

# LEGAL SYSTEM IN THE U.S.

"LAWS TOO GENTLE ARE SELDOM OBEYED; TOO SEVERE, SELDOM EXECUTED." Benjamin Franklin

## THE STRUCTURE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT

### U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

### U.S. COURTS



### AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

## RULE OF LAW AND THE U.S. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM

Underpinning the concept of the rule of law in the United States is the structure of its federal government. Established by the U.S. Constitution, the federal government is comprised of three branches in a system of checks and balances that ensures that no branch can dominate the government. The legislative branch - the Congress -- writes the laws. The executive branch -- the President -- signs the laws and, with the 14 departments, special agencies, offices and other executive branch bodies, is charged with enforcing them. The judicial branch originally comprised the Supreme Court responsible for ruling on the constitutionality of the laws and any other lesser courts deemed necessary by Congress. Today, the judicial branch includes all of the U.S. federal court system.

## HOW OUR LAWS ARE MADE HOUSE - SENATE

## RULE OF LAW

## SPECIAL FEATURE



Publication: [Outline of the U.S. Legal System](#)

## *the Charters of Freedom* "A NEW WORLD IS AT HAND"

[The Declaration of Independence](#)

[The Constitution](#)

[The Bill of Rights](#)



RULE OF LAW eJOURNALS

[Access to the Courts: Equal Justice for All](#)

[Criminal Justice in the U.S.](#)

[How U.S. Courts Work](#)

[Law Enforcement in a Free Society](#)

[Civil-Military Relations in a Democracy](#)

[Independence of the Judiciary](#)

### INTERNET RESOURCES

*Online sources for information about access to the U.S. justice system.*



Prepared by the [American Information Resource Center](#),  
[Public Affairs Section](#), [U.S. Consulate General, Istanbul](#).

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