

# US Constitution - Article III Terms - Judicial Branch

1. Judicial Branch The branch of government responsible for interpreting laws and administering justice.
2. Supreme Court The highest court in the United States, with the power of judicial review.
3. Federal Courts Courts established under the authority of the federal government to hear cases involving federal law and disputes between states.
4. Judges Individuals appointed to preside over legal proceedings and render judgments in court cases.
5. Jurisdiction The authority of a court to hear and decide cases within a defined area or subject matter.
6. Judicial Review The power of the courts to review the constitutionality of laws and government actions.
7. Original Jurisdiction The authority of a court to hear a case for the first time, as opposed to appellate jurisdiction.
8. Appellate Jurisdiction The authority of a court to review decisions made by lower courts on appeal.
9. Constitutionality The adherence of laws and government actions to the principles and provisions of the Constitution.
10. Marbury v. Madison Landmark Supreme Court case establishing the principle of judicial review.
11. Precedent A legal decision or ruling that serves as a guide or authority for future cases.
12. Judicial Activism The practice of judges interpreting the Constitution to address social and political issues, sometimes by expanding rights or overturning laws.
13. Judicial Restraint The philosophy of judges limiting their role to interpreting the law and deferring to elected officials on policy matters.
14. Chief Justice The presiding judge of the Supreme Court and the highest-ranking member of the judiciary.
15. District Courts The trial courts of the federal judicial system, with at least one in each state.
16. Circuit Courts Intermediate appellate courts in the federal judicial system, divided into geographic circuits.
17. Writ of Certiorari An order by the Supreme Court to review a lower court's decision.
18. Litigants Parties involved in a legal dispute or lawsuit.
19. Legal Precedent Previous court decisions that serve as a basis for deciding similar cases in the future.
20. Judicial Independence The principle that judges should be free from undue influence or pressure from other branches of government in making their decisions.