

COURT CASES

How a Case Happens

- ⦿ An actual dispute is required—you cannot file a case about a hypothetical issue (something that might happen someday)
- ⦿ The parties must have standing—there must be an actual injury to the party bringing the lawsuit

How a Case Gets to the Supreme Court of the United States

Usual steps:

- 1) Federal District Court hears a case and makes a decision—this is when a trial happens
- 2) Circuit Court of Appeals hears an appeal from the trial court on the basis that the trial court made a mistake
- 3) Supreme Court of the United States can possibly hear an appeal from the Court of Appeals

Supreme Court Building



Powers of the National Gov.

The hallway leading to the courtroom



The Courtroom



Supreme Court



Supreme Court Opinions

- ⦿ 9 Justices on the Court
- ⦿ A majority of 5 justices is necessary for a decision
- ⦿ Majority Opinion
 - announces the Court's Decision and the reasons for it
- ⦿ Concurring Justices
 - agrees with the decision, but not the reasons
- ⦿ Dissenting Justices
 - disagrees with the decision