

- In the *Dred Scott* decision of 1857, the court ruled by a 7-2 vote that African-Americans, whether enslaved or free, could not be citizens of the United States.
- In an 8-1 ruling in *Buck v. Bell* in 1927, the court upheld a state law authorizing forced sterilization of individuals deemed unfit, including the mentally impaired. The ruling stated the law did not violate the due process clause of the U.S. Constitution's Fourteenth Amendment.
- *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* in 1973 legalized abortion in all 50 states at any time during a pregnancy. Both these rulings were determined by 7-2 votes. The debate over abortion continues to rage today, over 45 years later.