



# The Role of a Judge

**Article III** of the Constitution governs the appointment of Supreme Court Justices, and federal circuit and district judges. **Article III judges** are nominated by the president and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Magistrate judges are appointed by the district judges of the court. Bankruptcy judges are appointed to renewable 14-year terms by a majority of judges of the circuit court.

## Federal judges:

- Hear cases arising under the U.S. Constitution or U.S. law and controversies that involve the United States or that are between states.
- Fifth Circuit appellate judges sit either in a panel of three judges or en banc, with all 17 court of appeals judges, and determine whether the district court decided a case correctly. They also hear appeals from federal agencies and some cases that are filed directly with the court of appeals.
- District judges preside over civil and criminal trials.
- Magistrate judges can handle many judicial proceedings, like pretrial motions in civil and criminal trials, issuing warrants, and preside over offenses committed on federal lands.
- Bankruptcy judges preside only over bankruptcy cases.

## There are five types of judges in federal courts

### Bankruptcy Judge

District Courts

### Magistrate Judge

District Courts

### District Judge

District Courts

### Court of Appeals Judge

Appellate Courts

### Justice

Supreme Court



## Number of active judges per court

**9** Supreme Court Justices

**17** Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals Judges

**83** District Judges in the Fifth Circuit

**70** Magistrate Judges in the Fifth Circuit

**27** Bankruptcy Judges in the Fifth Circuit