

Sanhedrin (Court) Composition

Ref: *Sefer Shoftim, Hilchot Sanhedrin, Chapter 1*

Reminder:

Pack on *Eretz Yisrael*
Pack on *Nasi*



BET DIN (COURTS)



To appoint judges (*shoftim*) and enforcement officers (*shotrim*).¹

We are obligated to set up *Bet Din* (Courts) in every region of *Eretz Yisrael*.

These Courts act to bring to justice people who have been acting badly.

HIERARCHY

- *Sanhedrin Hagadol* (Supreme Court) 71 judges. Situated in Outer Chamber of Chamber of Hewn Stone in the *Azarah*.

Reminder:

Pack on *Bet Habechirah*



- *Nasi* (The Head) – highest level of knowledge
- *Av Bet Din* (Assistant) – next in knowledge to *Nasi*
- 69 judges (besides above 2) – seated according to age and stature in semi circles so that *Nasi* and *Av Bet Din* can see them all
- 2 Scribes one records plaintiff and one records defendant
- 2 small *Sanhedrin* in Temple – 23 judges
 - In woman's Courtyard before Gates of *Nikanor*
 - At entrance to *Chuldah* Gates on Temple Mount
- Small *Sanhedrin* at every city in *Eretz Yisrael*
- Population greater than 120 males – 23 judges
- Population less than 120 males – 3 judges

In addition, there are 3 rows of 23 *talmidei chachamim* (Torah scholars). Judge could order their participation if necessary.

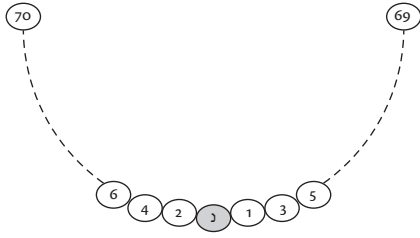
The judges need to be Sages of great knowledge. Otherwise the Courts cannot be set up.

The process of moving from Torah Scholar to judge is obtained through '*semichah*' (see chapter 4).

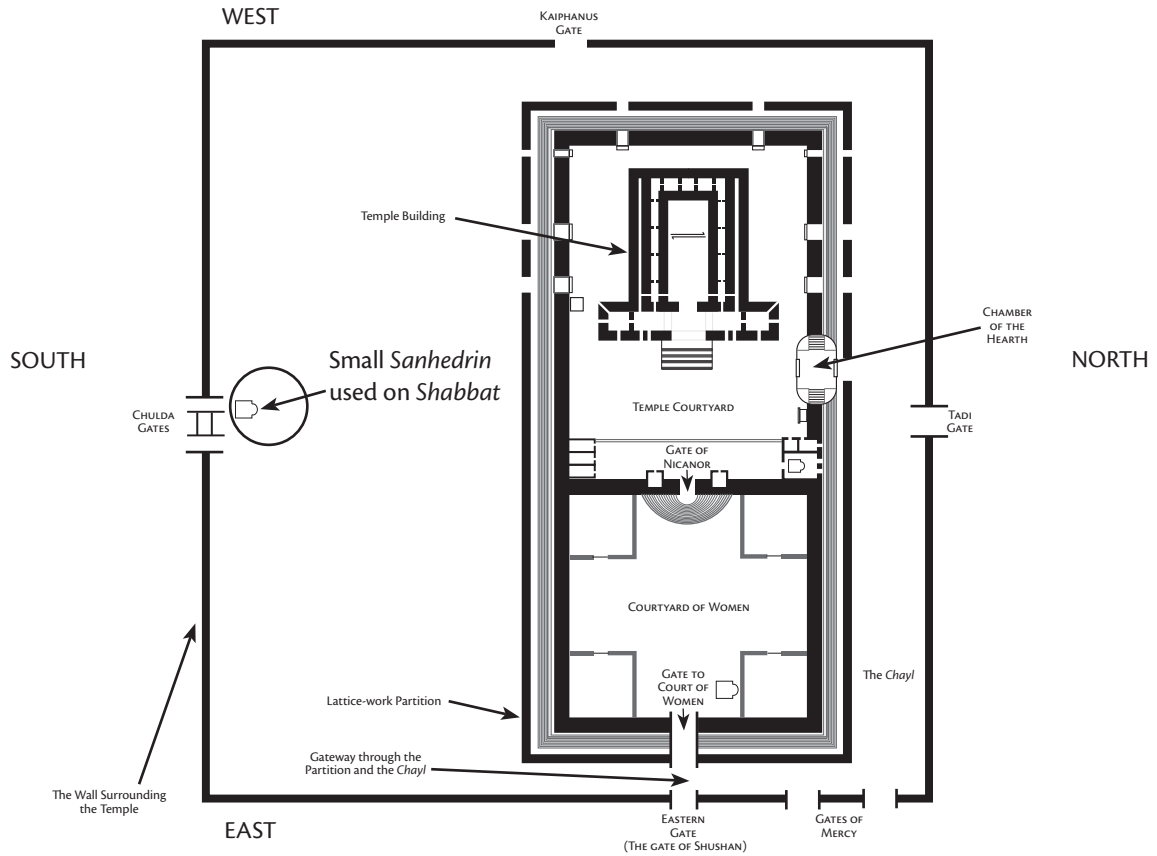
1 – *Nasi*

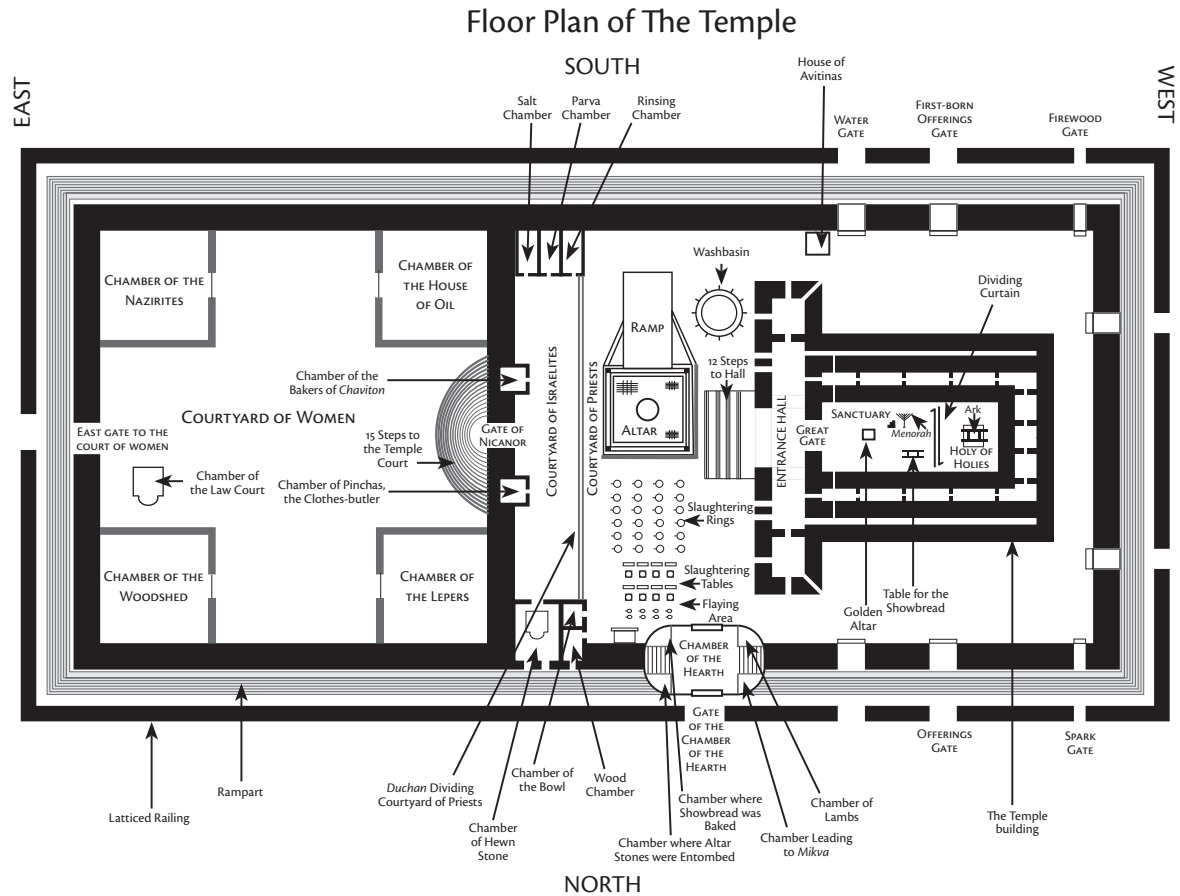
1 – *Av Bet Din*

69 remaining *Dayanim* arranged according to their level of intelligence



An Overview of The Temple Mount





Supreme *Sanhedrin* sat in the outer portion of the Chamber of Hewn Stone (unconsecrated) The inner portion was consecrated.