

KENTUCKY

Kentucky was never a territory; instead it was part of Virginia until it won statehood in 1792. Like its predecessors, Kentucky initially was organized as a single district with one judge.¹ The court exercised complete federal jurisdiction, and was used as the model of such as other states were organized. In 1901 Kentucky was reorganized into Eastern and Western districts, with one judgeship each.²

KY.WD.01 is the original seat, and had jurisdiction over the entire state until the 1901 reorganization (see the succession line of Judge Innes). KY.ED.05 was created as a temporary seat in 1978, with the condition that the next vacancy on the court would not be filled.³ When Judge Moynahan retired in 1984, KY.ED.01 ended and KY.ED.05 effectively became the regular line. KY.ED.06 was created pursuant to Section 372(b) of Title 28 of the United States Code, when the circuit judicial council certified the disability of Judge Unthank (KY.ED.02). KY.ED.06 was authorized subsequently.

Kentucky has been in the Sixth Circuit since 1862. The state has ten judgeships—five in the Eastern District and four in the Western district. The tenth seat, KY.EWD.01, is unusual in that it was created as a transient position in 1936, and never assigned permanently to either of the districts.

Statutory History		
<i>Seat</i>	<i>Legislation</i>	<i>Authority</i>
KY.ED.01	Act of February 7, 1901	31 STAT. 781
KY.ED.02	Act of June 2, 1970	84 STAT. 294
KY.ED.03	Act of October 20, 1978	92 STAT. 1629
KY.ED.04	Act of October 20, 1978	92 STAT. 1629
KY.ED.05	Act of October 20, 1978	92 STAT. 1629
KY.ED.06	Act of February 25, 1919	40 STAT. 29 ⁴
KY.ED.07	December 15, 2000	114 STAT. 2762

¹Act of September 24, 1789, 1 STAT. 77.

²Act of February 12, 1901, 31 STAT. 355. See Samuel M. Wilson, *History of the United States Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky* (Lexington: United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky, 1935).

³Act of October 20, 1978, 92 STAT. 1629.

⁴Judge Unthank certified as disabled by the circuit judicial council on June 14, 1988.

KY.EWD.01	Act of June 22, 1936	49 STAT. 1806
KY.WD.01	Act of September 24, 1789	1 STAT. 73
KY.WD.02	Act of February 10, 1954	68 STAT. 8
KY.WD.03	Act of June 2, 1970	84 STAT. 294
KY.WD.04	Act of July 10, 1984	98 STAT. 333

Seat Histories					
<i>Position #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Confirmation</i>	<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Party</i>
KY.ED.01.01	Cochran, Andrew M.J.	December 17, 1901 ⁵	June 12, 1934	Deceased	Republican
KY.ED.01.02	Ford, Hiram Church	March 27, 1935	January 1, 1963	Retired	Democrat
KY.ED.01.03	Moynahan, Bernard T., Jr.	November 4, 1963	September 30, 1984	Retired	Democrat
KY.ED.02.01	Hermansdorfer, Howard David	March 2, 1972	January 31, 1981	Resigned	Republican
KY.ED.02.02	Wilhoit, Henry R., Jr.	September 25, 1981	December 31, 2000	Retired	Republican
KY.ED.02.03	Caldwell, Karen K.	October 23, 2001	Active	Active	Republican
KY.ED.03.01	Bertelsman, William O.	November 26, 1979	February 1, 2001	Retired	Republican
KY.ED.03.02	Bunning, David L.	February 14, 2002	Active	Active	Republican

⁵Recess appointment, April 24, 1901.

Seat Histories					
<i>Position #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Confirmation</i>	<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Party</i>
KY.ED.04.01	Unthank, Green Wix	June 18, 1980	June 14, 1988	Retired	Democrat
KY.ED.05.01	Reed, Scott E.	October 31, 1979	August 1, 1988	Retired	Democrat
KY.ED.05.02	Hood, Joseph M.	April 27, 1990	Active	Active	Republican
KY.ED.06.01	Forester, Karl S.	July 26, 1988	May 2, 2005	Retired	Republican
KY.ED.06.02	Van Tatenhove, Gregory Frederick	December 21, 2005	Active	Active	Republican
KY.ED.07.01	Reeves, Danny C.	December 6, 2001	Active	Active	Republican
KY.EWD.01.01	Swinford, Mac	August 20, 1937	February 3, 1975	Deceased	Democrat
KY.EWD.01.02	Siler, Eugene E., Jr.	November 11, 1975	September 12, 1991	Elevated to Sixth Circuit	Republican
KY.EWD.01.03	Coffman, Jennifer Lynne B. ⁶	September 30, 1993	Active	Active	Democrat
KY.WD.01.01	Innes, Harry	September 26, 1789	September 20, 1816	Deceased	Anti-Federalist

⁶First female district judge appointed from Kentucky.

Seat Histories					
<i>Position #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Confirmation</i>	<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Party</i>
KY.WD.01.02	Trimble, Robert	January 31, 1817	May 9, 1826	Elevated to U.S. Supreme Court	Jeffersonian Democrat
KY.WD.01.03	Boyle, John	February 12, 1827 ⁷	January 28, 1834	Deceased	Jeffersonian Democrat
KY.WD.01.04	Monroe, Thomas Bell	March 6, 1834	September 18, 1861	Resigned	Democrat
KY.WD.01.05	Ballard, Bland	January 22, 1862 ⁸	July 29, 1879	Deceased	Republican
KY.WD.01.06	Hays, William Hercules	December 10, 1879 ⁹	March 7, 1880	Deceased	Republican
KY.WD.01.07	Barr, John Watson	April 16, 1880	February 21, 1899	Retired	Republican
KY.WD.01.08	Evans, Walter	March 3, 1899	December 30, 1923	Deceased	Republican
KY.WD.01.09	Moorman, Charles Harwood	January 8, 1924	January 13, 1925	Elevated to Sixth Circuit	Republican
KY.WD.01.10	Dawson, Charles I.	January 13, 1925	June 14, 1935	Resigned	Republican
KY.WD.01.11	Hamilton, Elwood	June 18, 1935	March 4, 1938	Elevated to Sixth Circuit	Democrat
KY.WD.01.12	Miller, Shackelford, Jr.	February 20, 1939	December 11, 1945	Elevated to Sixth Circuit	Democrat

⁷Recess appointment, October 20, 1826.

⁸Recess appointment, October 16, 1861.

⁹Recess appointment, September 6, 1879.

Seat Histories					
<i>Position #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Confirmation</i>	<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Party</i>
KY.WD.01.13	Shelbourne, Roy Mahlon	February 5, 1946	November 1, 1964	Retired	Democrat
KY.WD.01.14	Gordon, James F.	July 22, 1965	January 1, 1976	Retired	Democrat
KY.WD.01.15	Johnstone, Edward H.	October 7, 1977	October 22, 1993	Retired	Democrat
KY.WD.01.16	Russell, Thomas B.	October 7, 1994	Active	Active	Democrat
KY.WD.02.01	Brooks, Henry L.	August 18, 1954	December 11, 1969	Elevated to Sixth Circuit	Republican
KY.WD.02.02	Allen, Charles M.	November 23, 1971	October 1, 1985	Retired	Republican
KY.WD.02.03	Simpson, Charles R., III	August 1, 1986	Active	Active	Republican
KY.WD.03.01	Bratcher, C. Rhodes	October 13, 1970	July 25, 1977	Deceased	Republican
KY.WD.03.02	Ballantine, Thomas A.	October 12, 1977	February 18, 1992	Retired	Democrat
KY.WD.03.03	Heyburn, John Gilpin, II	August 12, 1992	Active	Active	Republican
KY.WD.04.01	Meredith, Ronald E.	April 3, 1985	December 1, 1994	Deceased	Republican
KY.WD.04.02	McKinley, Joseph H., Jr.	August 11, 1995	Active	Active	Democrat

