

# LEGAL CLIMATE



## KEY FINDINGS:

- *The 2024 Scorecard's* Legal Climate includes new variables this year that better reflect the economic costs of each state's tort system and the "plaintiff friendliness" of state court systems.
- At **34th nationally**, Oklahoma's Legal Climate ranks in the bottom half of states.
- Oklahoma's ranking is held back by its scores on the quality of its trial and appellate judges. **Oklahoma ranks 25th in Quality of Appellate Courts, 30th in Trial Judge Impartiality, and 31st in Trial Judge Competence.**
- Oklahoma experiences a "tort tax" of approximately **\$1,034.13** per person, below the national average, but a higher share of state GDP than most states.
- Oklahoma's appellate courts have consistently struck down or undermined legislatively enacted tort reform, including a cap on noneconomic damages nearly a decade after it was enacted, which has fueled the state's slide in national legal climate rankings.
- Oklahoma ranks as the **22nd most plaintiff friendly state** in the country in the Cato Institute's *States Lawsuit Abuse Index*.



## REGION

State	Regional Rank	National Rank
Colorado	1	5
New Mexico	2	16
Kansas	3	18
Arkansas	4	20
<b>Oklahoma</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>34</b>
Texas	6	36
Missouri	7	44

## PEER STATES

State	Peer Rank	National Rank
Colorado	1	5
Utah	2	15
Iowa	3	17
Kansas	4	18
Wisconsin	5	19
Arkansas	6	20
Nevada	7	22
Tennessee	8	27
Indiana	9	28
<b>Oklahoma</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>34</b>
Mississippi	11	40
Kentucky	12	41
Missouri	13	44
Alabama	14	46

## NATION

HIGHLY COMPETITIVE →

1. Alaska
2. North Dakota
3. Delaware
4. Wyoming
5. Colorado
6. Maine
7. Connecticut
8. Hawaii
9. Oregon
10. Montana
11. Nebraska
12. South Dakota
13. Arizona
14. North Carolina
15. Utah
16. New Mexico
17. Iowa
18. Kansas
19. Wisconsin
20. Arkansas
21. Vermont
22. Nevada
23. Rhode Island
24. Michigan
25. Maryland
26. New Hampshire
27. Tennessee
28. Indiana
29. Virginia
30. Idaho
31. South Carolina
32. Ohio
33. Massachusetts
- 34. Oklahoma**
35. Minnesota
36. Texas
37. Washington
38. New Jersey
39. Georgia
40. Mississippi
41. Kentucky
42. Pennsylvania
43. New York
44. Missouri
45. West Virginia
46. Alabama
47. California
48. Florida
49. Louisiana
50. Illinois

