**Court Cases**

**(1803) Marbury v. Madison**

William Marbury (one of Adams' midnight appointments), sued Secretary of State Madison to force delivery of his commission as a justice of the peace in the federal district; Marshall would not rule on it, because he said the law that gave the Supreme Court power to rule over such matter was unconstitutional

* established the policy of judicial review over federal legislation
* Precedent of the Supreme Court's power to rule on the constitutionality of federal laws

**(1810) Fletcher v. Peck**

* Georgia legislature issued extensive land grants to Yazoo Land Company; afterwards, it was considered corrupt, so there was a legislative session that repealed the action
* Court ruled that the original contract was valid and could not be broken

**(1819) Dartmouth College v. Woodward**

* Republicans back the president of the college, Federalists backed the trustees
* president try to make it a public institution (instead of private) by having the charter revoked
* ruled that even though charter was granted by the king, it was still a contract and thus could not be changed without the consent of both parties

**(1819) McCulloch v. Maryland**

* state of MD tried to levy a tax on the Baltimore branch of the Bank of the United States (to protect the competitive position of state banks)
* ruled against state, b/c state had no right to control an agency of the federal gov't

**(1824) Gibbons v. Ogden**

* NY state had granted monopoly to Ogden of Hudson River. Gibbons obtained a permit from Congress to operate steamboat there
* Ogden sued, and state ruled in his favor
* Marshall ruled that it was interstate commerce and could not be regulated by a state (only Congress could) - the monopoly was then voided

**(1831) Cherokee Nation v. Georgia**

* Court refused to hear case, which the Cherokees brought forward, b/c GA had abolished their tribal legislature and courts (said that because the tribe was a "foreign nation, the decision should be made by the Supreme Court)
* Marshall said they really were not foreign nations (they just had special status)

**(1832) Worcester v. Georgia**

* GA state gov't said any US citizen who wanted to enter Cherokee territory had to obtain permission from the governor
* GA law was overturned, b/c the federal gov't had the constitutionally mandated role of regulating trade with the tribes
* Jackson said of Marshall "John Marshall has made his decision. Now let him enforce it"

**(1842) Prigg v. Pennsylvania**

* Court ruled that states did not have to enforce the return of fugitive slaves
* Chief Justice Roger B. Taney (MD) - Pro-South

**(1842) Commonwealth v. Hunt**

* Massachusetts Supreme Court ruled that unions and strikes were legal

**(1856) Dred Scott v. Sanford**

* Dred Scott, (slave from Missouri), had been taken to Illinois (a free state) by his owner for several years, so he sued for his freedom
* ruled that he, as a slave, was not a slave, and could not sue in court

**(1877) Munn v. Illinois**

* upheld Granger Laws that regulated railroads

**(1886) Wabash Case (Wabash, St.Louis, and Pacific Railroad Co. v. Illinois)**

* ruled one of the Granger laws in Illinois was unconstitutional because it tried to control interstate commerce, which was a power of Congress only
* restricted state regulation of commerce

**(1895) United States v. E.C. Knight Co.**

* Congress charged that a single trust controlled 98% of refined sugar manufacturing in the US, but Court rejected case because trust was involved in manufacturing, NOT interstate commerce (which was what Congress could control), so, trust was not illegal
* weakened Sherman Antitrust Act

**(1896) Plessy v. Ferguson**

* ruled that segregation was allowed, as long as the facilities were "separate but equal"

**(1919) Schenck v. United States**

* ruled that there are limits to freedom of speech

**(1944) Korematsu v. United States**

* Roosevelt's 1942 order that Issei and Nisei be relocated to concentration camps was challenged
* Court upheld it

**(1944) Smith v. Allwright**

* Supreme Court stopped the Texas primary elections because they had violated the 15th amendment by being restricted only to whites

**(1954) Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka**

* NAACP lawyer Thurgood Marshall challenge decision from Plessy v. Ferguson
* Court ruled that the separate educational facilities were not equal
* 1955 - said states must "integrate with great speed"
* \*\*(note: when Court announces Brown II decision, Montgomery bus boycotts began)

**(1957) Roth v. United States**

* greatly limited the authority of local governments to curb pornography

**(1962) Engel v. Vitale**

* ruled that prayers in public schools were unconstitutional

**(1962) Baker v. Carr**

* required state legislatures to apportion electoral districts so that all citizens votes would have equal weight

**(1966) Miranda v. Arizona**

* confirmed the obligation of authorities to inform a criminal suspect of his or her rights

**(1971) Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education**

* Court ruled in favor of forced busing to achieve racial balance in schools

**(1973) Roe v. Wade**

* based on new theory of constitutional "right to privacy" (first recognized in Grizwold v. Connecticut)
* invalidated all laws prohibiting abortions during the first trimester of pregnancy

**(1989) Webster v. Reproductive Health Services**

* Court upheld a law from Missouri that prohibited public employees from performing abortions, unless the life of the mother was threatened
* because of this decisions, some states tried to create similar laws