Washington State Court System, 2004

THE SUPREME COURT
9 justices (elected to six-year terms)

- Appeals from the Court of Appeals
- Direct appeals when action of state officers is involved, the constitutionality of a statute is questioned, there are conflicting statues or rules of law, or when the issue is of broad public interest.
- Final rule-making body for other state courts
- Administers state court system
- Supervises attorney discipline statewide

THE COURT OF APPEALS
22 judges (elected to six-year terms)
Division 1, Seattle 10: Division II, Tacoma 7; Division III, Spokane 5

- Appeals from the lower courts except those in jurisdiction of the Supreme Court

THE SUPERIOR COURTS
177 judges (elected to four-year terms in 31 judicial districts, each composed of one or more counties)

- Exclusive original jurisdiction in all civil matters involving a dollar amount over $50,000; title or possession of real property; legality of a tax, assessment or toll; probate and domestic matters
- Original jurisdiction in all criminal cases amounting to felony
- Original jurisdiction in all criminal cases when jurisdiction is not otherwise provided for by law
- Exclusive original jurisdiction over juvenile matters
- Orders for protection from domestic violence
- Appeals from the courts of limited jurisdiction heard *de novo* or appealed on the record for error of law

THE COURTS OF LIMITED JURISDICTION
218 judges; 211 attorneys and 9 non-attorney (113 district court judges, elected to four-year terms, and 105 municipal court judges*)

DISTRICT COURTS	**MUNICIPAL COURTS**
44 courts established by 39 counties in 56 locations	125 courts established by cities
121 municipalities contract for services from district courts	

- Concurrent jurisdiction with superior courts in all misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor actions with maximum fine of $5,000 or less and/or jail sentence of one year or less in violation of state county or county/municipal ordinances
- Jurisdiction in all matters involving traffic, non-traffic, and parking infractions
- Orders for protection from domestic violence
- Civil antiharassment matters
- Civil impoundment matters.
- Concurrent jurisdiction with superior courts over civil actions involving $50,000 or less**
- Small claims up to $4,000**
- Preliminary hearings of felonies**

* Judges may sit in multiple municipal courts.
** District courts only.