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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.  |