

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the page, framing a central white area. The shapes are composed of triangles and polygons, some of which are semi-transparent, creating a layered effect.

# Courts

# A few terms:

- ▶ **Jurisdiction:** an area of power; who has authority
- ▶ **Original Jurisdiction:** The power of a court to hear a case for the first time.
- ▶ **Appellate Jurisdiction:** A higher court has power to review a lower courts decision.
- ▶ **Writ of Certiorari:** a document ordering a lower court to send all records of a case to a higher court for review

# Other court terms

- ▶ Petite Jury: issues a verdict in criminal cases (12 people), or who is liable in civil cases (6 - 12)
- ▶ Grand Jury: Many people who look through materials/witness statements, etc. in order to see if there is enough evidence to issue an indictment
- ▶ Indictment: a formal charge for a serious crime
- ▶ In Criminal Court: verdict of guilt or innocence, need to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt
- ▶ In Civil Court: need a “preponderance of evidence” to find a person liable

# More court terms:

- ▶ Subpoena: a writ summoning a person to court
- ▶ Settlement: a resolution between disputing parties in civil cases (involves money)
- ▶ Plea Bargain: agree to a lesser crime to avoid possibility of being found guilty of greater crime

# Levels of Courts

- ▶ U.S. Supreme Court
- ▶ U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals
- ▶ U.S. District Courts
- ▶ State Supreme Court
- ▶ Court of Appeals
- ▶ Superior Court
  - ▶ Felonies and Civil Cases over \$10,000.00
- ▶ District Court
  - ▶ Misdemeanors and Civil Cases under \$10,000.00