

Let's look at the Arizona
Judicial Branch

Judicial Branch

- AZ's judicial branch works in a similar way as the Federal Judiciary
- AZ has a Supreme Court, Courts of Appeals, Superior Courts, Justice of the Peace courts, and Municipal Courts

Qualifications to be a Judge

- A superior court judge must be:
 - At least 30 years old;
 - Of good moral character; and,
 - Admitted to the practice of law in Arizona and a resident of Arizona for the five years immediately before taking office.

AZ Supreme Court

- Five Justices
- Handles appeals from lower courts and has original jurisdiction over suits against state officials and suits between counties
- publicly elected and serve unlimited Six year terms

AZ Court of Appeals

- Two divisions- 16 judges in Phoenix, 6 in Tucson
- Handles appeals from superior court, tax court, the industrial commission, and unemployment compensation cases
- Publicly elected and serve unlimited 4 year terms

Superior Courts

- County divisions- 148 judges statewide
- Handles serious criminal and civil cases (felonies, private claims over \$5,000, divorces) and takes appeals from JP and municipal courts
- publicly elected and serve unlimited 4 year terms

Municipal Courts

- City Courts- 142 judges statewide
- Handles traffics cases, minor criminal cases (misdemeanors, petty offenses), and violations of city ordinances and codes
- publicly elected and serve unlimited 4 year terms

Justice of the Peace Courts

- County precincts- 85 JP statewide
- Handle traffic cases, minor criminal cases (misdemeanors, petty offenses), private claims under \$10,000, and preliminary hearings
- publicly elected and serve unlimited 4 year terms

Questions?