

Jurisdiction of State and Federal Courts

State Courts	Federal Courts	State or Federal Courts
Crimes under state legislation.	Crimes under statutes enacted by congress.	Crimes punishable under both federal and state law.
State constitutional issues and cases involving state laws or regulations.	Most cases involving federal laws or regulations (for example: tax, Social Security, broadcasting, civil rights)	Federal constitutional issues.
Family law issues.	Matters involving interstate and international commerce, including airline and railroad regulation.	Certain civil rights claims.
Real property issues.	Cases involving securities and commodities regulation, including takeover of publicly held corporations.	"Class action" cases.
Most private contract disputes (except those resolved under bankruptcy law).	Admiralty cases.	Environmental regulations.
Most issues involving the regulation of trades and professions.	International trade law matters.	Certain disputes involving federal law.
Most professional malpractice issues.	Patent, copyright, and other intellectual property issues.	
Most issues involving the internal governance of business associations such as partnerships and corporations.	Cases involving rights under treaties, foreign states, and foreign nationals.	
Most personal injury lawsuits.	State law disputes when "diversity of citizenship" exists.	
Most workers' injury claims.	Bankruptcy matters.	
Probate and inheritance matters.	Disputes between states.	
Most traffic violations and registration of motor vehicles.	Habeas corpus actions.	
	Traffic violations and other misdemeanors occurring on certain federal property.	