Federal Judicial Administration

**CONGRESS**
Appropriates funds, enacts legislation defining court organization and jurisdiction, and reviews procedural rule amendments.

**CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES**

**SUPREME COURT**

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE U.S. COURTS**
The Chief Justice appoints the director and deputy director after consultation with Judicial Conference. Provides administrative support to courts (including budget, personnel, space & facilities), staff to Judicial Conference and its committees, legislative coordination.

**FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER**
*Board:* Chief Justice (chair); 7 judges elected by the Judicial Conference; Administrative Office director Board appoints the Center’s director and deputy director. Provides the courts with orientation, continuing education, and research support to courts and Judicial Conference.

**JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES**
*Members:* Chief Justice (chair); chief judge and 1 district judge from each of the 12 regional circuits; chief judge of Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit; chief judge of the Court of International Trade.
*Functions:* Sets national administrative poly for the federal judiciary; approves appropriations requests for submission to Congress; recommends changes in rules of procedure to the Supreme Court for submission to Congress; numerous other statutory functions.

**COMMITTEES OF THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE**
Appointed by Chief Justice; include judges, practicing lawyers, legal scholars, and ex officio government officials.

**CHIEF JUDGES OF THE CIRCUITS**

**JUDICIAL COUNCILS OF THE CIRCUITS**
*Members:* Chief judge (chair); circuit and district judges in equal numbers; council size determined by majority vote of all active circuit and district judges. The circuit executive is the secretary of the council.
*Functions:* (1) Make necessary orders for administration of justice within the circuit (all judges and employees of the circuit are statutorily directed to give effect to council orders); (2) Consider complaints of judicial misconduct or disability under 28 U.S.C. § 372(c) if referred by the chief circuit judge; (3) Review district court plants in various administrative areas, as required by statute or Judicial Conference.

**JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE CIRCUITS**
*Members:* Chief judge (chair); all circuit, district, and bankruptcy judges; each circuit must also provide for participation by members of the bar.
*Purpose:* Considering and advising on improvements in the administration of justice in the circuit.

**U.S. SENTENCING COMMISSION**
8 members, 7 appointed by President (including at least three federal judges after considering a list submitted by Judicial Conference) and 1 non-voting ex officio member
*Functions:* Promulgates sentencing guidelines and otherwise establishes federal sentencing policies as directed by the 1984 Sentencing Reform Act.

**U.S. DISTRICT COURTS**
District courts, each with a chief district judge and clerk of court, also develop and implement administrative policy in numerous areas within the framework depicted above. Each district also has a bankruptcy court.

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