

## Brief of the Case

1. *PGA TOUR, Inc. v Martin*  
121 SCt. 1879, 2001 LEXIS 415 (2001)  
U.S. Supreme Court
2. **Key Facts**
  - A. PGA TOUR, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that sponsors professional golf tournaments.
  - B. The PGA establishes rules for its golf tournaments, A PGA rule requires golfers to walk the golf course and not use golf carts.
  - C. Casey Martin is a professional golfer who suffers from Klippel-Trenaunay-Weber Syndrome, a degenerative circulatory disorder that atrophied Martin's right leg and causes him pain, fatigue, and anxiety when walking.
  - D. When Martin petitioned the PGA to use a golf cart during golf tournaments, the PGA refused,
  - E. Martin sued the PGA, alleging discrimination against a disabled individual in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, a federal statute.
3. **Issue**

Does the Americans with Disabilities Act require the PGA to accommodate Martin by permitting him to use a golf cart while playing in PGA tournaments?
4. **Holding**

Yes. The Supreme Court held that the PGA must allow Martin to use a golf cart when competing in PGA golf tournaments. Affirmed.
5. **Court's Reasoning**

The Supreme Court held that:

  - A. Martin was disabled and covered by the act.
  - B. Golf courses are "public accommodations" covered by the act.
  - C. The use of golf carts is not a fundamental character of the game of golf.
  - D. Other than the PGA rule, there is no rule of golf that forbids the use of golf carts.
  - E. It is impossible to guarantee all players in golf will play under the exact same conditions, so allowing Martin to use a golf cart gives him no advantage over other golfers.
  - F. Martin, because of his disease, will probably suffer more fatigue playing golf using a golf cart than other golfers will suffer without using a cart.
  - G. The PGA's "walking rule" is only peripheral to the game of golf and not a fundamental part of golf.
  - H. Allowing Martin to use a golf cart will not fundamentally alter the PGA's highest-level professional golf tournaments.