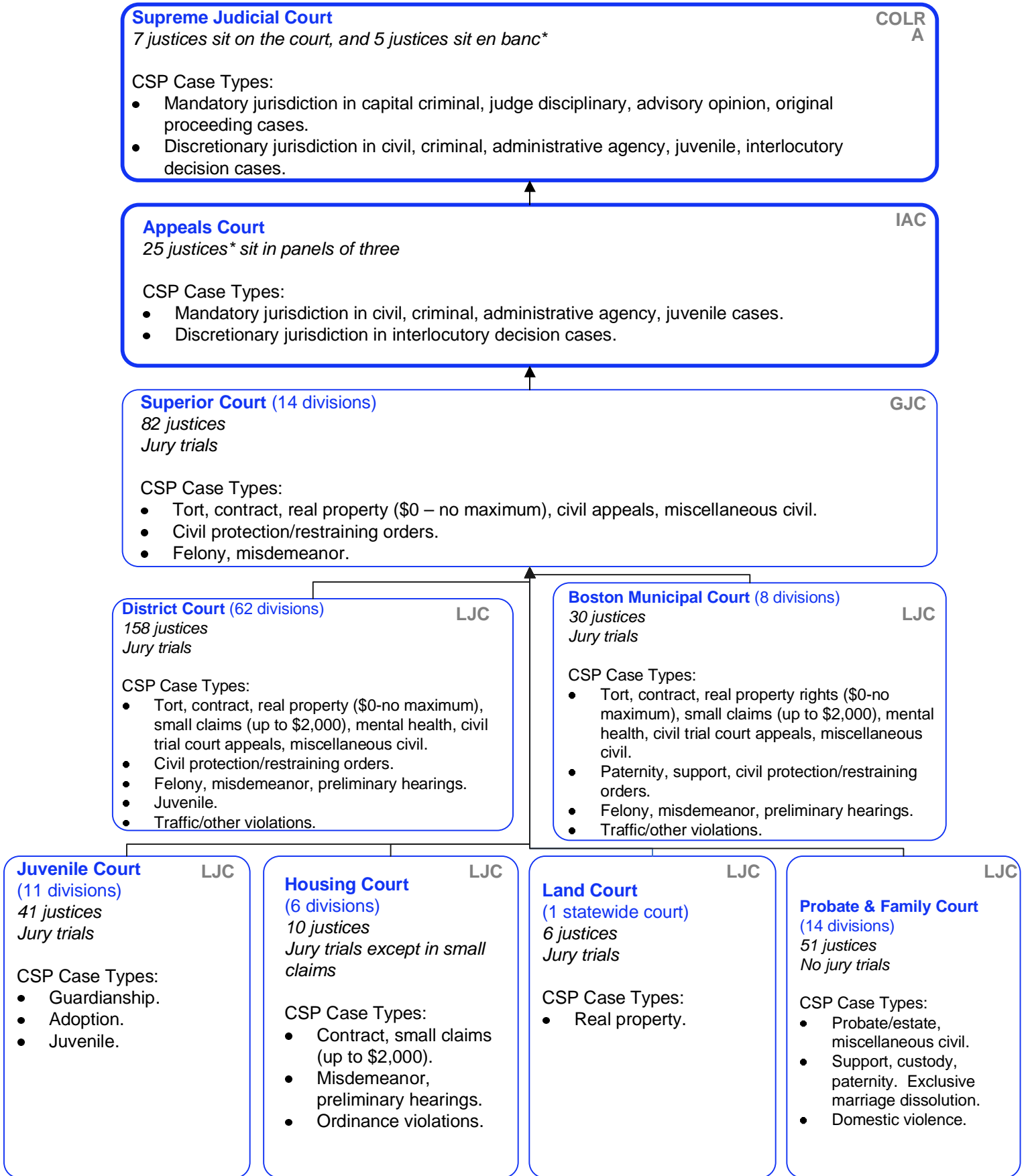
Maryland

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2006)



Massachusetts

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2006)



*The justices also sit individually in the "single justice" side of the court, on a rotating basis.

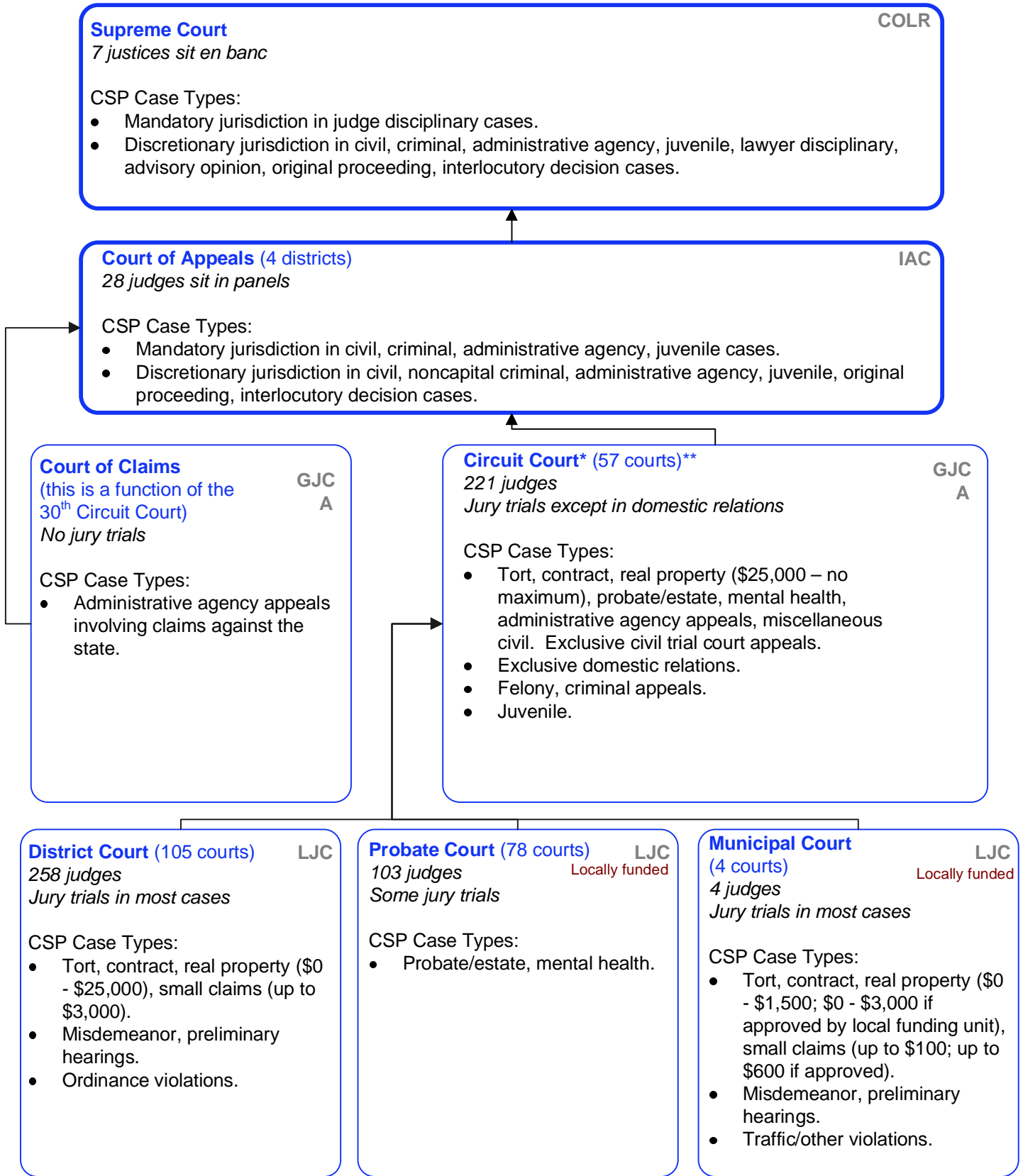
Legend

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- GJC = General Jurisdiction Court
- LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court
- A = Appeal from Admin. Agency
- ↑ = Route of appeal

Michigan

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2006)



*The Recorder's Court of Detroit merged with the Circuit Court effective October 1, 1997.

**A Family Division of Circuit Court became operational on January 1, 1998.

Legend

 = Appellate level

 = Trial level

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 LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court
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 ↑ = Route of appeal

Minnesota

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2006)

Supreme Court

7 justices sit en banc

COLR

A

CSP Case Types:

- Mandatory jurisdiction in criminal, administrative agency, disciplinary, certified questions from federal court cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceedings cases.



Court of Appeals

16 judges sit en banc and in panels

IAC

A

CSP Case Types:

- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, criminal, juvenile, original proceeding cases.



District Court (10 districts)

281 judges


Jury trials except in small claims and non-extended juvenile jurisdiction cases

GJC

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property, small claims (conciliation division: \$0 - \$7,500), mental health, probate/estate, miscellaneous civil.
- Domestic relations.
- Criminal.
- Juvenile.
- Traffic/other violations.

Legend

 = Appellate level

 = Trial level

COLR = Court of Last Resort

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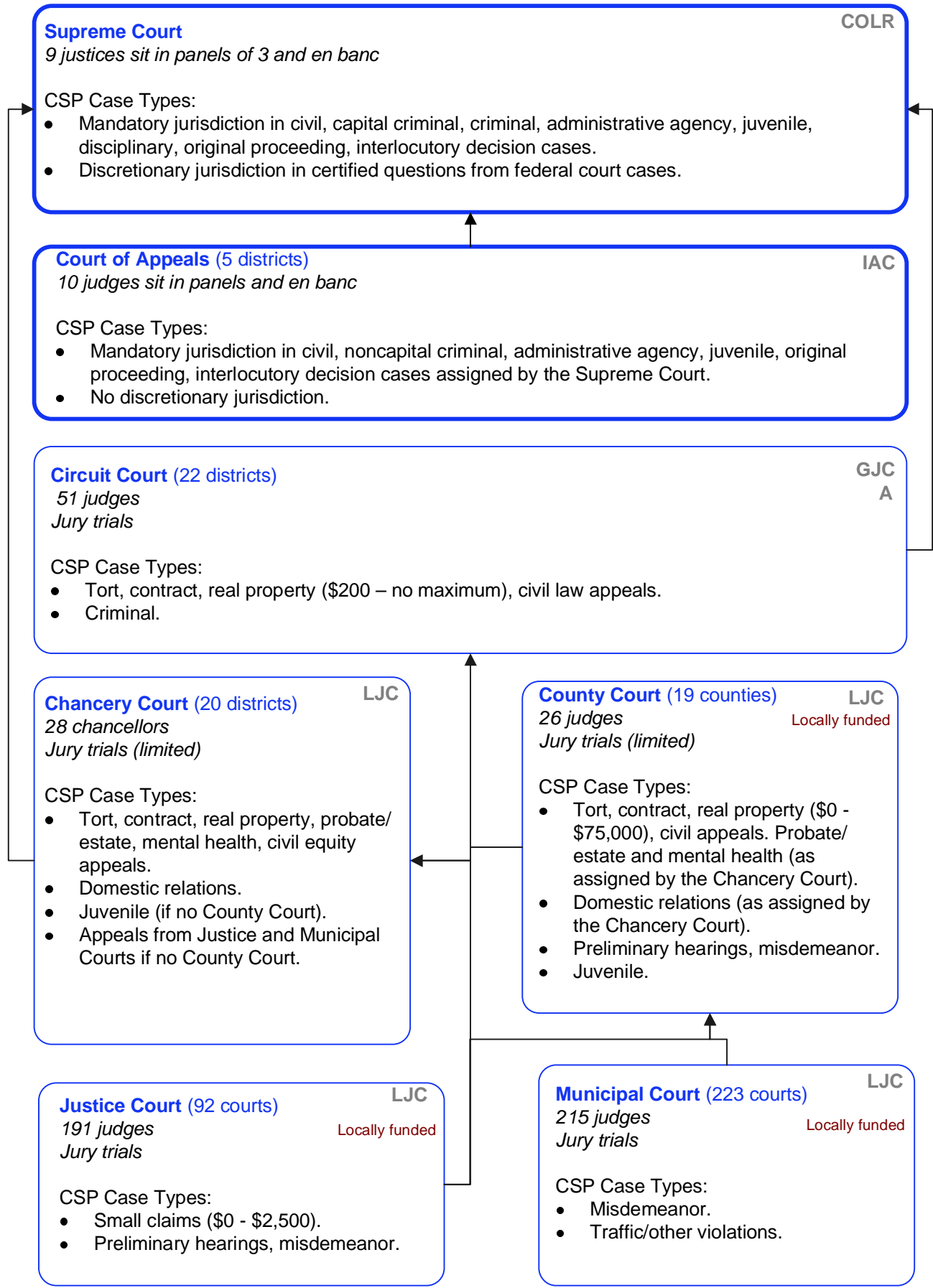
A = Appeal from Admin. Agency

↑ = Route of appeal

AOC Web site: <http://www.courts.state.mn.us>

Mississippi

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2006)



Supreme Court COLR
9 justices sit in panels of 3 and en banc

CSP Case Types:

- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in certified questions from federal court cases.

Courts of Appeals (5 districts) IAC
10 judges sit in panels and en banc

CSP Case Types:

- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases assigned by the Supreme Court.
- No discretionary jurisdiction.

Circuit Court (22 districts) GJC
51 judges
Jury trials

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property (\$200 – no maximum), civil law appeals.
- Criminal.

Chancery Court (20 districts) LJC
28 chancellors
Jury trials (limited)

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property, probate/estate, mental health, civil equity appeals.
- Domestic relations.
- Juvenile (if no County Court).
- Appeals from Justice and Municipal Courts if no County Court.

County Court (19 counties) LJC
26 judges
Jury trials (limited)
 Locally funded

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property (\$0 - \$75,000), civil appeals. Probate/estate and mental health (as assigned by the Chancery Court).
- Domestic relations (as assigned by the Chancery Court).
- Preliminary hearings, misdemeanor.
- Juvenile.

Justice Court (92 courts) LJC
191 judges
Jury trials
 Locally funded

CSP Case Types:

- Small claims (\$0 - \$2,500).
- Preliminary hearings, misdemeanor.

Municipal Court (223 courts) LJC
215 judges
Jury trials
 Locally funded

CSP Case Types:

- Misdemeanor.
- Traffic/other violations.

Note: The Family Court was abolished July 1, 1999 and merged into County Court.

AOC Web site: <http://www.mssc.state.ms.us>

Legend

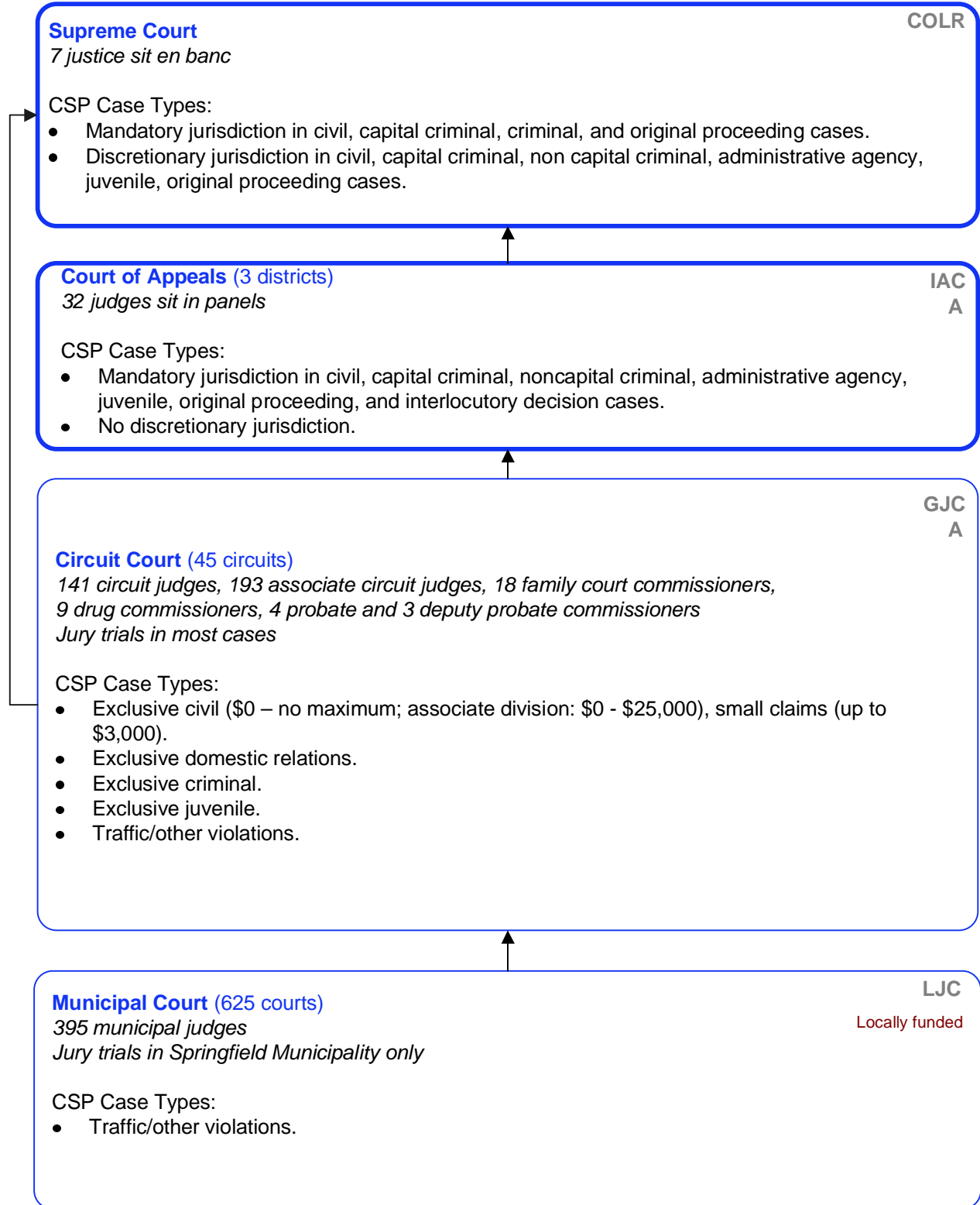
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 ↑ = Route of appeal

Missouri

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2006)



Legend

 = Appellate level

 = Trial level

COLR = Court of Last Resort
IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court
GJC = General Jurisdiction Court
LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court
A = Appeal from Admin. Agency
↑ = Route of appeal

Montana

(Court Structure as of Calendar Year 2006)

Supreme Court

COLR

7 justices sit en banc and in panels

CSP Case Types:

- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, juvenile, administrative agency, disciplinary cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in certified questions from federal courts, original proceeding cases.

Water Court

GJC

(Court of Special Jurisdiction)
(4 divisions)

1 chief judge, 4 water judges, water masters as needed
No jury trials

CSP Case Types:

- Real property, limited to adjudication of existing water rights.

District Court (56 counties)

GJC
A

43 judges
Jury trials

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property rights. Exclusive mental health, estate, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil.
- Exclusive domestic relations.
- Misdemeanor. Exclusive felony, criminal appeals.
- Juvenile.

Workers' Compensation Court

GJC

1 judge
No jury trials

CSP Case Types:

- Limited to workers' compensation disputes.

Justice's Court (65 courts)

LJC
Locally funded

25 justices of the peace plus 39 judges who serve both Justice's Court and City Court
Jury trial except in small claims

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property rights (\$0-\$7,000), small claims (\$3,000).
- Misdemeanor, preliminary hearings.
- Traffic infractions, parking.

Municipal Court (5 courts)

LJC
Locally funded

7 judges
Jury trials

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property rights (\$0-\$7,000).
- Misdemeanor, preliminary hearings.
- Traffic infractions, parking.

City Court (90 courts)

LJC
Locally funded

32 judges plus 39 judges who serve both City Court and Justice's Court
Jury trials in some cases

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property rights (\$0-\$7,000).
- Misdemeanor, preliminary hearings.
- Traffic infractions. Exclusive ordinance violations.

Legend

= Appellate level

= Trial level

COLR = Court of Last Resort

IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court

GJC = General Jurisdiction Court

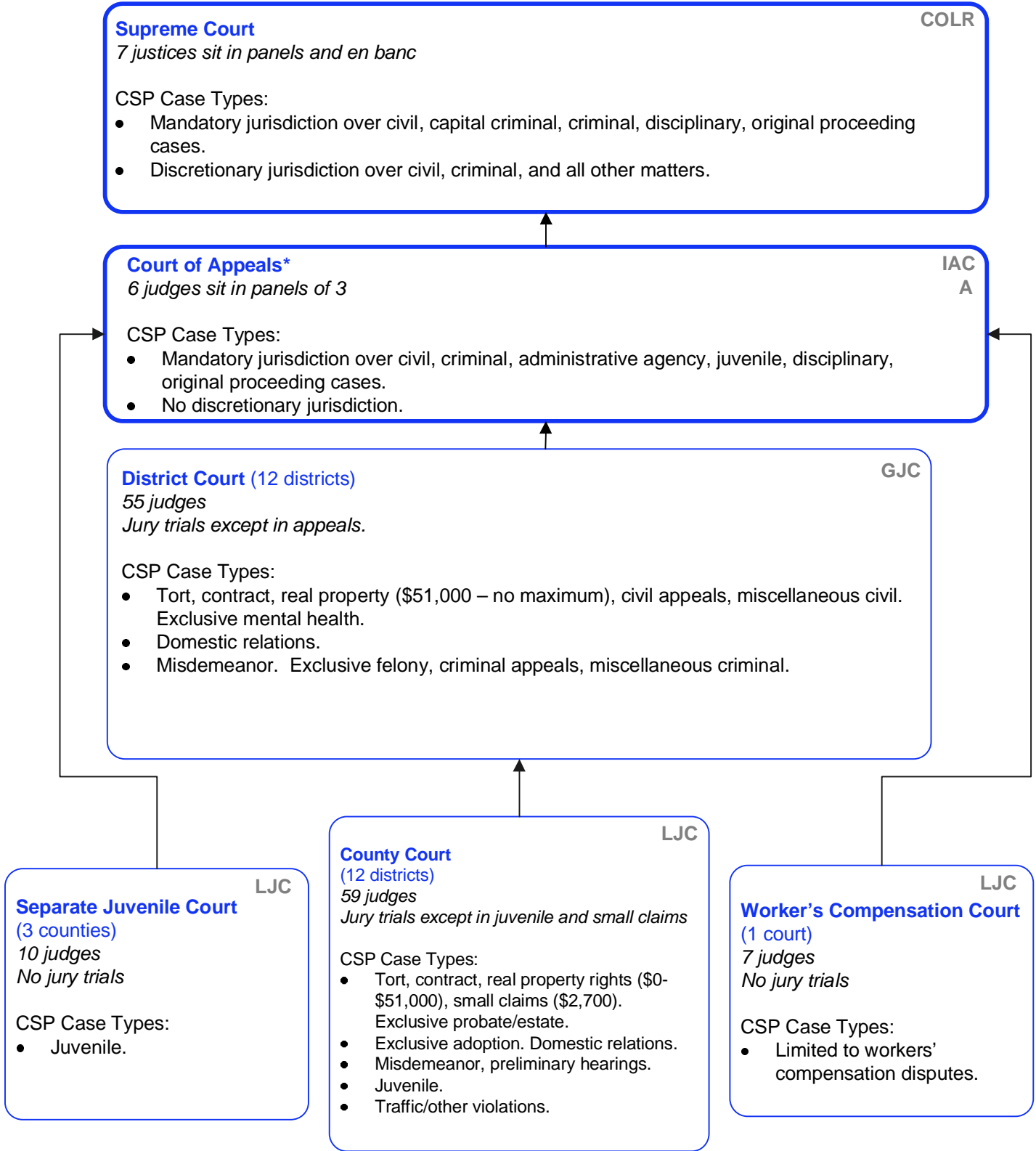
LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court

A = Appeal from Admin. Agency

↑ = Route of appeal

Nebraska

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2006)



* The Nebraska Court of Appeals was established September 6, 1991.

Legend

 = Appellate level

 = Trial level

COLR = Court of Last Resort
IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court
GJC = General Jurisdiction Court
LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court
A = Appeal from Admin. Agency
↑ = Route of appeal

Nevada

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2006)

Supreme Court

COLR

7 justices sit in panels and en banc

CSP Case Types:

- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- No discretionary jurisdiction.

District Court (9 districts)

GJC
A

60 judges

Jury trials in most cases

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property (\$10,000 – no maximum). Exclusive mental health, probate/estate, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil.
- Exclusive domestic relations.
- Felony, misdemeanor.* Exclusive criminal appeals.
- Exclusive juvenile.

Justice Court (48 towns)

LJC
Locally funded

64 justices of the peace (10 of these also serve as Municipal Court Judges)
Jury trials except in small claims and parking cases

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property rights (\$0 - \$10,000), small claims (up to \$5,000).
- Misdemeanor,* preliminary hearings.
- Traffic infractions, parking.

Municipal Court

LJC
Locally funded

(17 incorporated cities/towns)
20 judges (plus 10 justices of the peace who also serve as Municipal Court Judges)
No jury trials

CSP Case Types:

- Small claims (up to \$2,500).
- Misdemeanor.*
- Exclusive ordinance violations.

*District Court hears gross misdemeanor cases; Justice & Municipal Courts hear misdemeanors with fines under \$1,000 and/or sentence of less than six months.

Legend

 = Appellate level

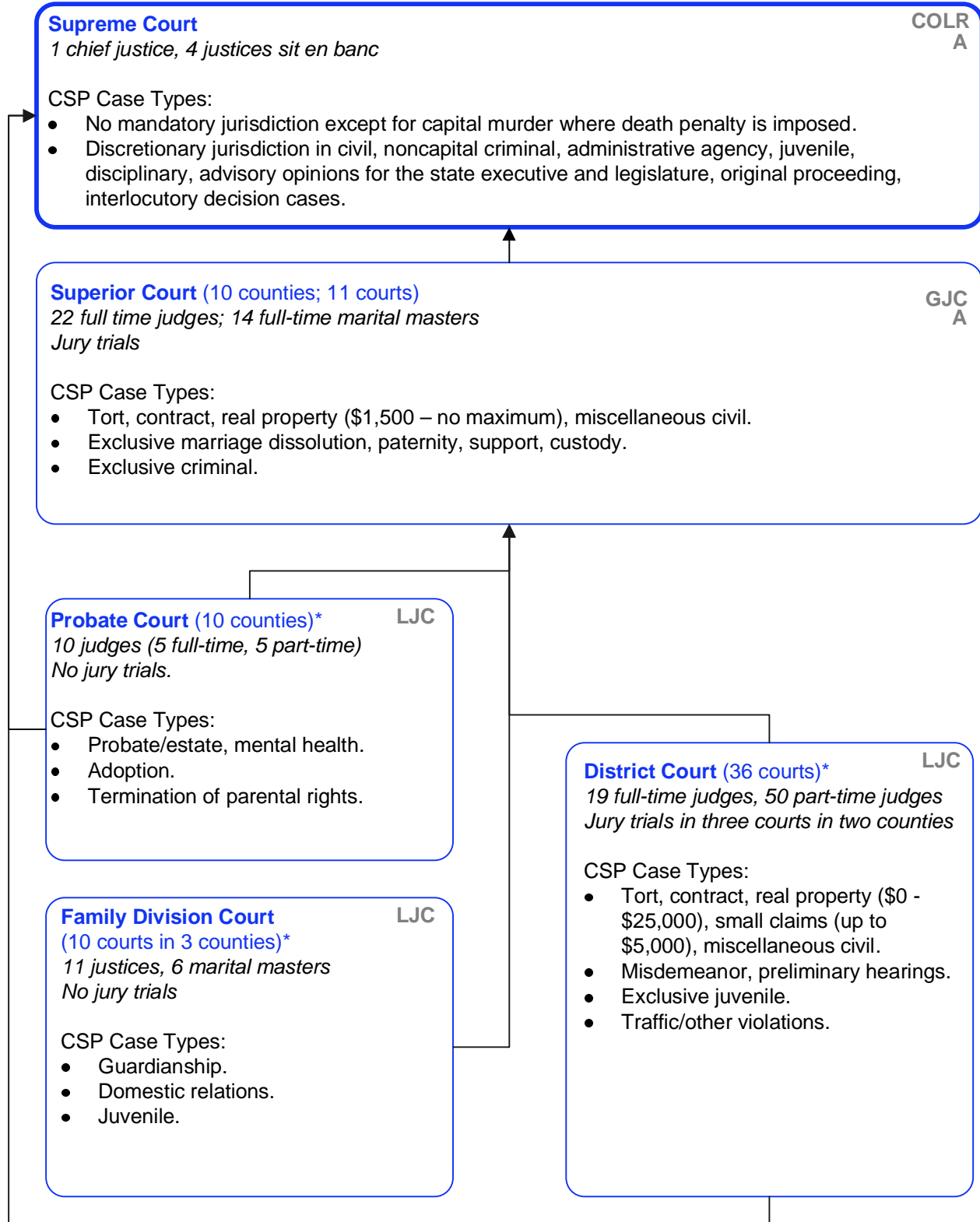
 = Trial level

COLR = Court of Last Resort
IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court
GJC = General Jurisdiction Court
LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court
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↑ = Route of appeal

AOC Web site: <http://www.nvsupremecourt.us>

New Hampshire

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2006)



* The Family Division Court was created in 2005. The municipal court merged with the District Court in May, 2000.

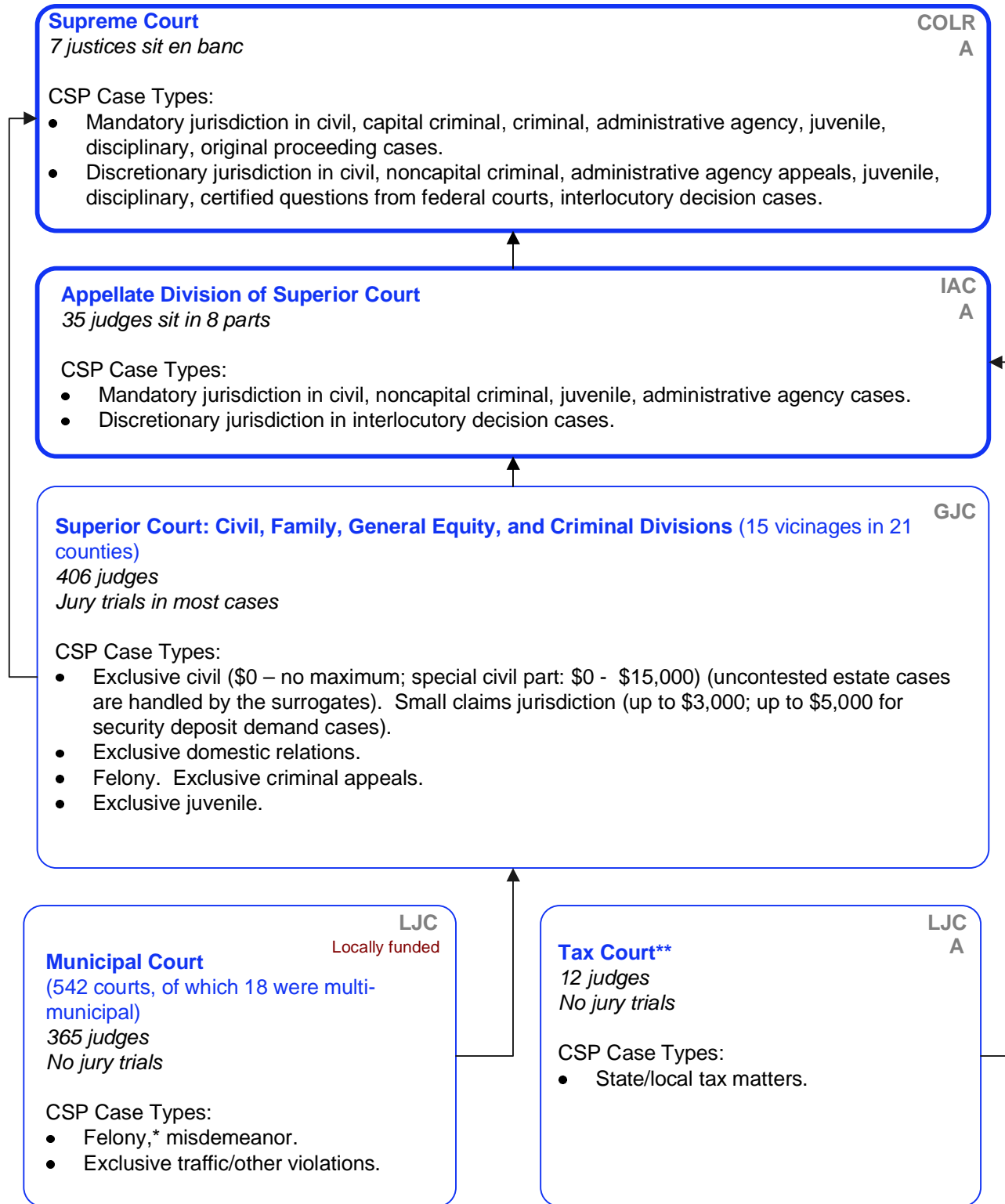
Legend

 = Appellate level
 = Trial level

COLR = Court of Last Resort
 IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court
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New Jersey

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2006)



* Felony cases are handled on first appearance in the Municipal Courts and then are transferred through the county Prosecutor's office to the Superior Court.

**Tax court is considered a limited jurisdiction court because of its specialized subject matter. Nevertheless, it receives appeals from administrative bodies and its cases are appealed to the intermediate appellate court. Tax court judges have the same general qualifications and terms of service as superior court judges and can be cross assigned.

Legend

- = Appellate level
- = Trial level

COLR = Court of Last Resort
IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court
GJC = General Jurisdiction Court
LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court
A = Appeal from Admin. Agency
↑ = Route of appeal

AOC Web site: <http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us>

New Mexico

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2006)

Supreme Court COLR
A
5 justices sit en banc

CSP Case Types:

- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, administrative agency, disciplinary, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, certified questions from federal court cases.

Court of Appeals IAC
A
10 judges sit in panels of 3

CSP Case Types:

- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in administrative agency, interlocutory decision cases.

District Court (13 districts) GJC
88 judges
Jury trials

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property, probate/estate. Exclusive mental health, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil.
- Exclusive domestic relations.
- Misdemeanor. Exclusive felony, criminal appeals.
- Exclusive juvenile.

Magistrate Court (54 courts) LJC
66 judges
Jury trials

CSP Case Types:

- Small claims (\$0 - \$10,000).
- Preliminary hearings, misdemeanor.
- Traffic infractions.

Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court LJC
19 judges
Jury trials except in traffic

CSP Case Types:

- Small claims (\$0 - \$10,000).
- Preliminary hearings, misdemeanor.
- Traffic/other violations.

Municipal Court (80 courts) LJC
85 judges
No jury trials Locally funded

CSP Case Types:

- Misdemeanor.
- Traffic/other violations.

Probate Court (33 counties) LJC
33 judges
No jury trials Locally funded

CSP Case Types:

- Probate/estate (uncontested cases).

Legend

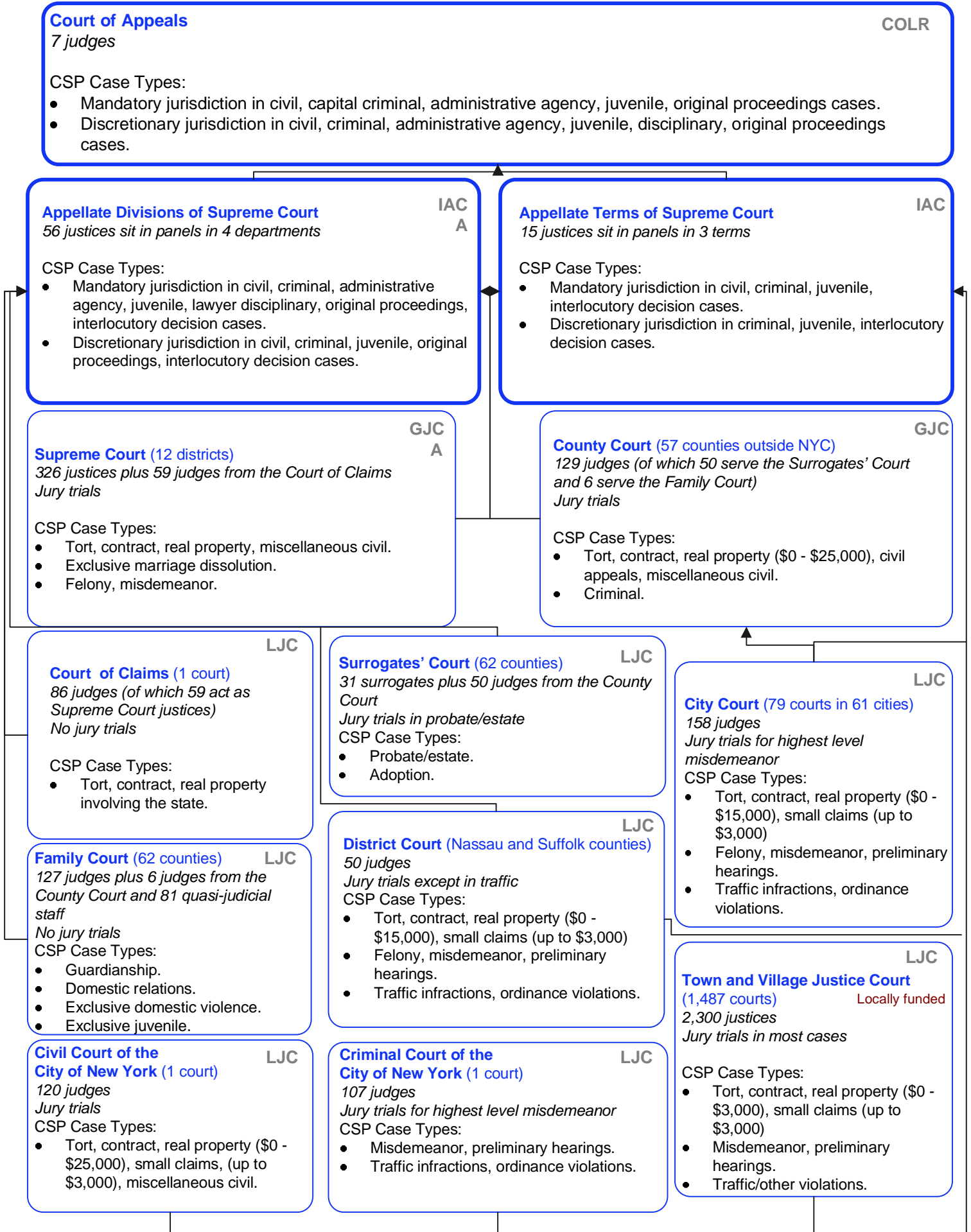
= Appellate level

= Trial level

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New York

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2006)



Legend

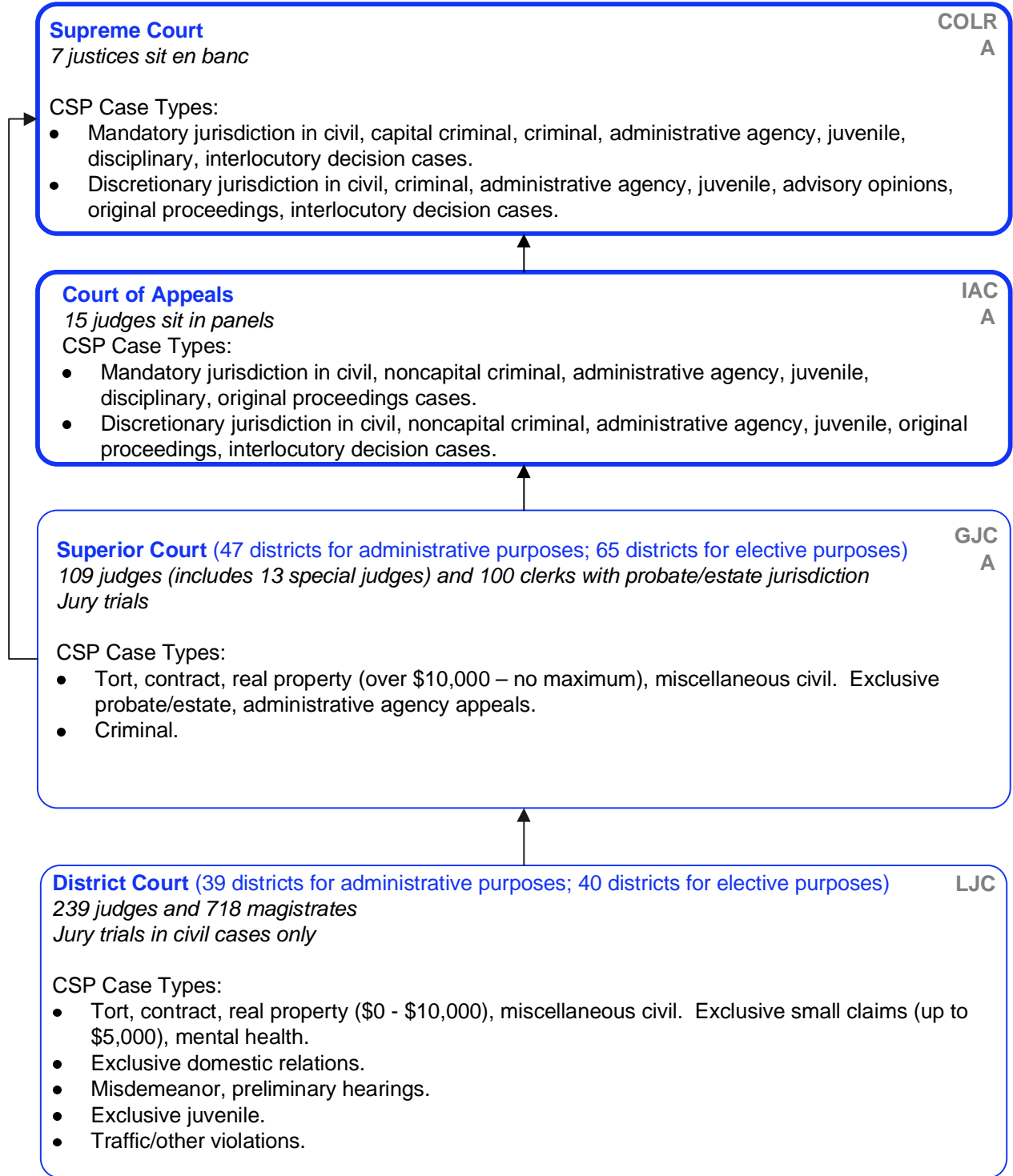
- = Appellate level
- = Trial level

- COLR = Court of Last Resort
- IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court
- GJC = General Jurisdiction Court
- LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court
- A = Appeal from Admin. Agency
- ↑ = Route of appeal

AOC Web site: <http://www.courts.state.ny.us>

North Carolina

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2006)



Legend

 = Appellate level

 = Trial level

COLR = Court of Last Resort
 IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court
 GJC = General Jurisdiction Court
 LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court
 A = Appeal from Admin. Agency
 ↑ = Route of appeal

North Dakota

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2006)

Supreme Court COLR
5 justices sit en banc
 Assigns cases to the Court of Appeals

CSP Case Types:

- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, original proceedings, interlocutory decision cases.
- No discretionary jurisdiction.

Temporary Court of Appeals* IAC
3 judges sit in panels

CSP Case Types:

- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, disciplinary, original proceedings, interlocutory decision cases.
- No discretionary jurisdiction.

District Court (7 judicial districts in 53 counties) GJC
A
42 judges, 7.5 judicial referees
Jury trials in many cases

CSP Case Types:

- Exclusive civil.
- Exclusive domestic relations.
- Criminal.
- Exclusive juvenile.
- Traffic/other violations.

Municipal Court (80 municipalities) LJC
Locally funded
94 judges
No jury trials

CSP Case Types:

- DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violations.

Note: A temporary Court of Appeals was established July 1, 1987, to exercise appellate and original jurisdiction as delegated by the Supreme Court. *Authorization for the Court of Appeals extends to January 1, 2008.

Legend

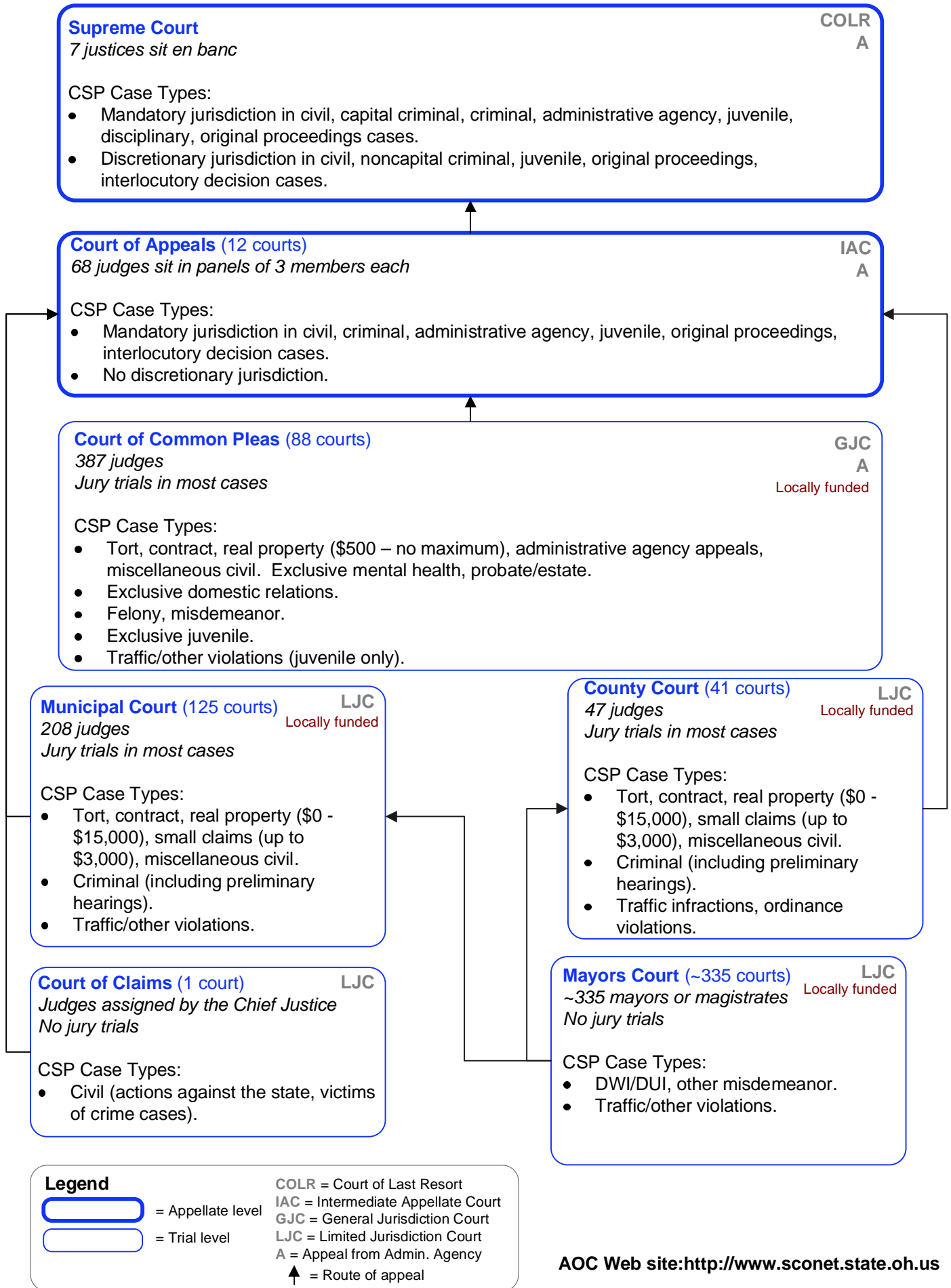
= Appellate level

= Trial level

COLR = Court of Last Resort
 IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court
 GJC = General Jurisdiction Court
 LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court
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 ↑ = Route of appeal

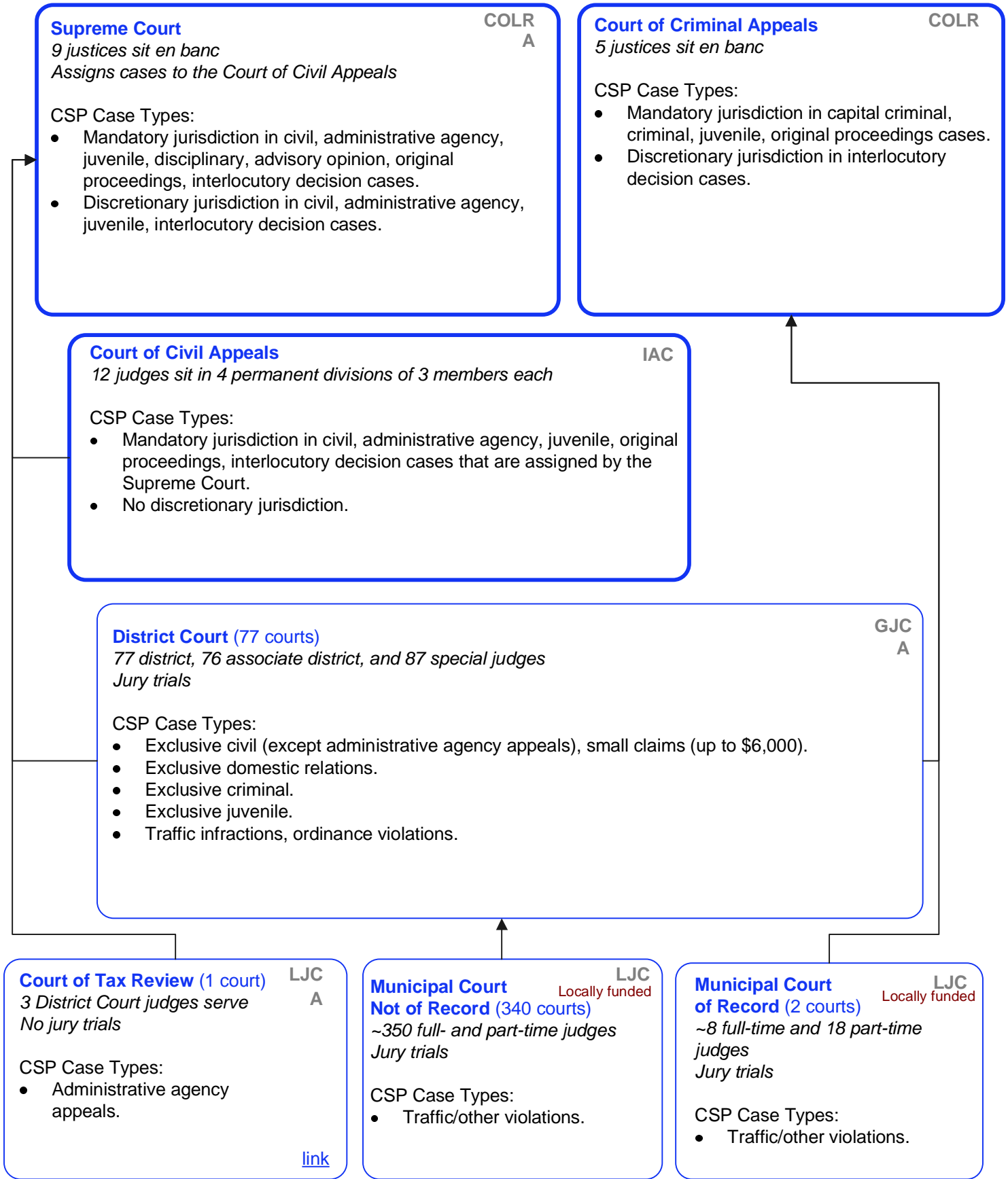
Ohio

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2006)



Oklahoma

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2006)



Legend

- = Appellate level
- = Trial level

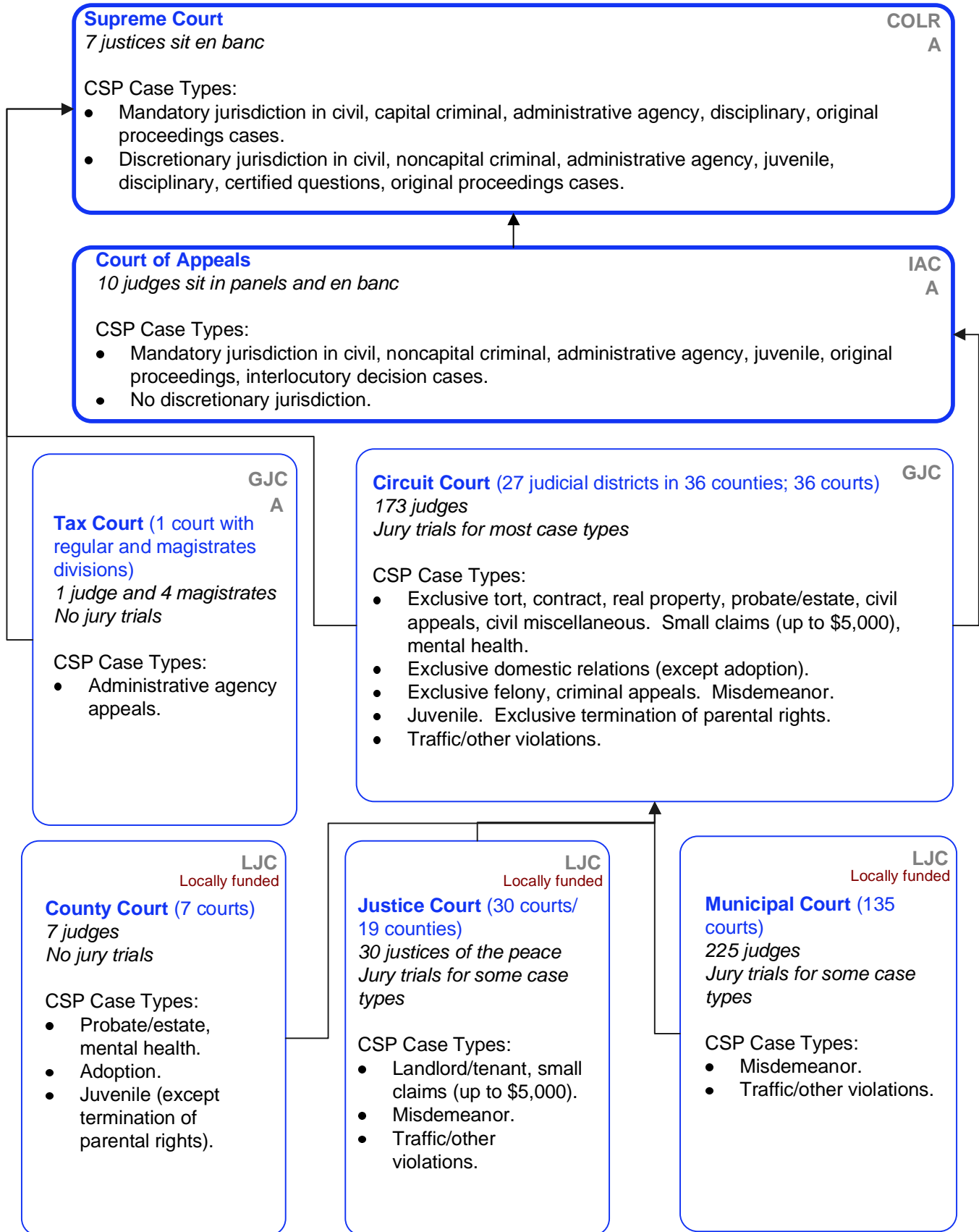
- COLR = Court of Last Resort
- IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court
- GJC = General Jurisdiction Court
- LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court
- A = Appeal from Admin. Agency
- ↑ = Route of appeal

Note: Oklahoma has a workers' compensation court, which hears complaints that are handled exclusively by administrative agencies in other states.

AOC Web site: <http://www.oscn.net>

Oregon

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2006)



Note: Effective January 15, 1998 all District Courts were eliminated and District judges became Circuit judges.

Legend

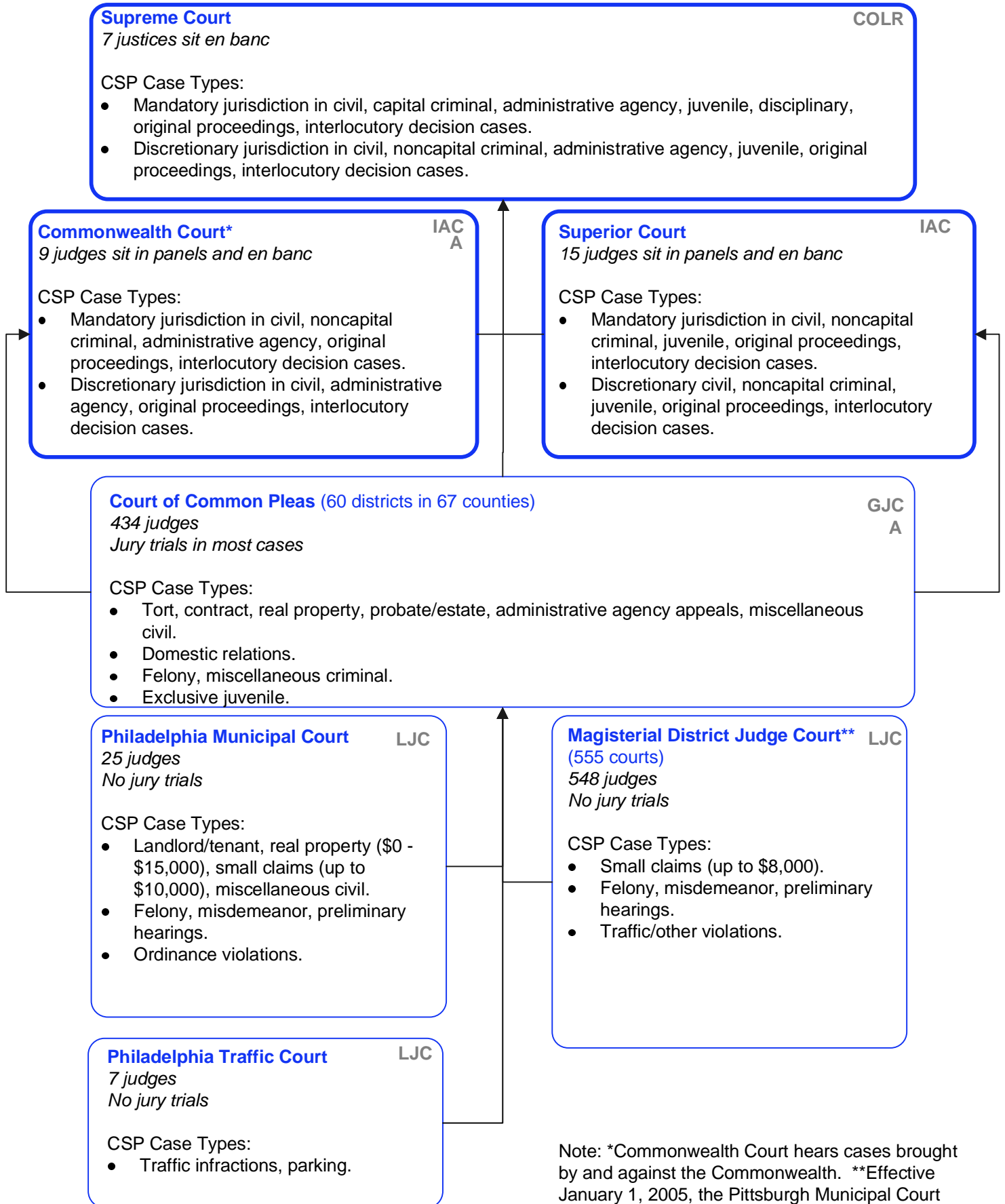
 = Appellate level

 = Trial level

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GJC = General Jurisdiction Court
LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court
A = Appeal from Admin. Agency
↑ = Route of appeal

Pennsylvania

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2006)



Supreme Court

7 justices sit en banc

COLR

CSP Case Types:

- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, original proceedings, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, original proceedings, interlocutory decision cases.

Commonwealth Court*

9 judges sit in panels and en banc

IAC
A

CSP Case Types:

- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, original proceedings, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, administrative agency, original proceedings, interlocutory decision cases.

Superior Court

15 judges sit in panels and en banc

IAC

CSP Case Types:

- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, juvenile, original proceedings, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary civil, noncapital criminal, juvenile, original proceedings, interlocutory decision cases.

Court of Common Pleas (60 districts in 67 counties)

434 judges

Jury trials in most cases

GJC
A

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property, probate/estate, administrative agency appeals, miscellaneous civil.
- Domestic relations.
- Felony, miscellaneous criminal.
- Exclusive juvenile.

Philadelphia Municipal Court

25 judges

No jury trials

LJC

CSP Case Types:

- Landlord/tenant, real property (\$0 - \$15,000), small claims (up to \$10,000), miscellaneous civil.
- Felony, misdemeanor, preliminary hearings.
- Ordinance violations.

Magisterial District Judge Court**

(555 courts)

548 judges

No jury trials

LJC

CSP Case Types:

- Small claims (up to \$8,000).
- Felony, misdemeanor, preliminary hearings.
- Traffic/other violations.

Philadelphia Traffic Court

7 judges

No jury trials

LJC

CSP Case Types:

- Traffic infractions, parking.

Note: *Commonwealth Court hears cases brought by and against the Commonwealth. **Effective January 1, 2005, the Pittsburgh Municipal Court merged with the Allegheny County Magisterial District Judge Court.

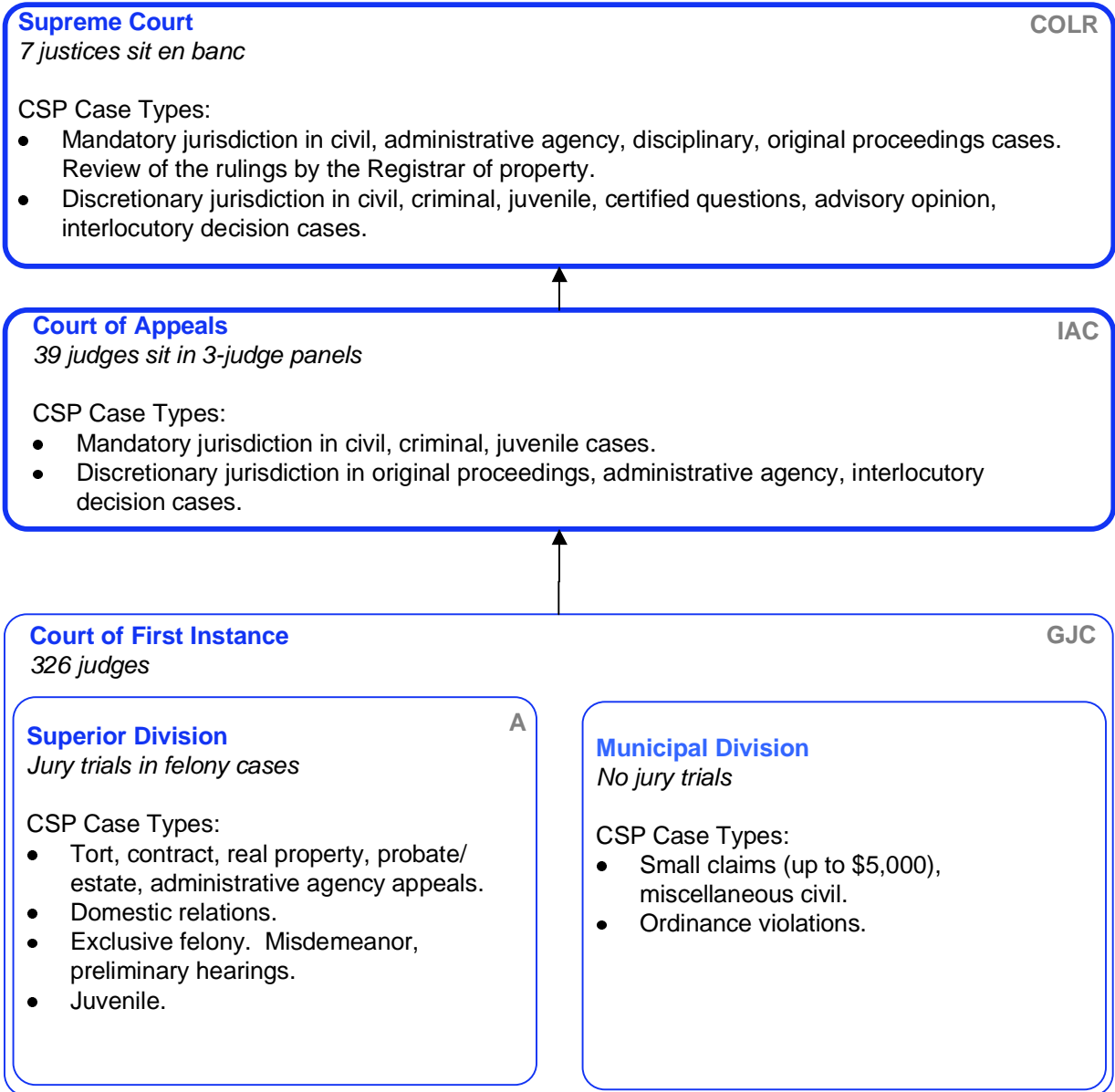
Legend

- = Appellate level
- = Trial level

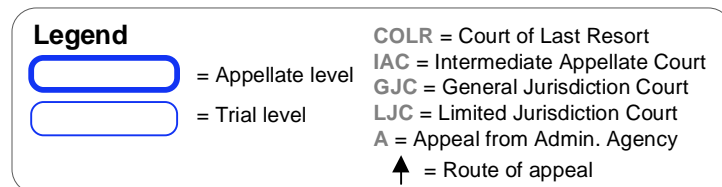
COLR = Court of Last Resort
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Puerto Rico

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2006)



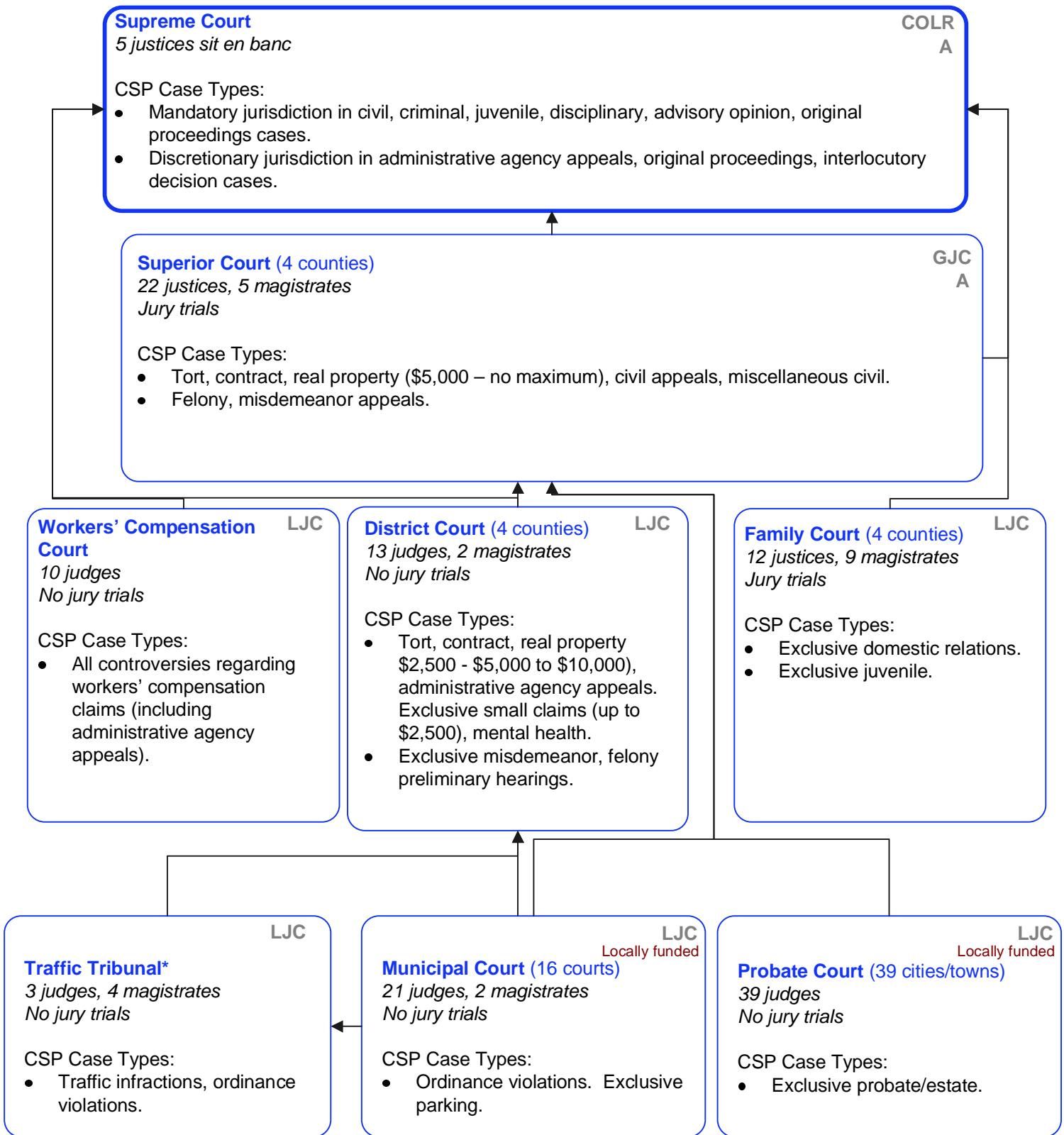
Note: The Judicial Law 2001, renamed the Judicial Reform Act of 1994, changed the name of the intermediate appellate court from the Circuit Court of Appeals to the Court of Appeals and abolished the District Division of the Court of First Instance. The District Division was abolished in 2002, and its functions were transferred to the Superior Division.



AOC Web site: <http://www.tribunalpr.org>

Rhode Island

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2006)



*This court was formerly known as the Rhode Island Administrative Adjudication Court.

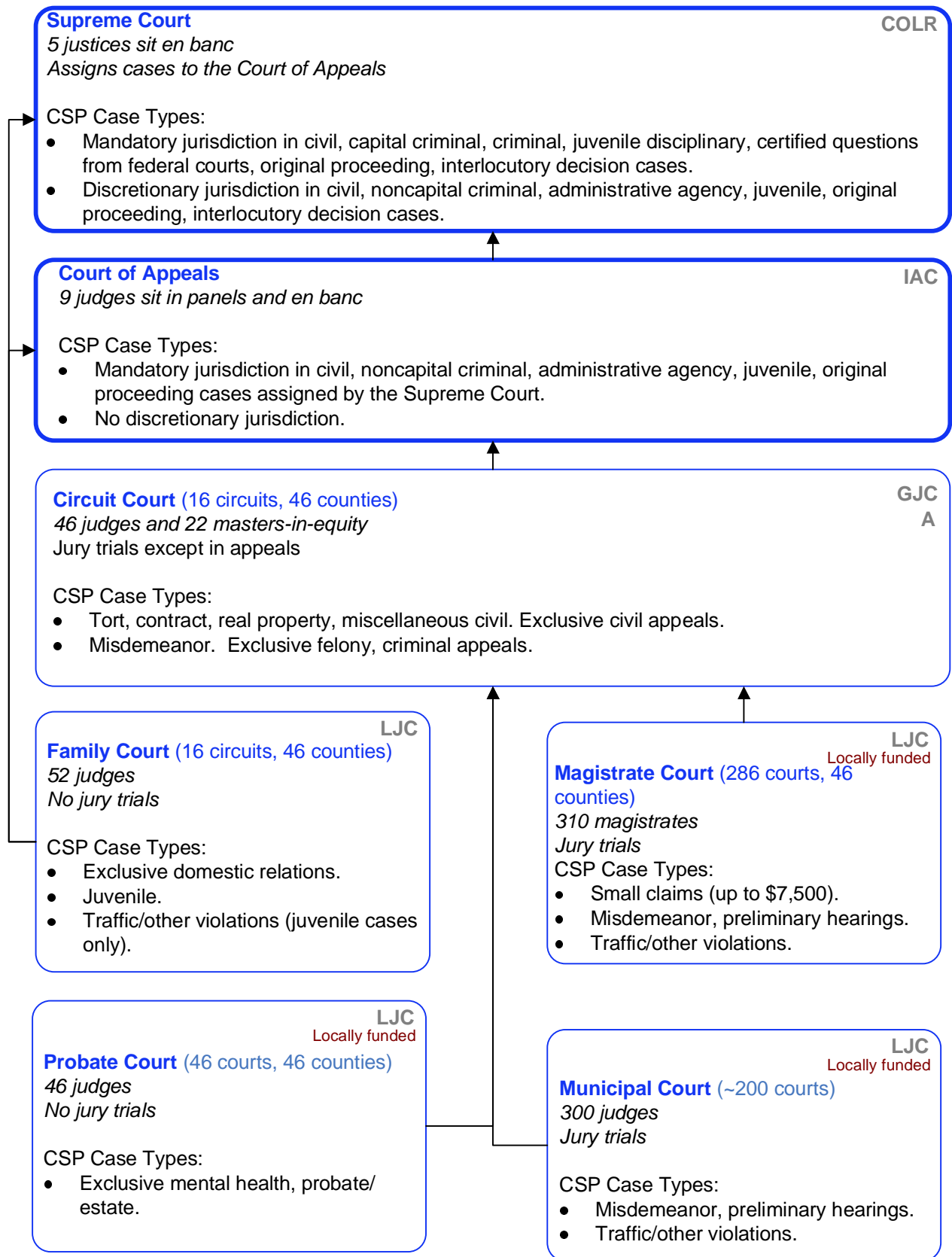
Legend

- = Appellate level
- = Trial level

- COLR = Court of Last Resort
- IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court
- GJC = General Jurisdiction Court
- LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court
- A = Appeal from Admin. Agency
- ↑ = Route of appeal

South Carolina

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2006)



Legend

 = Appellate level

 = Trial level

COLR = Court of Last Resort
 IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court
 GJC = General Jurisdiction Court
 LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court
 A = Appeal from Admin. Agency
 ↑ = Route of appeal

South Dakota

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2006)

Supreme Court

5 justices sit en banc

COLR

CSP Case Types:

- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, capital criminal, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, original proceedings cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in advisory opinions, original proceedings, interlocutory decision cases.



Circuit Court (7 circuits)

39 judges

Jury trials except in small claims

GJC

A

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property (\$10,000 – no maximum), small claims (up to \$8,000).
- Exclusive domestic relations.
- Criminal.
- Exclusive juvenile.
- Exclusive traffic/other violations (except uncontested parking, which is handled administratively).



Magistrate Court (7 circuits)

12 full-time and 7 part-time magistrates


No jury trials

LJC

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property (\$0 - \$10,000), small claims (up to \$8,000).
- Misdemeanor, preliminary hearings.

Legend

 = Appellate level

 = Trial level


COLR = Court of Last Resort

IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court

GJC = General Jurisdiction Court

LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court

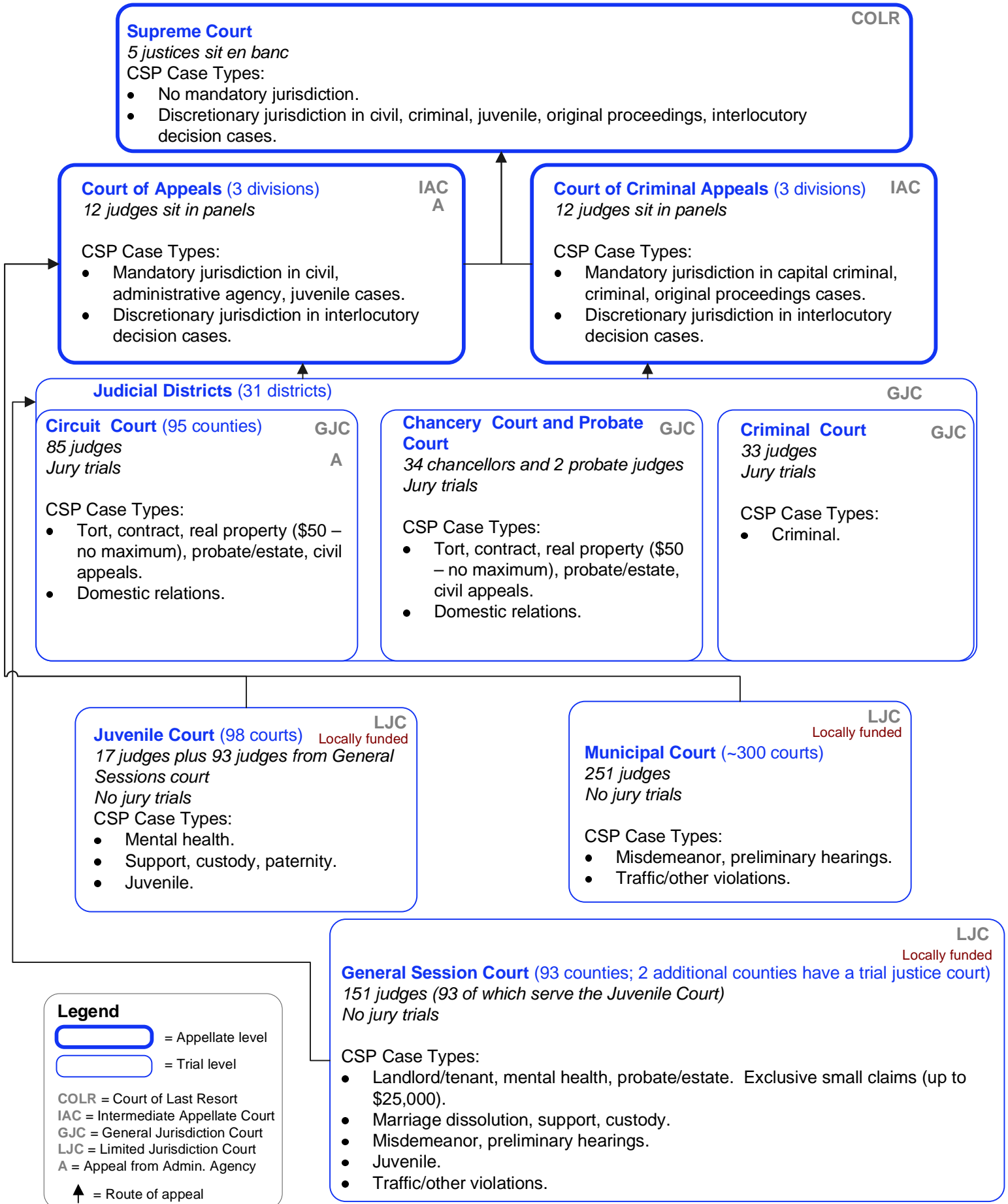
A = Appeal from Admin. Agency

 = Route of appeal

AOC Web site: <http://www.state.sd.us/state/judicial>

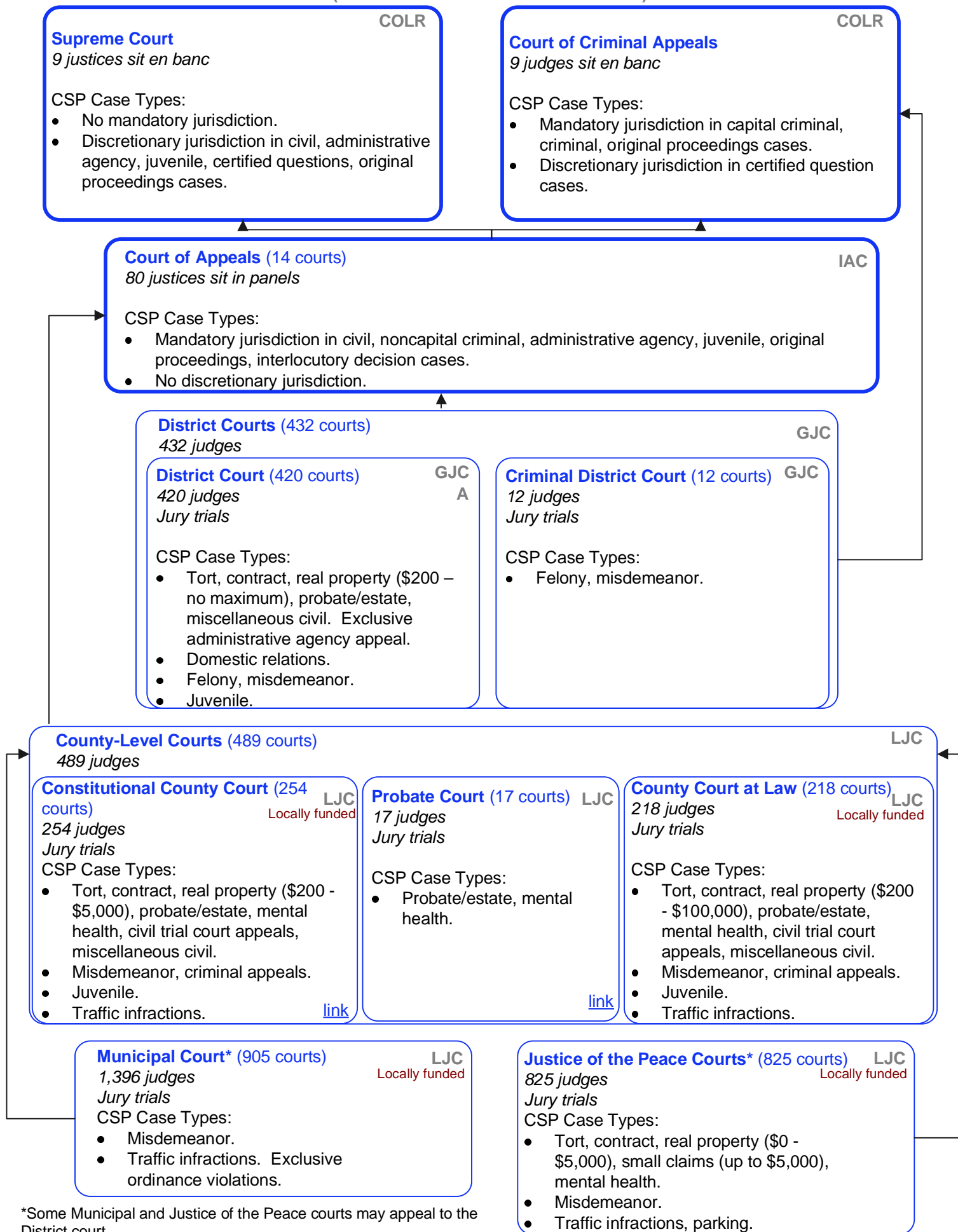
Tennessee

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2006)



Texas

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2006)



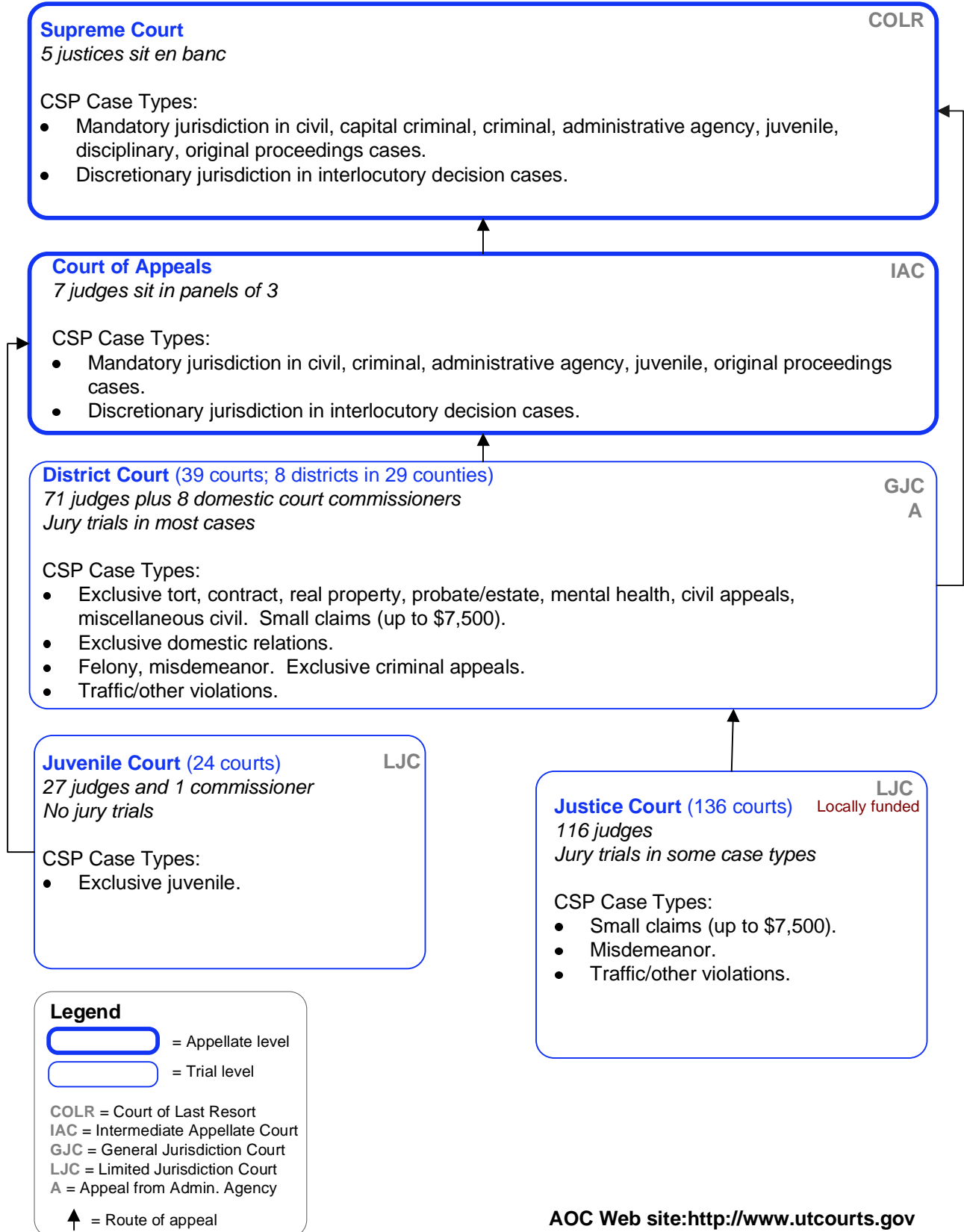
Legend

 = Appellate level
 = Trial level

COLR = Court of Last Resort
IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court
GJC = General Jurisdiction Court
LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court
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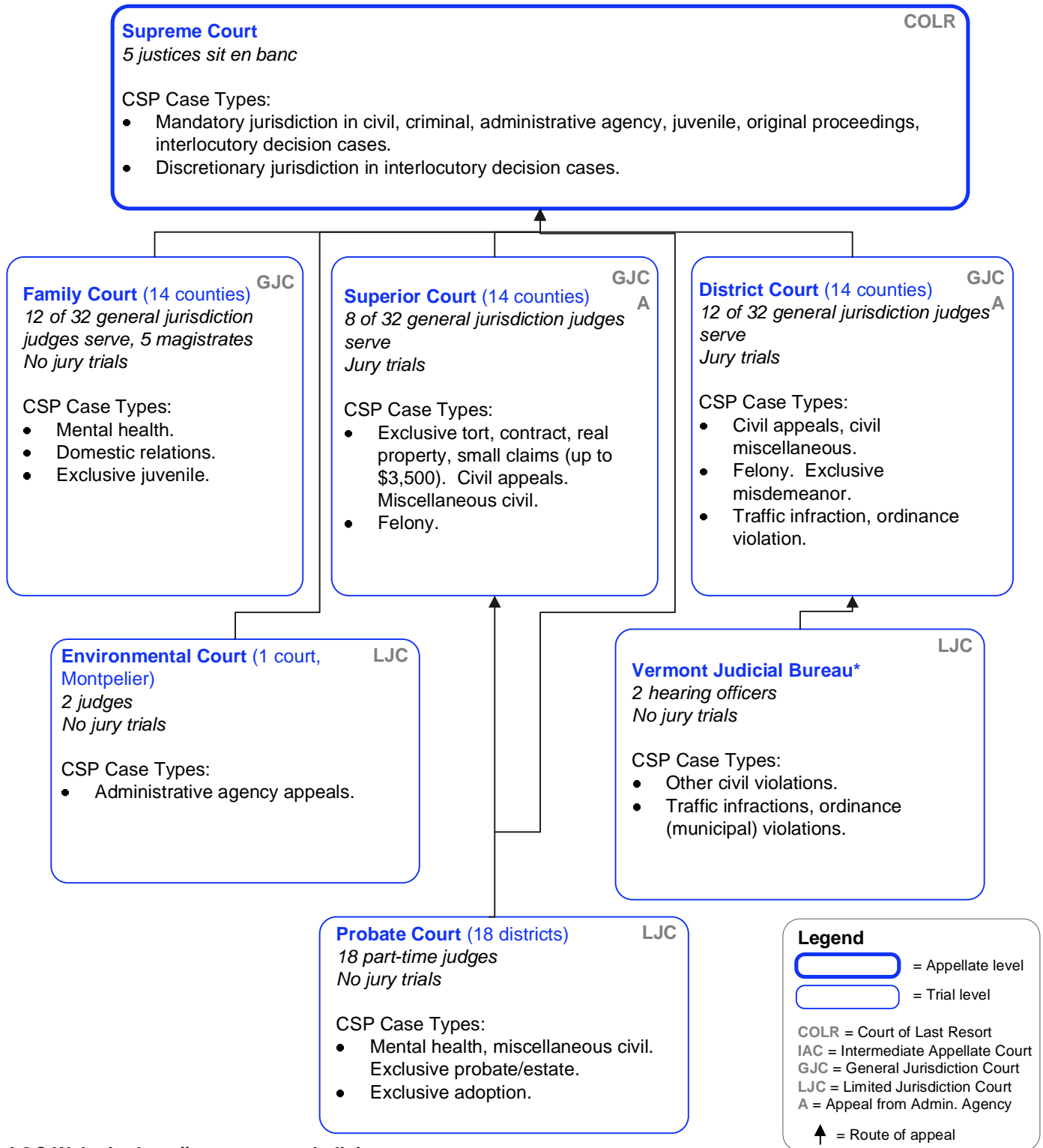
Utah

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2006)



Vermont

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2006)



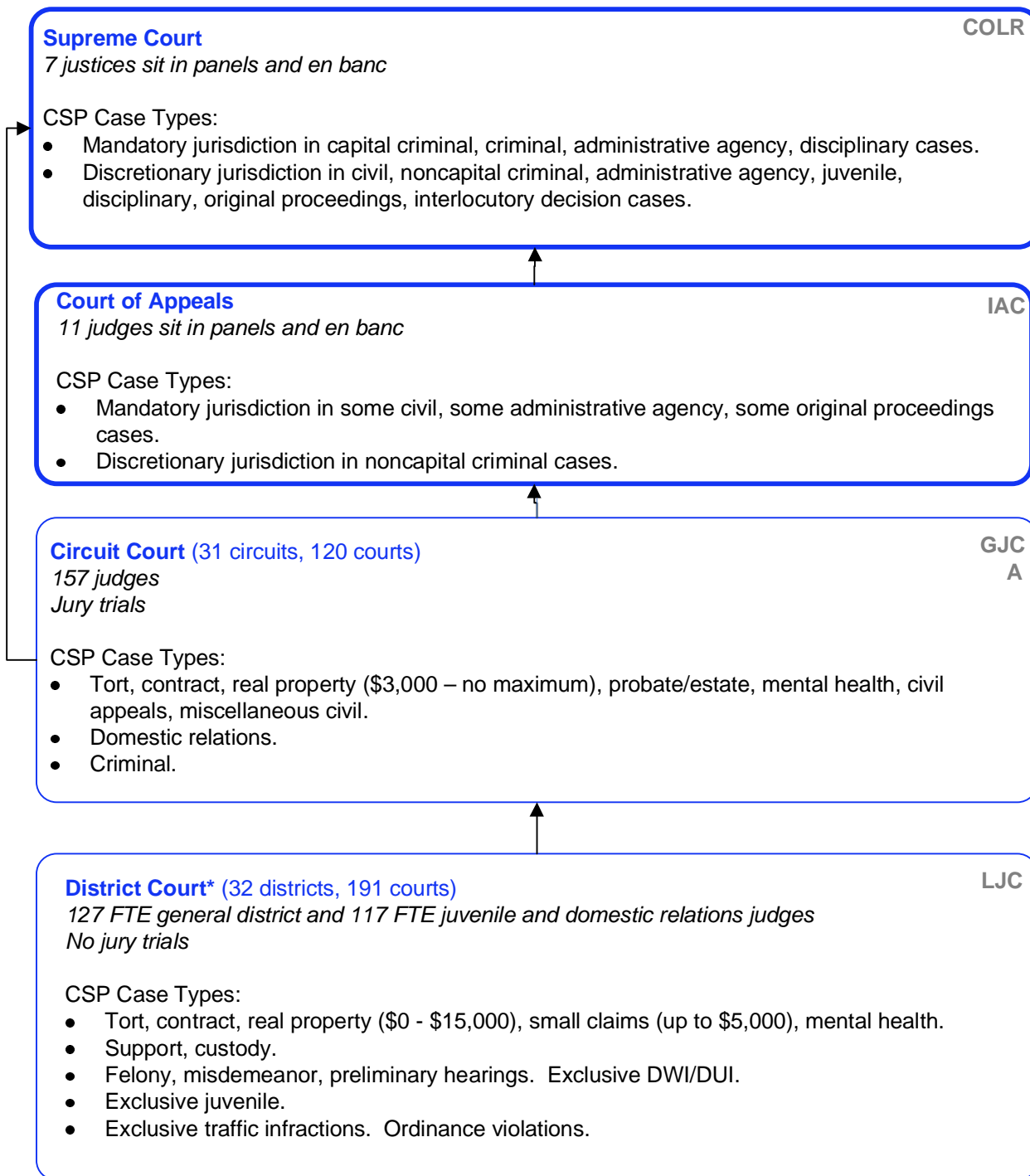
AOC Web site: <http://www.vermontjudiciary.org>

*This court was formerly known as the Vermont Traffic and Municipal Ordinance Bureau.

Note: An additional 28 assistant judges participate in findings of fact in the Superior and Family courts. Some assistant judges, after special training, may hear small claims cases and traffic complaints, conduct criminal arraignments, and decide child support, parentage, and uncontested divorce proceedings. These assistant judges (who need not be attorneys) are elected to four-year terms by voters in Vermont's 14 counties.


Virginia

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2006)



*The District Court is referred to as the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court when hearing juvenile and domestic relations cases and as the General District Court for the balance of the cases.

Legend

 = Appellate level

 = Trial level

COLR = Court of Last Resort

IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court

GJC = General Jurisdiction Court

LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court

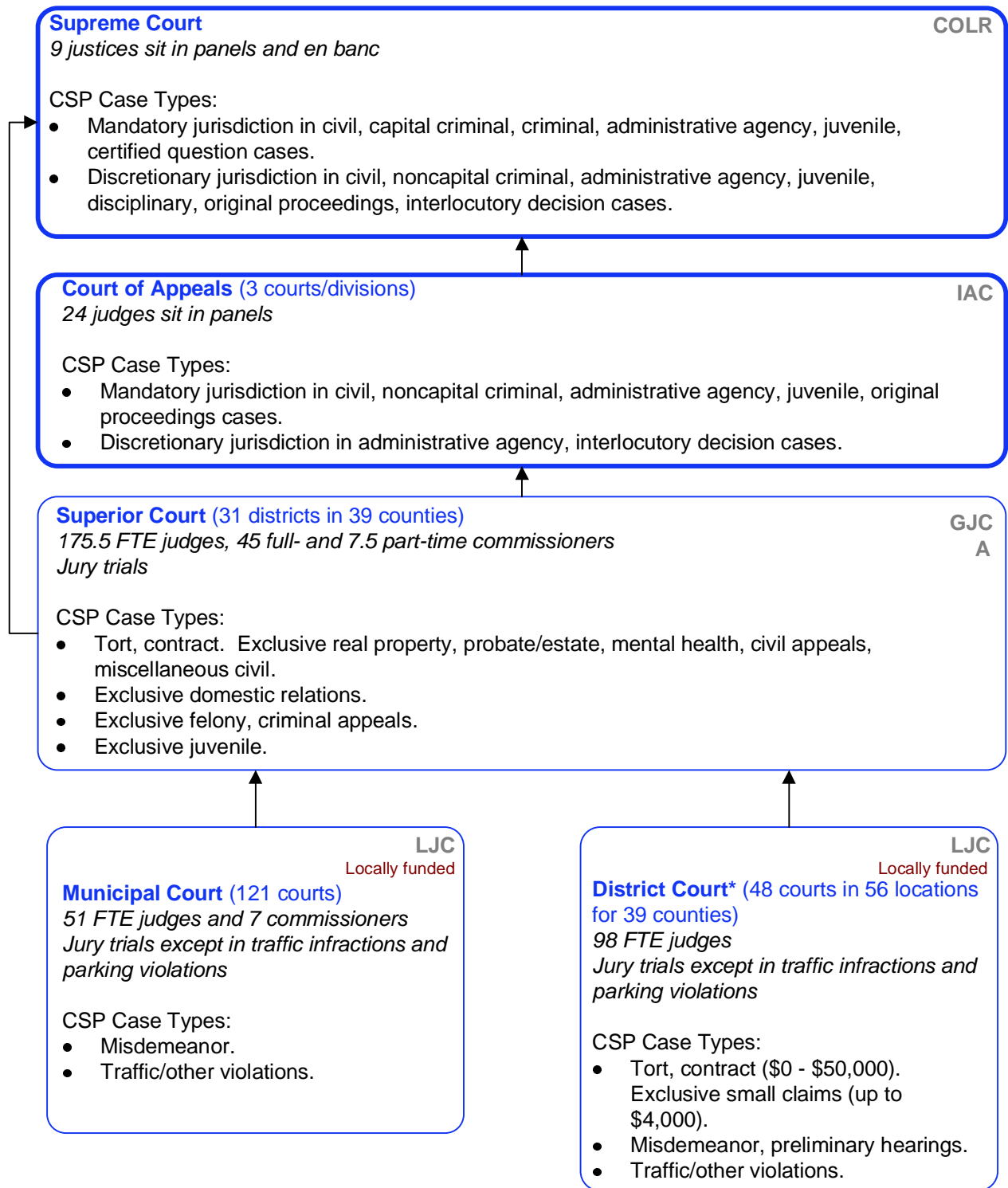
A = Appeal from Admin. Agency

↑ = Route of appeal

AOC Web site: <http://www.courts.state.va.us>


Washington

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2006)



*District Court provides services to municipalities that do not have a Municipal Court.

Legend

 = Appellate level

 = Trial level

COLR = Court of Last Resort

IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court

GJC = General Jurisdiction Court

LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court

A = Appeal from Admin. Agency

↑ = Route of appeal

AOC Web site: <http://www.courts.wa.gov>

West Virginia

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2006)

Supreme Court of Appeals

COLR

5 justices sit en banc

CSP Case Types:

- No mandatory jurisdiction.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, noncapital criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, certified questions, original proceedings, interlocutory decision cases.

Circuit Court (55 counties, 31 circuits)

GJC

65 judges

Jury trials

A

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property (\$300 – no maximum). Exclusive probate/estate, mental health, civil appeals.
- Domestic relations.
- Misdemeanor. Exclusive felony, criminal appeals.
- Juvenile.

Magistrate Court (55 counties)

LJC

158 magistrates

Jury trials

CSP Case Types:

- Small claims (\$0 - \$5,000), mental health.
- Emergency civil protection/restraining orders.
- Misdemeanor, preliminary hearing.
- Juvenile.
- Traffic infractions.

Municipal Court (122 courts)

LJC

Locally funded

122 judges

Jury trials

CSP Case Types:

- DWI/DUI.
- Traffic infractions. Exclusive parking, ordinance violations.

Family Court (26 circuits)

LJC


35 judges

Jury trials

CSP Case Types:

- Domestic relations.
- Domestic violence.

Legend

 = Appellate level

 = Trial level

COLR = Court of Last Resort

IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court

GJC = General Jurisdiction Court

LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court

A = Appeal from Admin. Agency

↑ = Route of appeal

Wisconsin

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2006)

Supreme Court

COLR

7 justices sit en banc

CSP Case Types:

- No mandatory jurisdiction.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, certified questions, original proceedings cases.



Court of Appeals (4 districts)

IAC

16 judges (two 4-judge districts, one 3-judge district, one 5-judge district)

CSP Case Types:

- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in interlocutory decision cases.



Circuit Court (69 circuits/72 counties)

GJC
A

241 judges

Jury trials in most cases

CSP Case Types:

- Exclusive civil.
- Exclusive domestic relations.
- Exclusive criminal.
- Exclusive juvenile.
- Traffic/other violations.



Municipal Court (244 courts)

LJC
Locally funded


246 judges

No jury trials

CSP Case Types:

- Traffic/other violations.

Legend

 = Appellate level

 = Trial level


COLR = Court of Last Resort

IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court

GJC = General Jurisdiction Court

LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court

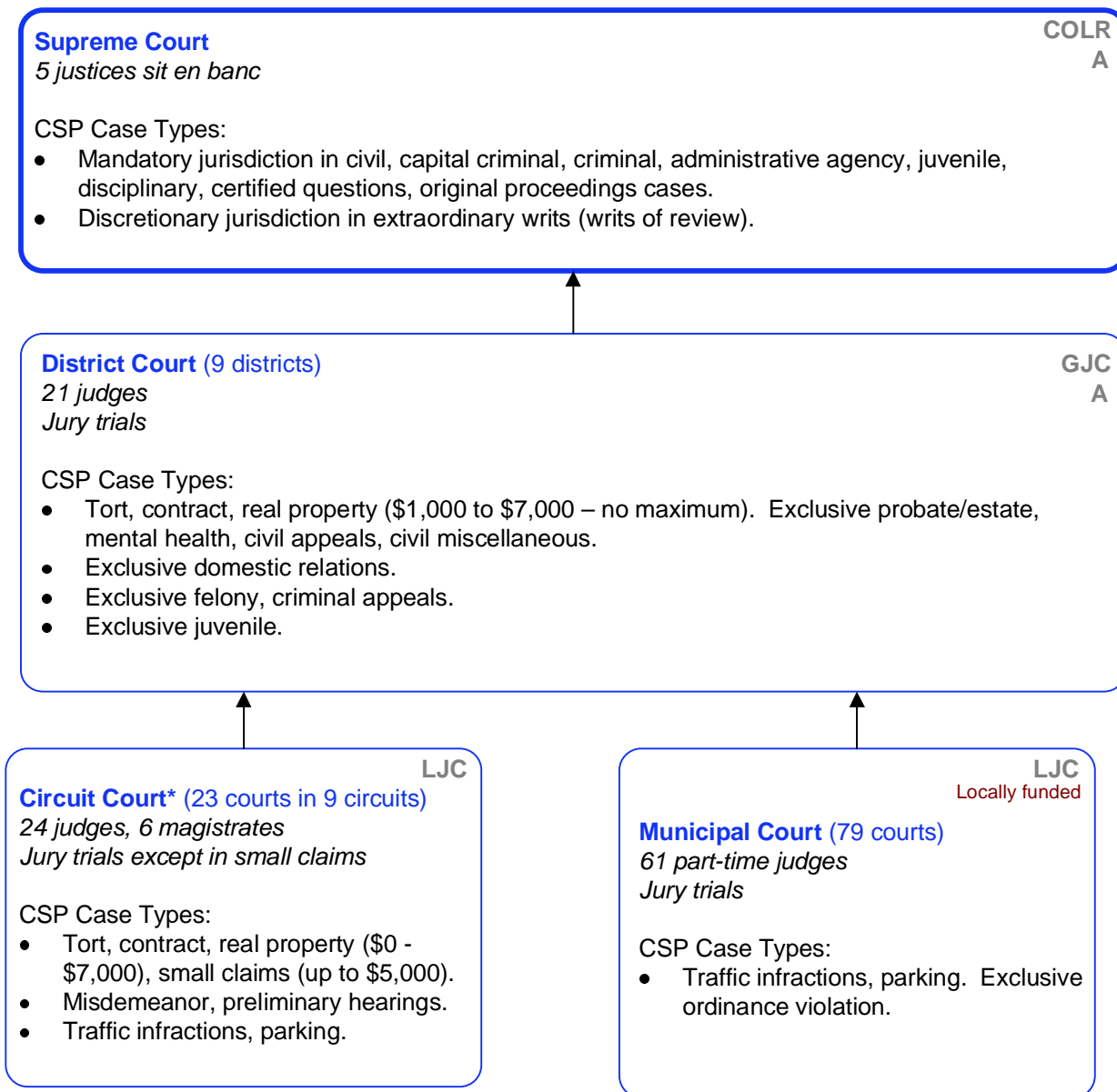
A = Appeal from Admin. Agency

 = Route of appeal

AOC Web site: <http://www.wicourts.gov/>


Wyoming

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2006)



*In January 2003, Justice of the Peace courts were combined with County courts, and County Court was renamed Circuit Court.

Legend

 = Appellate level

 = Trial level

COLR = Court of Last Resort

IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court

GJC = General Jurisdiction Court

LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court

A = Appeal from Admin. Agency

↑ = Route of appeal

AOC Web site: <http://www.courts.state.wy.us>