

Mission

The mission of the judicial branch is to protect rights and liberties, uphold and interpret the law, and provide for the peaceful resolution of disputes.

The purpose of Florida's district courts of appeal is to provide the opportunity for thoughtful review of decisions of lower tribunals by multi-judge panels. District courts of appeal correct harmful errors and ensure that decisions are consistent with our rights and liberties. This process contributes to the development, clarity and consistency of the law.

Commentary

Under the Florida constitution, citizens whose rights and liberties have been determined by trial courts and state agencies have a guaranteed right of appellate review. The district courts of appeal were created to conduct this appellate review, by a panel of at least three judges, which in most cases is final.

Following review of a case, the court's decision may be accompanied by an opinion that discusses the legal issues and the court's analysis of the case. The courts' opinions provide the public, other courts and the legal community with a body of law, thereby enhancing understanding of the courts' work and providing a level of stability and predictability that allows Florida's citizens to conduct their business and personal affairs in accordance with the law of our state.