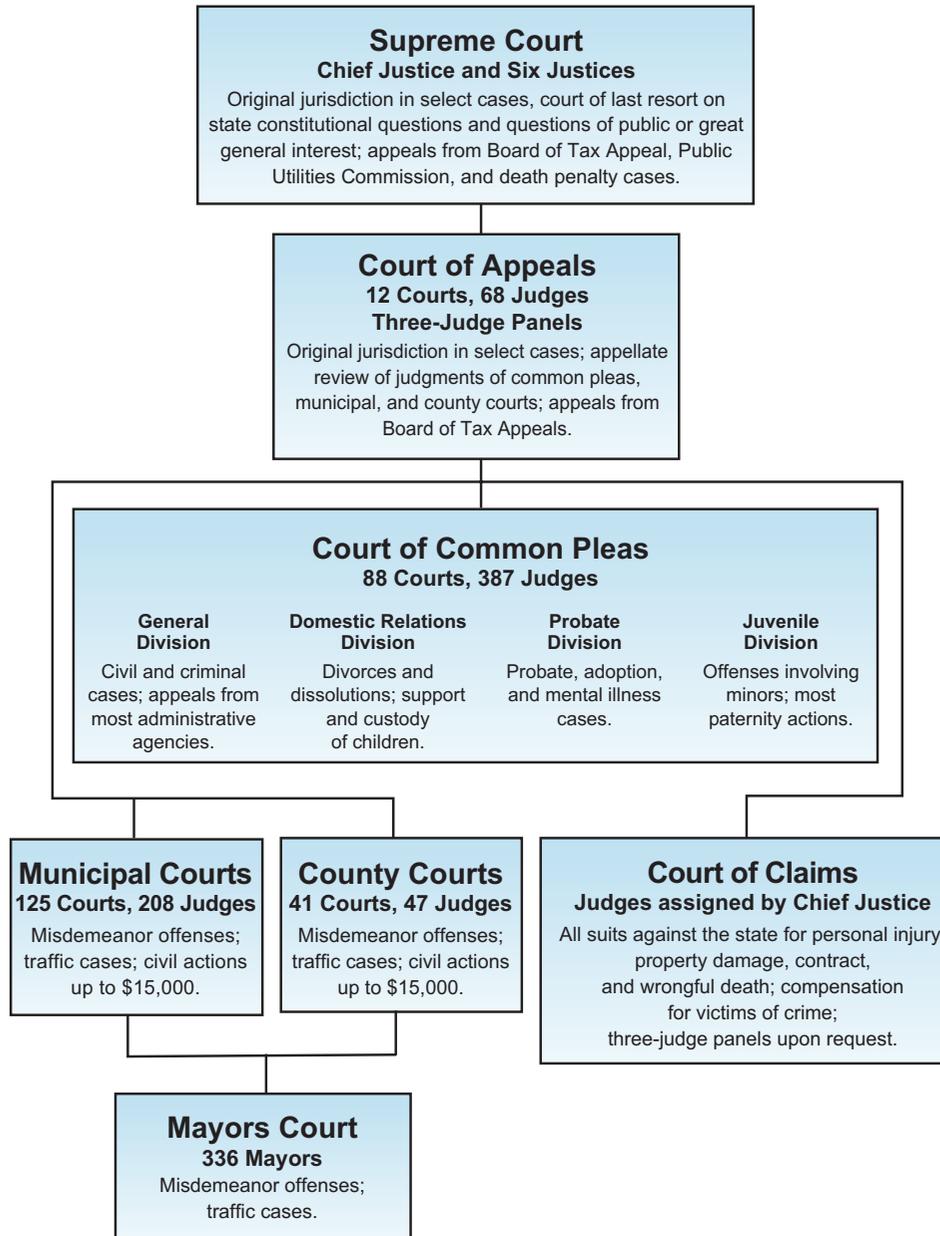


# The Role of Courts in Ohio's Justice System

To ensure the checks and balances of the democratic process and to preserve judicial integrity and fairness, Ohio's court system includes courts of original jurisdiction and a multi-level review or appellate process. Article IV, Section 1, of the Ohio Constitution defines the structure of the state's courts (Supreme Court, courts of appeals and common pleas courts and its divisions) and selection of judges. The Ohio General Assembly, as allowed by the state's Constitution, later expanded the court system by statutorily creating municipal, county and mayors courts.

## Ohio Court System



Source: *Ohio Courts Summary 2005*, Supreme Court of Ohio