Federal Judicial Administration

**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 the Judicial Conference. Provides administrative support to courts including budget, personnel, space & facilities, staff to the Judicial Conference and its committees, legislative coordination.

**Federal Judicial Center**
*Board: Chief Justice (chair); seven 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 the Judicial Conference.

**Judicial Conference of the United States**
*Members: Chief Justice (chair); chief judge and one 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 policy 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.

**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 plans in various administrative areas, as required by statute or Judicial Conference.*

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

**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. 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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