

FLORIDA

The Florida Territory became a state in 1845, and was organized as a single-district.¹ Two years later it was divided into Northern and Southern Districts with one judge apiece.² In 1962 Congress created the Middle District by transferring three judgeships at the time assigned to the Southern District.³ Florida was assigned to the Fifth Circuit from the inception of the modern appellate court system in 1891 until its transfer to the new Eleventh Circuit in 1980.⁴

FL.ND.01 was the original seat (see Judge Bronson's line of succession), and served the entire state until its reorganization into Northern and Southern Districts in 1847. Congress created an additional temporary seat, FL.NSD.01.01, to serve both districts.⁵ The occupant of this position would be transferred to either the Northern or Southern District following the first vacancy on either court. This occurred with the retirement of Judge Long (FL.ND.01.07) in 1947, at which point Judge DeVane was transferred to the Northern District. DeVane's predecessor, Judge Curtiss Waller (FL.NSD.01.01), was the original appointee to the transient position, and always served as a roving judge until his elevation to the Fifth Circuit in 1943. As such, his position really never was housed in a statutorily-created district.⁶

In creating the Middle District, FL.SD.01, 03 and 04 became FL.MD.01 through 03, respectively. Judge Whitehurst's (FL.MD.04.01) line was created to serve the Northern and Southern Districts.⁷ Judge Young succeeded him in 1961. One year later the Middle District was added to this roving position,⁸ and it stayed this way jurisdictionally until it was transferred to the Middle District exclusively in 1966.⁹

¹ Act of March 3, 1845, 5 STAT. 788. For a detailed history of the Florida judiciary, see Kermit L. Hall and Eric W. Rise, *From Local Courts to National Tribunals: The Federal District Courts of Florida, 1821-1990* (Brooklyn: Carlson Publishing Inc., 1991).

² Act of February 23, 1847, 9 STAT. 131. The districts subsequently were rearranged substantially in 1879 (Act of February 3, 1879, 20 STAT. 280) to deal with the geographical development of the state, but the existing structure of Northern and Southern Districts remained intact.

³ Act of July 30, 1962, 76 STAT. 247.

⁴ Act of October 15, 1980, 94 STAT. 1994. See Harvey C. Couch, *A History of the Fifth Circuit 1891-1981* (Washington: Judicial Conference of the United States, 1984); Deborah J. Barrow and Thomas G. Walker, *A Court Divided: The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and the Politics of Judicial Reform* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1988).

⁵ Act of May 24, 1940, 54 STAT. 219.

⁶ The position was recreated as a permanent line by the Act of August 3, 1949, 63 STAT. 493.

⁷ Act of August 3, 1949, 63 STAT. 493.

⁸ Act of July 30, 1962, 75 STAT. 80.

⁹ Act of March 18, 1966, 80 STAT. 75.

FL.SD.02 was created in 1922, and by that act the seat was abolished upon the departure of its first and sole occupant, Judge Lake Jones.¹⁰

FL.SD.22 was authorized as a temporary judgeship,¹¹ with the stipulation that the first vacancy on the court occurring ten or more years after the confirmation of the initial occupant will not be filled.

Florida has thirty-seven judgeships, distributed as follows: fifteen in the Middle District, four in the Northern District, and eighteen (counting the temporary) in the Southern District.

Statutory History		
<i>Seat</i>	<i>Date of Legislation</i>	<i>Authority</i>
FL.MD.04	Act of August 3, 1949	63 STAT. 493
FL.MD.05	Act of March 18, 1966	80 STAT. 75
FL.MD.06	Act of June 2, 1970	84 STAT. 294
FL.MD.07	Act of October 20, 1978	92 STAT. 1629
FL.MD.08	Act of October 20, 1978	92 STAT. 1629
FL.MD.09	Act of October 20, 1978	92 STAT. 1629
FL.MD.10	Act of December 1, 1990	104 STAT. 5089
FL.MD.11	Act of December 1, 1990	104 STAT. 5089
FL.MD.12	Act of November 29, 1999	113 STAT. 1501
FL.MD.13	Act of November 29, 1999	113 STAT. 1501
FL.MD.14	Act of November 29, 1999	113 STAT. 1501
FL.MD.15	Act of November 29, 1999	113 STAT. 1501
FL.ND.01	Act of March 3, 1845	5 STAT. 788
FL.ND.02	Act of March 18, 1966	80 STAT. 75
FL.ND.03	Act of October 20, 1978	92 STAT. 1629
FL.ND.04	Act of December 1, 1990	104 STAT. 5089

¹⁰Act of September 14, 1922, 42 STAT. 837.

¹¹Act of November 2, 2002, 116 STAT. 1758.

FL.NSD.01	Act of May 24, 1940	54 STAT. 219
FL.SD.01	Act of February 23, 1847	9 STAT. 131
FL.SD.02	Act of September 14, 1922	42 STAT. 837
FL.SD.03	Act of January 17, 1929	45 STAT. 1081
FL.SD.04	Act of June 27, 1930	46 STAT. 820
FL.SD.05	Act of February 10, 1954	68 STAT. 8
FL.SD.06	Act of May 19, 1961	75 STAT. 80
FL.SD.07	Act of May 19, 1961	75 STAT. 80
FL.SD.08	Act of March 18, 1966	80 STAT. 75
FL.SD.09	Act of March 18, 1966	80 STAT. 75
FL.SD.10	Act of June 2, 1970	84 STAT. 294
FL.SD.11	Act of June 2, 1970	84 STAT. 294
FL.SD.12	Act of October 20, 1978	92 STAT. 1629
FL.SD.13	Act of October 20, 1978	92 STAT. 1629
FL.SD.14	Act of October 20, 1978	92 STAT. 1629
FL.SD.15	Act of October 20, 1978	92 STAT. 1629
FL.SD.16	Act of October 20, 1978	92 STAT. 1629
FL.SD.17	Act of July 10, 1984	98 STAT. 333
FL.SD.18	Act of July 10, 1984	98 STAT. 333
FL.SD.19	Act of July 10, 1984	98 STAT. 333
FL.SD.20	Act of December 1, 1990	104 STAT. 5089
FL.SD.21	Act of December 15, 2000	114 STAT. 2762
FL.SD.22	Act of November 2, 2002	116 STAT. 1758

Seat Histories					
<i>Position #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Confirmation</i>	<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Party</i>
FL.MD.01.02 ¹²	Hodges, William Terrell	December 11, 1971	May 2, 1999	Retired	Republican
FL.MD.01.03	Whittemore, James D.	May 24, 2000	Active	Active	Republican
FL.MD.02.02 ¹³	Reed, John A., Jr.	August 3, 1973	January 1, 1985	Resigned	Republican
FL.MD.02.03	Fawsett, Patricia C.	June 6, 1986	Active	Active	Republican
FL.MD.03.02 ¹⁴	Krentzman, Isaac Benjamin	June 12, 1967	November 15, 1982	Retired	Democrat
FL.MD.03.03	Sharp, George Kendall	November 15, 1983	January 1, 2000	Retired	Republican
FL.MD.03.04	Antoon, John V.	May 24, 2000	Active	Active	Independent
FL.MD.04.01	Whitehurst, George W.	February 21, 1950	June 30, 1961	Retired	Democrat
FL.MD.04.02	Young, George Cressler	September 14, 1961	October 19, 1981	Retired	Democrat
FL.MD.04.03	Kovachevich, Elizabeth A.	March 4, 1982	Active	Active	Republican
FL.MD.05.01	Scott, Charles R.	October 20, 1966	November 12, 1976	Retired	Democrat

¹²Transferred from FL.SD.01.

¹³Transferred from FL.SD.03.

¹⁴Transferred from FL.SD.04.

Seat Histories					
<i>Position #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Confirmation</i>	<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Party</i>
FL.MD.05.02	Carr, George C.	December 15, 1977	January 26, 1990	Deceased	Democrat
FL.MD.05.03	Conway, Anne Callaghan	November 21, 1991	Active	Active	Republican
FL.MD.06.01	Tjoflat, Gerald B.	October 13, 1970	November 21, 1975	Elevated to Fifth Circuit	Republican
FL.MD.06.02	Melton, Howell W.	April 25, 1977	February 1, 1991	Retired	Democrat
FL.MD.06.03	Schlesinger, Harvey E.	June 27, 1991	June 5, 2006	Retired	Republican
FL.MD.06.04	Vacant				
FL.MD.07.01	Black, Susan H. ¹⁵	July 23, 1979	August 11, 1992	Elevated to Eleventh Circuit	Democrat
FL.MD.07.02	Adams, Henry Lee	November 20, 1993	Active	Active	Democrat
FL.MD.08.01	Moore, John Henry, II	November 24, 1981	December 31, 1995	Retired	Republican
FL.MD.08.02	Lazarra, Richard A.	September 26, 1997	Active	Active	Democrat
FL.MD.09.01	Castagna, William J.	July 23, 1979	June 29, 1992	Retired	Democrat
FL.MD.09.02	Bucklew, Susan C.	November 20, 1993	Active	Active	Democrat

¹⁵First female district judge appointed from Florida.

Seat Histories					
<i>Position #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Confirmation</i>	<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Party</i>
FL.MD.10.01	Merryday, Steven Douglas	February 6, 1992	Active	Active	Republican
FL.MD.11.01	Nimmons, Ralph W., Jr.	June 27, 1991	November 24, 2003	Deceased	Democrat
FL.MD.11.02	Covington, Virginia Maria Hernandez	September 7, 2004	Active	Active	
FL.MD.12.01	Steele, John E.	July 21, 2000	Active	Active	Democrat
FL.MD.13.01	Presnell, Gregory A.	July 21, 2000	Active	Active	None
FL.MD.14.01	Moody, James S.	July 21, 2000	Active	Active	Democrat
FL.MD.15.01	Corrigan, Timothy J.	September 12, 2002	Active	Active	Independent
FL.ND.01.01	Bronson, Isaac Hopkins	August 8, 1846	August 13, 1855	Deceased	Democrat
FL.ND.01.02	McIntosh, McQueen	March 11, 1856	January 3, 1861	Resigned	Democrat
FL.ND.01.03	Fraser, Philip	July 17, 1862	July 26, 1876	Deceased	Republican
FL.ND.01.04	Settle, Thomas, Jr.	January 30, 1877	December 1, 1888	Deceased	Republican
FL.ND.01.05	Swayne, Charles	April 1, 1890 ¹⁶	July 5, 1907	Deceased	Republican

¹⁶Recess appointment, May 17, 1889.

Seat Histories					
<i>Position #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Confirmation</i>	<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Party</i>
FL.ND.01.06	Sheppard, William Bostwick	May 20, 1908 ¹⁷	April 21, 1934	Deceased	Republican
FL.ND.01.07	Long, Augustus V.	May 29, 1934	October 1, 1947	Retired	Democrat
FL.ND.01.08	DeVane, Dozier Adolphus	April 14, 1943	January 31, 1958	Retired	Democrat
FL.ND.01.09	Carswell, George Harrold	March 31, 1958	June 20, 1969	Elevated to Fifth Circuit	Republican
FL.ND.01.10	Middlebrooks, David L., Jr.	December 10, 1969	August 1, 1974	Resigned	Republican
FL.ND.01.11	Stafford, William H., Jr.	May 12, 1975	May 31, 1996	Retired	Republican
FL.ND.01.12	Hinkle, Robert L.	July 25, 1996	Active	Active	Democrat
FL.ND.02.01	Arnow, Winston E.	December 7, 1967	March 14, 1981	Retired	Democrat
FL.ND.02.02	Paul, Maurice Mitchell	June 18, 1982	July 31, 1997	Retired	Republican
FL.ND.02.03	Mickle, Stephan P.	May 14, 1998	Active	Active	Democrat
FL.ND.03.01	Higby, Lynn Carlton	October 4, 1979	January 3, 1983	Resigned	Democrat
FL.ND.03.02	Vinson, C. Roger	October 4, 1983	March 31, 2005	Retired	Republican
FL.ND.03.03	Smoak, John Richard, Jr.	October 27, 2005	Active	Active	Republican

¹⁷Recess appointment, September 4, 1907.

Seat Histories					
<i>Position #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Confirmation</i>	<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Party</i>
FL.ND.04.01	Collier, Lacey Alexander	November 15, 1991	November 20, 2003	Retired	Democrat
FL.ND.04.02	Rodgers, Margaret Catharine	October 20, 2003	Active	Active	
FL.NSD.01.01	Waller, Curtis Longino	June 15, 1940	March 10, 1943	Elevated to Fifth Circuit	Democrat
FL.SD.01.01	Marvin, William	March 3, 1847	January 1, 1863	Resigned	Democrat
FL.SD.01.02	Boynton, Thomas Jefferson	January 20, 1864 ¹⁸	January 1, 1869	Resigned	Republican
FL.SD.01.03	McKinney, John M.	February 18, 1871 ¹⁹	October 12, 1871	Deceased	
FL.SD.01.04	Locke, James William	February 1, 1872	July 4, 1912	Retired	Republican
FL.SD.01.05	Cheney, John Moses	Unconfirmed recess appointment ²⁰	March 4, 1913	Not confirmed	Republican
FL.SD.01.06	Call, Rhydon Mays	April 24, 1913 ²¹	December 15, 1927	Deceased	Democrat
FL.SD.01.07	Ritter, Halsted Lockwood	February 15, 1929	April 17, 1936	Impeached	Republican

¹⁸Recess appointment, October 19, 1863.

¹⁹Recess appointment, November 8, 1870.

²⁰Recess appointment, August 26, 1912.

²¹Recess appointment, March 26, 1913.

Seat Histories					
<i>Position #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Confirmation</i>	<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Party</i>
FL.SD.01.08	Holland, John Warthen	May 30, 1936	July 1, 1955	Retired	Democrat
FL.SD.01.09 ²²	Lieb, Joseph P.	March 1, 1956 ²³	November 2, 1971	Deceased	Republican
FL.SD.02.01	Jones, Lake	February 18, 1924	June 30, 1930	Deceased	Republican
FL.SD.03.01	Akerman, Alexander	February 15, 1929	October 8, 1939	Retired	Republican
FL.SD.03.02	Barker, William Julius	February 1, 1940	April 30, 1959	Retired	Democrat
FL.SD.03.03 ²⁴	McRae, William A., Jr.	March 3, 1961	January 27, 1973	Deceased	Democrat
FL.SD.04.01	Strum, Louie Willard	February 28, 1931	September 26, 1950	Elevated to Fifth Circuit	Democrat
FL.SD.04.02 ²⁵	Simpson, John Milton Bryan	September 23, 1950	November 3, 1966	Elevated to Fifth Circuit	Democrat
FL.SD.05.01	Choate, Emmett Clay	July 20, 1954	January 31, 1965	Retired	Republican
FL.SD.05.02	Mehrtens, William O.	August 31, 1965	September 15, 1975	Retired	Democrat

²²Transferred to FL.MD.01.

²³Recess appointment, August 13, 1955.

²⁴Transferred to FL.MD.02.

²⁵Transferred to FL.MD.03.

Seat Histories					
<i>Position #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Confirmation</i>	<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Party</i>
FL.SD.05.03	Aronovitz, Sidney M.	September 17, 1976	October 31, 1988	Retired	Democrat
FL.SD.05.04	Graham, Donald L.	September 12, 1991	Active	Active	Democrat
FL.SD.06.01	Dyer, David W.	September 8, 1961	August 25, 1966	Elevated to Fifth Circuit	Democrat
FL.SD.06.02	Eaton, Joe O.	June 12, 1967	April 2, 1985	Retired	Democrat
FL.SD.06.03	Ryskamp, Kenneth L.	April 23, 1986	January 1, 2000	Retired	Republican
FL.SD.06.04	Huck, Paul C.	June 30, 2000	Active	Active	Republican
FL.SD.07.01	Fulton, Charles Britton, Sr.	April 24, 1963	June 30, 1978	Retired	Democrat
FL.SD.07.02	Gonzalez, Jose A., Jr. ²⁶	July 26, 1978	November 30, 1996	Retired	Democrat
FL.SD.07.03	Gold, Alan S.	June 27, 1997	Active	Active	Democrat
FL.SD.08.01	Atkins, Carl Clyde	July 22, 1966	December 31, 1982	Retired	Democrat
FL.SD.08.02	Nesbitt, Lenore Carrero	November 15, 1983	July 19, 1998	Retired	Republican
FL.SD.08.03	Jordan, Adalberto Jose	September 8, 1999	Active	Active	Independent
FL.SD.09.01	Cabot, Ted	August 10, 1966	December 4, 1971	Deceased	Democrat
FL.SD.09.02	Roettger, Norman C., Jr.	May 31, 1972	June 5, 1997	Retired	Republican

²⁶First Hispanic district judge appointed from Florida.

Seat Histories					
<i>Position #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Confirmation</i>	<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Party</i>
FL.SD.09.03	Dimitrouleas, William P.	May 14, 1998	Active	Active	Republican
FL.SD.10.01	Fay, Peter T.	October 13, 1970	September 21, 1976	Elevated to Fifth Circuit	Republican
FL.SD.10.02	Hoeveler, William M.	April 25, 1977	January 31, 1991	Retired	Democrat
FL.SD.10.03	Ferguson, Wilkie D., Jr.	November 20, 1993	June 9, 2003	Deceased	Democrat
FL.SD.10.04	Cooke, Marcia G.	May 18, 2004	Active	Active	
FL.SD.11.01	King, James L.	October 13, 1970	December 20, 1992	Retired	Democrat
FL.SD.11.02	Lenard, Joan A.	December 22, 1995	Active	Active	Democrat
FL.SD.12.01	Kehoe, James W.	October 4, 1979	October 16, 1992	Retired	Democrat
FL.SD.12.02	Middlebrooks, Donald M.	May 23, 1997	Active	Active	Democrat
FL.SD.13.01	Paine, James Carriger	October 4, 1979	May 20, 1992	Retired	Democrat
FL.SD.13.02	Hurley, Daniel T.K.	March 10, 1994	Active	Active	Democrat
FL.SD.14.01	Spellman, Eugene P.	October 4, 1979	May 4, 1991	Deceased	Democrat
FL.SD.14.02	Moore, Kevin Michael	February 6, 1992	Active	Active	Republican

Seat Histories					
<i>Position #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Confirmation</i>	<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Party</i>
FL.SD.15.01	Hastings, Alcee L. ²⁷	October 31, 1979	October 20, 1989	Impeached	Democrat
FL.SD.15.02	Moreno, Frederico A.	July 13, 1990	Active	Active	Republican
FL.SD.16.01	Davis, Edward Bertrand	October 4, 1979	July 1, 2000	Retired	Democrat
FL.SD.16.02	Martinez, Jose E.	September 13, 2002	Active	Active	Republican
FL.SD.17.01	Zloch, William J.	November 1, 1985	Active	Active	Democrat
FL.SD.18.01	Scott, Thomas E.	July 16, 1985	October 31, 1990	Resigned	Republican
FL.SD.18.02	Highsmith, Shelby	September 12, 1991	March 15, 2002	Retired	Republican
FL.SD.18.03	Altonaga, Cecilia M.	May 6, 2003	Active	Active	
FL.SD.19.01	Marcus, Stanley	July 16, 1985	November 7, 1997	Elevated to Eleventh Circuit	Republican
FL.SD.19.02	Seitz, Patricia	September 28, 1998	Active	Active	Democrat
FL.SD.20.01	Ungaro-Benages, Ursula Mancusi	October 8, 1992	Active	Active	Republican

²⁷First African American district judge appointed from Florida.

Seat Histories					
<i>Position #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Confirmation</i>	<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Party</i>
FL.SD.21.01	Marra, Kenneth A.	September 9, 2002	Active	Active	Independent
FL.SD.22.01	Cohn, James I.	July 31, 2003	Active	Active	

