Supremacy Clause

Since the division of power in the United States is a federal one, in which the two levels of government govern the same territory and people, conflicts will arise between national and state laws. Thus the Constitution’s framers added Article VI, Section 2, the Supremacy Clause, to resolve these conflicts. Basically, it says that the Constitution is the Supreme Law of the Land, that it stands above all other laws.

Following is the order of supremacy of laws governing the U.S.:
1. Constitution
2. Acts of Congress and Treaties
3. State Constitutions
4. State Statutes
5. City and County Charters

Structure of the U.S. Federal System

An organizational chart of the U.S. federal system might look like this: