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| TERM | DEFINITION |
| 1. Jurisdiction – The right of a court to hear a case. | Original- The power of a court to hear a case first, before any other  Exclusive – Power of the federal courts alone to hear certain cases.  Concurrent – Power shared by federal and State courts to hear certain cases.  Appellate – The authority of a court to review decisions of inferior (lower) courts |
| 1. Federal Courts | Courts established by Congress to hear constitutional issues and try those accused of breaking federal laws. |
| 1. District Courts | The trial court of the federal courts. This is the lowest court. |
| 1. Guilty verdict | A jury hears a case and decides the person did commit the crime. |
| 1. Sentencing | The punishment handed down by a judge when a person is found guilty of committing a crime. |
| 1. Capital Punishment | The death penalty |
| 1. Civil Suit | A case involving a noncriminal matter |
| 1. Appeals Courts | Have only appellate jurisdiction. They hear cases on appeal from lower courts. |
| 1. State Courts | Courts that try cases where a state law has been broken. |
| 1. U.S. Supreme Court | Highest court in the land. They hear cases involving violations of the Constitution. Mostly appellate jurisdiction. In rare cases they have original jurisdiction. |
| 1. John Marshall | Third Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court. Responsible for making the Judicial Branch an equal to the other two. |
| 1. Marbury v. Madison   Judicial Review | Case that established Judicial Review. Judicial Review allows the Supeme Court to review if law or act is unconstitutional. |
| 1. Due Process of Law | Part of the 14th Amendment which guarantees that no state deny basic rights to its people. |
| 1. Chief Justice | The head justice of the Supreme Court |
| 1. Associate justice | The eight Justices of the Supreme Court |
| 1. Docket | A courts list of cases to be heard |
| 1. Remand | Send a case back to a lower court to be retried. |
| 1. Majority Opinion | States why the court made the decision it did. It is written by one of the justices that voted in the majority. |
| 1. Concurring Opinion | States why a justice voted with the majority but for a different reason. |
| 1. Dissenting Opinion | States why a justice(s) voted against the majority. |
| 1. Judicial Activism | When the Supreme Court makes a decision that creates new law. The Justices take into account things other than the law for prior decisions. |
| 1. Judicial Restraint | When the Supreme Court Justices make a decision based only on the law and prior decisions. |
| 1. Crime | Breaking a law. |
| 1. Misdemeanors | A lessor offense, punishable by a small fine and/or a short jail term. (Less than one year) |
| 1. Felonies | Serious crime which may be punished by a heavy fine and/or imprisonment or even death |
| 1. Violent Crime | A crime causing harm or death to another. |
| 1. Property crime | A crime damaging property. |
| 1. Insanity Plea | An attempt to have the punishment of a person lessoned because they were not aware of what they were doing. |
| 1. Trial | When a person is accused and tried for breaking a law. |
| 1. Prosecutor | The person who tries to prove an accused person committed a crime. |
| 1. Arrest | When a person is seized by legal authority and charged with committing a crime. |
| 1. Preliminary Hearing | The first step in a criminal proceeding. The judge decides if there is enough evidence to hold the person for action by a grand jury or the prosecutor. |
| 1. Indictment | A formal complaint before a grand jury charging the accused with one or more crimes. |
| 1. Grand Jury | A jury that will decide if a case will go to trial or be dropped. |
| 1. Arraignment | The step in due process where a person will plead guilty or not guilty of a crime. This is done before bail is set. |
| 1. Acquittal | When after a trial a person is found not guilty. |