

# ALDERMAN'S COURTS

## Legal Authorization

Alderman's Courts are authorized by the town charters of their respective municipalities.

## Legal Jurisdiction

The jurisdiction of an Alderman's Court is limited to misdemeanors, traffic offenses, parking violations, and minor civil matters. The specific jurisdiction of each court varies with the town charter (which is approved by the General Assembly). Appeals are taken *de novo* to the Court of Common Pleas within 15 days of trial.

## Geographic Organization

Alderman's Courts have jurisdiction only within their own town limits. There are six active Alderman's Courts, two in New Castle County and four in Sussex County. When a town is without a court or an alderman for any period of time, its cases are transferred to the nearest Justice of the Peace Court.

## Aldermen

The selection, number, tenure and qualifications of aldermen are determined by the towns themselves. Some require lawyers while others choose private citizens. A few aldermen serve full-time while some are part-time.

