

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

The Singapore court system consists of

- The Supreme Court consisting of the Court of Appeal and the High Court
- The District Courts
- The Magistrates Courts

The District Courts and the Magistrates Courts hear both civil and criminal cases and there is a right of appeal to the High Court against any decision of a district judge or magistrate. From the High Court, there is a further appeal to the Court of Appeal on questions of law. In criminal cases which start in the High Court, an appeal will be heard by the Court of Appeal.

Whether a criminal case is heard in one of the lower courts or the High Court depends on the seriousness of the offence. By way of example, cases punishable by death or life imprisonment are dealt with by the High Court.

There are **two vacations** in the Supreme Court of Singapore, namely the midyear court vacation which, for the year 2003, ran from 26 May to 20 June, and the end of the year vacation, which will run from 1 December 2003 to 2 January 2004.¹

The law in Singapore operates as an **adversarial** system and there is **no jury** system in respect of the more serious criminal and civil trials.

¹ Republic of Singapore Supreme Court Calendar 2003/04