

**COUNCIL OF APPELLATE LAWYERS
STATE APPELLATE COURT STRUCTURE**

STATE:	PERSON SUBMITTING REPORT:
Connecticut	Sheila A. Huddleston
FIRST LEVEL OF APPELLATE COURT (Intermediate)	
Court's name	Connecticut Appellate Court
Total number of judges	Nine, unless the Chief Court Administrator is a member of the Appellate Court, in which case there are ten judges
Number on panels for oral argument	Usually three; very rarely sits en banc
Jurisdiction discretionary or mandatory	Mandatory for most cases (appeal as of right from most trial court decisions); discretionary for certain categories of appeals, including zoning appeals & habeas corpus appeals
If discretionary, standard (e.g. "important to the jurisprudence of the state")	Standard varies depending on the statutory basis for the discretionary appeal
Jurisdiction (criminal, civil, or both)	Civil and criminal
Oral argument discretionary or allowed as of right	Allowed in most cases; court has discretion to issue order to show cause why appeal should not be decided on papers
Geographical coverage - number of courts and whether their coverage is statewide or district-wide	Statewide
Opinions published -- some, all, or none (if some, estimate percentage) Note whether unpublished opinions may be cited, and if so, whether they are binding or merely persuasive.	Most decisions on merits result in full written opinions. All written opinions are published. A small number of cases are affirmed on merits by order without opinion. Most decisions on motions, including dispositive motions, are issued as unpublished orders.
Bound by precedent of which other courts	Any Appellate Court panel is bound by decisions of the Connecticut Supreme Court and by other panels of Connecticut Appellate Court
Opinions are binding precedent on which other courts	Other panels of Connecticut Appellate Court and all lower Connecticut courts (trial court, probate court, small claims court)
Other unique characteristics of system	N/A

SECOND LEVEL OF APPELLATE COURT	
Name	Connecticut Supreme Court
Total number of justices	Seven
Number who sit on oral argument panel	Usually five; occasionally en banc
Jurisdiction (criminal, civil or both)	Civil and criminal
Jurisdiction discretionary or mandatory; if discretionary, give standard (e.g., "important to the jurisdiction")	Discretionary except for certain criminal appeals (appeals from cases involving sentences of 20 years or greater go directly to Supreme Court, but Court has discretion to transfer appeals in that category to Connecticut Appellate Court)
Opinions published -- some, all, or none (if some, estimate percentage) Note if unpublished opinions may be cited, and if so, whether they are binding precedent or merely persuasive.	All opinions are published when appeals are decided on merits. Appeals that are dismissed on jurisdictional grounds before oral argument on the merits are usually dismissed by summary order.
Geographical coverage -- if divided into districts, give number of districts and whether their coverage is statewide or only district-wide.	Statewide
Bound by precedent from which other courts	United States Supreme Court (as to federal issues)
Opinions are binding precedent on which other courts	All Connecticut courts (probate courts, trial courts, Appellate Court)
Other unique characteristics of the system	
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