

Korematsu v. United States / How the Case Moved Through the Court System

Supreme Court of the United States

In a 6-3 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld Korematsu's conviction. The Court held that any law or order that discriminated on the bases of race or ethnicity could be constitutional if it served an extremely important purpose for the government. The Court found that the government had met its burden in this case because discrimination against the Japanese served the government's military concerns about the possibility of Japanese spies.

Korematsu v. United States (1944)



U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

The Court of Appeals upheld Korematsu's conviction.

Korematsu v. United States (1943)



U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California

Korematsu was convicted of being in a place from which all persons of Japanese ancestry were excluded.

Korematsu v. California (1942)