

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, in the trial courts, 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 appeal by right, appeal by permission, and original proceeding case categories. 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 appeal by right and appeal by permission 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. For example, a court may have appeal by right jurisdiction over tort cases above a certain dollar amount, but appeal by permission jurisdiction over tort cases below that amount. The list of case types would include either "civil" or "tort, contract, and real property" for both appeal by right and appeal by permission 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 an appeal by right into an appeal by permission—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.

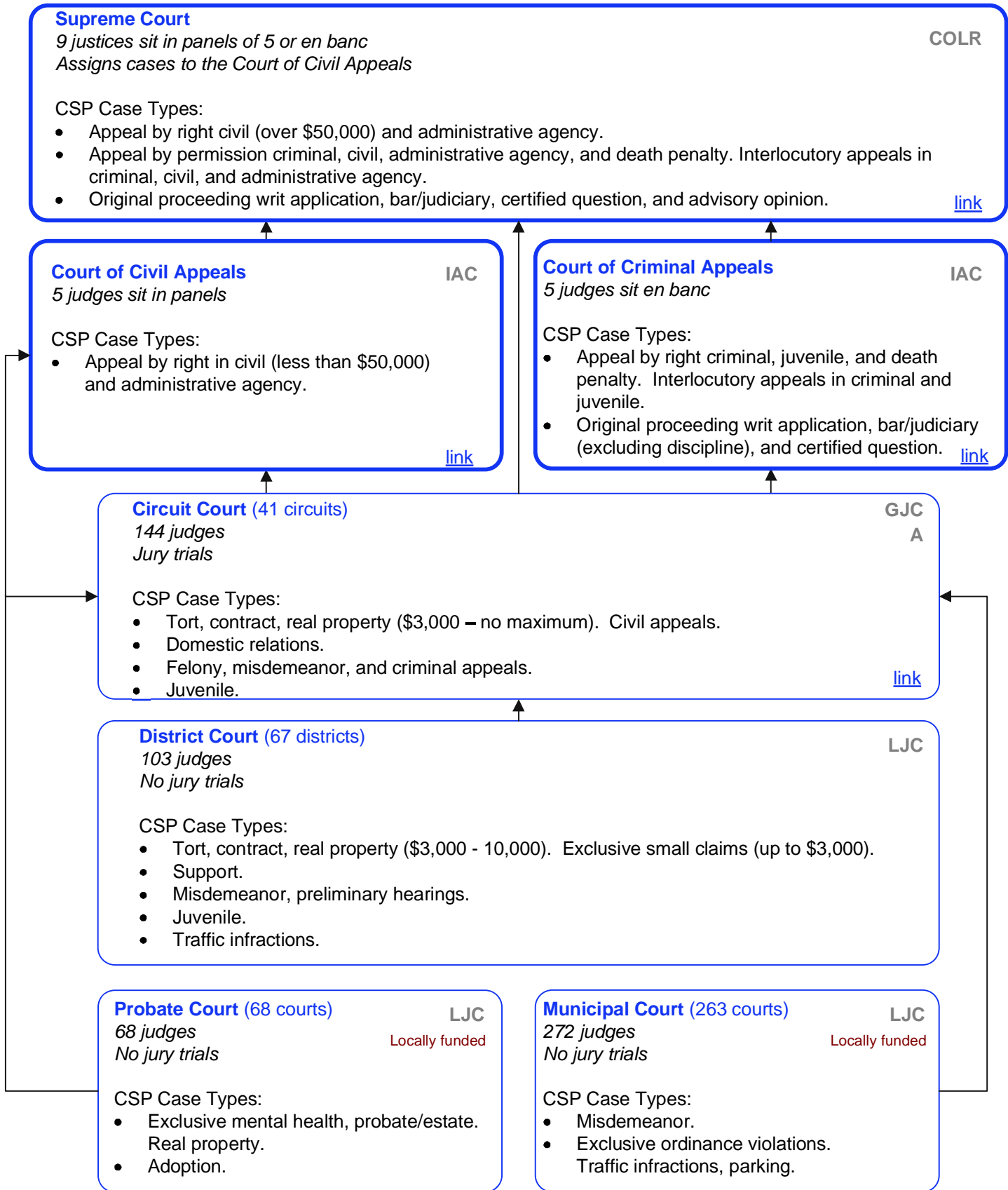
The number of justices or judges is sometimes stated as "FTE." This represents "full-time equivalent" authorized judicial positions. "DWI/DUI" stands for "driving while intoxicated/driving under the influence." The dollar

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 2007)



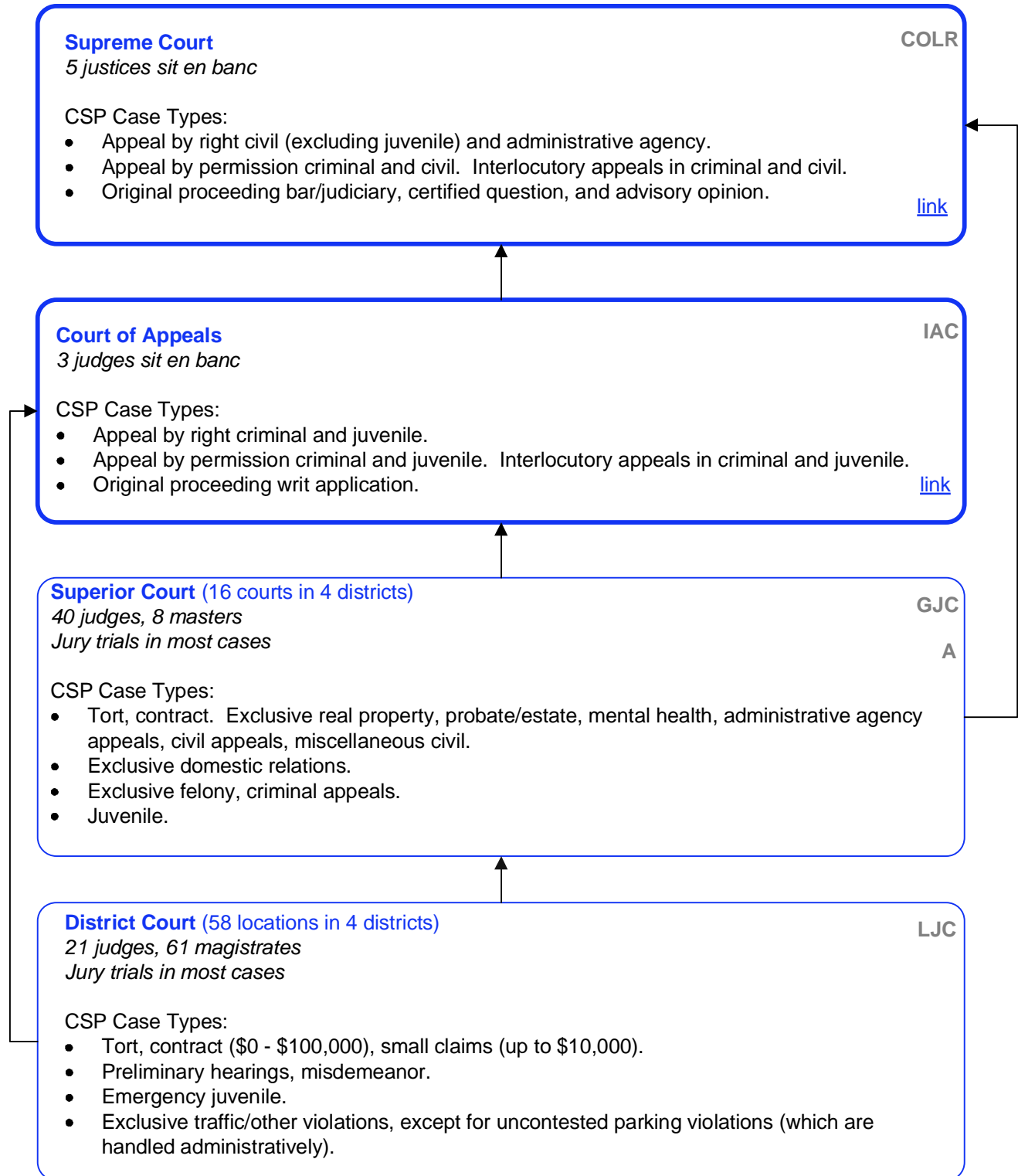
Legend

- = 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 2007)



Legend

 = Appellate level

 = Trial level

COLR = Court of Last Resort

IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court

GJC = General Jurisdiction Court

LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court

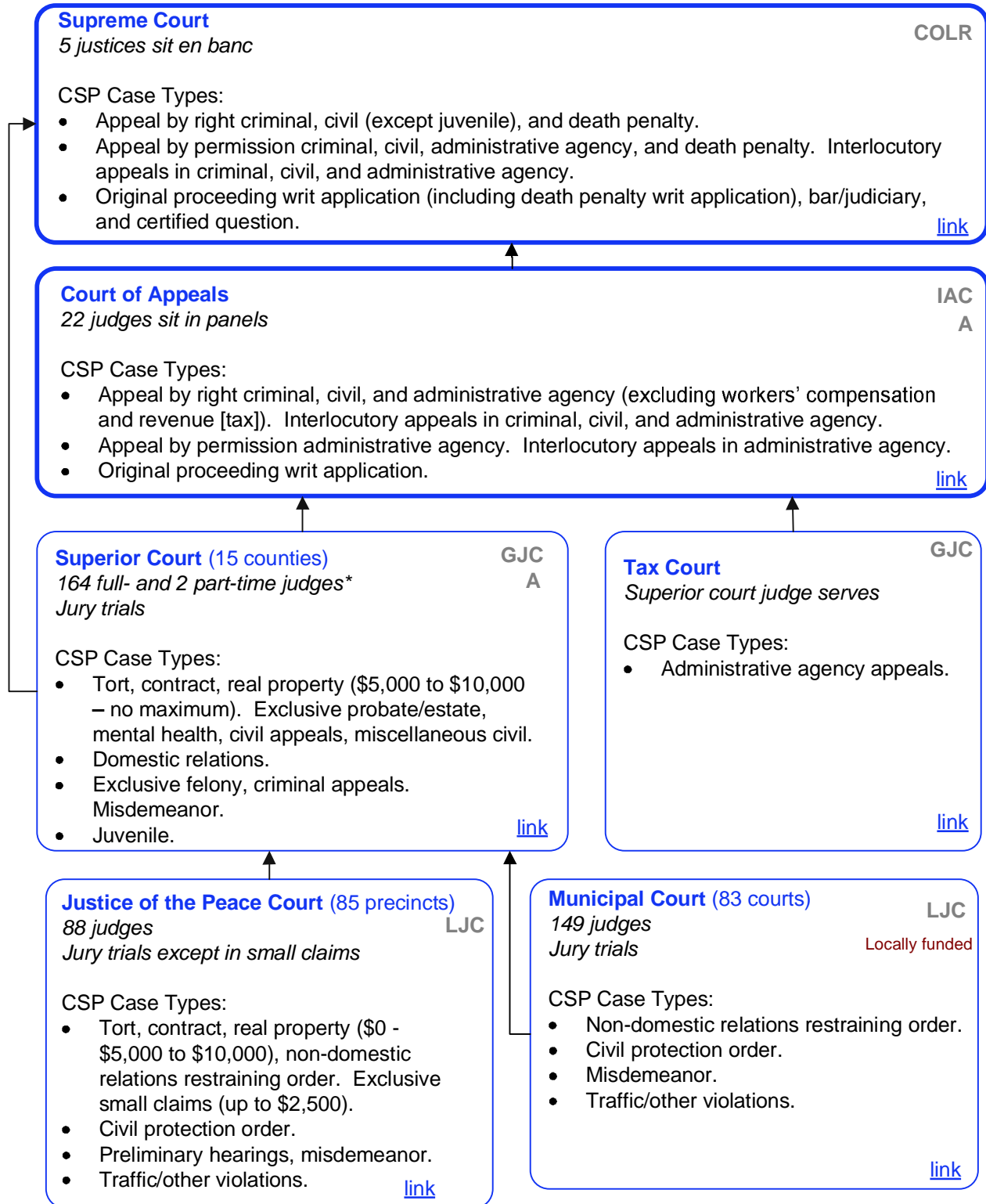
A = Appeal from Admin. Agency

↑ = Route of appeal

AOC Web site: www.state.ak.us/courts

Arizona

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2007)



*There are also approximately 95 full- and part-time judges pro tempore, commissioners, and hearing officers in the Superior Court.

Legend

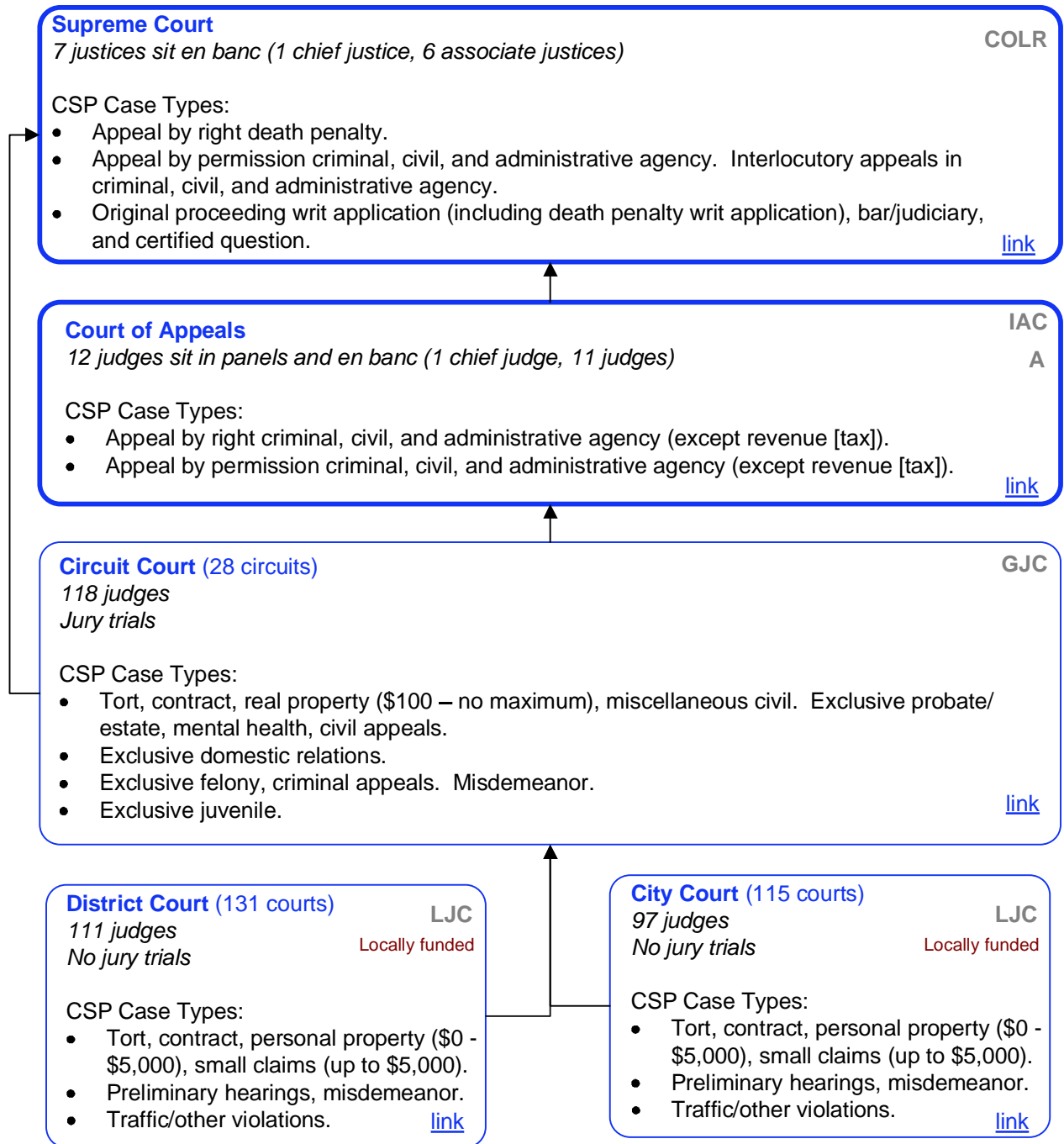
 = Appellate level
 = Trial level

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: www.supreme.state.az.us

Arkansas

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2007)



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: 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 2007)

Supreme Court

7 justices sit en banc

COLR

A

CSP Case Types:

- Appeal by right death penalty.
- Appeal by permission criminal, civil, and administrative agency (except workers' compensation and revenue [tax]).
- Original proceeding writ application (including death penalty habeas corpus), bar/judiciary, and certified question.

[link](#)

Courts of Appeal (6 courts/districts)

105 justices sit in panels

IAC

A

CSP Case Types:

- Appeal by right criminal, civil, and administrative agency.
- Appeal by permission criminal, civil, and administrative agency. Interlocutory appeals in criminal, civil, and administrative agency.
- Original proceeding writ application.

[link](#)

Superior Court (58 counties)

1,548 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.

[link](#)

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: www.courtinfo.ca.gov

Colorado

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2007)

Supreme Court

7 justices sit en banc

COLR
A

CSP Case Types:

- Appeal by right criminal, civil, administrative agency, and death penalty. Interlocutory jurisdiction in criminal, civil, and administrative agency.
- Appeal by permission in criminal, civil, and administrative agency.
- Original proceeding writ (including death penalty habeas corpus), bar/judiciary, certified question, and advisory opinion.

[link](#)

Court of Appeals

16 judges sit in panels

IAC
A

CSP Case Types:

- Appeal by right criminal, civil, and administrative agency.

[link](#)

District, Denver Juvenile, and Denver Probate Court

150 judges

District Court (22 districts)

Jury trials except in appeals

GJC
A

CSP Case Types:

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

[link](#)

Denver Juvenile Court

Jury trials

GJC

CSP Case Types:

- Exclusive adoption, custody, support in Denver.
- Exclusive juvenile in Denver.

[link](#)

Denver Probate Court

Jury trials

GJC

CSP Case Types:

- Exclusive probate/estate, mental health in Denver.

[link](#)

Water Court (12 courts)

District court judges serve

GJC

CSP Case Types:

- Real property.

[link](#)

County Court (64 counties)

118 judges

Jury trials except in small claims and appeals

LJC

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property (\$0 - \$15,000). Exclusive small claims (up to \$7,500).
- Felony, preliminary hearings, criminal appeals, misdemeanor.
- Traffic infractions.

[link](#)

Municipal Court (206 courts)

~250 judges

Jury trials

LJC

Locally funded

CSP Case Types:

- DWI/DUI, domestic violence.
- Traffic infractions, parking, other violations. 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

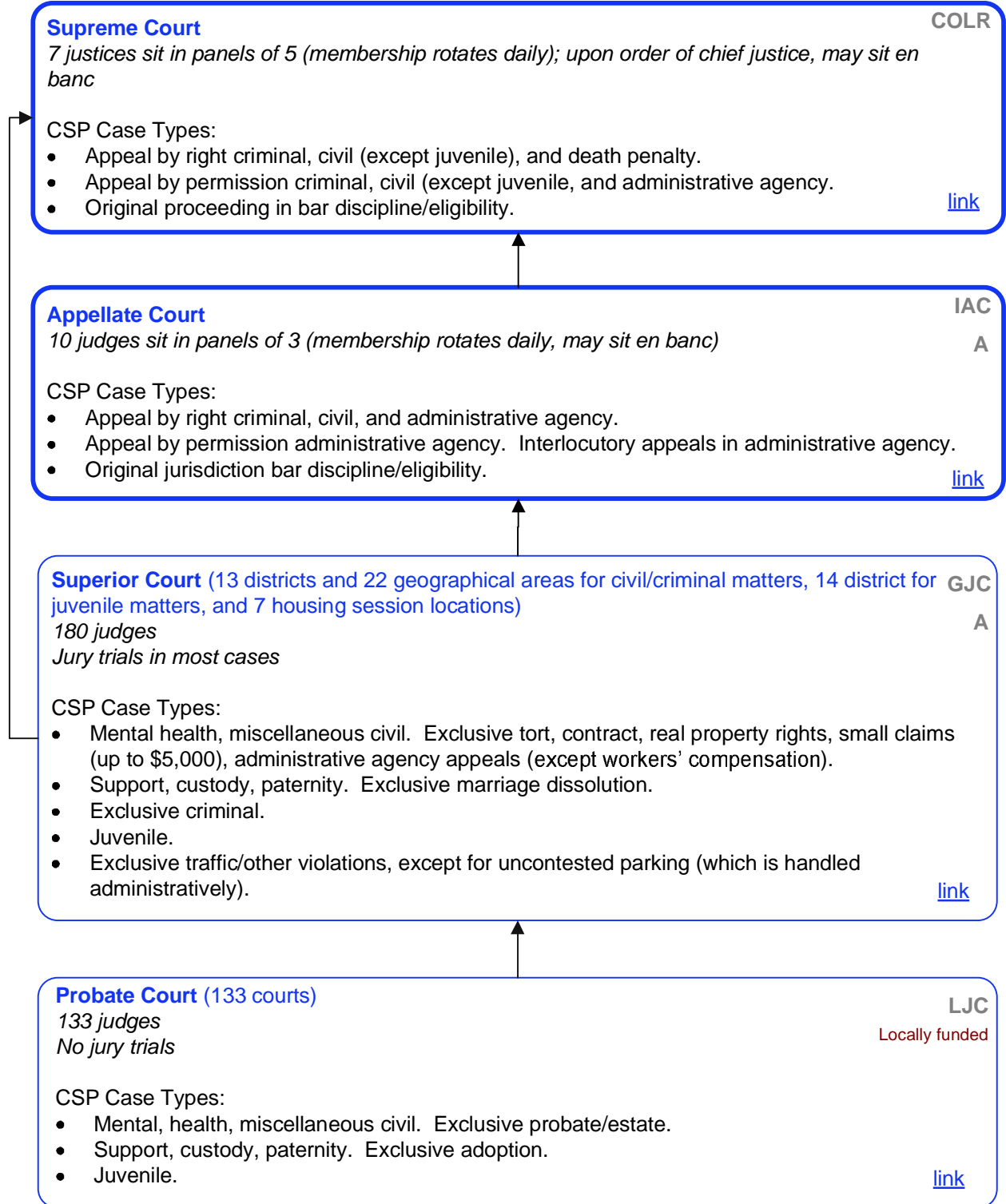
A = Appeal from Admin. Agency

↑ = Route of appeal



AOC Web site: www.courts.state.co.us

Connecticut

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2007)



Legend

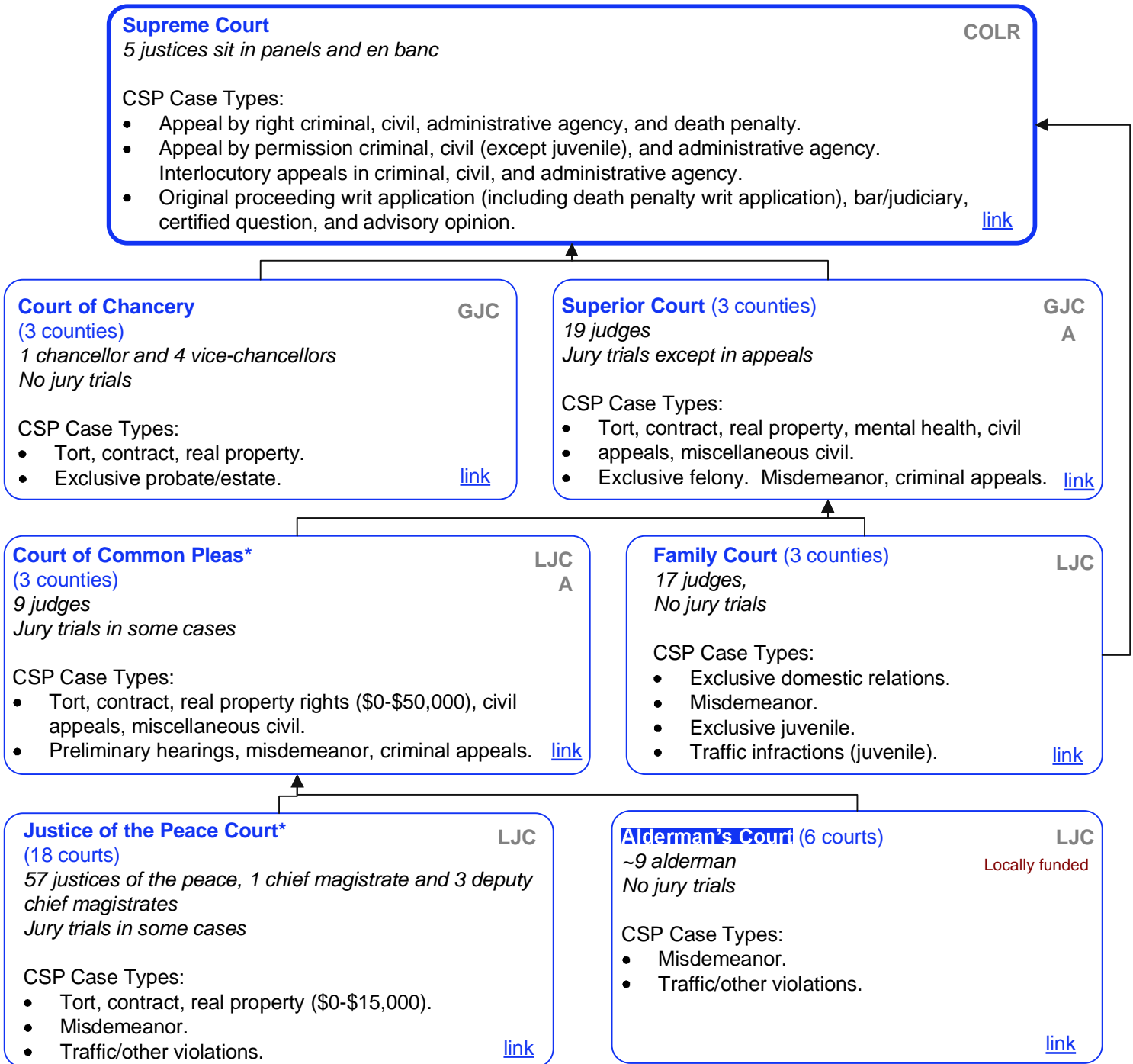
-  = Appellate level
-  = Trial level

- 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: www.jud.ct.gov

Delaware

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2007)



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

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://courts.state.de.us>

District of Columbia

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2007)

Court of Appeals

9 judges sit in panels and en banc

COLR

A

CSP Case Types:

- Appeal by right criminal, civil, and administrative agency. Interlocutory appeals in criminal, civil, and administrative agency.
- Appeal by permission misdemeanor and small claims.
- Original proceeding writ application, bar/judiciary, and certified question.

[link](#)



Superior Court

83 judges, 24 magistrates

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).

[link](#)

Legend

 = Appellate level

 = Trial level

COLR = Court of Last Resort

IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court

GJC = General Jurisdiction Court

LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court

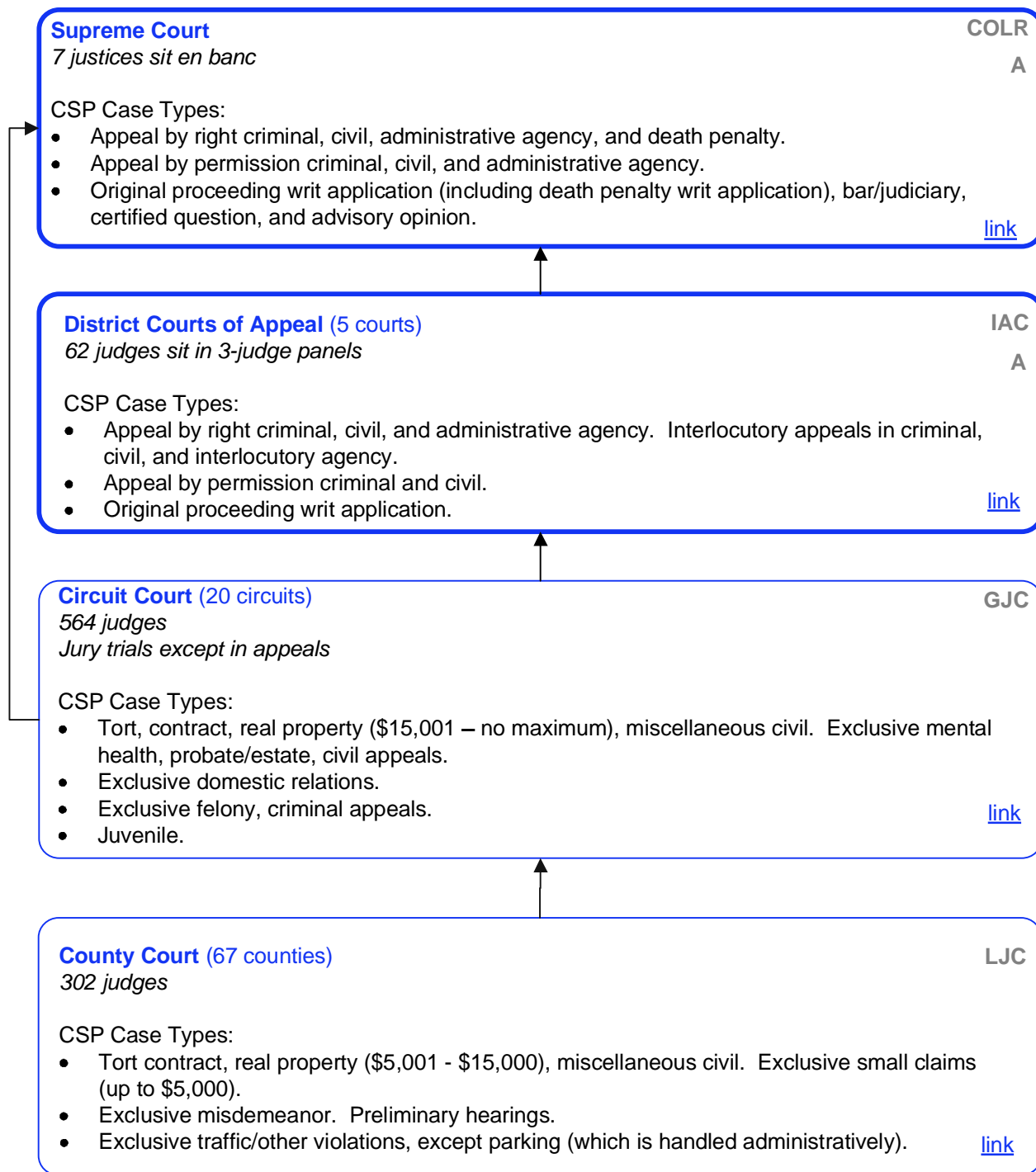
A = Appeal from Admin. Agency

↑ = Route of appeal



AOC Web site: www.dcsc.gov

Florida

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2007)



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: www.flcourts.org

Georgia

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2007)

Supreme Court

7 justices sit en banc

COLR

CSP Case Types:

- Appeal by right criminal, civil, administrative agency, and death penalty.
- Appeal by permission criminal, civil, and administrative agency. Interlocutory appeals in criminal, civil, and administrative agency.
- Original proceeding habeas corpus (including death penalty habeas corpus), bar/judiciary, certified question, and advisory opinion.

[link](#)

Court of Appeals (4 divisions)

12 judges sit in panels and en banc

IAC

CSP Case Types:

- Appeal by right criminal, civil, and administrative agency..
- Appeal by permission criminal, civil, and administrative agency. Interlocutory appeals in criminal, civil, and administrative agency.

[link](#)

Superior Court (49 circuits)

199 judges authorized

Jury trials

GJC

A

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive real property.
- Exclusive domestic relations.
- Misdemeanor. Exclusive felony, criminal appeals.
- Traffic infractions, ordinance violations.

[link](#)

Only for counties with population over 96,000 where probate judge is attorney practicing at least 7 years.

Civil Court (Bibb and Richmond counties)

LJC

Locally funded

5 judges

Jury trials

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract [\$0-\$25,000 (Bibb Co.); \$0-\$45,000 (Richmond Co.)].
- Preliminary hearings, misdemeanor.

[link](#)

County Recorder's Court

LJC

Locally funded

(4 courts)

17 judges

No jury trials

CSP Case Types:

- Preliminary hearings, misdemeanor.
- Traffic/other violations.

[link](#)

Probate Court (159 courts)

LJC

Locally funded

159 judges

Jury trials only in counties with populations greater than 96,000

CSP Case Types:

- Exclusive mental health, probate/estate.
- Misdemeanor.
- Juvenile.
- Traffic infractions.

[link](#)

State Court (72 courts)

LJC

Locally funded

118 judges

Jury trials

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, civil appeals, miscellaneous civil.
- Preliminary hearings, misdemeanor.
- Traffic infractions.

[link](#)

Magistrate Court (159 courts)

LJC

Locally funded

159 chief magistrates,

and 344 magistrates

No jury trials

CSP Case Types:

- Small claims (up to \$15,000).
- Preliminary hearings, misdemeanor.
- Ordinance violations.

[link](#)

Municipal Courts* (370 courts)

LJC

Locally funded

350 judges

Jury trials in civil cases

CSP Case Types:

- Small claims (up to \$15,000) in Columbus County.
- Preliminary hearings, misdemeanors.
- Traffic/other violations.

[link](#)

Juvenile Court (159 courts)

LJC

Locally funded

133 judges (96 full-time, 24 associate, and 13 judge pro tem). Superior court judges serve in the counties without separate juvenile court judges.

No jury trials

CSP Case Types:



- Juvenile.
- Traffic infractions.

[link](#)

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

AOC Web site: www.georgiacourts.org

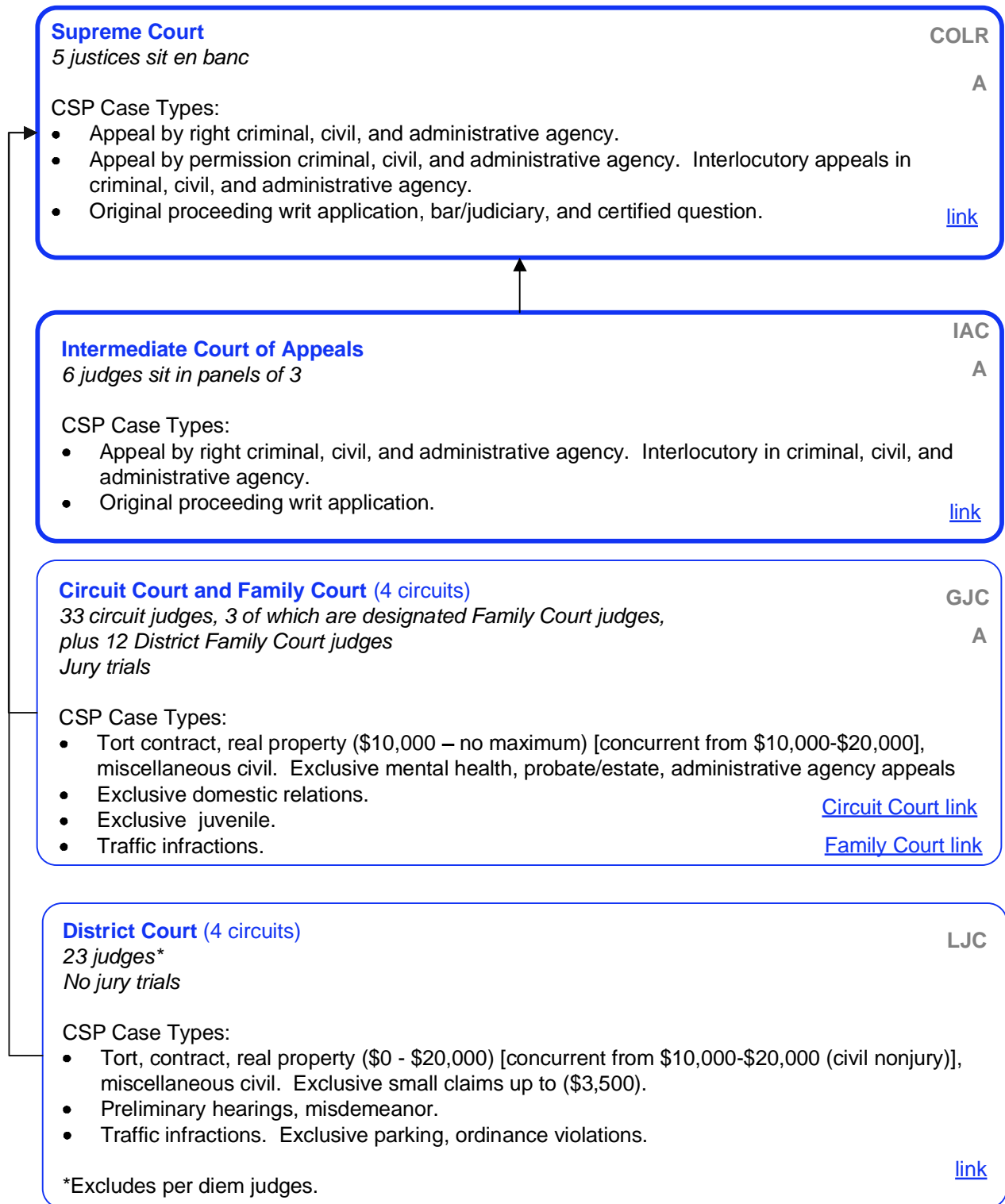
Legend

-  = Appellate level
-  = Trial level


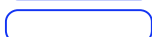
- COLR = Court of Last Resort
- IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court
- GJC = General Jurisdiction Court
- LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court
- A = Appeal from Admin. Agency
- ↑ = Route of appeal

Hawaii

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2007)



Legend

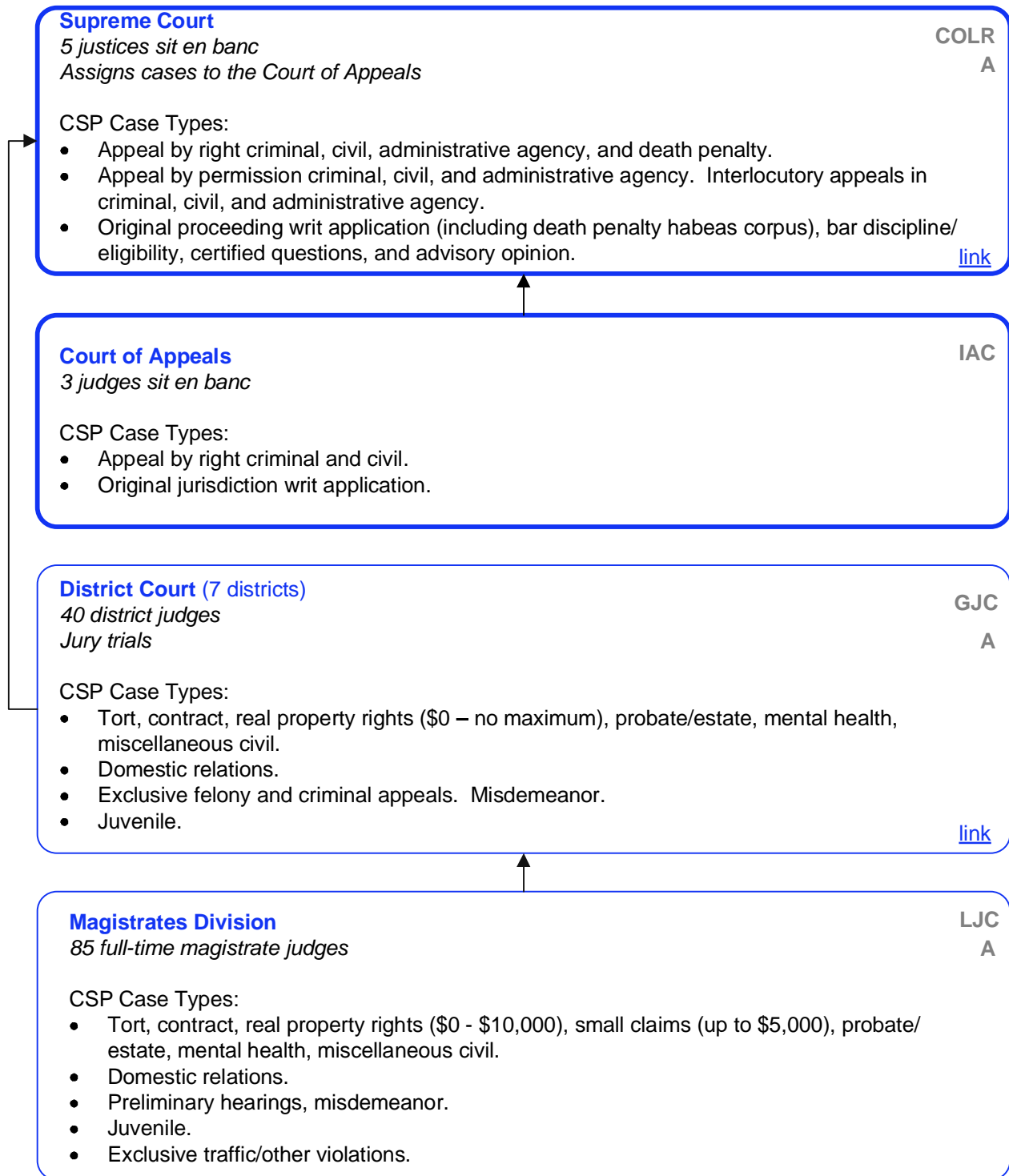
-  = Appellate level
-  = Trial level

- 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: www.courts.state.hi.us



Idaho

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2007)



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

Legend

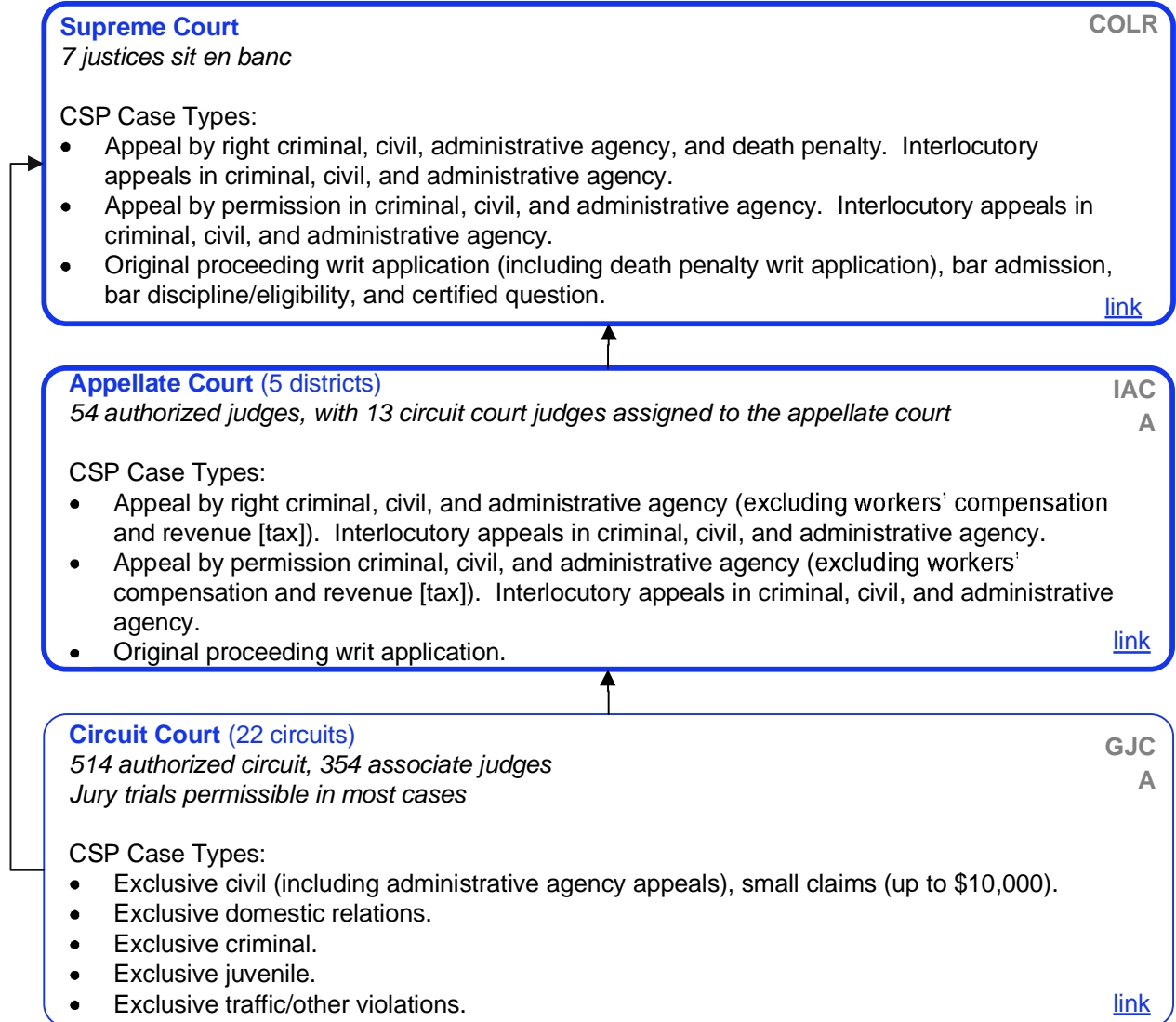
-  = Appellate level
-  = Trial level

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: www.isc.idaho.gov

Illinois

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2007)



Legend

 = Appellate level

 = Trial level


COLR = Court of Last Resort

IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court

GJC = General Jurisdiction Court

LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court

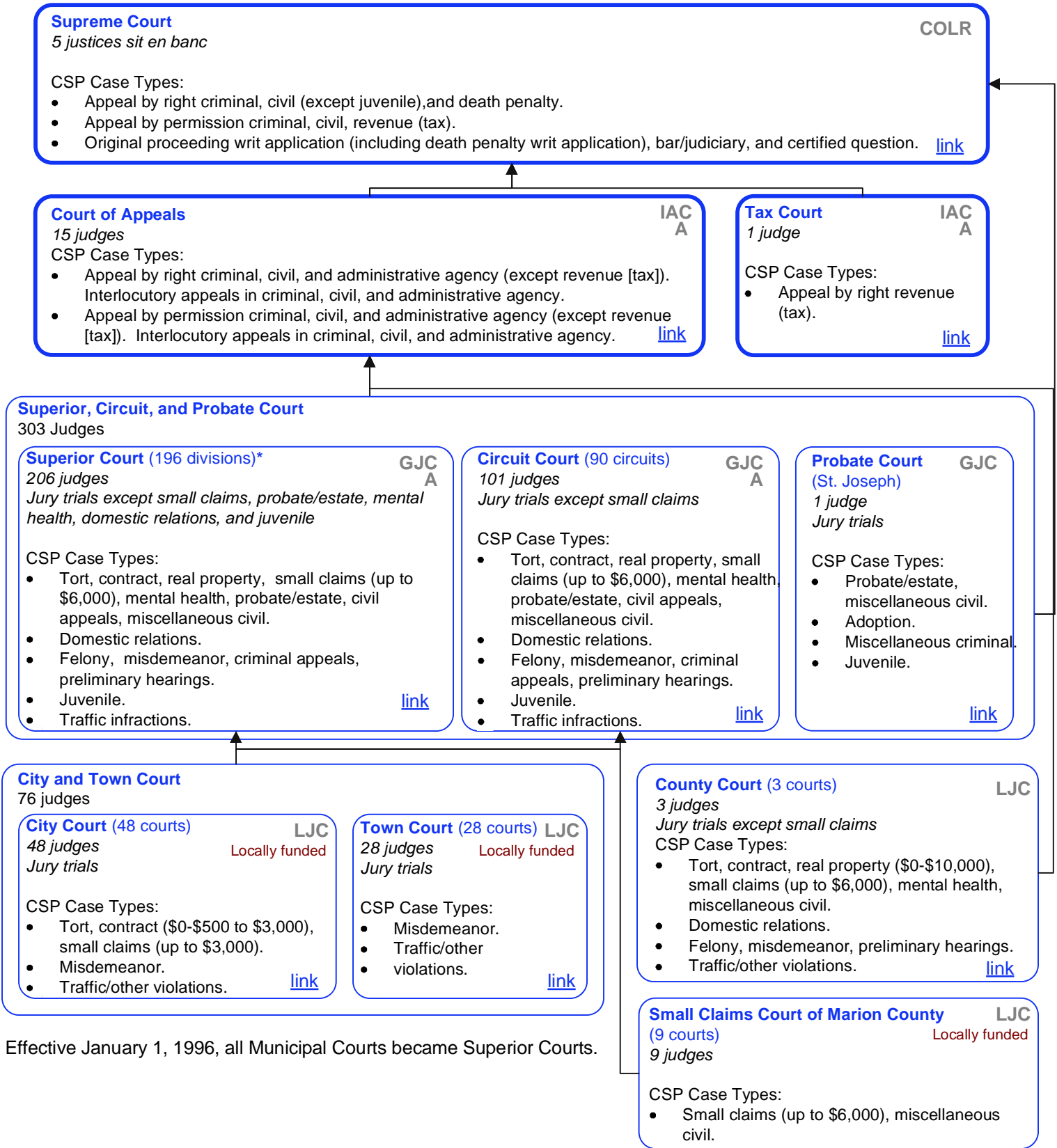
A = Appeal from Admin. Agency

 = Route of appeal

AOC Web site: www.state.il.us/court

Indiana

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2007)



* 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

AOC Web site: www.ai.org/judiciary

Iowa

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2007)

Supreme Court

COLR

*7 justices sit en banc**

Assigns cases to the Court of Appeals

CSP Case Types:

- Appeal by right criminal, civil, and administrative agency.
- Appeal by permission criminal, civil, and administrative agency. Interlocutory appeals in criminal, civil, and administrative agency.
- Original proceeding writ application, bar/judiciary, certified question, and advisory opinion. [link](#)

Court of Appeals

IAC

9 judges sit in panels and en banc

CSP Case Types:

- Appeal by right criminal, civil, and administrative agency. Interlocutory appeals in criminal, civil, and administrative agency.
- Original proceeding writ application. [link](#)

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. [link](#)

* 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).

Legend

 = Appellate level

 = Trial level

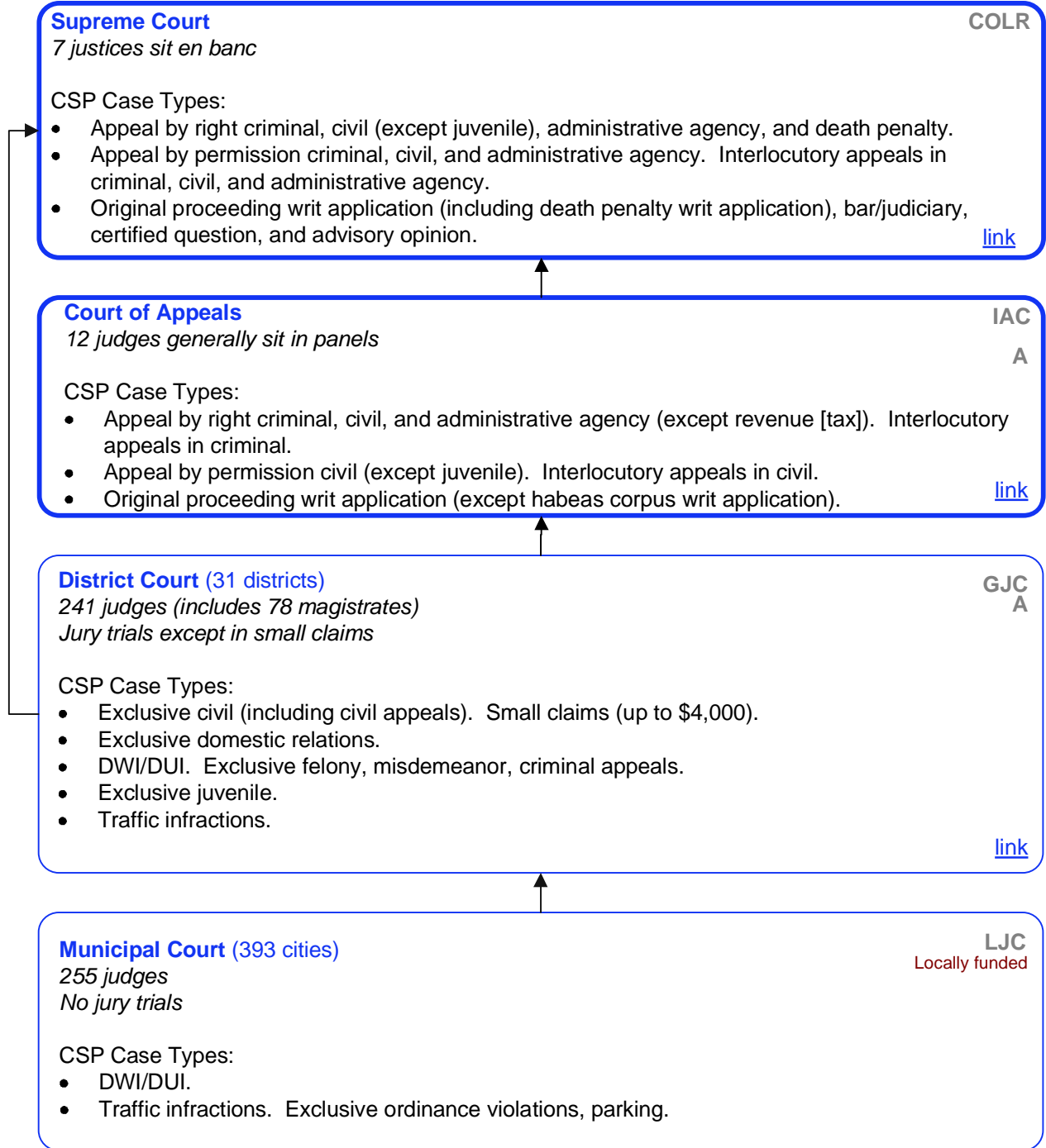
COLR = Court of Last Resort
IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court
GJC = General Jurisdiction Court
LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court
A = Appeal from Admin. Agency

↑ = Route of appeal



AOC Web site: www.judicial.state.ia.us

Kansas

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2007)



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: www.kscourts.org

Kentucky

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2007)

Supreme Court

COLR

7 justices sit en banc

CSP Case Types:

- Appeal by right felony (life, 20 yr+ sentence), workers' compensation, and death penalty. Interlocutory appeals in felony and workers' compensation.
- Appeal by permission criminal, civil, administrative agency. Interlocutory appeals in criminal, civil, and administrative agency.
- Original proceeding writ application (including death penalty writ application), bar/judiciary, certified question, and advisory opinion. [link](#)

Court of Appeals

IAC

14 judges generally sit in panels, but sit en banc in a policy-making capacity

CSP Case Types:

- Appeal by right criminal (except misdemeanor), and civil.
- Appeal by permission criminal (except felony), civil, and administrative agency (except workers' compensation). Interlocutory appeals in criminal, civil, and administrative agency.
- Original proceeding writ application (except habeas corpus writ application). [link](#)

Circuit Court (57 judicial circuits)

GJC

95 judges plus domestic relations commissioners

Jury trials except in appeals

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property (\$4,000-no maximum), interstate support, probate/estate. Exclusive civil appeals, miscellaneous civil.
- Domestic relations.
- Misdemeanor. Exclusive felony, criminal appeals.
- Juvenile. [link](#)

Family Court (43 counties)

GJC

49.5 judges

CSP Case Types:

- Domestic relations.
- Domestic violence.
- Juvenile. [link](#)

District Court (60 judicial districts)

LJC

116.5 judges plus 85 trial commissioners

Jury trials in most cases

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property (\$0 - \$4,000), probate/estate. Exclusive mental health, small claims (up to \$1,500).
- Domestic relations.
- Preliminary hearings, misdemeanor.
- Juvenile.
- Exclusive traffic/other violations. [link](#)

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

Legend

 = Appellate level

 = Trial level

COLR = Court of Last Resort

IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court

GJC = General Jurisdiction Court

LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court

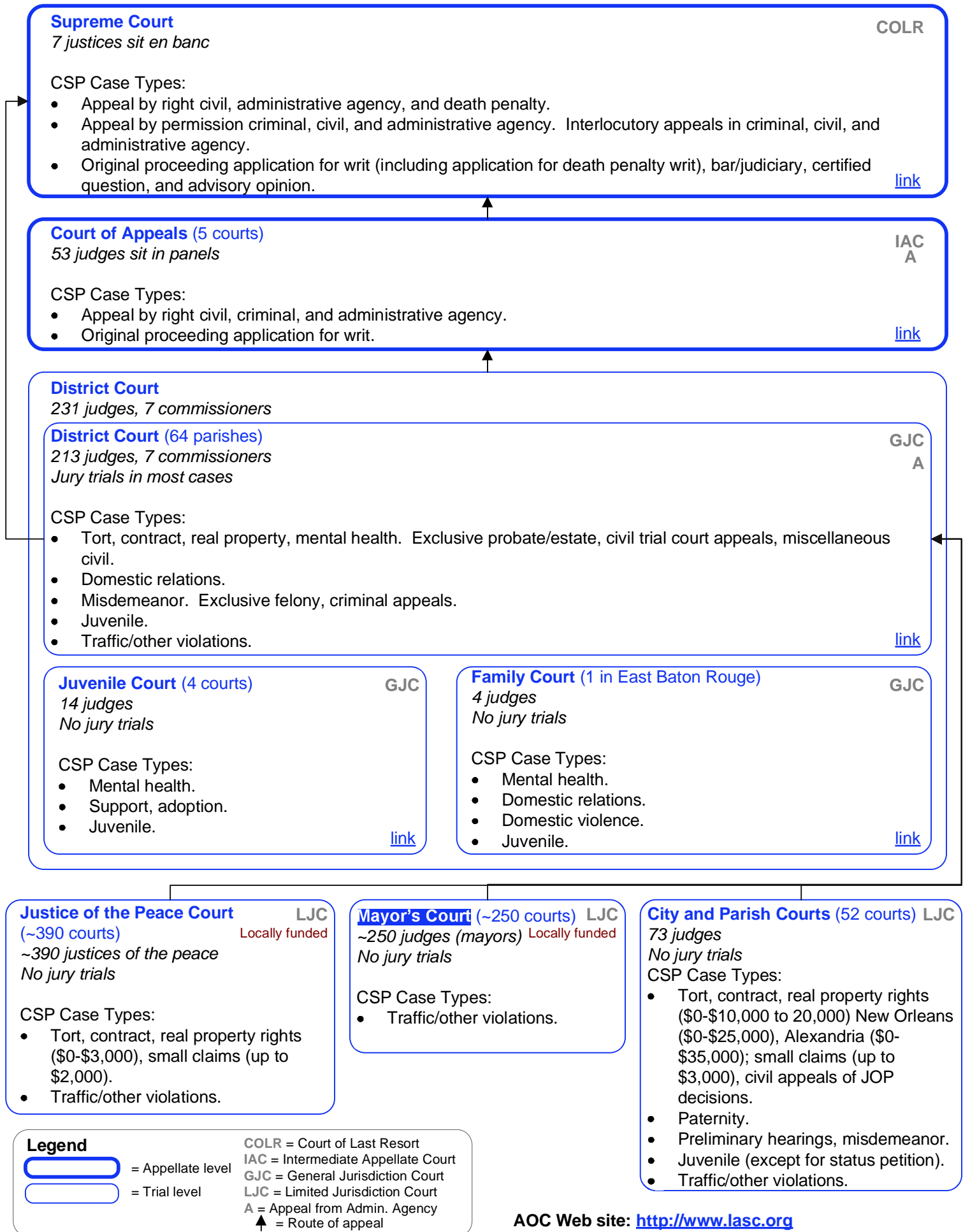
A = Appeal from Admin. Agency

↑ = Route of appeal

AOC Web site: www.kycourts.net

Louisiana

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2007)



Supreme Court COLR
7 justices sit en banc

CSP Case Types:

- Appeal by right civil, administrative agency, and death penalty.
- Appeal by permission criminal, civil, and administrative agency. Interlocutory appeals in criminal, civil, and administrative agency.
- Original proceeding application for writ (including application for death penalty writ), bar/judiciary, certified question, and advisory opinion. [link](#)

Court of Appeals (5 courts) IAC
53 judges sit in panels

CSP Case Types:

- Appeal by right civil, criminal, and administrative agency.
- Original proceeding application for writ. [link](#)

District Court GJC
231 judges, 7 commissioners

District Court (64 parishes) GJC
213 judges, 7 commissioners
Jury trials in most cases

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property, mental health. Exclusive probate/estate, civil trial court appeals, miscellaneous civil.
- Domestic relations.
- Misdemeanor. Exclusive felony, criminal appeals.
- Juvenile.
- Traffic/other violations. [link](#)

Juvenile Court (4 courts) GJC
14 judges
No jury trials

CSP Case Types:

- Mental health.
- Support, adoption.
- Juvenile. [link](#)

Family Court (1 in East Baton Rouge) GJC
4 judges
No jury trials

CSP Case Types:

- Mental health.
- Domestic relations.
- Domestic violence.
- Juvenile. [link](#)

Justice of the Peace Court LJC
 (~390 courts) *Locally funded*
~390 justices of the peace
No jury trials

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property rights (\$0-\$3,000), small claims (up to \$2,000).
- Traffic/other violations.

Mayor's Court (~250 courts) LJC
 ~250 judges (mayors) *Locally funded*
No jury trials

CSP Case Types:

- Traffic/other violations.

City and Parish Courts (52 courts) LJC
 73 judges
No jury trials

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property rights (\$0-\$10,000 to 20,000) New Orleans (\$0-\$25,000), Alexandria (\$0-\$35,000); small claims (up to \$3,000), civil appeals of JOP decisions.
- Paternity.
- Preliminary hearings, misdemeanor.
- Juvenile (except for status petition).
- Traffic/other violations.

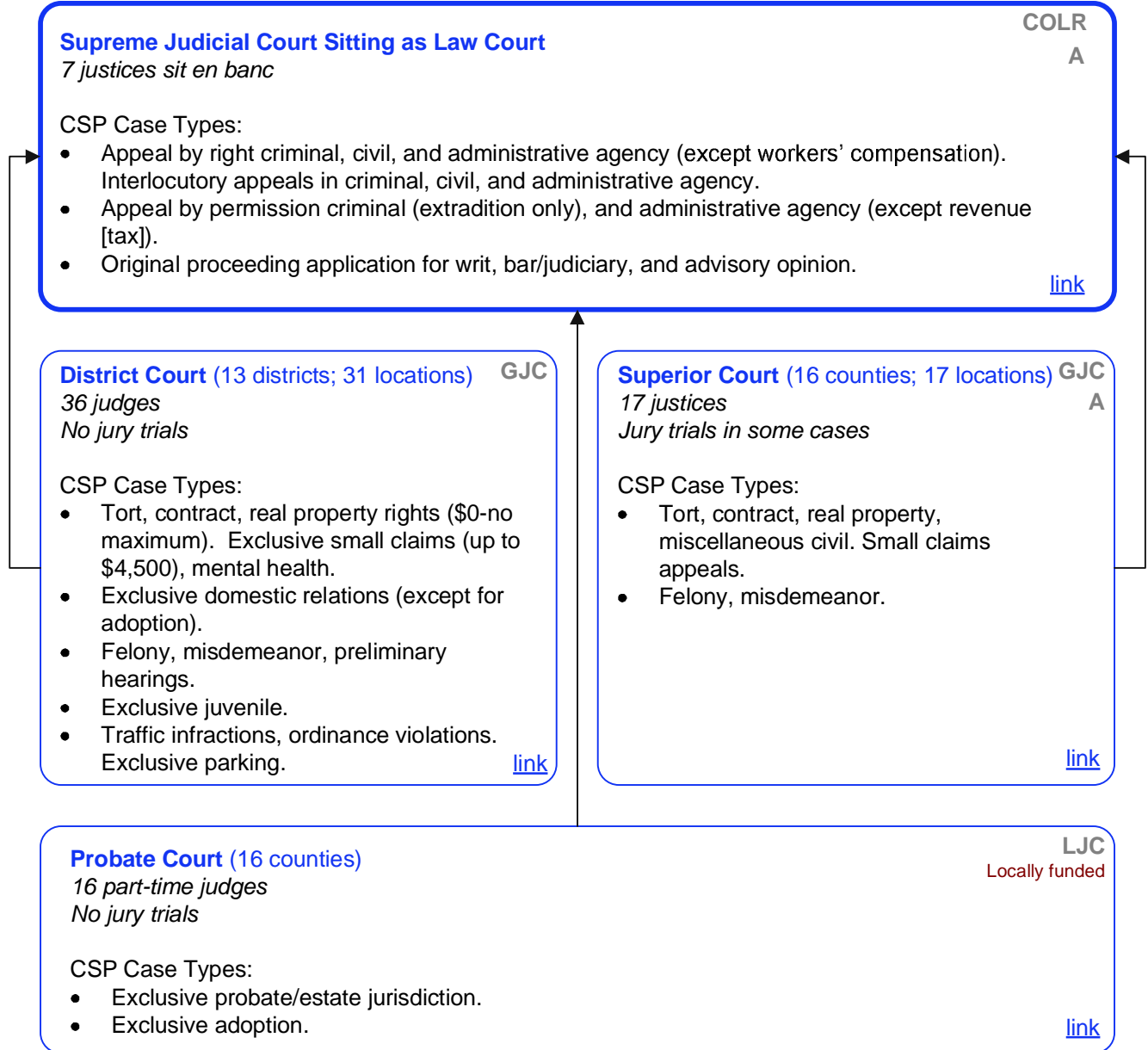
Legend

= 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

Maine

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2007)



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

Legend

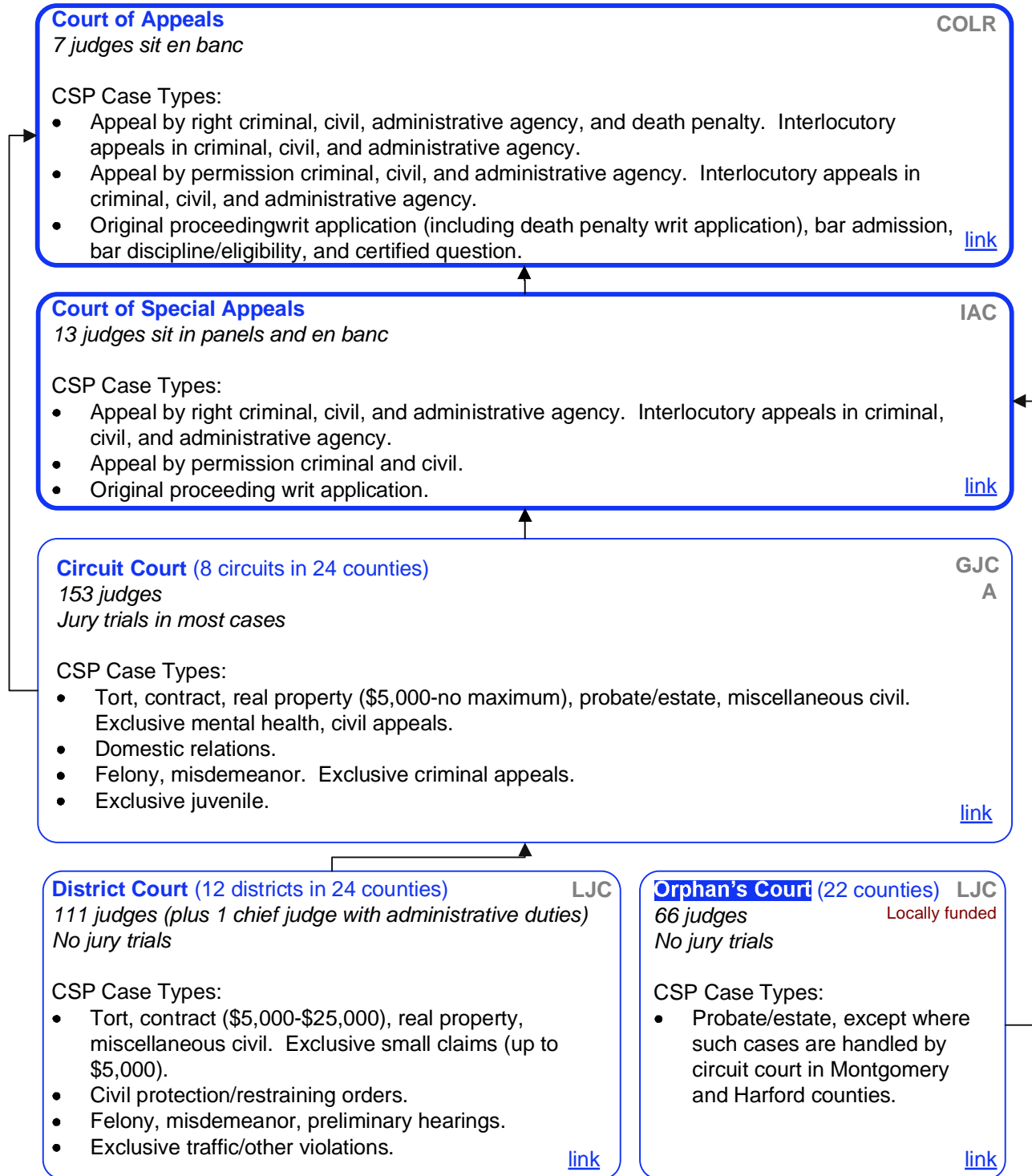
 = Appellate level
 = Trial level

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



AOC Web site: www.courts.state.me.us

Maryland

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2007)



Legend

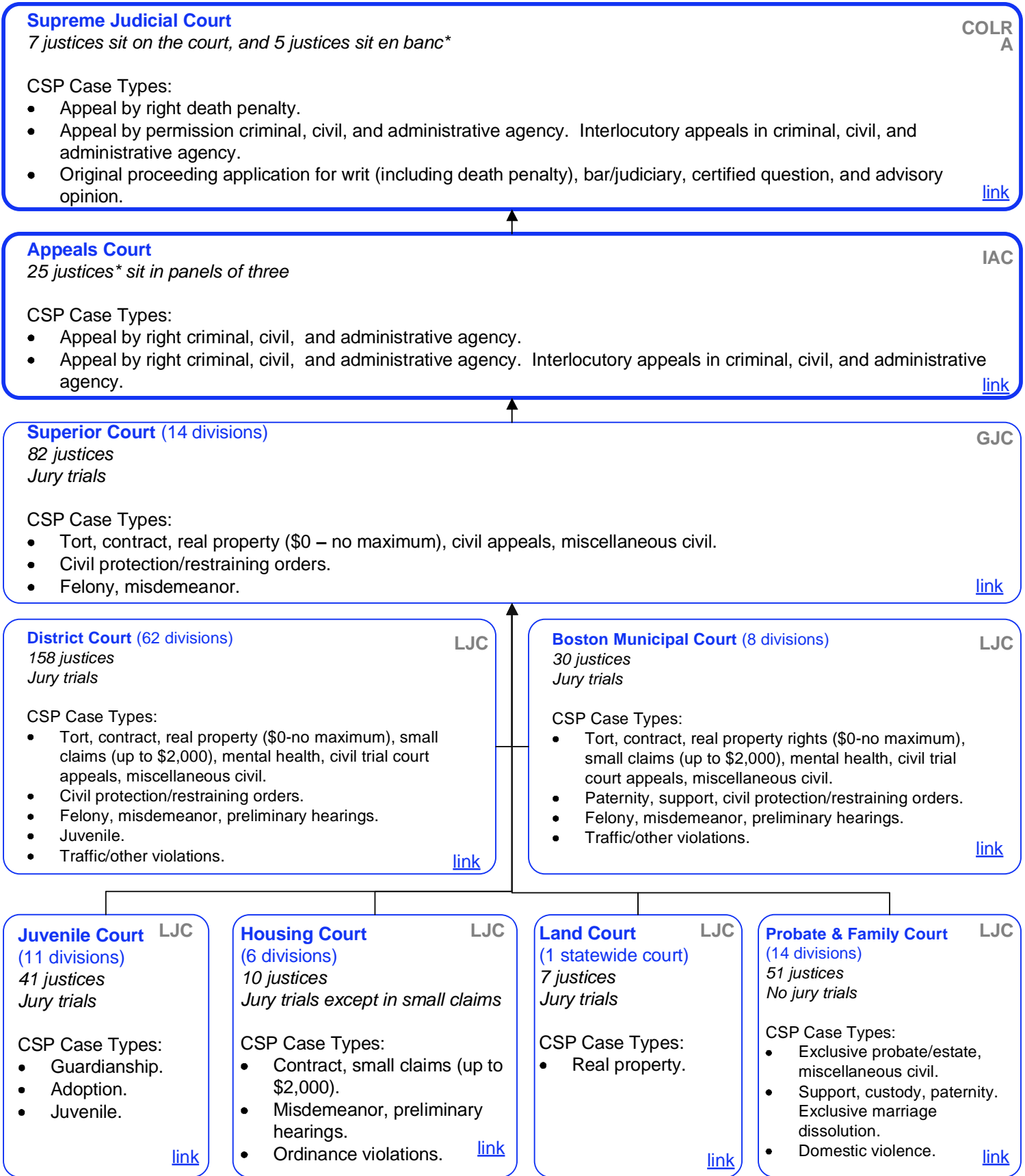
-  = Appellate level
-  = Trial level

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: www.courts.state.md.us

Massachusetts

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2007)



Legend

 = Appellate level
 = Trial level

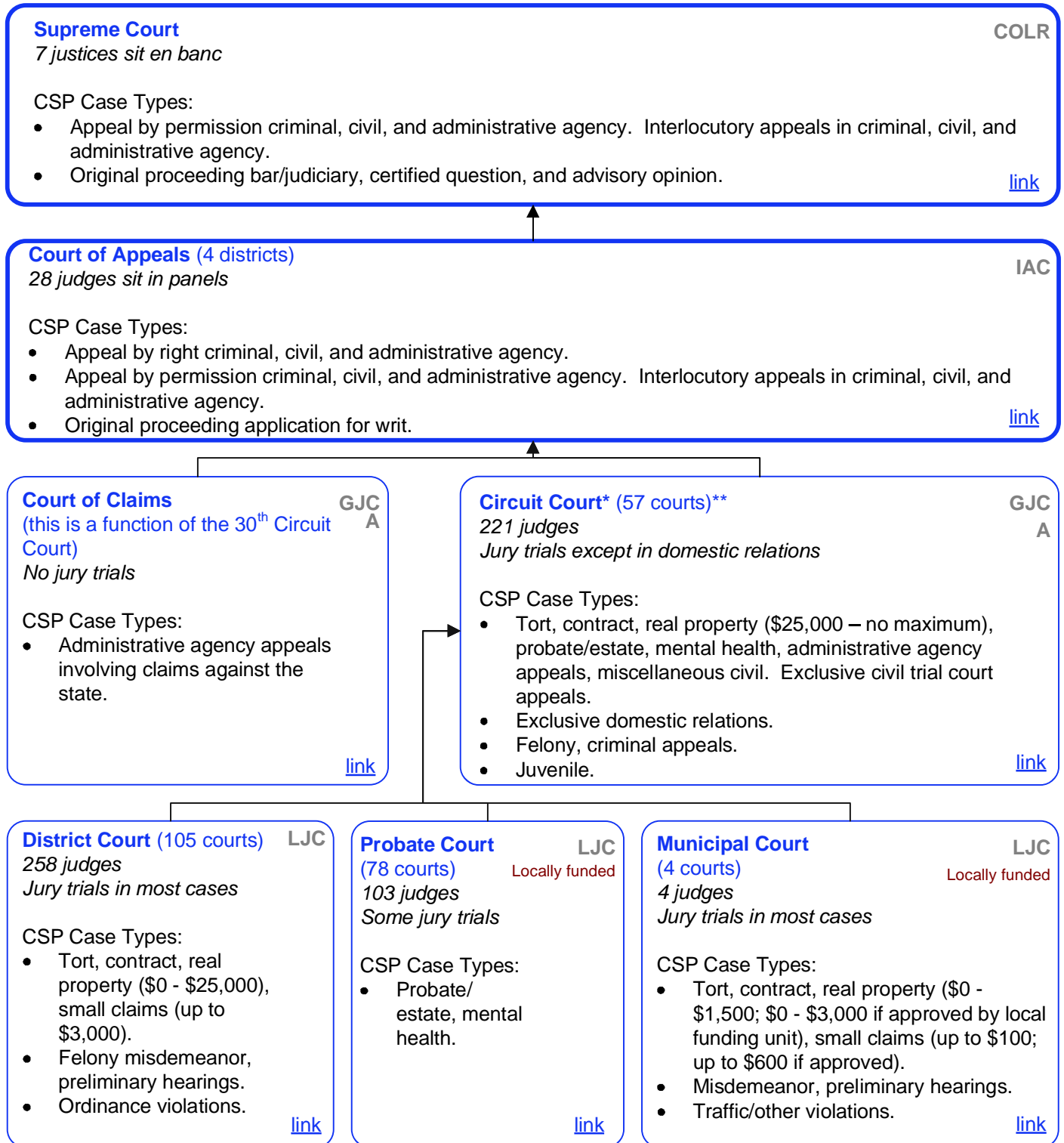
COLR = Court of Last Resort
IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court
GJC = General Jurisdiction Court
LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court
A = Appeal from Admin. Agency
↑ = Route of appeal

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

AOC Web site: www.state.ma.us/courts

Michigan

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2007)



*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

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: www.courts.michigan.gov

Minnesota

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2007)

Supreme Court

7 justices sit en banc

COLR
A

CSP Case Types:

- Appeal by right felony and administrative agency.
- Appeal by permission criminal, civil, and administrative agency (except workers' compensation and revenue[tax]).
- Original proceeding application for writ, bar discipline/eligibility, certified question, and advisory opinion.

[link](#)

Court of Appeals

16 judges sit en banc and in panels

IAC
A

CSP Case Types:

- Appeal by right criminal, civil, and workers' compensation. Interlocutory appeals in criminal, civil, and workers' compensation.
- Appeal by permission criminal, civil, and workers' compensation. Interlocutory appeals in criminal, civil, and workers' compensation.
- Original proceeding application for writ and certified question.

[link](#)

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.

[link](#)

Legend

 = Appellate level

 = Trial level

COLR = Court of Last Resort

IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court

GJC = General Jurisdiction Court

LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court

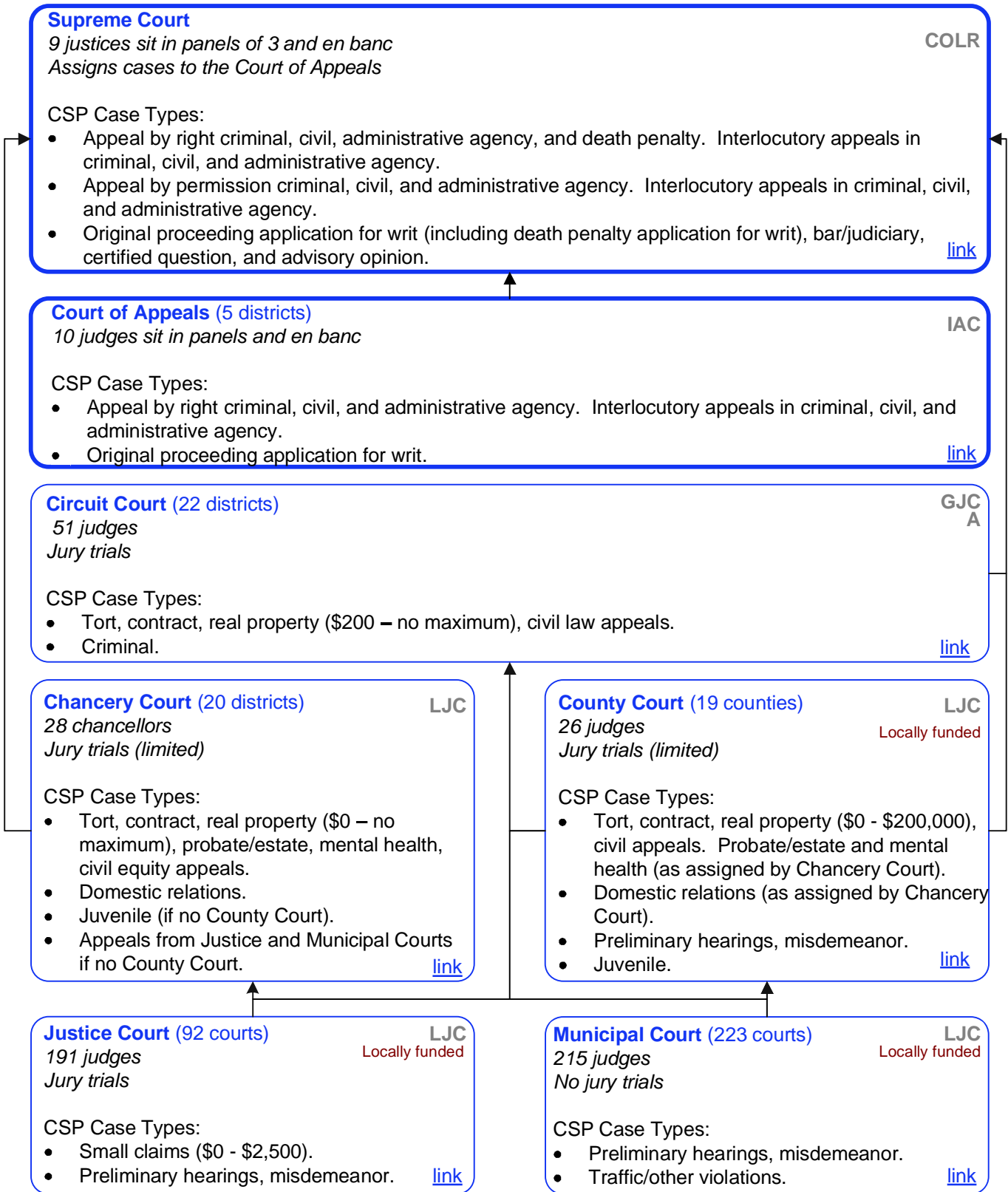
A = Appeal from Admin. Agency

↑ = Route of appeal

AOC Web site: www.courts.state.mn.us

Mississippi

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2007)



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

Legend

 = Appellate level

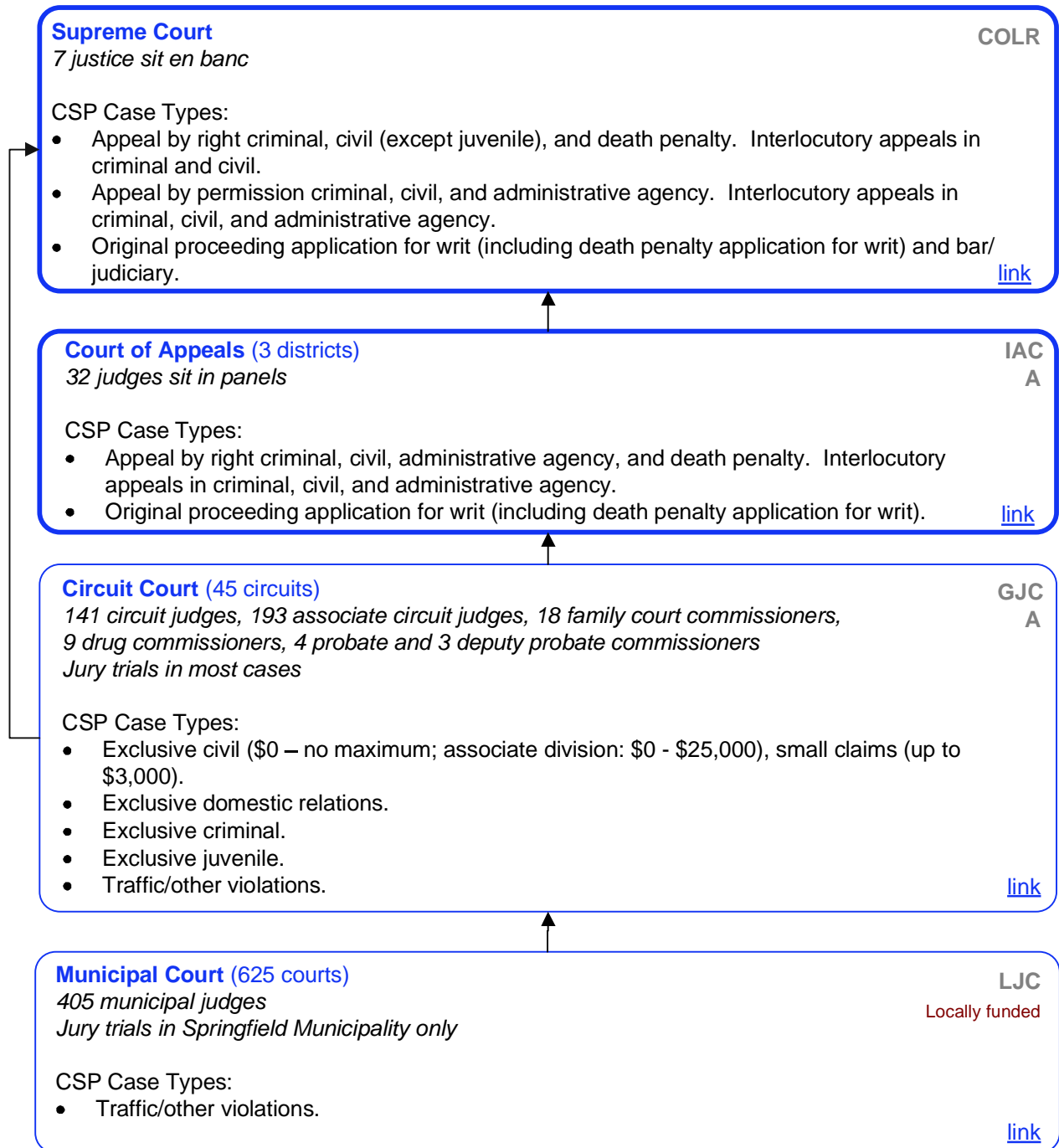
 = Trial level

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: www.mssc.state.ms.us

Missouri

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2007)



Legend

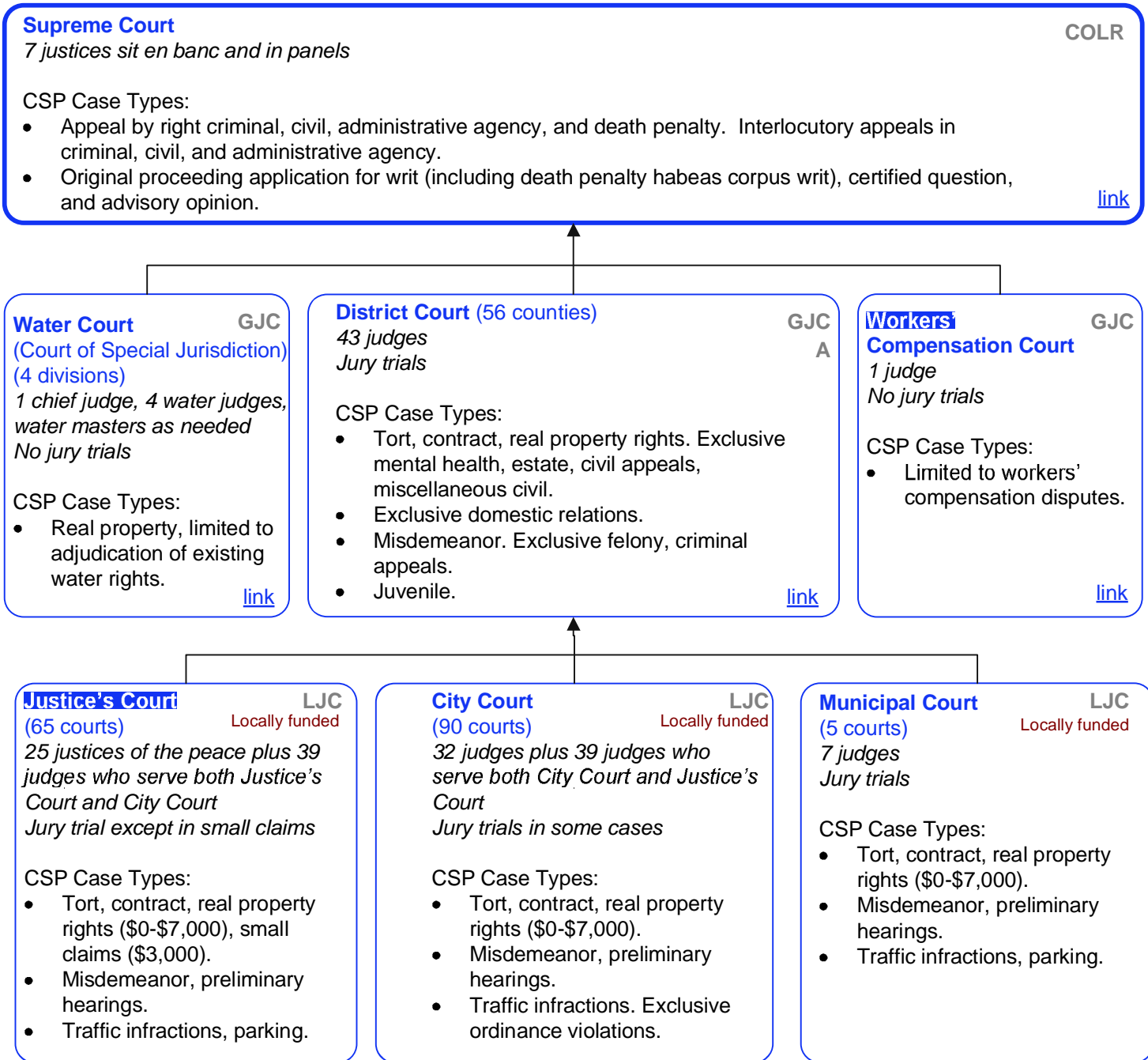
-  = Appellate level
-  = Trial level

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: www.courts.mo.gov

Montana

(Court Structure as of Calendar Year 2007)



Supreme Court

7 justices sit en banc and in panels

COLR

CSP Case Types:

- Appeal by right criminal, civil, administrative agency, and death penalty. Interlocutory appeals in criminal, civil, and administrative agency.
- Original proceeding application for writ (including death penalty habeas corpus writ), certified question, and advisory opinion.

[link](#)

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.

[link](#)

District Court (56 counties)

GJC

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.

[link](#)

Workers' Compensation Court

GJC

1 judge
No jury trials

CSP Case Types:

- Limited to workers' compensation disputes.

[link](#)

Justice's Court

LJC

(65 courts)

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.

City Court

LJC

(90 courts)

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.

Municipal Court

LJC

(5 courts)

Locally funded

7 judges
Jury trials

CSP Case Types:

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

Legend

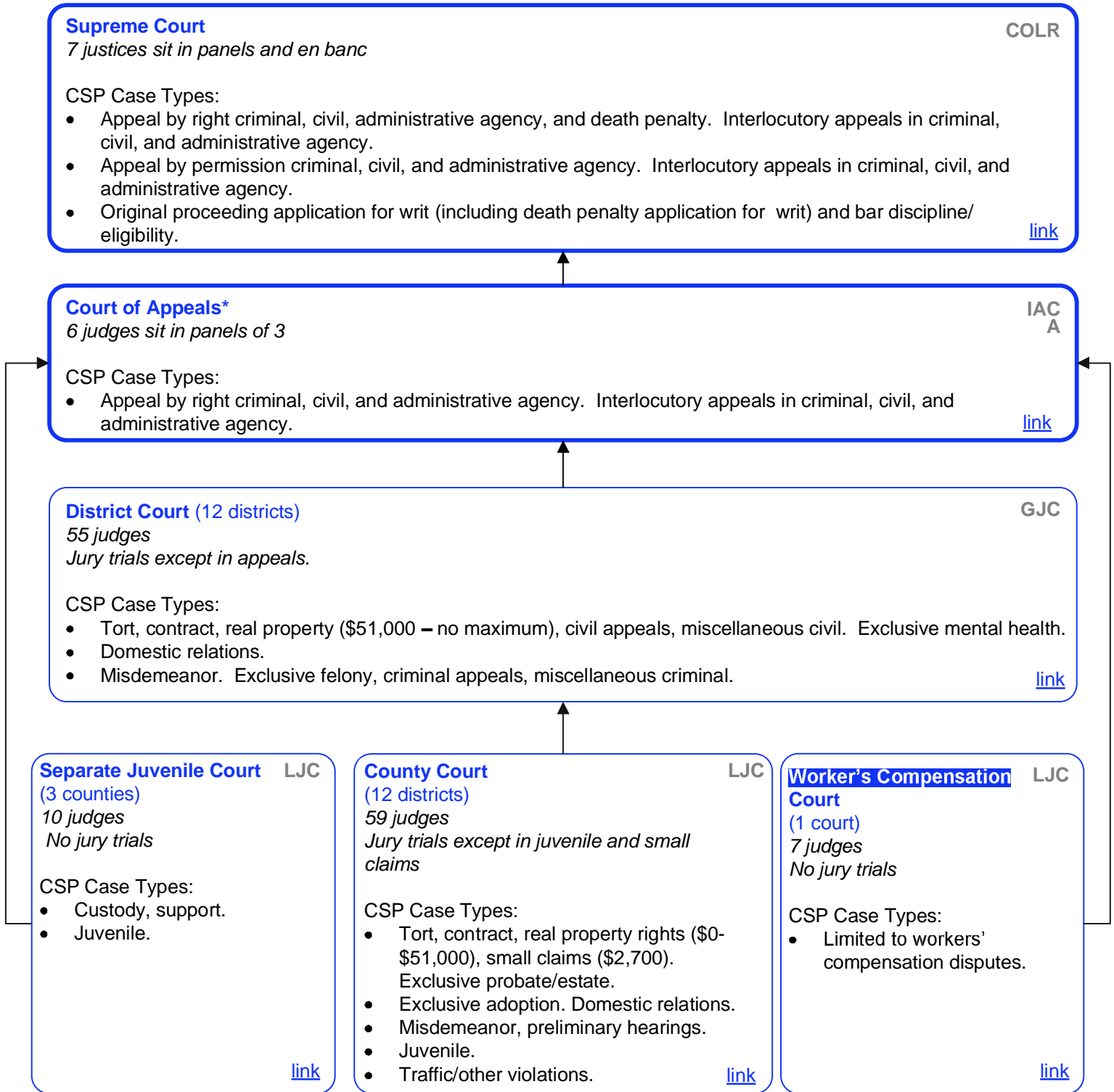
 = Appellate level
 = Trial level

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: www.courts.mt.gov



Nebraska

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2007)



* 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

AOC Web site: www.supremecourt.ne.gov

Nevada

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2007)

Supreme Court

COLR

7 justices sit in panels and en banc

CSP Case Types:

- Appeal by right criminal, civil, administrative agency, and death penalty. Interlocutory appeals in criminal, civil, and administrative agency.
- Original proceeding application for writ (including death penalty application for writ), bar judiciary (except judicial qualification), and certified questions..

[link](#)

District Court (9 districts)

GJC

64 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.

[link](#)

Justice Court (48 towns)

LJC

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

Locally funded

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

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


Locally funded

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

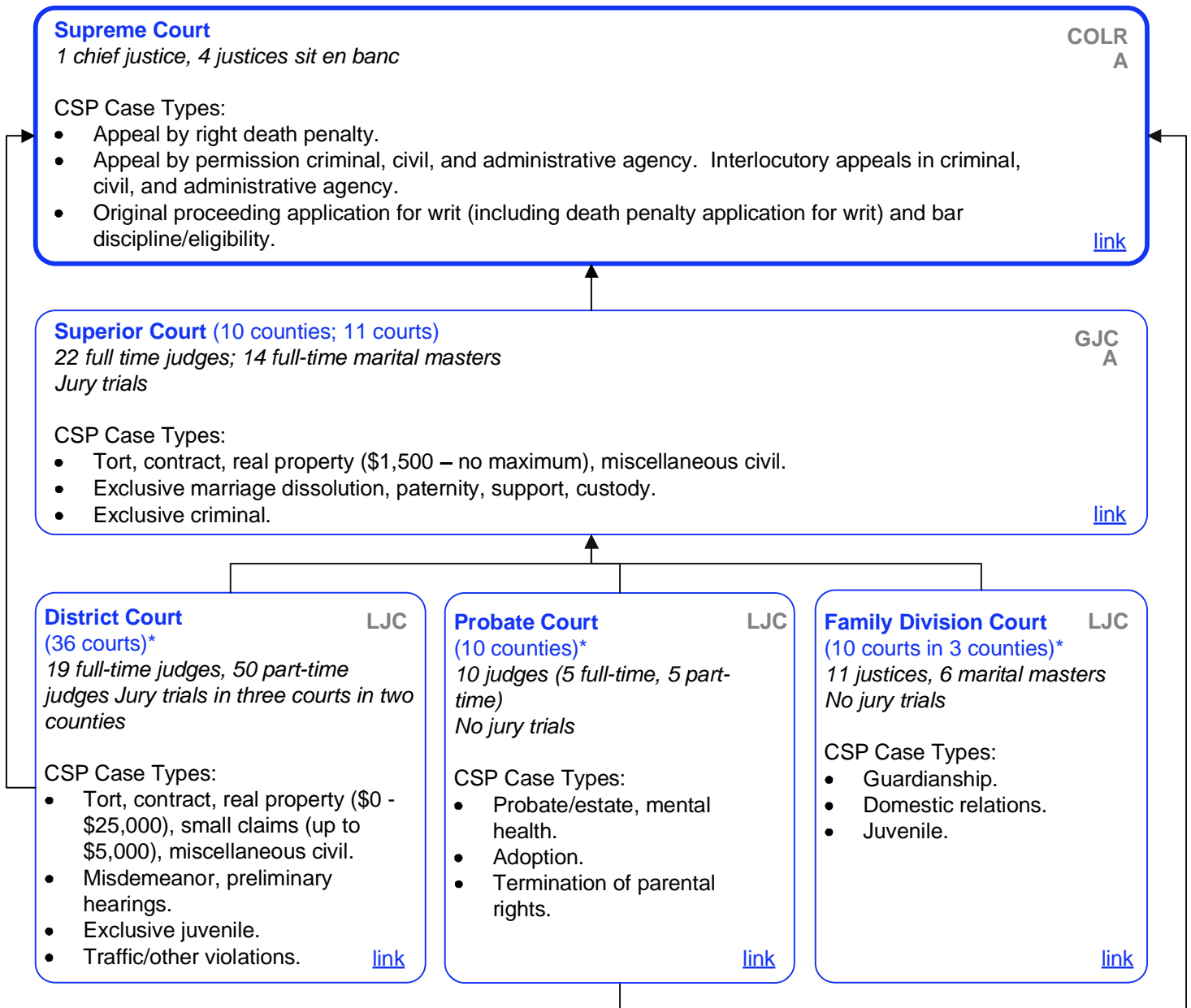
A = Appeal from Admin. Agency

↑ = Route of appeal

AOC Web site: www.nvsupremecourt.us

New Hampshire

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2007)



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

Legend

= Appellate level

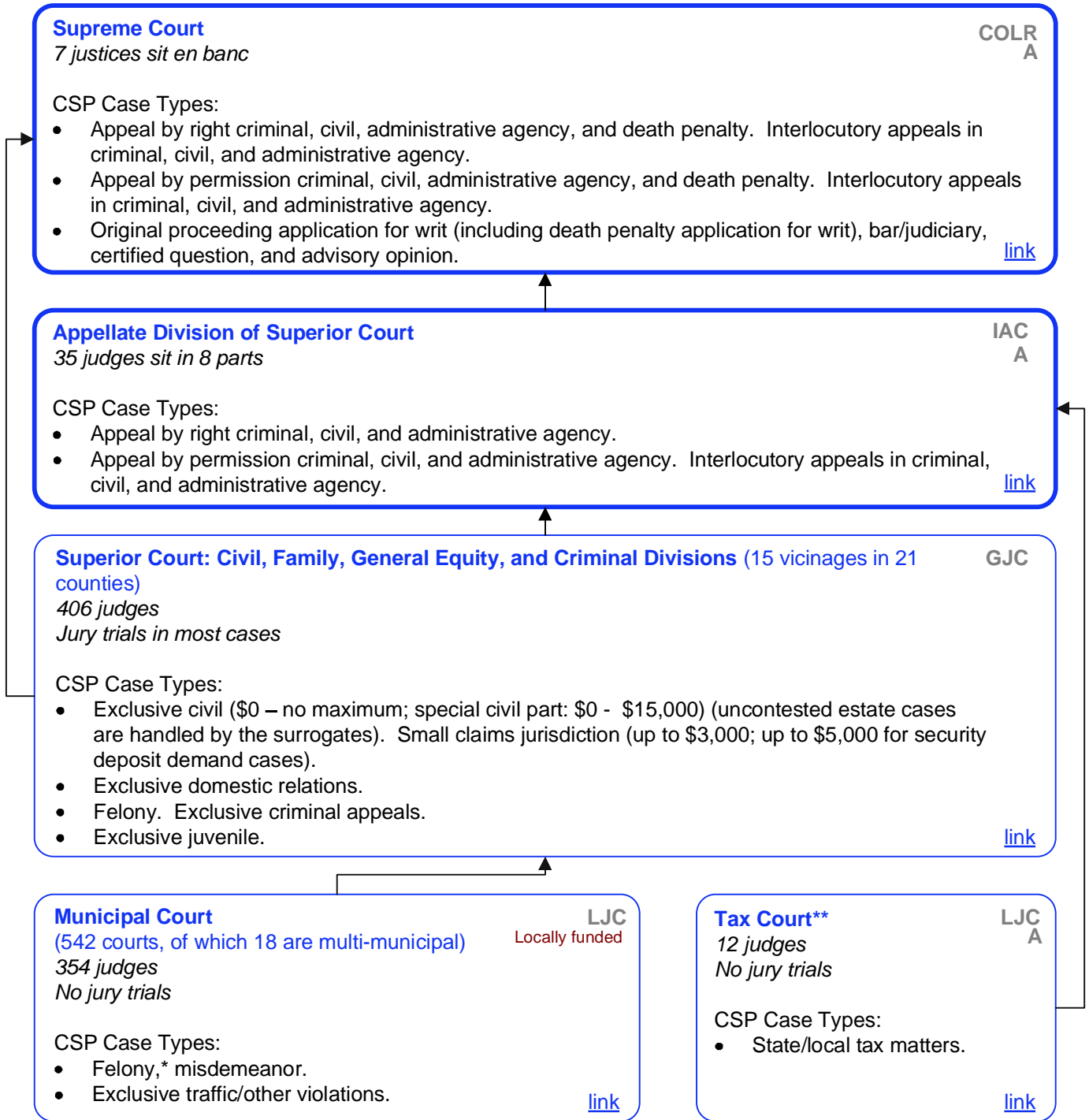
= Trial level

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

AOC Web site: www.state.nh.us/courts

New Jersey

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2007)



* 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: www.judiciary.state.nj.us

New Mexico

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2007)

Supreme Court

5 justices sit en banc

COLR
A

CSP Case Types:

- Appeal by right criminal (except misdemeanor), administrative agency (except worker's compensation and revenue[tax]), and death penalty. Interlocutory appeals in criminal and administrative agency.
- Appeal by permission criminal, civil, and administrative agency. Interlocutory appeals in criminal, civil, and administrative agency.
- Original proceeding application for writ (including death penalty application for writ), bar/judiciary (except bar admission), and certified question. [link](#)

Court of Appeals

10 judges sit in panels of 3

IAC
A

CSP Case Types:

- Appeal by right criminal, civil, and administrative agency (except revenue [tax]).
- Appeal by permission criminal and civil. Interlocutory appeals in criminal and civil.
- Original proceeding application for writ. [link](#)

District Court (13 districts)

88 judges

Jury trials

GJC

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. [link](#)

Magistrate Court (54 courts)

66 judges

Jury trials

LJC

CSP Case Types:

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

Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court

19 judges

Jury trials except in traffic

LJC

CSP Case Types:

- Small claims (\$0 - \$10,000).
- Preliminary hearings, misdemeanor.
- Traffic/other violation. [link](#)

Municipal Court (80 courts)

85 judges,

No jury trials

LJC

Locally funded

CSP Case Types:

- Misdemeanor.
- Traffic/other violations.

Probate Court (33 counties)

33 judges

No jury trials

LJC

Locally funded

CSP Case Types:

- Probate/estate (uncontested 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: www.nmcourts.com

New York

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2007)

Court of Appeals

7 judges

COLR

CSP Case Types:

- Appeal by right civil, administrative agency, and death penalty. Interlocutory appeals in civil and administrative agency.
- Appeal by permission criminal, civil, and administrative agency. Interlocutory appeals in criminal, civil, and administrative agency.
- Original proceeding judicial qualification and certified question.

[link](#)

Appellate Divisions of Supreme Court

56 justices sit in panels in 4 departments

IAC
A

CSP Case Types:

- Appeal by right criminal, civil, and administrative agency. Interlocutory appeals in criminal, civil, and administrative agency.
- Appeal by permission criminal, civil, and administrative agency. Interlocutory appeals in criminal, civil, and administrative agency.
- Original proceeding application for writ and bar/judiciary.

[link](#)

Appellate Terms of Supreme Court

14 justices sit in panels in 2 departments

IAC

CSP Case Types:

- Appeal by right criminal and civil. Interlocutory appeal in criminal and civil.
- Appeal by permission criminal and juvenile. Interlocutory appeals in criminal and juvenile.

[link](#)

Supreme and County Court

326 justices, 134 judges

Supreme Court (12 districts)

326 justices plus 59 judges from the Court of Claims
Jury trials

GJC
A

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property, miscellaneous civil.
- Exclusive marriage dissolution.
- Felony, misdemeanor.

[link](#)

County Court (57 counties outside NYC)

129 judges (50 serve the Surrogates' Court and 6 serve the Family Court)
Jury trials

GJC

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property (\$0 - \$25,000), civil appeals, miscellaneous civil.
- Criminal.

[link](#)

Court of Claims (1 court)

86 judges (of which 59 act as Supreme Court justices)
No jury trials

LJC

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property involving the state.

[link](#)

Family Court (62 counties)

127 judges plus 6 judges from the County Court and 81 quasi-judicial staff
No jury trials

LJC

CSP Case Types:

- Guardianship.
- Domestic relations.
- Exclusive domestic violence.
- Exclusive juvenile.

Surrogates' Court (62 counties)

31 surrogates plus 50 judges from the County Court
Jury trials in probate/estate

LJC

CSP Case Types:

- Probate/estate.
- Adoption.

District and City Court

208 judges

District Court (Nassau and Suffolk counties)

50 judges
Jury trials except in traffic

LJC

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property (\$0 - \$15,000), small claims (up to \$5,000)
- Felony, misdemeanor, preliminary hearings.
- Traffic infractions, ordinance violations.

City Court (79 courts in 61 cities)

158 judges
Jury trials for highest level misdemeanor

LJC

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property (\$0 - \$15,000), small claims (up to \$5,000)
- Felony, misdemeanor, preliminary hearings.
- Traffic infractions, ordinance violations.

Civil Court of the City of New York (1 court)

120 judges
Jury trials

LJC

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property (\$0 - \$25,000), small claims, (up to \$5,000), miscellaneous civil.

[link](#)

Criminal Court of the City of New York (1 court)

107 judges
Jury trials for highest level misdemeanor

LJC

CSP Case Types:

- Misdemeanor, preliminary hearings.
- Traffic infractions, ordinance violations.

[link](#)

Town and Village Justice Court (1,487 courts)

2,300 justices
Jury trials in most cases

Locally funded

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property (\$0 - \$3,000), small claims (up to \$3,000)
- Misdemeanor, preliminary hearings.
- Traffic/other violations.

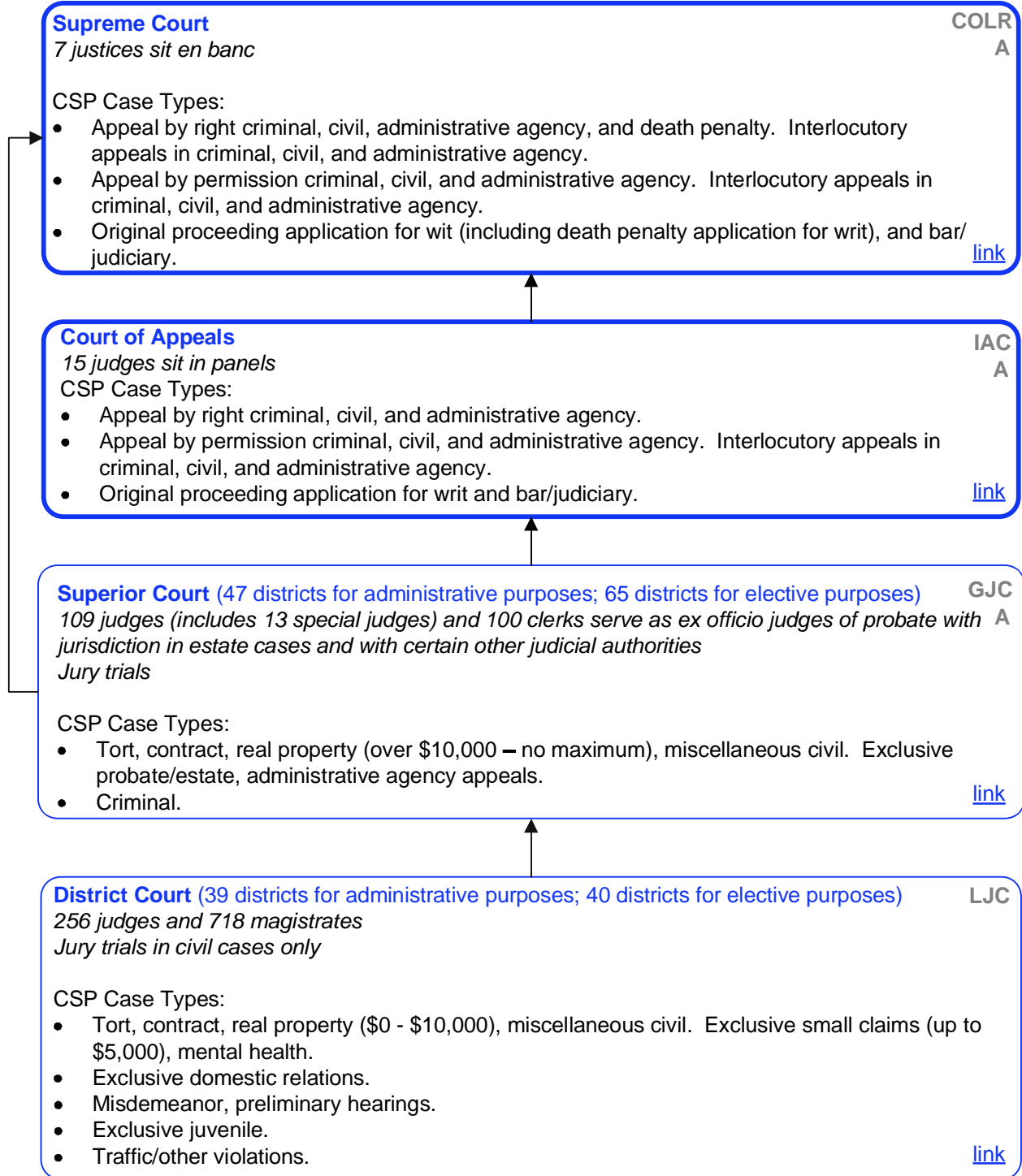
Legend

- = 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

North Carolina

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2007)



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: www.nccourts.org

North Dakota

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2007)

Supreme Court

COLR

5 justices sit en banc

Assigns cases to the Temporary Court of Appeals

CSP Case Types:

- Appeal by right criminal, civil, and administrative agency. Interlocutory appeals in criminal, civil, and administrative agency.
- Original proceeding application for writ, bar/judiciary, certified question, and advisory opinion.

[link](#)

Temporary Court of Appeals*

IAC

3 judges sit in panels

CSP Case Types:

- Appeal by right criminal, civil, and administrative agency. Interlocutory appeals in criminal, civil, and administrative agency.
- Original proceeding application for writ.

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.

[link](#)

Municipal Court (80 municipalities)

LJC

Locally funded

94 judges

No jury trials


CSP Case Types:

- DWI/DUI.
- Traffic/other violations.

[link](#)

*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, 2012.

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: www.court.state.nd.us

Ohio

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2007)

Supreme Court COLR
A
7 justices sit en banc

CSP Case Types:

- Appeal by right criminal, civil, administrative agency, and death penalty.
- Appeal by permission criminal, civil, administrative agency (except revenue [tax]), and death penalty. Interlocutory appeals in criminal, civil, and administrative agency
- Original proceeding application for writ (including death penalty application for writ), bar/judiciary, and certified question. [link](#)

Court of Appeals (12 courts) IAC
A
68 judges sit in panels of 3 members each

CSP Case Types:

- Appeal by right criminal, civil, and administrative agency. Interlocutory appeals in criminal, civil, and administrative agency.
- Original proceeding application for writ. [link](#)

Court of Common Pleas (88 courts) GJC
A
Locally funded
*391 judges
Jury trials in most cases*

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property (\$500 – no maximum), administrative agency appeals, miscellaneous civil. Exclusive mental health, probate/estate.
- Exclusive domestic relations.
- Felony, misdemeanor.
- Exclusive juvenile.
- Traffic/other violations (juvenile only). [link](#)

Municipal Court (125 courts) LJC
Locally funded
*208 judges
Jury trials in most cases*

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property (\$0 - \$15,000), small claims (up to \$3,000), miscellaneous civil.
- Criminal (including preliminary hearings).
- Traffic/other violations. [link](#)

County Court (41 courts) LJC
Locally funded
*47 judges
Jury trials in most cases*

CSP Case Types:

- Tort, contract, real property (\$0 - \$15,000), small claims (up to \$3,000), miscellaneous civil.
- Criminal (including preliminary hearings).
- Traffic infractions, ordinance violations. [link](#)

Court of Claims (1 court) LJC
*Judges assigned by the Chief Justice
Jury trials in some cases*

CSP Case Types:

- Civil (actions against the state, victims of crime cases). [link](#)

Mayors Court (~335 courts) LJC
Locally funded
*~335 mayors or magistrates
No jury trials*

CSP Case Types:

- DWI/DUI, other misdemeanors.
- Traffic/other violations. [link](#)

Legend

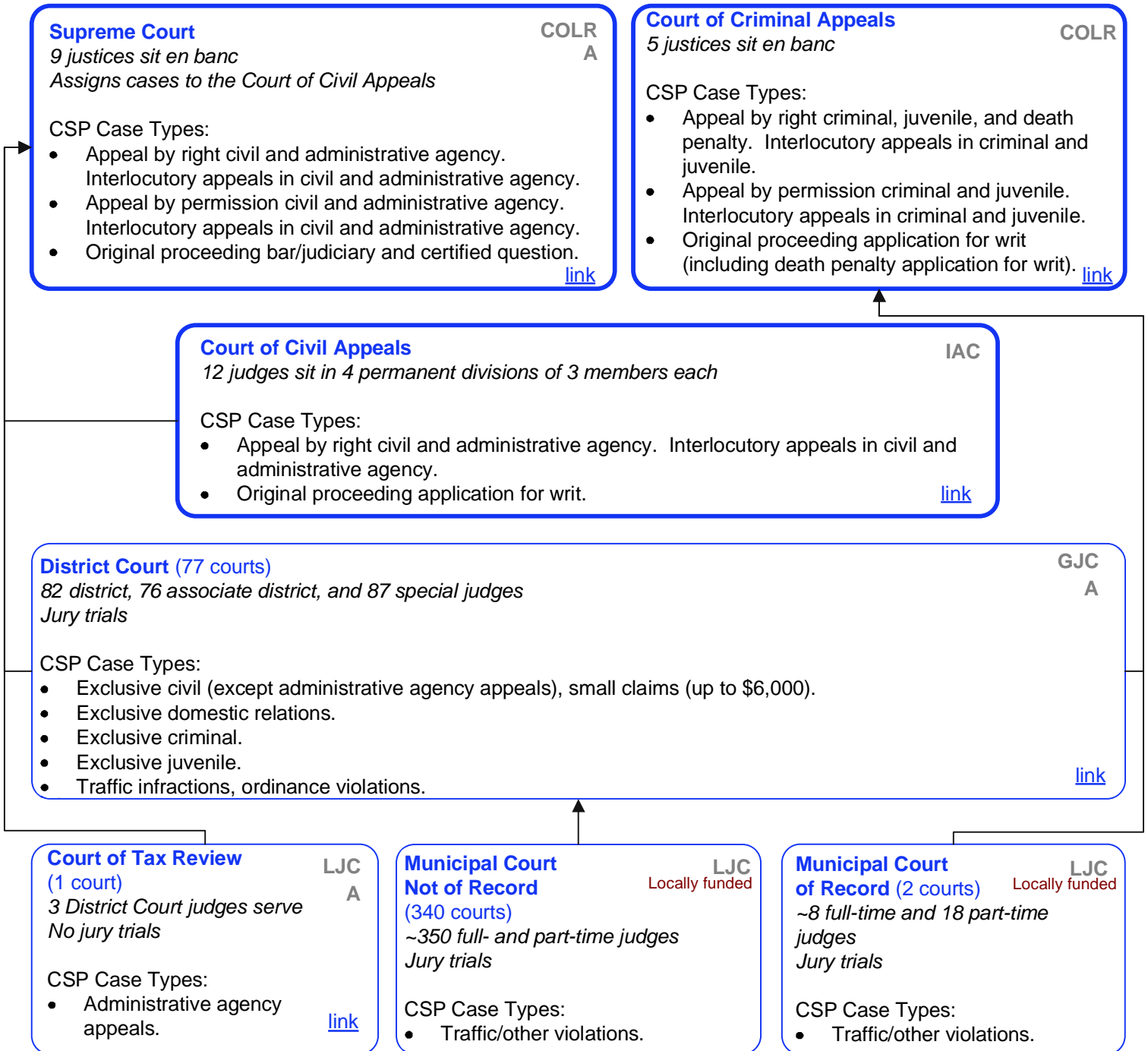
- = Appellate level
- = Trial level

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: www.sconet.state.oh.us

Oklahoma

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2007)



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

Legend

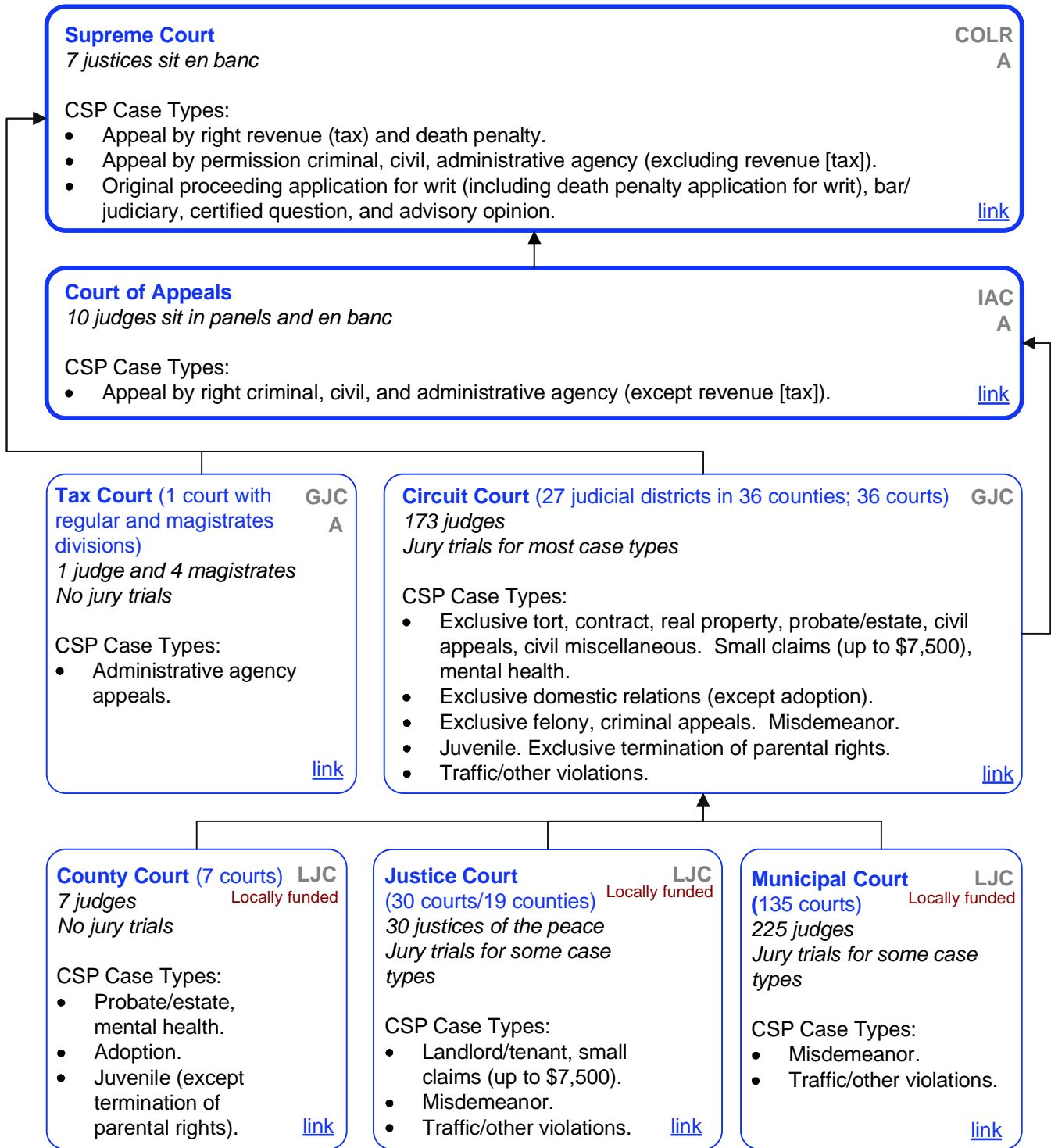
 = Appellate level
 = Trial level

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: www.oscn.net

Oregon

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2007)



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

Legend

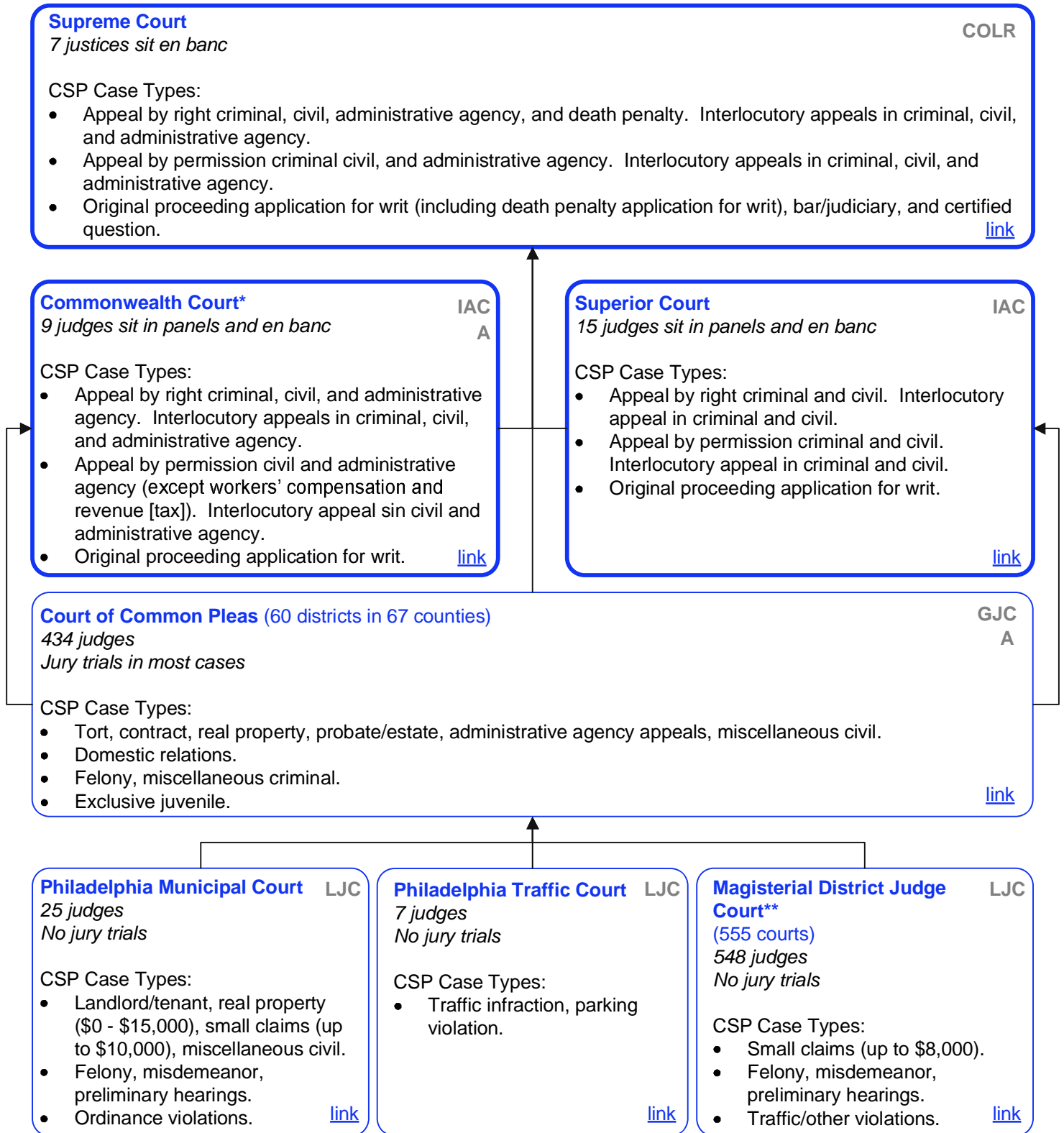
 = Appellate level
 = Trial level

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: www.ojd.state.or.us

Pennsylvania

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2007)



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

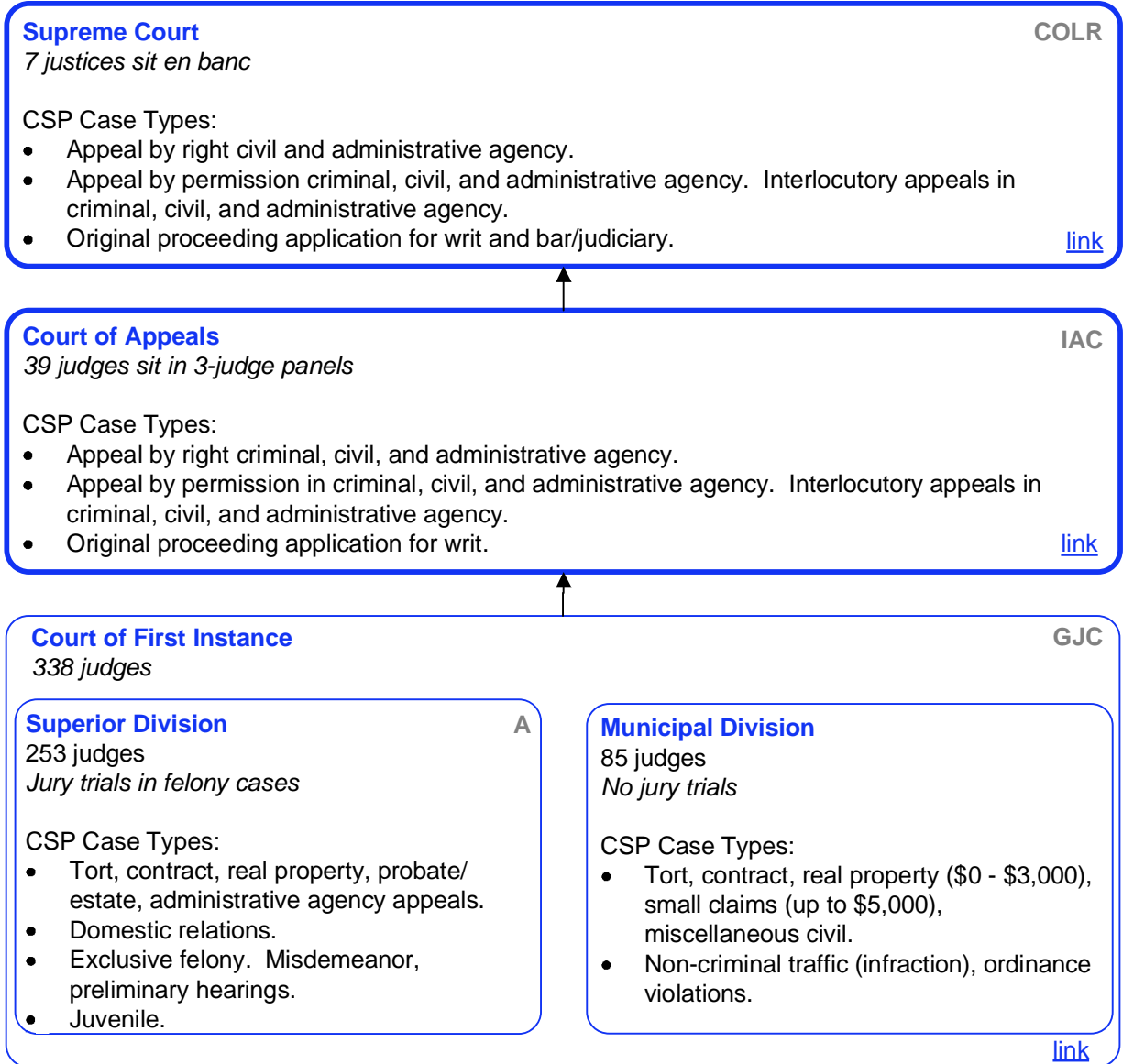
 = Trial level

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

AOC Web site: www.aopc.org



Puerto Rico

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2007)



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.

Legend

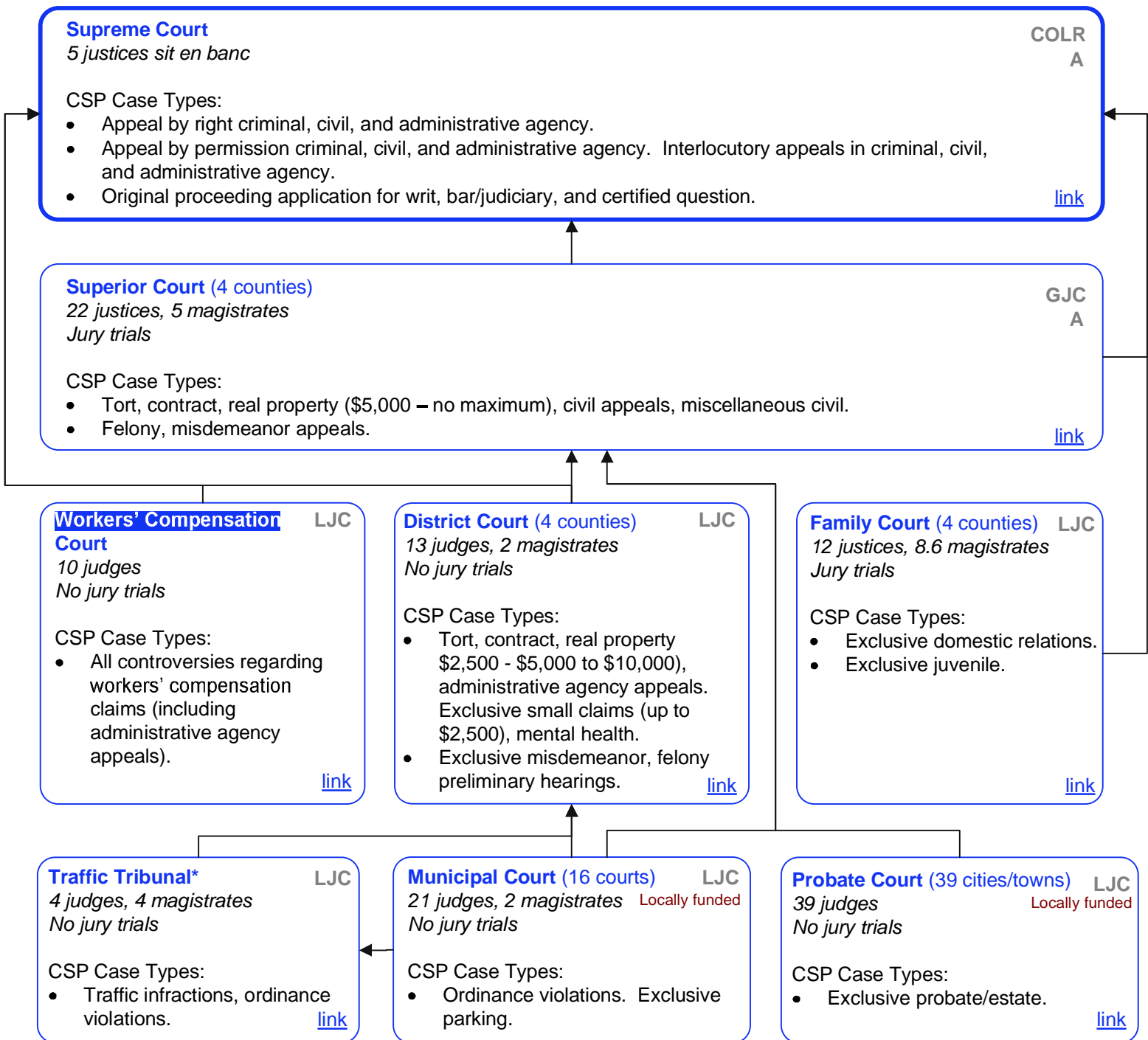
 = Appellate level
 = Trial level

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: www.ramajudicial.pr

Rhode Island

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2007)



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

Legend

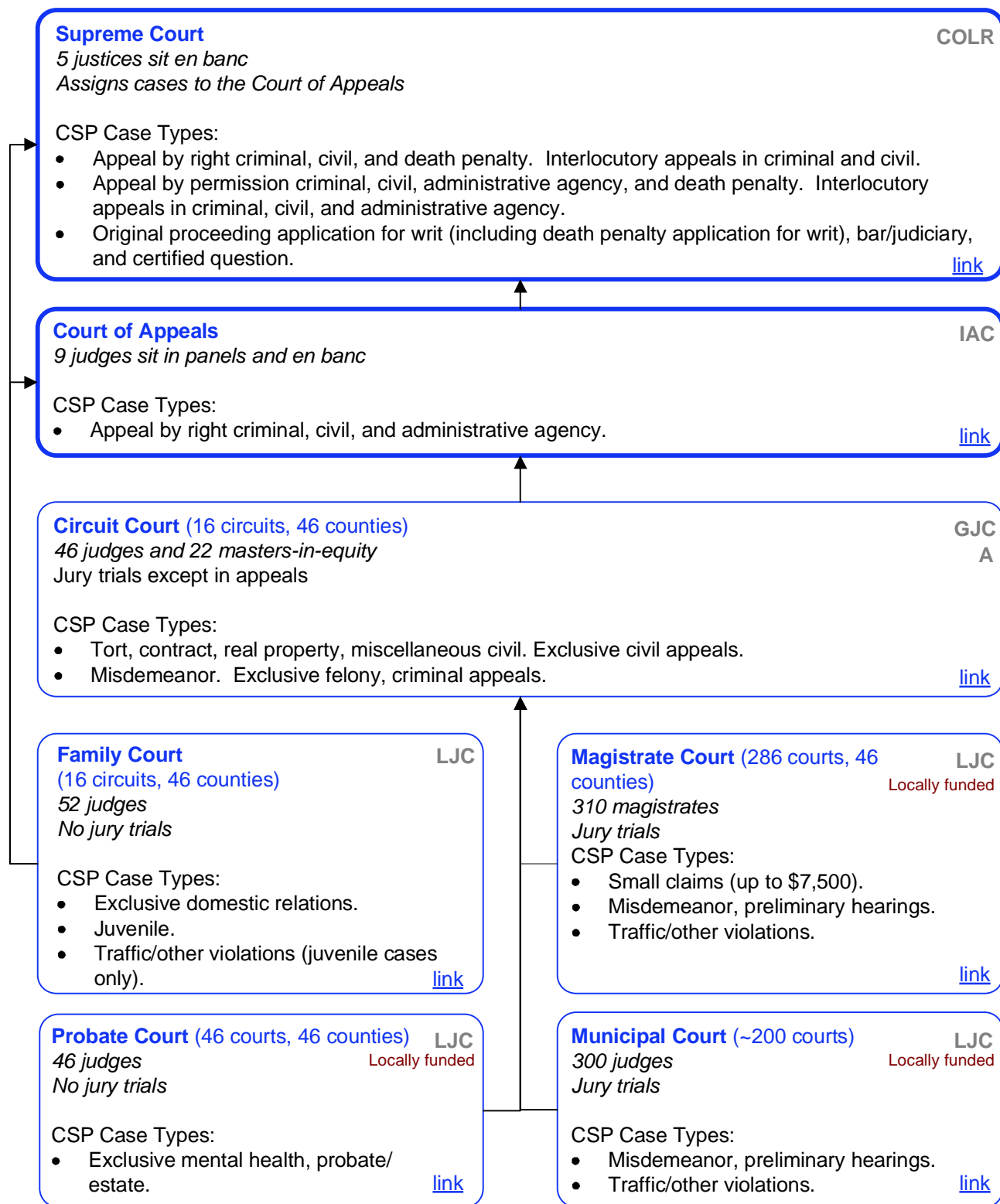
 = Appellate level
 = Trial level

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

AOC Web site: www.courts.state.ri.us

South Carolina

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2007)



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: www.sccourts.org

South Dakota

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2007)

Supreme Court

COLR

5 justices sit en banc

CSP Case Types:

- Appeal by right criminal, civil, administrative agency, and death penalty.
- Appeal by permission criminal, civil, and administrative agency. Interlocutory appeals in criminal, civil, and administrative agency.
- Original proceeding application for writ (including death penalty application for writ), bar/judiciary, certified question, and advisory opinion.

[link](#)

Circuit Court (7 circuits)

GJC

39 judges

Jury trials except in small claims

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).

[link](#)

Magistrate Court (7 circuits)

LJC

12 full-time and 7 part-time magistrates


No jury trials

CSP Case Types:

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

[link](#)

Legend

 = Appellate level

 = Trial level

COLR = Court of Last Resort

IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court

GJC = General Jurisdiction Court

LJC = Limited Jurisdiction Court

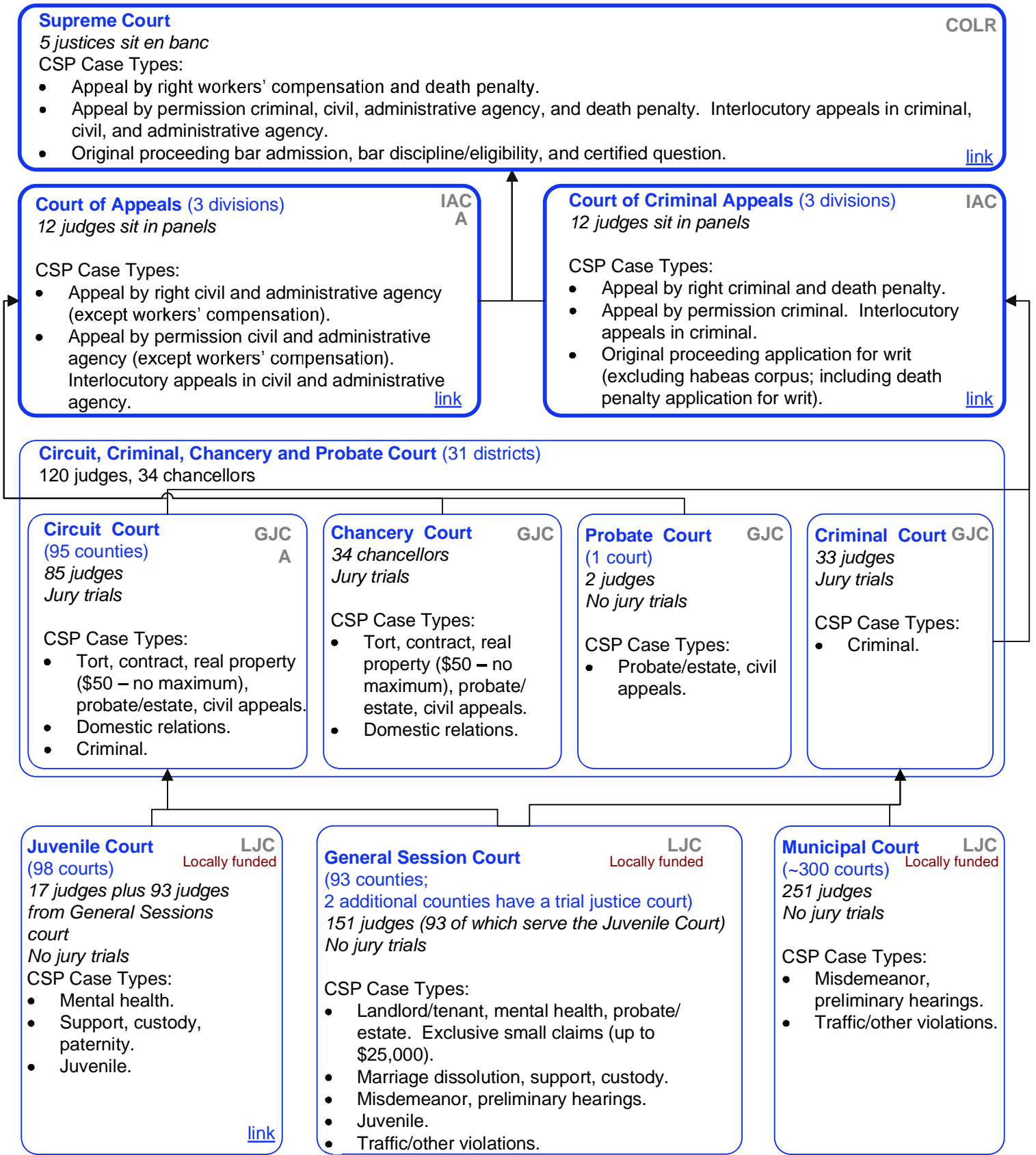
A = Appeal from Admin. Agency

↑ = Route of appeal

AOC Web site: www.state.sd.us/state/judicial

Tennessee

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2007)



Legend

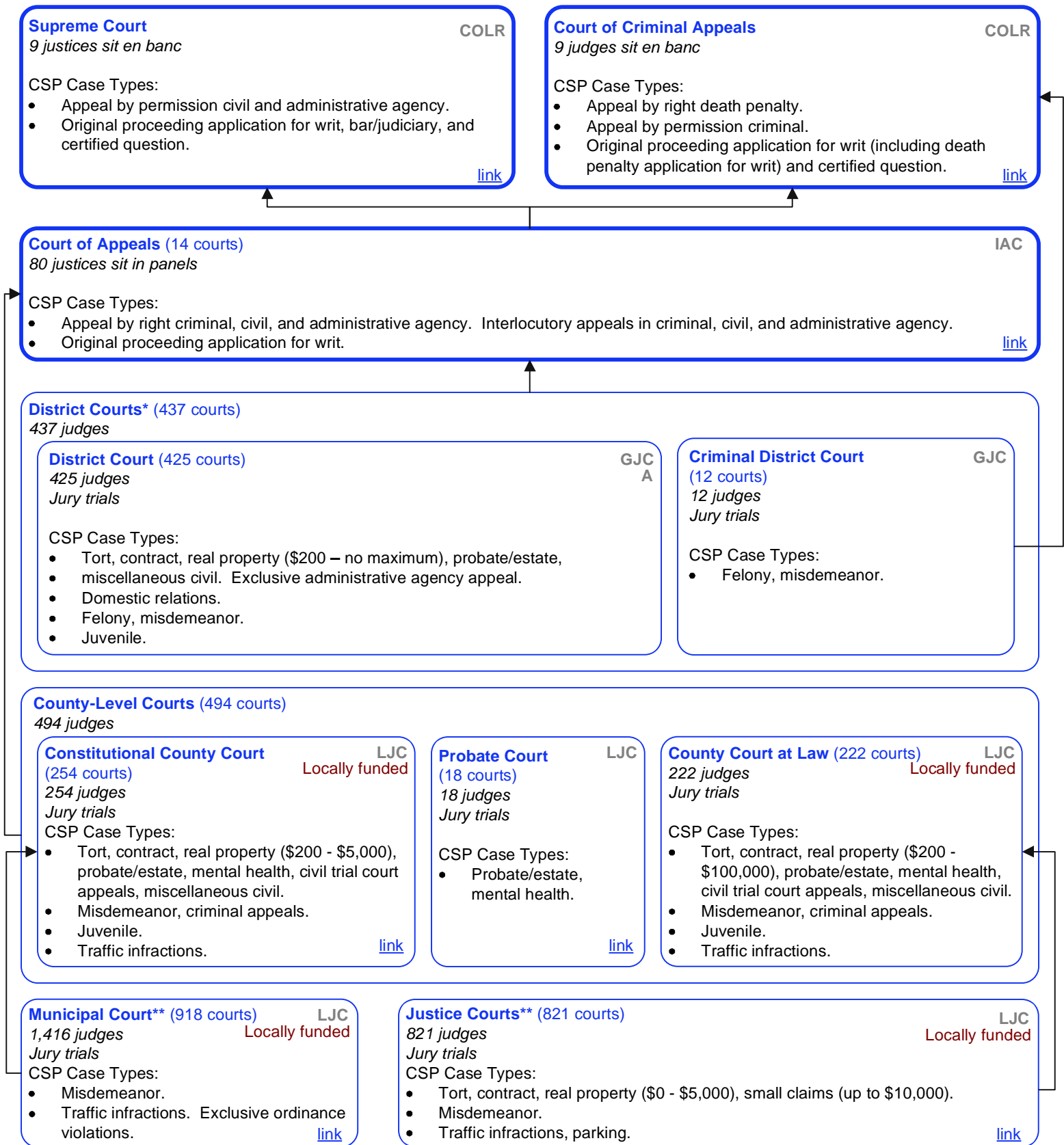
- = Appellate level
- = Trial level

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: www.tsc.state.tn.us

Texas

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2007)



*As of September 1, 2007, there were 437 district courts. The 80th legislature authorized the creation of eight new courts on September 1, 2007 and one court on October 1, 2007. On September 1, the eight new authorized courts as well as one court authorized by the 79th legislature (to be created on January 1, 2007) had yet to be implemented.

**Some Municipal and Justice of the Peace courts may appeal to the District court.

AOC Web site: www.courts.state.tx.us

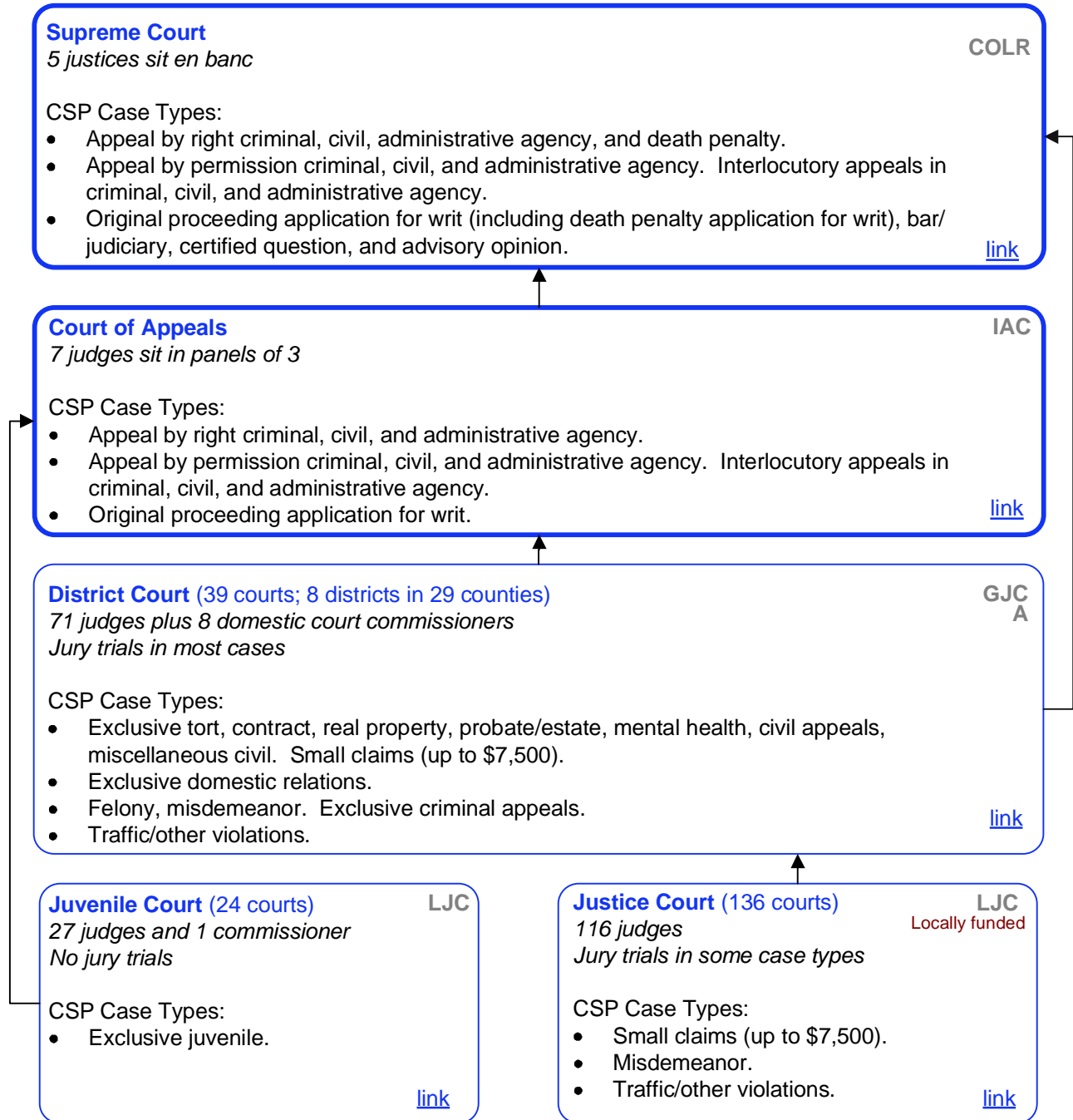
Legend

 = 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

Utah

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2007)



Legend

= Appellate level

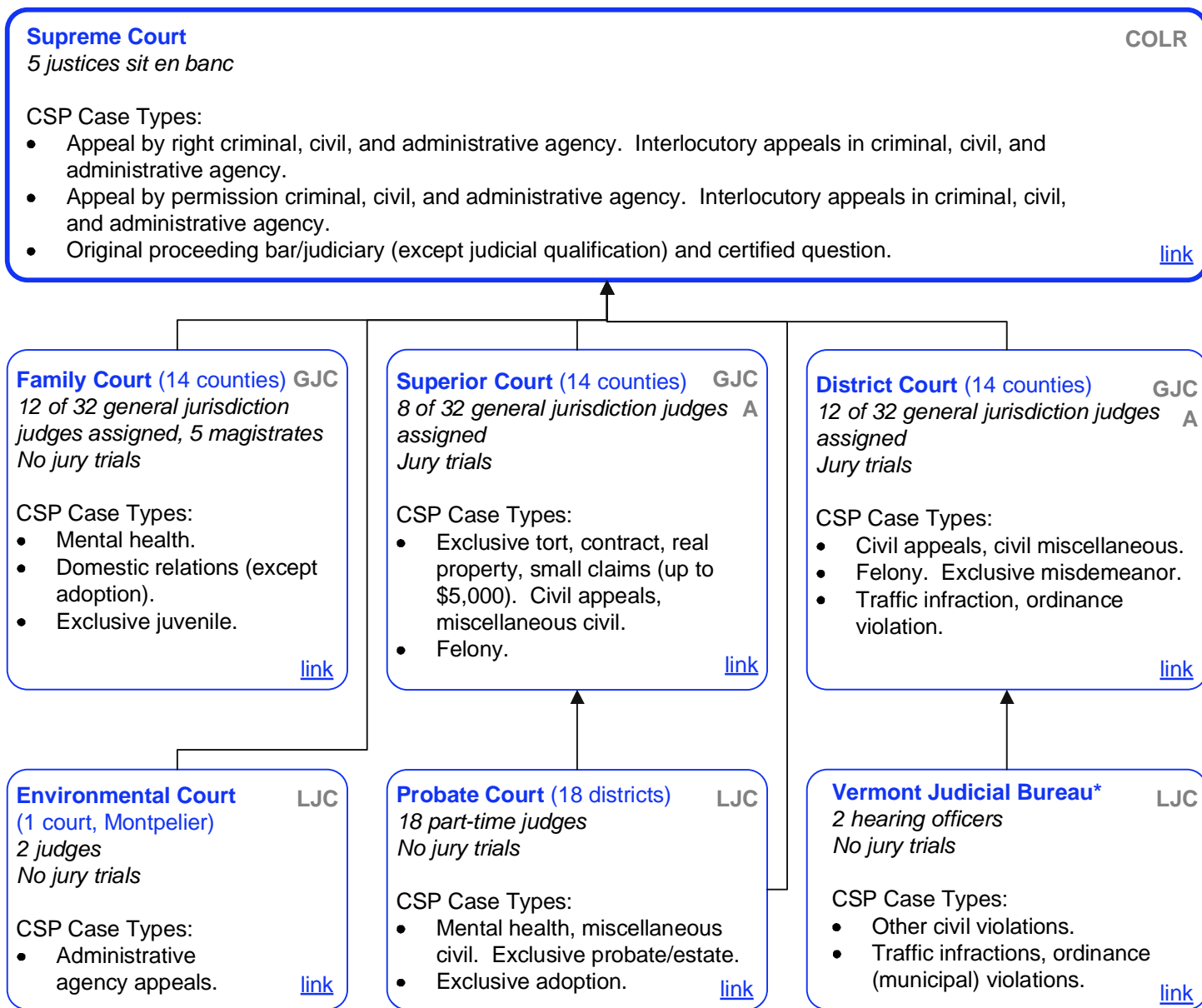
= Trial level

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: www.utcourts.gov

Vermont

(Court structure as of Fiscal Year 2007)



*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.

Legend

 = Appellate level

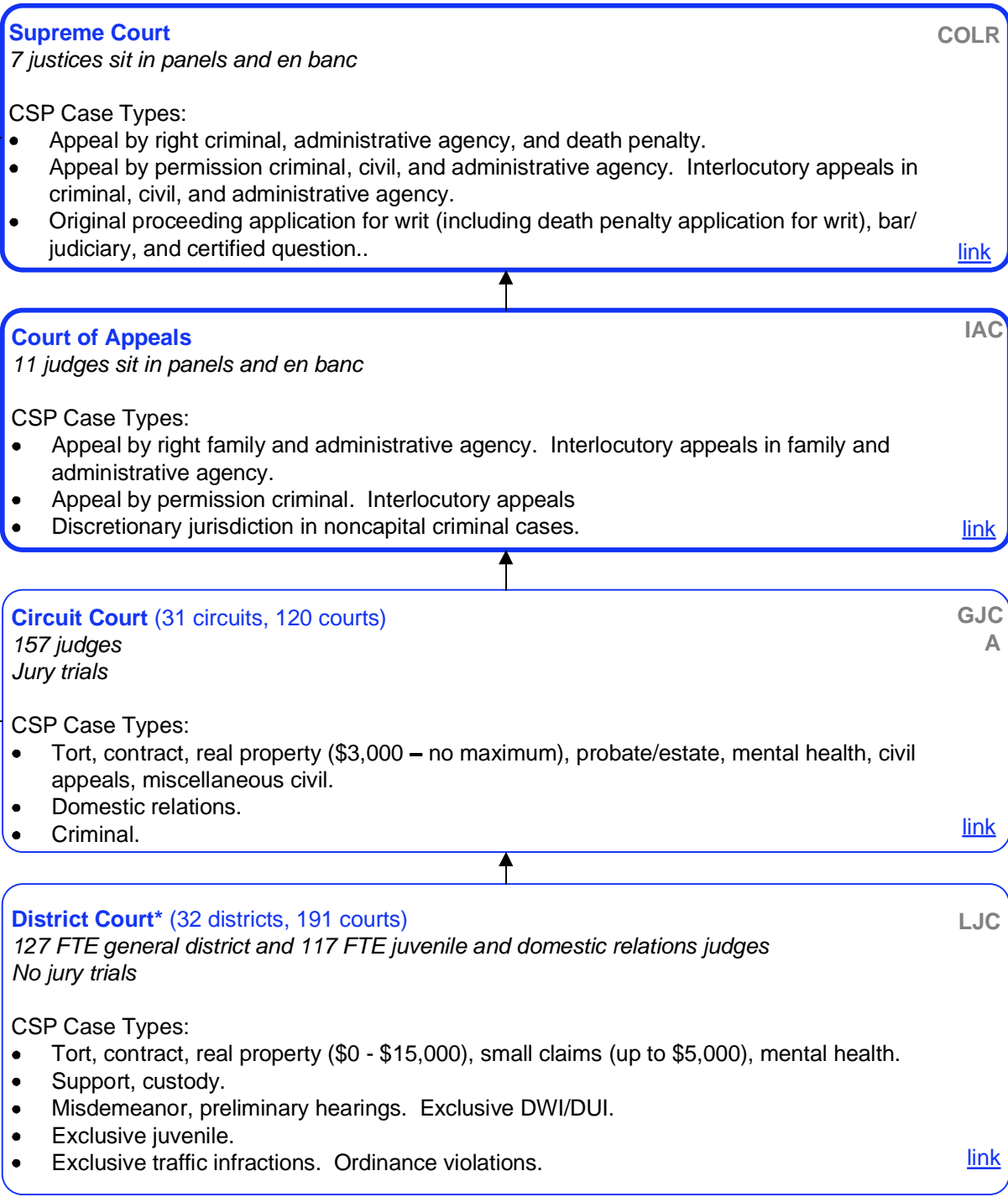
 = Trial level

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: www.vermontjudiciary.org

Virginia

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2007)



*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

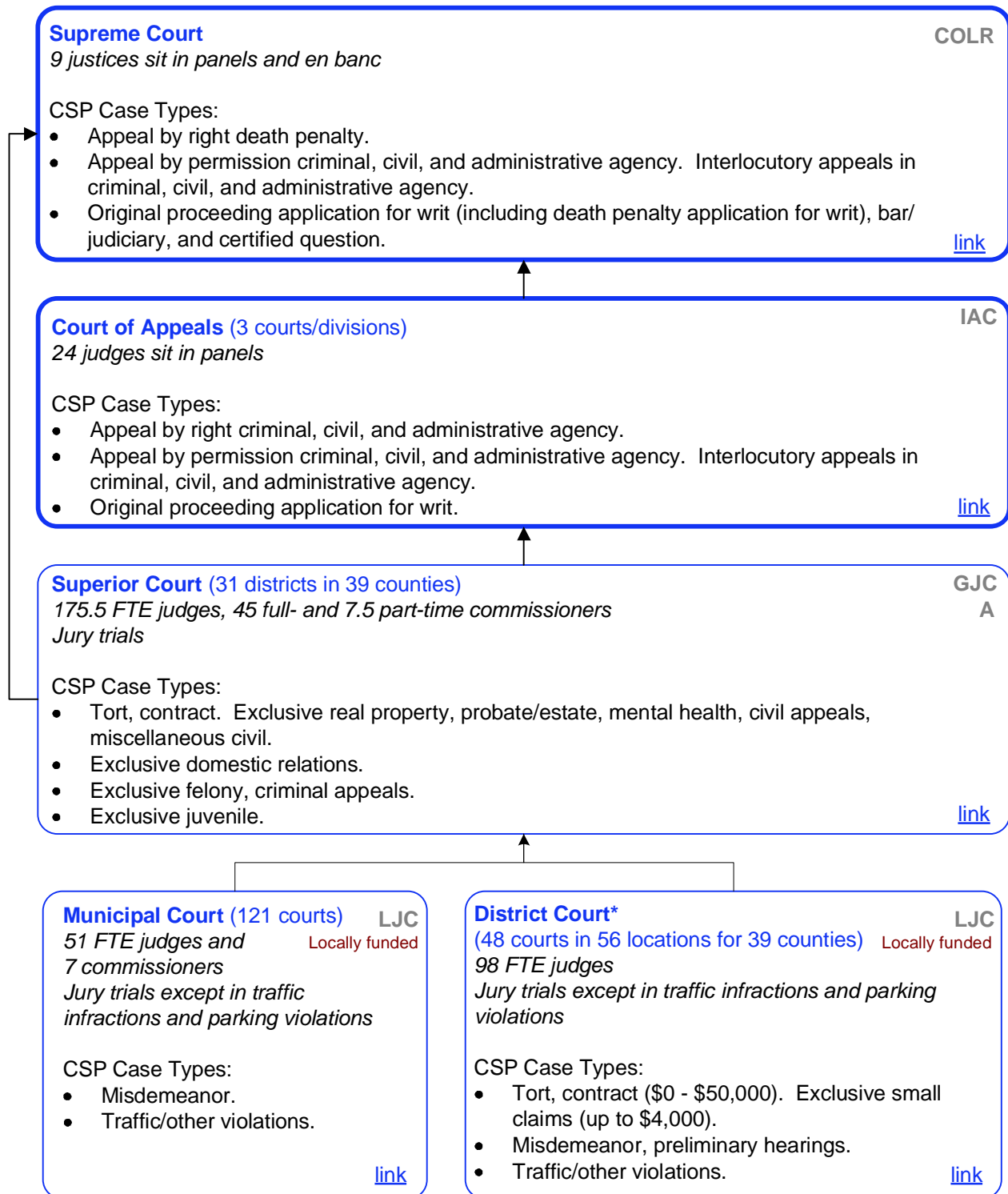
 = Trial level

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: www.courts.state.va.us

Washington

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2007)



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

Legend

 = Appellate level

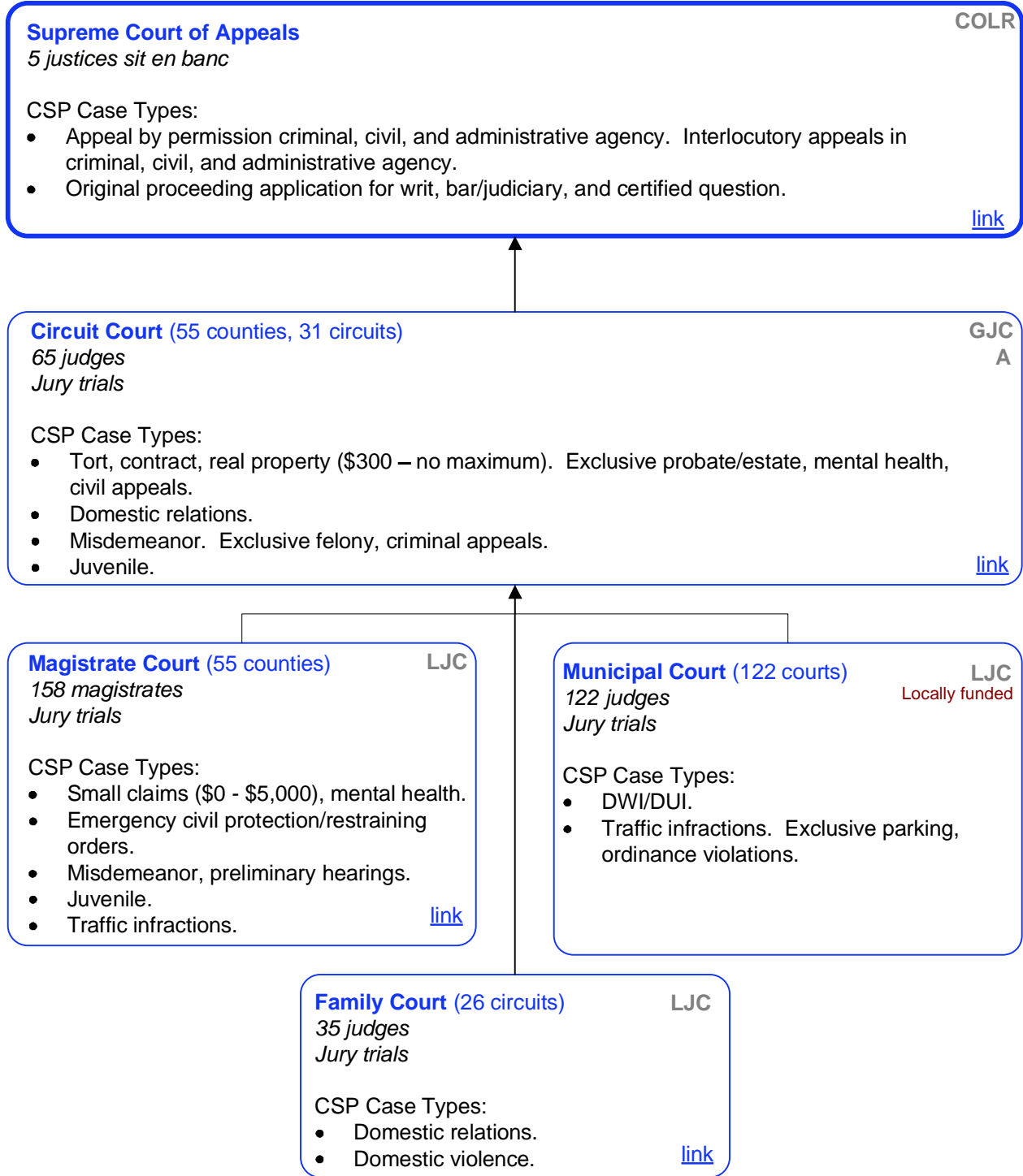
 = Trial level

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: www.courts.wa.gov

West Virginia

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2007)



Legend

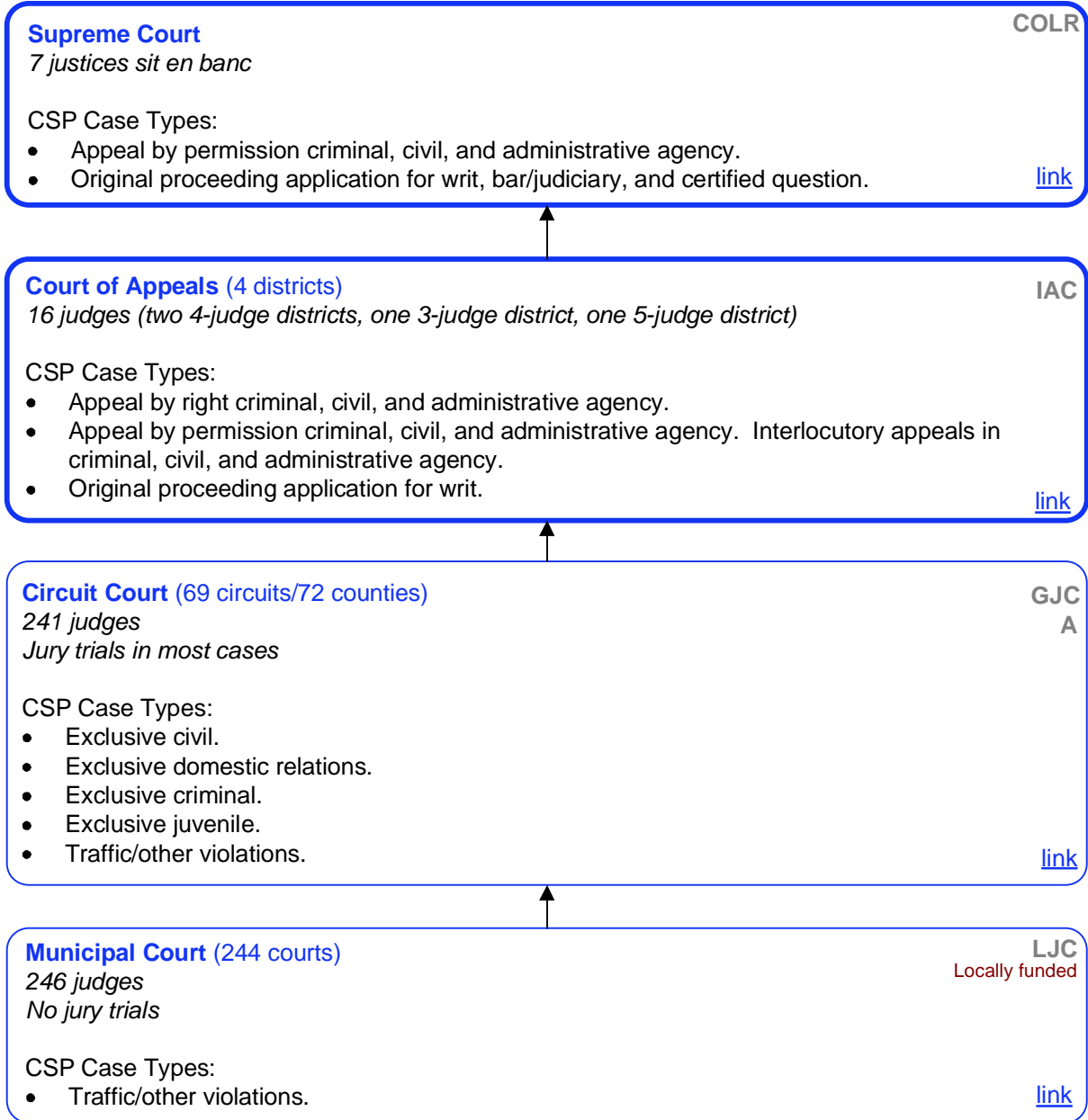
-  = Appellate level
 = Trial level

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: www.state.wv.us/wvsca


Wisconsin

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2007)



Legend

 = Appellate level

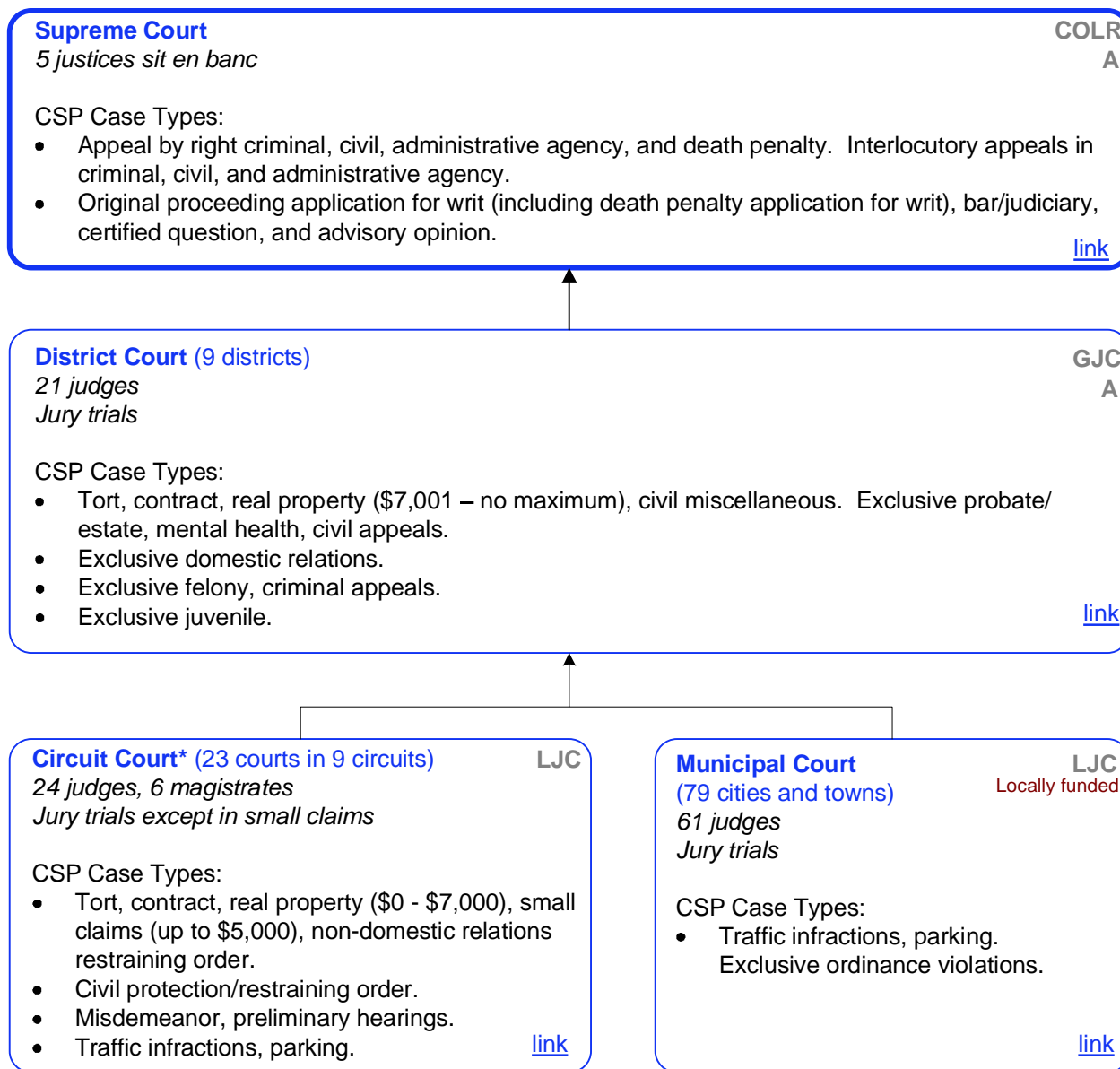
 = Trial level

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: www.wicourts.gov



Wyoming

(Court structure as of Calendar Year 2007)



*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: www.courts.state.wy.us