

**Wednesday, February 13, 2019** (class 6 of 30!)

**Today:** Structure of the Courts cont'd: NYS Court System

**Now:** Take out NYS court chart & map.

**Mon. Feb. 16:** **NO CLASS** ☹ *College closed. Happy Presidents' Day!!*

**For next class** (Wed. Feb. 20):

- Review C&W ch. 2.
- Bring court charts & maps! Bring CPLR!

**Mon. Feb. 25:** QUIZ! on everything so far.

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Continuing **NYS UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM!**

**Trial courts** (divided by Counties)

*Statewide:*

**NYS Supreme Court** (main trial court, 1 per county)

- general jurx (only court in NY that has it)
- primarily handles:
  - civil cases involving > \$25,000
  - criminal felonies (in NYC only)
  - divorce/marital cases

**NYS Surrogate's Court** (1 per county)

- wills & estates (dead people)
- adoptions

**NYS Family Court** (1 per county)

- adoption; foster care
- juvenile delinquency
- family violence; child abuse
- child support, custody & visitation

**NYS Court of Claims** (statewide)

- exclusive jurx over \$ damages claims against NYS & related entities (e.g., CUNY)

*Local trial courts in NYC* (5 boroughs):

**NYC Civil Court**

- civil cases up to \$25,000 in damages
- *includes* Small Claims Court (up to \$5,000)
- *includes* Housing Court (landlord-tenant)

**NYC Criminal Court**

- misdemeanors and lesser offenses
- felony arraignments & preliminary hearings

*Local trial courts outside NYC:*

**County Courts**

- civil cases up to \$25,000
- all criminal trials (felony, misdemean, etc.)
- appeals from City/Town/Village Cts in 3d & 4th Dep'ts only (upstate)

**District Courts**

- Nassau & Suffolk Counties (LI)
- civil cases up to \$15,000
- criminal misdemean & lesser offense trials; felony arraignments

**City Courts**

- civil cases up to \$15,000; Small Claims & Housing
- criminal misdemean & lesser offense trials; felony arraignments

**Town & Village Courts**

- civil cases up to \$3,000; Small Claims & Housing
- criminal misdemean's & lesser off's; felony arraignments

**Intermediate appellate courts** (divided into 4 Departments)

**Supreme Court, Appellate Division** (all 4 Dep'ts)

- appeals from (a) all statewide trial courts, (b) all Appellate Terms & (c) all County Courts

**Supreme Court, Appellate Term** (1st & 2d Dep'ts only)

- appeals from NYC Civil & Crim Cts
- appeals from District & City/Town/Vill Cts in 2d Dep't

**Highest appellate court** (only one!)

**NYS Court of Appeals** (Albany)

- appeals from all intermediate appellate cts
- appeals directly from trial cts on NY constitutional issues
- decides certified questions from fed/other states' courts
- 7 judges; Chief Judge → Janet DiFiore