

# Introduction to Law

## The American Legal System

# Article III, Section 1: The Federal Judiciary

The judicial Power of the United States shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

## Article III, Section 2: Powers of Federal Courts

The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority;—to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls;—to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;—to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party;—to Controversies between two or more States; — between a State and Citizens of another State — between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

## Limited Matters a Federal Court Can Adjudicate

- **Federal Questions:** Federal courts have jurisdiction to hear cases that raise federal questions, particularly those involving the federal government, the U.S. Constitution, or other federal laws.
- **Diversity Jurisdiction:** Federal courts also hear cases between residents of "diverse citizenship" wherein the issue in dispute meets the set dollar amount. These cases are often between residents of two states, and the amount in controversy is \$75,000 or more.
- **Treaties and Diplomats:** Particular cases that affect or could affect the U.S.'s standing with other countries, including cases addressing treaties with other countries. This includes cases involving ambassadors and public ministers in the U.S. and abroad.
- **U.S. Government Cases:** For example, if you wanted to sue the FBI, you would file suit in federal court, but if you wanted to sue your local sheriff, your state court would take that case.
- **Admiralty:** Cases that involve navigable water bodies in and around the U.S., including the oceans, rivers, and great lakes.

## *Appeals Panel Rejects Meadows's Request to Move Georgia Case to Federal Court*

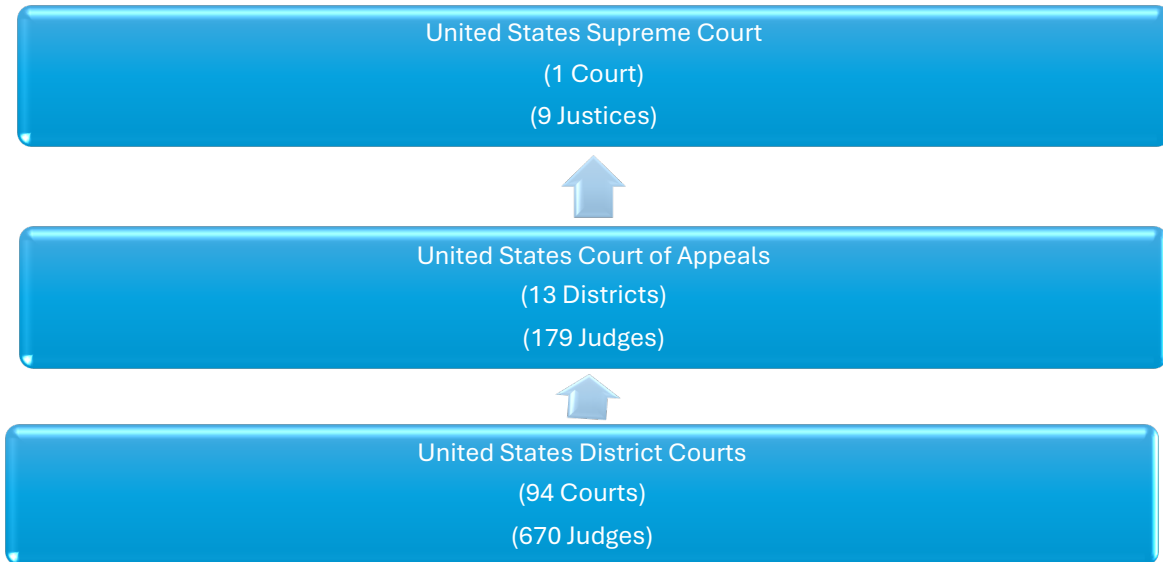
The judges unanimously ruled against Mark Meadows, a former White House chief of staff and a co-defendant of Donald J. Trump in the state election interference case.





*"And don't go whining to some higher court."*

# The Federal Court System



# 50 State Court Systems

New York State Uniform Court System  
(1220 Judges)

New York State Court of Appeals  
(7 Justices)



New York State Supreme Court Appellate Division  
(4 Districts)



New York State Supreme Court  
(62 Courts)



# Parallel Court Systems in the United States

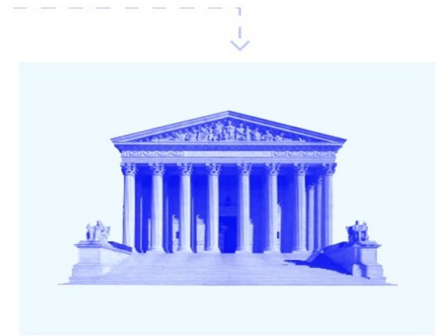
## Federal Courts



U.S. District Courts



U.S. Courts of Appeals



U.S. Supreme Court



## State Courts



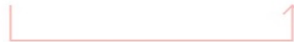
State Trial Courts



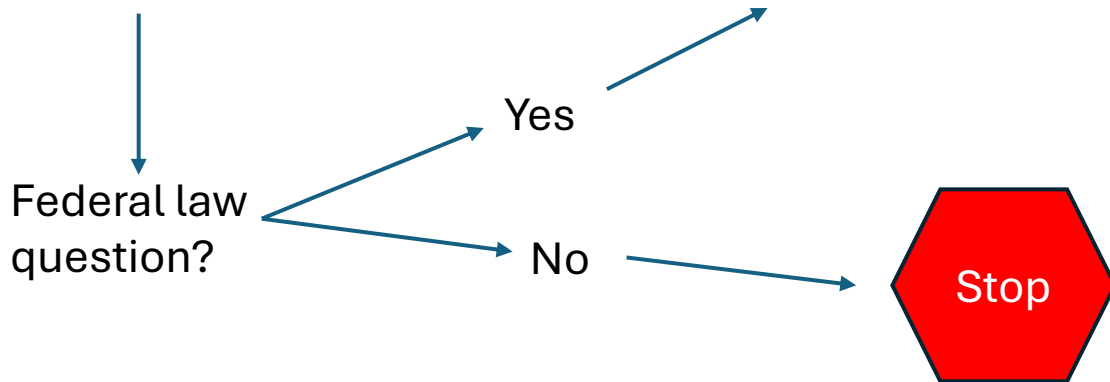
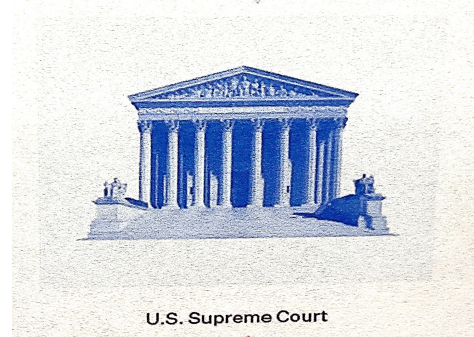
State Appellate Courts



State Supreme Courts



# Limited Right to Appeal from a State Court Ruling



# Federal Sovereignty

This Constitution, **and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof**; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, **shall be the supreme Law of the Land**; and **the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby**, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

# State Sovereignty

Power to make and enforce laws on all matters not specifically reserved to the Federal government under the Constitution

<https://www.findlaw.com/realestate/land-use-laws/select-state-laws-on-hunting-and-trespassing.html>

# The Hunter and the Farmer

<https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&p=bugdy+hackett+duck+joke+on+johnny+carson+show&type=E210US105G0#id=2&vid=d640bef390a79787776f6f62cf9019a&action=click>

# State Hunting Laws

<https://www.findlaw.com/realestate/land-use-laws/select-state-laws-on-hunting-and-trespassing.html>

## Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization U.S. Supreme Court (2022)

The Constitution makes no reference to abortion, and no such right is implicitly protected by any constitutional provision.

[It] follows that the States may regulate abortion for legitimate reasons, and when such regulations are challenged under the Constitution, courts cannot substitute their social and economic beliefs for the judgment of legislative bodies.

The Constitution does not confer a right to abortion; and the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives.

- Justice Samuel Alito

# North Dakota Constitution Permits Abortions

Outlook 2:33 PM Fri Sep 13

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LTE 65%

Done



## Judge overturns North Dakota's near-total abortion ban

The ban was the state's second attempt to block the procedure. But the judge ruled the state constitution gives women a "fundamental right to choose abortion."

 [Listen to article](#)





# North Dakota Decision

Pregnant women in North Dakota have a fundamental right to choose abortion before viability exists under the enumerated and unenumerated interests provided by the North Dakota Constitution

State District Judge Bruce Romanick

North Dakota South Central District Court

September 12, 2024

# Limited Right to Appeal from a State Court Ruling

