

**Monday, February 4, 2019** (class 3 of 30!)

*Happy Black History Month!*

**Today:**

- Legal News Summaries (extra credit)
- Structure of the Courts

**Now:**

- Place homework on front desk (C&W questions).
- Pick up handouts (court materials & assignment).
- Read assignment (Legal News Summaries).

**For next class** (Wed. Feb. 6):

- Bring court materials you get today.
- Find out names of the current (a) Chief Judge of the NY Court of Appeals, and (b) Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court.
- Dress warm and comfortably!

**For Mon. Feb. 11:**

- Read C&W ch. 3 (Jurisdictional Bases)
- Start bringing CPLR to class!

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

**Highest appellate courts** (top → "supreme courts")

- have appellate jurisdiction (no trials; just legal argument)
- "courts of last resort"

**Intermediate appellate courts** (middle)

- have appellate jurisdiction (no trials)
- consider appeals from lower courts

**Trial courts** (lowest)

- have original jurisdiction (courts of "original instance," or "first instance")
- hold trials of fact