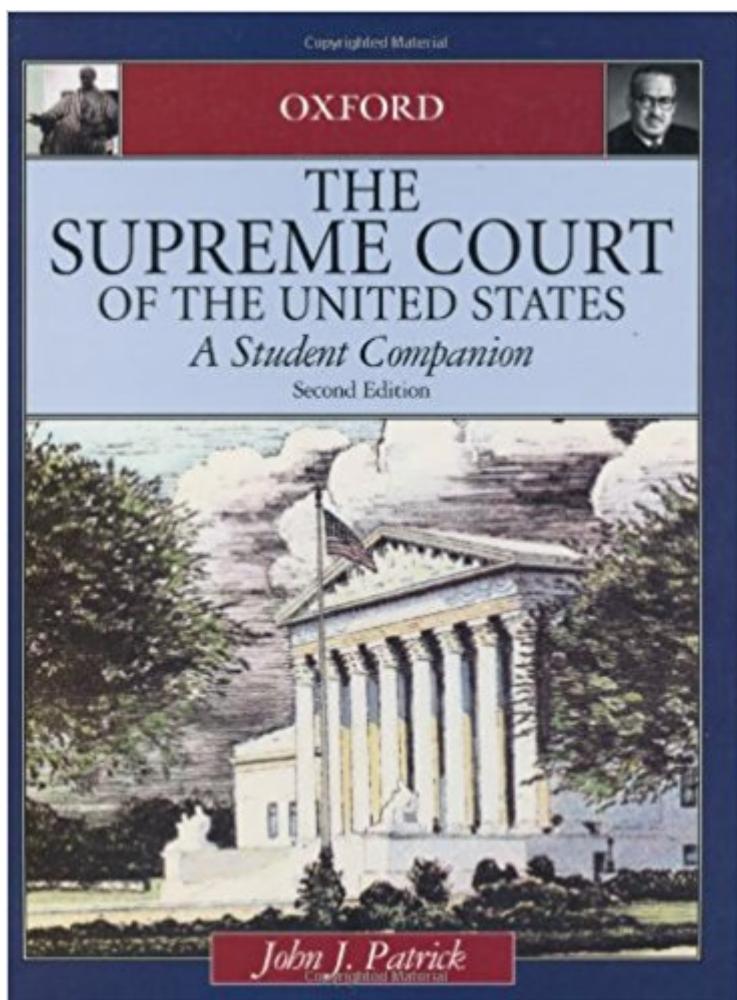


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# The Supreme Court Of The United States: A Student Companion (Oxford Student Companions To American Government)



## Synopsis

The Supreme Court of the United States is an illustrated A-to-Z guide that covers virtually all aspects of the U.S. Supreme Court, including biographical articles on all of the Justices, summaries and analysis of key decisions of the Court, articles on legal terms and statutes associated with the day-to-day operations of the court, the history of the Court, and essays on major Constitutional issues. The second edition includes new articles on major cases decided since the publication of the first edition in 1993, including *Clinton v. City of New York* (1998, concerning the Line Item Veto Act), *Agonstini v. Felton* (1997, concerning the separation of church and state), and *Reno v. American Civil Liberties Union* (1997, regarding the government regulation of mass-media communications). There are also new general articles on African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Women in the Judicial branch. Illustrations include portraits, cartoons, and Supreme Court memorabilia. Articles are cross-referenced with suggestions for further reading listed at the end of each article as well as at the end of the book. An extensive list of Supreme Court-related websites now supplements the further reading.

## Book Information

Series: Oxford Student Companions to American Government

Hardcover: 400 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 2 edition (January 3, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0195150082

ISBN-13: 978-0195150087

Product Dimensions: 11.2 x 1.2 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,319,932 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #33 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Reference > Encyclopedias #420 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Social Science > Politics & Government #527 in Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Children's

## Customer Reviews

Grade 6 Up  
An enlightening, easy-to-use, and unbiased revision of the 2001 edition. A section on How to Use This Book is followed by alphabetically arranged entries on court decisions, justices' biographies, constitutional law and amendments, ideas and issues, and legal terms and

phrases. Introductory information on the chief and associate justices of the court includes their education, terms of government service outside the court, and major decisions that were handed down during their service. Appendixes include Terms of the Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court and Visiting the Supreme Court Building. Black-and-white photographs, maps, political cartoons, and other illustrations are included. What is lacking here is a copy of the Constitution, which is included in Kermit Hall's *The Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court of the United States* (2005). However, that book targets an older audience. Patrick's volume will make a solid addition. —Michelle Barsom, Bainbridge College, GA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

Designed for students 12 years of age and older, this resource contains information related to many aspects of the Supreme Court, including its structure, history, origins, development, composition, functions, duties, and objectives. In this second edition, content has been expanded and updated to reflect recent rulings and to describe the current status and significance of certain controversial topics, such as abortion and affirmative action. The alphabetically arranged entries tend to fall into one of the following categories: biographies; decisions of the court; core concepts, ideas, and issues; legal terms and phrases; and procedures, practices, and personnel. Readers encounter few surprises in the entries devoted to biographies and decisions. Personal information is provided for all justices--both chief and associate--and each entry contains a short section detailing the individual's contribution to important decisions and cases. One hundred significant cases are profiled, among them *Brown v. Board of Education*, *Plessy v. Ferguson*, and *Roe v. Wade*, and each is accompanied by background information, the official citation from *United States Reports*, voting results for the case, concurring and dissenting opinions, and how this decision has affected constitutional law. Those entries that would be best described as core concepts, ideas, and issues discuss fundamentals of constitutionalism and certain rights and freedoms that have dramatically altered American notions of liberty and justice--for instance, Bill of Rights, Civil rights, Freedom of speech and press. This information would be incomplete, however, if not for the entries that treat terms, procedures, and practices. With terms such as Decision days, *Habeas corpus*, and *Per curiam*, readers gain helpful insights into the Court's processes, routines, and daily operation. Overall, this resource is excellent and will be a boon to students wanting a more introductory guide than titles such as *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Supreme Court* [RBB F 15 01]. Readers will appreciate the balanced, well-researched entries and the book's organization and structure, both of which are very user-friendly. Photographs, several appendixes--one listing

relevant Web sites--and an index enhance an already fine reference tool that is highly recommended for all high-school and public libraries. RBBCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

If you teach social studies then you need to have this. Students should be aware of how society works and what rights they have. Telling them about a bunch of tea in Boston Harbor or MLK's march without giving them a connection to modern day thinking and a reality that they can see first hand does nothing for them. Teach early, teach often, keep this book on hand. You'll be glad you did.

If you like reading and talking about Supreme Court cases, you will like this book. It also gives details about the life of the Supreme Court justices.

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