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The powers and **jurisdiction** of the Florida court system are described in the Florida Constitution. The powers and the jurisdiction of the federal court system are described in the U.S. Constitution.

The Florida Constitution gives its courts the jurisdiction to hear certain kinds of cases at the different levels of the state court system. **County and circuit courts** have **original jurisdiction** for certain cases. The **Florida District Court of Appeals** has **appellate jurisdiction** because it can review cases that lower courts have already heard.

The **Florida Supreme Court** is the highest court in Florida. It has appellate jurisdiction and the power to decide on the constitutionality of Florida laws. The decisions of the Florida Supreme Court are final, but they cannot go against the U.S. Constitution. This means that decisions can be appealed on 14th Amendment equal protection grounds.

The U. S. Constitution gives the federal courts jurisdiction to hear certain kinds of federal cases. **U.S District Courts** have original jurisdiction, cases involving the federal government or the U.S. Constitution must begin there. The **U.S. Court of Appeals** has appellate jurisdiction, meaning they have the power to review cases that the district courts have already heard. The **U.S. Supreme Court** is the highest court in the nation. It has appellate jurisdiction and the power to determine the constitutionality of federal and state laws. The decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court are final and may not be appealed.



**Source:**

“Florida State’s Court System.” *FloridaSupremeCourt.org.* Florida Supreme Court, n.d. Web. 11 March 2014.

<<http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/pub_info/system2.shtml>>