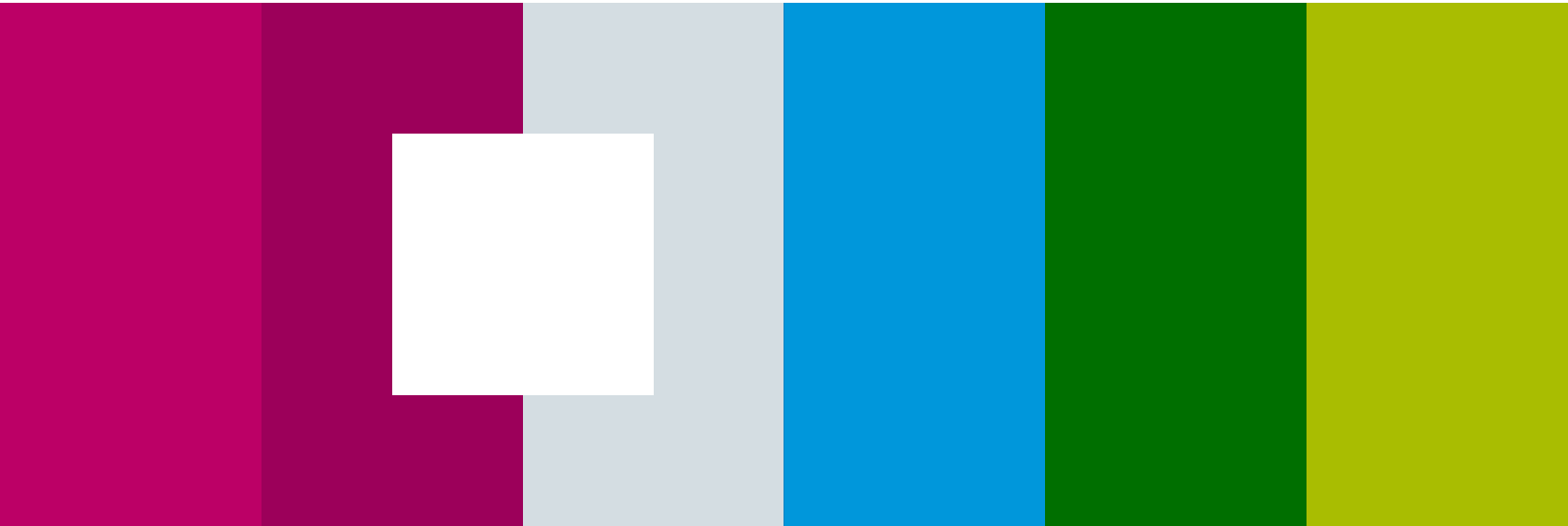


Reform of the judicial map



On the 1st of January 2013, the Netherlands Judiciary reformed its judicial map. Seeing as the previous map dated from the times of Napoleon, it was necessary to update the map in order to meet the needs of society in the 21st century. Quality, specialisation and a reduction in vulnerability are generally shared, and increasingly urgently required, goals. This large-scale reform is seen as a necessary step towards realising the vision for the Judiciary and guaranteeing the quality of justice in the future. Furthermore, it will lead to a more intensified collaboration between the courts.

The demands of society on the Judiciary are increasing. This can be explained by increasing differentiation in cases, increasing knowledge intensity and increasing demands on quality of justice. Supporting services in the courts were often inefficient and sometimes not good enough due to small scale. Small scale also often led to problems regarding availability of judges in case of illness or pregnancy leave. Enlarging the courts enables more specialisation, which in turn will make it possible to maintain small-scale working communities. Before the reform, court boards consisted of too many members and there were often too little resources to govern with. Diminishing the number of board members will make the decision making process more efficient and effective.

The reform of the judicial map demands a drastic change in organisation and working methods within the courts, but this will ultimately result in higher quality, better continuity and higher efficiency of case handling.

What does the new judicial map look like?

- From 19 to 11 district courts
- From 5 to 4 courts of appeal
- From 19 to 11 court boards

The last point implies a decline in the number of board members, from 95 to 33. Every court board now consists of three members: two judges and one non-judicial member. The president of the board is always a judge, the other judge functions as vice-president.

The Judiciary has determined which cases are handled where, which locations will have an office and where the board will have its seat.

Important considerations in choosing the locations for the courts were the need to have courts in the eleven largest cities in the Netherlands, the need to keep the main locations open and the distance between the courts, which should be at least 15 km.

Judicial map of the Netherlands

Court of appeal Amsterdam
jurisdiction area
1 district Amsterdam
2 district Noord-Holland

Court of appeal Arnhem-Leeuwarden
jurisdiction area
3 district Gelderland
4 district Midden-Nederland
5 district Noord-Nederland
6 district Overijssel

Court of appeal The Hague
jurisdiction area
7 district The Hague
8 district Rotterdam

Court of appeal 's-Hertogenbosch
jurisdiction area
9 district Limburg
10 district Oost-Brabant
11 district Zeeland-West-Brabant

— Court of appeal
jurisdiction boundary
— District boundary



Status on 1 April 2013

Judicial map of the Netherlands

Status on 1 April 2010

○ Court of Appeal or special administrative law tribunal
■ District Court
— District boundary



Status on 1 April 2010