MAINE COURT STRUCTURE, 2004

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT SITTING AS LAW COURT A

7 justices sit en banc

CSP case types:
- Mandatory jurisdiction in civil, criminal, administrative agency, juvenile, disciplinary, advisory opinion, original proceeding, interlocutory decision cases.
- Discretionary jurisdiction in criminal extradition, administrative agency, original proceeding cases.
- Sentence review panel: review of criminal sentences of one year or more.

Court of last resort

DISTRICT COURT (13 districts; 31 locations)

33 judges

CSP case types:
- Tort, contract, real property rights ($0/no max). Exclusive small claims ($4,500), mental health jurisdiction.
- Exclusive family matters. Domestic relations (except for adoption).
- Felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.
- Moving traffic, ordinance violation. Exclusive parking, miscellaneous traffic jurisdiction.
- Original juvenile jurisdiction.
- Preliminary hearings.

No jury trials.

SUPERIOR COURT (16 counties)

16 justices

CSP case types:
- Tort, contract, real property rights, miscellaneous civil. Small claims appeals.
- Marriage dissolution.
- Felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI.

Jury trials in some cases.

Courts of general jurisdiction

PROBATE COURT (16 counties)

16 part-time judges

CSP case types:
- Exclusive estate jurisdiction.
- Exclusive adoption. Miscellaneous domestic relations.

No jury trials.

Court of limited jurisdiction