

# THE SUPREME 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.

