The Judicial Branch operates through three levels of courts: The Supreme Court, The Court of Appeals and The District Courts.

**Method of Selecting Judges:** Justice and judges are elected to a term of 6 years in a general election. For the district court, vacancies between general elections are filled by appointment by the governor from a list compiled by the Commission on Judicial Selection. For the appellate courts, vacancies between general elections are filled by appointment by the governor. Justices and judges appointed by the Governor must run for election at the first general election at least one year after taking office.

**Term of Office:** 6 years

**Number of Judgeships:** 320
- Supreme Court- 7
- Court of Appeals- 19
- District (Trial) Courts- 295

**Permanent Full-Time Employee Positions:** Approximately 2,500

**Judicial Districts:** 10

**Funding:** State-funded

**Number of Judicial Branch hearing facilities:** 104

**Oldest Courthouse:** Washington County Courthouse, 101 West Pine Street, Stillwater, 1869.

**Number of Courthouses on the National Register of Historic Places:** 62