

Landmark Supreme Court Cases for United States History

Year	Name of Case	Constitutional Principal	Why Decision is Important
1803	<i>Marbury v. Madison</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separation of Powers: Checks and Balances • The Judiciary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established the Supreme Court's right of <i>judicial review</i>-the right to determine the constitutionality of laws. • Strengthened the judiciary in relation to other branches of government
1819	<i>McCulloch v. Maryland</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federalism: Federal Supremacy • National Power: <i>Necessary and Proper Clause</i> • The Judiciary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Said no state could tax a federally chartered bank because the power to tax involves the power to destroy. • Supported the use of the elastic clause to expand federal power. • Ruling established the principal of national supremacy that the Constitution and federal laws overruled state laws when the two conflict. • Expanded national power by supporting use of necessary and proper clause to carry out constitutional powers.
1824	<i>Gibbons v. Ogden</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federalism: Federal Supremacy • Property rights and economic policy: Interstate Commerce state • The Judiciary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States may regulate only what is solely interstate commerce (within a state) • Congress has power to regulate interstate commerce, including commerce that involved intrastate-interstate activity. • Ruling established the basis of congressional regulation of interstate commerce
1832	<i>Worcester v. Georgia</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federalism • National power • Separation of powers • Equality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Constitution gives the federal, not state governments, exclusive jurisdiction over Indian nations. • Treaties between the United States government and Indian nations are the Supreme Law of the Land. • Therefore, Georgia laws taking jurisdiction of Cherokee people and land were void • President Andrew Jackson defied the ruling and the national policy of Indian Removal followed.
1857	<i>Dred Scott v. Sanford</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Judiciary • Equality • Civil Liberties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruled that African-Americans were not citizens. (Overruled by 14th Amendment) • Declared that slaves were property of owners • As property, protected by 5th amendment, slaves could be taken anywhere; therefore, Missouri Compromise was unconstitutional
1895	<i>United States v. E.C. Knight Co.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National power 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While federal government did have the right to regulate some parts of economy, states under 10th amendment, could regulate interstate economic activities such as manufacturing • Refineries were manufacturing operations, not commerce; therefore, the Sherman Anti-Trust Act could not be applied to American Sugar Refining Co. although company controlled 90% of sugar processing in the nation.