**CE.6a Judicial Branch of the United States Notes**

**Dual Court System** = 2 court systems

* **Federal**
* **State**



**Supreme Court**

**U.S. Circuit Court**

**of Appeals**

**U.S. District Court**

**Federal Court System**

**Federal Courts**

- **Jurisdiction** = area a court has authority over - Original: hold the 1st Trial

- Appellate: can re-do cases from lower court

- Limited: can only hear special cases

**Supreme Court**

Who: 9 Justices

What:

- Limited-Original Jurisdiction

- Appellate Jurisdiction

**U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals**

Who: Justices *no* Jury

What:

- Appellate jurisdiction

**U.S. District Court**

Who: Judge & Jury

What:

- Original Jurisdiction

**Criminal Law**

- Breaking The Law

- **Felony** = Major Crime

 - murder, theft over $200

- **Misdemeanor** = Small Crime

- vandalism, theft under $200

**Criminal Law Procedure**

1. Arrest with **PROBABLE CAUSE** (evidence)
2. Jailed or released on bail
3. Arraignment
	* 1. Plea entered
		2. Probable Cause is reviewed
		3. Attorney may be appointed
		4. Court date is set
4. Trial is conducted
5. Verdict

- Guilty verdict may be appealed to a higher court

**Civil Law Procedure**

1. Plaintiff files a complaint against the defendant
2. Judge *or* Judge & Jury give a verdict

- Verdict may be appealed to a higher court

**Juvenile Court Procedure**

* Judge has more freedom to make decisions than adult cases
* Juvenile may be tried as an adult