

Bill of Rights in the News



The Supreme Court began its 2011-2012 term on October 1. As always, the Bill of Rights Institute has prepared a resource for you and your students to learn more about some of the Bill of Rights-related cases are on the docket.

Resources

[In New Term, Court to Tackle Divisive Issues](#)—NPR

[Supreme Court Shifts Focus to Crime and First Amendment](#)—New York Times

United States v. Jones at [SCOTUS Wiki](#) and [The Oyez Project](#)

[The Fourth Amendment](#) at the Bill of Rights Institute

1. What are the facts of the case in *United States v. Jones*?
2. What is the constitutional question?
3. Does the fact that police were using the GPS device to monitor Jones's car on public streets make a warrant unnecessary?
4. Read the Fourth Amendment. How do you think the Court should rule?

Florence v. Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Burlington at [SCOTUS Blog](#) and the [American Bar Association](#)

1. What are the facts of the case in *Florence v. Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Burlington*?
2. What is the constitutional question?
3. Read the Fourth Amendment. How do you think the Court should rule?

Federal Communications Commission v. Fox Television Stations, Inc. at [the New York Times](#) and [the Oyez Project](#).

[The First Amendment](#) at the Bill of Rights Institute

1. What is the constitutional question in *FCC v. Fox Television Stations, Inc.*?
2. In a [previous landmark case](#) [Note: links to majority opinion in *FCC v. Pacifica Foundation*, which contains words which may not be suitable for use in the classroom.], the Supreme Court has held that government could constitutionally restrict radio broadcasts containing speech that was patently offensive. In the current case, Fox and others have pointed out that the same words for which it was fined when uttered "fleetingly," in a live show were said by characters in a broadcast of the film *Saving Private Ryan*. What questions are raised by enforcement of the FCC's policy?
3. Under the First Amendment, should the federal government be able to fine carriers who broadcast expletives over public airwaves?
4. Will the ruling in this case apply to cable stations? Explain.