



## THE FORMATION AND FUNCTION OF THE SUPREME COURT

### Noteworthy Supreme Court Cases

1857, **Dred Scott v. Sandford:** ruled that blacks were not US citizens and therefore could not sue for their freedom

1896, **Plessy v. Ferguson:** permitted legalized racial segregation, as long as there were “equal but separate accommodations”

1923, **Meyer v. Nebraska:** invalidated a Nebraska law that banned the teaching of foreign languages in elementary schools

1944, **Korematsu v. United States:** ruled that Japanese-American citizens could legally be held in internment camps during World War II

1954, **Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas:** invalidated Plessy v. Ferguson by concluding that separate facilities cannot truly be equal

1966, **Miranda v. Arizona:** ruled that suspects of crimes must be advised of their rights when arrested

1973, **Roe v. Wade:** ruled that a woman has a “right to privacy” that extends to having an abortion in the first trimester of pregnancy

1997, **Printz v. United States:** ruled that the federal government did not have the authority to force local law-enforcement agencies to do background checks on those wishing to buy handguns

2003, **Gratz v. Bollinger:** resulted in the Court rejecting an affirmative action policy at the University of Michigan that gave heavy preference to minority applicants for undergraduate admission

2004, **Hamdi v. Rumsfeld and Rasul v. Bush:** ruled that the executive branch could not detain a terrorist suspect, or enemy combatant, indefinitely without providing the detainee access to legal assistance.