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

T.L.O. was a high school student. School officials searched her purse suspecting she had cigarettes. The officials discovered cigarettes, a small amount of marijuana, and a list containing the names of students who owed T.L.O. money. T.L.O. was charged with possession of marijuana. Before trial, T.L.O. moved to suppress evidence discovered in the search, but the Court denied her motion. The Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court of New Jersey, Middlesex County found her guilty and sentenced her to probation for one year. On appeal, the Superior Court of New Jersey, Appellate Division affirmed the denial of the motion to suppress evidence. The New Jersey Supreme Court reversed, holding that the exclusionary rule of the Fourth Amendment applies to searches and seizures conducted by school officials in public schools.

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

On January 15, 1985, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in New Jersey v. T.L.O., **holding that public school administrators can search a student's belongings if they have a reasonable suspicion of criminal activity**.

**NAME OF CASE**

New Jersey v. T.L.O.

**YEAR OF CASE**

**1984-1985**

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

T.L.O. New Jersey, Piscataway High School, Fourth Amendment

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

Does the exclusionary rule apply to searches conducted by school officials in public schools?