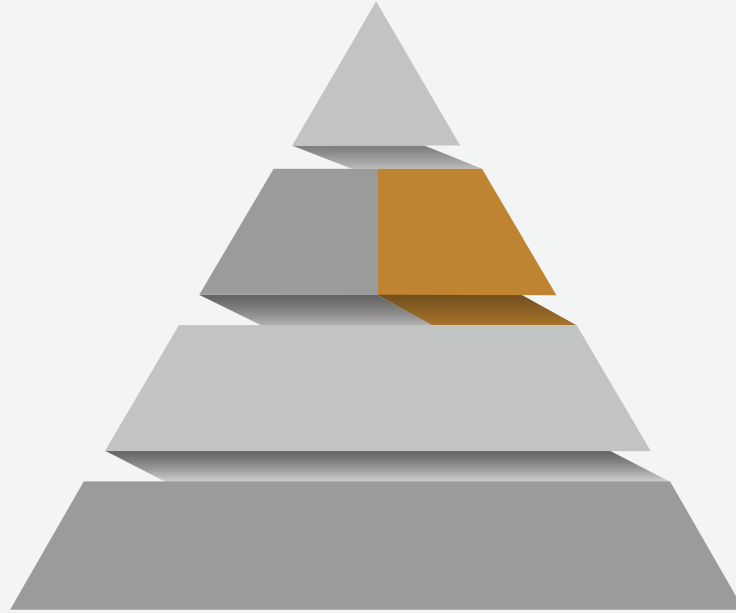


How the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court Operates



Established in
1968

One of two statewide intermediate appellate courts that **work to determine if errors were made at the trial court level.**

Judges serve a
10 year term
up to age 75.

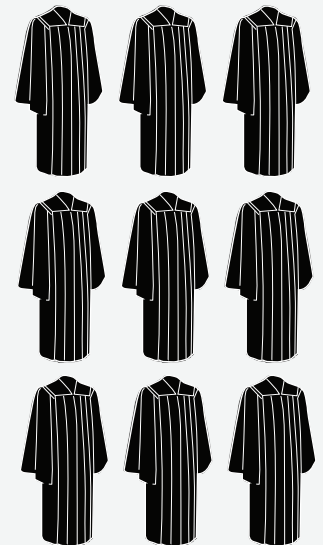
Cases are generally heard
by groups or panels
of **three judges**



but can be heard by a single judge or by *en banc* panels of seven judges.

- Only court like it in the country, specializing in issues of state and local government and administrative law.
- Commonwealth Court issues decisions that affect the relationship between state and local government and the citizens of Pennsylvania, dealing with issues such as how we elect our local officials, care for our elderly, protect our environment, and educate our children.
- Not only hears appeals, but sometimes sits like a trial court in certain cases, such as a constitutional challenge to a state law or a tax dispute.

Nine judges
including a president judge



The Commonwealth Court issues

1,000 opinions every year.