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SKU: 9781543801644-TEST-BANK

Chapter 2: The Federal and State Court Systems

1. Any case that may be brought in state court may be brought in federal court.

   a. True
   *b. False
2. Any case brought in federal court must satisfy a monetary amount (currently $75,000) before it may be instituted.

   a. True
   *b. False
3. Generally, there are three levels of courts in our federal system.

   *a. True
   b. False
4. Federal courts of appeal hear evidence and listen to witnesses testify before they render a decision.

   a. True
   *b. False
5. The U.S. Supreme Court can act as a trial court in certain instances.

   *a. True
   b. False
6. The U.S. Supreme Court grants certiorari for most of the cases that wish to be appealed to the Court.

   a. True
   *b. False
7. Each state in the United States has at least one federal district.

   *a. True
   b. False
8. In most states, the top court is called the Supreme Court.

   *a. True
   b. False
9. The intermediate federal circuit courts of appeal can make decisions independent of each other. Thus, for example, the First Circuit is not bound by decisions of the Second Circuit.

   *a. True
   b. False
10. All federal judges are appointed by the President.

    *a. True
    b. False
11. Granting certiorari is discretionary with the U.S. Supreme Court.

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*a. True
b. False

12. Cases from state courts can be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court (assuming a federal question is involved and certiorari is granted).

*a. True
b. False

13. The U.S. Supreme Court has clearly defined rules and guidelines indicating when it must grant certiorari.

a. True
*b. False
Type: E

14. Identify the two bases for jurisdiction in federal court.

a. Cases may be instituted in federal court that involve a federal question or that are based on the diversity of the parties involved.

Type: F

15. If a case (for example, a bankruptcy matter) can be heard only in federal court (and not in any other court), jurisdiction is said to be _____.

a. exclusive
Type: E

16. What does it mean to say that federal courts will not consider issues that are "moot"?

a. Federal courts hear only cases that involve an existing, present controversy. If an issue is resolved, it is called "moot," and federal courts cannot hear a case that is moot.

Type: F

17. The requirement that a plaintiff must have personally suffered some actual or threatened legal injury and must be adversely affected by some conduct or threatened conduct of a defendant is referred to as _____.

a. standing
Type: F

18. The _____ are the trial courts in our federal system.

a. district courts
Type: F

19. The most widely used means to gain access to the U.S. Supreme Court from the lower courts of appeal is the writ of _____.

a. certiorari
Type: E

20. Why are courts typically composed of an odd number of judges (for example, nine judges)?

a. Having an odd number of judges/justices decreases the chance of deadlock.

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