

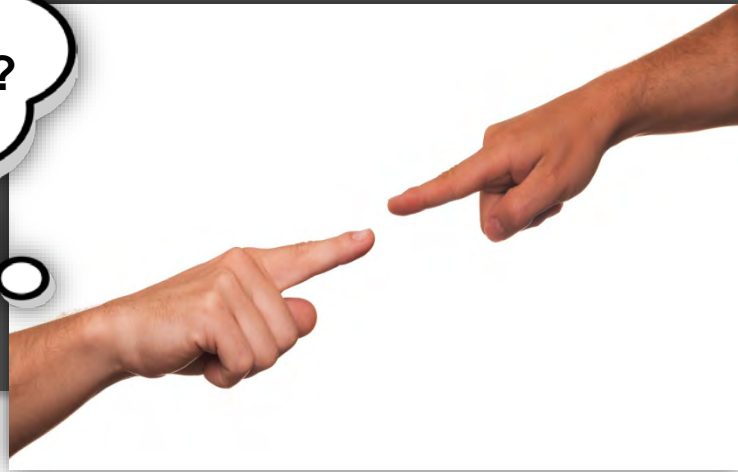
# Judicial Branch



Courts in the Judicial Branch interpret the law to resolve disputes.

# Dispute = Disagreement

What is right?



Think of a dispute as a disagreement between two sides, called “parties.” Each dispute is called a “case.”

# What is the **rule**?



In sports a referee interprets the rules to decide what is right.

# What is the law?



A court interprets the law and applies the facts to decide.

# What is the law?

Was it a crime?



For example, is this person guilty of a crime?

# What is the law?



Is money owed?

Or does a company owe money for a woman's doctor bills?

# What is the law?

Stop doing...  
Start doing...



Or must something start or stop?







Supreme Court

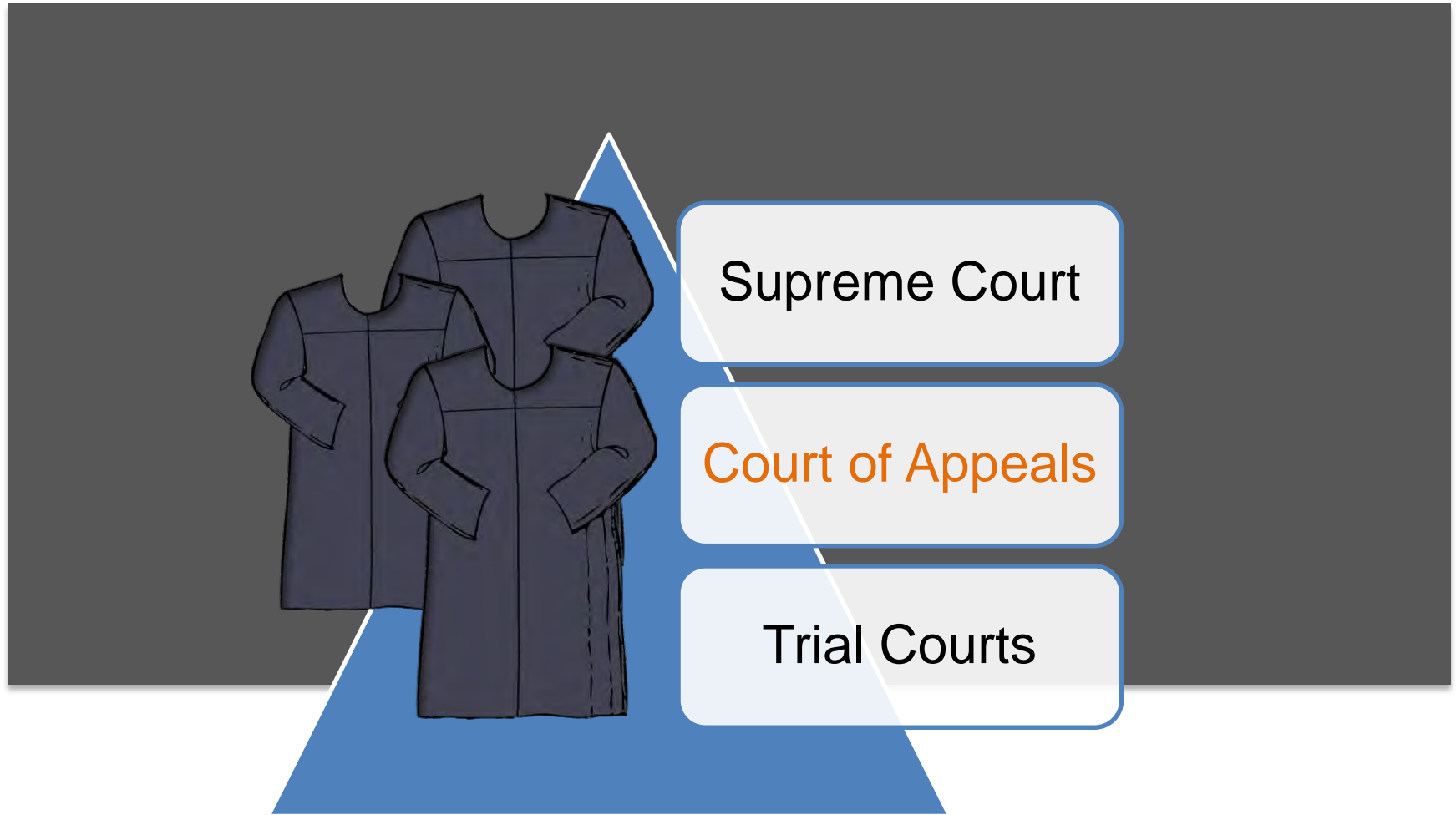
Court of Appeals

Trial Courts

Local courts are called Trial Courts. Most cases start and stop here.



This is a Trial Court courtroom, where both sides are heard and the facts (like what happened) are decided.

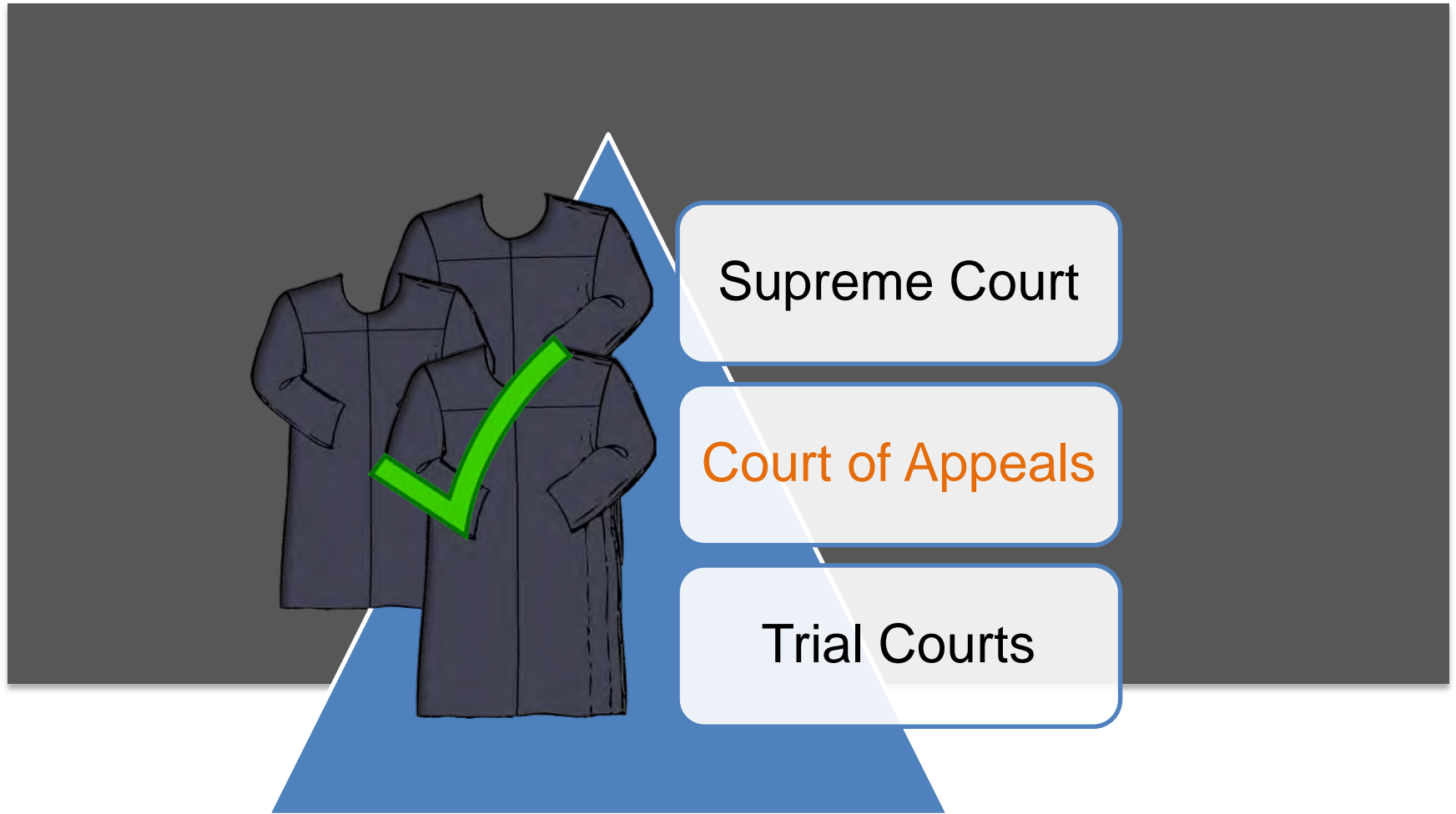


If a party thinks the Trial Court made mistakes when deciding the facts, they may appeal to the Court of Appeals, asking for the case to be looked at again (like a sports replay).

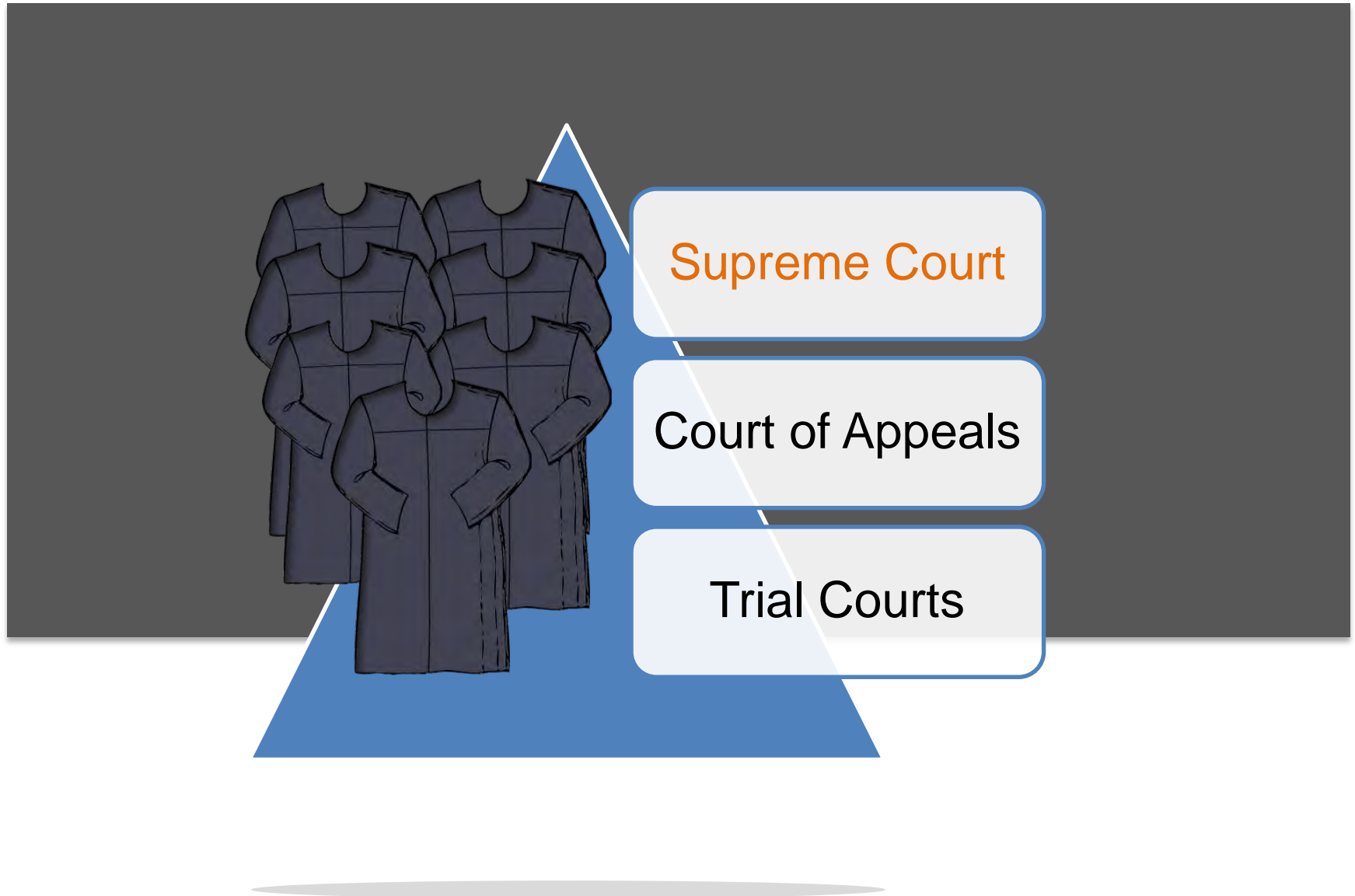
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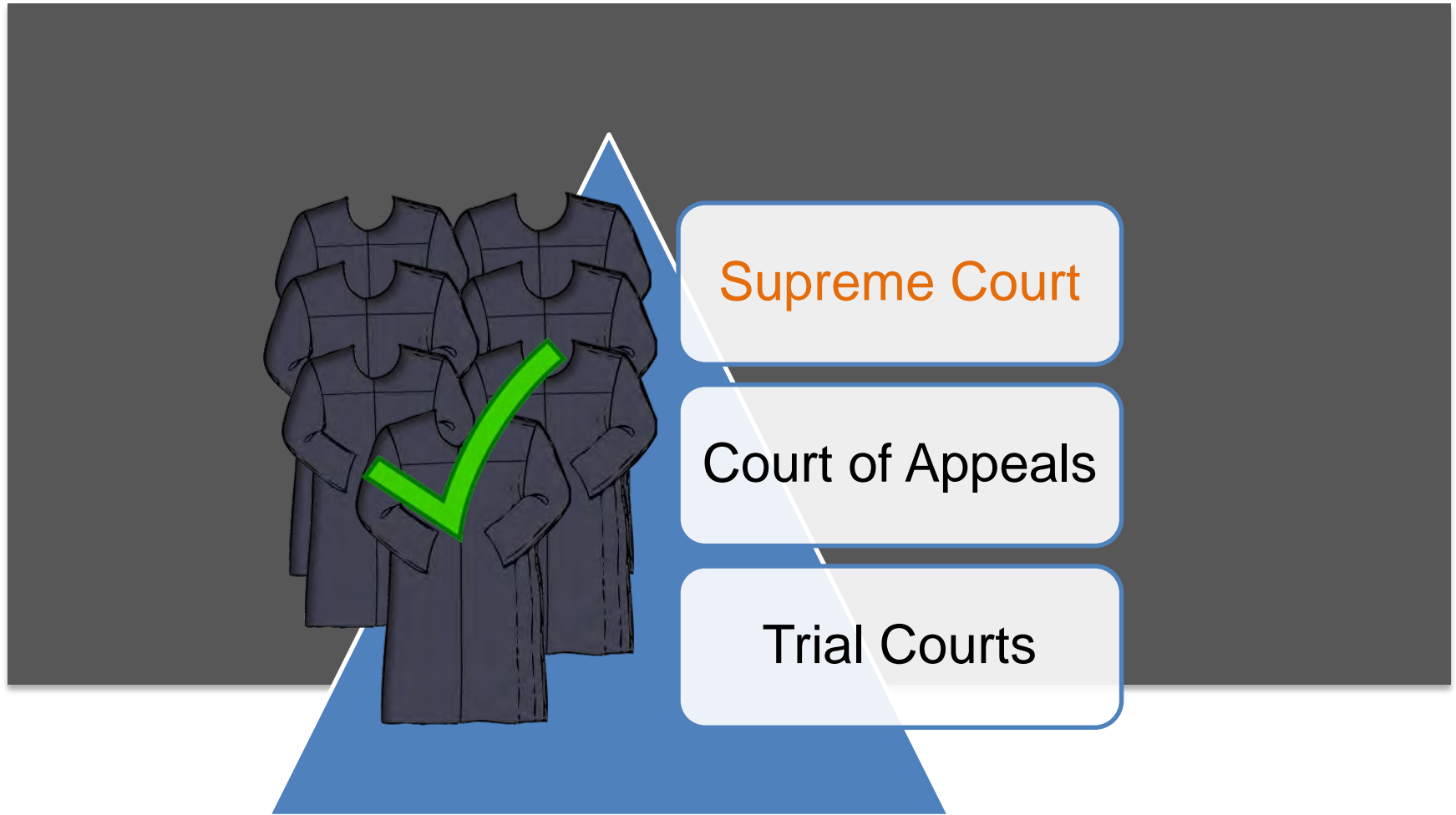
This is a Court of Appeals courtroom where both sides are heard.



Three judges decide if the Trial Court followed the rules and applied the law correctly. Cases often stop here.



But if a party still is not satisfied, they may ask the Supreme Court to hear the case. The Supreme Court only takes the most difficult cases that are important to the public and to the courts.



The seven Justices look at the law, the rules, and what happened in the lower courts to give the final answer.

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This is the Supreme Court courtroom where the sides are heard, if a case is considered.





<100 cases  
taken

6,000 cases

3,000,000+  
cases

Very few cases – usually less than 100, are heard in the courtroom each year.



Supreme Court

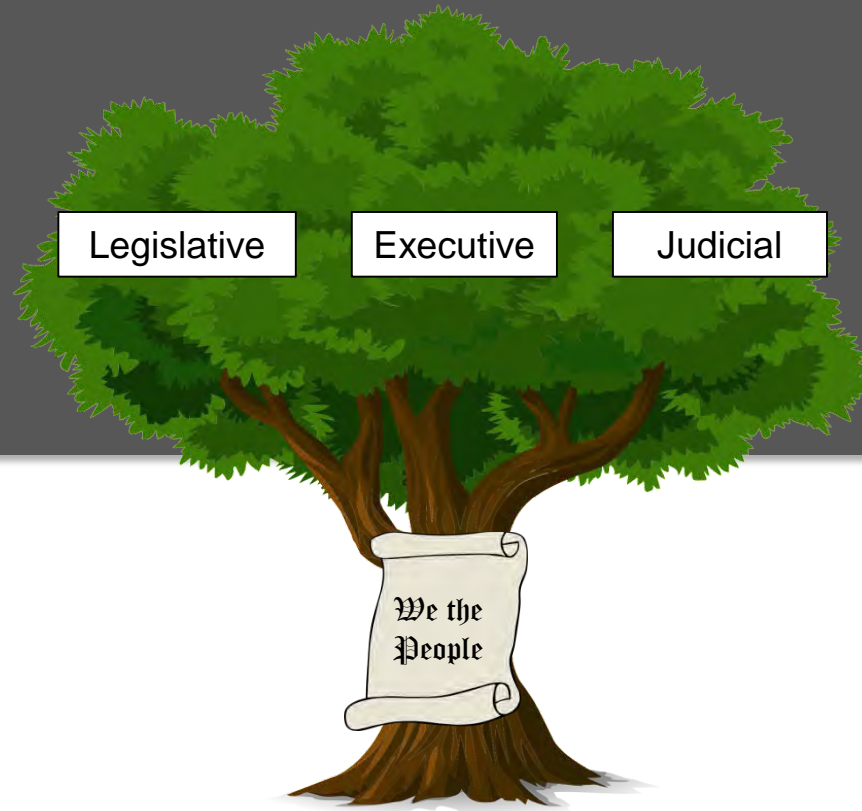
Court of Appeals

Trial Courts

All lower courts must follow the decision of the Supreme Court in similar cases.

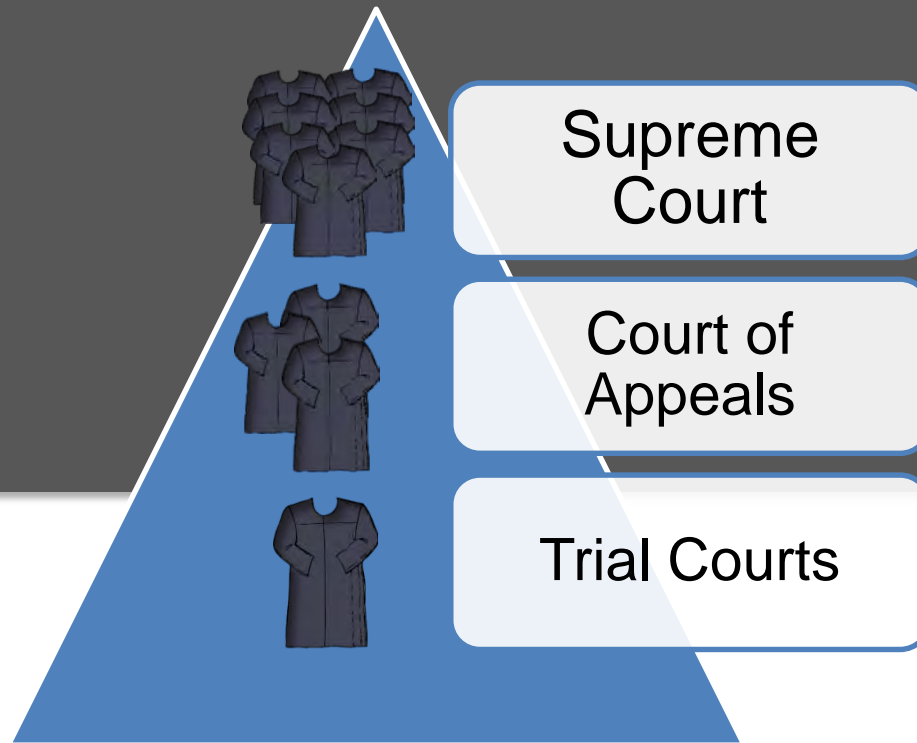


# Summary



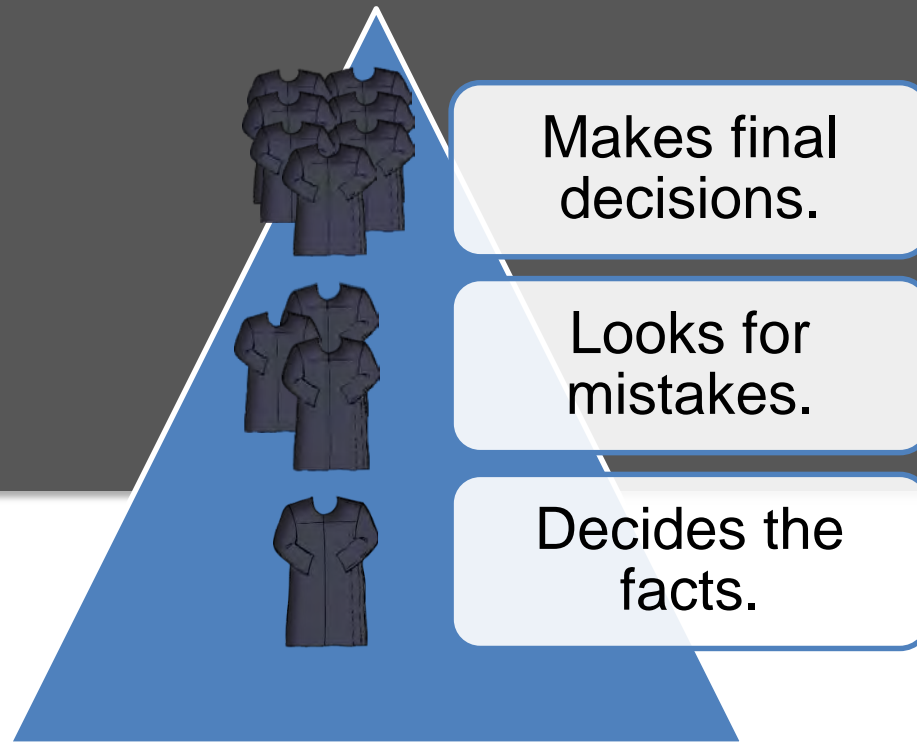
So let's summarize. – Three branches of government.

# Summary



Three levels of the courts in the Judicial Branch.

# Summary



Three levels of responsibility when interpreting the laws to resolve disputes.