

Key U.S. Supreme Court Rulings Regarding Federalism, 1995–2014

Case	Decision
<i>United States v. Lopez</i> (1995)	Court strikes down a federal law prohibiting possession of firearms near public schools. First time since World War II that Court placed limits on Congress's powers under the interstate commerce clause.
<i>Seminole Tribe of Florida v. Florida</i> (1996)	Court rules Congress cannot allow citizens to sue states in a federal court except for civil rights violations. State claim upheld.
<i>Printz v. United States</i> (1997)	Court strikes down a federal law requiring mandatory background checks for firearms purchases. State claim upheld.
<i>Alden v. Maine</i> (1999)	Court rules that Congress does not have the power to authorize citizens to sue in state court on the basis of federal claims. State claim upheld.
<i>United States v. Morrison</i> (2000)	Court strikes down the federal Violence Against Women Act. State claim upheld.
<i>Reno v. Condon</i> (2000)	Court upholds a federal law preventing states from selling driver's license information. State claim overturned.
<i>Bush v. Gore</i> (2000)	Court overrules a Florida Supreme Court action allowing hand recounts of contested election ballots. State claim overturned.
<i>Alabama v. Garrett</i> (2001)	Court rules that state employees cannot sue their employers in federal court to recover monetary damages under the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. State claim upheld.
<i>Lorillard Tobacco Co. v. Reilly</i> (2001)	Court strikes down Massachusetts laws regulating the advertising of tobacco products. State claim overturned.
<i>Kelo v. City of New London</i> (2005)	Court rules that government can seize private property for public purposes, including economic development. State claim upheld.
<i>Gonzales v. Raich</i> (2005)	Court rules that federal laws outlawing marijuana can be upheld by federal law enforcement officers in states where medical marijuana has been legalized. State law enforcement groups, however, do not have to participate in federal efforts to seize marijuana.
<i>Gonzales v. Oregon</i> (2006)	Court rules that the U.S. attorney general overstepped his authority by threatening to eliminate prescription-writing privileges for doctors who follow state law allowing physician-assisted suicide. State claim upheld.
<i>Arizona v. United States</i> (2012)	Court rules that states do not have the authority to enact and enforce immigration laws; however, it allows states to implement "show-me-your-papers" regulations that require law enforcement officers to determine the immigration status of anyone they stop or detain.
<i>National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius</i> (2012)	Court rules that the federal government can require individuals to purchase health insurance and that doing so does not violate powers reserved to the states under the Tenth Amendment.