SS.7.C.3.10 Benchmark Clarification 3: Students will compare civil, criminal, constitutional, military, and/or juvenile law as types of law.

There are different types of law in the United States. The first type is civil law, a law concerned with private relations between members of a community rather than criminal, military, or religious affairs. Civil law deals with issues that are not related to crime. For example, Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution secures the right for authors and inventors to claim their writings and discoveries as their own exclusive work for a limited time. During that period of time, if another person copies and claims the author or inventor’s work as their own, they may be sued.

As a type of law, constitutional law defines the powers between states, deals with the relationship between the government and states, and between government and citizens. Criminal law deals with crimes and the punishments associated with those crimes. Persons who break state statutes will be tried by the state, if it is a federal offense persons may go to a federal prison if convicted. Civil and criminal law have the most effect on citizens. Juvenile law deals with the actions and wellbeing of persons who are not yet adults. Juvenile law mainly deals with criminal law for people under the age of 18 because they do not have the same obligations, responsibilities, or powers as adult citizens. Military law consists of laws that have been developed to meet the needs of the military. Congress created a set of criminal laws called the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) that apply to all military members. This code includes military trial and punishment with several parallels to constitutional law.

**civil law** - law concerned with private affairs between members of a community rather than criminal, military, or religious affairs  
**constitutional law** - the interpretation and implementation of the U.S. Constitution  
**criminal law** - law that deals with crimes and the punishments associated with those crimes  
**juvenile law** - law that deals with the actions and well-being of persons who are under the age of 18  
**military law** - laws that have been developed to meet the needs of the military  
**statute** - a law enacted at the state level