

## Indiana Court of Appeals

### About the Court

The Court of Appeals is an intermediate appellate court and Indiana's second-highest court. Its jurisdiction is noted in [Appellate Rule 5](#). The Court hears appeals from the state's trial courts in most instances. Some exceptions include:

- Cases in which the death penalty or life-without-parole is rendered (appealed directly to the [Indiana Supreme Court](#));
- Cases in which statutes are declared unconstitutional by a trial court (automatically appealed to the [Supreme Court](#));
- Attorney disciplinary cases (which also go to the [Supreme Court](#));
- Cases involving taxation (which go to the [Indiana Tax Court](#)).

As an appellate court, the Indiana Court of Appeals does not preside over trials. The Court instead reviews matters of law from the trial court record and usually answers a specific legal question or questions raised in the initial trial or by the trial court's decision.

The Court of Appeals must accept all appeals sent to it; members do not have the option to decline individual appeals. As a result, the 15 members of the Court of Appeals issue some 2,500 written [opinions](#) each year. A decision of the Indiana Court of Appeals is final unless granted further review by the [Indiana Supreme Court](#). The majority of appeals filed in Indiana are decided by the Court of Appeals.

The Court makes [all opinions available on its website](#)—some are “for publication” and can be cited as precedent for subsequent cases; others are marked “NFP” or “not for publication,” and may *not* be used in citing precedent.

The Court hears cases only in three-judge panels. All panels have statewide jurisdiction and rotate three times per year. Cases are randomly assigned.

There is no deadline for the Court to reach a decision in each case; however, the Court strives to issue decisions within four months of receiving an appeal. Opinions are often issued earlier.

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Learn the basics about the appeals process and access links for more information. [GO](#)

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Learn about the make-up of the Court's 3-judge panels and how appeals cases are assigned. [GO](#)

#### [About Court of Appeals Opinions](#)

Learn about Court's protocol for designating opinions as "For Publication" or "Not For Publication." [GO](#)

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Learn about how judges are selected and retained in office under the judicial retention system enacted by a constitutional amendment in 1970. [GO](#)

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#### [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Get answers to frequently asked questions about the Court, such as how to file an appeal or how cases get assigned. [GO](#)

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Read biographies of current Court of Appeals Judges and Senior Judges and access a chronological listing of all Court of Appeals Judges since 1891. [GO](#)

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Last modified on Thursday, June, 28, 2007