

Law Merit Badge



Merit Badge Counselor: Mr. Robert Bertrand

Merit Badge Expert: USMC Col Matt Brower;

Attorney at Law (Judge)

Ms. Mollie Bertrand;

Attorney at Law (Business Transactions)



Law Merit Badge



Merit Badge Counselor: Mr. Robert Bertrand

-Expertise: Criminal Justice College Degree; 33 years of applying justice to Americans in military

Merit Badge Experts:

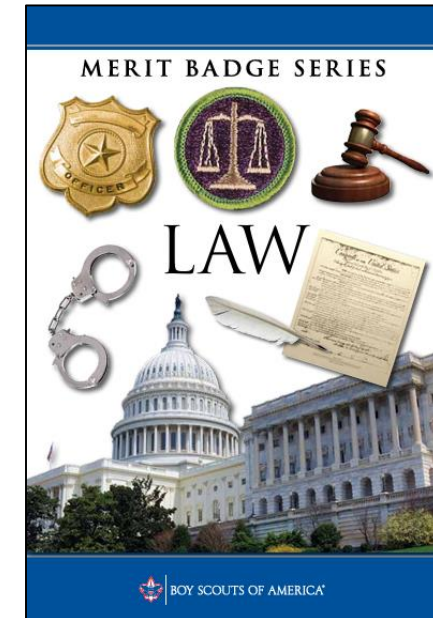
(1) Judge Mathew Brower, California

(2) Ms. Mollie Bertrand

-Expertise: 25 years as a Lawyer; ***Business Law***

-Law School: University of Tennessee

*Undergraduate: University of Virginia: English



1. Define "law." Tell some of its sources. Describe the functions it serves.

2. Discuss **TWO** of the following:

- (a) Justinian's Code, the Code of Hammurabi, and the Magna Carta
- ~~(b) The development of the jury system~~
- (c) Two famous trials in history.

3. Tell what civil law is; tell what criminal law is. Tell the main differences between them. Give examples of each.

4. Ask five people (not more than one from your immediate family) about the role of law enforcement officers in our society. Discuss their answers with them. Go to a law enforcement officer in your neighborhood and ask about his or her responsibilities and duties. Report your findings to your counselor.

5. Discuss with your counselor several laws that were passed to protect the consumer and the seller. Describe several organizations that provide help to consumers and sellers.

6. Do **ONE** of the following:

- ~~(a) Attend a session of a civil or criminal court. Write 250 words or more on what you saw.~~
- (b) Plan and conduct a mock trial with your troop or school class. After the trial is over, discuss it with the group.

7. Arrange a visit with a lawyer who works for a business, bank, title company, or **government agency**. Find out his or her duties and responsibilities. Report what you have learned.

8. Explain the requirements for becoming a lawyer in your state. Describe how judges are selected in your state.

9. Make a list of 15 jobs that deal with some aspects of law or legal processes. Tell which you prefer. Why?

10. Tell where people can go to obtain the help of a lawyer if they are unable to pay for one. Tell what you can do if you can afford a lawyer but do not know of any in your area.

11. Discuss with your counselor the importance in our society of TWO of the following areas of the law or process:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| •(a) Administrative | (e) Environmental |
| •(b) Alternative Dispute Resolution | •(f) Family |
| •(c) Bankruptcy | •(g) Immigration |
| •(d) Biotechnology | •(h) Information Technology |
| | •(i) Intellectual Property, (Copyright, Patents and Trademarks) |
| | •(j) International |
| | •(k) Privacy. |

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Timeline

0830- 0835: Accountability

0835-0840: Review the timeline for the day

0850-1030: Questions: 1-4a

1030-1100: Watch Courtroom video

1100-1145: #4 Police Officer interview / discussion

1130-1200 #5; several laws about protection discussion

1200-1230: Lunch

1230-1300: Court-room and trial prep

1300-1330: #6, Trial and post discussion

1330-1415: #7; Lawyer Discussion

1415-1430: #8; how to become a Lawyer and Judges

1430-1600: #9-11

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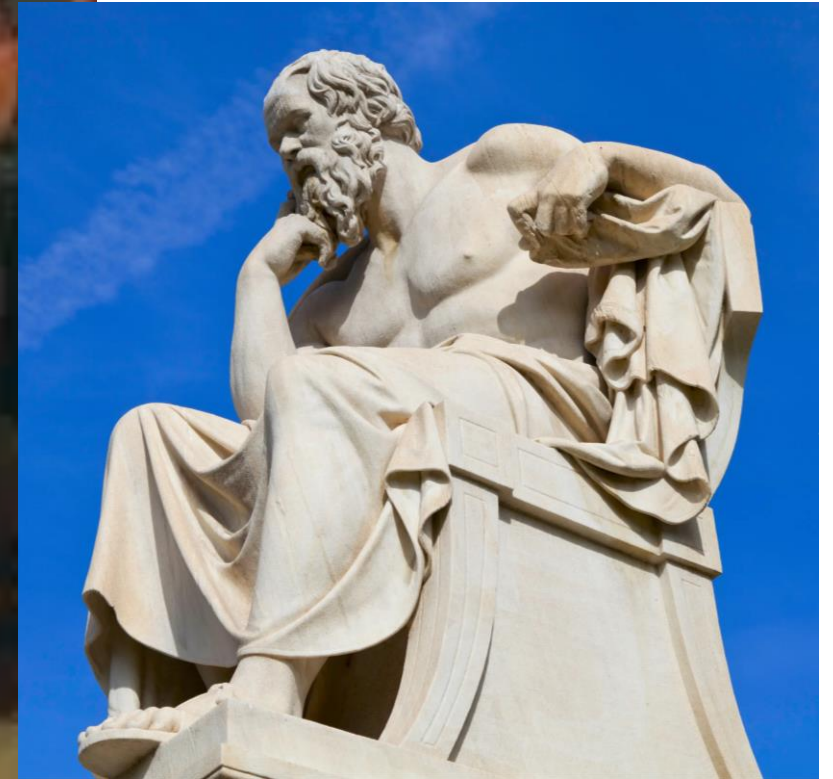
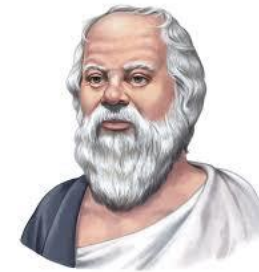
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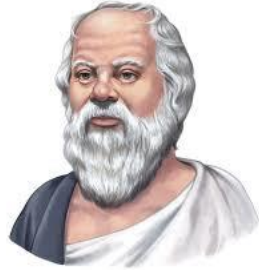
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Who is this?

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Socrates



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- Born in 470 BC in Athens, Greece.
- He was an educated stone mason and served in the military during the Peloponnesian Wars from 431 BC to 404 BC.
- He developed a series of unique philosophies and would share them with anyone who listened.
- He lived during a tumultuous time in Ancient Greece: Athens and Sparta who were locked in a conflict that we know of as the Peloponnesian Wars.
- **A thinker**; He would walk up to people in the market and ASK them questions to make them think...it turn out to be annoying...
- Athenian city-state suffered a great defeat. They had ideas of grandeur but at the time, they weren't realized. Angry at the way things worked out, the people of Athens floundered. They needed a scapegoat.
- His actions clashed with politics, he was arrested, gave a famous speech and then drank Hemlock poison and then was found guilty of bad influence on Athen's youth--dead.

Peloponnesian War 431-404 BC

Athens Vs. Sparta



Sparta	Athens
Oligarchy- Group of Elders	Democracy and Citizen Participation
Military State and Agoge System	Rule of Law:
Lack of Individual Freedom:	Individual Liberties:
Land Power and Trade Dominance	Naval Power; innovative Military
Discipline / Tough	Intellectual - Greece
<i>Zero history</i>	<i>Still standing today</i>



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1. Define "law." Tell some of its sources.

Small pause... first ... lets talk about...

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What are Norms and Values?

NORMS & VALUES

Norms are specific behavioral standards or rules in a society, while values are overarching principles that determine what is considered good or desirable.

NORMS

Norms are shared rules and expectations guiding behavior in a society or group, maintaining social order, defining cultural values, and shaping interactions.

The four types of social norms are folkways, mores, taboos, and laws. Norms can vary across time, cultures, and even sub-group.

VALUES

Values are beliefs that we have about what is important, both to us and to society as a whole. A value is a belief (right or wrong) about how something should be.

Examples of values include honesty, respect, responsibility, fairness, and kindness, which guide societal behavior and decision-making.

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What are some Scout Norms and Values?

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1. Define "law." Tell some of its sources.

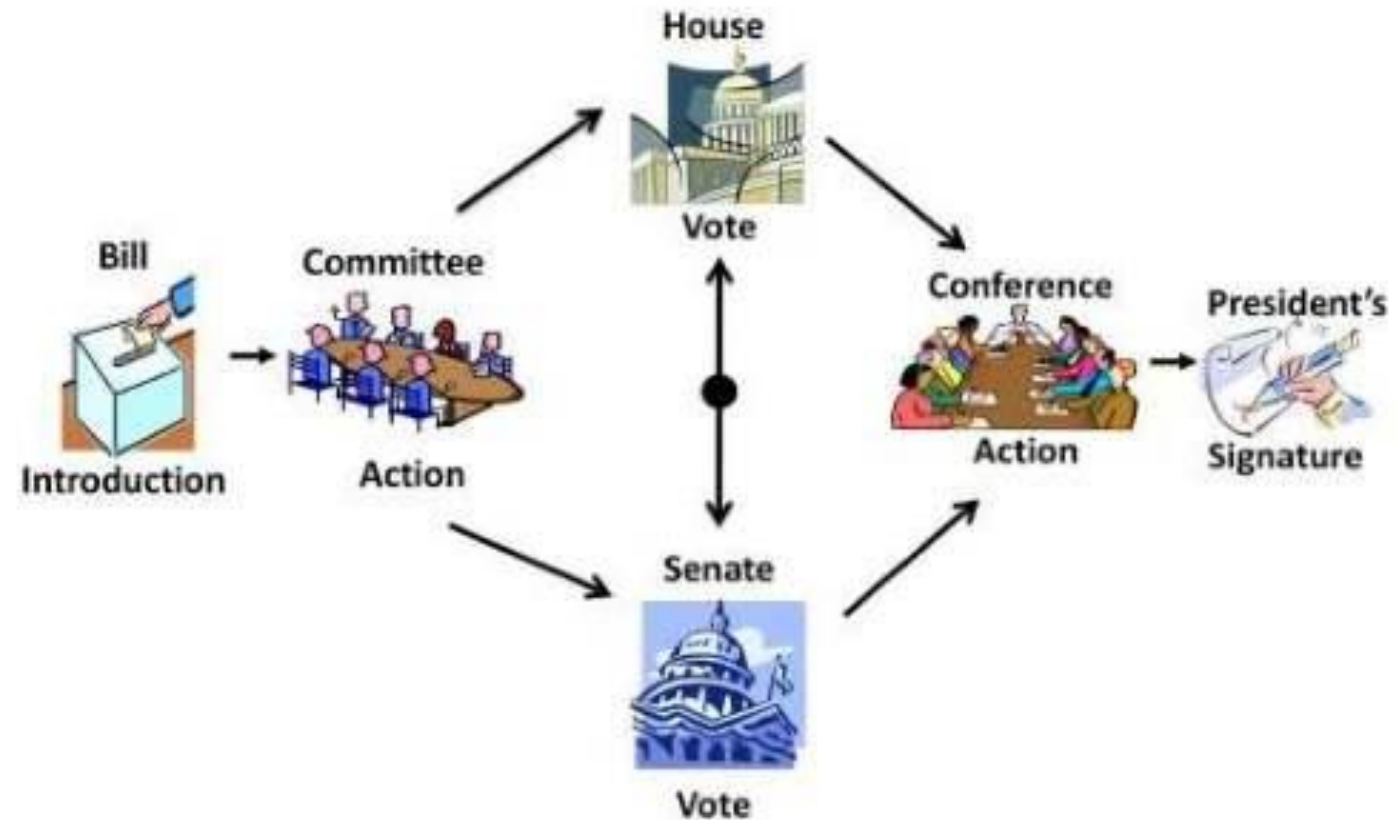
Norms:

Values:

(Formal) Governance:

Agreement:

Punishment - Crimes:
--little (Misdemeanors)
--big (Felony)



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1. Define "law." Describe the functions it serves.

A Law is a system of rules created and enforced by a government or other authority to guide behavior, maintain order, and protect people's rights.

Laws tell people what they are required to do, allowed to do, and not allowed to do in a society.

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Sources of Law

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Sources of Law

Laws come from several places, including:

1. **Constitutions** – The highest source of law. It establishes the structure of government and guarantees basic rights.
2. **Statutes (Legislation)** – Laws passed by elected bodies such as the U.S. Congress or state legislatures.
3. **Regulations** – Rules made by government agencies (like the EPA or OSHA) to carry out the details of laws.
4. **Case Law / Court Decisions** – Judges interpret laws and set legal precedents through their rulings.
5. **Local Ordinances** – Rules created by cities, counties, and towns.
6. **Common Law** – **Traditions and legal principles** developed over time through court decisions.

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Functions Law Serves....?

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Functions Law Serves

The law plays several important roles in society:

- **Maintains order and safety** (controls behavior, prevents chaos).
- **Protects people's rights and freedoms** (like free speech, due process).
- **Provides rules for resolving disputes** (courts and legal processes).
- **Establishes standards of behavior** (what is acceptable and unacceptable).
- **Promotes the common good** (public health, fair business practices).
- **Supports the functioning of government** (defines powers and responsibilities).

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2. Discuss the following:

- (a) the Code of Hammurabi,

2. Discuss the following:
- (b) the Code of Hammurabi,

The Code of Hammurabi

Written around **1754 BC** by King Hammurabi of Babylon, this is one of the oldest known written law codes. It contained **282 laws** carved on a stone pillar. The Code covered daily life—trade, property, marriage, injury, and crime.

Famous for: The principle of “*an eye for an eye*”—punishments should fit the crime.

Importance: It shows one of the earliest attempts to create a consistent, public legal system and protect weaker members of society.

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2. Discuss the following:

- (a) Justinian's Code

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•(a) Justinian's Code,

Justinian's Code (Corpus Juris Civilis)

Created in the Byzantine Empire under Emperor Justinian I around **AD 529–534**,

--Justinian's Code was a massive project to organize and update centuries of Roman law.

It included four parts: the *Code* (imperial laws), *Digest* (writings of Roman legal experts), *Institutes* (a textbook for law students), and *Novellae* (newer laws).

Importance: It preserved Roman legal thinking and became the foundation for many modern European legal systems, influencing ideas about property, contracts, and justice.



THE JUSTINIAN CODE

- To oversee his new empire, Justinian ordered legal experts to consolidate old Roman laws into a single law code
 - The Justinian Code served as the legal basis for criminal justice, marriage, property, slavery, & women's rights
 - The law code became one of the most important legacies of the Byzantine Empire & served as the basis for laws for the next 900 years

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2. Discuss the following:

- (a) the Magna Carta

2. Discuss the following:

(c) the **Magna Carta**

The Magna Carta (1215)

Signed in **1215** by King John of England after pressure from rebellious nobles, the Magna Carta limited the king's power and protected certain rights. It established that the king was **not above the law.**

Key ideas:

- **The right to a fair trial**
- **Limits on taxation**
- **Protection of individual liberties**

Importance: It became a foundation for constitutional government, influencing later documents like the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights

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2. Discuss the following: Two famous trials in history.

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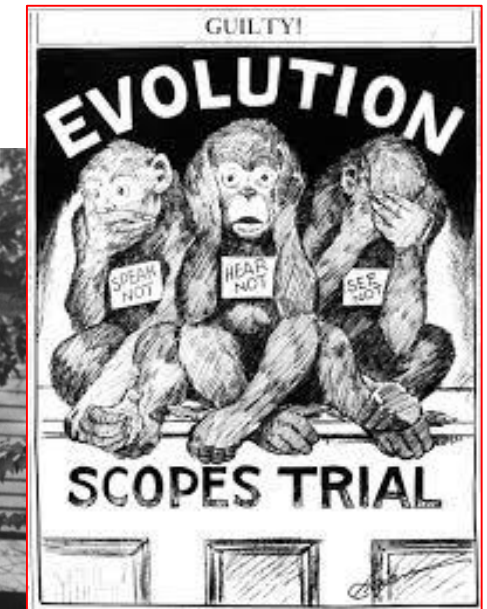
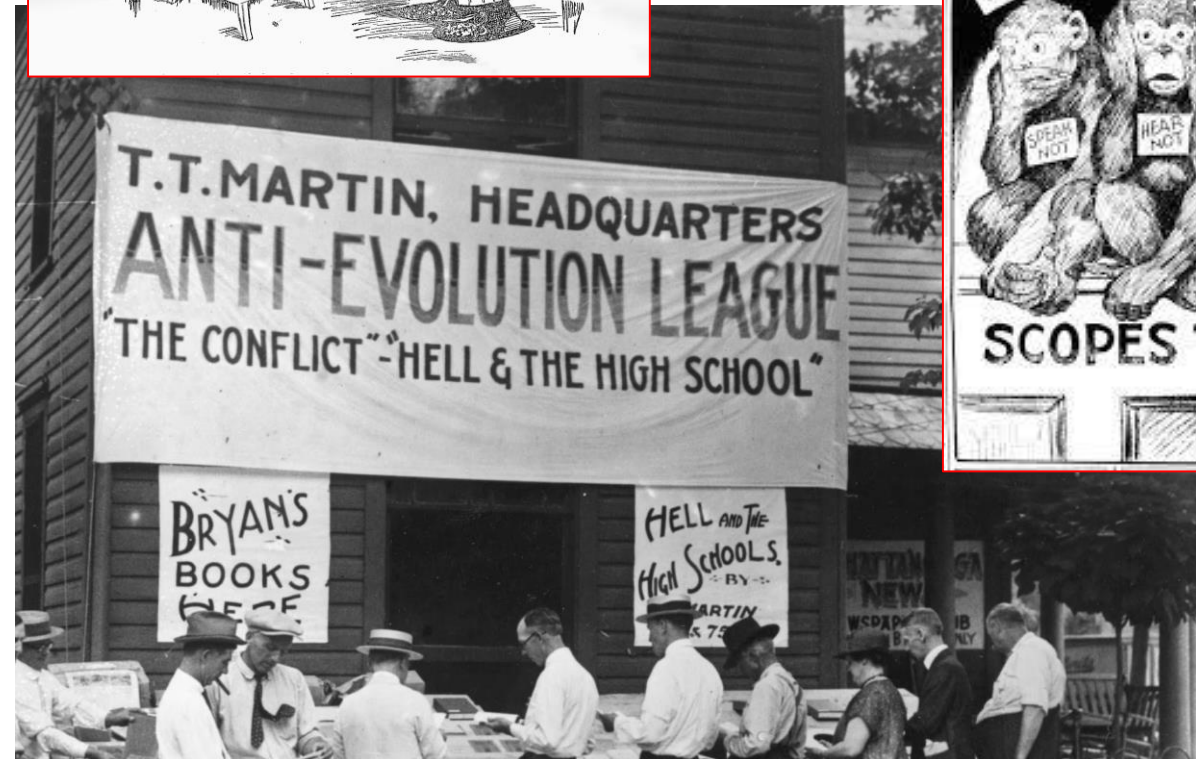
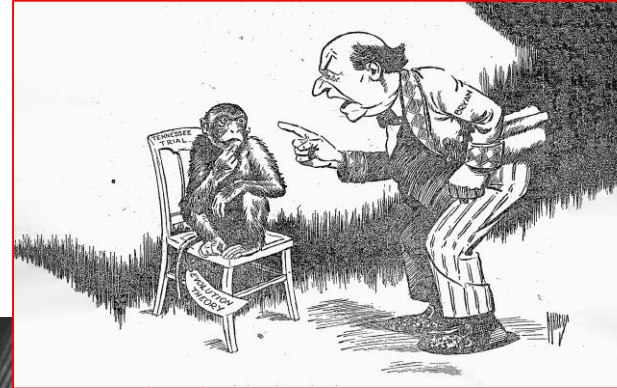
- Two famous trials in history.

The Scopes "Monkey" Trial (1925)

This trial took place in Dayton, Tennessee. High school teacher **John T. Scopes** was charged with illegally teaching evolution in a public school, which violated a state law requiring schools to teach only Biblical creation. The trial became a national debate over **science vs. religion, academic freedom, and modernism vs. traditionalism.**

Significance: The case highlighted changing American beliefs and helped bring evolutionary science into public discussion.

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2. Discuss the following:

- Two famous trials in history.

The Salem Witch Trials (1692–1693)

These trials occurred in colonial Massachusetts. More than 200 people were accused of witchcraft, and 20 were executed. Suspicion, fear, and superstition fueled the accusations.

Significance: The trials demonstrated the dangers of mass hysteria, false accusations, and unfair legal procedures. They influenced later American ideas about **due process**, **evidence**, and **individual rights**.

2. Discuss the following:

- Two famous trials in history.

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The Dred Scott Case (1857)

The **Dred Scott v. Sandford** case is one of the most important—and most controversial—Supreme Court decisions in American history.

Who was Dred Scott?

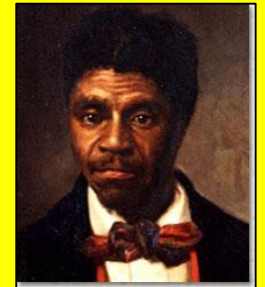
Dred Scott was an enslaved man who lived in Missouri. His owner had taken him to live in Illinois and the Wisconsin Territory, where slavery was illegal. Scott argued that because he lived on free soil, he should be **free**.

What did the Supreme Court decide?

In 1857, the Court ruled **against** Dred Scott. The decision said: **Enslaved people were not citizens**, so Scott had no right to sue in federal court.

Congress had no power to ban slavery in the western territories.

Enslaved people were considered **property**, not humans with rights.



Why is this case important?

- It **strengthened the divide** between free and slave states. It helped push the United States closer to the **Civil War**.
- It is now remembered as one of the **worst Supreme Court decisions**, later overturned by the **13th and 14th Amendments**, which abolished slavery and granted citizenship and equal protection

2. Discuss the following:

- Two famous trials in history.

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Dred Scott v. Sandford: 1857

"...We think they [people of African ancestry] are... not included, and were not intended to be included, under the word "citizens" in the Constitution, and can therefore claim none of the rights and privileges which that instrument provides for and secures to citizens of the United States..."

— *Chief Justice
Roger B. Taney*



image: wikicommons

Dred Scott was born enslaved to the Peter Blow family in Southampton County, Virginia around 1799. Scott would go on to become one of the most recognized enslaved people of all time.

In 1833, when he was around 30 years old, Scott was ***sold*** to Dr. Emerson, an army surgeon. Scott lived with Emerson on an army post in Illinois (which was a free state) and when Dr. Emerson was reassigned to Fort Armstrong at Rock Island, Illinois, Scott was taken along. Under the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 and the State Constitution of 1818, slavery was prohibited in Illinois. However, Army and Navy officers did not consider themselves to be citizens of a state merely because they happened to be stationed there. A couple of years later in 1836, Emerson was moved to Fort Snelling on the west side of the Mississippi in what is now Minnesota. Emerson took Dred Scott along, although Fort Snelling was in territory from which slavery was barred by the Missouri Compromise of 1820. That is where Dred met and fell in love with Harriet Robinson, who was enslaved by Major Taliaferro, an officer from Virginia. Dr. Emerson bought Harriet and the couple married. Two years later in 1838 their first daughter Eliza was born. When the Army moved Dr. Emerson to Louisiana, he met and married Irene (February 1838). The Scotts welcomed their second daughter Lizzie soon after, in 1840.

After Dr. Emerson's death in 1843, Dred and Harriet Scott were left to Emerson's widow, Irene Emerson. Irene's family hired the Scotts out and kept all the money. Three years later, the Scotts filed separate petitions for their freedom based on the established doctrine of "once free always free." Since the Scotts had been enslaved in areas slavery was illegal, technically they should be free. This was not unusual: over 300 enslaved people sued for their freedom at the Old Courthouse in St. Louis.

Historians have considered a few reasons as to why Dred and Harriet chose to sue for their freedom at this time:

- Mrs. Emerson might have been planning to sell them, or to break up their family by selling just one or two of them.
- They may have offered to buy their own freedom and been refused
- They may have been dissatisfied with being hired out
- They may have seen their daughters growing older and wanted to prevent them from facing the same hardships they had.

In 1847, the Dred Scott case was brought to trial. The courts considered Dred and Harriet's suits together, so when people refer to the Dred Scott Case, it actually refers to both of their petitions. The Scotts lost their first trial due to hearsay evidence but, after being granted a second trial in 1850 they were both granted their freedom by the courts. Because slaves were valuable property at the time, Mrs. Irene Emerson appealed the decision to the Missouri Supreme Court and the decision was reversed in 1852 on the basis that "times now are not as they were when the previous decisions on this subject were made." At the time, Missouri law allowed slavery, and the court would uphold the rights of slave-owners in the state by any means.

Dred Scott however, was not yet ready to give up on his fight for liberation and in 1854 – with the help of a team of lawyers who opposed slavery – Scott filed a suit against John F.A. Sanford, Mrs. Emerson's brother and executor of the Emerson estate. The case was decided in favor of Sanford, prompting Scott to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court and on March 6, 1857, Chief Justice Roger B. Taney read the official opinion of the court. Seven of the nine justices agreed that Dred Scott should remain enslaved, but Taney did not stop there. Taney felt that Dred Scott's suit for freedom should be dismissed for the following reasons:

- As a slave, Dred Scott was not a citizen of the United States, and therefore had no right to bring suit in the federal courts on any matter.
- Scott had never been free, due to the fact that slaves were personal property; thus the Missouri Compromise of 1820 was unconstitutional, and the federal government had no right to prohibit slavery in the new territories.

Although the Dred Scott Case on its surface appears to argue whether the Scotts were entitled to their freedom, what was more important was the consideration of property rights. If slaves were indeed valuable property, like a car or an expensive home today, could they be taken away from their owners because of where the owner had taken them? In other words, if a car was driven from Missouri to Illinois, and owning a car was illegal in the State of Illinois, could the authorities then take the car upon returning to Missouri? These were the questions being discussed in the Dred Scott case, with one major difference: a car is not human and cannot sue. Which was more important: the rights of people to own property, or the rights of people to not be property? Mrs. Emerson remarried to Calvin C. Chaffee, a northern congressman who opposed slavery and eventually turned the Scott family over to Dred's original enslavers, the Blows. The Blows in turn granted the Scotts their freedom in May of 1857. Dred Scott's freedom was short lived as he died less than a year later from tuberculosis, but Harriet lived nearly twenty years longer. Their descendants still live in St. Louis.

This Dred Scott decision ultimately pushed the country closer to the brink of Civil War as the American public reacted very strongly to the ruling. The ultimate result of the war, the end of slavery throughout the United States, was not something Dred Scott could have foreseen in 1846 when he decided to sue for his freedom in St. Louis' Old Courthouse.

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3. Tell what civil law is; give example:

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Civil law is the part of the legal system that deals with disagreements between people or organizations.

It is **not** about crimes. Instead, it focuses on settling disputes and helping people get compensation or protection of their rights.

Civil law often covers issues like contracts, property, families, and injuries.

--not feeding your Adult Scout Leaders well on Campouts is a civil law penalty

BRANCHES OF CIVIL LAW



TORT



CONTRACTS



PROPERTY



FAMILY

civil case example

Maria Baker is passed over for promotion at work in favor of a less qualified man.

She may choose to file a civil lawsuit against her employer.

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3. Tell what criminal law is; **give example**

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3. Tell what criminal law is; **give example**

Criminal law is the part of the legal system that deals with acts that are considered *crimes against society or the government*. These laws define what behavior is illegal and set the punishments for breaking the law—such as fines, probation, or imprisonment.

Criminal law is meant to protect people, maintain order, and discourage harmful behavior.

Example of Criminal Law

- **Robbery:** Stealing property from someone using force or threats.
- **Arson:** Intentionally setting a building on fire.
- **Assault:** Physically attacking another person.
- **Murder**



Criminal case example

In a kidnapping case, the government prosecutes the kidnapper.

The kidnapped victim is not a party to the criminal trial (but may be a party to a civil trial if the victim sues for damages.)

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3. Tell the main differences between Civil Law and Criminal Law...

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3. What is the difference between civil and criminal law?

- Civil Law

- Deals with **disputes between people or organizations**.
- The goal is usually to **resolve the conflict** or provide **compensation** (money or other remedy).
- The case is brought by an **individual**, a business, or another private party.
- Example: A person sues another for damaging their property.

- Criminal Law

- Deals with **crimes**—actions considered harmful to society or illegal under government law.
- The goal is to **punish wrongdoing**, protect the public, and deter crime.
- The case is brought by the **government** (a prosecutor).
- Example: A person is charged with robbery or assault.

Civil law settles disputes between people; criminal law punishes actions the government defines as crimes.

3. What is the difference between civil and criminal law?



Criminal Law vs. Civil Law

Bandler Group LLC
Bandler Law Firm PLLC

Criminal law

- Government brings the case on behalf of society
- **Goals:** Protect society, deter, punish, rehabilitate
- Defendants can be held in custody
 - Can be arrested
 - Can be held in jail pending trial
 - Can be sentenced to jail if convicted
- **Beyond a reasonable doubt** (BRD) is the burden of proof
- Importance of Constitutional Law and protections
- U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights are very important, especially
 - 1st Amendment
 - 4th Amendment
 - 5th Amendment
 - 6th Amendment
 - 7th Amendment
 - 8th Amendment

Civil law

- Anyone can bring a civil case
 - Individuals, organizations, government
- **Goals:** Typically to recover money (monetary damages)
- Defendant gets a summons, and goes to court on their own accord
- **Preponderance of the evidence** is the typical burden of proof
 - More likely than not
 - 50% + a little more tips the scales
- Includes many specialized areas of law
- Is where most lawyers work

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4. a. Ask five people (not more than one from your immediate family) about the role of law enforcement officers in our society. Discuss their answers with them.

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)



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4. a. Ask five people (not more than one from your immediate family) about the **role of law enforcement** officers in our society. Discuss their answers with them.

Core Responsibilities

- Protecting and Serving:** The fundamental mission is to ensure the safety, trust, and well-being of citizens, often by putting their lives in danger.
- Law Enforcement and Crime Prevention:** Officers patrol assigned areas, respond to calls, investigate crimes, apprehend suspects, and collect evidence. A key part of modern policing involves proactive crime prevention rather than just reacting after a crime has occurred.
- Maintaining Public Order:** This involves activities such as controlling crowds and traffic, mediating disputes, and ensuring a peaceful environment during public events.
- Emergency Response:** Police are often the first on the scene for a wide range of emergencies, providing basic first aid, assisting at accidents, and coordinating with fire and emergency medical services.
- Record Keeping and Legal Duties:** Officers are required to write detailed incident reports, file accurate records, and testify in court as witnesses

4b. We will welcome **Chesapeake Master Police Officer Antonio Z. Spruill**



Every Scout MUST ask him 1x question and every Star or above Scout must have 2x questions prepared:

Ask about his Police responsibilities-(Master Police Officer, Senior Police Officer, Police Officer, Detective, etc, what's the difference?)

Police Officers Duties—to the public, to the community, to the City, to themselves?

Police Officers concerns while on duty is....

What would he like every American citizen to know about this job and their civic responsibility as citizens in this country?

What can Scouts do to partner with Chesapeake Police Officers to promote Safety?

What are the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics?

Mission, Vision, & Core Values: Chesapeake Police Department

MISSION STATEMENT

"In partnership with the community and other city agencies, promote safety within the city through the delivery of fair, impartial, and professional police services."

VISION STATEMENT

"Our vision is to continue to make the citizens and visitors of Chesapeake feel safe as they live, learn, work, farm, and play, while we strive to be one of the premier law enforcement agencies in the nation."

CORE VALUES

Community Service:	Providing professional police services for the benefit and betterment of the community.
• Integrity:	Adhering to high ethical principles and doing what is legally and morally right.
• Professionalism:	Maintaining a clear sense of commitment through compliance with Dept policies and adhering to the <i>Law Enforcement Code of Ethics</i> .
• Respect:	Being polite, courteous, and treating all members of the community with dignity and fairness.

Law Merit Badge



5a. What LAWS were passed to protect the consumer and the seller.

*What is a consumer?

What is a Seller?

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5. What LAWS were passed to protect the consumer and the seller.

Federal Trade Commission Act (1914)

This law created the **Federal Trade Commission (FTC)**.

What it does:

- Protects consumers from **false advertising**, scams, and unfair business practices.
- Helps honest sellers by making sure competitors play by the rules.



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5. What LAWS were passed to protect the consumer and the seller.

Consumer Product Safety Act (1972)

This act created the **Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)**.

What it does:

- Makes sure products sold in stores are **safe**.
- Allows the government to **recall dangerous products** (like toys with choking hazards).
- Protects sellers by giving clear safety rules so they know what they can safely sell.



Law Merit Badge



5. What LAWS were passed to protect the consumer and the seller.

Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (1938)

What it does:

- Ensures that food, medicines, and cosmetics are **safe** and honestly labeled.
- Gives the FDA authority to test and approve medicines.
- Protects both buyers and honest sellers in the marketplace.



Law Merit Badge



5. What LAWS were passed to protect the consumer and the seller.

Fair Packaging and Labeling Act (1966)

What it does:

- Requires products to have honest, clear labels (ingredients, weight, manufacturer).
- Helps consumers make informed choices.
- Protects sellers from unfair competitors who might otherwise mislabel products.



Major Federal Legislation Protecting Consumers Since 1960

- Federal Hazardous Substances Labeling Act (1960)
- Kefauver-Harris Drug Amendments (1962)
- Cigarette Labeling Act (1965)
- Fair Packaging and Labeling Act (1966)
- Motor Vehicle Safety Act (1966)
- Truth in Lending Act (1968)
- Credit Card Liability Act (1970)
- Fair Credit Reporting Act (1971)
- Consumer Product Safety Commission Act (1972)
- Fair Credit Billing Act (1974)
- Equal Credit Opportunity Act (1974)
- Magnuson-Moss Warranty-Federal Trade Commission Act (1975)
- Amendments to Equal Credit Opportunity Act (1976, 1994)
- Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (1977)
- Nutrition Labeling and Education Act (1990)
- Telephone Consumer Protection Act (1991)
- Consumer Credit Reporting Reform Act (1997)
- Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (2000)
- Do Not Call Implementation Act (2003)
- Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility, and Disclosure Act (2009)

Law Merit Badge



5. What LAWS were passed to protect the consumer and the seller.

Truth in Lending Act (1968)

What it does:

- Requires banks and companies to clearly explain **interest rates**, fees, and loan terms.
- Protects consumers from hidden charges.
- Helps sellers and lenders by creating **fair, consistent rules** for everyone.

CREDIT PROTECTION LAWS

Truth in Lending Act

- **Enacted in 1968**
- **Requires these lenders to disclose all credit terms, including finance charges**

TRUTH IN LENDING

The Consumer Credit Protection Act, which passed in 1968, has commonly been known as the **Truth in Lending Act**. Two major issues addressed in the law:

1. How can I tell the true interest rate a lender is charging?
2. How much of the finance charge am I entitled to save if I decide to pay off a loan sooner than originally scheduled?

Law Merit Badge



5. Discuss with your counselor several laws that were passed to protect the consumer and the seller.

Federal Trade Commission Act (1914)

This law created the **Federal Trade Commission**.

What it does:

- Protects consumers from **false advertising**.
- Helps honest sellers by making sure competitors are fair.

Consumer Product Safety Act (1972)

This act created the **Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)**.

What it does:

- Makes sure products sold in stores are **safe**.
- Allows the government to **recall dangerous products** (like toys with choking hazards).
- Protects sellers by giving clear safety rules so they know what they can safely sell.

Fair Packaging and Labeling Act (1966)

What it does:

- Requires products to have honest information (weight, manufacturer).
- Helps consumers make informed choices.
- Protects sellers from unfair competition by preventing mislabel products.

Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (1938)

What it does:

- Ensures that food, medicines, and cosmetics are **safe** and **honestly labeled**.
- Gives the FDA authority to test and approve medicines.
- Protects both buyers and honest sellers in the marketplace.

Truth in Lending Act (1968)

What it does:

- Requires banks and companies to disclose interest rates, fees, and loan terms.
- Protects consumers from hidden costs.
- Helps sellers and lenders by creating a fair market for everyone.

Law Merit Badge



5b. Describe several organizations that provide help to consumers and sellers.

Law Merit Badge



5. Describe several organizations that provide help to consumers and sellers.

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

Type: U.S. Government Agency

Helps Consumers:

- Keeps unsafe products off the market.
- Issues recalls for dangerous items (toys, appliances, tools).

Helps Sellers:

- Gives clear safety standards so companies know how to comply and avoid liability.

Law Merit Badge



5. Describe several organizations that provide help to consumers and sellers.

Better Business Bureau (BBB)

Type: Nonprofit Organization

Helps Consumers:

Rates businesses and allows customers to check if a company is trustworthy.
Provides a place to file complaints.

Helps Sellers:

BBB accreditation helps businesses build trust with customers.



Law Merit Badge



5. Describe several organizations that provide help to consumers and sellers.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Type: U.S. Government Agency

Helps Consumers:

Ensures food, medicine, and cosmetics are safe and properly labeled.

Helps Sellers:

Provides rules and safety guidelines so responsible companies can sell products confidently.



FDA's Updated "Healthy" Claim Definition



Examples of foods that qualify under the updated "Healthy" claim:



Law Merit Badge



5. Describe several organizations that provide help to consumers and sellers.

Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

Type: U.S. Government Agency

Helps Consumers:

- Stops false advertising, scams, and deceptive business practices.
- Provides education on avoiding fraud.

Helps Sellers:

- Ensures fair competition so honest businesses are not hurt by dishonest ones.



Law Merit Badge



6. Do ONE of the following:

- ~~(a) Attend a session of a civil or criminal court. Write 250 words or more on what you saw.~~
- (b) Plan and conduct a mock trial with your troop or school class. After the trial is over, discuss it with the group.**

***** We will have a Mock Trial with roles by every scout to be filled:***

Law Merit Badge

Be prepared to role play key players in a criminal trial
All court jobs will be filled

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Judge Hon. Maria Kingston – main character | Eagle Scout Mitchell |
| • Bailiff | Scout Ryan Bertrand |
| • Prosecutor – Ms. Linda Perez | Scout Carl |
| • Defense Attorney – Mr. Daniel Cho | Scout Sam Gandy |
| • Defendant – Tyler Brooks, age 15 | USN CAPT Gandy |
| • Arresting Police Officer – Officer Raymond Hill | Mr. Handsome Bob Holcomb |
| • Eyewitness #1 – Sarah Miller (teen shopper) | Scout Paula |
| • Eyewitness #2 – Aaron Davis (Walmart greeter) | Scout Dan Ennis |
| • Prosecution Witness #3 – Store Manager Ms. Karen Lee | Parent |
| • Defense Witness #1 – Tyler’s little sister, Emma Brooks | Scout Paula |
| • Defense Witness #2 – Tyler’s friend, Jason Reed | Col Brower |
| • Jury Members (4) – Juror #1, #2, #3, #4 | Parents + Scout Ella (COL (Ret) Bertrand) |
| • Foreman of the Jury – Ms. Angela Reid | Scout Ella |



Law Merit Badge



7. Arrange a visit with a lawyer who works for a business, bank, title company, or government agency.

** Business Attorney: Mrs. Mollie M. Bertrand, Attorney at Law*

** Judge: Mr. Matt Brower; Attorney and Judge*

Find out her duties and responsibilities. Report what you have learned.

***Every Scout must ask 1x question; every Star Scout and above must be prepared to ask 2x questions:**

Law Merit Badge



8. Explain the requirements for becoming a lawyer in VA.



8. (a) Explain the requirements for becoming a lawyer in VA

1. Legal Education / Study Requirement

You must satisfy one of these main paths:

- **Graduate from a law school approved by the American Bar Association (ABA)** (or approved by the Board).
- Or, if approved by the Board, complete the required period of study under its “Law Reader” (apprenticeship) program. (Less commonly) *If you studied part of your legal education abroad or at a non-ABA school: you may qualify only if you also obtain an LL.M. degree from an ABA-approved law school (or meet comparable Board requirements) and meet other conditions.*

Important details: correspondence law-school or purely online law school programs (without ABA or Board approval) do *not* count.

2. Character and Fitness

Even after meeting the academic requirement, you must also prove that you are of **good moral character and fitness** to practice law. This involves completing a **Character & Fitness Questionnaire**, giving information about your background, any criminal history, academic or employment conduct, honesty, reliability,

- The Board must be satisfied “by **clear and convincing evidence**” that you are trustworthy and fit to be a lawyer.

3. Pass the Virginia Bar Examination

- After finishing law school (or the Law Reader option), you must pass the **Virginia Bar Exam**.
- Virginia’s exam (currently) is a state-specific exam — it includes both multiple-choice (the MBE) and essay portions
- As of now, to pass, you must reach a **scaled score of at least 140 (out of 200)**.
- (Note: Virginia is slated to switch to the “NextGen UBE” exam format in 2028.)

4. Registration with the Virginia State Bar (VSB) & Swearing-In

- Once you have passed the bar and been approved for admission, you must **register with the Virginia State Bar**.
- You also must take the **oath of qualification** (swearing-in) before you can appear in court as a lawyer. All lawyers newly licensed in Virginia take part in an admission/orientation ceremony.
- After that, you are licensed to practice law in Virginia (subject to additional registration, dues, and continuing requirements).



8. (b) Describe how judges are selected in VA or California?



8. (b) Describe how judges are selected in your state.

Process for judicial selection

- **Nomination and qualification:** Candidates are nominated and must meet certain qualifications, including a criminal history search and disclosure of economic interests.
- **Committee review:** The [Courts' Committees](#) hold hearings on the candidates.
- **Report to General Assembly:** The committees make a report listing qualified candidates to each house of the General Assembly.
- **Legislative vote:** The House of Delegates and the Senate vote separately. The candidate who receives a majority vote in each house is elected.
- **Temporary appointments:** The Governor can make temporary appointments to fill vacancies that arise while the General Assembly is not in session.

Term lengths

- [Circuit court judges](#): Elected for eight-year terms.
- [District court judges](#): Elected for six-year terms.
- [Appellate court judges](#): Selected through the same legislative process as circuit court judges.

Re-election

- **End of term:** After their initial term, judges must be re-elected by the General Assembly.

Law Merit Badge



9. Make a list of 15 jobs that deal with some aspects of law or legal processes.

Every Scout will have to provide 2x jobs; starting with the most junior Scout and no repeats...come with an exhaustive list:

Then; be prepared to tell which you prefer. Why?

9. Make a list of 15 jobs that deal with some aspects of law or legal processes.

Lawyer roles

- Criminal Lawyer:** Represents clients accused of crimes or acts as a prosecutor.
- Family Lawyer:** Handles cases like divorce, child custody, and adoption.
- Tax Lawyer:** Helps individuals and businesses navigate tax laws and disputes.
- Intellectual Property (IP) Lawyer:** Specializes in patents, trademarks, and copyrights.
- Corporate Lawyer:** Advises companies on legal issues related to their business operations.
- Environmental Lawyer:** Focuses on environmental laws and regulations.



Support and administrative roles

- Paralegal:** Assists lawyers with legal research, document preparation, and other tasks.
- Legal Secretary:** Provides administrative support to lawyers, such as managing calendars and handling correspondence.
- Court Clerk:** Assists with court proceedings, including managing documents and oaths for witnesses and jurors.
- Legal Assistant:** Performs clerical and administrative duties in a law office.

Judicial and dispute resolution roles

- Judge:** Oversees legal proceedings, makes rulings, and instructs juries in a court of law.
- Mediator:** Acts as a neutral third party to help parties resolve disputes outside of court.
- Arbitrator:** Hears evidence and arguments to make a binding decision in a dispute resolution process.
- Court Reporter:** Creates a verbatim record of court proceedings.

Law Merit Badge



10. (a) Tell where people can go to obtain the help of a lawyer if they are unable to pay for one.

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10. (a) Tell where people can go to obtain the help of a lawyer if they are unable to pay for one.

For **criminal cases**

- **Request a [public defender](#):** If you are facing criminal charges that could lead to jail time, you have a constitutional right to an attorney. At your first court appearance, you can ask the court to appoint a public defender or lawyer to represent you for free.

For civil cases (**non-criminal**)

- **Contact a Legal Aid organization:** These organizations provide free or low-cost legal services for people with low to moderate incomes.
 - You can find a local Legal Aid office by visiting LawHelp.org and selecting your state.
 - You can also search for your state's Legal Aid or basic needs website, such as [NJ.gov's Legal Aid page](#).
- **Explore [Legal Services Corporation \(LSC\) programs](#):** The LSC funds over 130 legal aid organizations across the country to help low-income individuals with civil matters.

Other options

- **Look for pro bono services:** Some private attorneys donate their time to help clients for free. You can look for pro bono programs through organizations like the [American Bar Association \(ABA\) Free Legal Answers program](#) or your local bar association.
- **Check university law school clinics:** Many law schools have clinics where law students, supervised by licensed attorneys, provide legal assistance to the public for free or at a reduced rate.
- **Inquire about other fee arrangements:** Some lawyers may offer a reduced rate for an initial consultation or be willing to create a payment plan. For certain cases, such as personal injury, a lawyer might take your case on a [contingency basis](#), meaning you only pay if you win.

Law Merit Badge



10 (b) Tell what you can do if you can afford a lawyer but do not know of any in your area.

10. (b) Tell what you can do if you can afford a lawyer but do not know of any in your

Professional and Bar Association referrals

- State Bar Lawyer Referral Service:** Your state's bar association has a program that can refer you to lawyers in your area. Many lawyers offer a low-cost initial consultation through these services.
- Local Bar Associations:** Check with your local or county bar association, as they often have their own referral programs.

Legal aid and pro bono options

- Legal Aid Firms:** Search for legal aid law firms that receive funding from the state or private sources to provide legal representation to those who cannot afford it.
- Pro Bono Programs:** Look for "pro bono" (for free) programs that match clients with volunteer lawyers. The [American Bar Association \(ABA\)](#) offers resources, and many lawyers are encouraged to volunteer their time.
- Law School Clinics:** Many law schools have pro bono programs where students, under the supervision of a professor, offer free legal advice or services.

Other resources

- Online Services:** Use online tools like the [ABA Free Legal Answers](#) to ask volunteer lawyers questions online for free.
- Legal Clinics:** Search for local legal clinics that offer free legal advice and simple services.
- Nonprofit Organizations:** Look for public interest groups and other nonprofits that may be able to help you find a lawyer.

What to consider when looking

- Initial Consultation:** Take advantage of low-cost initial consultations to discuss your case and get a better idea of the next steps before committing to a lawyer.
- Specialty:** Look for a lawyer who specializes in the area of law that pertains to your situation, such as family law or criminal defense.
- Contingency Fees:** If your case has a chance of winning, some lawyers work on a "contingency fee" basis, meaning they don't get paid unless you win your case.

Law Merit Badge



11. What are the importance in our society of the following areas of the law or process:

- (a) Administrative
- (b) Alternative Dispute Resolution
- (c) Bankruptcy
- (d) Biotechnology
- (e) Environmental
- (f) Family
- (g) Immigration
- (h) Information Technology
- (i) Intellectual Property, (Copyright, Patents and Trademarks)
- (j) International
- (k) Privacy.

Tender foot
2d Class
1st Class

Star
Life

Eagle

Law Merit Badge



1. Define "law." Tell some of its sources. Describe the functions it serves.

2. Discuss TWO of the following:

- (a) Justinian's Code, the Code of Hammurabi, and the Magna Carta
- (b) The development of the jury system
- (c) Two famous trials in history.

3. Tell what civil law is; tell what criminal law is. Tell the main differences between them. Give examples of each.

4. Ask five people (not more than one from your immediate family) about the role of law enforcement officers in our society. Discuss their answers with them. Go to a law enforcement officer in your neighborhood and ask about his or her responsibilities and duties. Report your findings to your counselor.

5. Discuss with your counselor several laws that were passed to protect the consumer and the seller. Describe several organizations that provide help to consumers and sellers.

6. Do ONE of the following:

- (a) Attend a session of a civil or criminal court. Write 250 words or more on what you saw.
- (b) Plan and conduct a mock trial with your troop or school class. After the trial is over, discuss it with the group.

7. Arrange a visit with a lawyer who works for a business, bank, title company, or government agency. Find out his or her duties and responsibilities. Report what you have learned.

8. Explain the requirements for becoming a lawyer in your state. Describe how judges are selected in your state.

9. Make a list of 15 jobs that deal with some aspects of law or legal processes. Tell which you prefer. Why?

10. Tell where people can go to obtain the help of a lawyer if they are unable to pay for one. Tell what you can do if you can afford a lawyer but do not know of any in your area.

11. Discuss with your counselor the importance in our society of TWO of the following areas of the law or process:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| •(a) Administrative | (e) Environmental |
| •(b) Alternative Dispute Resolution | •(f) Family |
| •(c) Bankruptcy | •(g) Immigration |
| •(d) Biotechnology | •(h) Information Technology |
| | •(i) Intellectual Property, (Copyright, Patents and Trademarks) |
| | •(j) International |
| | •(k) Privacy. |

Law Merit Badge

You did it!



- Thank Judge Brower and Mrs. Bertrand
- Parents
- Scout Leaders

