

CHAPTER

18

CHAPTER OUTLINE

The Federal Court System

2

Directions: Fill in the outline below. Filling in the blanks will help you as you read and study Chapter 18.

I. Section 1: The National Judiciary**A. Federal Courts**

1. The lack of a national court system under the _____ of _____ caused problems when each state _____ the rulings of the others.
2. Most legal cases in the country are heard in _____ courts.
3. There are two types of federal courts, called _____ courts and _____ courts.

B. Jurisdiction

1. _____ jurisdiction means that only a federal court may try a case.
2. When a case may be tried in either federal or state court, the courts have _____ jurisdiction.

C. Judges

1. Federal judges are appointed by the _____ with _____ consent.
2. A judge who interprets the law according to new values is said to practice judicial _____.
3. A judge who only considers precedent and what the law originally intended practices judicial _____.
4. _____ are justices who handle minor civil complaints and misdemeanor cases.
5. The term of constitutional court judges lasts for _____.

CHAPTER OUTLINE (continued)

The Federal Court System

2

II. Section 2: The Inferior Courts

A. District Courts

1. The district courts, the main courts in the federal court system, are the only federal courts to use a _____.
2. District courts have _____ jurisdiction.

B. The Courts of Appeals

1. The Courts of Appeals, or _____ courts, only hear cases on appeal from a lower court.
2. One _____ is assigned to each court of appeals.
3. In an appeal, several judges reach their decision by _____.

C. Court of International Trade

The _____ Court is a _____ court.

III. Section 3: The Supreme Court

A. Powers of the Court

1. Supreme Court decisions cannot be _____.
2. With the power of _____, the Court can affect the meaning of the _____.

B. Jurisdiction

The Supreme Court has _____ jurisdiction in most cases, and _____ jurisdiction in a few.

C. The Court at Work

1. There are _____ justices on the Supreme Court.

CHAPTER OUTLINE (continued)

The Federal Court System

2

2. In the _____ opinion, the Supreme Court explains why a decision was made.

IV. Section 4: The Special Courts

A. Courts Related to the Military

1. The Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces is a _____.
2. The Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims hears cases involving claims the VA has _____.
3. _____ are boards of five commissioned officers that hear cases involving suspected terrorists.

B. Other Special Courts

1. The Court of Federal Claims hears cases involving _____ against the government.
2. The judicial system for the District of Columbia includes a _____ and a _____ of _____.
3. The United States _____ hears appeals concerning the payment of _____.