



INSTITUTE *for the* ADVANCEMENT
of the AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

Composition of Judicial Nominating Commissions

State	Appointment			Attorney, attorney/judge, or non-attorney majority?	Geographic representation required?	Partisan balance required?
	Judge members	Attorney members	Non-attorney members			
Alaska (7)	1: Chief justice serves ex officio	3: State bar board of governors	3: Governor w/ legislature's consent	Attorney /judge	No	No
Arizona (16)	1: Chief justice chairs	5: State bar nominates; governor appoints w/ senate confirmation	10: Governor w/ senate confirmation	Non-attorney	Yes	Yes
Colorado (16)	1: Chief justice serves ex officio	7: Joint action of the governor, attorney general, and chief justice	8: Governor	Non-attorney (chief justice is non-voting member)	Yes	Yes
Connecticut (12)	n/a	3: Governor 3: One each by senate president pro tem, house majority leader, and house minority leader	3: Governor 3: One each by house speaker, senate majority leader, and senate minority leader	Equal number of attorneys and non-attorneys	Yes	Yes
Delaware (11)	n/a	3-6: Governor 1: State bar president nominates, governor appoints	4-7: Governor	Attorney or non-attorney possible	No	Yes
District of Columbia (7)	1: Federal judge appointed by chief judge of U.S. District Court for D.C.	1: U.S. President 2: D.C. bar board of governors 1: D.C. mayor	1: D.C. mayor 1: D.C. Council	Attorney/judge	No	No
Florida (9)	n/a	6-9: Governor (4 appointed from state bar nominees)	0-3: Governor	Attorney	No	No
Hawaii (9)	n/a	2: State bar 0-1: Governor	1-2: Governor	Non-attorney (no more than 4 attorneys)	No	No
		0-1: Chief justice 0-2: Senate president 0-2: House speaker				
Idaho (7)	1: Chief justice chairs	2: State bar board of commissioners w/ senate consent	3: Governor w/ senate consent	Attorney/judge	No	Yes
	1: District judge serves as attorney member					

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Indiana (7)	1: Chief justice serves ex officio	3: State bar elects	3: Governor	Attorney/judge	Yes	No
Iowa (15)	1: Senior associate justice serves ex officio	7: State bar elects		Attorney/judge	Yes	No
		7: Governor w/ senate consent				
Kansas (9)	n/a	5: State bar elects	4: Governor	Attorney	Yes	No
Kentucky (7)	1: Chief justice chairs	2: State bar elects	4: Governor	Non-attorney	No	Yes
Maryland (17)	n/a	0-12: Governor 5: State bar president	0-12: Governor	Attorney or non-attorney possible	No	No
Missouri (7)	1: Justice selected by fellow justices	3: State bar elects	3: Governor	Attorney/judge	Yes	No
Montana (7)	1: District judge elected by district judges	2: Supreme court	4: Governor	Non-attorney	Yes	No
Nebraska (9)	1: Governor designates justice	4: State bar elects	4: Governor	Attorney/judge	Yes	Yes
Nevada (7)	1: Chief justice or designated justice	3: State bar board of governors appoints	3: Governor	Attorney/judge	Yes	Yes
New Mexico (14)	3: Chief justice or associate designee serves; chief judge appoints two court of appeals judges	3: Governor, house speaker, and senate president pro tem each appoint one 1: Dean of UNM law school serves as chair and votes in case of tie 4: State bar president and judge members	3: Governor, house speaker, and senate president pro tem each appoint one	Attorney/judge	No	Yes
New York (12)	n/a	4: Governor and chief judge each appoint two	4: Governor and chief judge each appoint two	Attorney or non-attorney possible	No	Yes
		4: Assembly speaker, senate president, assembly minority leader, and senate minority leader each appoint one member				
North Dakota (6)	3: Chief justice, governor, state bar president each appoint judge or attorney		3: Chief justice, governor, state bar president each appoint	Equal number of attorneys/judges and non-attorneys	No	No
Oklahoma (15)	n/a	6: State bar elects	6: Governor 1: Senate president pro tem 1: House speaker 1: Commission selects	Non-attorney	Yes	Yes

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	Judge members	Attorney members	Non-attorney members			
Rhode Island (9)	n/a	4-5: Governor, all but three from nominations by house speaker, senate majority leader, house minority leader, and senate minority leader	4-5: Governor, all but one from nominations by house speaker, senate majority leader, house minority leader, and senate minority leader	Attorney or non-attorney possible	No	No
South Dakota (7)	2: Judicial conference elects	3: State bar president	2: Governor	Attorney/judge	No	Yes
Tennessee (11)	n/a	8-11: Governor	0-3: Governor	Attorney	Yes	No
Utah (7)	1: Chief justice appoints non-voting member of judicial council	2-4: Governor, at least two from bar nominations	2-4: Governor	Attorney or non-attorney possible	No	Yes
Vermont (11)	n/a	3: State bar elects 0-1: Senate elects from senate 0-1: House elects from house	2: Governor 2-3: Senate elects from senate 2-3: House elects from house	Non-attorney	No	Yes
West Virginia (11)	n/a	4: Governor from nominees by state bar board of governors 1: State bar president serves <i>ex officio</i> 1: Dean of WVU law school serves <i>ex officio</i>	4: Governor	Attorney	Yes	Yes
		1: Governor or designee serves <i>ex officio</i>				
Wyoming (7)	1: Chief justice or designee chairs	3: State bar elects	3: Governor	Attorney/judge	Yes	No