
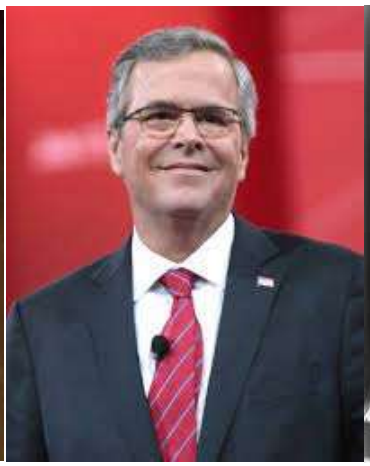


Chief Justice Marshall Governor Jeb Bush Justice Robert Jackson

Who Needs Law School?

Abraham Lincoln decided to attempt a career as a lawyer, but rather than going to law school, Lincoln was self-taught. He rigorously studied by **reading a large selection of previous legal cases and law books**, and in 1836, at the young age of 25, he obtained his law license.

After less than a year of preparatory school at Phillips Exeter Academy, Daniel Webster entered Dartmouth College at the age of 15. He graduated in 1801 near the top of his class, and began studying law under the tutelage of a local lawyer in Salisbury. By 1807, Webster had enough experience to set up his own law practice in Portsmouth

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The young Clarence Darrow attended Allegheny College and the University of Michigan Law School, but did not graduate from either institution. He attended Allegheny College for only one year before the Panic of 1873 struck, and Darrow was determined not to be a financial burden to his father any longer. Over the next three years he taught in the winter at the district school in a country community.

While teaching, Darrow started to study the law on his own, and by the end of his third year of teaching, his family urged him to enter the law department at Ann Arbor. Darrow studied there for only a year when he decided that it would be much more cost-effective to apprentice (read law) in an actual law office.

When he felt that he was ready, he took the Ohio bar exam and passed.[5] He was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1878. The Clarence Darrow Octagon House, his childhood home in Kinsman, contains a memorial to him.

Robert Houghwout Jackson (February 13, 1892 – October 9, 1954) was an American lawyer, jurist, and politician who served as an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1941 until his death in 1954. He had previously served as United States Solicitor General and United States Attorney General, and is the only person to have held all three of those offices. Jackson was also notable for his work as Chief United States Prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials of Nazi war criminals following World War II. Jackson was the last U.S. Supreme Court justice who did not have a law degree. He was admitted to the bar via the older tradition of reading law under an established lawyer, after studying at Albany Law School for just a year.[

John Marshall, the Great Chief Justice

John Marshall, the nation's fourth chief justice, was among the first to study law at W&M

Just weeks before Thomas Jefferson was to begin his presidency in 1801, incumbent John Adams appointed John Marshall as the young nation's fourth chief justice. Generally considered to be the greatest jurist to fill that role, Marshall served under Jefferson, his political rival (and second cousin once removed), and four other presidents over the next three decades. Marshall studied law at William & Mary under the tutelage of George Wythe in 1780. Marshall's tenure here was brief but potent in forming the character of the person who would lay the foundations of American constitutional law. Largely self-educated, Marshall was born on September 24, 1755.

Until the late 19th century, law schools were uncommon in the United States. Most people entered the legal profession through reading law, a form of independent study or apprenticeship, often under the supervision of an experienced attorney. This practice usually consisted of reading classic legal texts, such as Edward Coke's *Institutes of the Lawes of England* and William Blackstone's *Commentaries on the Laws of England*.[29]

In 1906, the Association of American Law Schools adopted a requirement that law school consist of a three-year course of study.[34] In 1921, the American Bar Association formally expressed a preference for required written bar examinations in place of diploma privilege for law school graduates. In subsequent decades, the prevalence of diploma privilege declined deeply.[4][5] By 1948, only 13 law schools in 9 states retained diploma privilege. By 1980, only Mississippi, Montana, South Dakota, West Virginia, and Wisconsin honored diploma privilege.[5][6] As of 2020, only Wisconsin allows J.D. graduates of accredited law schools to seek admission to the state bar without passing a bar examination.[7][8][9]

APU GOMES/AFP via Getty Images

Americans were first empowered to challenge police misconduct in 1871, when Congress passed a law allowing lawsuits against state and local authorities who refused to protect African Americans from—or even participated in—racial terror lynchings and other acts of racial violence by groups like the Ku Klux Klan.

In 1967, the Supreme Court limited that right by announcing a legal doctrine called qualified immunity, ostensibly to protect government employees from frivolous lawsuits.

Instead, Supreme Court precedent has effectively created, as Justice Sonia Sotomayor put it, "an absolute shield" against accountability for police officers accused of using excessive force.

Is the 7th Amendment still 20 dollars?

Interestingly enough, **the exact wording of the Seventh Amendment doesn't generate much debate, not even the Twenty Dollar Clause**. The amount has never been changed to account for inflation, which would put the amount over $500 today.

What does the 6th amendment say about juries?

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be ...

Civics Shorts: The Three Branches — Civics 101: A Podcast

https://www.civics101podcast.org › civics-101-shorts

Jun 4, 2020 — The United States **government** spreads power across **three branches of government**: the executive, legislative, and judicial branches.

Branches of Government | house.gov

http://www.house.gov › the-house-explained › branche...

To ensure a separation of powers, the U.S. Federal **Government** is made up of **three branches**: legislative, executive and judicial. To ensure the **government** is ...

All State governments are modeled after the Federal Government and consist of three branches: **executive, legislative, and judicial**.

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Jeb Bush signs Florida tort reform bill

Mark A. Hofmann
April 27, 2006 REPRINTS

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TALLAHASSEE, Fla. Florida Gov. Jeb Bush has signed a law that repeals the doctrine of joint and several liability in the state.

H.B. 145, which won legislative approval late last month, substitutes a system of proportional liability under which a defendant in a civil case pays only its assigned portion of the damages suffered by the plaintiff for the joint and several system, under which any defendant can be held liable for the entire award regardless of that defendant's share of blame.

"We've built one of the most attractive business environments in the world, but to stay competitive we must continue eliminating impediments to our future success," said the Republican governor in a statement issued Wednesday as he signed the bill into law.

"Predatory litigation limits job creation and increases consumer costs for hardworking Floridians."

Dispute over "litigation explosion" claims[edit]The American Tort Reform Association (ATRA) claims that "The cost of the U.S. tort system for 2003 was $246 billion, or $845 per citizen or $3,380 for a family of four" and "The Growth of U.S. tort costs have exceeded the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2-3 percentage points in the past 50 years".[97] This claim is based on a 2002 study by Tillinghast-Towers Perrin.[98]

Opponents of tort reform deny that there has been a "litigation explosion" or "liability crisis", and contend that the changes proposed by tort reform advocates are unjustified. Records maintained by the National Center for State Courts show that population-adjusted tort filings declined from 1992 to 2001. The average change in tort filings was a 15% decrease.[99] The Bureau of Justice Statistics, a division of the Department of Justice (DOJ), found that the number of civil trials dropped by 47% between 1992 and 2001.[100] The DOJ also found that the median inflation-adjusted award in all tort cases dropped 56.3% between 1992 and 2001 to $28,000.

Tort reform advocates allege that these numbers are misleading. They claim that most liability costs come from pre-trial settlements, so the number of trials is irrelevant.[*citation needed*] Supporters further note that the number of "filings" is a misleading statistic, because modern filings are much more likely to be class actions with many more joined claims than the cases of decades ago. They also note that the choice of the 1992 start date is misleading, because the largest increase in the number of tort cases occurred between 1970 and 1992. They also argue that the use of the median, rather than the mean, is a misleading statistic for measuring the magnitude of the litigation problem.[*citation needed*]

Supporters frequently base their claims of an "explosion" in the costs of tort litigation based on annual studies by Tillinghast/Towers Perrin,[101] a major consultant to the insurance industry. In 2008, Towers Perrin reported that the cost of liability litigation has outpaced the growth of

the GDP growth of 9% in estimated annual tort costs between 1951 and 2007 as opposed to a 7% average annual growth in GDP—representing 2.2% of GDP in 2004 vs. just 0.6% in 1950 and 1.3% in 1970.[102][103] More recent research from the same source has found that tort costs as a percentage of GDP dropped between 2001 and 2009, and are now at their lowest level since 1984.[82] The Tillinghast/Towers Perrin study has been criticised by the Economic Policy Institute, a progressive think tank:[104][*citation needed*] "Although TTP's estimate is widely cited by journalists, politicians, and business lobbyists, it is impossible to know what the company is actually measuring in its calculation of tort costs, and impossible to verify its figures, because TTP will not share its data or its methodology, which it claims are 'proprietary.'" Tort reform supporters claim that the Towers Perrin numbers are underestimates in many ways.[105][106]

https://www.businessinsurance.com/article/20060427/NEWS/20007630/jeb-bush-signs-florida-tort-reform-bill

Marc Galanter, "The Day After the Litigation Explosion," 1986, Msryland Law Review, cited by 677.

https://digitalcommons.law.umaryland.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2633&context=mlr&httpsredir=1&referer=

Tort reform refers to changes in the civil justice system in common law countries that aim to reduce the ability of plaintiffs to bring tort litigation (particularly actions for negligence) or to reduce damages they can receive. Such changes are generally justified under the grounds that litigation is an inefficient means to compensate plaintiffs;[1] that tort law permits frivolous or otherwise undesirable litigation to crowd the court system; or that the fear of litigation can serve to curtail innovation, raise the cost of consumer goods or insurance premiums for suppliers of services (e.g. medical malpractice insurance), and increase legal costs for businesses. Tort reform has primarily been prominent in common law jurisdictions, where criticism of judge-made rules regarding tort actions manifests in calls for statutory reform by the legislature.