Macgruders’s American Government

Supreme Court Cases Listed in order of Appearance in text or special features.

Chapter 10 \*Not all court cases are considered to be of equal importance, impact, or established a clear precedence. Those court cases in bold are those considered to be more significant to a general knowledge of American Government.

1. Wood v. Broom, 1932 SC held that the Congressional requirements of Difficult

“contiguity, population equality, and compactness”

had been left out of the Reapportionment Act of

1929 and therefore had been repealed .

1. **Wesberry v. Sanders, 1964** SC held that the Constitution demands that States

draw Congressional districts of substantially equal

population – “one person, one vote”

1. Gomillion v. Lightfoot, 1960 Gerrymandering based solely on race is a violation of the 15th

Amendment

1. Bush v. Vera 1996 Struck down race-based districts in several states
2. United Latin American Citizen v.

Perry, 2006

1. Hunt v. Cromartie, 2001 SC held that although race cannot be the controlling factor

in drawing district lines, race can be one of the mix of factors

that shape the process

1. Davis v. Bendemer, 1986 SC said the under some circumstances, which it did not

specify, that excessively partisan gerrymandering might be

be unconstitutional

1. United Latin American Citizens There is nothing in Constitution or any act of Congress that

v. Perry, 2006 prevents a states from redrawing its district lines

9. Powell v. McCormack, 1969 Held that the H of R could not exclude a member-elect who meets the Constitutions standards of age, citizenship, residence

10. Hutchinson v. Proxmire, 1979 SC held that members of Congress may be sued for libel for statements they make in news releases or newsletter and that the “speech or debate” clause only protects legislative members during legislative duties.

Chapter 11

1. **Gibbons v. Ogden, 1824** Held that federal power to regulate commerce under the

Commerce Clause took precedence over state regulations

1. **United States v. Lopez, 1995** Said that the Congress exceeded its powers

under the Commerce Clause and had invaded the reserved

powers of the states. It struck down the Gun-Free School Zone Act of 1995.

1. Veazie Bank v. Fenno, 1869 Upheld the power of Congress to tax private bank notes as a

proper exercise of the federal taxing power

1. Hepburn v. Griswold, 1870 Held that the power to coin money meant to stamp metal and

Thus issuance of paper money was unconstitutional

1. “Legal Tender Cases”, 1871 Held the issuing of paper money as legal tender, to be a proper
2. Juliard v. Greenman, 1884 use of the currency powe r.
3. **McCulloch v. Maryland, 1819** Held that the Constitution need not expressly empower

Congress. The “necessary and proper clause” gave sweeping approval of the concept of implied powers.

1. **Heart of Atlanta Motel, Inc.** Ruled that Congress could outlaw racial segregation of private

**v. United States, 1964** facilities that are engaged in interstate commerce. Ruled that

the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was an acceptable use of Congress’s

power to regulate interstate commerce

Chapter 12

1. Watkins v. United States, 1957 Case in which Watkins appealed his conviction for refusing to

answer Congressional Committee questions about Communist

Party Membership (Held that Congress’s investigative powers are broad, but must not infringe on 1st amendment rights of

speech, political belief, or association)

Chapter 13

1. **Bush v . Gore, 2000** Ruled that the differing way in which various counties in Florida

were recounting votes violated the 14th Amendment and thus

ended the recounts of the 2000 Presidential election. This in effect gave George W. Bush Florida’s electoral votes.

1. Nixon v. Fitzgerald, 1982 Case dealing with presidential immunity from lawsuits.

Chapter 14

1. **Youngstown Sheet & Tube** Ruled that the President had overstepped his authority and that

**Co. v. Sawyer, 1952** only Congress could authorize seizure of private property during

War

1. **Hamden v. Rumsfeld, 2006** Struck down President George W. Bush’s plan to use military

Tribunals to prosecute “enemy combatants”. The court ruled that only Congress can create such court-like bodies

1. Myers v. United States, 1926 Held that the power of the President to remove appointed

postmasters from office was an essential part of the executive powers.

1. Humphrey’s Executor v. Placed limits on the Presidential Removal powers over

United States, 1935 independent regulatory commissions

1. United States v. Nixon, 1974 Case in which the existence of and the need for executive

Privilege was the issue

1. The Head Money Cases, 1884 When treaty and enacted law conflict, the latest enacted is law
2. Missouri v. Holland, 1920 The terms of a treaty cannot conflict with the higher law of the

Constitution

1. **Clinton v. New York City, 1998** Held that Congress lacked the power to give the President a line-

item veto

1. Burdick v. United States, 1915 Upheld rule that a pardon must be accepted in order to be

In effect

Chapter 15

1. National Association of Letter Rejected challenges to the Hatch Act which put limits on partisan

Carriers v. Civil Service Commission, political activities by federal workers

1973

1. Rush Prudential HMO v. Moran, 2002 Case which challenged whether states can regulate HMO claims

reviews

Chapter 16

1. Springer v. United States, 1873 Found that income tax was an indirect tax not a direct tax.

Upheld the first income tax law

1. Pollock v. Farmer’s Loan and The Income Tax law was declared to be unconstitutional

and Trust Co., 1894

1. McCulloch V. Maryland, 1819 Associated with the phrase “the power to tax involves the power

to destroy”

1. South Carolina v. United States, 1905 Ruled that a state monopoly to sell liquor came with a obligation

to be taxes because it was not a necessary or usual state function

1. Veazie Bank v. Fenno , 1869 Upheld the use of the taxing power for nonrevenue purposes
2. Marchetti v. United States, 1968 Held that the tax, registration, and reporting provisions forced gamblers to give evidence against themselves, violating the 5th

Amendments

1. Agostini v. Felton, 1997 Case involving whether federal funds can be used to help

religious school students

Chapter 17

1. Rostker v. Goldberg, 1981 Case involving whether or not women should be drafted.

(Upheld the requirement that young men but not young women must register for the draft at age 18)