



# Support Vocabulary

**appeal:** when a case is brought before a higher court to review a lower court's decision

**beneficiaries under public trust doctrine:** in a democratic society, citizens; present and future generations

**Commonwealth:** another name for some states

**dismiss:** a ruling by a judge to throw out all or part of a plaintiff's case

**Executive Order:** a presidential policy directive that interprets or puts into effect a federal law, constitutional requirement, or treaty

**infringe:** violate

**intervenor:** a person that the court allows to join an ongoing lawsuit when the decision in the case may affect that person's rights or property

**jury:** in a trial, a group of people who are selected and sworn to investigate matters of fact and to reach a decision or verdict

**lawsuit:** a legal case filed by one person against another and to be decided in a court of law

**party:** any person involved in a legal case; for example, plaintiffs, defendants, and intervenors are parties in a lawsuit

**petition:** a written application from a person to a governing body or public official to ask for relief

**posterity:** future generations of people

**precedent:** a legal ruling that sets a new standard for future cases

**private property:** property owned by private persons or entities

**protected class:** a group of people with a common characteristic who are legally protected from discrimination on the basis of that characteristic

**public property:** property owned by the government or held in trust by the government for the people

**public trust doctrine:** the principle that certain natural and cultural resources critical for survival are held in trust by governments, and that it is the duty of governments to protect and maintain these resources for the survival and benefit of present and future generations

**remand:** send back

**rule-making:** a process used by the executive branch to create or change rules or to put rules into effect

**trust relationship:** a special relationship that establishes a duty on Trustees to act for the care and benefit of Trust beneficiaries

**trustees of public trust doctrine:** in a democratic society, elected representatives in Congress and state legislatures