

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH AND ARTICLES IV–VII

Articles VI and VII

(See Articles VI and VII)

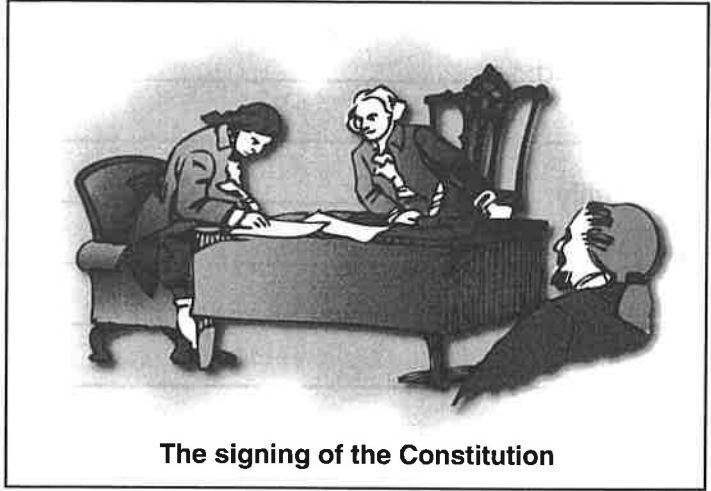
Articles VI and VII complete the original Constitution. Article VI confirms the authority of the Constitution, and Article VII describes how the Constitution must be ratified, or approved.

In Article VI, the founding fathers establish the Constitution as the “supreme law of the land.” The Constitution is the highest, most important, document in the United States. No state, county, or city laws will be superior to the Constitution. It is the job of the judicial branch to see that no laws in the country are in conflict with the Constitution.

For example, if Indiana passed a law making it possible for Indiana to print its own money, that law would be void, or unenforceable, because the Constitution says that only the Congress can print or coin money. Article VI also states that officials of the United States government must promise to support the Constitution.

Article VII is the final section of the original Constitution. When the Constitution was written during the summer of 1787, the Articles of Confederation were still governing the United States. In order for the Articles to be replaced by the Constitution, the Constitution had to be ratified, or approved, by nine states. So in order for the plan of government set forth in the Constitution to begin, nine of the thirteen states had to approve. They completed the Constitution on September 17, 1787, twelve years after the United States declared its independence from England.

The writers of the Constitution then signed the document. Their names are below:



The signing of the Constitution

George Washington, Virginia
President of the Convention

Delaware:	George Read, Gunning Bedford, Jr., John Dickinson, Richard Bassett, Jacob Broom
Maryland:	James McHenry, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Daniel Carroll
Virginia:	John Blair, James Madison, Jr.
North Carolina:	William Blount, Richard Dobbs Spaight, Hugh Williamson
South Carolina:	John Rutledge, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, Charles Pinckney, Pierce Butler
Georgia:	William Few, Abraham Baldwin
New Hampshire:	John Langdon, Nicholas Gilman
Massachusetts:	Nathaniel Gorman, Rufus King
Connecticut:	William Samuel Johnson, Roger Sherman
New York:	Alexander Hamilton
New Jersey:	William Livingston, David Brearley, William Paterson, Jonathan Dayton
Pennsylvania:	Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Mifflin, Robert Morris, George Clymer, Thomas FitzSimons, Jared Ingersoll, James Wilson, Gouverneur Morris