



COURT OF APPEALS OF INDIANA

The Court of Appeals of Indiana is the state's second-highest court.

It hears appeals from Indiana trial courts, including small claims courts, and from administrative agency decisions.

The court's 15 members hear cases in three-judge panels that rotate three times per year. Cases are never assigned to a single judge, and all cases are randomly assigned.

All data 2015. Contact Court of Appeals Administrator at larry.morris@courts.in.gov for additional information.

CASES

- Because the Indiana Constitution provides “an absolute right to one appeal,” the Court of Appeals considers more than 2,000 cases per year.
- The court decides about twice as many criminal cases as civil cases each year.
- Some opinions are “for publication” and can be cited as precedent; others are disposed of by memorandum decision, and may not be used as precedent. All opinions are available on the court’s website, <http://courts.in.gov/appeals>.
- A decision of the Court of Appeals of Indiana is final unless granted further review by the Indiana Supreme Court.

ORAL ARGUMENTS

- The court conducts oral arguments in its Statehouse courtroom but also at law schools, colleges, high schools, and other venues.
- The court decides most cases without holding oral argument. In 2015, for example, the court issued 1,915 majority opinions and heard 61 oral arguments.
- Oral arguments are not trials or hearings. No witnesses, evidence or testimony are presented. Rather, attorneys for the parties present legal arguments to the court on behalf of their client.
- Most Statehouse oral arguments are webcast live and archived at www.courts.in.gov/appeals.

COMPOSITION

- The court's 15 judges are drawn from five geographic districts established by state law, but sit as one court.
- Appellate judges are selected by merit by the Governor, and stand for retention election during general elections.
- By law, the judges select a chief judge every three years. Current Chief Judge Nancy H. Vaidik assumed the post on Jan. 1, 2014.

For additional information about the Court of Appeals, view the Court's annual report at courts.IN.gov/appeals