THE SUPWIEME COURT
HIGHEST COURT IN THE NATION
Created by Article III of the U.S. Constitution

1 CHIEF JUSTICE 8 ASSOCIATE JUSTICES

Initially there was 1 Chief Justice and 5 Associate Justices. In 1869, Congress fixed the number of Associate Justices to 8.

Types of Jurisdiction

ORIGINAL
State v. State
State v. Federal Government
Ambassadors, Public Ministers, & Consuls

APPELLATE
Appeals from U.S. Courts of Appeals
Appeals from State Supreme Courts

Justices are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate

They serve lifetime appointments during “periods of good behavior”

The Supreme Court is NOT required to hear all cases. 4 Justices must agree to grant a writ of certiorari. About 7,000 petitions are filed each year and, in recent years, about 75 cases are argued before the Court.