

Separation of Powers

Congress

President

Judiciary

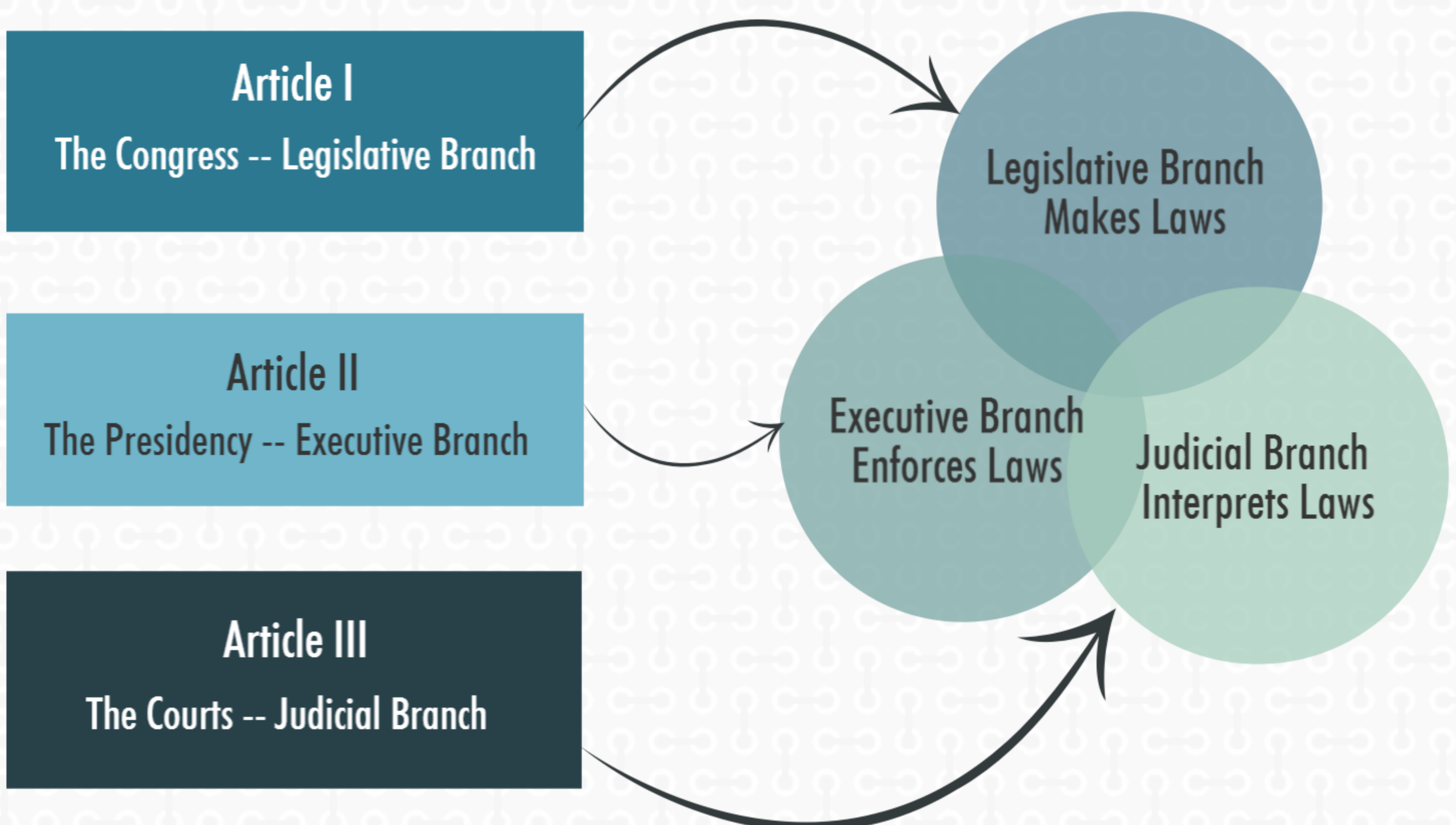
The ideal of Separation of Powers means ...

Each branch of government functions within its Constitutional job description.

Each branch exercises its power with restraint and respect for the role and responsibilities of the other branches.

Three Branches of Government

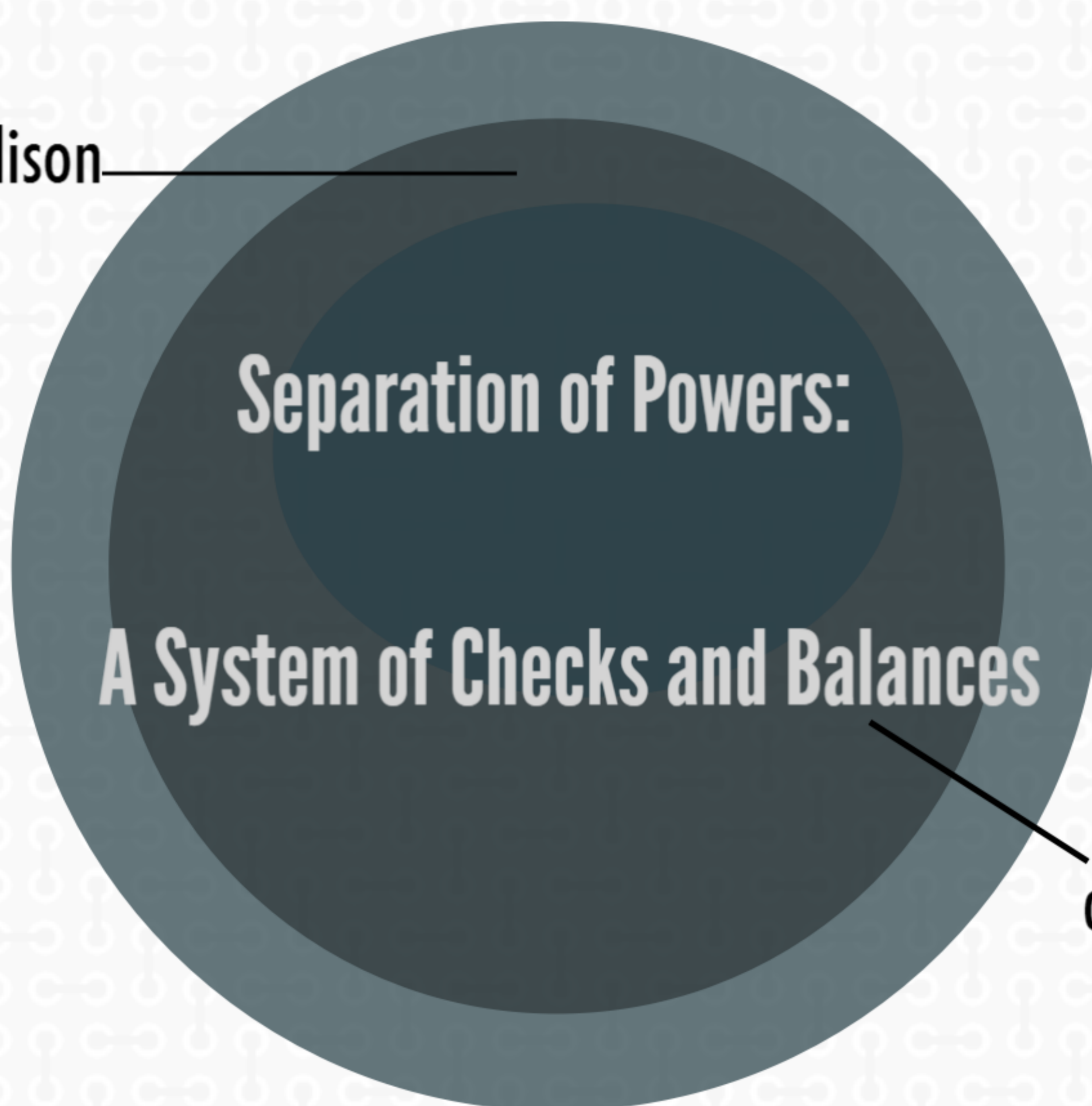
The role and responsibilities of each branch are set out in Article I, II, and III of the Constitution. Over time, the Supreme Court has interpreted the Constitution to further define the powers and limitations of each branch.



Landmark Supreme Court Cases

The following are two examples of historic cases that established and defined the concepts of separation of powers, checks and balances, and judicial review.

Marbury v. Madison
1803



Youngstown Sheet
and Tube v. Sawyer
1952

Checks and Balances

The actions of each branch can have an impact on other branches. The three branches are in a natural state of tension as they balance and re-balance their shared and separate powers.

