# Q59 – Name one power that is only for the states.

**DOUGLAS GINSBURG, Federal Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit:**
If you live in one of the 50 states, then your state government is a daily presence in your life – whether you're aware of it or not.

State taxes fund public schools through grade twelve, and help fund public colleges and universities. Own a car? It's licensed by the state – just as drivers are. Drivers must obey traffic laws set by the state and enforced by the state. Each state makes its own laws, as its people see fit.
Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis called the states "laboratories of democracy." Brandeis wrote: "A state may … try novel social and economic experiments without risk to the rest of the country."
States and their counties, cities, and towns conduct these experiments on everything from zoning laws to how to deal with a pandemic.
The most sweeping experiments occur in the public schools with what we teach our children. The results vary a lot from state to state.

There's one thing I think every state should teach: The Constitution.