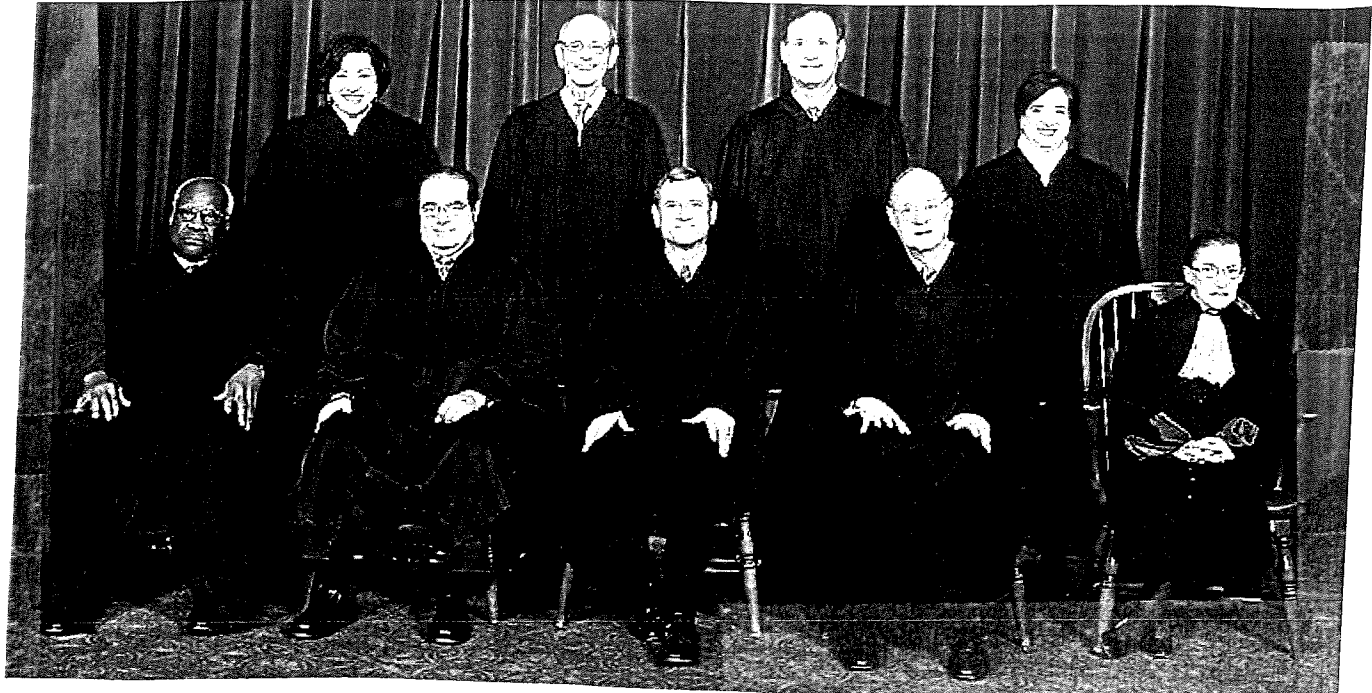


9-9-13



**Description English:** The United States Supreme Court, the highest court in the United States, in 2010. Top row (left to right): Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Associate Justice Stephen G. Breyer, Associate Justice Samuel A. Alito, and Associate Justice Elena Kagan. Bottom row (left to right): Associate Justice Clarence Thomas, Associate Justice Antonin Scalia, Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy, and Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

(A)

**U.S. Supreme Court**

Reviews decisions of lower federal courts.  
Reviews decisions of highest state courts if constitutional or federal law issue is involved.



**U.S. Courts of Appeals**

Review decisions (hear appeals) from U.S. district courts. There are 13 of these courts.



**U.S. District Courts**

Try cases involving federal crimes or civil suits.

## State courts

State courts try crimes committed in that state. A state court cannot try someone for breaking the law in another state.

State systems vary. The courts have different names in different states. But there are three or four levels of courts. There are two levels of trial court, and one or two appeals levels.

Here's how state systems look.

(B)

### U.S. Supreme Court

Hears appeals on constitutional issues.

### State Supreme Court or State Court of Appeals

Reviews decisions of lower courts. This can also be called the appellate court.

### Intermediate Appellate Court

Reviews decisions of lower court. Not all states have this level.

### Trial courts (superior court)

- DISTRICT, COUNTY, OR MUNICIPAL COURT  
*hears civil and criminal cases.*
- JUVENILE OR FAMILY COURT  
*hears domestic and juvenile cases.*
- PROBATE COURT  
*processes wills and estates.*

### Local courts

- MAGISTRATES COURT OR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE  
*hears minor criminal cases.*
- TRAFFIC OR POLICE COURT  
*hears minor traffic offenses.*
- SMALL CLAIMS  
*hears minor civil cases.*

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The Federal Court System:

1. Who is the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many members make up the U. S. Supreme Court? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is their term of office? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who is the newest member of the U. S. Supreme Court? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What court tries cases involving federal crimes? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How many U.S. Courts of Appeals are there? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What do the Courts of Appeals do? \_\_\_\_\_
8. When does the U.S. Supreme Court review decisions of the highest state courts? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. How many women are on the U.S. Supreme Court? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Name them: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. How many African Americans are on the U.S. Supreme Court? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What is his name? \_\_\_\_\_
13. What crimes do State courts try? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Are all state court systems the same? \_\_\_\_\_
15. How many levels of trial courts are there? \_\_\_\_\_
16. What court hears minor traffic offenses? \_\_\_\_\_
17. What court processes wills and estates? \_\_\_\_\_
18. What court hears minor criminal cases? \_\_\_\_\_
19. What court reviews decision of lower courts? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
20. What court hears civil and criminal cases? \_\_\_\_\_

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Define:

1. Chief: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Justice: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Term: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Federal: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Crime: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Court: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Review: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Appeal: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Civil: \_\_\_\_\_
10. Criminal: \_\_\_\_\_
11. Case: \_\_\_\_\_
12. Minor: \_\_\_\_\_
13. Estate: \_\_\_\_\_
14. Process: \_\_\_\_\_
15. System: \_\_\_\_\_
16. State: \_\_\_\_\_
17. Decision: \_\_\_\_\_
18. Level: \_\_\_\_\_
19. Magistrate: \_\_\_\_\_
20. Probate: \_\_\_\_\_