

## Glossary of Judicial Branch Vocabulary

### **Bench**

The seat where a judge sits in the court; also another name for the court itself

### **Bill of Rights**

The first ten amendments to the Constitution

### **Case**

A lawsuit in court

### **Chief Justice**

The presiding (head) justice on the Supreme Court

### **Clerks**

Lawyers who assist justices in researching cases

### **Conference**

A private meeting of the Justices

### **Constitution**

The plan for how our government works

### **Jury**

An impartial group of people selected in a court to hear evidence and deliver a verdict (decision) about a case

### **Justice**

Any one of the nine members of the Supreme Court

### **Law**

A rule of conduct or behavior enforced by legal authorities

### **Lawyer**

A person formally trained and educated in the law

### **Opinion**

The written explanation of a decision by the Supreme Court

### **Oral Arguments**

Presentations made by lawyers to justices in Supreme Court cases

### **Petition**

A request to the Court to hear a case

### **Term**

The period of time, usually about nine months, that the Supreme Court is in session and hears cases

### **Unconstitutional**

In conflict with, or not allowed by, the Constitution

### **Marshall (Thurgood)**

A famous Supreme Court Justice in civil rights cases

### **Judicial Branch**

The branch where the Supreme Court works

### **Interpret**

To tell the meaning of a law

### **Jurisdiction**

The power of the court to hear certain kinds of cases