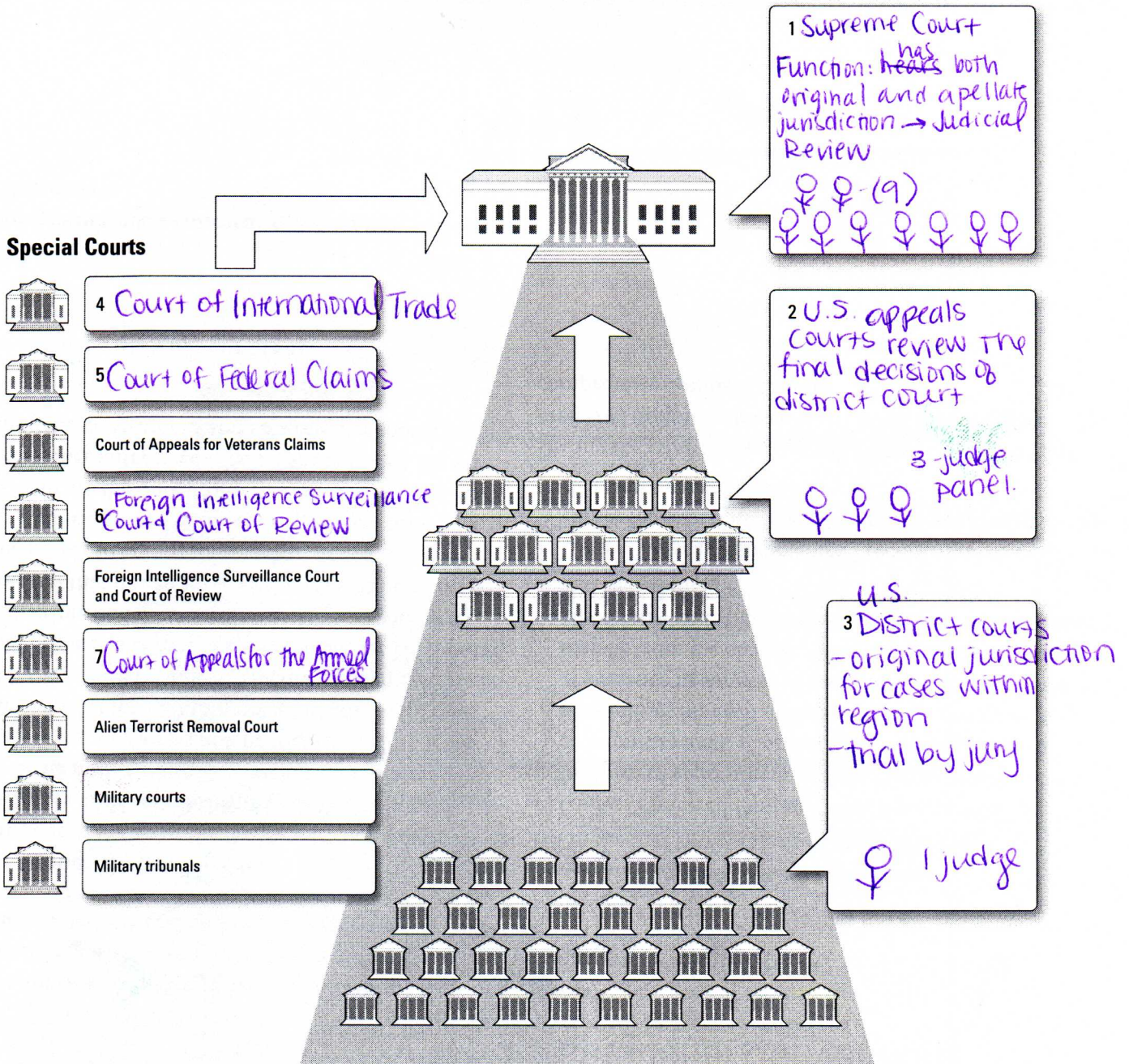


The U.S. Court System

For each card, find the corresponding number on one of the three court diagrams. Label or annotate the diagram as directed on the card.

Federal Court System




State Court System

287

8 Judge Selection Methods

- Election
- Appointment
- Merit Selection



285

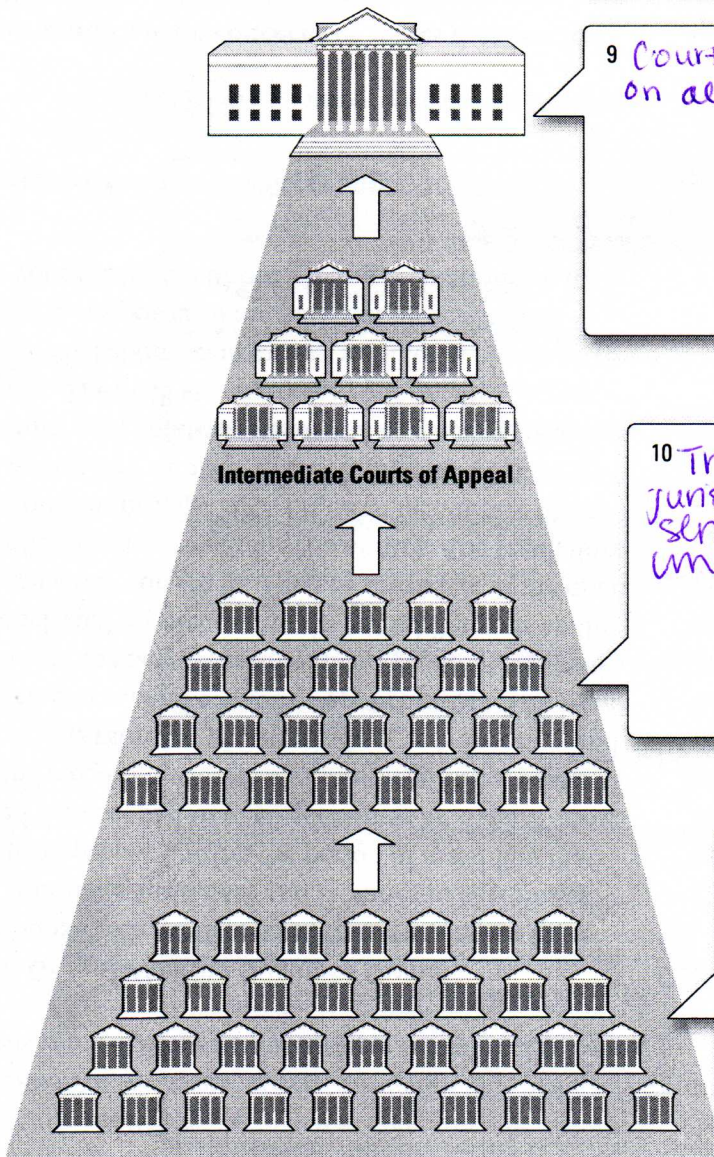
9 Court of last resort hear appeals on all matters of state law.

286

10 Trial courts of general jurisdiction handle most serious criminal cases and major civil disputes.

286

11 Trial courts of limited jurisdiction specialize in minor criminal and civil cases.



Supreme Court



Federal Judge Selection Process 291

292

12 Senatorial courtesy → allows senators to block nominations to federal courts and their home states.

13
Judges are nominated by the President
and confirmed by the Senate



Stages of a Supreme Court Case 293

14 writ of certiorari ⇒ a document that the Supreme Court sends to a lower court ordering it to send up a complete record of a case, is granted.

Legal and amicus curiae briefs are filed.

Oral arguments are presented to the Court.

Justices meet in private conferences and decide to uphold or to overrule a previous decision.

294

15 Opinions are written.

- Majority opinions state the reasons for a Supreme Court decision.
- Dissenting opinions lay out the reasons for disagreeing with the majority.
- Concurring opinions lay out reasoning that differs from the majority opinion, but reaches the same decision.



Schools of Thought About Judicial Review 295

16 Judicial Activism: the court has both the right and the obligation to overturn bad precedents and promote socially desirable goals

Judicial Restraint ⇒ judicial Review should be used sparingly by the court and that elected officials should make policy decisions