

Unit Learning Objectives

The Judicial Branch

(chapter 13)

Section 1

- 1) Describe the evolving role of the courts since the ratification of the Constitution
- 2) Explain why courts are uniquely situated to protect individual rights
- 3) Recognize how the courts make public policy

Section 2

- 4) Describe the dual court system and its three tiers
- 5) Explain how you are protected and governed by different U.S. court systems
- 6) Compare the positive and negative aspects of a dual court system

Section 3

- 7) Describe the differences between the U.S. district courts, circuit courts, and the Supreme Court
- 8) Explain the significance of precedent in the courts' operations
- 9) Describe how judges are selected for their positions

Section 4

- 10) Analyze the structure and important features of the Supreme Court
- 11) Explain how the Supreme Court selects cases to hear
- 12) Discuss the Supreme Court's processes and procedures

Section 5

- 13) Describe how the Supreme Court decides cases and issues opinions
- 14) Identify the various influences on the Supreme Court
- 15) Explain how the judiciary is checked by the other branches of government