

The Judiciary Branch in Poland

Legal Structure

Poland is governed by means of a mixed parliamentary and cabinet system. Power is divided between the legislative authority (exercised by the Sejm, Senate and, to a certain extent, the Constitutional Tribunal), the executive authority (the President, Prime Minister, and the Council of Ministers), and the judicial authority (an independent judicial system, with general, administrative, and military courts).

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Political System & Constitution of the Republic of Poland](#)

Judiciary Branch

Supreme Court (judges are appointed by the president on the recommendation of the National Council of the Judiciary for an indefinite period); Constitutional Tribunal (judges are chosen by the Sejm for nine-year terms).

The administration of justice in the Republic of Poland is implemented by the Supreme Court, the common courts, administrative courts and military courts. The common courts in Poland are district courts (*rejon*), provincial courts (*okręg*) and the courts of appeal. They are competent to hear criminal law cases, civil law cases, family and custody law cases, labor law cases and social insurance cases. All court proceedings should have at least two stages. Judges are appointed for an indefinite period by the President of the Republic on the motion of the National Council of the Judiciary and are not removable. The military courts are the military unit courts and the military provincial courts. They have judiciary control within the Polish Army in criminal cases and other cases subscribed to them by relevant statutes.

The Supreme Court is the highest central judicial organ in the Republic of Poland. It exercises supervision over common and military courts regarding judgements and also performs other activities specified in the Constitution and the statutes. The Supreme Court is the highest court of appeal.

The Chief Administrative Court has jurisdiction over cases of administrative justice. This court operates through 10 delegated centers of the same Court. The Chief Administrative Court and other administrative courts exercise, to the extent specified by statute, control over the performance of public/governmental administration and settle jurisdictional disputes between units of local self-government and units of government administration.

The Constitutional Tribunal is an organ of the judiciary competent to decide the conformity of the issued law with the Constitution, disputes concerning competence between the organs of central administration, the conformity of the political parties tasks with the Constitution and to hear constitutional complaints filed by citizens.

Internet:

<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/un/unpan023221.pdf>

EXERCISES

I. Read the above text and answer the questions.

1. How is the administration of justice in Poland implemented?

2. What are the main types of courts?

3. What is their competence?

4. How are judges appointed?

5. What is the main function of the Supreme Court?

7. Which court is the highest court of appeal?

8. Which courts exercise control over the performance of governmental administration?

9. What are the basic functions of the Constitutional Tribunal?

II. Match the following expressions with their Polish equivalents.

1.	the judiciary	a)	wprowadzać w życie
2.	statute	b)	Zgodność
3.	conformity	c)	Wniosek
4.	supervision	d)	sąd apelacyjny
5.	implement	e)	Samorząd
6.	motion	f)	Złożone
7.	dispute	g)	prawo karne
8.	court of appeal	h)	kodeks cywilny
9.	filed	i)	nadzór
10.	criminal law	j)	ustawa
11.	self-government	k)	władza sądownicza
12.	civil law	l)	spór

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