



MINNESOTA
JUDICIAL
BRANCH

ADMINISTRATIVE GOVERNANCE OF THE MINNESOTA JUDICIAL BRANCH

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

- 315 Judges
- 2,500 Employees
- 106 Locations
- \$ 318 Million Annual Budget – fully state funded
- 1.5 Million Cases

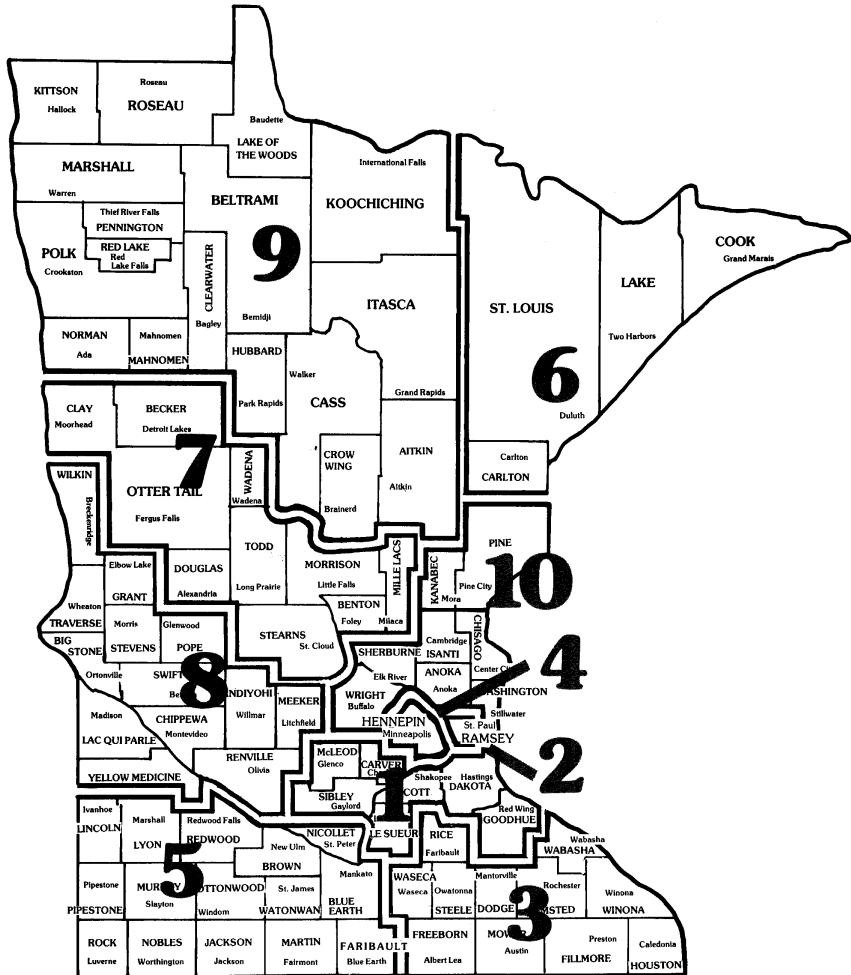
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Supreme Court (7 Justices)

Court of Appeals (19 Judges)

District Court (289 Judges)

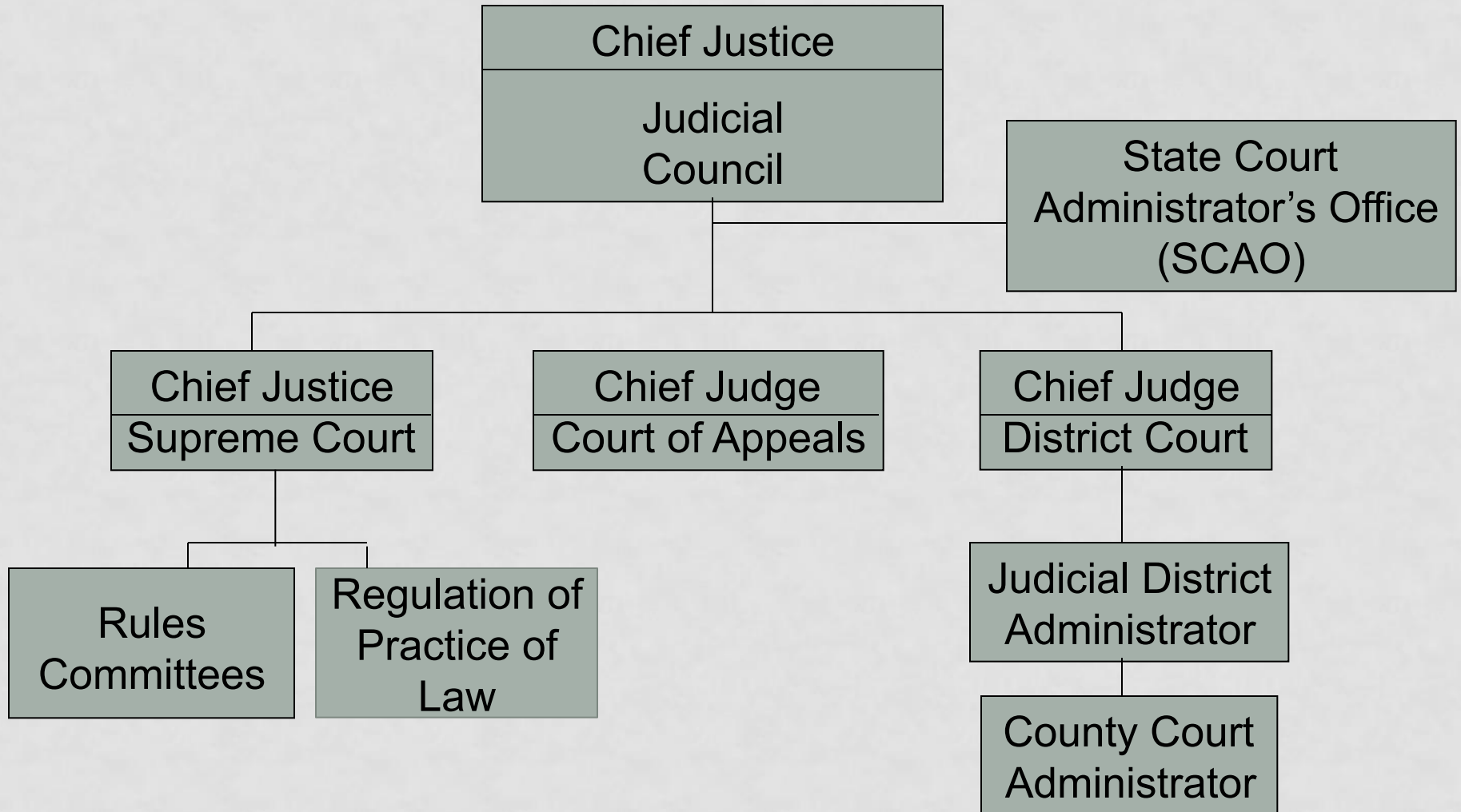
JUDICIAL DISTRICTS



✓ Administrative

✓ Election

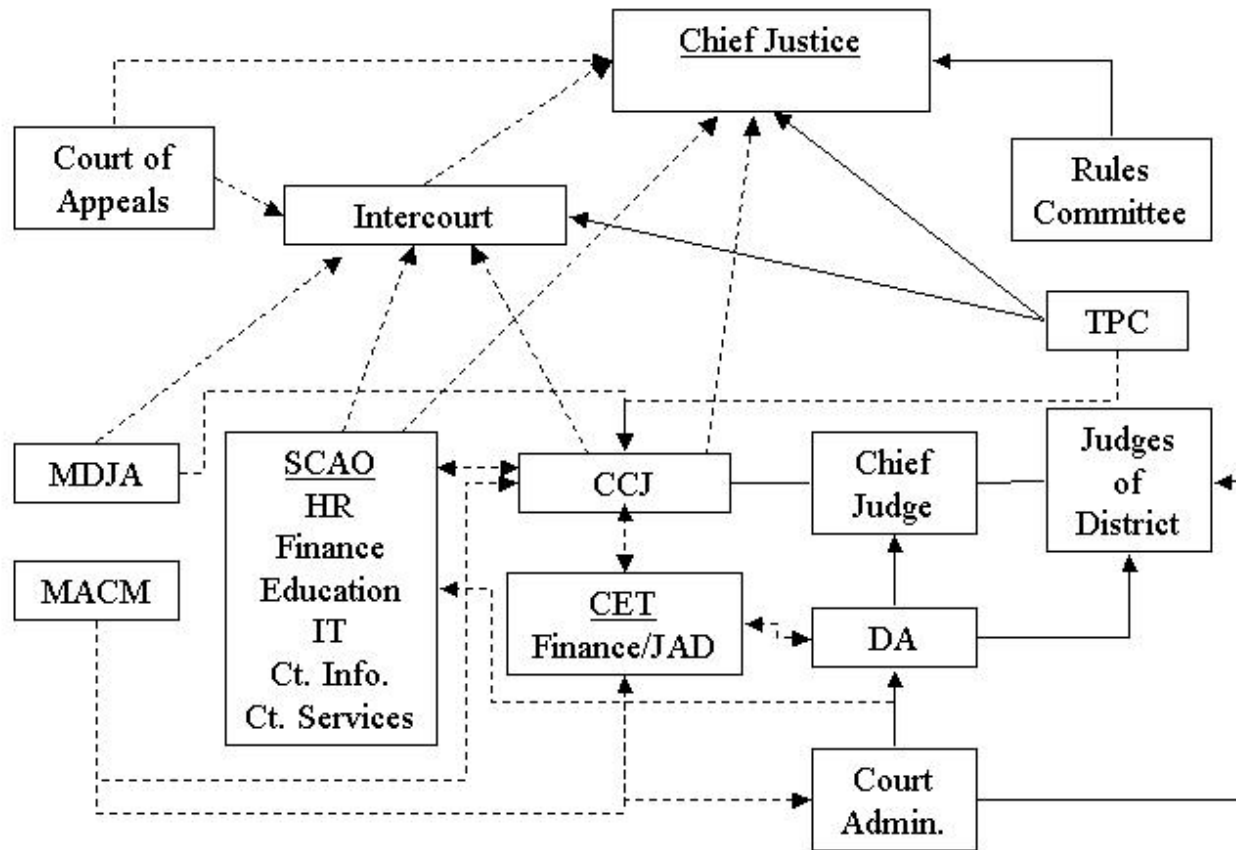
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



WHY?

- State Funding of all Trial Court Operations going into effect
- Current Government Structure was fragmented and confusing
- Chief Justice Vision
 - Willingness to delegate authority

PRE-JUDICIAL COUNCIL



HOW?

- January 2004 – Transformation Workgroup established – 20 members
- December 2004 – Chief Justice promulgated order
- January 2005 – Membership established – transition/planning period
- July 2005 – Judicial Council operational

COUNCIL MEMBERS

25 members representing all levels of courts:

- ✓ 19 judges - voting members
- ✓ 6 administrators - non-voting members

MEMBERSHIP

- Chief Justice
- Chief Judge Court of Appeals
- Chief Judges of Ten Judicial Districts
- Minnesota District Judges Association President
- State Court Administrator
- One Associate Justice by Chief Justice
- Five at-large Judges (3 trial court) by Chief Justice
- One at-large Appointment by Chief Justice
- Three District Administrators by peers
- One Court Administrator by peers

GOVERNANCE PHILOSOPHY

- “Deliberating in many voices and governing in one.”
- High-level policy perspective, delegating management and implementation responsibility
- Pro-active, ends-focused approach

GOVERNANCE PHILOSOPHY (CONT' D)

- Primary consideration of the needs of the judiciary as a whole, balanced with recognition of particular needs of individual district and courts.
- Provide clear and consistent direction

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Statewide administrative policy-making
- Strategic planning
- Legislative agenda
- Budget and resource allocation

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES (CONT'D)

- Court performance and accountability
- Outreach and stakeholder communications
- Annual evaluation of State Court Administrator
 - ❖ Sole Judicial Council employee
 - ❖ Serves “at pleasure of” Council

JUDICIAL COUNCIL FUNCTIONING

- Meets every month
- Agendas, minutes and policies are on the Judicial Branch intranet site
- Meeting summaries emailed statewide
- Meetings open to the public
- Staffing provided by SCAO

JUDICIAL COUNCIL COMMITTEES

- Three Standing Committees:
 - ❖ Court Operations Policy and Strategy
 - ❖ Human Resource/Education and Organization Development
 - ❖ District Implementation
- Operate at the will of the Council

KEY CHALLENGES

- Statewide perspective, but very diverse districts and counties
- Clear delegation of implementation authority included in all policies
- Communication and outreach

ACHIEVEMENTS

- More equitable levels of judicial services
- Budget accountability has been clarified and co-location of policy-making and funding responsibility
- Administrative Unity
- Cost efficiency and effectiveness improved

CLOSING REMARKS

Perspectives:

- District Administrator
- State Court Administrator
- Chief Judge



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