

## Agency Purpose

Minnesota's Court of Appeals is the state's intermediate appellate court, providing citizens with prompt and deliberate review of final decisions of the trial courts, state agencies, and local governments. This error-correcting court hears and decides cases in three-judge panels.

- ◆ **Mission:** To provide the people with impartial, clear, and timely appellate decisions made according to law.
- ◆ **Vision:** To be an accessible intermediate appellate court that renders justice under the law fairly and expeditiously through clear, well-reasoned decisions and promotes cooperative effort, innovation, diversity, and the professional and personal growth of all personnel.

## Core Functions

The Court of Appeals has jurisdiction over all final decisions of the district court, except first-degree murder convictions, which are appealed directly to the Supreme Court. The Court of Appeals has jurisdiction to review interlocutory decisions, administrative agency decisions, and rules and decisions of the commissioner of Employment and Economic Development.

In support of these core functions, the Court of Appeals:

- ◆ Manages its cases to ensure prompt resolution within the statutory 90-day time limitation from oral argument to decision.
- ◆ Enhances the knowledge and skills of its staff by regular training.
- ◆ Explores the use of technology to improve its ability to provide timely and effective access to the court.

## Operations

Through its decisions and administration, the Court of Appeals has an impact on all Minnesotans.

In their adjudicative roles, the judges of the Court of Appeals are assisted by law clerks. Administratively, they are assisted by the Chief Staff Attorney's Office and the State Court Administrator's Office.

The Court of Appeals hears cases throughout the state as well as in St. Paul. The court has installed interactive video as an additional measure to provide timely access.

The Court of Appeals issues a published opinion, unpublished opinion, or order opinion on each case it considers. The judges also share responsibility for hundreds of special term opinions, orders on motions, and petitions filed with the court.

With the assistance of a computerized case management system, the court monitors the progress of every appeal to ensure that there are no unnecessary delays in processing. The court demonstrates the value of aggressive, hands-on management of its cases.

## At A Glance

- ◆ The Court of Appeals has 19 judges and considers more than 2,500 appeals each year.
- ◆ By law, the court must issue a decision within 90 days after oral arguments – the shortest deadline imposed on any appellate court in the nation.
- ◆ The court expedites decisions on child protection cases, child custody cases, mental health commitments, and other requested matters.
- ◆ Court of Appeals' decisions are the final ruling in about 95% of the appeals filed each year.
- ◆ The Court of Appeals operates in a constantly changing environment.
- ◆ Laws, case types, and legal sanctions change annually.
- ◆ Caseload volume is determined by the trial courts and by other branches of government.
- ◆ The Minnesota Courts regularly review their effectiveness by monitoring:
  - ⇒ case filing trends;
  - ⇒ case clearance rates; and
  - ⇒ elapsed case time from filing to disposition.

### Key Goals

The Court of Appeals conducts its administrative functions in support of the following three strategic priority areas:

- ◆ **Access to Justice** – Ensuring the justice system is open, affordable, effective, and accountable to the people it serves.
- ◆ **Administering Justice for More Effective Results** – Adopting approaches and processes for the resolution of cases that enhance the outcomes for individual participants and the public.
- ◆ **Public Trust Accountability and Impartiality** – A justice system that engenders public trust and confidence through impartial decision –making and accountability for the use of public resources.

### Key Measures

To further the three goals contained in the branch's strategic plan – Access to Justice; Administering Justice for More Effective Results; and Public Trust Accountability and Impartiality – the strategic plan outlines future priorities. Each of these specific priorities addresses challenges facing the court system by targeting judicial branch resources in a focused manner on achievable and measurable strategies. Implementation of these priorities will take place over the life of the strategic plan with specific performance measures to evaluate their success.

[http://www.mncourts.gov/documents/0/Public/Court\\_Administration/Strategic\\_Plan\\_for\\_Minnesota\\_Courts.pdf](http://www.mncourts.gov/documents/0/Public/Court_Administration/Strategic_Plan_for_Minnesota_Courts.pdf)

### Budget

The Court of Appeals is funded 100% from general fund direct appropriations.

#### Contact

Minnesota Court of Appeals  
Minnesota Judicial Center  
25 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.  
Boulevard  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Sue Dosal  
State Court Administrator  
135 Minnesota Judicial Center  
25 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.  
Boulevard  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155  
Phone: (651) 296-2474  
Fax: (651) 297-5636

Home page: <http://www.mncourts.gov>

Dollars in Thousands

	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium 2010-11
	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	
<b><u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u></b>					
<b>General</b>					
Current Appropriation	9,766	10,370	10,370	10,370	20,740
<b>Forecast Base</b>	<b>9,766</b>	<b>10,370</b>	<b>10,370</b>	<b>10,370</b>	<b>20,740</b>
Change		0	0	0	0
% Biennial Change from 2008-09					3%
 <b><u>Expenditures by Fund</u></b>					
<b>Direct Appropriations</b>					
General	9,493	10,643	10,370	10,370	20,740
<b>Statutory Appropriations</b>					
Federal	0	30	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,493</b>	<b>10,673</b>	<b>10,370</b>	<b>10,370</b>	<b>20,740</b>
 <b><u>Expenditures by Category</u></b>					
Total Compensation	8,162	9,108	9,108	9,108	18,216
Other Operating Expenses	1,283	1,565	1,262	1,262	2,524
Capital Outlay & Real Property	48	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,493</b>	<b>10,673</b>	<b>10,370</b>	<b>10,370</b>	<b>20,740</b>
 <b><u>Expenditures by Program</u></b>					
Court Of Appeals	9,493	10,673	10,370	10,370	20,740
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,493</b>	<b>10,673</b>	<b>10,370</b>	<b>10,370</b>	<b>20,740</b>
 <b>Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)</b>	 <b>89.5</b>	 <b>95.4</b>	 <b>90.5</b>	 <b>87.6</b>	

**COURT OF APPEALS**

Agency Revenue Summary

*Dollars in Thousands*

	Actual FY2008	Budgeted FY2009	Current Law		Biennium 2010-11
			FY2010	FY2011	
<b><i>Non Dedicated Revenue:</i></b>					
<b>Total Non-Dedicated Receipts</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b><i>Dedicated Receipts:</i></b>					
<b>Grants:</b>					
Federal	0	30	0	0	0
<b>Total Dedicated Receipts</b>	0	30	0	0	0
<b>Agency Total Revenue</b>	0	30	0	0	0