

**AP United States Government  
Chapter 16 Study Guide – The Federal Courts**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Vocabulary:** On index cards, define the following terms.

- |                           |                             |                                   |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Standing to sue        | 9. Supreme Court            | 17. <i>Marbury v. Madison</i>     |
| 2. Class action suits     | 10. Senatorial courtesy     | 18. Judicial review               |
| 3. Justiciable disputes   | 11. Solicitor general       | 19. <i>United States v. Nixon</i> |
| 4. Amicus curiae briefs   | 12. Opinion                 | 20. Judicial restraint            |
| 5. Original jurisdiction  | 13. Stare decisis           | 21. Judicial activism             |
| 6. Appellate jurisdiction | 14. Precedent               | 22. Political questions           |
| 7. District courts        | 15. Judicial implementation | 23. Statutory construction        |
| 8. Courts of appeal       | 16. Original intent         |                                   |

**Questions:** Complete the following as you read chapter 16 in your textbook.

1. Explain the difference between criminal law and civil law.  
Criminal law:

Civil law:

2. List three regular participants in the judicial system other than judges.  
a.  
b.  
c.

3. What are the differences between constitutional courts and legislative courts?  
Constitutional courts:

Legislative courts:

4. Complete the following table on the structure of the federal judicial system.

Court	Number of courts	Number of judges	Jurisdiction	Policy implications
District Court				
Court of Appeal				
Supreme Court				

5. What is the role of a U.S. attorney?
  
6. Explain the practice of senatorial courtesy.
  
7. Name three conditions under which nominations to the Supreme Court are more likely to run into trouble.
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  
8. Present a demographic profile of the "typical" federal judge.
  
9. List six criteria that have been important in choosing Supreme Court justices over the years.
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.
  - f.
  
10. What are the functions of *amicus curiae* briefs?
  
  
11. What are the differences between a majority opinion, a dissenting opinion, and a concurring opinion?  
Majority opinion:  
  
Dissenting opinion:  
  
Concurring opinion:
  
  
12. What is the difference between *stare decisis* and precedent?  
*Stare decisis*:  
  
Precedent:

13. List and explain the three elements of judicial implementation according to Charles Johnson and Bradley Canon.

a.

b.

c.

14. Explain the principle of judicial review.

15. Complete the following table on public policy and the Supreme Court.

<b>Court</b>	<b>Basic ideology</b>	<b>Judicial restraint or judicial activism</b>	<b>Key cases</b>
Warren Court			
Burger Court			
Rehnquist Court			

16. In what ways might it be said that courts are not a very democratic institution?

17. Explain the difference between judicial activism and judicial restraint.

18. Give an example of political questions and statutory construction.  
Political question:

Statutory construction: