

# NEW YORK STATE CRIMINAL COURTS

## Appellate Courts

### **Court of Appeals**

New York State's court of last resort, hears appeals from the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

### **Appellate Division of the Supreme Court**

Hears appeals from judgments or orders of the Supreme Court, the Family Court, and the Appellate Terms of the Supreme Court and the County Courts.

### ***Appellate Terms of the Supreme Court First and Second Judicial Departments***

In the First Department, the court hears appeals from criminal cases originating in the Criminal Court of the City of New York. In the Second Department, this court also has jurisdiction over appeals from criminal cases originating in District, City, Town and Village Justice Courts.

### **County Courts**

Hear appeals from cases originating in the City, Town and Village Justice Courts (except in the First and Second Judicial Departments.)

## Trial Courts—Felony Cases

### **Supreme Court**

Has broad authority over all categories of case, including civil and criminal matters. Its Criminal Term handles felony matters although criminal matters involving felonies outside New York City are generally heard in the County Courts.

### **County Courts**

Authorized to handle the prosecution of all crimes committed within the particular county where located. However, these courts generally hear only felony matters.

## Trial Courts—Misdemeanor and Violations

### **NYC Criminal Court**

Has authority over all misdemeanors and minor offenses committed within New York City. Also handle preliminary proceedings in felony matters, after which the case is transferred to the Criminal Term of the Supreme Court.

### **City Courts**

Handle all Penal Law and City Code misdemeanors and minor offenses committed within regional boundaries. Also handle arraignments and preliminary proceedings in felony matters as well as Vehicle and Traffic law misdemeanors.

### **District Courts**

Found only in Nassau County and western towns of Suffolk County. Have criminal jurisdiction over misdemeanors and lesser offenses. Also, conduct arraignments and preliminary hearings in felony matters and hear Vehicle and Traffic Law misdemeanors and traffic infractions.

### **Town and Village Justice Courts**

Handle the prosecution of misdemeanors and violations committed within the boundaries of a particular town or village. Also, conduct arraignments and preliminary hearings in felony matters and hear Vehicle and Traffic Law misdemeanors and traffic infractions.