Criminal Justice: An Overview of the System

Module 2: The Political and Legal Environment

2.4: The Civil Rights Revolution

Breed v. Jones (1975): Extended the constitutional protection against Double Jeopardy to juveniles when it ruled that juveniles cannot be found delinquent in juvenile court and then transferred to adult court without a hearing on the transfer.

Burger Court (1969 – 1986): The era of the Supreme Court defined by the years that Warren Earl Burger presided as chief justice.

California v. Greenwood (1988): A SCOTUS decision that established the rule that police do not need a warrant to search garbage left outside the curtilage of the home.

Chimel v. California (1969): A SCOTUS decision that limited the scope of a search incident to an arrest to the area in the arrestee's immediate control.

Civil Rights Revolution: A period of rapid social and legal change during the 1960s that saw major civil rights reforms brought about by the Warren Court as well as action by other branches of government.

Fourth Amendment: An Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that prohibits unreasonable searches, seizures, and arrests.

Furman v. Georgia (1972): A SCOTUS ruling that effectively made the death penalty unconstitutional; effectively overturned by Gregg v. Georgia 4 years later.

Gideon v. Wainwright (1963): A SCOTUS decision that established the right to appointed counsel for indigent offenders charged with serious offenses.

Good Faith Exception: An exception to the exclusionary rule allowing for the admission of illegally obtained evidence when police act in an honest belief that they have lawful authority to search for and seize evidence, such as when relying on a defective warrant.

Gregg v. Georgia (1976): A SCOTUS decision where the Court ruled that the death penalty for a convicted murderer was not in itself a violation of the Eighth Amendment's prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment.

In Re Gault (1967): A SCOTUS decision in which the Court held that juveniles accused of crimes in juvenile court must be afforded many of the same due process rights as adults, but not all.

This study guide is designed to help students learn the terms and definitions used in Criminal Justice: An Overview of the System, an Open Educational Resource (OER) developed by Adam J. McKee. As an OER, this document may be copied and distributed freely for educational purposes.

In Re Winship (1970): A SCOTUS decision in which the Court held that the evidentiary standard for juveniles accused of crimes was beyond a reasonable doubt, just as in an adult court.

Mapp v. Ohio (1961): A landmark SCOTUS decision in which the Court expanded the exclusionary rule to state courts.

Maryland v. Garrison (1987): A landmark SCOTUS decision in which the Court established a "good faith" exception to the exclusionary rule when police acted in reliance on a faulty warrant that they reasonably believed to be valid.

McKeiver v. Pennsylvania (1971): A landmark SCOTUS decision in which the Court determined that juveniles are not entitled to a trial by jury in juvenile court proceedings.

Miranda v. Arizona (1966): A landmark SCOTUS decision in which the Court determined that police must issue warnings about specific constitutional rights to suspects before a custodial interrogation begins.

Rehnquist Court (1986–2005): The Supreme Court of the United States during the time that William Rehnquist was the chief justice; this court tended to vote very conservatively.

Schall v. Martin (1984): A SCOTUS decision that upheld a statute allowing for the pretrial detention of a juvenile judged to be a serious risk to the community.

Search Incident to Arrest: A constitutionally permissible search of a person and his or her immediate surroundings at the time of arrest; also called the Chimel rule.

Terry v. Ohio (1968): A landmark SCOTUS decision where the Court established the reasonable suspicion evidentiary standard for a stop and frisk.

Wolf v. Colorado (1949): A SCOTUS decision in which the court held that the exclusionary rule was not constitutionally required in state courts; effectively overruled by Mapp v. Ohio.