

Landmark Supreme Court Cases for Civics and Economics End-of-Course Test

- 1803 *Marbury v. Madison*--established the Supreme Court's power of **judicial review** (to declare a law/act of the president unconstitutional)
- 1819 *McCulloch v. Maryland*--confirmed the **supremacy of federal law over the states**; **"the power to tax is the power to destroy"**
- 1824 *Gibbons v. Ogden*--confirmed that Congress would have power over **interstate trade/commerce**
- 1830 *State of North Carolina v. Mann*--NC Supreme Court ruled that a slaveowner could not be punished for killing his slave; **"the power of the master must be absolute"**
- 1857 *Dred Scott v. Sandford*--a person cannot be deprived of his property, in this case slaves, without compensation; relates to modern day cases of **eminent domain**
- 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson*--Court supported segregation as long as **"separate but equal"** applied; 14th amendment promises **equal protection** under the law
- 1918 *Dartmouth College v. Woodward*--US SC applied **judicial review** to a state action, in this case, New Hampshire was not allowed to change Dartmouth from a private to a public university; state legislature cannot interfere with a **private contract**
- 1944 *Korematsu v. US*--Japanese-Americans could be legally discriminated against because World War II was still going on; **internment camps**; **"legalized racism"**
- 1954 *Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka, KS*--Court **reversed the Plessy decision**, finding that separate schools were not equal; led to **desegregation** of schools and other public facilities; 14th amendment equal protection again
- 1961 *Mapp v. Ohio*--extended the **"exclusionary rule"** to state court proceedings; evidence gained by the police through an illegal search cannot be admitted and used against you (**4th amendment**)
- 1962 *Engel v. Vitale*--any form of forced/required prayer is unconstitutional in public school; **1st amendment**
- 1963 *Gideon v. Wainwright*--those accused of a crime must be provided legal counsel if they cannot afford it; **6th amendment**
- 1964 *Escobedo v. Illinois*--hours just after arrest are the most crucial for a suspect to get advice of a lawyer; **6th amendment**
- 1964 *Heart of Atlanta Motel, Inc. v. United States*--supported **Civil Rights Act of 1964**, outlawing racial discrimination; private businesses cannot discriminate if they provide a public service directly tied to **interstate commerce**
- 1966 *in re Gault*--**juveniles** accused of serious crimes must be extended the same rights as adults charged with the same crimes; **14th amendment** promises equal protection
- 1966 *Miranda v. Arizona*--suspects must be made aware of their constitutional rights to remain silent (protection from self-incrimination) and to have access to a lawyer; **5th and 6th amendments**
- 1969 *Tinker v. Des Moines School District*--defined the term **"symbolic speech"** and applied the **1st amendment**; basic civil rights of students (and teachers) do not end at the "schoolhouse door"
- 1972 *Furman v. Georgia*--state **death penalty** laws were ruled a violation of the **8th amendment's protection from cruel and unusual punishment** because they were being applied without proper instruction to juries and mostly to black men
- 1973 *Roe v. Wade*--suggested that the **right to privacy** is part of the Constitution; under certain circumstances, a woman has the right to have an **abortion**
- 1974 *US v. Nixon*--Court ruled that Nixon had to turn over the **Watergate** tapes to Congress; "executive privilege" did not protect the president from legal action; led to **Nixon's resignation**
- 1976 *Gregg v. Georgia*--**death penalty not cruel and unusual** punishment in all cases; trial jury separate from sentencing jury; death penalty only applied in cases of 1st degree murder
- 1978 *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*--ruled that **racial quotas** are unconstitutional, but that considering an applicant's race was OK for creating diversity through **affirmative action** policy
- 1985 *New Jersey v. TLO*--Court defined **"reasonable suspicion"** as a rule to apply to **seaches and seizures at school**; school officials may search you and your property more easily than police can
- 1986 *Bethel School District v. Fraser*--**"vulgar or lewd"** speech was not protected in school by the **1st amendment**
- 1988 *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier*--school personnel may censor school/student publications; **freedom of the press** is not violated since the school has a stake in the community and the publications
- 1989 *Texas v. Johnson*--supported the idea of **"freedom of expression,"** in this case the burning of the US flag as a protest
- 1997 *Leandro v. North Carolina*--the state does not have to provide equal funds to all school districts, but the state constitution does promise a **"sound basic education"** to all students; 5 "low-wealth counties" filed the suit