



# District Courts

## Minnesota Judicial Branch

### Vision

*The general public and those who use the court system will refer to it as accessible, fair, consistent, responsive, free of discrimination, independent, and well managed.*

### Mission

*To provide justice through a system that assures equal access for the fair and timely resolution of cases and controversies.*

## MINNESOTA JUDICIAL BRANCH

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Most cases begin in Minnesota's District Courts. Minnesota, currently has 289 District Court judges who hear everything from traffic tickets, to civil and family conflicts, to first degree murder trials. Some district courts may have separate divisions, such as criminal, civil, probate, family, and juvenile courts.

Each year, there are about 2 million cases filed in Minnesota's district courts. District Courts are located in each of the state's 87 counties and are divided among 10 judicial districts for administration purposes. Each district is made up of two to 17 counties, with the exception of the Second District (Ramsey County) and the Fourth District (Hennepin County). Each district is managed by a chief judge and assistant chief judge, assisted by a judicial district administrator. A court administrator is responsible for the day-to-day operations in each county.

The Minnesota Judicial Branch is a fully state funded system. As of July 1st, 2005, all of the District Courts are funded by the state. By working as one unit, the Judicial Branch hopes to ensure that all Minnesotans receive fair and equal treatment under the law.

[Further Information](#)