

# **NEVADA COURT SYSTEM**

## **Supreme Court**

- 7 members (size governed by legislature)
- Primarily appellate jurisdiction
- Administrative and rulemaking authority
- Can hear cases in 3 judge panels (traditionally one north and one south)
- Chief Justice rotates
- Generally hear appeals without oral argument
- Large workload (2,000 cases) as there is no intermediate level appellate court

## **District Courts**

- State divided into 9 Districts
- Number of judges varies by size of district (population)
- Primary trial courts of state (courts of general jurisdiction)
- Appellate jurisdiction of cases from Justice Court (final)

## **Family Courts**

- Part of District Court
- Handle cases related to domestic relations
- Also have General Jurisdiction

## **Justice Court**

- Limited Jurisdiction (civil < \$7,500; minor criminal)
- Preliminary hearing for felonies (plea)
- Do not have to be a lawyer
- Can't be recalled

## **Municipal Courts**

- Limited Jurisdiction (similar to Justices, traffic, city ordinances mostly)
- Do not have to be a lawyer
- Only in incorporated areas

## NEVADA ELECTS JUDGES

- Thought to be a remedy for political corruption
- Nonpartisan election (2<sup>nd</sup> most common form of selection in U.S.)
- 6 year terms
- Limits influence of any particular group
- Premium on candidate style
- Soliciting funds leads to perception of impropriety
- Issueless campaigns can become personal

## **CONTEMPORARY ISSUES**

- Judicial workload
- Judicial independence (given popular election)
- Should judges campaign on issues
- Regional representation
- Judicial quality