

SS.7.C.3.11

Diagram the
levels,
functions, and
powers of courts
at the state and
federal levels.



LEQ:
How is the
federal court
system shaped
by the rule of
law?

**The US
Supreme
Court**

Appellate Courts:
**US Courts of
Appeals**

Trial Courts:
US District Courts

Levels of the Courts: Federal System



Jurisdiction



The **authority** of different courts to **hear and decide cases**.

Two types: **Original** and **Appellate**

Original Jurisdiction- powers of a court to hear a case first

Appellate Jurisdiction- powers of a court to review decisions of a lower court; an appeal or “second opinion”

Federal vs. State Jurisdiction

Federal Courts

- Cases involving **constitutional law**
- Violations of **federal criminal law**
- Conflicts between states
- **Civil** disputes between people in different states
- Lawsuits involving the federal government
- Cases involving foreign governments or treaties
- Cases based on admiralty or maritime laws (on the ocean)
- Cases involving US diplomats

State Courts

- Cases involving the Florida Constitution
- Violations of **state criminal law**
- **Civil disputes** within the state of Florida

Federal Court System

US District Courts

Where federal cases begin-
original jurisdiction

94 courts nationwide

Trial courts for both
criminal and civil cases



Federal Court System

US Courts of Appeals

A **panel** of federal judges review the decision of a lower court

Only 13 courts in US have **appellate jurisdiction**

Decide if law was applied correctly and if trial was conducted fairly

Appeals judges can

- **Uphold** (agree)
- **Reverse**
- **Remand** (send back)



Federal Court System

US Supreme Court

Highest court in the United States
federal court system

Only court created by the US Constitution

- Article III.
- **Original jurisdiction** in rare cases
- **Appellate jurisdiction** in cases at final appeal
- **Writ of Certiorari**- an appeal to the Supreme Court to review a case



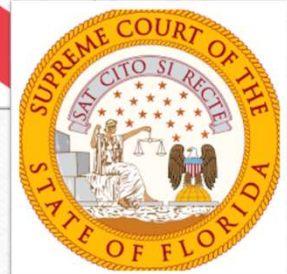
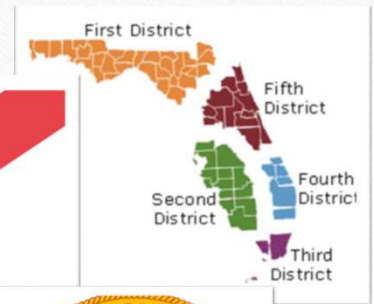
**The FL
Supreme
Court**

**Appellate Courts:
District Courts
of Appeals**

**Trial Courts:
FL Circuit
Courts**

**Trial Courts:
FL County Courts**

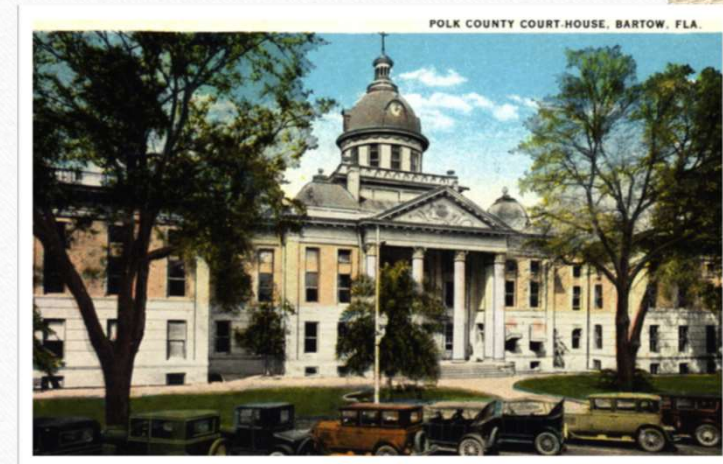
Levels of the Courts: State System- Florida



State Courts

County Courts

- Handle **misdemeanors and small civil cases**
 - Include traffic violations, disturbing the peace
 - **“The people’s courts”**-Civil cases involving no more than \$15,000
- Divided into traffic, juvenile, and small claims (civil cases involving minor amounts of money.)



State Courts

Circuit Courts

- 20 in Florida
- Handle **felonies** and **civil cases** involving large amounts of money.
- Ex. Murder, armed robbery, and drug cases.
- Trials may be held before a **jury**.
- **Writ of *habeas corpus***- a court order for police to bring the accused to a court and provide reason for detainment



State Courts

District Court of Appeals



- One in each of 5 districts
- An **appellate court** that reviews decisions made by the lower courts.
- No trials or juries
- Panel of judges decides cases based on majority vote

Florida Supreme Court

Highest court in Florida

Can supervise all Florida courts and have **appellate jurisdiction**

7 Justices

Makes decisions that are **final** for the whole state.

