The Georgia Court System

Municipal Court*

370 courts,
350 judges active.

Jurisdiction (limited):
- Ordinance violations; criminal preliminaries; traffic.

**A small number of special courts, authorized by the Georgia Constitution, have limited civil or criminal jurisdiction throughout a designated county.*

Magistrate Court

159 courts,
159 chief magistrates;
354 magistrates.

Jurisdiction (limited):
- Search and arrest warrants, felony and misdemeanor preliminaries, county ordinances.
- Civil claims of $15,000 or less, dispossessories, distress warrants.

No jury trials.

Probate Court

159 courts, 159 judges.

Jurisdiction (limited):
- Exclusive jurisdiction in probate of wills, administration of estates, appointment of guardians, involuntary hospitalizations, marriage licenses.
- Traffic in some counties.

Juvenile Court

159 courts, 120 judges and associate judges.

Jurisdiction (limited):
- Deprived, unruly, delinquent juveniles.
- Juvenile traffic.

No jury trials

State Court

72 courts, 118 judges.

Jurisdiction (limited)
- Civil law actions except cases within the exclusive jurisdiction of superior court.
- Misdemeanors, traffic, felony preliminaries.

Jury trials.

Superior Court

49 circuits, 202 judges.
Jurisdiction (general):
- Civil law actions, misdemeanors, and other cases.
- Exclusive jurisdiction over cases of divorce, title to land, equity.
- Exclusive felony jurisdiction.

Jury trials.

Counties with population over 96,000 where probate judge is attorney practicing at least seven years.
Jury trials.

Court of Appeals

12 judges (4 divisions).
Jurisdiction:
Appellate jurisdiction over trial courts in cases in which Supreme Court has no exclusive appellate jurisdiction.

Capital felonies.
Constitutional issues.
Title to land.
Wills, equity, and divorce.

Supreme Court

7 justices.
Jurisdiction:
- Appellate jurisdiction over cases of constitutional issue, title to land, validity of and construction of wills, habeas corpus, extraordinary remedies, convictions of capital felonies, equity, divorce, alimony, election contests.
- Certified questions and certiorari from Court of Appeals.

As of July 2007.