

Membership of judicial conduct commissions

Revised 2017



NCSC
NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS
Center for Judicial Ethics

State	Establishment	Term	Membership	Selection of membership
Alabama				
Judicial Inquiry Commission	1973 by constitution	4 years	1 appellate judge	By supreme court
			2 circuit judges	By circuit judges association
			1 district judge	By governor subject to senate confirmation
			2 attorneys	By state bar
			3 public members	By governor subject to senate confirmation
Court of the Judiciary	1973 by constitution	6 years	1 appellate judge	By supreme court
			2 circuit judges	By circuit judges association
			1 district judge	By district judges association
			2 attorneys	By state bar
			3 public members	By governor subject to senate confirmation

The Judicial Inquiry Commission determines whether to file a formal complaint that is adjudicated by the Court of the Judiciary.

Alaska				
Commission on Judicial Conduct	1968 by constitution	4 years	3 judges	By judges
			3 attorneys	By governor upon recommendation by state bar with approval by legislature
			3 public members	By governor with approval by legislature

Arizona				
Commission on Judicial Conduct	1970 by constitution	6 years	2 court of appeals judges	By supreme court
			2 superior court judges	By supreme court
			1 municipal court judge	By supreme court
			1 justice of the peace	By supreme court
			2 attorneys	By state bar
			3 public members	By governor subject to confirmation by senate

A 3-member investigative panel determines whether to file a formal complaint that is adjudicated by the other 8 members.

State	Establishment	Term	Membership	Selection of membership
Arkansas				
Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission	1988 by constitution	6 years	3 judges	By supreme court
			3 attorneys	1 by attorney general
				1 by president of senate
				1 by speaker of house
			3 public members	By governor

9 alternates are selected in the same manner as members. The 9 alternates are appointed to 3 investigation panels with 3 members each (1 judge, 1 attorney, 1 public member) that may file a formal statement of allegations that is adjudicated by a 9-member hearing panel that does not include any member of the investigation panel.

California				
Commission on Judicial Performance	1960 by constitution	4 years	1 court of appeals judge	By supreme court
			2 superior court judges	By supreme court
			2 attorneys	By governor
			6 public members	2 by governor
				2 by senate rules committee
				2 by assembly speaker

Colorado				
Commission on Judicial Discipline	1967 by constitution	4 years	2 district court judges	By supreme court
			2 county court judges	By supreme court
			2 attorneys	By governor with consent of senate
			4 public members	By governor with consent of senate

Connecticut				
Judicial Review Council	1977 by constitution	4 years	3 superior court judges	By governor with approval of general assembly
			3 attorneys	By governor with approval of general assembly
			6 public members	By governor with approval of general assembly

2 alternate judges, attorneys, and public members are selected to serve in lieu of a judge, attorney, or public member, respectively, who is absent or disqualified. A compensation commissioner or a family support magistrate serves in lieu of a superior court judge member when the subject of a complaint is a compensation commissioner or family support magistrate, respectively.

State	Establishment	Term	Membership	Selection of membership
Delaware				
Preliminary Investigative Committee	1979 by constitution	3 years	3 attorneys	By chief justice with concurrence of supreme court
			4 public members	By chief justice with concurrence of supreme court
Board of Examining Officers		Ad hoc	1 or more active or retired judges	By Court on the Judiciary
Court on the Judiciary			Chief justice	By virtue of office
			4 associate justices	By virtue of office
			Chancellor	By virtue of office
			President judge of superior court	By virtue of office

A panel of the preliminary investigatory committee determines whether there is probable cause; the board of examining officers conducts the hearing and prepares a report that the Court on the Judiciary reviews.

Florida				
Judicial Qualifications Commission	1966 by constitution	6 years	2 court of appeal judges	By court of appeal judges
			2 circuit court judges	By circuit court judges
			2 county court judges	By county court judges
			4 attorneys	By state bar
			5 public members	By governor

The commission is divided into 2 panels: the 9-member investigative panel decides whether to file a formal complaint that is adjudicated by a 6-member hearing panel.

Georgia				
Judicial Qualifications Commission	1972 by constitution, amended effective 1/1/2017	4 years	3 judges of court of record	By supreme court, confirmed by senate
			4 attorneys	1 by governor, 1 by senate president, 1 by house speaker, 1 by supreme court, all confirmed by senate
			3 public members	1 by senate president, 1 by house speaker, 1 by governor, all confirmed by senate

The commission is divided into a 7-member investigative panel (2 judge members, 3 attorneys members appointed by governor, senate president, and house speaker, and 2 public members appointed by senate president and house speaker) and a 3-member hearing panel (1 judge member, 1 attorney member appointed by supreme court, and 1 public member appointed by governor).

Hawaii				
Commission on Judicial Conduct	1979 supreme court rule	3 years	3 attorneys	By supreme court
			4 public members	By supreme court

State	Establishment	Term	Membership	Selection of membership
Idaho				
Judicial Council	1967 by statute	6 years	Chief justice	By virtue of office
			1 district judge	By state bar with consent of senate
			2 attorneys	By state bar with consent of senate
			3 public members	By governor with consent of senate

Illinois				
Judicial Inquiry Board	1971 by constitution	4 years	2 circuit judges	By supreme court
			3 attorneys	By governor
			4 public members	By governor
Courts Commission	1971 by constitution	No provision	1 supreme court justice*	By supreme court
			2 appellate court judges*	By appellate court
			2 circuit court judges*	By supreme court
			2 public members*	By governor

The Judicial Inquiry Board determines whether to file a complaint that is adjudicated by the Courts Commission.

*2 supreme court justices, 3 appellate court judges, 3 circuit court judges, and 2 public members are selected as alternates in the same manner.

Indiana				
Commission on Judicial Qualifications	1970 by constitution	5 years	Chief justice	By virtue of office
		3 years	3 attorneys	By other attorneys
		3 years	3 public members	By governor

Iowa				
Commission on Judicial Qualifications	1972 by constitution	6 years	1 district judge	By chief justice
			2 attorneys	By chief justice
			4 public members	By governor subject to confirmation by senate

Kansas				
Commission on Judicial Qualifications	1974 by court rule	4 years	6 active or retired judges	By supreme court
			4 attorneys	By supreme court
			4 public members	By supreme court

The commission is divided into 2 panels; a formal complaint filed by one panel is adjudicated by the other panel.

State	Establishment	Term	Membership	Selection of membership
Kentucky				
Judicial Retirement and Removal Commission	1976 by constitution	4 years	1 court of appeals judge	By court of appeals
			1 circuit judge	By circuit judges
			1 district judge	By district judges
			1 attorney	By state bar
			2 public members	By governor

An alternate for each judge member and each attorney member is chosen at the time and in the same manner as the members.

Louisiana				
Judiciary Commission	1968 by constitution	4 years	1 court of appeal judge	By supreme court
			2 district judges	By supreme court
			3 attorneys	By court of appeal judges
			3 public members	By district judges

Maine				
Committee on Judicial Responsibility and Disability	1978 by court rule	6 years	2 judges	By supreme judicial court
			2 attorneys	By supreme judicial court upon recommendation of governor
			3 public members	By supreme judicial court upon recommendation of governor

1 superior court justice, 1 district court judge, 1 lawyer, and 1 public member are selected as alternates.

Maryland				
Commission on Judicial Disabilities	1966 by constitution	4 years	1 appellate judge	By governor with advice and consent of senate
			1 circuit court judge	By governor with advice and consent of senate
			1 district court judge	By governor with advice and consent of senate
			3 attorneys	By governor with advice and consent of senate
			5 public members	By governor with advice and consent of senate
Judicial Inquiry Board		4 years	2 judges	By commission
			2 attorneys	By commission
			3 public members	By commission

Complaints are considered first by the Judicial Inquiry Board, which files a report and recommendation with the commission.

State	Establishment	Term	Membership	Selection of membership
Massachusetts				
Commission on Judicial Conduct	1978 by statute	6 years	3 judges	By supreme judicial court
			3 attorneys	By chief administrative judge of the trial court
			3 public members	By governor

1 or more alternate judge, attorney, or public members are selected in the same manner as regular members.

Michigan				
Commission on Judicial Tenure	1968 by constitution	3 years	1 court of appeals judge	By court of appeals judges
			1 circuit court judge	By circuit court judges
			1 probate judge	By probate judges
			1 limited jurisdiction judge	By limited jurisdiction judges
			1 judge	By state bar
			2 attorneys	By state bar
			2 public members	By governor

Minnesota				
Board on Judicial Standards	1971 by statute	4 years	1 court of appeals judge	By governor
			3 trial judges	By governor
			2 attorneys	By governor with advice and consent of senate
			4 public members	By governor with advice and consent of senate

Mississippi				
Commission on Judicial Performance	1979 by constitution	6 years	1 circuit court judge	By chief justice on recommendation of governor
			1 chancellor	By chief justice on recommendation of lieutenant governor
			1 county court judge	By chief justice on recommendation of speaker of house
			1 justice court judge	By chief justice
			1 attorney	By chief justice on recommendation of state bar
			2 public members	By chief justice

An alternate for each member is selected at the time and in the manner as the initial appointments.

State	Establishment	Term	Membership	Selection of membership
Missouri				
Commission on Retirement, Removal, and Discipline	1972 by constitution	6 years	1 court of appeals judge	By courts of appeals judges
			1 circuit court judge	By circuit court judges
			2 attorneys	By state bar
			2 public members	By governor

Montana				
Judicial Standards Commission	1973 by constitution	4 years	2 district judges	By district judges
			1 attorney	By supreme court
			2 public members	By governor

Nebraska				
Commission on Judicial Qualifications	1966 by constitution	4 years	Chief justice	By virtue of office
			1 district court judge	By chief justice
			1 county court judge	By chief justice
			1 judge of any other court	By chief justice
			3 attorneys	By bar association
			3 public members	By governor

Nevada				
Commission on Judicial Discipline	1976 by constitution	6 years	2 district judges	By supreme court
			3 attorneys	By state bar
			3 public members	By governor

An alternate for each member is selected in the same manner.

New Hampshire				
Committee on Judicial Conduct	1977 by court rule	3 years	1 active or retired superior court judge	By supreme court
			1 active or retired district court judge	By supreme court
			1 clerk of court or retired clerk	By supreme court
			1 attorney	By bar association
			6 public members	1 by bar association
				1 by supreme court
				2 by governor
				1 by president of senate
				1 by speaker of house

An alternate for each member is selected in the same manner.

State	Establishment	Term	Membership	Selection of membership
New Jersey				
Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct	1974 by court rule	3 years	At least 2 retired justices or judges of supreme or superior court	By supreme court
			No fewer than 3 attorneys	By supreme court
			No more than 4 public members	By supreme court

New Mexico				
Commission on Judicial Standards	1967 by constitution	4 years	2 justices or judges	By supreme court
			1 magistrate	By supreme court
			1 municipal court judge	By supreme court
			2 attorneys	By state bar
			7 public members	By governor

New York				
State Commission on Judicial Conduct	1974 by constitution	4 years	1 appellate division justice	By chief judge
			1 judge of court other than court of appeals or appellate division	By chief judge
			1 town or village court justice	By chief judge
			1 judge	By governor
			1 attorney	By governor
			2 public members	By governor
			4 non-judges	1 by assembly speaker
				1 by assembly minority leader
				1 by senate majority leader
				1 by senate minority leader

North Carolina				
Judicial Standards Commission	1973 by statute	3 years	1 court of appeals judges	By chief justice
			2 superior court judges	By chief justice
			2 district court judges	By chief justice
			4 attorneys	By state bar
			4 public members	2 by governor
				2 by general assembly, (1 on recommendation of president pro tempore of senate, 1 on recommendation of speaker of house)

The commission is divided into 2 panels; a formal complaint filed by one panel is heard by the other panel.

1 or more alternate members are selected in the manner prescribed for initial appointments in each class of membership.

State	Establishment	Term	Membership	Selection of membership
North Dakota				
Commission on Judicial Conduct	1975 by statute	3 years	2 judges	By judges' association
			1 attorney	By state bar association
			4 public members	By governor

Ohio				
Board of Professional Conduct	1957 by court rule	3 years	7 judges	By supreme court
			17 attorneys	By supreme court
			4 public members	By supreme court

A probable cause panel of the board determines whether to file a formal complaint that is adjudicated by the board. The board hears complaints against both attorneys and judges.

Oklahoma				
Council of Judicial Complaints	1974 by statute	5 years	2 attorneys	Speaker of house, president pro tem of senate, and bar president each appoint 1 member
			1 public member	
Court on the Judiciary – Trial Division	1966 by constitution	3 years	8 district judges	Most senior in service under age 60
			1 attorney	By state bar
Court on the Judiciary – Appellate Division	1966 by constitution	3 years	2 supreme court justices	By supreme court
			1 court of criminal appeals judge	By court of criminal appeals
			5 district judges	Most senior in service under age 65
			1 attorney	By state bar

If the Council on Judicial Complaints finds that a complaint should be the subject of proceedings, the Supreme Court, chief justice, governor, attorney general, bar association, or House of Representatives may file a petition invoking the jurisdiction of the Court on the Judiciary; the trial division holds a hearing; its judgment may be appealed to the appellate division.

Oregon				
Commission on Judicial Fitness and Disability	1967 by statute	4 years	3 judges	By supreme court
			3 lawyers	By state bar
			3 public members	By governor, confirmed by senate

State	Establishment	Term	Membership	Selection of membership
Pennsylvania				
Judicial Conduct Board	1993 by constitution*	4 years	1 court of common pleas judge	By governor
			1 superior or commonwealth court judge	By supreme court
			1 justice of the peace	By supreme court
			3 attorneys	1 by supreme court
				2 by state bar
			6 public members	3 by supreme court
Court of Judicial Discipline	1993 by constitution	4 years	2 judges from common pleas, superior, or commonwealth court	By supreme court
			1 judge from common pleas, superior, or commonwealth court	By governor
			1 magistrate district judge	By supreme court
			2 attorneys	By governor
			2 public members	1 by supreme court
				1 by governor

The board determines whether to file a formal complaint that is adjudicated by the Court of Judicial Discipline

* Replacing Judicial Inquiry and Review Board created in 1968.

Rhode Island					
Commission on Judicial Tenure and Discipline	1974 by statute	3 years	1 superior court judge	By supreme court	
			1 family court judge	By supreme court	
			1 district court judge	By supreme court	
			1 workers' compensation judge	By supreme court	
			1 traffic tribunal judge	By supreme court	
			1 additional judge	By supreme court	
			4 attorney or public members	1 by president of Senate	
				1 by Senate minority leader	
				1 by speaker of house of representatives;	
				1 by House minority leader	
				3 attorneys	By governor from list provided by state bar ass'n
				3 public members	By governor with advice and consent of senate

State	Establishment	Term	Membership	Selection of membership
South Carolina				
Commission on Judicial Conduct	1976 by court rule	4 years	14 judges	By supreme court
			4 attorneys	By supreme court
			8 public members	By supreme court

South Dakota				
Commission on Judicial Qualifications	1972 by constitution	4 years	2 circuit court judges	By judicial conference
			3 attorneys	By state bar commissioners
			2 public members	By governor

Members are divided into panels; an investigative panel decides whether to file formal charges, which are adjudicated by a hearing panel.

Tennessee				
Board of Judicial Conduct	1979 by statute	3	3 trial judges *	By judicial conference
			3 general sessions court judges*	By general sessions judges conference
			1 municipal court judge*	By the municipal judges conference
			1 juvenile court judge*	By council of juvenile and family court judges
			1 court of appeals or court of criminal appeals judge*	By speaker of house of representatives**
			1 court of appeals or court of criminal appeals judge*	By speaker of senate**
			3 attorneys	1 by speaker of senate
				1 by speaker of house of representatives
				1 by governor
			3 public members	1 by speaker of senate
				1 by speaker of house of representatives
				1 by governor

Members are divided into hearing panels of 6 members and investigative panels of 3 members.

* Current or former

** From list of 6 recommended by judicial conference

State	Establishment	Term	Membership	Selection of membership
Texas				
State Commission on Judicial Conduct	1965 by constitution	6 years	1 court of appeals justice	By supreme court with advice and consent of senate
			1 district court judge	By supreme court with advice and consent of senate
			1 judge of county court law	By supreme court with advice and consent of senate
			1 justice of the peace	By supreme court with advice and consent of senate
			1 municipal court judge	By supreme court with advice and consent of senate
			1 judge of constitutional county court	By supreme court with advice and consent of senate
			2 attorneys	By state bar**
			5 public members	By governor with advice and consent of senate

** Under regulations prescribed by supreme court with advice and consent of senate

Utah				
Judicial Conduct Commission	1984 by constitution*	4 years	2 judges	By supreme court
			2 attorneys	By supreme court
			3 public members	By governor with consent of senate
			2 members of house of representatives	By speaker of house
			2 members of senate	By president of senate

* Previously established in 1968 by statute.

Vermont				
Judicial Conduct Board	1978 by court rule	6 years	3 judges	By supreme court
			3 attorneys	By supreme court
			3 public members	By supreme court

Virginia				
Judicial Inquiry & Review Commission	1971 by constitution	4 years	3 judges	By general assembly
			3 attorneys	By general assembly
			2 public members	By general assembly

State	Establishment	Term	Membership	Selection of membership
Washington				
State Commission on Judicial Conduct	1980 by constitution	4 years	1 court of appeals judge	By court of appeals
			1 superior court judge	By superior court judges
			1 limited jurisdiction court judge	By limited jurisdiction court judges
			2 attorneys	By state bar association
			6 public members	By governor

An alternate is also selected for each member

West Virginia				
Judicial Investigation Commission	1976 by court rule	3 years	3 circuit court judges	By supreme court of appeals
			1 magistrate	By supreme court of appeals
			1 family court judge	By supreme court of appeals
			1 mental hygiene commissioner, juvenile referee, special commissioner, special master, or former judge or justice, state or federal	By supreme court of appeals
			3 public members	By supreme court of appeals
Judicial Hearing Board	1976 by court rule	3 years	3 circuit court judges	By supreme court of appeals
			1 magistrate	By supreme court of appeals
			1 family court judge	By supreme court of appeals
			1 mental hygiene commissioner, juvenile referee, special commissioner, special master, or former judge or justice, state or federal	By supreme court of appeals
			3 public members	By supreme court of appeals

The Judicial Investigation Commission determines whether to file a formal complaint; the hearing is before the Judicial Hearing Board.

Wisconsin				
Judicial Commission	1978 by statute*	3 years	1 trial court judge	By supreme court
			1 court of appeals judge	By supreme court
			2 attorneys	By supreme court
			5 public members	By governor with senate approval

The commission determines whether to file a formal complaint; a 3-judge panel is appointed to conduct the hearing

*Replacing a commission created in 1971 by the supreme court.

State	Establishment	Term	Membership	Selection of membership
Wyoming				
Commission on Judicial Conduct and Ethics	1973 by constitution	3 years	2 district court judges	By district court judges
			1 circuit court judge	By circuit court judges
			3 attorneys	By state bar
			6 public members	By governor confirmed by senate

For each case, the commission is divided into an investigative panel of 3 or more members and an adjudicative panel of 3 or more members; if the investigative panel determines that a formal complaint should be filed, the hearing is before the adjudicative panel.

District of Columbia				
Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure	1970 by statute	6 years	1 federal judge serving in D.C.	By Chief Judge of U.S. District Court for D.C.
			3 attorneys	2 by D.C. bar
				1 by mayor of D.C.
		5 years	1 attorney	By President of U.S.
		6 years	2 public members	1 by D.C. city council
				1 by mayor of D.C.