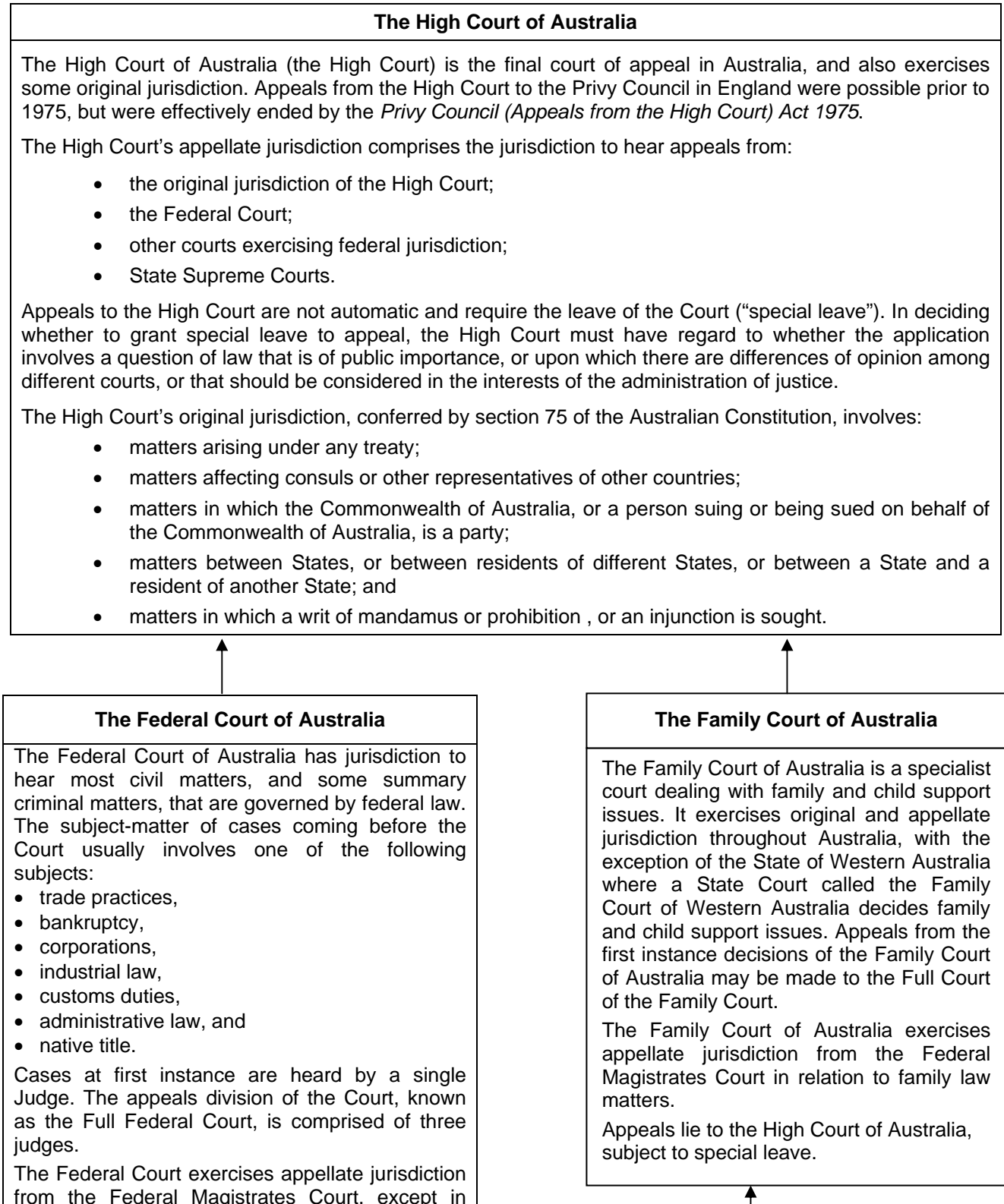


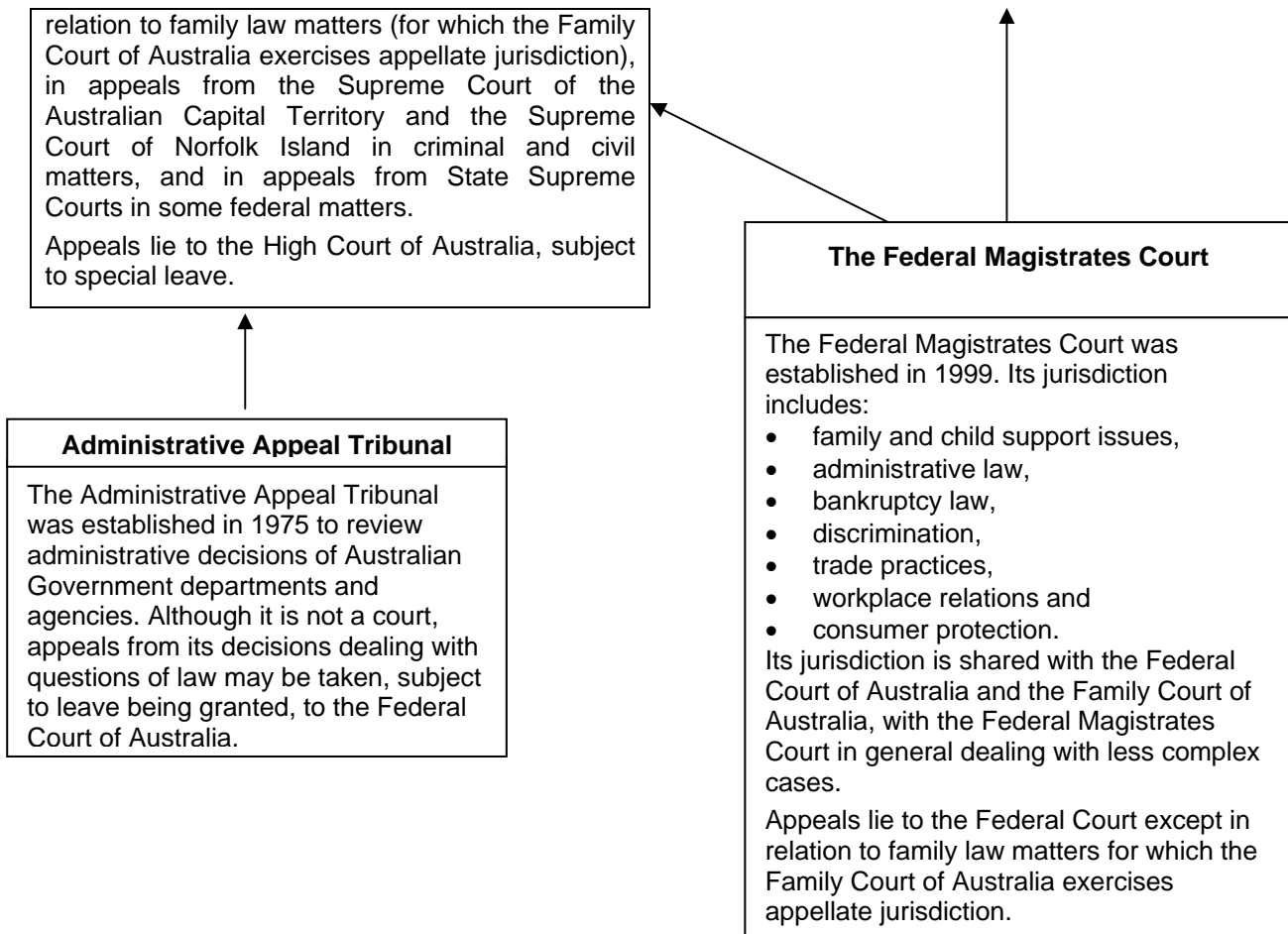
THE AUSTRALIAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM

The hierarchy of Australian courts involves the Federal level, and the State/Territory level.

1. Federal Courts

The Australian Constitution establishes the High Court of Australia, and also empowers the Australian Parliament to create other federal courts and to invest State/Territory courts with power to decide some federal matters.





2. State/Territory Courts

The Courts of the Australian States and Territories deal with cases brought under State or Territory laws. They may also decide cases brought under federal laws where jurisdiction to do so is conferred on them by Federal laws (most Federal criminal matters are dealt with in State/Territory courts on this basis).

Each State and Territory has its own court hierarchy, generally comprised of (in descending order of seniority), in the case of the States:

- a Supreme Court,
- a District Court, and a
- Magistrates Court;

and in the case of the Territories:

- a Supreme Court and a
- Magistrates Court.

In general, Supreme Courts deal with the most important civil litigation and the most serious criminal issues. They also hear appeals from decisions made by lower courts and, sitting as the “Full Court” or “Court of Appeal” (civil matters) or “Court of Criminal Appeal” (criminal matters), from decisions of single judges of the Supreme Court.

Appeals lie from the Supreme Courts to either the High Court or the Federal Court, subject to the leave to appeal requirements of those courts.