

# SALEM PRESS

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## **Salem Press announces the Second Edition of *The U.S. Supreme Court***

*The U.S. Supreme Court* was first published in 2007 as a Magill's Choice title. Adapted from Salem Press's *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Supreme Court* (2001), it concentrated on the history and key issues that the Court itself has faced, and was designed to meet the growing need among students and members of the general public for clear, concise, authoritative, and up-to-date information about the Court. Given the 12 years between editions, much has changed regarding the Court, from who serves on the Supreme Court to the kinds of cases heard by the Court.

The U.S. Supreme Court has always stood out as a uniquely powerful institution within the vast framework of the federal system of American government. With nine unelected members, it alone can overturn the actions of every other branch of government, at all levels. Any decision by any elected executive officer – from a small-town mayor to the president of the United States – any legislation enacted by any elected body – from a city council to the Congress of the United States – can be invalidated by the Supreme Court. By contrast, only two methods exist to overturn unpopular Court decisions: The Court can reverse its own rulings, or the Congress or state conventions can initiate the long and difficult process of constitutional amendment. Since the Court was created in 1789, it has reversed itself many times. However, opponents to its decisions have managed to get the Constitution amended only a handful of times. There is no other institution quite like the Supreme Court – in the U.S. or anywhere in the world.

This three-volume set contains 561 individual essays. More than 100 of them are brand new, original essays, including Elena Kagen, Sonia Sotomayor, Executive Orders, pardon Authority of the President, *Obergefell v. Hodges*, and Transgender People; also dozens of essays from the previous edition have been updated. They all have been selected, formatted, and written with the needs of non-specialist readers in mind. Emphasis throughout is on clear explanations of subjects, supported by illuminating graphics and illustrations. Essays range from 250 to 3,000 words and contain several distinct component parts. All essays open with specially formatted top-matter sections, designed to give readers important information at a glance, and whose content varies according to essay type. Top matter in essays on individual justices, for example, includes full name, title, dates of service, birth and death information, summary of the justice's significance in Court history, and the president who nominated them. Top matter of court cases includes case names, standard citations given in *United States Reports*, dates of the Supreme Court decisions, concise summaries of issues involved, and brief statements of the cases' significance.

The core of every essay, regardless of its type, is a clear discussion of its subject that stresses its relevance to the Supreme Court. All essays are signed by their authors, whose names and affiliations are listed at the front of volume one, and essay topics are linked throughout the three volumes by thorough lists of cross-references. A Categorized List of Entries following the appendix section at the back of volume three groups related essays under 39 broad subject headings, including Areas of Law, Defendant Rights, Freedom of Speech and the Press, Gender Issues, Religious Issues, Separation of Powers and Voting Rights.

This edition of *The U.S. Supreme Court* has essays on the most important decisions the Court has made. The cases appear within the text under the names by which they are most commonly known. In addition, an appendix of Notable Supreme Court Rulings in volume three summarizes data on more than six hundred court cases. Additional references to cases – including many not covered in either individual essays or the appendix table – can be found in the Court Case Index that precedes the general Subject Index.

*The U.S. Supreme Court* contains essays on broad types of law, such as administrative law, antitrust law, bankruptcy law, and civil law, as well as individual pieces of legislation and clauses and amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Top matter on these essays provides the dates when the laws were passed, brief descriptions of the laws, and summaries of their significance. Similar to essays on types of law are essays on broad issues, such as abortion, affirmative action, capital punishment, capitalism, and censorship. These essays examine how the Court has treated important issues throughout its history, with emphasis on the Court itself. *The U.S. Supreme Court* also contains essays on specific historical events and eras, such as the Civil Rights movement, the Civil War, the Cold War, Reconstruction, and World War II.

Easy-to-understand entries provide students and researchers with a broad understanding of the power of the Supreme Court and how it functions, alongside an in-depth analysis of the cases and decisions that have shaped American life.

### **Free Online with Print Purchase**

In addition, *The U.S. Supreme Court* comes with complimentary online access via <http://online.salempress.com>. A single purchase of the printed version is all it takes to gain access to this important title on the web.

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