

Our Mississippi Courts

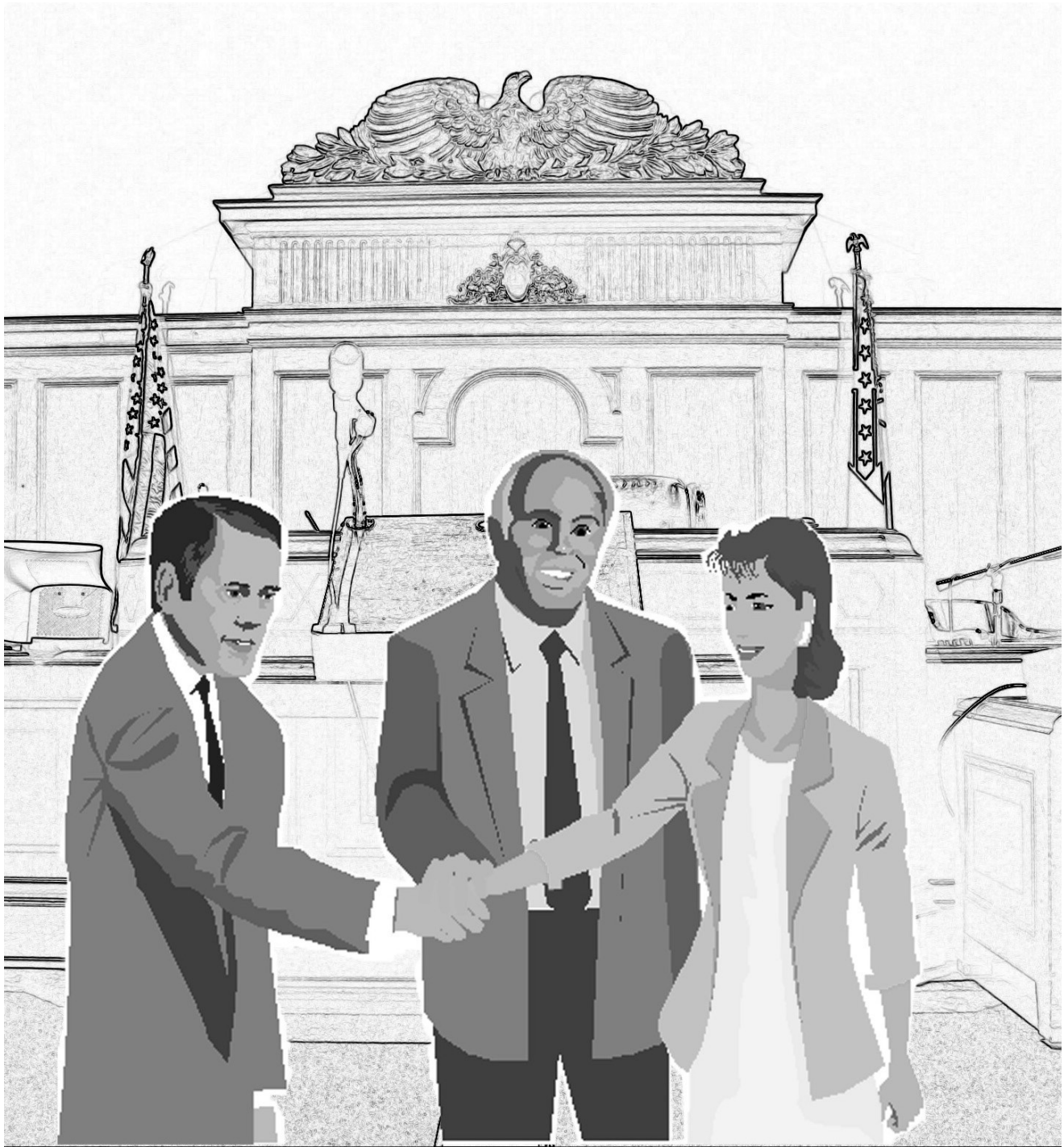




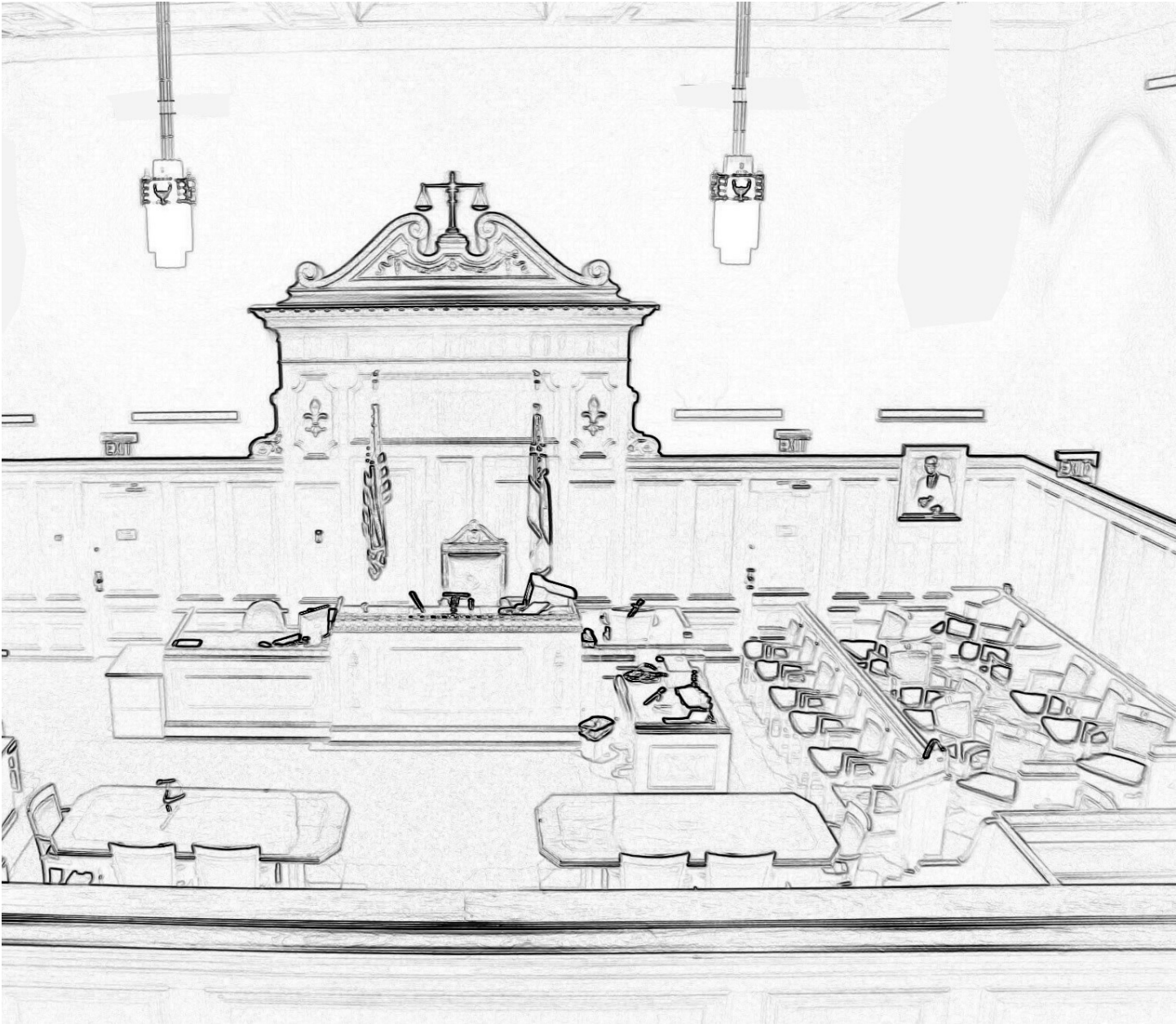
Welcome to the Mississippi Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals. This courthouse and the Justices and Judges who work there serve all of Mississippi.



Every county has a courthouse.



Our courts are a place where people who disagree may work out their problems peacefully.



A courtroom is the place where each case is heard and decided. It is a very serious place which requires order and respect by all.



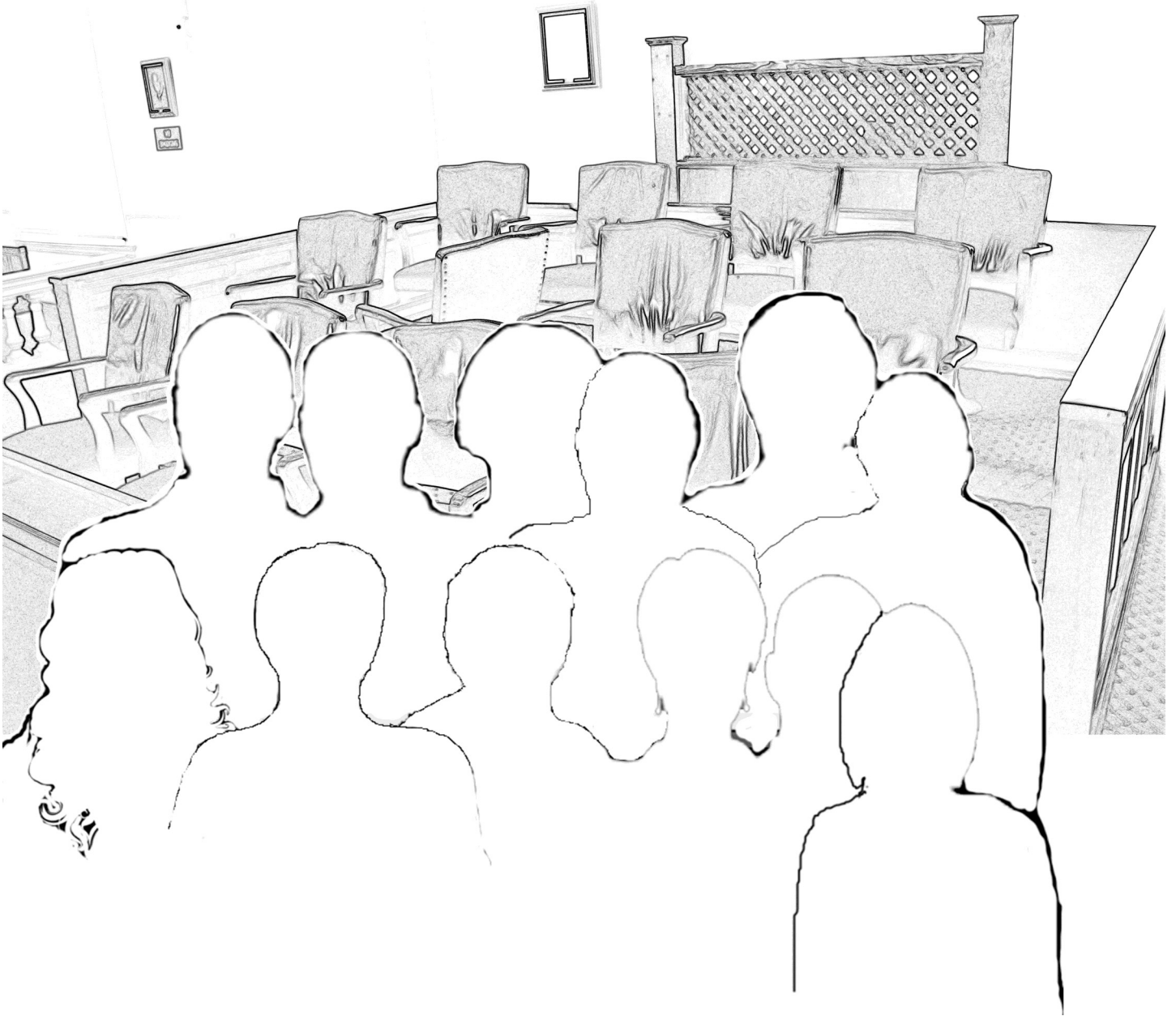
A judge is in charge of what happens in the courtroom. Judges take an oath to be fair to everyone.



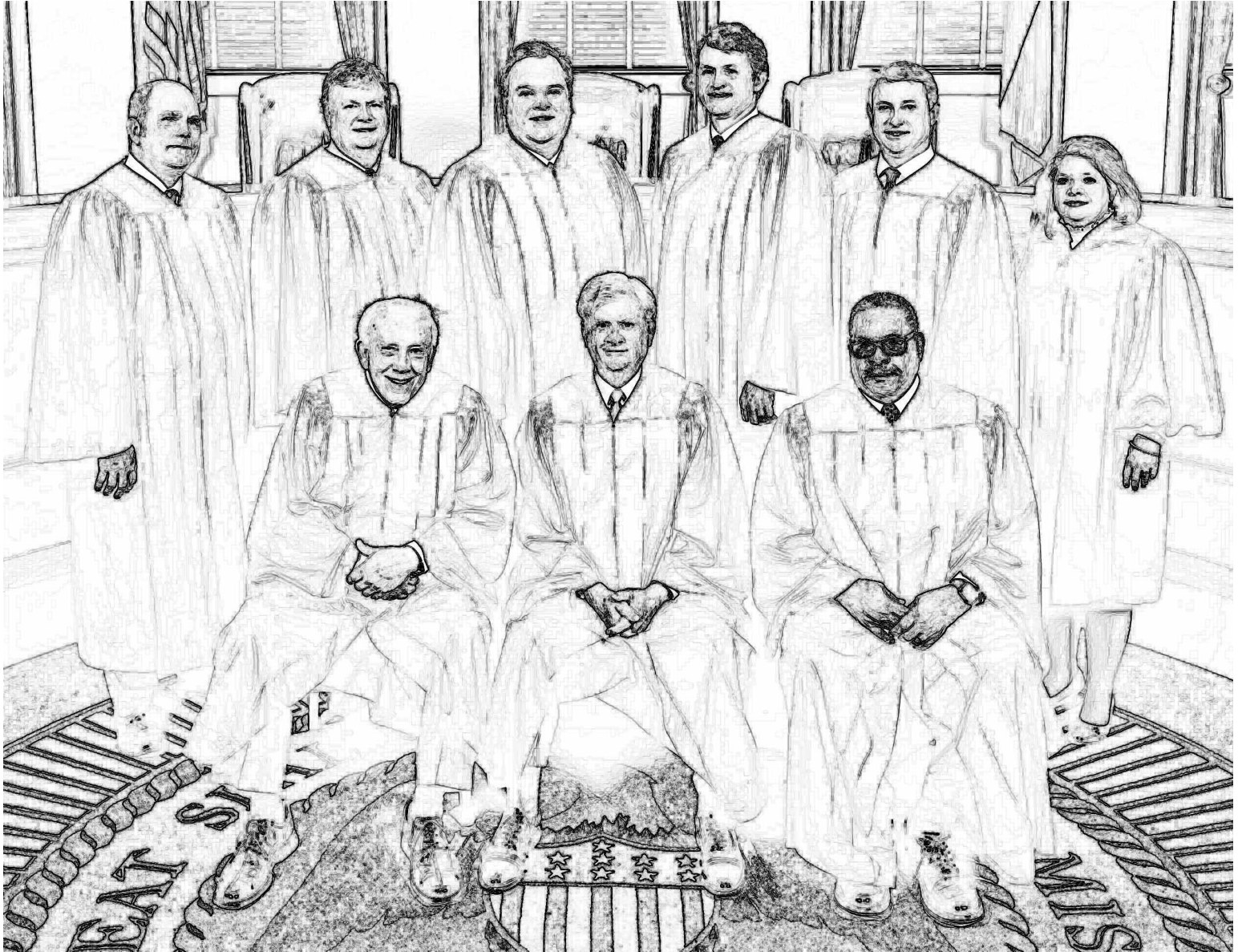
Witnesses promise to tell the truth.
Witnesses tell their sides of the
disagreement. Lawyers ask questions.
A court reporter records everything
which is said.



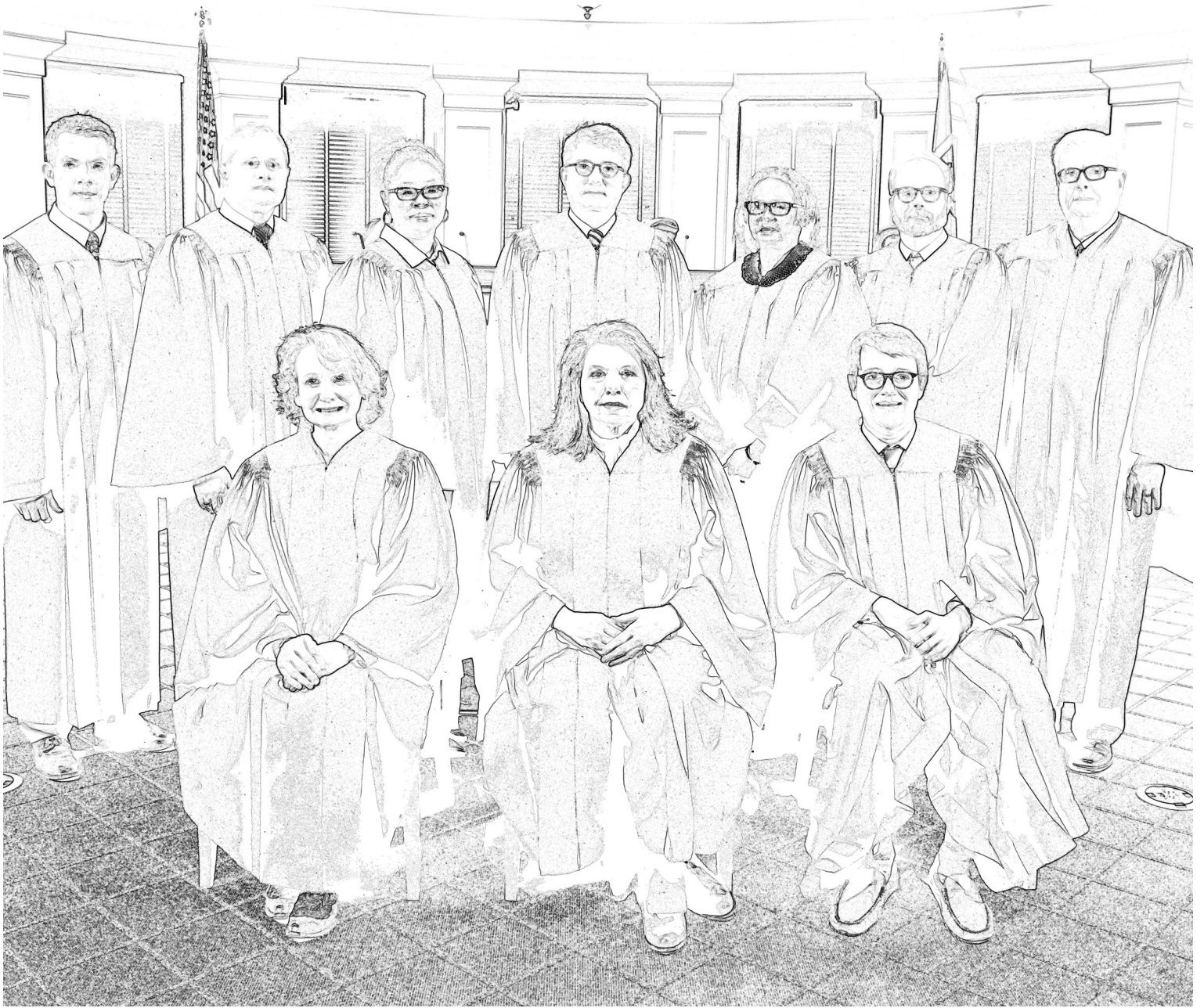
A judge hears the case and makes rulings about the law.



Twelve citizens selected as jurors hear testimony about the facts of a case and decide who is telling the truth.

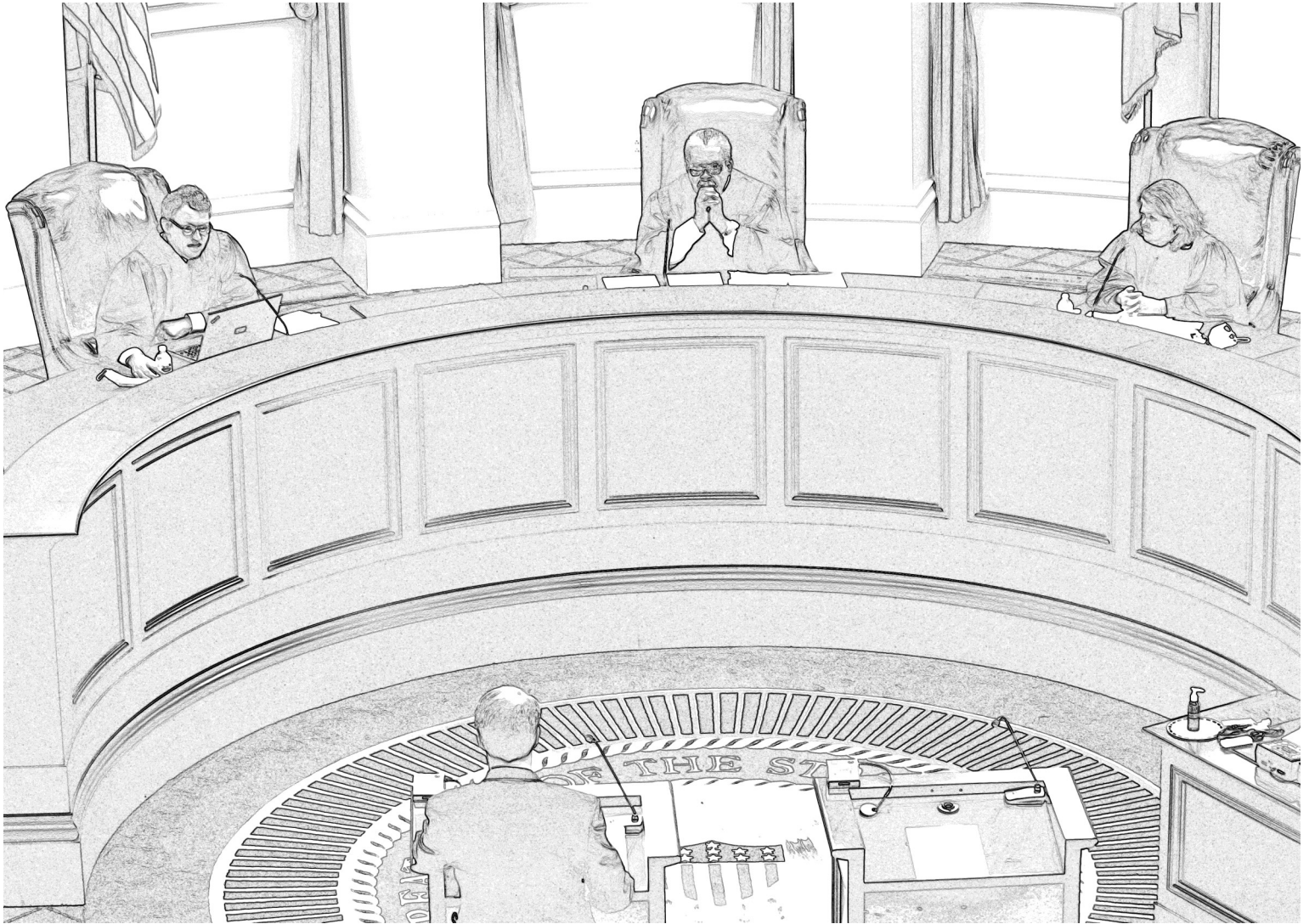


The side which loses may ask for a group of judges on a higher court to review the case and change the outcome. This is called filing an appeal. Nine justices are on the Mississippi Supreme Court, the highest court in the state.

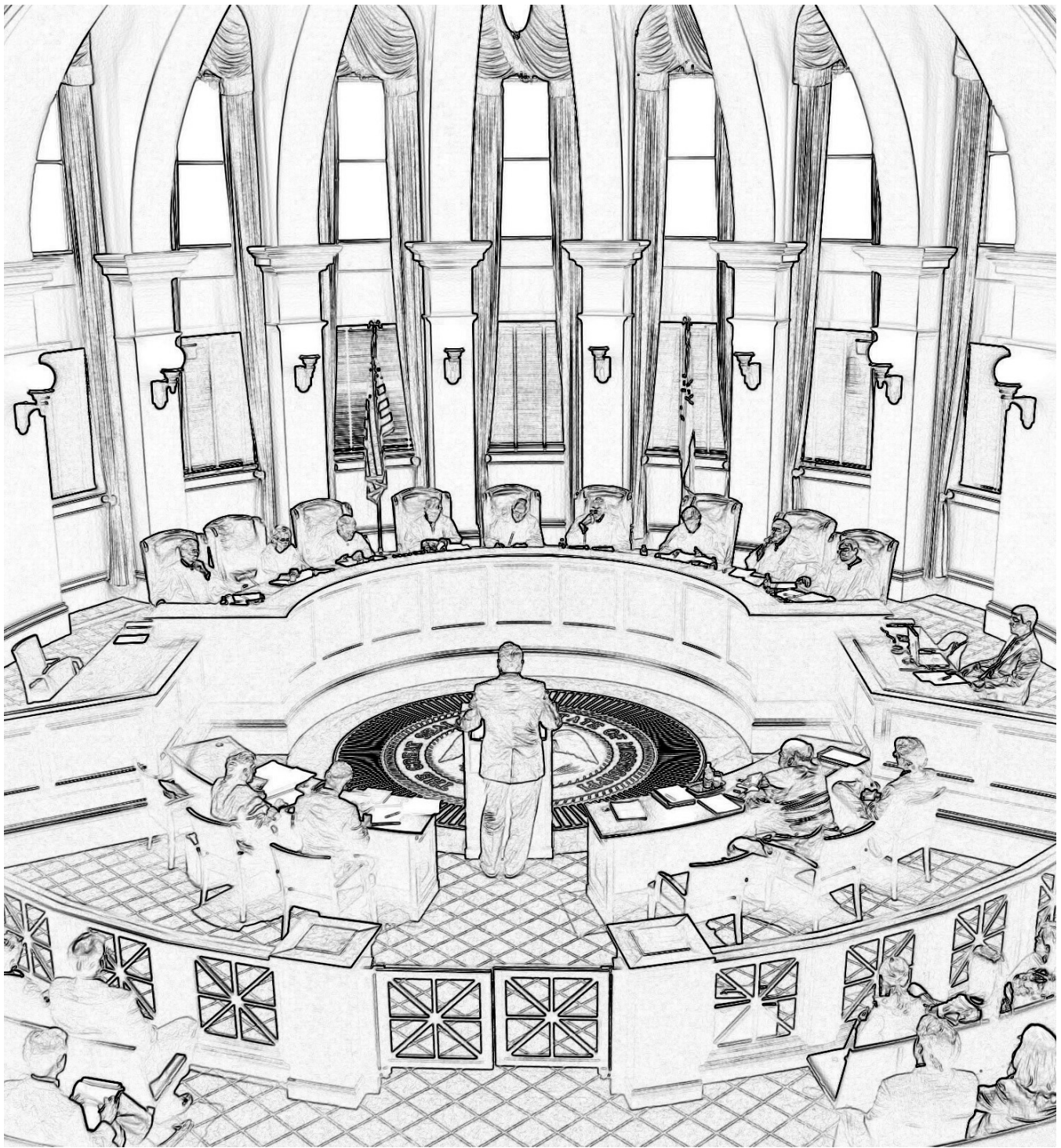


The Supreme Court may send the case to the Court of Appeals, which has ten judges.

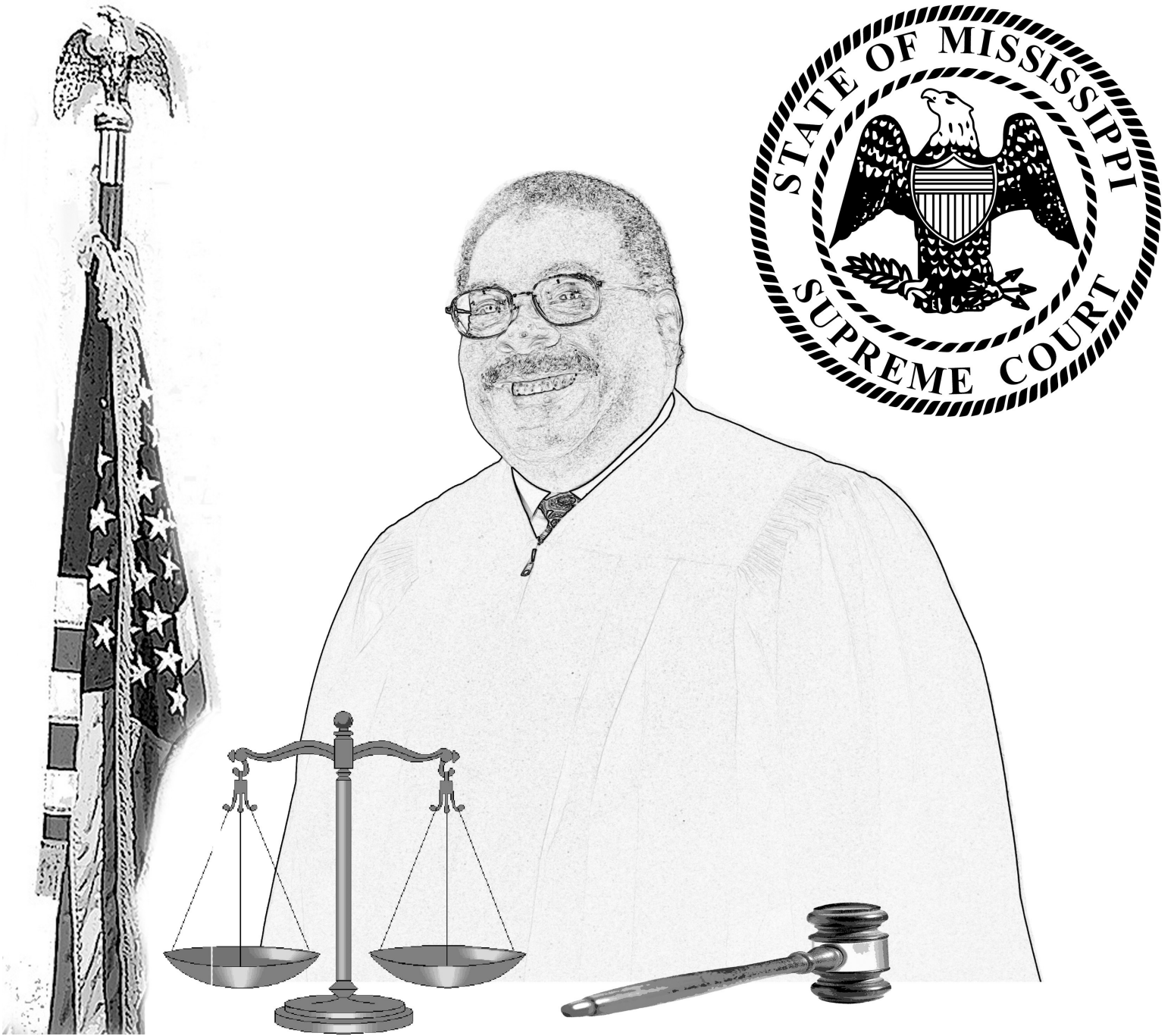




Appeals judges may let the lawyers speak about their case and answer questions. Three judges usually hear the lawyers. All judges on the Court usually take part in deciding a correct result.



In a few cases, all nine justices of the Supreme Court hear the case and ask questions.



You may recognize symbols of our courts: the robe, the gavel, the scales of justice and the court seal.



Being fair and telling the truth is important in the courts and the classroom. Justices of the Supreme Court and Judges of the Court of Appeals take an oath to be fair to all people.