



JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Unlike legislators who are directly accountable at the ballot box to those they are elected to represent, judges must stand apart from politics and partisan ideas and focus on the fair resolution of problems and disputes under the Constitution and laws. Our system of government is carefully designed to foster fair and impartial courts - while holding judges accountable through a series of checks on judicial power.

While the mechanisms for judicial accountability vary from state to state, all establish high standards and strong protections to ensure equal protection and application of the law for all citizens

Accountability measures include:

- ✓ If a party in a case believes a judge made an error, they may appeal to a higher court
- ✓ If citizens disagree with a court's interpretation of a law, they may petition the legislature to amend the law and change the law's effect in the future
- ✓ If citizens disagree with a court's interpretation of the Constitution, they have the ultimate power to amend the Constitution to change its effect in the future
- ✓ Judges charged with unethical behavior are subject to investigation and disciplinary measures, up to and including removal from office



In these ways, courts are accountable to the laws, to the Constitution, and to the people!

Learn more at <http://ivp.nawj.org>

