



Comm Skills Virtual Learning

Legal Communication I & II

9-12/ Sixth Amendment

April 14, 2020



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Lesson: [April 14th, 2020]

Objective/Learning Target: Students will understand the implications of Gideon v. Wainwright.

Bell Ringer/Let's Get Started

Yesterday, we learned more about the Landmark Supreme Court Case Gideon v. Wainwright.

Take a few minutes a jot down what you recall from yesterday:

Let's Get Started

Today, we will a collection of videos to learn about the makeup of the Supreme Court during the time of the Gideon decision, the arguments presented for each side, the Court's decision, Gideon's retrial and the overall impact of this case.

Lesson/Activity

In your notes, record the answers to these questions as we watch the video clip:

1. Describe the makeup of the Supreme Court during this time.
2. Why did Abe Fortas agree to represent Clarence Gideon?
3. According to Akhil Amar, why did the Supreme Court appoint Abe Fortas to the Gideon case?
4. Describe Bruce Jacob's experience while representing Florida in this case

In this [clip](#), guests discuss the makeup of the Supreme Court during this time as well as the attorneys who represented each side in this case.

Lesson/Activity

Next, Akhil Amar and Paul Clement talk about the arguments on both sides in this case, the challenges the attorneys faced as well as the role of amicus briefs.

As we watch this [clip](#), look for answers to these questions:

- According to Paul Clement, what did Abe Fortas have to accomplish in his argument before the Supreme Court?
- According to Akhil Amar, what was the argument for Florida in this case?
- Explain the role of amicus briefs in this case.

Lesson/Activity

Constitutional scholar [Akhil Amar and former Solicitor General Paul Clement](#) talked about the Supreme Court's decision in this case and its impact.

As we watch their discussion, record answers to these prompts:

- Explain the decision of the Supreme Court in this case.
- Describe the reaction to the decision.
- Explain the impact this decision had in the state of Florida.

Practice

Read the following [article](#) from The Atlantic. After reading the information, create a timeline of important events associated with the Gideon decision.

Decide on five or more main events to include in your **timeline**. Number them in the order you think they should appear on your **timeline**. Draw or print an illustration for each event and write a caption to describe it.

Additional Resources

[Defending Gideon](#)

[Gideon v. Wainwright](#)

[In re Gault](#)