

United States House Committee on the Judiciary

The **U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary**, also called the **House Judiciary Committee**, is a standing committee of the United States House of Representatives. It is charged with overseeing the administration of justice within the federal courts, administrative agencies and Federal law enforcement entities. The Judiciary Committee is also the committee responsible for impeachments of federal officials. Because of the legal nature of its oversight, committee members usually have a legal background, but this is not required.

In the 116th Congress, the chairman of the committee is Democrat Jerry Nadler of New York,^[1] and the ranking minority member is Republican Doug Collins of Georgia.

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House Judiciary Committee

Standing committee
<div>Active</div> <div></div> <div>United States House of Representatives</div> <div>116th Congress</div>
History
Formed June 6, 1813
Leadership
Chair Jerrold Nadler (D) Since January 3, 2019
Ranking member Doug Collins (R) Since January 3, 2019
Vice chair Mary Gay Scanlon (D) Since January 3, 2019
Structure
Seats 41
Political parties <div>Majority (24) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Democratic (24) </div> <div>Minority (17) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Republican (17) </div>
Jurisdiction
Senate counterpart Senate Committee on the Judiciary

References

External links

History

The committee was created on June 3, 1813^[2] for the purpose of considering legislation related to the judicial system. This committee approved articles of impeachment against Presidents in four instances: Andrew Johnson (1867 and 1868), Richard Nixon (1974), Bill Clinton (1998), and Donald Trump (2019).

In the 115th Congress, the chairman of the committee was Republican Bob Goodlatte of Virginia, and the ranking minority member was initially Democrat John Conyers of Michigan. On November 26, 2017, Conyers stepped down from his position as ranking member, while he faced an ethics investigation.^[3] On November 28, 2017, Jerrold Nadler of New York was named as acting ranking member.

Predecessor committees

- Claims: Functions merged in 1946
- Immigration and Naturalization: Functions merged in 1946
- Internal Security: Functions merged in 1975
 - Un-American Activities: Functions merged into Internal Security in 1969
- Patents: Functions merged in 1946
- Revision of Laws: Functions merged in 1946
- War Claims: Functions merged in 1946

Members, 116th Congress



President Gerald Ford appearing at a House Judiciary Subcommittee hearing regarding his pardon of Richard Nixon (October 17, 1974).

Majority	Minority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jerry Nadler, New York, <i>Chairman</i> ▪ Zoe Lofgren, California ▪ Sheila Jackson Lee, Texas ▪ Steve Cohen, Tennessee ▪ Hank Johnson, Georgia ▪ Ted Deutch, Florida ▪ Karen Bass, California ▪ Cedric Richmond, Louisiana ▪ Hakeem Jeffries, New York ▪ David Cicilline, Rhode Island ▪ Eric Swalwell, California ▪ Ted Lieu, California ▪ Jamie Raskin, Maryland ▪ Pramila Jayapal, Washington ▪ Val Demings, Florida ▪ Lou Correa, California ▪ Mary Gay Scanlon, Pennsylvania, <i>Vice Chair</i> ▪ Sylvia Garcia, Texas ▪ Joe Neguse, Colorado ▪ Lucy McBath, Georgia ▪ Greg Stanton, Arizona ▪ Madeleine Dean, Pennsylvania ▪ Debbie Mucarsel-Powell, Florida ▪ Veronica Escobar, Texas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Doug Collins, Georgia, <i>Ranking Member</i> ▪ Jim Sensenbrenner, Wisconsin ▪ Steve Chabot, Ohio ▪ Louie Gohmert, Texas ▪ Jim Jordan, Ohio ▪ Ken Buck, Colorado ▪ John Ratcliffe, Texas ▪ Martha Roby, Alabama ▪ Matt Gaetz, Florida ▪ Mike Johnson, Louisiana ▪ Andy Biggs, Arizona ▪ Tom McClintock, California ▪ Debbie Lesko, Arizona ▪ Guy Reschenthaler, Pennsylvania ▪ Ben Cline, Virginia ▪ Kelly Armstrong, North Dakota ▪ Greg Steube, Florida

Sources: H.Res. 24 (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/24>) (Chair), H.Res. 25 (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/25>) (Ranking Member), H.Res. 46 (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/46>) (D), H.Res. 68 (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/68>) (R)

Historical membership rosters

115th Congress

Majority	Minority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bob Goodlatte, Virginia, <i>Chairman</i> ▪ Jim Sensenbrenner, Wisconsin ▪ Lamar S. Smith, Texas ▪ Steve Chabot, Ohio ▪ Darrell Issa, California ▪ Steve King, Iowa ▪ Louie Gohmert, Texas ▪ Jim Jordan, Ohio ▪ Ted Poe, Texas ▪ Tom Marino, Pennsylvania ▪ Trey Gowdy, South Carolina ▪ Raúl Labrador, Idaho ▪ Doug Collins, Georgia ▪ Ron DeSantis, Florida ▪ Ken Buck, Colorado ▪ John Ratcliffe, Texas ▪ Martha Roby, Alabama ▪ Matt Gaetz, Florida ▪ Mike Johnson, Louisiana ▪ Andy Biggs, Arizona ▪ John Rutherford, Florida ▪ Karen Handel, Georgia ▪ Keith Rothfus, Pennsylvania 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jerrold Nadler, New York, <i>Ranking Member</i> ▪ Zoe Lofgren, California ▪ Sheila Jackson Lee, Texas ▪ Steve Cohen, Tennessee ▪ Hank Johnson, Georgia ▪ Ted Deutch, Florida ▪ Luis Gutiérrez, Illinois ▪ Karen Bass, California ▪ Cedric Richmond, Louisiana ▪ Hakeem Jeffries, New York ▪ David Cicilline, Rhode Island ▪ Eric Swalwell, California ▪ Ted Lieu, California ▪ Jamie Raskin, Maryland, <i>Vice Ranking Member</i> ▪ Pramila Jayapal, Washington ▪ Brad Schneider, Illinois ▪ Val Demings, Florida

Sources: H.Res. 6 (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-resolution/6>) (Chair), H.Res. 45 (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-resolution/45>) (D), H.Res. 51 (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-resolution/51>) (R) and H.Res. 95 (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-resolution/95>) (D)

114th Congress

Majority	Minority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bob Goodlatte, Virginia, <i>Chairman</i> (113th) ▪ Jim Sensenbrenner, Wisconsin ▪ Lamar S. Smith, Texas ▪ Steve Chabot, Ohio ▪ Darrell Issa, California ▪ Randy Forbes, Virginia ▪ Steve King, Iowa ▪ Trent Franks, Arizona ▪ Louie Gohmert, Texas ▪ Jim Jordan, Ohio ▪ Ted Poe, Texas ▪ Jason Chaffetz, Utah ▪ Tom Marino, Pennsylvania ▪ Trey Gowdy, South Carolina ▪ Mark Amodei, Nevada ▪ Raúl Labrador, Idaho ▪ Blake Farenthold, Texas ▪ Doug Collins, Georgia ▪ Ron DeSantis, Florida ▪ Mimi Walters, California ▪ Ken Buck, Colorado ▪ John Ratcliffe, Texas ▪ Dave Trott, Michigan ▪ Mike Bishop, Michigan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ John Conyers, Michigan, <i>Ranking Member</i> ▪ Jerrold Nadler, New York ▪ Zoe Lofgren, California ▪ Sheila Jackson Lee, Texas ▪ Steve Cohen, Tennessee ▪ Hank Johnson, Georgia ▪ Pedro Pierluisi, Puerto Rico ▪ Judy Chu, California ▪ Ted Deutch, Florida ▪ Luis Gutierrez, Illinois ▪ Karen Bass, California ▪ Cedric Richmond, Louisiana ▪ Suzan DelBene, Washington ▪ Hakeem Jeffries, New York ▪ David Cicilline, Rhode Island ▪ Scott Peters, California

Sources:

- Resolutions electing Republican members: H.Res. 6 (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-resolution/6>) (Chairs) and H.Res. 17 (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-resolution/17>) (R)^[4]
- Resolutions electing Democratic members: H.Res. 7 (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-resolution/7>) (D) and H.Res. 22 (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-resolution/22>) (D)

112th Congress

Majority	Minority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lamar S. Smith, Texas, <i>Chairman</i> ▪ Jim Sensenbrenner, Wisconsin ▪ Howard Coble, North Carolina ▪ Elton Gallegly, California ▪ Bob Goodlatte, Virginia ▪ Dan Lungren, California ▪ Steve Chabot, Ohio ▪ Darrell Issa, California ▪ Mike Pence, Indiana ▪ Randy Forbes, Virginia ▪ Steve King, Iowa ▪ Trent Franks, Arizona ▪ Louie Gohmert, Texas ▪ Jim Jordan, Ohio ▪ Ted Poe, Texas ▪ Jason Chaffetz, Utah ▪ Timothy Griffin, Arkansas ▪ Tom Marino, Pennsylvania ▪ Trey Gowdy, South Carolina ▪ Dennis A. Ross, Florida ▪ Sandy Adams, Florida ▪ Ben Quayle, Arizona ▪ Mark Amodei, Nevada 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ John Conyers, Michigan, <i>Ranking Member</i> ▪ Howard Berman, California ▪ Jerrold Nadler, New York ▪ Bobby Scott, Virginia ▪ Mel Watt, North Carolina ▪ Zoe Lofgren, California ▪ Sheila Jackson-Lee, Texas ▪ Maxine Waters, California ▪ Steve Cohen, Tennessee ▪ Hank Johnson, Georgia ▪ Pedro Pierluisi, Puerto Rico ▪ Michael Quigley, Illinois ▪ Judy Chu, California ▪ Ted Deutch, Florida ▪ Linda Sánchez, California ▪ Jared Polis, Colorado

Sources:

- Resolutions electing Republican members: H.Res. 6 (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/house-resolution/6>) (Chair), H.Res. 37 (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/house-resolution/37>) (Members)
- Resolutions electing Democratic members H.Res. 7 (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/house-resolution/7>) (Ranking member), H.Res. 39 (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/house-resolution/39>) (Members)

111th Congress

Majority	Minority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ John Conyers, Michigan, <i>Chairman</i> ▪ Howard Berman, California ▪ Rick Boucher, Virginia ▪ Jerrold Nadler, New York ▪ Bobby Scott, Virginia ▪ Mel Watt, North Carolina ▪ Zoe Lofgren, California ▪ Sheila Jackson-Lee, Texas ▪ Maxine Waters, California ▪ Bill Delahunt, Massachusetts ▪ Steve Cohen, Tennessee ▪ Hank Johnson, Georgia ▪ Pedro Pierluisi, Puerto Rico ▪ Michael Quigley, Illinois ▪ Judy Chu, California ▪ Ted Deutch, Florida ▪ Luis Gutierrez, Illinois ▪ Tammy Baldwin, Wisconsin ▪ Charles Gonzalez, Texas ▪ Anthony Weiner, New York ▪ Adam Schiff, California ▪ Linda Sánchez, California ▪ Daniel Maffei, New York ▪ Jared Polis, Colorado 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lamar S. Smith, Texas, <i>Ranking Member</i> ▪ Jim Sensenbrenner, Wisconsin ▪ Howard Coble, North Carolina ▪ Elton Gallegly, California ▪ Bob Goodlatte, Virginia ▪ Dan Lungren, California ▪ Darrell Issa, Texas ▪ Randy Forbes, Virginia ▪ Steve King, Iowa ▪ Trent Franks, Arizona ▪ Louie Gohmert, Texas ▪ Jason Chaffetz, Utah ▪ Tom Rooney, Florida ▪ Gregg Harper, Mississippi

Subcommittees

Subcommittee	Chair	Ranking Member ^[5]
Antitrust, Commercial and Administrative Law	David Cicilline (D-RI)	Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI)
The Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties	Steve Cohen (D-TN)	Mike Johnson (R-LA)
Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security	Karen Bass (D-CA)	John Ratcliffe (R-TX)
Immigration and Citizenship	Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)	Ken Buck (R-CO)
Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet	Hank Johnson (D-GA)	Martha Roby (R-AL)

Task forces

Antitrust Task Force: 108th Congress

Chairman: Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI); Ranking member: John Conyers (D-MI)

The Antitrust Task Force during the 108th Congress existed from March 26, 2003, to September 26, 2003. All Judiciary Committee Members also served as members of the Task Force,^[6] and

conducted hearings and investigations into consolidation of the Bell Telephone Companies.^[7]

Antitrust Task Force: 110th Congress

Chairman: John Conyers (D-MI); Ranking member: Steve Chabot (R-OH)

The Antitrust Task Force during the 110th Congress was established February 28, 2007, as a temporary subcommittee to examine the pending merger between XM Radio and Sirius Satellite Radio.^[8] The task force operated like any other subcommittee, except that it only has a six-month term. House Rules limit each full committee to just five subcommittees, and any task force, special subcommittee, or other subunit of a standing committee that is established for a cumulative period longer than six months in a Congress counts against that total.^[9] A longer term for the task force would cause the Judiciary Committee to exceed this limit.

Judicial Impeachment: 110th and 111th Congresses

Chairman: Adam Schiff (D-CA);^[10] Ranking member: Bob Goodlatte (R-VA)^[10]

Established in September 2008,^[11] the Judicial Task force on Judicial Impeachment was to look into charges against District Judge Thomas Porteous.^[11] The investigation was not completed by the end of the 110th Congress, and it was reestablished after the 111th Congress convened in January 2009.^[12] The responsibilities of the Task Force were expanded to include the case of Judge Samuel B. Kent,^[13] leading to hearings^[14] and his subsequent impeachment by the full House of Representatives.^[15] The Task force finally voted to impeach Porteous on January 21, 2010.

Projects

- Administrative Law, Process and Procedure Project (2005–2006)

Hearings

- The Use and Misuse of Presidential Clemency Power for Executive Branch Officials (hearing) (2007)
- Equal Justice for Our Military Act of 2009, HR 569 (111th Congress) (2009) (<https://web.archive.org/web/20110611160611/http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CHRG-111hrg11150222/pdf/CHRG-111hrg11150222.pdf>). Congress holds a hearing to consider granting members of the U.S. Armed Forces access to the Supreme Court of the United States.

List of chairmen

Chairman	Party	State	Years
Charles J. Ingersoll	Democratic-Republican	Pennsylvania	1813 – 1815
Hugh Nelson	Democratic-Republican	Virginia	1815 – 1819
John Sergeant	Democratic-Republican	Pennsylvania	1819 – 1822
Hugh Nelson	Democratic-Republican	Virginia	1822 – 1823
Daniel Webster	Federalist	Massachusetts	1823 – 1827
Philip P. Barbour	Democratic	Virginia	1827 – 1829
James Buchanan	Democratic	Pennsylvania	1829 – 1831
Warren R. Davis	Democratic	South Carolina	1831 – 1832
John Bell	Democratic	Tennessee	1832 – 1834
Thomas F. Foster	Whig	Georgia	1834 – 1835
Samuel Beardsley	Democratic	New York	1835 – 1836
Francis Thomas	Democratic	Maryland	1836 – 1839
John Sergeant	Whig	Pennsylvania	1839 – 1841
Daniel D. Barnard	Whig	New York	1841 – 1843
William Wilkins	Democratic	Pennsylvania	1843 – 1844
Romulus M. Saunders	Democratic	North Carolina	1844 – 1845
George O. Rathbun	Democratic	New York	1845 – 1847
Joseph R. Ingersoll	Whig	Pennsylvania	1847 – 1849
James Thompson	Democratic	Pennsylvania	1849 – 1851
James X. McLanahan	Democratic	Pennsylvania	1851 – 1853
Frederick P. Stanton	Democratic	Tennessee	1853 – 1855

George A. Simmons	Whig & Republican	New York	1855 – 1857
George S. Houston	Democratic	Alabama	1857 – 1859
John Hickman	Republican	Pennsylvania	1859 – 1863
James F. Wilson	Republican	Iowa	1863 – 1869
John A. Bingham	Republican	Ohio	1869 – 1873
Benjamin F. Butler	Republican	Massachusetts	1873 – 1875
James P. Knott	Democratic	Kentucky	1875 – 1881
Thomas Brackett Reed	Republican	Maine	1881 – 1883
John R. Tucker	Democratic	Virginia	1883 – 1887
David B. Culberson	Democratic	Texas	1887 – 1889
Ezra B. Taylor	Republican	Ohio	1889 – 1891
David B. Culberson	Democratic	Texas	1891 – 1895
David B. Henderson	Republican	Iowa	1895 – 1899
George W. Ray	Republican	New York	1899 – 1903
John J. Jenkins	Republican	Wisconsin	1903 – 1909
Richard W. Parker	Republican	New Jersey	1909 – 1911
Henry De Lamar Clayton	Democratic	Alabama	1911 – 1914
Edwin Y. Webb	Democratic	North Carolina	1914 – 1919
Andrew J. Volstead	Republican	Minnesota	1919 – 1923
George S. Graham	Republican	Pennsylvania	1923 – 1931
Hatton W. Sumners	Democratic	Texas	1931 – 1947

Earl C. Michener	Republican	Michigan	1947 – 1949
Emanuel Celler	Democratic	New York	1949 – 1953
Chauncey W. Reed	Republican	Illinois	1953 – 1955
Emanuel Celler	Democratic	New York	1955 – 1973
Peter W. Rodino Jr.	Democratic	New Jersey	1973 – 1989
Jack Brooks	Democratic	Texas	1989 – 1995
Henry Hyde	Republican	Illinois	1995 – 2001
Jim Sensenbrenner	Republican	Wisconsin	2001 – 2007
John Conyers	Democratic	Michigan	2007 – 2011
Lamar Smith	Republican	Texas	2011 – 2013
Bob Goodlatte	Republican	Virginia	2013 – 2019
Jerrold Nadler	Democratic	New York	2019 – present

See also

- List of United States House committees
- United States congressional committee
- United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
- List of current United States House of Representatives committees

References

1. Estepa, Jessica (November 29, 2017). "Rep. Jerrold Nadler takes over as top Democrat on House Judiciary" (<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/11/29/rep-jerrold-nadler-takes-over-top-democrat-house-judiciary/907341001/>). *USA Today*. Retrieved December 5, 2017.
2. https://history.house.gov/Historical-Highlights/1800-1850/The-creation-of-the-Judiciary-Comm-1813_June_1/
3. Wilkinson, Tracy (November 26, 2017). "Rep. John Conyers quits House committee post amid sexual harassment probe" (<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-pol-sexual-misconduct-politics-20171126-story.html>). *Los Angeles Times*. Los Angeles. Retrieved November 26, 2017.
4. Bachus news release Dec. 19

5. "Collins Announces Ranking Members for House Judiciary Subcommittees" (<https://republicans-judiciary.house.gov/press-release/collins-announces-ranking-members-for-house-judiciary-subcommittees/>). *House Judiciary Committee*. Retrieved January 26, 2019.
6. Judiciary Task Force on Antitrust (<http://judiciary.house.gov/committeestructure.aspx?committee=2>)
7. House Antitrust Task Force (<http://www.antitrustreview.com/archives/864>), Antitrust Review.com (<http://www.antitrustreview.com/>)
8. Anti-Trust Panel to Examine XM-Sirius Merger (<http://judiciary.house.gov/newscenter.aspx?A=770>) United States House Committee on the Judiciary Press Release, February 27, 2007
9. Rules of the House of Representatives (<http://rules.house.gov/ruleprec/110th.pdf>), Rule X(b)(C), Page 12
10. "House Judiciary Committee Announces Retention of Alan Baron to Lead Inquiry into Possible Impeachment of Judge Porteous" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20090625193327/http://judiciary.house.gov/news/081015.html>) (Press release). U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary. October 2, 2008. Archived from the original (<http://judiciary.house.gov/news/081015.html>) on June 25, 2009. Retrieved June 27, 2009.
11. "House panel moves toward impeaching a judge" (https://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2008-09-17-202675980_x.htm). *Associated Press*. September 18, 2008. Retrieved June 27, 2009.
12. Conyers, John Jr. (January 6, 2009). "H. Res. 15: Authorizing and directing the Committee on the Judiciary to inquire whether the House should impeach G. Thomas Porteous, a judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana" (<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.111hres15>). United States House of Representatives. Retrieved June 27, 2009.
13. Conyers, John Jr. (May 29, 2009). "H. Res. 424: Authorizing and directing the Committee on the Judiciary to inquire whether the House should impeach Samuel B. Kent, a judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas" (<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.111hres424>). United States House of Representatives. Retrieved June 27, 2009.
14. "Victims allege years of sexual misconduct by federal judge" (<http://www.cnn.com/2009/POLITICS/06/03/judge.impeachment/index.html>). CNN. June 3, 2009. Retrieved June 27, 2009.
15. Powell, Stewart (June 19, 2009). "U.S. House impeaches Kent" (<http://www.chron.com/dispatch/story.mpl/front/6488310.html>). *Houston Chronicle*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20090621075620/http://www.chron.com/dispatch/story.mpl/front/6488310.html>) from the original on June 21, 2009. Retrieved June 27, 2009. "In action so rare it has been carried out only 14 times since 1803, the House on Friday impeached a federal judge — imprisoned U.S. District Court Judge Samuel B. Kent..."

External links

- Committee on the Judiciary website (<http://judiciary.house.gov/>) (Archive (<https://www.loc.gov/item/lcwa00hsju00/>))
- House Judiciary Committee (<https://www.congress.gov/committee/house-judiciary/hsju00>). Legislation activity and reports, Congress.gov.
- Congressional Directory (<https://web.archive.org/web/20110812141614/http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cdirectory/browse.html>) including lists of past memberships
- House Document No. 109-153, A History of the Committee on the Judiciary 1813–2006 (<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/GPO-CDOC-109hdoc153/content-detail.html>)
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