



**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE of PENNSYLVANIA COURTS**

Public Information Office

## **Constitutional Challenges to State Legislation**

Does the Supreme Court routinely uphold laws passed by the legislature?

The Supreme Court often is called on to rule on the constitutionality of statutes adopted by the legislature. A constitutional challenge is difficult to maintain since laws are presumed to be constitutional unless a clear violation of a specific provision of the constitution can be proven.

From 1996 through 2006, the Supreme Court ruled on 59 cases in which an Act of the Legislature was under challenge on state constitutional grounds. The court issued opinions upholding the statute as constitutional in 37 of those cases. In 22 other cases, the court issued opinions finding all or part of the state law unconstitutional.