



## **Key Terms**

**Appellate jurisdiction:** the power of a court to review decisions and change outcomes of decisions of lower courts. Most appellate jurisdiction is legislatively created, and may consist of appeals by leave of the appellate court or by right.

**Checks and Balances:** the underlying principle in the creation of American government which assigns various powers and functions of government to separate and relatively independent levels and branches of the federal system and allows each branch to amend or veto acts of another branch to prevent any one branch from exerting too much power.

**Delegated Powers, Enumerated Powers or Expressed Powers:** The enumerated powers are a list of items found in Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution that set forth the authoritative capacity of Congress.

**Federalism:** A system of government in which power is divided between a national (federal) government and various regional governments. As defined by the United States Constitution, federalism is an aspect of American government whereby states are granted independent powers and responsibilities.

**Implied Powers:** In the case of the United States government, implied powers are the powers exercised by Congress which are not explicitly given by the Constitution itself but necessary and proper to execute the powers which are.

**Inherent Powers:** Inherent powers are those powers that Congress and the president need in order to get the job done. Although not specified in the Constitution, they are reasonable powers that are a logical part of the powers delegated to Congress and the president.

**Judicial Review:** review by the US Supreme Court of the constitutional validity of a legislative act.

**Jurisdiction:** the official power to make legal decisions and judgments.

**Limited Government:** Limited government is defined as a governing or controlling body whose power exists only within pre-defined limits that are established by a constitution or other source of authority.

**Original jurisdiction:** Original jurisdiction is the authority of a court to try a case, as distinguished from appellate jurisdiction to hear appeals from trial judgments. Under the U.S. Constitution, the Supreme Court has "original jurisdiction" over several small but important categories of cases.

**Reserved Powers:** a political power that a constitution reserves exclusively to the jurisdiction of a particular political authority.

**Writ of Mandamus:** a judicial remedy in the form of an order from a superior court, to any government subordinate court, corporation, or public authority—to do some specific act which that body is obliged under law to do—and which is in the nature of public duty, and in certain cases one of a statutory duty.