

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY 1789 TO PRESENT

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United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania¹

September 24, 1789 1 Stat. 73	The Judiciary Act of 1789 organized Pennsylvania as one judicial district and authorized one judgeship for the U.S. district court. The act assigned the District of Pennsylvania to the Middle Circuit.
February 13, 1801 2 Stat. 89	The Judiciary Act of 1801 reorganized the federal courts into six circuits and assigned the District of Pennsylvania to the Third Circuit.
March 8, 1802 2 Stat. 132	The repeal of the Judiciary Act of 1801 restored the judicial organization in effect before 1801.
April 29, 1802 2 Stat. 156	Congress in the Judiciary Act of 1802 again organized the federal courts into six circuits and assigned the District of Pennsylvania to the Third Circuit.
April 20, 1818 3 Stat. 462	Congress divided Pennsylvania into two judicial districts, the Eastern and the Western, with one judgeship authorized for each. The judge of the District of Pennsylvania was assigned to the Eastern District. The district court in the Western District was granted the same jurisdiction as U.S. circuit courts, except in appeals and writs of error, which were to be the jurisdiction of the U.S. Circuit Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.
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March 2, 1901 31 Stat. 880	(Congress . . . divided the Eastern District.) The act established the Middle District and authorized one judgeship for the (Middle District) court.

¹ Excerpted from the FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER, <https://www.fjc.gov/history/courts/us-district-courts-districts-pennsylvania-legislative-history> (last visited August 25, 2026).

April 1, 1904 33 Stat. 155	One additional judgeship authorized for the Eastern District.
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February 16, 1914 38 Stat. 283	One temporary judgeship authorized for the Eastern District. The temporary increase in the court's authorized membership expired in 1914.
September 14, 1922 42 Stat. 837	One temporary judgeship authorized for . . . the Eastern . . . District(). The temporary increase in the Eastern District's authorized membership expired in 1925.
March 3, 1927 44 Stat. 1347	One additional judgeship authorized for the Eastern District.
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June 16, 1936 49 Stat. 1523	One temporary judgeship authorized for the Eastern District.
June 2, 1938 52 Stat. 780	Temporary judgeship authorized in 1936 for the Eastern District made permanent.
May 24, 1940 54 Stat. 219	One temporary judgeship authorized for the Eastern District.
December 7, 1944 58 Stat. 796	Temporary judgeship authorized in 1940 for the Eastern District made permanent.
July 24, 1946 60 Stat. 654	Temporary judgeship authorized to serve all three districts.

August 3, 1949 63 Stat. 493	Two additional judgeships authorized for the Eastern District. . . .
February 10, 1954 68 Stat. 8	One additional judgeship authorized for the Eastern District. . . . The act provided that the temporary judgeship serving all three districts would be made permanent and assigned exclusively to the Middle District upon the first vacancy in that district. The judgeship was transferred to the Middle District in 1955.
May 19, 1961 75 Stat. 80	Three additional judgeships authorized for the Eastern District. . . .
March 18, 1966 80 Stat. 75	Three temporary judgeships authorized for the Eastern District. The temporary increase in the court's authorized membership resulting from one of these judgeships expired in 1967 but was reauthorized in 1967 (81 Stat. 228) and expired again in 1969.
June 2, 1970 84 Stat. 294	Six additional judgeships authorized for the Eastern District, two of the three temporary judgeships authorized for the Eastern District in 1966 made permanent. . . .
December 1, 1990 104 Stat. 5089	Three additional judgeships authorized for the Eastern District, . . . and one temporary judgeship authorized for the Eastern District. (Statutory provision authorizing temporary judgeship in Eastern District revised by 109 Stat. 635.) The temporary increase in the Eastern District's authorized membership expired in 1997.