

Thursday, March 2, 2023 (class 1☺ of 30!!)

Today:

- Introduction to court systems!
- Final resume & cover letter due by end of day!

For next class (Tu March 7):

- Read ch. 6 pp. 155-158 & 169-170! (court systems!)
- Review court charts & maps on OL!

Th March 9: Walking tour of local courts! *Wear comfortable shoes!*

Tu March 14: We will not meet! ☹ *Quiz #2 on Blackboard!*

Th March 16: Guest speaker Kate Dove, employment recruiter!

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In the US, every individual is subject to two court systems: (1) US (federal) (2) state (each state has its own)
This is because of *federalism!!*

Basic American court structure (fed & states) = 3 tiers:

Trial courts (lowest)

- where cases begin
- have original jurisdiction (courts of "original instance," courts of "first instance")
- hold trials of fact (witnesses, testimony, etc.)

Intermediate appellate courts (middle)

- where parties appeal* decisions
- have appellate jurisdiction
- no trials → just legal argument (just lawyers! *Boring.*)

Highest appellate courts (top)

- "courts of last resort"
- have appellate jurisdiction
- no trials → just legal argument by lawyers (*Boring.*)

Jurisdiction = court's authority (or power, or right) to decide a particular type of case.

- *depends on various factors*, including geography, subject of the case, identities of the parties, etc.
- identified in statute or constitution!

***appeal** = request to higher court to review lower court's decision, to determine if it was correct under the law.

appellate jurisdiction = authority to decide whether a lower court's decision was correct under the law.