**Know and Be Able To (KBAT)**

Chapter 15 – Federal Courts

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION:** How do the nation’s courts settle legal controversies and establish public policy?

**KNOW**

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| Amicus Curiae BriefAppellate JurisdictionBroad ConstructionCivil LawClass Action SuitsConcurring OpinionDissenting OpinionJudicial Activism | Judicial ImplementationJudicial RestraintJudicial ReviewJurisdictionMajority OpinionOpinionOral ArgumentsOriginal Jurisdiction | PrecedentRule of FourSenatorial CourtesySolicitor GeneralStare DecisisStrict ConstructionWrit of CertiorariWrit of Mandamus |

**BE ABLE TO**

1. Identify the basic elements of the American judicial system and the major participants in it.
2. Outline the structure of the federal court system and the major responsibilities of each component.
3. Explain the process by which judges and justices are nominated and confirmed.
4. Describe the backgrounds of judges and justices and assess the impact of background on their decisions.
5. Outline the judicial process at the Supreme Court level and assess the major factors influencing decisions and their implementation.
6. Trace the Supreme Court’s use of judicial review in major policy battles in various eras of American history.

**CASE STUDIES**

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