**WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT IS THE STORY BEHIND THE CASE?**

Clarence Earl Gideon was charged in Florida state court with felony breaking and entering. When he appeared in court without a lawyer, Gideon requested that the court appoint one for him. According to Florida state law, however, an attorney may only be appointed to an indigent defendant in capital cases, so the trial court did not appoint one. Gideon represented himself in trial. He was found guilty and sentenced to five years in prison. Gideon filed a habeas corpus petition in the Florida Supreme Court, arguing that the trial court's decision violated his constitutional right to be represented by counsel. The Florida Supreme Court denied habeas corpus relief.

**HOW DID THE SUPREME COURT RULE IN THE CASE?**

**the Supreme Court ruled that the Constitution requires the states to provide defense attorneys to criminal defendants charged with serious offenses who cannot afford lawyers themselves**

**NAME OF CASE**

Gideon v. Wainwright

**YEAR OF CASE**

**1963**

**INVOLVED (ex. people, states, amendments, laws)**

Louie L. Wainwright, Clarence Earl Gideon, Sixth Amendment,

**WHAT IS THE CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE IN THIS CASE?**

Does the Sixth Amendment's right to counsel in criminal cases extend to felony defendants in state courts?