

Colorado Supreme Court

The Colorado Supreme Court is the state's court of last resort. Its decisions are binding on all County and District Courts, as well as the Court of Appeals.

The Supreme Court is composed of seven justices who serve renewable ten-year terms. The Chief Justice is selected from the membership of the body and serves at the pleasure of a majority of the justices. The Chief Justice also serves as the executive head of the Colorado Judicial Department and is the ex-officio chair of the Supreme Court Nominating Commission. The Chief Justice appoints the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and the Chief Judge of each of the state's 22 judicial districts, and is vested with the authority to assign judges (active or retired) to perform judicial duties.

Requests to review decisions of the Colorado Court of Appeals constitute a majority of the Supreme Court's filings. The Supreme Court also has direct appellate jurisdiction over cases in which a statute has been held to be unconstitutional, cases involving decisions of the Public Utilities Commission, writs of habeas corpus, cases involving adjudication of water rights, summary proceedings initiated under the Election Code, and prosecutorial appeals concerning search and seizure questions in pending criminal proceedings. All of these appeals are filed directly with the Supreme Court, and, in these cases bypass the Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court also has exclusive jurisdiction to promulgate rules governing practice and procedure in civil and criminal actions.

Colorado's attorneys are licensed and disciplined by the Supreme Court. The court's attorney regulation system, funded by attorney registration fees, regulates the profession. In addition, the court oversees the State Court Administrator, Board of Continuing Legal Education, Board of Law Examiners, Commission on Judicial Discipline, and Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee.

Oral arguments are open to the public and you are welcome to visit the court. The clerk's office can assist you in planning a court visit. For more information, please contact Susan J. Festag, Clerk of the Colorado Supreme Court, at 2 East 14th Ave., Denver, Colo. 80203; or call (303) 861-1111 or (800) 888-0001.

Case announcements, oral argument schedules, rules, Chief Justice Directives, protocols, links to committees and commissions, and general information about the court is available at <http://www.courts.state.co.us/supct/supctindex.htm>.