

**Wednesday, February 6, 2019** (class 4 of 30!)

**Today:** Structure of the Courts cont'd

- Basic American court structure (3 tiers)
- Walking tour!

**Now:** Read handout (Generic Chart...)

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

- Read "NYS Courts: Introductory Guide" (OL).
- Bring court charts & maps you received Mon. and today.

**Wed. Feb. 20:** Start bringing CPLR to class!

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**Jurisdiction** = court's authority to decide a particular case; depends on a variety of factors such as geography, subject matter, the parties involved, etc.

**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