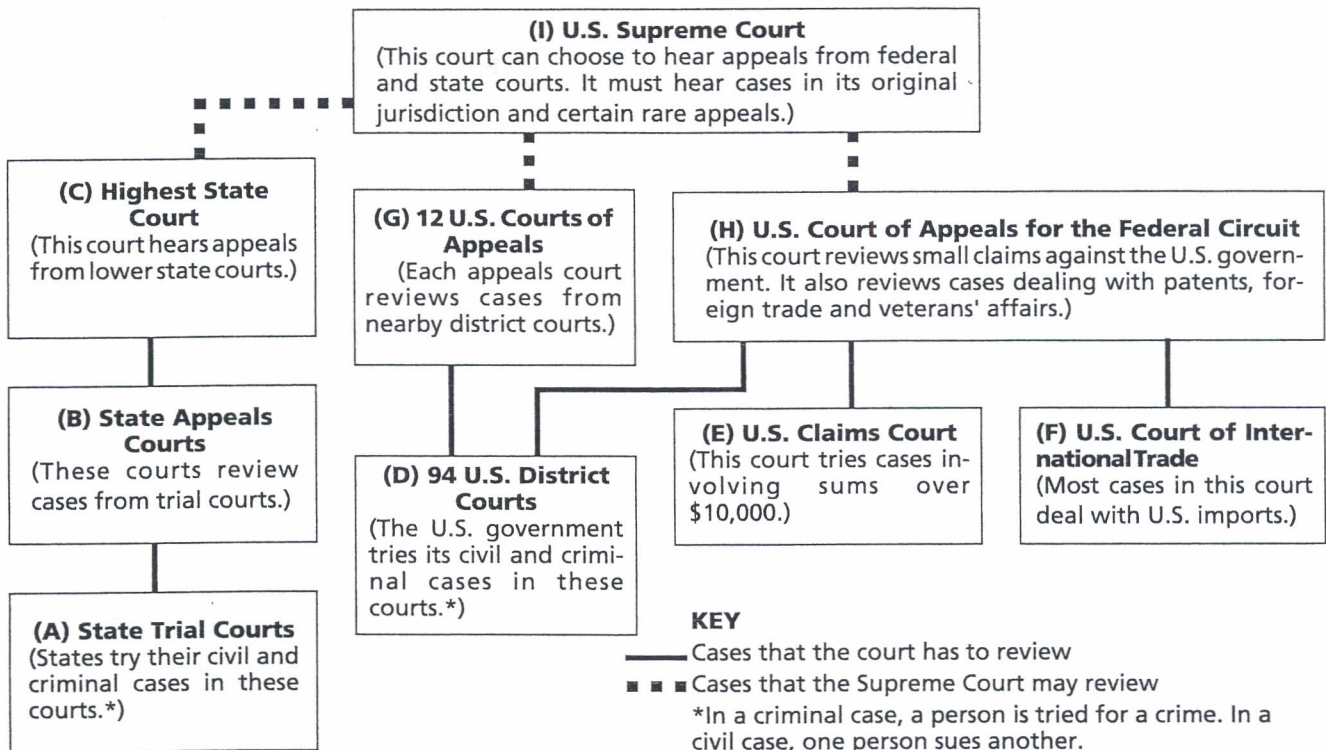


Reading a Flowchart

How Does a Case Reach the Supreme Court?



Picture This: Lee "X" was convicted of murder but says her trial was not fair. She claims she was forced to sign a confession before the trial. Lee asks a higher court to review her case. (This is called making an appeal.) If this court decides that Lee's trial was unfair, it can wipe out her conviction.

Every year, thousands of Americans appeal their cases. Some appeals begin in state courts. Some begin in federal courts. The highest court of appeals is the U.S. Supreme Court. The flowchart shows the different paths by which cases reach the Supreme Court.

Directions: Study the flowchart and key. Complete each statement below. Circle the letter that makes the statement correct.

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. The highest court in the United States is | C D I |
| 2. There are 12 courts at level | C G D |
| 3. States try criminal cases at level | C B A |
| 4. The U.S. government tries civil cases at level | D H I |
| 5. Courts at B are higher than courts at level | C I A |
| 6. Courts at G are equal to courts at level | D H I |
| 7. An appeal from B would go to the court at level | C D E |
| 8. An appeal arrives at G. It came from level | F E D |
| 9. Appeals from D do <i>not</i> go to courts at level | F G H |
| 10. A case was appealed to courts at B and C.
Next, the case could be appealed to the court at level | I F A |