

Official name in original language	Domstolsstyrelsen
Official name in English	The Danish Court Administration
Address	Store Kongensgade 1-3, 1264 København K, DK-Denmark
Telephone number	+45 70 10 33 22
Website	www.domstol.dk
e-mail	post@domstolsstyrelsen.dk
Brief history	<p>The Danish Court Administration was established as a new independent institution on 1 July 1999. It ensures proper and adequate administration of the courts' and the Appeals Permission Board's funds, staff, buildings and IT.</p> <p>Prior to the establishment of the Danish Court Administration, these functions and responsibilities were placed within the Ministry of Justice. And although the Danish Court Administration is still formally connected to the Ministry of Justice, this is mainly for administrative and practical purposes – the Minister of Justice has no instructive power and cannot change decisions made by the Danish Court Administration. Thus, the creation of the Danish Court Administration stands as a clear manifestation of the (organisational) independence of the Courts of Denmark in relation to the political sphere.</p>
Constitutional or legal status/basis	Legal basis. The status of the Danish Court Administration as an independent institution is provided for in law, i.e. the Danish Court Administration Act.
Legal acts regulating the Status	The Danish Court Administration Act of 26 June 1998 (Law no. 401)
Composition:	
Total number of members	11 members (Board of Governors) ¹
Term of office	4 years
Is there a possibility to be renewed as a member?	Yes
Do the members have a full-time position or not?	Not full time position for Board of Governors. Full-time position for the Director General, who is appointed by the board of governors and is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Danish Court Administration.
Make up	8 members are court representatives 1 member is a lawyer 2 members are representatives with special management and social insights

¹The Danish Court Administration is headed by a board of governors which counts 11 members.

Is there a majority of Judges?	No, there is no majority of judges. It is provided for by law that 5 members shall be judges.
Presidency	Once new members of the board are elected, the board itself nominates its chairman and vice chairman. So far the board has always been chaired by the member from the Supreme Court.
Main Competences:	
Career of judges and / or prosecutors	The Danish Court Administration does not handle judicial appointments. Formally, judges are appointed by the Queen on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice as advised by the Judicial Appointments Council. It is envisaged that the recommendations of the Judicial Appointments Council will be followed by the Minister of Justice. The Danish Court Administration serves as secretariat to the Judicial Appointments Council. Deputy judges, however, are employed by the Danish Court Administration. They are recruited either directly from law school or after they have had a few years of experience with various legal employments, for example in a law firm or a ministry.
Judicial training	The Danish Court Administration is responsible for the training of all court staff, including the judges and deputy judges. Each year, an extensive training catalogue is published, and a large number of training activities are organised.
Discipline	No competence in the area of disciplinary proceedings against judges.
Ethics	As part of the organised judicial training activities, there are compulsory courses which include, among other subjects, ethics, and rules on incompetency/disqualification and on impartiality/independence of judges as well as best practices in how to conduct oneself in the courtroom.
Opinions on legislation / other opinions	The Danish Court Administration regularly takes part in legislative preparatory work, hearings, and provides advice on legal matters, policy proposals etc. that affect (directly or indirectly) the judiciary.
Status of decisions	The decisions are final and cannot be altered by the Minister of Justice.
Review	Not subject to review.

Budget

The Danish Court Administration plays an active role in the negotiations of the budget to be allocated to the judiciary. This happens through the channels of the Ministry of Justice. The total budget for the judiciary is part of the annual Finance Act.

The Danish budget procedure is based upon delegation of decision power and budget responsibility. The Ministry of Justice delegates the budget (appropriations) to the Danish Court Administration, which in turn allocates the budget to the courts. Ultimately, the economic responsibility for the judiciary lies with the board of governors of the Danish Court Administration. The board has the possibility to address Parliament directly with a budget proposal should they find that the appropriations are insufficient (This is provided for in the explanatory notes to the Danish Court Administration Act).

Allocation of resources to the 24 district courts is done using a budget model that is based on the number of received cases at the various district courts (the workload). As far as the rest of the courts are concerned, the allocation of resources is based on the budgets allocated the previous years.

The budget allocated to the individual court is used to cover salaries and other expenditures – rent, cleaning, refreshments at meetings, postage etc.

The budgets concerning IT and IT development projects are, however, centralized for all courts and are administered by the Danish Court Administration.