## INTRODUCTION

In this microfilm publication are reproduced the engrossed dockets of the Supreme Court of the United States, 1791-1905, and the single series of dockets created by the Court since 1905, together with the portions of the rough dockets that contain entries for original-jurisdiction cases, 1829-1905. Until May 31, 1905, there are two series of Supreme Court dockets, the engrossed or smooth dockets, 1791-1905, which give the complete history of each case as compiled from the various docket books in which the case had been entered, and the rough dockets, 1803-1905, in which all unfinished and new cases were entered for each term. The series of engrossed dockets contains entries for cases that came before the Court during the period covered, with the exception of cases in original jurisdiction, 1829-1905, which are recorded only in the rough dockets. Beginning with May 31, 1905, the Court has maintained only one series of dockets in which are recorded all cases that come before the Court, in both original and appellate jurisdictions.

Among the cases brought before the Court are those that established the implied powers of the Federal Government and the power of the Court to pass on the constitutionality of acts of Congress and of the State legislatures; prize and admiralty cases; those involving questions concerning the neutrality of the United States in wars between foreign nations; treason cases; and those involving the contract clause of the Constitution, interstate and foreign commerce, the slave trade and the status of slavery, the powers of the Federal Government during the Civil War and foreign wars, civil rights, labor disputes, immigration, wage and hour legislation, and Federal and State police power.

The Supreme Court of the United States, provided for in article III, section 1, of the Constitution, was established by authority of the Judiciary Act of September 24, 1789 (1 Stat. 73). The Court's jurisdiction extends to all cases in law and equity arising under the Constitution, the laws of the United States, and treaties made under their authority; to all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers, and consuls; to all cases of admiralty and maritime law; to controversies in which the United States is a party; and to controversies between two or more States, between a State and citizens of another State, between citizens of different States, between citizens of the same State claiming lands under grants of different States, and between a State or its citizens and foreign states, citizens, or subjects. In all cases affecting ambassadors, ministers, and consuls, and those in which a State is a party, the Supreme Court has original jurisdiction. Its appellate jurisdiction is defined in various statutes; but as the circuit courts of appeals are competent to give final decision in the majority of cases, the Supreme Court usually hears only those cases that