

## **Laws Adding Judgeships During the Past 50 Years**

**1978** ([H.R.7843](#) - An Act to provide for the appointment of additional district and circuit judges, and for other purposes)

- Passed Congress Oct 7, 1978 (shortly before the midterms in which Ds would lose their filibuster-proof majority)
  - House: 292-112
  - Senate: 67-15
- 35 circuit judgeships
  - Effective upon passage (but this was immediately before the midterm election)
- 113 permanent district court judgeships, plus 4 temporary
  - Effective upon the president's issuing standards and guidelines for district judge selection

**1984** ([H.R.5174](#) - Bankruptcy Amendments and Federal Judgeship Act of 1983)

- Passed Congress June 29, 1984 (a few months before the presidential election)
  - House: 394-0
  - Senate: UC
- 24 circuit judgeships:
  - 11 effective immediately (but with only a few months left before the election)
  - 13 effective in the next presidential term
- 53 permanent district court judgeships, plus 8 temporary
  - 29 became effective immediately (but with only a few months left before the election)
  - The rest became effective in the next presidential term

**1990** ([H.R. 5316](#) - Judicial Improvements Act of 1990)

- Passed Congress October 28, 1990 (days before the midterm election)
  - House: voice vote
  - Senate: voice vote
- 11 circuit judgeships
  - Effective immediately (but realistically, this meant after the midterms)
- 61 permanent district court judgeships, plus 13 temporary
  - Effective immediately (but realistically, this meant after the midterms)

**1999** ([H.R. 3194](#) – Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2000)

- Passed Congress Nov. 1999 (part of an appropriations package, a year before the presidential election)
  - House: 296-135
  - Senate: 74-24
- 9 new district court judgeships in 3 states
  - Effective immediately

**2000** ([H.R. 4942](#), District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2001)

- Passed Congress Oct. 27, 2000
  - House: 206-198
  - Senate: 48-43
- 10 new district court judgeships in 10 states
  - Effective immediately (but realistically, only effective for the next president)

**2002** ([H.R.2215](#) - 21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act)

- [Passed Congress](#) October 3, 2002 (weeks before the midterm elections when the Senate was split 51D-49R and party control was at stake)
  - House: 400-4
  - Senate: UC
- 8 permanent district court judgeships, plus 7 temporary
  - Effective in July 2003 (after the midterms)