

WHY THERE ARE SO MANY WORDS IN A1

The framers originally intended for Congress to be the biggest branch, after all, they were lawmakers and democratically selected. They intended the Presidency to have some power but not as much as Congress. And then they were like “oh we need a final appeals court” so they created the judiciary branch and gave them the minimum amount of power needed to function.

In practice however, the Judiciary Branch has much more power than it was once supposed to have. This is touched more on in this history section.

BASIC

The Judicial Branch does not consist solely of the Supreme Court, however, we did create only the SC first and then built it up.

HISTORY + CURRENT COURT SYSTEMS

Before the Three Branches system, there was only one body, that being Congress. With the establishment of the Presidency and Congress (the real Congress), there came about A3 which established the Supreme Court. How they perceive such a need is unknown at the time, but it is probably related to checking and balances (“people are gonna sue each other and we’re gonna need a court for that”).

Specifically, A3 establishes one office (a/the Supreme Court) and one seat (the office of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court). All the other aspects (such as lower court systems) of the Supreme Court are established by Congress. This is why we have 9 justices (because Congress said so).

Now, we have Federal courts (up high) and State courts (local matters). States can create their own laws, draft their own legislatures and can thus handle their own local court systems. Different states have different organizations, but most of them have a low level trials court(s), multiple appellate courts and one supreme State court. These courts have jurisdiction over state matters. If you break state law, the state SC has the final say.

KEY TERMS

[[**SCOTUS** = Supreme Court of the United States]]

[[**jurisdiction** = “is it my business to be worrying about this and do i have power to execute such business?”]]

[[**appeal** = “i don’t like this outcome and am taking this to a higher power” “let me see your manager”]]

TYPES OF JURISDICTION

- original jurisdiction (“I am the first court who hears the information in a case, for example. if I got a speeding ticket I go to a municipal court.”). **A3 specifically mentions**

that you have to be an Ambassador OR a State in the Union in order for the SC to have jurisdiction.

- appellate jurisdiction ("Someone else heard this first and they're giving it to me."). **A3 does not specifically say this, however, Congress gave the SC the power to be the final "appeal", the final "manager" that people could appeal to. an example of this would be Brown v. B.o.E.**
- usually Congress is the one who decides where Congress has jurisdiction beyond what A3 says.