

## **Abstract**

The thesis „Role of the U.S. Supreme Court in American system of government and the importance of Court’s decisions for the political process in the United States of America“ deals with the institutional role U.S. Supreme Court has in American system of government and puts emphasis on Court’s decisions and their practical consequences on the politics in the United States. In history of the country the Court was an influential decision-making body on many occasions. Although shortly after the federation was established many intended to put the Court in position where weak powers given to it would not enable the institution to fully play its role of the guardian that keeps an eye on the constitutionality of adopted laws, at the beginning of the 19th century the Court found its place and became exactly what it was originally intended to be. Decision in *Marbury v. Madison* gained the Court the crucial power of judicial review. The power of judicial review completely changed the role of the institution that finally became the guardian of the Constitution. This thesis outlines the institutional position of the judicial branch and especially the position of the Supreme Court in American system of government. It also focuses on the political aspects of the nomination process of Supreme Court Justices and the political aspects of their performances while holding office. The main theme of the thesis is the effect and the consequences Court’s decisions have on the political process in the United States. Three basic areas that are dealt with are racial segregation, concept of federalism and the controversial political issues such as abortion and same sex marriages. These were areas where the crucial political and legal battles took place and for the purpose of this thesis they were chosen as the best example of Court’s influence on American politics. The described cases and decisions created the key precedents that significantly affected the American legal system. The question put is whether the Supreme Court of the United States is the institution that has significantly more political nature than the similar institutions in Great Britain and Europe. This thesis provides a wide reasoning that gives a positive answer to that question. The used sources consist of Czech and American legal literature, scholars’ legal commentary and the Supreme Court decisions.