

THE ROBERT H. JACKSON CENTER



William Hubbs Rehnquist

William H. Rehnquist, Chief Justice of the United States, was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, October 1, 1924. He married Natalie Cornell, now deceased, and has three children—James, Janet and Nancy. From 1943-46 he served in the U.S. Army Air Forces. He received a B.A., M.A., and LL.B. from Stanford University and an M.A. from Harvard University. He served as a law clerk for Justice Robert H. Jackson of the Supreme Court of the United States during the 1951 and 1952 Terms, and practiced law in Phoenix, Arizona from 1953-69. He served as Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel from 1969-71. President Nixon nominated him to the Supreme Court and he took his seat as Associate Justice on January 7, 1972. Nominated as Chief Justice by President Reagan, he assumed that office on September 26, 1986.

Chief Justice Rehnquist is the author of *The Supreme Court, All the Laws But One: Civil Liberties in Wartime*, and *Grand Inquests: The Historic Impeachments of Justice Samuel Chase and President Andrew Johnson*. In 1999 he presided over the impeachment trial of President Clinton.

Robert Houghwout Jackson

Robert H. Jackson (1892-1954), former country lawyer from Jamestown, NY, Solicitor General of the United States, Attorney General of the United States, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, and Chief United States Prosecutor before the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg following World War II, lived the American dream. Through intelligence and hard work, he rose from a rural background to have a significant impact on national and world affairs.

After graduating from high school, Jackson never went to college. He worked as an apprentice to Jamestown lawyers, then spent a single year at Albany Law School, and then, after another apprentice year, passed the New York bar examination and became a lawyer at age 21. Jackson made his home in Jamestown and rose quickly in the legal profession, becoming a very successful attorney and a leader in local, state and regional bar associations. In 1934, Jackson was appointed by President Franklin Roosevelt as Assistant General Counsel in the Treasury Department's Bureau of Revenue. Seven years and four Department of Justice appointments later, FDR appointed Attorney General Jackson to the Supreme Court.

Jackson married Irene A. Gerhardt in 1916 and they had two children, William and Mary. Throughout his life, Jackson maintained close contact with Jamestown and with friends in Frewsburg, NY and Spring Creek, PA, where he grew up. He is buried at the Maple Grove Cemetery in Frewsburg.

Known for his eloquent Supreme Court opinions, articles and speeches, Jackson also wrote books, including *The Struggle for Judicial Supremacy* (1940), *The Supreme Court in the American System of Government* (1955), and *That Man: An Insider's Memoir of Franklin D. Roosevelt* (forthcoming, as edited by John Q. Barrett, in Fall 2003 from Oxford University Press).

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We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

-Preamble to the U.S. Constitution

The Constitution and Its Court

The U.S. Constitution is the central instrument of government and the "supreme law of the land". It is the oldest written Constitution in the world that is in force. It was written in 1787 in Philadelphia by the Constitutional Convention of the new American republic and was officially adopted in 1789. The objective of the writers was to outline the structure of a new, strong central government after the years of weakness resulting from the preexisting "Articles of Confederation" that had bound the colonies together since 1778.

The Constitution defines the structure and powers of the three branches of national government (legislative, executive, judicial) and its relationship to the States and the people. The basic principles of the Constitution are the same today as when it was written:

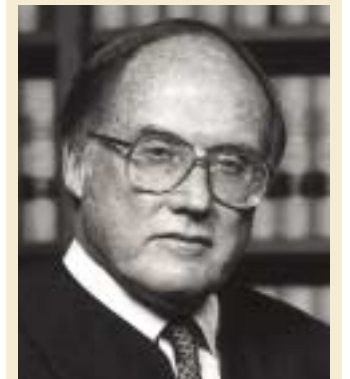
- 1 - the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of national government are separate and each is checked and balanced by the power of the other two,
- 2 - the Constitution is supreme,
- 3 - all persons are equal before the law, as are all states, and each state must respect the laws of others,
- 4 - the people can amend (change) the Constitution by the methods outlined within it.



Constitutional Convention
Philadelphia 1787



Robert H. Jackson
Justice, Supreme Court of
the United States



William H. Rehnquist
Chief Justice
of the United States

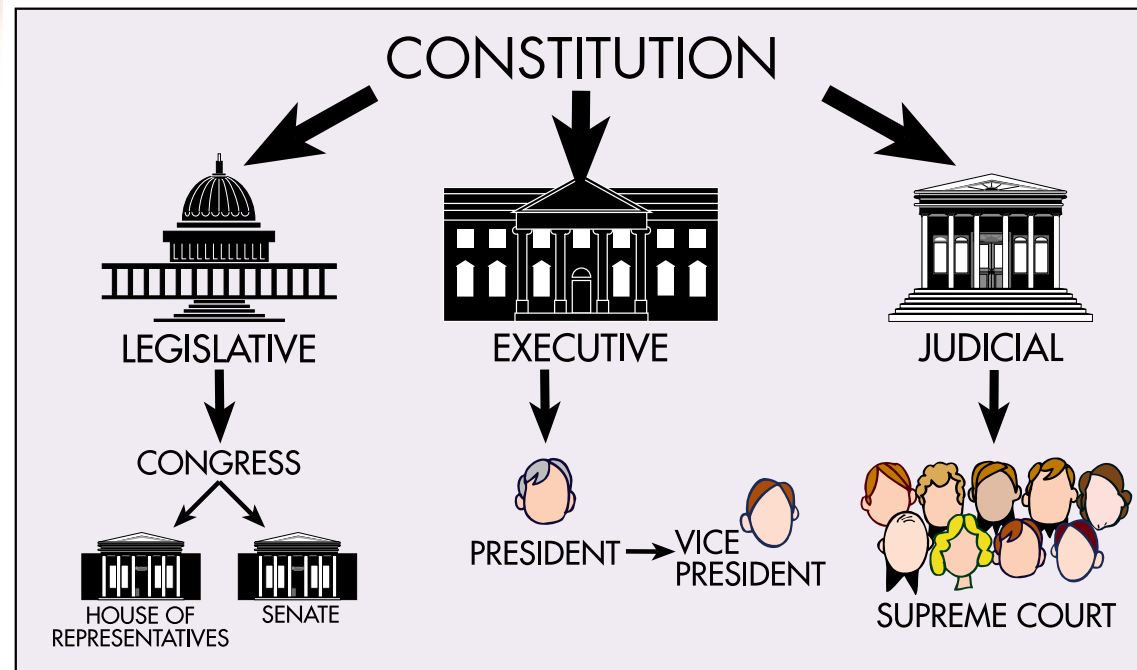
Honored Guest
Grand Opening
May 16, 2003
11 a.m.



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The Stone Court 1941 - 1946 The Vinson Court 1946 - 1953 The Warren Court 1953 - 1969 The Burger Court 1969 - 1986 The Rehnquist Court 1986 - Present

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We The People

Governmental power and functions in the United States rest in three branches of government: the legislative, executive, and judicial. The Constitution defines the legislative branch and vests (grants) power to make laws in the Congress of the United States. The Constitution defines the executive powers of the President and places judicial power in the hands of one Supreme Court and inferior courts as Congress sees necessary to establish.

Article I

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Article II

The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected [as provided herein.]

Article III

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 Behavior, and shall at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

The Bill of Rights

- 1 Freedom of Religion, Speech, Press, Assembly
- 2 Right to Bear Arms
- 3 No Forced Quartering of Soldiers
- 4 Search and Seizure
- 5 Trial, Punishment, Takings of Property
- 6 Right to Speedy Trial, Confrontation of Witnesses, Counsel
- 7 Trial By Jury in Civil Cases
- 8 No Cruel and Unusual Punishment
- 9 Rights Retained by the People
- 10 Powers Reserved to the States and the People

The Jay Court 1789 - 1795 The Rutledge Court 1795 The Ellsworth Court 1796 - 1800 The Marshall Court 1801 - 1835 The Taney Court 1836 - 1864

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The Supreme Court of the United States

The Supreme Court first assembled in February 1790. The Constitution did not define the exact duties and powers of the Supreme Court or the Judicial Branch; the Supreme Court assumed the power of judicial review (the power to declare acts of Congress unconstitutional) in the landmark case of *Marbury v. Madison* (1803). The Congress and the Justices of the Court have developed the Federal Judiciary and a body of Federal law. The first cases reached the Court in 1792.

The current Supreme Court consists of the Chief Justice of the United States and eight Associate Justices. The President has the power to nominate the Justices and appointments are made with the advice and consent of the Senate.

The Court's jurisdiction extends to all cases in law and equity under the Constitution, under the laws of the United States, and involving its treaties, ambassadors, public ministers, consuls and maritime cases. The Court also has jurisdiction over controversies between two or more States, between States and citizens of another State, between citizens in different states, and between citizens and foreign States, citizens or subjects.

The Term of the Court begins on the first Monday in October and lasts until the Court recesses, usually in the following summer. Approximately 7,000 petitions are filed with the Court per Term. 1,200 applications of various kinds are filed each year that can be acted upon by a single Justice.

How It Works

Most cases do not start in the Supreme Court. Usually cases are first brought in a lower state or federal court. Once the lower court makes a decision, if the losing party does not think that justice was served, that party may appeal the case, or bring it to a higher court. In the state court system, these higher courts are called appellate courts. In the federal court system, the lower courts are called United States District Courts and the higher courts are called United States Courts of Appeals.

If the appellate court's ruling disagrees with the lower court's ruling, the original decision is reversed. The losing party in the appellate court then may ask the Supreme Court to review the case. The Supreme Court generally has the discretion to choose the cases it will review.

The Chase Court 1864 - 1873 The Waite Court 1874 - 1888 The Fuller Court 1888 - 1910 The White Court 1910 - 1921 The Taft Court 1921 - 1930 The Hughes Court 1930 - 1941



Supreme Court Building

MEMBERS

Chief Justice of the United States
William H. Rehnquist

Associate Justices
John Paul Stevens
Sandra Day O'Connor
Antonin Scalia
Anthony M. Kennedy
David H. Souter
Clarence Thomas
Ruth Bader Ginsberg
Stephen C. Breyer

MAJOR DECISIONS

Marbury v. Madison (1803)
McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)
Dred Scott v. Sanford (1857)
Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)
Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (1954)
Baker v. Carr (1962)
Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)
Miranda v. Arizona (1966)
New York Times Co. v. United States (1971)
Roe v. Wade (1973)
United States v. Nixon (1974)
University of California Regents v. Bakke (1978)