



Quick Facts

Indiana Supreme Court

The Indiana Supreme Court is the state's highest court. It operates year-round. The five members of the Court are Chief Justice Brent E. Dickson, Justice Frank Sullivan, Jr., Justice Robert D. Rucker, Justice Steven H. David and Justice Mark Massa.

Indiana Supreme Court Cases

- The Indiana Supreme Court is asked to consider 1000-1200 cases each year
- The Court agrees to review and issue an opinion in about 100 cases a year
- The Court has mandatory jurisdiction, or must review, the following cases:
 - death and life in prison without parole sentences
 - certain abortion cases involving minors
 - challenges to the jurisdiction of the trial court (original actions)
 - attorney and judicial discipline and admission to the bar of Indiana

Oral Arguments

- Attorneys from each side argue in person before the Justices
- The Court holds nearly 70 oral arguments a year
- There is not an oral argument in every case, sometimes the Court makes a decision based on written documents only
- The Court always holds an oral argument in death penalty cases
- Each side is typically permitted 20 minutes, no witnesses are called
- All arguments are open to the public and webcast live, nearly 700 are archived online for viewing

Indiana Supreme Court Offices

- Board of Law Examiners (administers the bar exam)
- Clerk of Appellate Courts (official record keeper for appellate courts)
- Division of Supreme Court Administration (manages cases, budget and administrative matters)
- Commission for Continuing Legal Education (certifies attorney education programming)
- Division of State Court Administration (collects data and helps manage trial court system)
- Indiana Judicial Center (develops judicial and probation officer education programming)
- Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program (addiction and mental health help)
- State Public Defender (represents indigent clients seeking post-conviction relief)
- Disciplinary Commission (investigates and prosecutes allegations of attorney misconduct)

Other Information about the Indiana Supreme Court

- There are about 200 employees of the Supreme Court and related agencies
- Courts In the Classroom provides education programming for Indiana school children
- Appellate judges are selected on merit and stand for retention during a general election
- The Indiana General Assembly allocates funding for the Supreme Court
- The Judicial Branch typically makes up less than .5 % of the state budget