Criminal v. Civil Justice 5.1

1. **Types of Laws (two major types)**
   1. Criminal Law v. Civil Law
      1. **Criminal Law**: regulate public conduct
         1. **Govt.** against **person** (prosecution [govt. bringing suit] v. defendant [person defending]
            1. Two types:

**Felony**: More serious crime. prison term of more than one year

Ex. Murder or robbery

**Misdemeanor**: Less serious crime. Prison term of less than one year

Ex. Simple assault or minor theft

* + - 1. “*Beyond a reasonable doubt*”
         1. If there are any doubts about a defendant’s guilt, then judge or jury must vote not to convict
    1. **Civil Law**: regulate relations between individuals or groups of individuals
       1. **Person** against **person** (plaintiff [person complaining] v. defendant [person defending]
          1. **Civil Action**

A lawsuit can be brought by a person who feels wronged or injured by another person

* + - 1. “*Preponderance of the Evidence*”
         1. The judge or jury needs only to decide if it is more likely than not that the plaintiff’s complaint is true (lower standard than for Criminal cases)