### Organization of the Federal Court system

<table>
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<tr>
<th>District courts</th>
<th>Courts of appeals</th>
<th>The Supreme Court</th>
<th>Special Federal Courts</th>
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<td>are the workhorses of the Federal Court system</td>
<td>are the next highest level of Federal Court system</td>
<td>is the highest court in the Federal Court system</td>
<td>were created by Congress for special purposes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**District Courts**
- At least one per state
- From 1 to 28 judges in each
- Courts of original jurisdiction
- Similar to state trial courts

**Courts of Appeals**
- Handle appeals from the federal district courts
- Decisions made by a panel of three judges
- Either affirm the lower court’s decision or reverse it
- Similar to state trial courts

**The Supreme Court**
- Serves as the final court of appeals for both the state and federal court systems
- Has original jurisdiction over a few special kinds of cases
- Also appellate jurisdiction

**Special Federal Courts**
- Includes Court of Claims, Court of Customs, and Patent Appeals, and Tax Court
- Appeals from some of these courts sent directly to the Supreme Court.