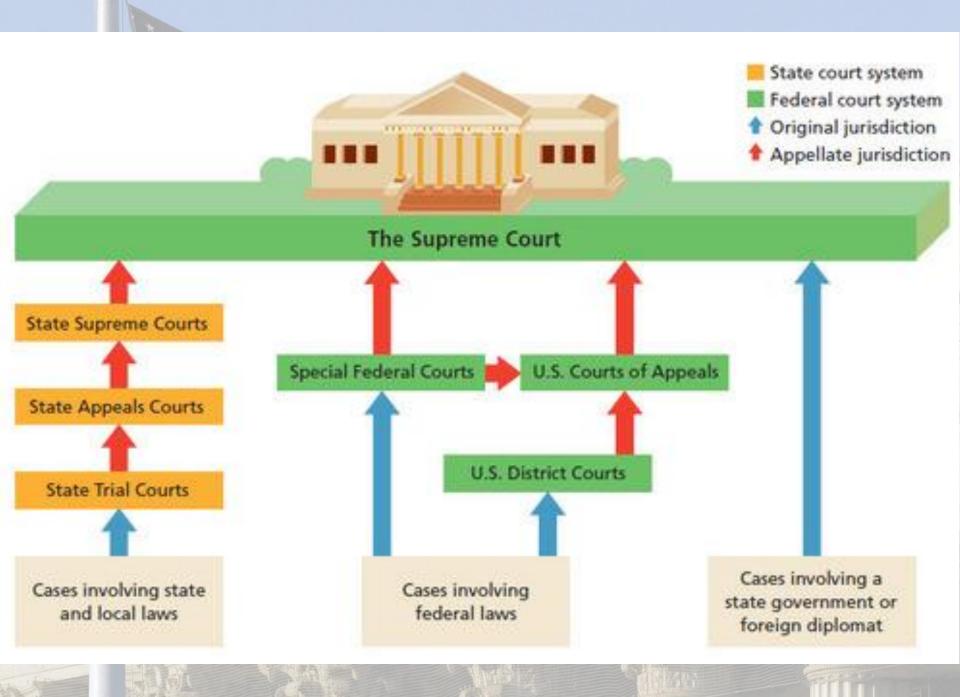
Cases Involving the Federal Court System

EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW



Federal Law Enforcement Agencies

-Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI): protect and defend the U.S. against terrorist and foreign intelligence threats, to uphold and enforce criminal laws, provide leadership and criminal justice services to federal, state, municipal, and international agencies and partners

-U.S. Secret Service: provides protection for public officials and investigates counterfeit money and financial crimes



OUR MISSION PRIORITIES:

- 1. Protect the U.S. from terrorist attack
- Protect the U.S. against foreign intelligence, espionage, and cyber operations
- 3. Combat significant cyber criminal activity
- 4. Combat public corruption at all levels
- 5. Protect civil rights
- 6. Combat transnational criminal enterprises
- 7. Combat significant white-collar crime
- Combat significant violent crime

OUR CORE VALUES:

Respect • Integrity • Accountability Leadership • Diversity • Compassion Fairness • Rigorous Obedience to the Constitution **DUR MISSION:** Protect the American People and Uphold the Constitution of the United States

DUR VISION: AHEAD OF THE THREAT



Cases Involving the U.S. Constitution

Federal, State -- or Both

Below are the types of cases only heard in federal or state courts. However, some legal disputes might be heard in federal *or* state courts, such as crimes punishable under both federal and state law, federal constitutional issues, class action cases and environmental regulations.

Federal Courts	State Courts
Crimes under laws enacted by the U.S. Congress	Crimes under state legislation.
Most cases involving federal laws or regulations including tax, Social Security, broadcasting and civil rights.	State constitutional issues and cases involving state laws or regulations.
Bankruptcy.	Real property.
Patent, copyright, and other intellectual property issues.	Probate and inheritance matters.
Securities and commodities regulation, including takeover of publicly held corporations.	Most private contract disputes (except those under bankruptcy law).
Interstate and international commerce, including airline and railroad regulation.	Family law issues including divorce and child custody.
Disputes between states.	Most professional malpractice issues.
International trade law matters as well as rights under treaties, foreign states and foreign nationals.	Most issues involving the regulation of trades and professions.
State law disputes when "diversity of citizenship" exists.	Most personal injury lawsuits and workers' injury claims.

Source: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts

-Example

If a person believes a constitutional right has been violated that person has the right to be heard in a federal court

(e.g. – Freedom of Speech)

Cases Involving Federal Law

Number of Offenders Sentenced for Federal Crimes in the U.S.



-Example

Federal/National Courts try people accused of federal crimes such as kidnapping, tax evasion, and counterfeiting

They will also hear civil cases involving federal/national laws

Cases Involving Maritime Laws

These laws concern crimes and accidents outside of territorial waters

-Example

A case involving disagreement over the rights of property recovered from a shipwreck



Federal, State -- or Both

Below are the types of cases only heard in federal or state courts. However, some legal disputes might be heard in federal *or* state courts, such as crimes punishable under both federal and state law, federal constitutional issues, class action cases and environmental regulations.

Federal Courts	State Courts
Crimes under laws enacted by the U.S. Congress	Crimes under state legislation.
Most cases involving federal laws or regulations including tax, Social Security, broadcasting and civil rights.	State constitutional issues and cases involving state laws or regulations.
Bankruptcy.	Real property.
Patent, copyright, and other intellectual property issues.	Probate and inheritance matters.
Securities and commodities regulation, including takeover of publicly held corporations.	Most private contract disputes (except those under bankruptcy law).
Interstate and international commerce, including airline and railroad regulation.	Family law issues including divorce and child custody.
Disputes between states.	Most professional malpractice issues.
International trade law matters as well as rights under treaties, foreign states and foreign nationals.	Most issues involving the regulation of trades and professions.
State law disputes when "diversity of citizenship" exists.	Most personal injury lawsuits and workers' injury claims.

Source: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts

Disputes Involving the Federal Government

Federal, State -- or Both

Below are the types of cases only heard in federal or state courts. However, some legal disputes might be heard in federal *or* state courts, such as crimes punishable under both federal and state law, federal constitutional issues, class action cases and environmental regulations.

Federal Courts	State Courts
Crimes under laws enacted by the U.S. Congress	Crimes under state legislation.
Most cases involving federal laws or regulations including tax, Social Security, broadcasting and civil rights.	State constitutional issues and cases involving state laws or regulations.
Bankruptcy.	Real property.
Patent, copyright, and other intellectual property issues.	Probate and inheritance matters.
Securities and commodities regulation, including takeover of publicly held corporations.	Most private contract disputes (except those under bankruptcy law).
Interstate and international commerce, including airline and railroad regulation.	Family law issues including divorce and child custody.
Disputes between states.	Most professional malpractice issues.
International trade law matters as well as rights under treaties, foreign states and foreign nationals.	Most issues involving the regulation of trades and professions.
State law disputes when "diversity of citizenship" exists.	Most personal injury lawsuits and workers' injury claims.

-Example

-The U.S. government could take a company to court for failing to live up to a contract to deliver supplies to a government agency or department

-You as an individual could also sue the government if you feel they have wronged you in some way

-There are also limits to when the government can be brought to suit

Cases Involving Controversies Between States

-Example

If Colorado and California disagree over rights to water regarding the Colorado River

Federal, State -- or Both

Below are the types of cases only heard in federal or state courts. However, some legal disputes might be heard in federal *or* state courts, such as crimes punishable under both federal and state law, federal constitutional issues, class action cases and environmental regulations.

Federal Courts	State Courts
Crimes under laws enacted by the U.S. Congress	Crimes under state legislation.
Most cases involving federal laws or regulations including tax, Social Security, broadcasting and civil rights.	State constitutional issues and cases involving state laws or regulations.
Bankruptcy.	Real property.
Patent, copyright, and other intellectual property issues.	Probate and inheritance matters.
Securities and commodities regulation, including takeover of publicly held corporations.	Most private contract disputes (except those under bankruptcy law).
Interstate and international commerce, including airline and railroad regulation.	Family law issues including divorce and child custody.
Disputes between states.	Most professional malpractice issues.
International trade law matters as well as rights under treaties, foreign states and foreign nationals.	Most issues involving the regulation of trades and professions.
State law disputes when "diversity of citizenship" exists.	Most personal injury lawsuits and workers' injury claims.

Source: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts

Disputes Between Citizens of Different States

Federal, State -- or Both

Below are the types of cases only heard in federal or state courts. However, some legal disputes might be heard in federal *or* state courts, such as crimes punishable under both federal and state law, federal constitutional issues, class action cases and environmental regulations.

Federal Courts	State Courts
Crimes under laws enacted by the U.S. Congress	Crimes under state legislation.
Most cases involving federal laws or regulations including tax, Social Security, broadcasting and civil rights.	State constitutional issues and cases involving state laws or regulations.
Bankruptcy.	Real property.
Patent, copyright, and other intellectual property issues.	Probate and inheritance matters.
Securities and commodities regulation, including takeover of publicly held corporations.	Most private contract disputes (except those under bankruptcy law).
Interstate and international commerce, including airline and railroad regulation.	Family law issues including divorce and child custody.
Disputes between states.	Most professional malpractice issues.
International trade law matters as well as rights under treaties, foreign states and foreign nationals.	Most issues involving the regulation of trades and professions.
State law disputes when "diversity of citizenship" exists.	Most personal injury lawsuits and workers' injury claims.

-Example

Ms. Jones of Maine may bring suit in a federal court against Mr. Smith of Iowa for not fulfilling his part of a business agreement

Source: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts

Disputes Involving Different Governments (Foreign Governments & Treaties)

-Example

Any dispute between a foreign government and the U.S. government, an American company, or an American citizen

-Issues involving treaties made under the authority of the U.S.



Cases Involving U.S. Officials in Foreign Nations (U.S. Diplomats)



-Example

-An American diplomat working in the U.S. embassy in France is accused of breaking an American law

-Cases involving ambassadors and other high-ranking public figures