

LOWER COURTS

Legal Credentials		
State	Court Name	Legal Credentials
ALABAMA	Probate	Learned in law
ALABAMA	Municipal	State bar member Licensed attorney Law degree
ALABAMA	District	State bar member Licensed attorney for 3 years Law degree
ALABAMA	Circuit	State bar member Licensed attorney for 5 years Law degree
ALASKA	District	Active practice for 3 years Law degree
ALASKA	Superior	Active practice for 5 years Law degree
ARIZONA	Municipal	Law degree Bachelors degree with at least 3 years legal experience or experience in the area of traffic law
ARIZONA	Justice of the Peace	None Required
ARIZONA	Superior	State bar member for 5 years Law degree
ARIZONA	Tax	State bar member for 5 years Law degree
ARKANSAS	District	Licensed attorney for 4 years Law degree
ARKANSAS	Circuit	Licensed attorney for 6 years Law degree
ARKANSAS	City	No City Courts
CALIFORNIA	Superior	State bar member for 10 years Current state judge Law degree
COLORADO	County	Licensed attorney Law degree High school graduate
COLORADO	Denver Juvenile	Licensed attorney for 5 years Law degree
COLORADO	Denver Probate	Licensed attorney for 5 years Law degree
COLORADO	District	Licensed attorney for 5 years Law degree
COLORADO	Water	Licensed attorney for 5 years Law degree
COLORADO	Municipal	None Required
CONNECTICUT	Probate	Licensed attorney
CONNECTICUT	Superior	Licensed attorney
DELAWARE	Aldermans	Law degree
DELAWARE	Court of Chancery	Law degree Learned in law
DELAWARE	Superior	Law degree Learned in law
DELAWARE	Justice of the Peace	None Required
DELAWARE	Court of Common Pleas	State bar member for 5 years Law degree
DELAWARE	Family	State bar member for 5 years Law degree
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	Superior	State bar member Active practice for 5 years Faculty of D.C. Law School or employed as a lawyer by the U.S. or D.C. government
FLORIDA	Circuit	State bar member for 5 years Law degree
FLORIDA	County	State bar member for 5 years Law degree
GEORGIA	Probate	Active practice for 7 years
GEORGIA	Civil	Law degree
GEORGIA	County Recorders	Law degree
GEORGIA	Magistrate	None Required
GEORGIA	Municipal	None Required
GEORGIA	Juvenile	State bar member for 5 years Law degree
GEORGIA	State	State bar member for 5 years Law degree
GEORGIA	Superior	State bar member for 7 years Law degree
GUAM	Superior	State bar member for 10 years Active practice for 10 years Licensed attorney for 10 years Law degree
HAWAII	Circuit	State bar member for 10 years Licensed attorney for 10 years Law degree

HAWAII	District	State bar member for 5 years Licensed attorney for 5 years Law degree
IDAHO	District	State bar member for 10 years Law degree
IDAHO	Magistrates Division	State bar member for 5 years Law degree
ILLINOIS	Circuit	Licensed attorney Law degree
INDIANA	Superior	Active practice for 5 years Licensed attorney Law degree
INDIANA	Circuit	Licensed attorney Law degree
INDIANA	Probate	Licensed attorney Law degree
INDIANA	Small Claims of Marion County	Licensed attorney Law degree
INDIANA	City	None Required Licensed attorney Law degree
INDIANA	Town	None Required Licensed attorney Law degree
IOWA	District	Licensed attorney Law degree
KANSAS	Municipal	None Required
KANSAS	District	State bar member for 5 years Law degree
KENTUCKY	District	State bar member for 2 years Licensed attorney for 2 years
KENTUCKY	Circuit	State bar member for 8 years Licensed attorney for 8 years
KENTUCKY	Family	State bar member for 8 years Licensed attorney for 8 years
LOUISIANA	Justice of the Peace	High school diploma
LOUISIANA	City & Parish	Licensed attorney for 5 years
LOUISIANA	District	Licensed attorney for 8 years
LOUISIANA	Juvenile & Family	Licensed attorney for 8 years
LOUISIANA	Mayors	None Required
MAINE	Superior	Learned in law
MAINE	District	State bar member for 1 years Law degree
MAINE	Probate	State bar member for 1 years Law degree
MARYLAND	Circuit	State bar member Law degree
MARYLAND	District	State bar member Law degree
MARYLAND	Orphans	State bar member Licensed attorney Law degree
MASSACHUSETTS	Boston Municipal Court Dept	State bar member Active practice for 10 years Law degree
MASSACHUSETTS	District Court Dept	State bar member Active practice for 10 years Law degree
MASSACHUSETTS	Housing Court Dept	State bar member Active practice for 10 years Law degree
MASSACHUSETTS	Juvenile Court Dept	State bar member Active practice for 10 years Law degree
MASSACHUSETTS	Land Court Dept	State bar member Active practice for 10 years Law degree
MASSACHUSETTS	Probate & Family Court Dept	State bar member Active practice for 10 years Law degree
MASSACHUSETTS	Superior Court Dept	State bar member Active practice for 10 years Law degree
MICHIGAN	Circuit	Licensed attorney for 5 years
MICHIGAN	Claims	Licensed attorney for 5 years
MICHIGAN	District	Licensed attorney for 5 years
MICHIGAN	Municipal	Licensed attorney for 5 years
MICHIGAN	Probate	Licensed attorney for 5 years
MINNESOTA	District	Licensed attorney for 1 years
MISSISSIPPI	Chancery	Active practice for 5 years Law degree
MISSISSIPPI	Circuit	Active practice for 5 years Law degree
MISSISSIPPI	County	Active practice for 5 years Law degree
MISSISSIPPI	Municipal	Law degree
MISSISSIPPI	Justice	None Required

MISSOURI	Municipal	State bar member
MISSOURI	Circuit	State bar member Law degree
MONTANA	Justice's Court	Current state judge Must pass certifying exam
MONTANA	Workers Compensation	Law degree
MONTANA	City	None Required
MONTANA	Municipal	State bar member for 2 years Law degree
MONTANA	District	State bar member for 5 years Law degree
MONTANA	Water	State bar member for 5 years Law degree
NEBRASKA	County	Active practice for 5 years Law degree
NEBRASKA	District	Active practice for 5 years Law degree
NEBRASKA	Separate Juvenile	Active practice for 5 years Law degree
NEBRASKA	Workers Compensation	Active practice for 5 years Law degree
NEVADA	Municipal	None Required
NEVADA	Justice	State bar member Licensed attorney High school diploma
NEVADA	District	State bar member for 2 years Active practice for 10 years Licensed attorney for 5 years Law degree
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Superior	
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Circuit	Learned in law
NEW JERSEY	Superior	Active practice for 10 years Law degree
NEW JERSEY	Tax	Active practice for 10 years Law degree
NEW JERSEY	Municipal	Active practice for 5 years Law degree
NEW MEXICO	Metropolitan Ct. of Bernalillo County	Active practice for 3 years Law degree Learned in law
NEW MEXICO	District	Active practice for 6 years Law degree Learned in law
NEW MEXICO	Magistrate	None Required
NEW MEXICO	Municipal	None Required
NEW MEXICO	Probate	None Required
NEW YORK	Town & Village Justice	None Required
NEW YORK	Civil Ct. of the City of NY	State bar member for 10 years Law degree
NEW YORK	Court of Claims	State bar member for 10 years Law degree
NEW YORK	Criminal Ct of the City of NY	State bar member for 10 years Law degree
NEW YORK	Family	State bar member for 10 years Law degree
NEW YORK	Supreme	State bar member for 10 years Law degree
NEW YORK	Surrogates	State bar member for 10 years Law degree
NEW YORK	City	State bar member for 5 years Law degree
NEW YORK	County	State bar member for 5 years Law degree
NEW YORK	District	State bar member for 5 years Law degree
NORTH CAROLINA	District	State bar member
NORTH CAROLINA	Superior	State bar member
NORTH DAKOTA	District	State bar member Law degree
NORTH DAKOTA	Municipal	State bar member Law degree
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	Superior	State bar member for 5 years Law degree
OHIO	County	Active practice for 6 years Law degree
OHIO	Court of Common Pleas	Active practice for 6 years Law degree
OHIO	Municipal	Active practice for 6 years Law degree

OHIO	Court of Claims	Law degree Incumbent or retired appellate or general jurisdiction judge
OHIO	Mayors	None Required
OKLAHOMA	Municipal Court Not of Record	Law degree
OKLAHOMA	Tax Review	Law degree
OKLAHOMA	Workers Compensation	Law degree
OKLAHOMA	Municipal Criminal Court of Record	State bar member for 2 years Judge of court of record
OKLAHOMA	District	State bar member for 4 years Law degree Judge of court of record
OREGON	Circuit	State bar member Law degree
OREGON	Tax	State bar member for 3 years Law degree
OREGON	County	Unknown
OREGON	Justice	Unknown
OREGON	Municipal	Unknown
PENNSYLVANIA	Court of Common Pleas	State bar member Licensed attorney Law degree
PENNSYLVANIA	Philadelphia Municipal	State bar member Licensed attorney Law degree
PENNSYLVANIA	Magisterial District Judge	State bar member Licensed attorney Law degree Or pass certifying exam
PENNSYLVANIA	Philadelphia Traffic	State bar member Licensed attorney Law degree Or pass certifying exam
PUERTO RICO	Court of First Instance	Licensed attorney for 7 years
RHODE ISLAND	Traffic Tribunal	State bar member
RHODE ISLAND	District	State bar member Licensed attorney
RHODE ISLAND	Family	State bar member Licensed attorney
RHODE ISLAND	Superior	State bar member Licensed attorney
RHODE ISLAND	Workers Compensation	State bar member Licensed attorney
RHODE ISLAND	Municipal	Unknown
RHODE ISLAND	Probate	Unknown
SOUTH CAROLINA	Magistrate	None Required
SOUTH CAROLINA	Municipal	None Required
SOUTH CAROLINA	Probate	None Required
SOUTH CAROLINA	Circuit	State bar member for 8 years Law degree
SOUTH CAROLINA	Family	State bar member for 8 years Law degree
SOUTH DAKOTA	Circuit	State bar member Law degree
SOUTH DAKOTA	Magistrate	State bar member Law degree
TENNESSEE	Chancery	Licensed attorney
TENNESSEE	Circuit	Licensed attorney
TENNESSEE	Criminal	Licensed attorney
TENNESSEE	General Sessions	Licensed attorney
TENNESSEE	Juvenile	Licensed attorney
TENNESSEE	Probate	Licensed attorney
TENNESSEE	Municipal	Varies by municipality
TEXAS	County Courts at Law	Active practice for 4 years Licensed attorney for 4 years
TEXAS	District	Active practice for 4 years Licensed attorney for 4 years
TEXAS	Statutory Probate	Active practice for 5 years Licensed attorney for 5 years
TEXAS	Constitutional County	Learned in law
TEXAS	Municipal	Licensed attorney
TEXAS	Justice of the Peace	None Required
UTAH	Justice	None Required

UTAH	District	State bar member
UTAH	Juvenile	State bar member
VERMONT	Judicial Bureau	Active practice for 5 years Licensed attorney for 5 years
VERMONT	Superior	Active practice for 5 years Licensed attorney for 5 years
VIRGINIA	Circuit	State bar member for 5 years Licensed attorney for 5 years
VIRGINIA	District	State bar member for 5 years Licensed attorney for 5 years
WASHINGTON	District	State bar member Licensed attorney
WASHINGTON	Municipal	State bar member Licensed attorney
WASHINGTON	Superior	State bar member Licensed attorney
WEST VIRGINIA	Magistrate	High school education or equivalent
WEST VIRGINIA	Circuit	State bar member for 5 years Law degree
WEST VIRGINIA	Family	State bar member for 5 years Law degree
WEST VIRGINIA	Municipal	Unknown
WISCONSIN	Circuit	Active practice for 5 years Licensed attorney for 5 years Law degree
WISCONSIN	Municipal	None Required
WYOMING	Circuit	Law degree
WYOMING	District	Law degree
WYOMING	Municipal	None Required

APPELLATE COURTS

Legal Credentials		
State	Court Name	Legal Credentials
ALABAMA	Court of Civil Appeals	State bar member: 10yrs Licensed attorney: 10yrs
ALABAMA	Court of Criminal Appeals	State bar member: 10yrs Licensed attorney: 10yrs
ALABAMA	Supreme Court	State bar member: 10yrs Licensed attorney: 10yrs
ALASKA	Court of Appeals	Active practice: 8yrs
ALASKA	Supreme Court	Active practice: 8yrs
ARIZONA	Court of Appeals	State bar member: 5yrs
ARIZONA	Supreme Court	State bar member: 10yrs
ARKANSAS	Court of Appeals	Licensed attorney: 8yrs
ARKANSAS	Supreme Court	Licensed attorney: 8yrs
CALIFORNIA	Courts of Appeal	State bar member: 10yrs Active practice: 10yrs Licensed attorney: 10yrs
CALIFORNIA	Supreme Court	State bar member: 10yrs Active practice: 10yrs Licensed attorney: 10yrs
COLORADO	Court of Appeals	Licensed attorney: 5yrs
COLORADO	Supreme Court	Licensed attorney: 5yrs
CONNECTICUT	Appellate Court	Licensed attorney: No minimum time required
CONNECTICUT	Supreme Court	Licensed attorney: No minimum time required
DELAWARE	Supreme Court	Learned in law
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	Court of Appeals	State bar member: No minimum time required Active practice: 5yrs Faculty of D.C. law school or employed as a lawyer by the U.S. or D.C. government
FLORIDA	District Courts of Appeal	State bar member: 10yrs
FLORIDA	Supreme Court	State bar member: 10yrs
GEORGIA	Court of Appeals	State bar member: 7yrs
GEORGIA	Supreme Court	State bar member: 7yrs
GUAM	Supreme Court	State bar member: 7yrs Active practice: 7yrs Licensed attorney: 7yrs U.S. citizen
HAWAII	Intermediate Court of Appeals	State bar member: 10yrs
HAWAII	Supreme Court	State bar member: 10yrs
IDAHO	Court of Appeals	State bar member: 10yrs
IDAHO	Supreme Court	State bar member: 10yrs
ILLINOIS	Appellate Court	Licensed attorney: No minimum time required
ILLINOIS	Supreme Court	Licensed attorney: No minimum time required
INDIANA	Court of Appeals	Licensed attorney: 10yrs Current state judge Learned in law Either must have been a licensed attorney for 10 years or a judge for 5 years
INDIANA	Supreme Court	Licensed attorney: 10yrs Current state judge Learned in law Either must have been a licensed attorney for 10 years or a judge for 5 years
INDIANA	Tax Court	Licensed attorney: 5yrs Learned in law
IOWA	Court of Appeals	Licensed attorney: No minimum time required
IOWA	Supreme Court	Licensed attorney: No minimum time required
KANSAS	Court of Appeals	Active practice: 10yrs
KANSAS	Supreme Court	Active practice: 10yrs
KENTUCKY	Court of Appeals	State bar member: 8yrs Licensed attorney: 8yrs
KENTUCKY	Supreme Court	State bar member: 8yrs Licensed attorney: 8yrs
LOUISIANA	Courts of Appeal	State bar member: 10yrs Licensed attorney: 10yrs
LOUISIANA	Supreme Court	State bar member: 10yrs Licensed attorney: 10yrs

MAINE	Supreme Judicial Court	Learned in law
MARYLAND	Court of Appeals	State bar member: No minimum time required Licensed attorney: No minimum time required
MARYLAND	Court of Special Appeals	State bar member: No minimum time required Licensed attorney: No minimum time required
MICHIGAN	Court of Appeals	State bar member: No minimum time required Licensed attorney: 5yrs
MICHIGAN	Supreme Court	State bar member: No minimum time required Licensed attorney: 5yrs
MINNESOTA	Court of Appeals	Licensed attorney: 1yrs
MINNESOTA	Supreme Court	Licensed attorney: 1yrs
MISSISSIPPI	Court of Appeals	State bar member: 5yrs
MISSISSIPPI	Supreme Court	State bar member: 5yrs
MISSOURI	Court of Appeals	State bar member: No minimum time required Licensed attorney: No minimum time required
MISSOURI	Supreme Court	State bar member: No minimum time required Licensed attorney: No minimum time required
MONTANA	Supreme Court	State bar member: 5yrs
NEBRASKA	Court of Appeals	Active practice: 5yrs
NEBRASKA	Supreme Court	Active practice: 5yrs
NEVADA	Supreme Court	State bar member: 2yrs Active practice: 15yrs Licensed attorney: No minimum time required Not removed by the legislature or Commission on Judicial Discipline.
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Supreme Court	State bar member: No minimum time required Active practice: No minimum time required Licensed attorney: No minimum time required Learned in law Minimum 10 years practice in state
NEW JERSEY	Appellate Division of Superior Court	Active practice: 10yrs
NEW JERSEY	Supreme Court	Active practice: 10yrs
NEW MEXICO	Court of Appeals	Active practice: 10yrs
NEW MEXICO	Supreme Court	Active practice: 10yrs
NEW YORK	Appellate Division of Supreme Court	State bar member: 10yrs Licensed attorney: 10yrs Current state judge
NEW YORK	Appellate Terms of Supreme Court	State bar member: 10yrs Licensed attorney: 10yrs Current state judge
NEW YORK	Court of Appeals	State bar member: 10yrs Licensed attorney: 10yrs
NORTH CAROLINA	Court of Appeals	State bar member: No minimum time required
NORTH CAROLINA	Supreme Court	State bar member: No minimum time required
NORTH DAKOTA	Supreme Court	Licensed attorney: No minimum time required
NORTH DAKOTA	Temporary Court of Appeals	Licensed attorney: No minimum time required
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	Supreme Court	State bar member: 5yrs
OHIO	Courts of Appeals	Active practice: 6yrs
OHIO	Supreme Court	Active practice: 6yrs
OKLAHOMA	Court of Civil Appeals	State bar member: 4yrs Active practice: 4yrs Active practice or judge of a court of record
OKLAHOMA	Court of Criminal Appeals	State bar member: 5yrs
OKLAHOMA	Supreme Court	State bar member: 5yrs
OREGON	Court of Appeals	State bar member: No minimum time required
OREGON	Supreme Court	State bar member: No minimum time required
PENNSYLVANIA	Commonwealth Court	State bar member: No minimum time required
PENNSYLVANIA	Superior Court	State bar member: No minimum time required

PENNSYLVANIA	Supreme Court	State bar member: No minimum time required
PUERTO RICO	Court of Appeals	Licensed attorney: 9yrs
PUERTO RICO	Supreme Court	Licensed attorney: 10yrs
RHODE ISLAND	Supreme Court	State bar member: No minimum time required Licensed attorney: No minimum time required
SOUTH CAROLINA	Court of Appeals	State bar member: 8yrs
SOUTH CAROLINA	Supreme Court	State bar member: 8yrs
SOUTH DAKOTA	Supreme Court	State bar member: No minimum time required
TENNESSEE	Court of Appeals	Licensed attorney: 5yrs
TENNESSEE	Court of Criminal Appeals	Licensed attorney: 5yrs
TENNESSEE	Supreme Court	Licensed attorney: 5yrs Learned in law
TEXAS	Court of Criminal Appeals	Active practice: 10yrs Licensed attorney: 10yrs
TEXAS	Courts of Appeals	Active practice: 10yrs Licensed attorney: 10yrs
TEXAS	Supreme Court	Active practice: 10yrs Licensed attorney: 10yrs
UTAH	Court of Appeals	State bar member: No minimum time required
UTAH	Supreme Court	State bar member: No minimum time required
VERMONT	Supreme Court	Active practice: 5yrs Licensed attorney: 5yrs
VIRGINIA	Court of Appeals	State bar member: 5yrs Licensed attorney: 5yrs
VIRGINIA	Supreme Court	State bar member: 5yrs Licensed attorney: 5yrs
WASHINGTON	Courts of Appeals	State bar member: 5yrs
WASHINGTON	Supreme Court	State bar member: No minimum time required
WEST VIRGINIA	Supreme Court of Appeals	State bar member: 10yrs
WISCONSIN	Court of Appeals	State bar member: 5yrs Licensed attorney: 5yrs
WISCONSIN	Supreme Court	State bar member: 5yrs Licensed attorney: 5yrs
WYOMING	Supreme Court	State bar member: 1yrs Active practice: 9yrs