

Sources of Law

Sources of Law

5 main sources of law are:

- Federal & state constitutions
- Common Law
- Statutes
- Court decisions
- Administrative Law

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Constitution

A country's document which spells out the principles by which the government operates.

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Common Law

Precedent - Doctrine stating that a judge is required to follow an earlier court decision when deciding a case with similar circumstances.

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Statutes

Statute - laws specifically passed by a governing body

- Can order people to do something
 - Ex: Pay taxes
- Can prevent people from doing something
 - Ex: Discrimination

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Court Decisions

Court Law is sometimes called case law.

Courts make laws in 3 ways:

- Common law tradition
- By interpreting statutes (laws)
- By judicial review

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Administrative Law

A power given by the Legislative Branch to an administrative agency with knowledge over certain fields of business or departments.

Also called Regulatory agencies