

Introduction to Law

Chapter 5 Notes

“The Courts and Their Roles”

Jurisdiction –

I. The Federal Court System

- the _____ provides for the establishment of a _____ and _____ courts as should be established by _____
- today the federal court system consists of _____ (_____ U.S. District Courts) and _____ courts (_____ U.S. Courts of Appeal) and the _____
- the judiciary serves two primary purposes => to _____ as it applies to specific circumstances and to _____ from laws or interpretations of law that violate the terms of the Constitution

A. Federal District Courts

Structure

- there are 94 separate districts throughout the U.S. with many _____ having more than one _____ district within their boundaries (each state has at least _____)
- the District Courts are named for the geographic region they serve

Function

- district court are courts of _____, or trial courts
- most _____ begin at this level and appeals may only be made to the designated U.S. Court of Appeals
- only hear cases where federal jurisdiction exists

Criminal => violation of federal law (_____)

Civil => dispute revolves around the _____ or _____ law

- also exists when the _____ is a party to the action or when the action is between residents of _____ and the amount of the dispute exceeds _____

B. Federal Appellate Courts

Structure

- 13 federal jurisdictions make up the _____ appellate level of the federal court system
- the United States is divided up into 12 appellate areas called _____ and one court exists to hear appeals to _____, _____, and _____ cases and from the specialized _____

- cases are typically heard by a _____

Function

- primarily a court with _____ jurisdiction

- designed to take the burden off of the _____ and to make appeals more _____ and _____ to the general population

- these courts do not have _____ over one another and answer only to the _____

C. The United States Supreme Court

Structure

- located in _____

- consists of _____ justices appointed to _____ by the _____ and confirmed by the _____

- each justice has an _____ when rendering decisions

Function

- essentially the _____ on the law of the United States

- exceptions are _____ and _____ of a prior position

- primarily an _____ court, but can have original _____

- the Court has _____ to review cases

- exercises this power in cases of _____ or in cases where the lower courts are in _____ regarding the law to be _____

