



Handout 3 Case File

Florida v. J.L. The Anonymous Tip

One day, an anonymous person called the Miami-Dade Police Department with a tip. The caller said that a young black man wearing a plaid shirt was standing at a specific bus stop by a pawn shop. The caller also said that the young man was carrying a gun. The caller also described two other young men that were with him. Officer Anderson, a 14-year veteran, and her partner went to check out the anonymous tip. When they got to the bus stop six minutes later, the officers saw three young black men. Just like the caller said, one of the young men was wearing a plaid shirt.

The officers did not see a gun. While the three young men were hanging out by the bus stop, Officer Anderson and her partner approached them and frisked all three men. The young man in the plaid shirt, J.L., had a gun in his pocket. The other young men were not carrying weapons. The police arrested J.L. and charged him with carrying a concealed firearm without a license. He was also charged with possessing a firearm while younger than 18.

J.L.'s trial took place in the Eleventh Circuit Court. There, his attorney argued that the search of J.L. was unreasonable and that it violated the Fourth Amendment because it was based on an anonymous tip.

The circuit court agreed with J.L.'s attorney.

The State of Florida appealed the circuit court's decision to the Third District Court of Appeal.

The District Court of Appeal disagreed with the circuit court, ruling that the search of J.L. was reasonable and that the gun could be used as evidence against J.L.

J.L. appealed the district court's decision to the Florida Supreme Court.

Diagram the case progressing through the courts!

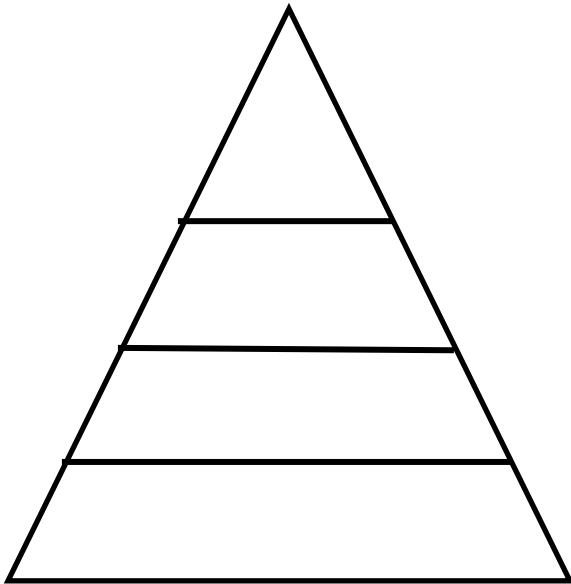
- Identify if it is a state or federal court.
- Identify the level of court.
- Briefly state the ruling of each court (unless it is not provided).



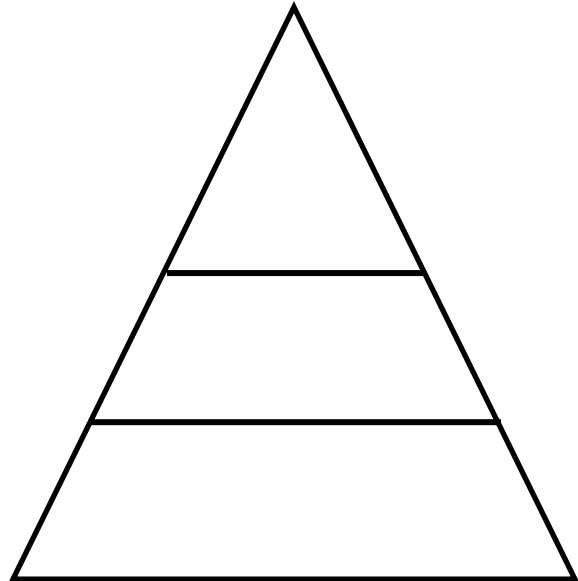
Handout 3
Sorting Out the Courts

Instructions: These charts diagram the levels of courts on the federal and state level. Using the chart in the PowerPoint, complete the charts below for both the federal and state courts.

State Courts



Federal Courts





Handout 3 Case File

Hazelwood Sch. Dist. v. Kuhlmeier The Case of the School Newspaper

The Spectrum, a school-sponsored newspaper at Hazelwood East High School, was written and edited by students as part of a journalism class on campus.

In May 1983, Robert E. Reynolds, the school principal, received the page proofs for the May 13 issue. The principal found two of the articles in the issue to be inappropriate, and ordered that the pages on which the articles appeared be removed from the publication.

The articles dealt with teen pregnancy and the impact of divorce. Both articles also included interviews with students on campus. The principal was concerned that the pregnant girls might be identified by other students, resulting in problems on campus. The principal was also concerned that the newspaper article did not seek comments from the parent of the student who was interviewed about divorce. Students challenged the principal's actions and brought the case to court.

The U.S. District Court concluded that the deletion of the students' articles was not a violation of their rights under the First Amendment. The students appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, which reversed the ruling, stating that the students' rights had been violated. The school appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Diagram the case progressing through the courts!

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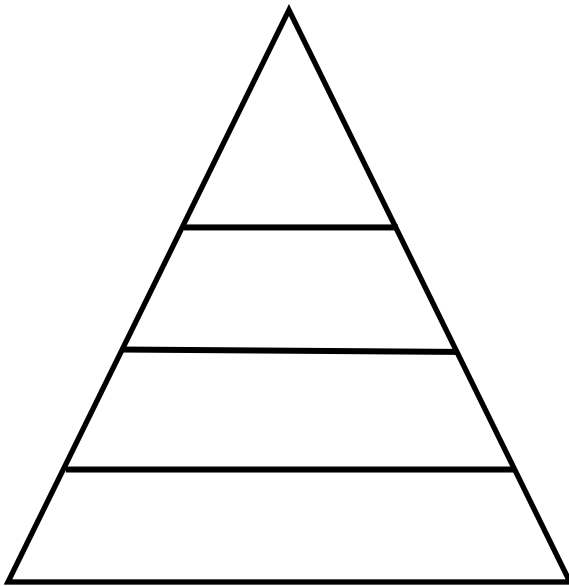


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