

Judicial Branch





The American Legal System

Sources of Law

1. *Constitution of the United States*
2. *Statutory Laws* – (statutes) laws that are written by state legislatures and other lawmaking bodies
3. *Common Law* – past decisions of the Court (Precedents) become the standard or rule for future cases. Origin of *stare decisis*; “*Let the decision stand*”



Principles of American Law

- Equal Justice Under the Law
 - Treat All Persons Alike
 - Wealth, social status, ethnic group, gender, age
- Due Process of Law
 - Conduct of legal proceedings strictly according to established principles and procedures, laid down to ensure fair trial for every accused
 - "No person shall...be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law,"
- Adversary System
 - Opposing sides in court with impartial Judge
- Presumption of Innocence
 - Burden of proof falls on the prosecution



Branches of Law *(Civil and Criminal)*

Criminal Law – deals with the relationship between the government and citizens

◆ **Criminal Law**

◆ **Constitutional Law**

◆ **Administrative Law** – rules and regulations of the government agencies





Branches of Law *(Civil and Criminal)*

Civil Law – deals with disputes between individuals, businesses or other organizations

- ◆ **Contracts**
- ◆ **Property Law**
- ◆ **Family Law**
- ◆ **Torts** (wrongful act that injures a person or someone's property)

Types of Crimes

- Levels of Crime
 - Petty Offense
 - Misdemeanor (up to one year)
 - Felony (more than one year)
- Personal Crimes
 - Assault
 - Battery
- Property Crimes
 - Larceny, Burglary, Robbery
 - Arson
 - Forgery

Steps in a Criminal Case

- Investigation and Arrest
 - Arrest Warrant
 - Booking
- Arraignment (Initial Appearance)
 - Within 24 hours (or 48, or 72), appear before judge
 - Formally charged
 - Release or Set Bail

Steps in a Criminal Case

- Preliminary Hearing or Grand Jury
 - Indictment
 - Information
- Plea Bargaining
 - Agreement to plead 'Guilty'
 - Lesser or Fewer Crimes

Steps in a Criminal Case

- Arraignment and Pleas
 - Reading of Formal Charges
 - Not Guilty
 - Not Guilty by reason of Insanity
 - Guilty
 - Nolo contendere
- Trial
- Decision
 - Verdict

Steps in a Criminal Case

- Arraignment and Pleas
 - Reading of Formal Charges
 - Not Guilty
 - Not Guilty by reason of Insanity
 - Guilty
 - Nolo contendere
- Trial
- Decision
 - Verdict
 - Hung jury
- Sentencing

Steps in a Civil Lawsuit

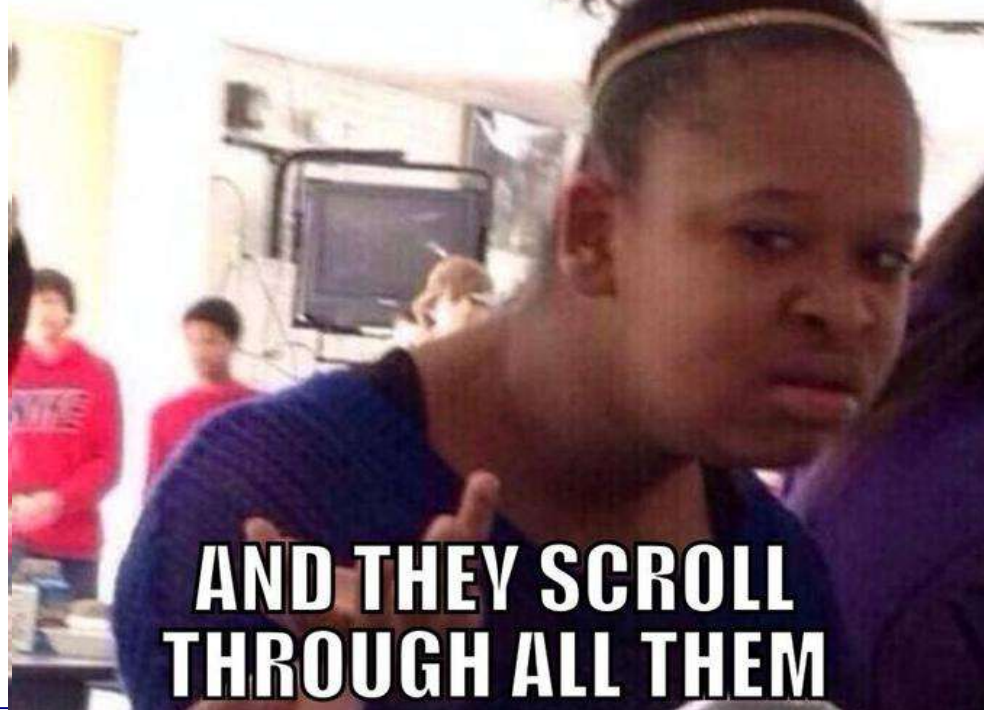
Plaintiff v Defendant

- Hire a Lawyer
- File a Complaint
 - Summons
 - Answer
- Pretrial Discovery
- Resolve the Complaint
 - Pretrial Conference
 - Mediation (suggested resolution)
 - Arbitration (binding resolution)



'Confused Face' Meme Girl Keisha Johnson
Suing Instagram For \$500 Million

**WHEN U LET SOMEONE LOOK
AT 1 PICTURE**



**AND THEY SCROLL
THROUGH ALL THEM**

'Confused Face' Meme Girl Keisha Johnson Suing Instagram For \$500 Million

Johnson's confused "WTF-face" was appropriate for almost any occasion, and the social media platform quickly took notice. The now infamous "WTF-face" was posted onto thousands and thousands of memes. Granted, it's understandable that Johnson wasn't too pleased with her picture going viral given that it wasn't the best photo of her. Johnson, also known as the "confused girl," is now suing Instagram for \$500 million for defamation of character. Johnson states, "My face looked ugly like I was about to throw up...I look nothing like that in real life...I'm really a bad b*tch!"

THROUGH ALL THEM

'Confused Face' Meme Girl Keisha Johnson Suing Instagram For \$500 Million

Silicon Valley, CA- Last week we reported that 16 Year Old Kiesha Johnson's family sued Instagram for \$500 Million for defamation because her picture was being ridiculed on the social media app. Today, it seems Kiesha is laughing all the way to the bank. Instagram's lawyers just announced that they have decided to settle with Ms. Johnson outside of court for \$10 Million. That amount is far less than what was being sued for, however, the Johnson family is happy with the decision.

“If I knew I would be a millionaire today I would've took a picture like that a long time ago... tuh!” said 16 Yr Old Johnson, ” all my friends are going to be hating now. Ain't nuthin gonna change. I'm still going to be a bad b*tch.. Just a rich bad b*tch now.... buh bye.”

Instagram stated that they will be updating their policies soon on Memes to avoid disputes like this in the future.

THROUGH ALL THEM

Steps in a Civil Lawsuit

Plaintiff v Defendant

- Trial
 - Judge
 - Jury
 - Verdict
- Award
 - Damages
 - Injunctive Relief