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11.007 Day 17 Notes: **Resolving Disputes in the Courts**

LITIGATION AS A STRATEGY FOR INFLUENCING POLICY

How do interest groups decide when to file lawsuits?

What factors limit interest groups' ability to use the courts to affect policy?

Judicial Decision Making

What factors shape judicial decision making?

The Courts as Policy-Making Forums

How influential are courts in the policymaking system?

In what ways are courts good—or at least as good as other branches—at resolving public disputes?

In what ways are courts bad—or possibly worse than other branches—at resolving public disputes?

CASE: SCHOOL DESEGREGATION

Explain how the school desegregation case illustrates the way lawyers formulate their strategies for using the courts, as well as how courts decide what to do about a case before them.

What was the lawyers' strategy with respect to desegregation?

What factors influenced judges' decisions in this case?

What were the impacts of judicial policymaking in this case?

What do you think about the courts' intervention in school desegregation?

Is school desegregation an important goal? Why, or why not?

If it is, how should it be accomplished?