

Vocabulary

Core Vocabulary

Parties to a court case

defendant: a person accused of causing the harm

intervenor: a person whom the court allows to join an ongoing court case because decisions in the case may affect that person's rights or property

plaintiff: a person who claims to have suffered harm caused by actions of another person

Elements of a court case

complaint: a document that starts a civil case and that is filed by a person who claims to have suffered harm by the actions of another person

decision: a conclusion reached by a judge or jury after an evaluation of evidence

remedy: court actions to fix the wrongful harm to the plaintiffs; judicial relief

standing: ability of a person to bring a case before a court to obtain judicial remedy or relief

trial: the judicial process of examining and evaluating facts and legal issues between parties in a case

Public Trust Doctrine

beneficiaries: under the public trust doctrine, present and future generations

common law: law that developed over time from customs and court decisions; judge-made law

fiduciary duty: the highest legal standard of care to another; a legal duty to act in a way that benefits someone else

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

public trust doctrine: a body of common law that requires government to take care of certain natural and cultural resources for the survival and benefit of present and future generations

reserved power: a political power that is not listed or prohibited by a constitution, but is kept by a constitution for the people or state governments

trustees: under the public trust doctrine, government

trust relationship: a legal plan in which a person(s) has a fiduciary duty to take care of property for the benefit of another person(s)

usufruct: the right to use another's property for a time without damaging or diminishing it



Vocabulary

Court system

court, appeals: a court that hears appeals on matters of law (not fact) from a trial court

court, trial: a court where evidence and testimony are first introduced and examined, and where findings of fact and law are made; a district court

court, supreme: the highest court in a state or country

judge: a public official whose duty during a court trial is to decide rules of law and, if there is no jury, findings of fact as well

jury: a group of people who are empowered to decide the truth of disputed facts and to make findings of fact, based on the evidence, during a court trial

Support Vocabulary

administrative remedy: relief provided by an agency, board, or commission

affirm: uphold

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

court order: an official court command requiring a person to do or not do something

deny: refuse to acknowledge something

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

executive order: a presidential command that interprets or puts into effect a federal law, constitutional requirement, or treaty

infringe: violate

lawsuit: a court case filed by one "party" or person against another and to be decided in a legal proceeding

petition: a written application from a person to a government, public official, or court to ask for relief

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

remand: send back

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

