

## Understanding Checks and Balances Lesson Handout (Grades 7-9)

### What Did the Court Decide?

On June 23, 2003, the Court ruled 6-3 in *United States v. ALA* (02-361) that the **Children's Internet Protection Act** was constitutional. Chief Justice Rehnquist wrote, "Congress may attach conditions to receipt of federal funds, in order to further policy objectives." The policy objective of the CIPA was to protect young people from illegal and harmful online pornography. The U.S. Supreme Court's decision means that public libraries and public schools will have to continue to filter Internet access if they wish to receive federal funds.