

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Judicial Branch

What is the purpose of the Supreme Court?

At the top of the American judicial system is the Supreme Court. This court is made up of 8 Associate Justices and 1 Chief Justice. The President appoints these justices, but Congress must approve the appointments. Justices serve for life, this way there do not have any political pressure from the public to vote a certain way.

The main job of the Supreme Court is to decide if laws are constitutional or not, that is allowed by the Constitution or not. They serve as the nation's final court of appeals. That means they hear cases that have already been tried in lower courts. The Supreme Court hears and decides fewer than 100 cases a year.

The greatest power of the Supreme Court is the power to decide what the Constitution means.

1. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?

9 - 1 Chief Justice, 8 Associate Justices

2. How long is a justice's term and why?

For life - so they have no political pressure to vote a certain way

3. What is the main job of the Supreme Court?

Decide if laws are constitutional or not.

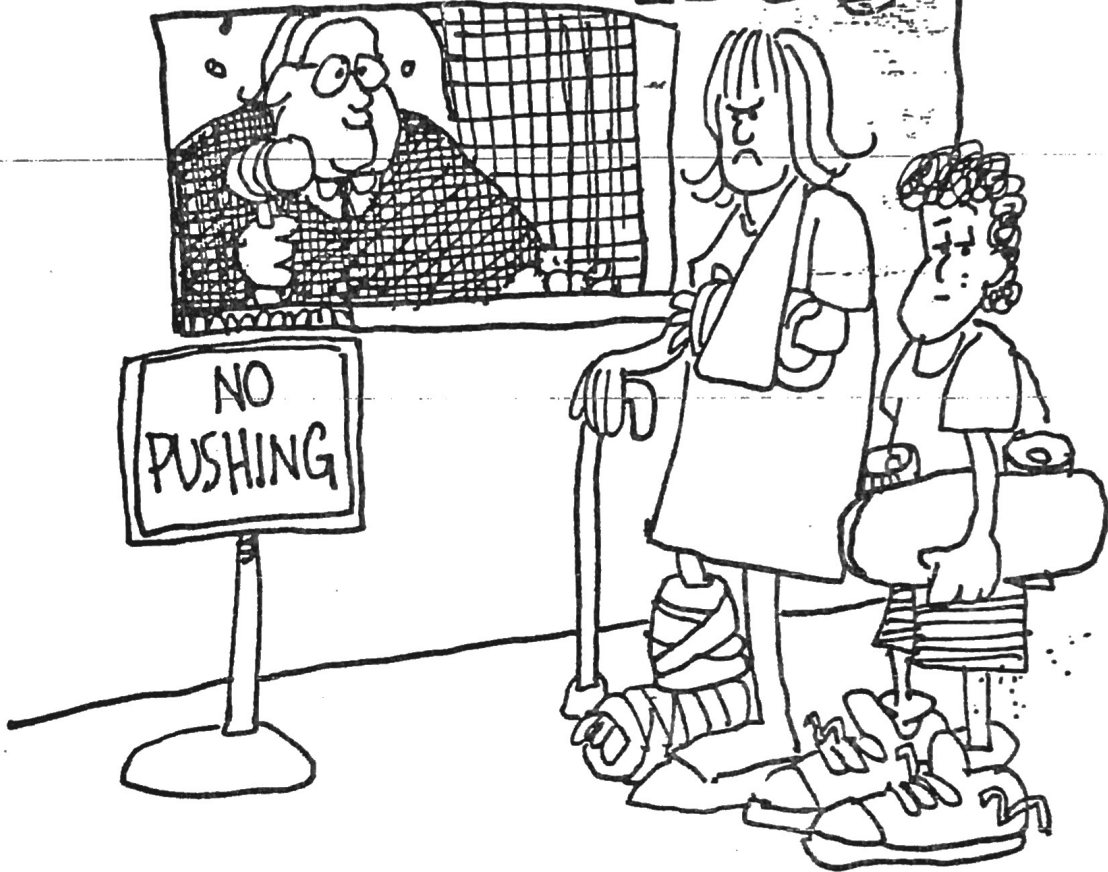
4. What does appeal mean?

Case must start in a lower court first.

5. What does *unconstitutional* mean?

Not written in the Constitution.

DISPUTES-R-US



What does this picture tell you about what the judicial branch does?