



Important Supreme Court Cases

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The role of The Supreme Court



Can be broken down into 3 main topics

- Interprets the Constitution
- Can protect, expand, or limit rights
- Judicial Review: Power to declare laws / actions Unconstitutional

What is a landmark case?

- A landmark case is a case that sets a major legal precedent (past court decision which is used as a guide for future cases)
- Changes or defines national laws or rights



Miranda v Arizona



1963

1963

1963

1965

1966

1966

March 13th

March 13th

June

All year

Feb 28th - Mar 1st

June 13th

23 year old Ernesto Miranda is arrested by Phoenix police for kidnapping and rape

Miranda confesses during a 2 hour police interrogation without being told his rights

Miranda is convicted based on his confession and is sentenced to 20-30 years

The Arizona courts upholds his conviction, rejecting unconstitutional claims

U.S. Supreme Court hears verbal arguments in Miranda v Arizona

The Court rules a 5-4 decision in favor of Miranda, creating the term *Miranda Rights*

Question

Do you think the Miranda decision protects justice for both the accused and the victim? And why.

Roe v Wade



1969

June

Norma McCorvey (Jane Roe) gets pregnant in Texas and is denied an abortion under state law

1970

March 3rd

Roe and her attorneys file a lawsuit against Dallas County DA Henry Wade

1970

June 17th

A Texas federal court rules the abortion law unconstitutional, but does not block enforcement

1971

December 13th

The Supreme Court first hears verbal arguments in Roe v Wade

1973

January 22nd

The court delivers a 7-2 ruling in favor of Roe, legalizing abortion nationwide

2022

June 24th

The Supreme Court, in Dobbs v Jackson, overturns Roe, allowing states to ban abortion

Question

What do you think are the consequences (positive or negative) of leaving abortion laws up to each state?