

PUERTO RICO

Established as a judicial district with Article I judges in 1917,¹ Puerto Rico's district judges were given Article III status in 1966.² The territory is assigned to the First Circuit,³ and has seven judgeships.

Statutory History		
<i>Seat</i>	<i>Legislation</i>	<i>Authority</i>
PR.ST.01	Act of September 12, 1966	80 STAT. 764
PR.ST.02	Act of September 12, 1966	80 STAT. 764
PR.ST.03	Act of June 2, 1970	84 STAT. 294
PR.ST.04	Act of October 20, 1978	92 STAT. 1629
PR.ST.05	Act of October 20, 1978	92 STAT. 1629
PR.ST.06	Act of October 20, 1978	92 STAT. 1629
PR.ST.07	Act of October 20, 1978	92 STAT. 1629

Seat Histories					
<i>Position #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Confirmation</i>	<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Party</i>
PR.ST.01.01	Fernandez-Badillo, Juan B.	October 12, 1967	June 30, 1972	Retired	Democrat

¹Act of March 2, 1917, 39 STAT. 965.

²Act of September 12, 1966, 80 STAT. 764.

³Congress placed Puerto Rico in the First Circuit for a number of reasons: it wanted to relieve the U.S. Supreme Court from the task of having to hear appeals from the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico on issues of local law; the First Circuit had less judicial business than the other circuits, and; there were established "lines of communication" between Puerto Rico and North American seaports. See George Drago, *A History of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, Volume One, 1891-1960* (Boston: United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, 1993), 169.

PR.ST.01.02	Pesquera, Hernan G.	October 12, 1972	September 8, 1982	Deceased	Republican
PR.ST.01.03	Laffitte, Hector M.	July 26, 1983	November 15, 2005	Retired	Republican
PR.ST.01.04	Gelpi, Gustavo Antonio, Jr.	July 20, 2006	Active	Active	Republican
PR.ST.02.01	Cancio, Hiram R. ⁴	June 12, 1967	January 31, 1974	Resigned	Democrat
PR.ST.02.02	Torruella del Valle, Juan R.	December 18, 1974	October 4, 1984	Elevated to First Circuit	Republican
PR.ST.02.03	Fuste, Jose Antonio	October 25, 1985	Active	Active	Republican
PR.ST.03.01	Toledo, Jose V.	November 25, 1970	February 3, 1980	Deceased	Republican
PR.ST.03.02	Acosta, Raymond L.	September 29, 1982	June 1, 1994	Retired	Republican
PR.ST.03.03	Garcia- Gregory, Jay A.	June 16, 2000	Active	Active	Republican
PR.ST.04.01	Pieras, Jaime, Jr.	July 14, 1982	August 1, 1993	Retired	Republican
PR.ST.04.02	Casellas, Salvador E.	September 28, 1994	June 10, 2005	Retired	Democrat
PR.ST.04.03	Delgado- Colon, Aida M.	March 6, 2006	Active	Active	Republican
PR.ST.05.01	Cerezo, Carmen Consuelo ⁵	June 26, 1980	Active	Active	Democrat

⁴First Hispanic district judge appointed from Puerto Rico.

⁵First female district judge appointed from Puerto Rico.

PR.ST.06.01	Gierbolini- Ortiz, Gilberto	February 20, 1980	December 27, 1993	Retired	Democrat
PR.ST.06.02	Dominguez, Daniel R.	September 28, 1994	Active	Active	Republican
PR.ST.07.01	Perez- Gimenez, Juan M.	December 5, 1979	March 28, 2006	Retired	Democrat
PR.ST.07.02	Besosa, Francisco Augusto	September 25, 2006	Active	Active	Republican

