Federal Judicial Administration

Congress

Appropriates funds, enacts legislation defining court organization and jurisdiction, reviews procedural rule amendments.

Chief Justice of the United States

Supreme Court

Judicial Conference of the United States

Members: Chief Justice (chair); chief judge and one district judge from each of the twelve regional circuits; chief judge of Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit; chief judge of the Court of International Trade.

Functions: Sets national administrative policy for the federal judiciary; approves appropriations requests for submission to Congress; recommends changes in rules of procedure to the Supreme Court for submission to Congress; numerous other statutory functions.

Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts

The Chief Justice appoints the director and deputy director after consultation with Judicial Conference. Provides administrative support to courts (including budget, personnel, space and facilities), staff to Judicial Conference and its committees, legislative coordination.

Committees of the Judicial Conference

Appointed by Chief Justice; include judges, practicing lawyers and legal scholars, and ex officio government officials.

Federal Judicial Center

Board: Chief Justice (chair); seven judges elected by the Judicial Conference; Administrative Office director. Board appoints the Center's director and deputy director. Provides the courts with orientation and continuing education; research support to courts and Judicial Conference.

Chief judges of the circuits

U.S. Sentencing Commission

Eight members, seven appointed by President (including three federal judges after considering a list submitted by Judicial Conference) and one non-voting ex officio member. Functions: Promulgates sentencing guidelines and otherwise establishes federal sentencing policies as directed by the 1984 Sentencing Reform Act.

Judicial Councils of the Circuits

Members: Chief judge (chair); circuit and district judges in equal numbers; council size determined by majority vote of all active circuit and district judges.

Functions: (1) Make necessary orders for administration of justice within the circuit (all judges and employees of the circuit are statutorily directed to give effect to council orders); (2) Consider complaints of judicial misconduct or disability under 28 U.S.C. § 372(c) if referred by the chief circuit judge; (3) Review district court plans in various administrative areas, as required by statute or Judicial Conference.

The circuit executive is the secretary of the council.

Judicial Conferences of the Circuits

Members: Chief judge (chair); all circuit, district, and bankruptcy judges; each circuit must also provide for participation by members of the bar. *Purpose:* Considering and advising on improvements in the administration of justice in the circuit.

U.S. District Courts

District courts, each with a chief district judge and clerk of court, also develop and implement administrative policy in numerous areas within the framework depicted above. Each district also has a bankruptcy court.