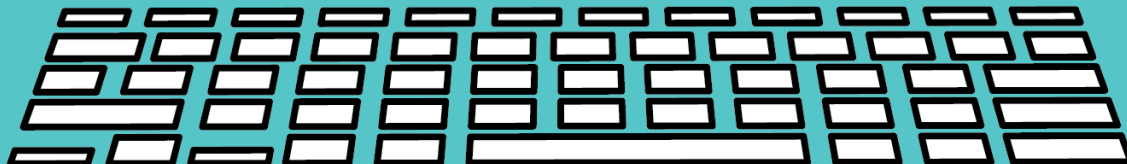


THE SUPREME COURT ONLY HEARS AN AVERAGE OF ONE HUNDRED CASES PER YEAR

Short Answer	Type Answer Here
1. Which Amendment guarantees the right to a trial by jury?	
2. How many District Courts are there in the U.S.?	
3. What word means that all of a jury agrees?	
4. The Supreme Court has how many Associate Justices?	
5. Who appoints judges to serve on federal courts?	
6. How many Chief Justices are on the Supreme Court?	
7. How many judges do Appeals Courts have?	
8. How many Courts of Appeals are there?	

Short Answer	Type Answer Here	Fill in the Blank	Type Answer Here
1. Which Amendment guarantees the right to a fair trial?		9. Federal judges serve for ____.	
2. How many District Courts are there in the U.S.?		10. The only court listed in the Constitution is the ____ Court.	
3. What word means that all of a jury agrees?		11. The main job of the Judicial Branch is to interpret the ____.	
4. The Supreme Court has how many Associate Justices?		12. A ____ means that a person has been accused of a crime.	
5. Who appoints judges to serve on federal courts?		13. The minimum age for jury duty is ____.	
6. How many Chief Justices are on the Supreme Court?		14. District Courts have ____ jurisdiction.	
7. How many judges do Appeals Courts have?		15. The job of the jury is to deliver a ____.	
8. How many Courts of Appeals are there?		16. ____ has the power to create lower courts.	



JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Judicial Branch is Article III of the United States Constitution. The main job of the Judicial Branch is to interpret the laws. The Judicial Branch is the federal court system and includes the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. District Courts, and U.S. Courts of Appeals. Judges are in an elected position. The president appoints judges, but they have to be approved by the Senate. Those presidential appointments must be approved by the Senate. Federal judges serve for life. The only way federal judges are replaced is if they retire, resign, die, or are impeached. Federal judges are not supposed to be influenced by distractions, like politics, or by lobbying. This ensures that the court is fair and impartial. This ensures that judges are not influenced by politics, campaign contributions, or lobbyists.

The Constitution guarantees the right to a fair trial and a trial with a lawyer before an unbiased jury. An unbiased jury of peers means that the jurors are fair and random. Jurors will be chosen from different races, ages, genders, jobs, religions, and backgrounds. The jury will decide if there is enough evidence to find the person guilty or not guilty of a crime.

The only court listed in the United States Constitution is the Supreme Court. Congress has the power to create lower courts. Each state has its own court system. Sometimes a case may start in a lower state court and work its way up to a higher federal court.

The Sixth Amendment guarantees the right to a trial by jury. A jury is mandatory for a criminal case in which the defendant may serve more than six months in jail. Juries are optional for a civil case. A criminal case means that a person has been accused of a crime. A civil case is when two or more parties settle a dispute in court.

People may be randomly chosen for jury duty if they are eighteen years old, a U.S. citizen, and can understand English. If chosen, the potential juror will receive a jury summons in the mail letting them know the date, time and place of the pending case. The job of the jury is to deliver a verdict. Many times the jury's decision must be unanimous, meaning that all of them agree. Jurors determine guilt or innocence based on evidence presented during the case.

The lower federal courts are the U.S. District Courts and U.S. Appeals

Courts. There are ninety four District Courts spread out around the United States. Above the District Courts are thirteen Courts of Appeals or Appellate Circuit Courts.

District Courts are similar to state courts. They hear civil and criminal trials, there is one judge and a jury. District Courts must take every case sent to it. District Courts have original jurisdiction which means that they get to hear the case first, before any other federal courts.

Appeals Courts have three judges and do not use a jury. The job of the U.S. Appeals Court is to decide if the law was applied correctly in a lower trial court. They decide if the trial was fair, if a person received due process and if the Constitution was violated. A Court of Appeals hears challenges from a decision made in a lower District Court. There are thirteen circuits, or defined areas, which each have one Appellate Court. Appeals Courts have appellate jurisdiction which means they get to hear the case after the District Court.

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the United States. All decisions made are final. There are a total of nine judges, or justices, on the Supreme Court. There is one Chief Justice and eight Associate Justices. There are nine members of justices to prevent a tie decision. There is nothing in the U.S. Constitution about the number of Supreme Court Justices but there have been nine since 1869. The only constitutional requirement to become a Supreme Court Justice is "good behavior". There are no age requirements, no citizenship requirements and no education requirements. Once appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate, a justice serves a lifetime.

The role of the Supreme Court is to decide if a person's constitutional rights have been violated. The Supreme Court reviews cases that have been appealed from the lower courts. The Supreme Court does not review every case sent to it.



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