

CONSEQUENCES

SO WHAT?

He was convicted and sent to prison.

He was in jail awaiting trial and could not interview witnesses or investigate his case.

He did not ask to remove anyone from the jury, despite the fact that some may have been biased.

PROBLEM

Gideon did not have a lawyer to represent him at his trial.

He was too poor to hire a lawyer.

The state of Florida did not provide him with free lawyer.

WHY?

At the time, Florida was not required to provide lawyers to poor people, except in death penalty cases.

CAUSES

Prior to 1963, the U.S. Supreme Court had ruled that the right to counsel only meant that the court could not prevent someone from having a lawyer; not that the government had to pay for one.