

# Congress Creates the Federal Court System

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## Worksheet 2: Analyzing Sections 7 - 13 of the Federal Judiciary Act (1789)

**Group 2 Instructions:** Study the following sections of the Federal Judiciary Act and answer the questions as a group. *Source: For the full document visit <https://www.ourdocuments.gov>.*

SEC. 7. And be it [further] enacted, That the Supreme Court, and the district courts shall have power to appoint clerks for their respective courts, and that the clerk for each district court shall be clerk also of the circuit court in such district...

SEC. 9. And be it further enacted, That the district courts shall have... (jurisdiction over) all crimes and offences that shall be (recognized) under the authority of the United States, committed within their respective districts... and of all suits for penalties and forfeitures incurred, under the laws of the United States. ... And the trial of issues in fact, in the district courts, in all causes except (cases involving ships at sea) shall be by jury.

SEC. 11. And be it further enacted, That the circuit courts shall have original (jurisdiction), concurrent with the courts of the several States, of all suits of a civil nature at common law... where the matter in dispute exceeds, exclusive of costs, the sum or value of five hundred dollars, and the United States are plaintiffs, or petitioners; ...And shall have exclusive (jurisdiction) of all crimes and offences (recognized) under the authority of the United States ...And the circuit courts shall also have appellate jurisdiction from the district courts under the regulations and restrictions herein after provided.

SEC. 13. And be it further enacted, That the Supreme Court shall have exclusive jurisdiction of all (cases) of a civil nature, where a state is a party, except between a state and its citizens; and except also between a state and citizens of other states, or aliens, in which latter case it shall have original but not exclusive jurisdiction... The Supreme Court shall also have appellate jurisdiction from the circuit courts and courts of the several states, in the cases herein after specially provided for...

### Questions:

1. Which courts can appoint clerks under this act?
2. What is the jurisdiction of the district courts?
3. Which courts can appeal decisions to the circuit courts?
4. Which courts can appeal cases to the Supreme Court?

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