

# **Understanding the Supreme Court**

The United States Supreme Court is the highest judicial body in the country. Made up of nine justices, each appointed for life, the Supreme Court hears cases and issues decisions that have profound impact on American law and American life. Learn more about the Supreme Court, how it operates, and its history and current sessions with these resources.

## Listen

#### Radiolab Presents: More Perfect from WNYC

http://www.wnyc.org/shows/radiolabmoreperfect

This podcast from the team behind WNYC's popular *Radiolab* show debuted in 2016 with a season of six episodes. Each episode explores a major case or figure in Supreme Court history, with hosts exploring the ways in which the Supreme Court has affected the country.

#### **Amicus from Slate**

http://www.slate.com/articles/podcasts/amicus.html

This regular podcast is hosted by writer Dahlia Lithwick, who covers courts and the law for *Slate*. A former lawyer, Lithwick delves into a major topic or case in front of the Supreme Court in each episode. Many episodes also include general updates on the Supreme Court and its implications on law and the country.

## Supreme Podcast from Supreme Court Review

http://supremecourtreview.com/default/podcast/view/

This weekly podcast, active when the Supreme Court is in session, features lawyers and law students discussing recent opinions given by the court, oral arguments, and what cases from lower courts the Supreme Court will hear.





### Read

"Supreme Court of the United States" Government Website https://www.supremecourt.gov/

Learn about the rules and procedures of the Supreme Court, see recent and historical decisions issued by the Supreme Court, and explore the history of the court and its role in the United States using this official government page.

"Separate Is Not Equal: Brown v. Board of Education" from the National Museum of American History http://americanhistory.si.edu/brown/

One of the most best-known Supreme Court decisions in the past century was 1954's Brown v. Board of Education, in which the Supreme Court ruled that segregation of schools is unconstitutional. This digital exhibit was developed by the National Museum of American History to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the landmark decision.

"This History of 'Stolen' Supreme Court Seats" by Erick Trickey https://goo.gl/bGQAfl

For many Americans, the first thing that comes to mind upon hearing about the Supreme Court is the death in 2016 of Justice Antonin Scalia and the subsequent partisan battle to fill his seat on the court. In this article for *Smithsonian Magazine*, Trickey looks to Supreme Court history to better understand the context of recent arguments about "stolen" seats and elected officials' efforts to influence who serves on the highest court in the land.

