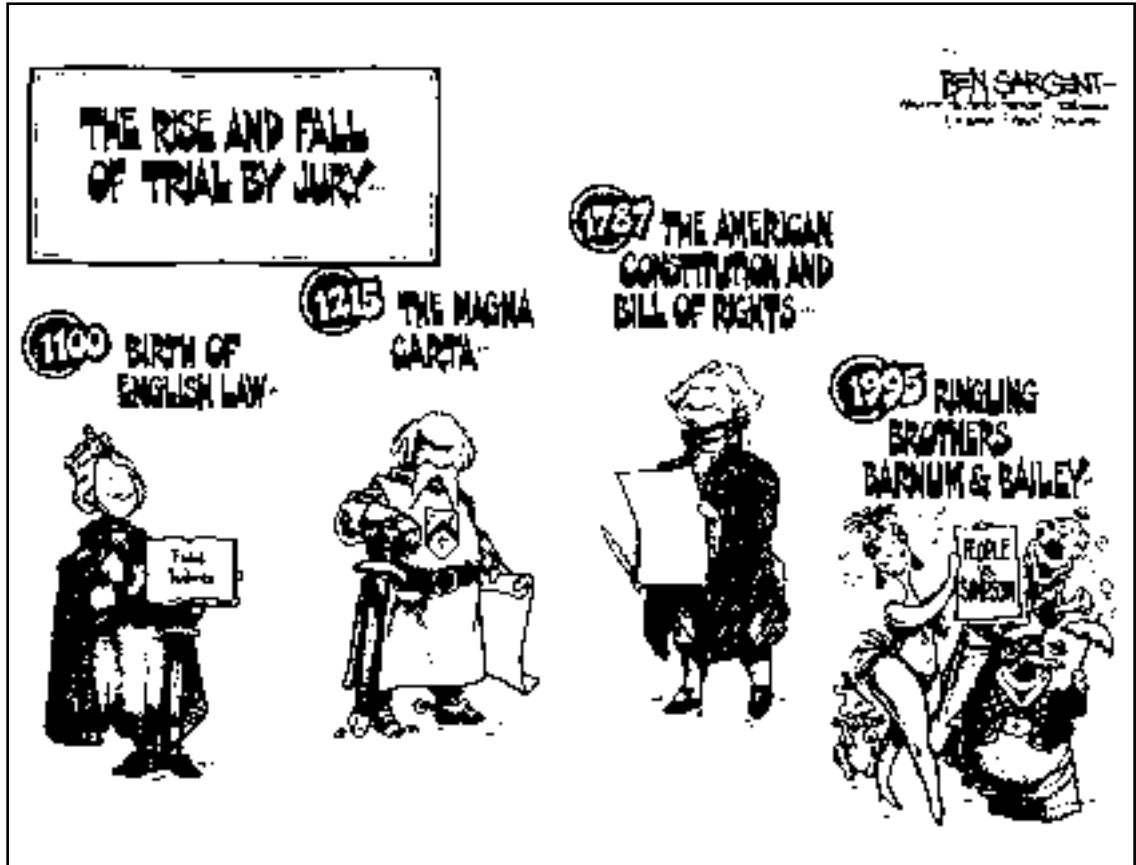


Our Political Beginnings

The development of the United States judicial system has roots at least as far back as the 1100s. It has continued to develop in recent years, with much publicized cases like the 1995 trial of football and movie star O.J. Simpson capturing the attention of the media and the world. Simpson, accused of murdering his ex-wife and another man, was tried and acquitted. Study the cartoon below and answer the questions that follow.

SARGENT ©Austin-American Statesman. Reprinted with permission of UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE. All rights reserved.



© Prentice-Hall, Inc.

Interpreting Political Cartoons

1. What are the first three figures in the cartoon meant to represent?
2. What are the figures shown under 1995 supposed to represent? Why did the cartoonist select this theme?
3. **Recognizing Bias** Do you think the cartoon portrays the evolution of our judicial system fairly? Why?