Political Dictionary

appellate jurisdiction (p. 509)
concurrence (p. 509)
civil case (p. 513)
civil tribunals (p. 513)
certificate (p. 521)
concurring opinion (p. 522)
dissenting opinion (p. 522)
jurisdiction (p. 508)
original jurisdiction (p. 509)
plaintiff (p. 508)
docket (p. 513)
 writ of certiorari (p. 520)
precedent (p. 520)
majority opinion (p. 520)
plaintiff (p. 508)
docket (p. 513)
writ of certiorari (p. 520)
Civil cases (p. 513)
civil tribunals (p. 513)
court martial (p. 520)

Practicing the Vocabulary

Fill in the Blank

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. D
5. E
6. F
7. G
8. H
9. I
10. J

Critical Thinking Skills

20. Face the Issues
On several occasions, courts in some States have ruled that capital punishment is unconstitutional. Do you believe courts have the right to decide this issue, or do you believe voters and the legislature should have the final say on capital punishment? Explain your reasoning.

31. Drawing Inferences
Why did the Framers create a system of appointing judges that required cooperation between the President and the Senate?

32. Making Decisions
Occasionally the Supreme Court refuses to hear a certain case, then later agrees to hear a very similar case. Why might the Court decide to hear the later case?

Analyzing Political Cartoons

Using your knowledge of American government and this cartoon, answer the questions below.

Participation Activities

35. Current Events Watch
Find news reports of a recent major decision by the Supreme Court. Form a mock panel of justices and use the news reports to deliberate on the case. When your panel reaches a decision, identify the most influential arguments and explain why your group agreed or disagreed with the Court.

36. Graphing Activity
Construct a time line that shows the dates on which each of the current justices of the Supreme Court was appointed and the several Presidents in office over that time span. How many Presidents have appeared on your time line? What conclusions can you draw from this?

37. It’s Your Turn
A justice of the Supreme Court has announced her retirement, giving you, the President, the opportunity to nominate someone to fill that seat. List five factors that might influence your choice of a nominee.

You Can Make a Difference

Investigative reporters looked into many different kinds of matters, from political scandals to questions of consumer health and safety. Probably you have seen their reports on television or in newspaper articles. Reporters often uncover issues that make people think “something should be done.” Identify a problem or issue involving people with whom you think are being treated unfairly. Write a proposal for an investigative report that would track down the truth about this case. In your proposal, clearly identify the issue. Explain what you expect to find out in your investigation. List the types of people and agencies, government or private, you plan to contact, and why. Write a concluding statement suggesting what type of court might hear a case resulting from your investigation.

Go Online

Access the Federal Court System online. As a final review, take the Magnuson’s Chapter 18 Self-Test and receive immediate feedback on your answers. The test consists of 30 multiple-choice questions designed to test your understanding of the chapter content.

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