

Chapter 7, Section 1: Equal Justice Under the Law



A Nation of Laws

- ▶ **Crime:** is any behavior that is illegal because society, through its government, considers the behavior harmful to others.
- ▶ **Criminal law:** refers to the group of laws that define what acts are crimes.
- ▶ **Civil law:** is a group of laws that refer to disputes between people.
- ▶ **Hammurabi's Code:** the first known written code of laws written under King Hammurabi of Babylon in Mesopotamia; c. 1780BC



Sources of Law

- ▶ **Statutory Law:** laws passed by lawmaking bodies such as Congress, state legislatures, or local governments.
- ▶ **Common Law:** is a type of law that comes from judge's decisions that rely on common sense and previous cases.
- ▶ **Precedent:** an earlier decision or example.
- ▶ **Administrative Law:** laws that affect our daily lives created by government agencies.
- ▶ **Military Law:** governs the behavior of men and women in the armed forces.
- ▶ **Constitutional law:** based on the Constitution and Supreme Court decisions interpreting the Constitution.



The Roles of the Courts

- ▶ In a criminal dispute it usually is society represented as attorney against the defendant, or person defending them self, the accused.
- ▶ In a civil dispute its two parties against each other with attorneys representing them.
- ▶ **Appeal:** is a process in which a person asks a higher court to review the result of their trial.

