Political Dictionary

inferior courts (p. 507)
jurisdiction (p. 508)
exclusive jurisdiction (p. 508)
concurrent jurisdiction (p. 508)
plaintiff (p. 509)
defendant (p. 509)
original jurisdiction (p. 509)
appealate jurisdiction (p. 509)
criminal case (p. 513)
civil case (p. 513)
docket (p. 513)
Writ of Certiorari (p. 520)
certificate (p. 521)
Majority opinion (p. 522)
precedent (p. 522)
concurring opinion (p. 522)
dissenting opinion (p. 522)
redress (p. 524)
civilian tribunal (p. 525)
court-martial (p. 525)

Practicing the Vocabulary

Matching Choose a term from the list above that best matches each description.

1. Jurisdiction shared by a State court and a federal court
2. A court made up of non-military judges
3. The Supreme Court's official decision of a case
4. A court's caseload
5. A person who initiated a lawsuit
6. An example to follow in similar cases in the future
7. A court of military personnel, used to try those accused of violating military law

Fill in the Blank Choose a term from the list above that best completes the sentence.

8. A ________ would be filed in a claim of patent infringement.
9. Satisfaction of a legal claim is called ________.
10. The Supreme Court issues a ________ when a case relates to the interpretation of law.
11. The Constitution left the creation of the ________ to Congress.
12. A Supreme Court justice may choose to write a ________ if he or she believes that a point in the Court’s opinion needs additional emphasis.

Reviewing Main Ideas

Section 1

13. Why did the Framers see a need for a national judiciary?
14. Identify two provisions that the Constitution makes regarding the federal courts and their jurisdictions.
15. Which courts hear most of the cases in this country, the State courts or the federal courts?
16. Describe the process by which most federal judges are nominated and approved.

Section 2

17. (a) What jurisdiction do the inferior courts have? (b) What kinds of cases do they hear?
18. When the Supreme Court's docket became overloaded in the late 1800s, what did Congress do to ease the burden?
19. In the federal judicial system, what is a circuit?
20. Where do most of the cases that reach the federal courts of appeals come from?
21. How does the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit differ from other federal courts of appeals?

Section 3

22. (a) Why is it so important for courts to have the power of judicial review? (b) What famous court case established the Supreme Court's right to exercise the power of judicial review?
23. (a) What kinds of jurisdiction does the Supreme Court have? (b) What kind of cases does it usually accept?
24. What is the “rule of four”?
25. If the Supreme Court decides not to hear a case, what then becomes the final result (decision) in that case?
26. Describe how oral arguments are presented before the Supreme Court.

Section 4

27. (a) Who creates the special courts? (b) Why have they been created?
28. Under what circumstances can an American citizen sue the United States?
29. What kind of claims are heard by the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims?