

INTRODUCTION TO THE COURT SYSTEM

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PURPOSE:

This pathfinder will introduce researchers to the structure of the American court system (federal and state). It also includes general information on the path a case takes through the court system.

OUTLINE:

I. AMERICAN COURT SYSTEM

II. FEDERAL COURT SYSTEM

III. NEW YORK STATE COURT SYSTEM

IV. THE PROGRESS OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES

- A. Civil Cases
- B. Criminal Cases

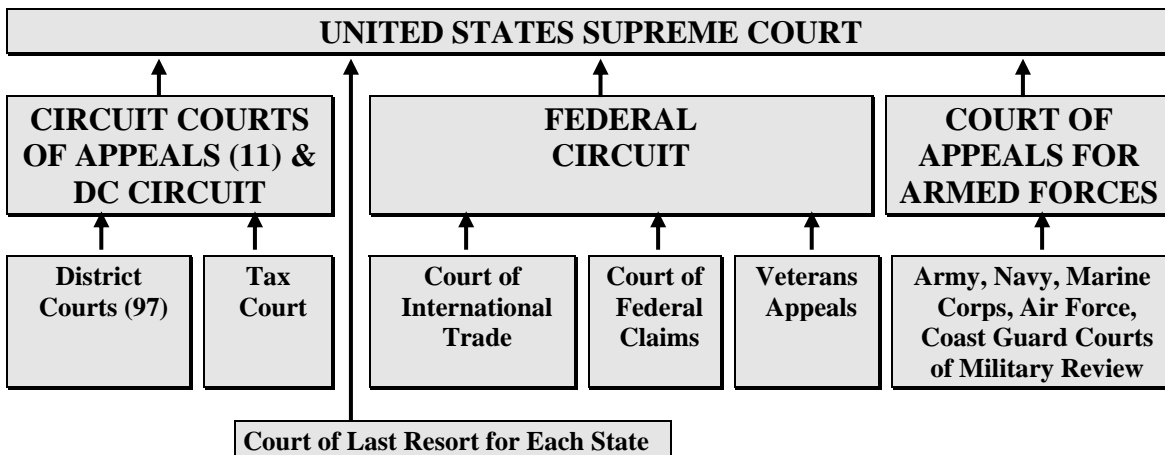
V. ADDITIONAL HELP

- A. Books
- B. Internet Sites

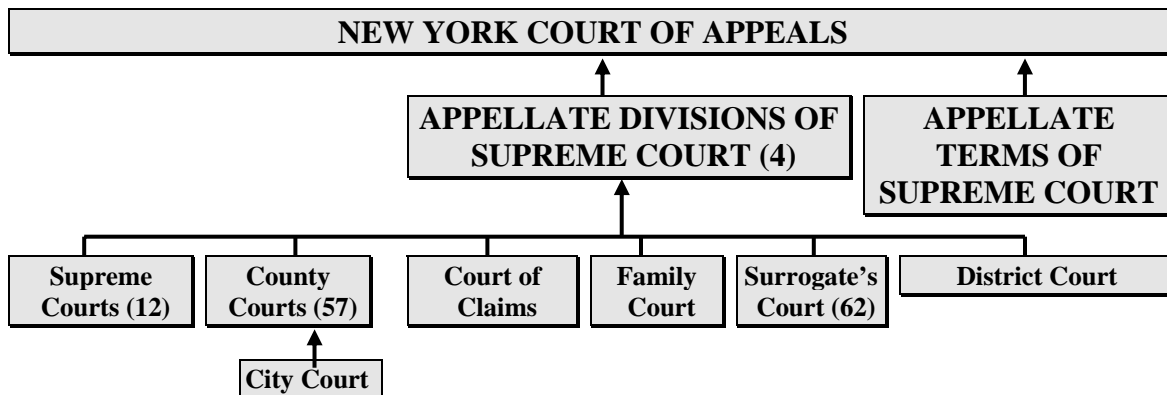
AMERICAN COURT SYSTEM



FEDERAL COURT SYSTEM



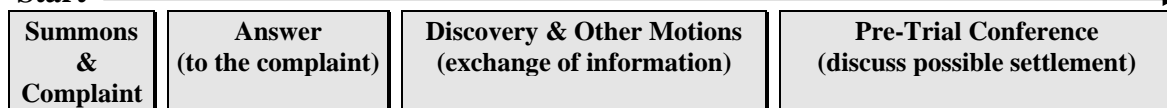
NEW YORK STATE COURT SYSTEM



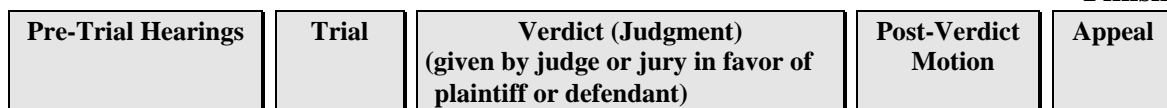
THE PROGRESS OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES

A. Civil Cases

Start →

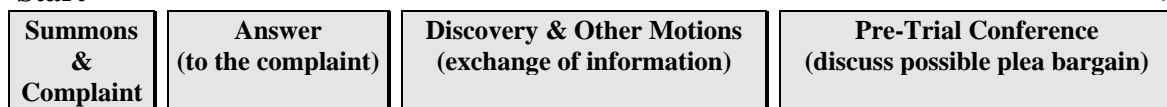


→ Finish

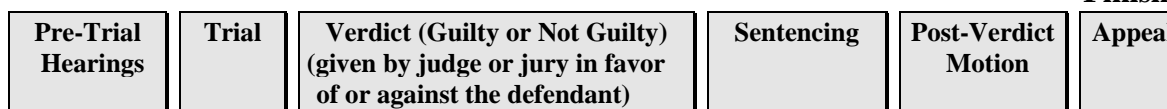


B. Criminal Cases

Start →



→ Finish



ADDITIONAL HELP

To learn more about the structure of the court system or to find out about a particular court, consult the following resources:

A. Books

- *The American Bench: Judges of the Nation* **Reference KF 8700 .A19 A47**
 - This is a comprehensive directory of courts and judges (federal and state) located throughout the country.
 - In addition to brief descriptions of various court systems, contact information and jurisdictional maps, there are biographical summaries of each judge and justice.
- Daniel John Meador, *American Courts* (West 1991) **Reference KF 8720 .M4**
 - Succinct and lucid overview of the American Court System.
- *BNA's Directory of State and Federal Courts, Judges, and Clerks* **Reference KF 8700 .A19 B15**
 - Excellent guide to federal and state courts.
 - Includes a chart depicting court structure and path of appeal for each court, as well as directory information.
- *The Judicial Maze: The Court System in New York State* (1990) **KFN 5950 .Z9 L4**
 - Helpful publication by the League of Women Voters of New York State.
- *Understanding the Federal Courts* (1992) **Reference KF 8700 .Z9 U52**
 - The Administrative Office of the United States Courts prepared this very readable and illustrative guide to the Federal Court System.

B. Internet Sites

- *Understanding the Federal Courts*
 - <http://www.uscourts.gov/>
 - The Administrative Office of the United States Courts prepared this very readable and illustrative guide to the Federal Court System.
 - Links to Circuit, District, and Bankruptcy Courts for local rules, opinions etc.
- *New York Unified Court System:* <http://www.courts.state.ny.us>
- *New York Courts and Law Guide*
 - <http://www6.law.com/ny/guide/>
 - This guide was produced by the New York Law Journal, and the New York State Unified Court System.
 - It includes more than 100 documents (that explain the courts and laws of New York) and is the most comprehensive explanation of the New York legal system on the Internet.