

SS.7.C.3.10

Identify sources and types (civil, criminal, constitutional, military) of law.

Influences on the US legal system

- #1 influence: Common Law of England (Court rulings & tradition over several centuries)
- Roman Law
- Napoleonic Code (French legal system, very important in Louisiana)

Sources of Law

- US Constitution
- State constitutions
- Statutes (laws passed by Congress & state legislatures)
- Case law (court decisions that tell us how to interpret laws)
- Administrative law (regulations from executive branch agencies)

Types of law

- Criminal Law
 - Felonies – serious crimes
 - Misdemeanors – minor crimes
- Civil Law (disputes) – four branches:
 - Contract law – agreements
 - Property law – buying & selling property; rights of owners and renters
 - Family law – marriage, divorce, adoptions, child custody, etc.
 - Personal Injury law – torts
 - Can be intentional (serious) or negligent (less serious)
- Military Law – separate laws that apply to service members