The Georgia Court System

GEORGIA SUPREME COURT
9 justices

Jurisdiction:
- Appellate Jurisdiction over cases of constitutional issue, habeas corpus, convictions of capital felonies, election contests, and matters of equity and extraordinary remedies in which a sentence of death was imposed or could be imposed, and cases concerning the execution or sentence of death.
- Certified questions and certiorari from Court of Appeals

Capital felonies, and Constitutional issues.

GEORGIA COURT OF APPEALS
15 judges (5 divisions)

Jurisdiction:
- Appellate jurisdiction over trial courts in cases in which Supreme Court has no exclusive appellate jurisdiction.

Title to land, wills, equity, and divorce

Counties with population over 90,000 where probate judge is attorney practicing with at least seven years. Jury trials.

SUPERIOR COURT
49 circuits, 213 judges
(Cobb County, 11 judges)

Jurisdiction (general):
- Civil law actions, misdemeanors, and other cases.
- Exclusive jurisdiction over cases of domestic relations, title to land, and equity.
- Appellate review of limited jurisdiction courts in certain circumstances.
- Exclusive jurisdiction over felony crimes.

Jury trials

MUNICIPAL COURT

370 courts,352 judges

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.

No jury trials

MAGISTRATE COURT

159 courts,
159 chief magistrates,
333 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, weapons carry licenses
- Traffic, elections, and vital records in some counties

JUVENILE COURT

159 courts, 94 judges*
(Cobb County, 4 judges)

Jurisdiction (limited):
- Children In Need of Services (CHINS); dependency, termination of parental rights and delinquency

No jury trials

*Additionally, four superior court judges have juvenile court jurisdiction.

STATE COURT

71 courts, 129 judges
(Cobb County, 12 judges, 2 divisions)

Jurisdiction (limited):
- Civil law actions except cases within the exclusive jurisdiction of superior court.
- Traffic, all criminal cases below felony grade.
- Appellate review of magistrate court civil cases.

Jury trials