**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 Brief  Appellate Jurisdiction  Broad Construction  Civil Law  Class Action Suits  Concurring Opinion  Dissenting Opinion  Judicial Activism | Judicial Implementation  Judicial Restraint  Judicial Review  Jurisdiction  Majority Opinion  Opinion  Oral Arguments  Original Jurisdiction | Precedent  Rule of Four  Senatorial Courtesy  Solicitor General  Stare Decisis  Strict Construction  Writ of Certiorari  Writ 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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