

## Chapter 14 - The Courts

What is **common law**?

What does it mean to use **precedent** to decide cases?

What is *Stare Decisis*?

What are three sources of American law?

What sources of law does **case law** use?

What does a **dual court** system mean?

What does jurisdiction mean?

What causes a case to be a federal question?

Why does the federal government often take jurisdiction when there is a **diversity of citizenship**?

What does it mean that **trial courts** take cases **of general jurisdiction**?

What are some examples of **limited jurisdiction** courts?

What role do **appellate courts** play in our system?

What is the highest court in our three-tiered model?

When would the Supreme Court exercise **original jurisdiction**?

What is the FISA court used for?

What are **amicus curiae briefs**?

What are several of the factors influencing whether the Supreme Court will hear a case?

What is a **writ of certiorari**?

What is the **Rule of Four**?

What happens during oral arguments?

Define the following legal terms:

- Opinion

- Affirmed
- Reversed
- Remanded
- Unanimous opinion
- Majority opinion
- Concurring opinion
- Dissenting opinion

Who appoints federal judges?

How long do judges hold their position?

In the past, who actually nominated federal judges?

What role does ideology play in the appointment of judges?

What role does the Senate play in judicial nominations?

What Supreme Court decision established the principle of **judicial review**?

What is the philosophy of **judicial activism**? Who exemplified this philosophy?

What is the philosophy of **judicial restraint**?

What is **strict constructionism**?

What is **broad constructionism**?

Give an example of a liberal court and an example of a conservative court.

How can the executive branch check the power of the courts?

How can the congress check the power of the courts?