



**There are two court systems:**

- 1. Federal Courts**
- 2. State Courts**

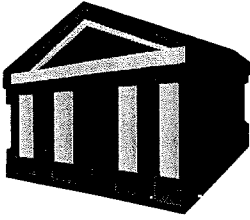


**Jurisdiction – the authority to hear a particular case – a range of authority of a court. Federal and State Courts have jurisdiction over certain cases.**

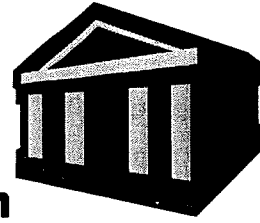
**Exclusive Jurisdiction – The authority of the federal courts alone to hear and rule in certain cases.**

**Concurrent Jurisdiction – The authority to hear cases shared by federal and state courts.**

# Source document



## The Federal Court System

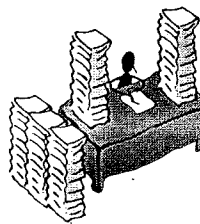


**What cases does the Federal court have exclusive jurisdiction over?**

- 1. The U.S. Government and its officials**
- 2. Foreign ambassadors, ministers, or consuls**
- 3. Cases between two or more states**
- 4. Citizens of different states**
- 5. Cases involving the Constitution**
- 6. Cases involving the laws and treaties of the U.S.**

## The Levels of the Federal Courts

- 1. Federal District Courts**
- 2. Court of Appeals**
- 3. Supreme Court**



### 1. Federal District Courts

- **All federal cases begin in these courts**
- **Lowest level of the Federal Courts**
- **Hear 80% of all federal cases**

- **94 courts with one in at least each state**
- **The court may have between 2-28 judges**



## **2. Court of Appeals**

- **Second level of the Federal Court system**
- **If you lose your case at the District level you can appeal your case to this court.**
- **41,000 cases are heard at this level**
- **Divided into 11 circuits**
- **Each one has 4-22 judges**
- **3 judge panel hears a case**



## **3. Supreme Court**

- **Highest court in the land.**
- **They have original jurisdiction - Cases heard only by them. Usually they deal with federal questions such as conflicts between states and dealings with foreign ambassadors.**
- **They also have appellate jurisdiction - Cases that they may hear from a lower court.**

- **If you lose in the lower courts you may appeal to the Supreme Court. You may also appeal from a state supreme court**



- **10 million cases a year in America, 5,000 are appealed, and the Supreme Court takes up only 150.**

## **Other Federal Courts**

1. **Court of Military Appeals**



2. **Court of International Trade**



3. **The United States Claims Court**

4. **The courts of the District of Columbia**

5. **The Territorial Courts**

6. **Court of Veteran Appeals**



7. **The United States Tax Courts**





## **Federal Judges**

- **Appointed by the President and approved by the Senate**
- **Usually they are over the age of 43**
- **They usually have very impressive backgrounds in practicing law or working in the government.**



## **The State Courts**

- **Courts are established and structured differently. Usually follow this structure:**
  1. **General Trial Courts – Similar to Federal District Courts**
  2. **Courts of Appeals – Similar to the U.S. Court of Appeals**
  3. **State Supreme Court – Last stop at the state level. The Supreme Court can review decisions in these courts.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_



There are two court systems:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_



Jurisdiction – \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. Federal and State Courts have jurisdiction over certain cases.

\_\_\_\_\_ – The authority of the federal courts alone to hear and rule in certain cases.

Concurrent Jurisdiction – \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.



The Federal Court System



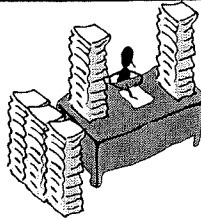
What cases does the Federal court have exclusive jurisdiction over?

1. The U.S. Government and its officials
2. Foreign ambassadors, ministers, or consuls
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Citizens of different states
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Cases involving the laws and treaties of

the U.S.

## The Levels of the Federal Courts

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



### 1. Federal District Courts

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- **Hear 80% of all federal cases**
- **94 courts with one in at least each state**
- **The court may have between 2-28 judges**



### 2. Court of Appeals

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- **41,000 cases are heard at this level**
- **Divided into 11 circuits**
- **Each one has 4-22 judges**
- **3 judge panel hears a case**



### 3. Supreme Court

- \_\_\_\_\_
- **They have** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Usually they deal with federal questions such as conflicts between states and dealings with foreign ambassadors.

- They also have \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. You may also appeal from a state supreme court



- 10 million cases a year in America, 5,000 are appealed, and the Supreme Court takes up only 150.

### Other Federal Courts

1. \_\_\_\_\_



2. Court of International Trade



3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. The courts of the District of Columbia

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Court of Veteran Appeals



7. \_\_\_\_\_



### Federal Judges

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- Usually they are over the age of 43



- They usually have very impressive backgrounds in practicing law or working in the government.



### **The State Courts**

- Courts are established and structured differently. Usually follow this structure:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ – Similar to Federal District Courts
2. \_\_\_\_\_ – Similar to the U.S. Court of Appeals
3. \_\_\_\_\_ – Last stop at the state level.  
The Supreme Court can review decisions in these courts.

Define:

1. Federal: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Jurisdiction: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Exclusive: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Concurrent: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Consul: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Circuit: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Panel: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Original: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Ambassador: \_\_\_\_\_
10. Appellate: \_\_\_\_\_
11. Territory: \_\_\_\_\_
12. Trial: \_\_\_\_\_
13. System: \_\_\_\_\_
14. Court: \_\_\_\_\_
15. Authority: \_\_\_\_\_
16. Minister: \_\_\_\_\_
17. Treaty: \_\_\_\_\_
18. Level: \_\_\_\_\_
19. Conflict: \_\_\_\_\_
20. Foreign: \_\_\_\_\_

Write two sentences from two different words above.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Date: \_\_\_\_\_

News Article Summary *on The Courts*

Who wrote the article: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of the Article: \_\_\_\_\_

When did the events in the article occur?

Where did the events occur?

List all that are named in the article with their titles if given:

What was the article about?

Why is this article important?

What did you learn from the article?