

The United States has a separate court system whose jurisdiction is derived from the Constitution of the United States and federal laws.

Article III of the Constitution of the United States of America and federal laws identify the jurisdiction of the federal courts.

Types of jurisdiction

Exclusive jurisdiction: Certain cases, such as bankruptcy and federal crimes, can only be tried in federal courts.

Concurrent jurisdiction: Congress allows some cases to be tried in either federal or state courts (e.g., cases between citizens of different states).

Jurisdiction of regular federal courts

Supreme Court: Appellate and limited original

U. S. Court of Appeals: Appellate

U. S. District Courts: Original

The Supreme Court of the United States is the court of last resort. It hears appeals from state and special courts.

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the operation of the federal judiciary by a) explaining the jurisdiction of the federal courts.