

## **Abstract**

These days, the Supreme Court of the United States represents a very important and irreplaceable role in its home land: protection of constitutionality, explanation of federal laws, as well as appellate court of last resort within the framework of American courts. Today there is no doubt about its jurisdiction, but there were doubts. In the beginning of its existence no one was sure if the Court could overcome the initial obstacles which were in the way. This diploma thesis deals with the initial existence of the Supreme Court of the United States, its role within the framework of the US federal power system, and its progressive integration as equal with the legislative branch and executive power – The United States Congress and the President, respectively. The main objective of this thesis is to introduce the federal judiciary of the United States, show its differences from the continental system, and accentuate the importance of precedents. First, I focus on the history of the United States; colonization by British citizens, the American War for Independence, The Declaration of Independence, and the formation of American statehood in the 1780s, which resulted in the acceptance of one of the longest-lasting written constitutions in the world. After the historical excursion, the thesis focuses on the basis of law, which served as the base for the Supreme Court of the United States, and which the Court also used in the beginning of its existence. Second, I follow with a chapter about the power and competence of the Supreme Court, together with the designation and dismissal of Supreme Court judges and the delimitation of their jobs' roles in the prime decades of the Court's activity. The next chapter is devoted to the Chief Justices of the Supreme Court, who have provided shape and authority for the Court. Short résumés of the first five may give some insight into the attitude of this institution in its decisions. If we want to fully understand the attitude and decisions of the Supreme Court, we cannot do that without studying important cases, which serve as the precedents up to now. Therefore I put the most important cases from the first 70 years of the existence of the Supreme Court into the final chapter of this diploma thesis. The final chapter is divided into several categories, according to its suited subject.