

The structure of state trial courts fall into two basic categories: single-tiered systems and two-tiered systems. Eleven states and territories (CA, DC, GU, ID, IL, IA, ME, MN, MO, PR, and VT) employ one general jurisdiction court or "tier" that presides over all case types. The remaining 42 states divide their caseloads - often based on geography, case severity, or value - between some combination of general and limited jurisdiction courts. These charts show that the general and limited jurisdiction courts have distinctly different caseloads.