42 USC Sec. 1983

## 42 U.S.C. § 1983

## § 1983. Civil action for deprivation of rights

Every person who, under color of any statute, ordinance, regulation, custom, or usage, of any State or Territory or the District of Columbia, subjects, or causes to be subjected, any citizen of the United States or other person within the jurisdiction thereof to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution and laws, shall be liable to the party injured in an action at law, suit in equity, or other proper proceeding for redress, except that in any action brought against a judicial officer for an act or omission taken in such officer's judicial capacity, injunctive relief shall not be granted unless a declaratory decree was violated or declaratory relief was unavailable. For the purposes of this section, any Act of Congress applicable exclusively to the District of Columbia shall be considered to be a statute of the District of Columbia.

Every person who, under color of any statute, ordinance, regulation, custom, or usage, of any State or Territory or the District of Columbia,

Who is a "person acting under color of state law"—i.e. potential defendant?

subjects, or causes to be subjected,

What type of action (intentional, strict liability) is covered?

to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution and laws,

What types of constitutional/ statutory claims are covered?

## shall be liable to the party injured

Who is an "injured party"

in an action at law, suit in equity, or other proper proceeding for redress,

What is the available relief?

except that in any action brought against a judicial officer for an act or omission taken in such officer's judicial capacity, injunctive relief shall not be granted unless a declaratory decree was violated or declaratory relief was unavailable.

Express exception for suing judges, but there are more

For the purposes of this section, any Act of Congress applicable exclusively to the District of Columbia shall be considered to be a statute of the District of Columbia.

Express statement that recognizes that DC laws are covered as equivalent to "state laws," even though they are passed by Congress