

Official name in original language	ΑΝΩΤΑΤΟ ΔΙΚΑΣΤΙΚΟ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ
Official name in English	SUPREME JUDICIAL COUNCIL of CIVIL and CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Address	121 Alexandras Ave., 115 10 ATHENS
Telephone number	+30 2106419363, +30 2106419105
Website	www.areiospagos.gr
e-mail	president@areiospagos.gr
Brief history	The Supreme Judicial Council was first instituted under Law 3437/1909, having the same competences as the current Supreme Judicial Council as described in The Code on the Organization of Courts and Status of Judicial Officers (Law 1756/1988).
Constitutional or legal status/basis	The Constitution of Greece, article 90, par. 1: “Promotions, assignments to posts, transfers, detachments, and transfers to another branch of magistrates shall be effected by presidential decree, issued after prior decision by the supreme judicial council”.
Legal acts regulating the Status	The Code on the Organization of Courts and Status of Judicial Officers (Law 1756/1988)
Composition:	The council consists of judges and prosecutors of the Supreme Court who are chosen by lot by the Plenum of the Supreme Court.
Total number of members	There are two boards of Supreme Judicial Council, with eleven and fifteen members respectively. Members of the Supreme Court and Deputy Prosecutors are promoted by the 15-membered Supreme Judicial Council. Other judicial officers are promoted by the 11-membered Supreme Judicial Council (Law 1756/1988, article 78).
Term of office	One year
Is there a possibility to be renewed as a member?	Yes

Do the members have a full-time position or not?	The members of the Supreme Judicial Council do not have a full-time position.
Make up	<p>Pursuant to the Constitution of Greece (article 90, par. 1), “This council shall be composed of the president of the respective supreme court and of members of the same court chosen by lot from among those having served in it for at least two years, as specified by law. The Prosecutor of the Supreme Civil and Criminal Court shall participate in the supreme judicial council on civil and criminal justice, as well as two Deputy Prosecutors of the Supreme Civil and Criminal Court who are chosen by lot from among those having served for at least two years in the Public Prosecutor's Office of the Supreme Civil and Criminal Court, as specified by law.</p> <p>In the supreme judicial council shall also participate, without right to vote, two magistrates of the branch concerned by the changes in the service status, who must be at least of the rank of Judge of Appeals or of an equivalent one, and are chosen by lot, as specified by law”.</p> <p>Also in par. 2 of the same article “In the case of judgments concerning promotions to the posts of Councillors of State, Supreme Civil and Criminal Court Judges, Deputy Prosecutors of the Supreme Civil and Criminal Court, Councillors of the Court of Audit, President Judges of Appeals and Prosecutors of Appeals, as well as concerning the selection of the members of the General Commissions of administrative courts and of the Court of Audit, the council prescribed in paragraph 1 shall be supplemented by additional members, as specified by law. As for the rest, the provisions of paragraph 1 shall also apply in this case”.</p>
Is there a majority of Judges?	Yes
Presidency	The President of the Supreme Court presides on both boards of the Supreme Judicial Council.
Main Competences:	Pursuant to the Constitution of Greece (article 90, par. 1) the Supreme Judicial Council issues decisions on “promotions, assignments to posts, transfers, detachments, and transfers to another branch of magistrates which will be effected by presidential decree”.

Judges and prosecutors are assigned to posts after successfully completing their training in the National School for Judicial Officers and having completed their trial period (article 31, Law 3689/2008, "The National School of Judicial Officers" and article 49, Law 1756/1988, "Code on the Organization of Courts and the Status of Judicial Officers". Furthermore, pursuant to the Constitution, article 87 par. 1 "Magistrates shall be appointed by presidential decree in compliance with a law specifying the qualifications and the procedure for their selection and are appointed for life", and par. 5 "Retirement from the service of the magistrates shall be compulsory upon attainment of the age of sixty five years for all magistrates up to and including the rank of Court of Appeal Judge or Deputy Prosecutor of the Court of Appeals, or a rank corresponding thereto. In the case of magistrates of a rank higher than the one stated, or of a corresponding rank, retirement shall be compulsory upon attainment of the age of sixty seven years. In the application of this provision, the 30th of June of the year of retirement shall in all cases be taken as the date of attainment of the above age limit".

Career of judges and / or prosecutors

Regarding the "Promotion to the post of President or Vice-President of the Supreme Administrative Court, of the Supreme Civil and Criminal Court and of the Court of Audit shall be effected by presidential decree issued on the proposal of the Cabinet, by selection from among the members of the respective supreme court, as specified by law. Promotion to the post of Supreme Civil and Criminal Court Prosecutor shall be effected by similar decree, by selection from among the members of the Supreme Civil and Criminal Court and Deputy Public Prosecutors of this Court, as specified by law. [...] The tenure of the President of the Supreme Administrative Court, of the Supreme Civil and Criminal Court and of the Court of Audit, as well as of the Public Prosecutor of the Supreme Civil and Criminal Court and of the General Commissioners of administrative courts and of the Court of Audit may not exceed four years, even if the magistrate holding this office has not reached the retirement age. Any period of time which remains until completion of the retirement age, shall be calculated as actual pensionable service, as specified by law" (The Constitution of Greece, article 90, par. 5).

Judicial training

The Supreme Judicial Council does not organize educational seminars. However, the president and members of the council participate and lecture in conferences.

Discipline	Pursuant to Law 1756/1988, there is a separate Disciplinary Board, whose members are chosen by lot for a year.
Ethics	<p>Pursuant to Law 1756/1988, supreme court judges and deputy prosecutors are chosen by lot to serve as Judicial Inspectors for a year.</p> <p>There is also a separate Inspection Board, whose members are chosen by lot and serve for a year.</p>
Opinions on legislation / other opinions	Opinions are issued only by the Plenum of the Supreme Court.
Status of decisions	The Constitution of Greece, article 90, par. 1: "Promotions, assignments to posts, transfers, detachments, and transfers to another branch of magistrates shall be effected by presidential decree, issued after prior decision by the supreme judicial council".
Review	<p>Pursuant to the Constitution of Greece (article 90, par. 3), " should the Minister of Justice disagree with the judgement of a supreme judicial council, he may refer the matter to the plenum of the respective supreme court, as specified by law. The magistrate concerned by the judgement has as well the right of recourse, under the conditions specified by the law. As regards the session of the plenum of the respective highest court, as a second instance supreme judicial council, the provisions of sections three to six of paragraph 1 shall apply. In the plenum of the Supreme Civil and Criminal Court, in the cases of the preceding section, shall also participate with right to vote the members of the Public Prosecutor's office of the Supreme Civil and Criminal Court.</p> <p>In par. 4 of the same article "The decisions of the plenum, as a second instance supreme judicial council, on a matter referred to it as well as the decisions of the supreme judicial council with which the Minister has not disagreed, shall be binding upon him".</p> <p>Furthermore in the abovementioned article in par. 6 "Decisions or acts in compliance with the provisions of the present article shall not be subject to remedies before the Supreme Administrative Court".</p>
Budget	There is no provision for a separate budget.