



Federal Courts’ National Educational Outreach that Involves, Informs, Inspires, and Ignites

STRUCTURE OF THE FEDERAL COURTS



This is a teaching tool that simplifies information for students. Find more classroom-ready materials and activities in the educational resources section of uscourts.gov

What is a District Court?

It is a trial court where cases start. Facts are established and law is applied.

What You’ll See in the Courtroom:

- One judge on the bench
- A witness stand
- A jury box

1 Judge · Yes Witnesses · 6-12 Jurors

TRIAL COURTS: 94 DISTRICTS

1-4 Districts per State



What is a Circuit Court?

It is an appellate court where decisions of trial courts are reviewed.

What You’ll See in the Courtroom:

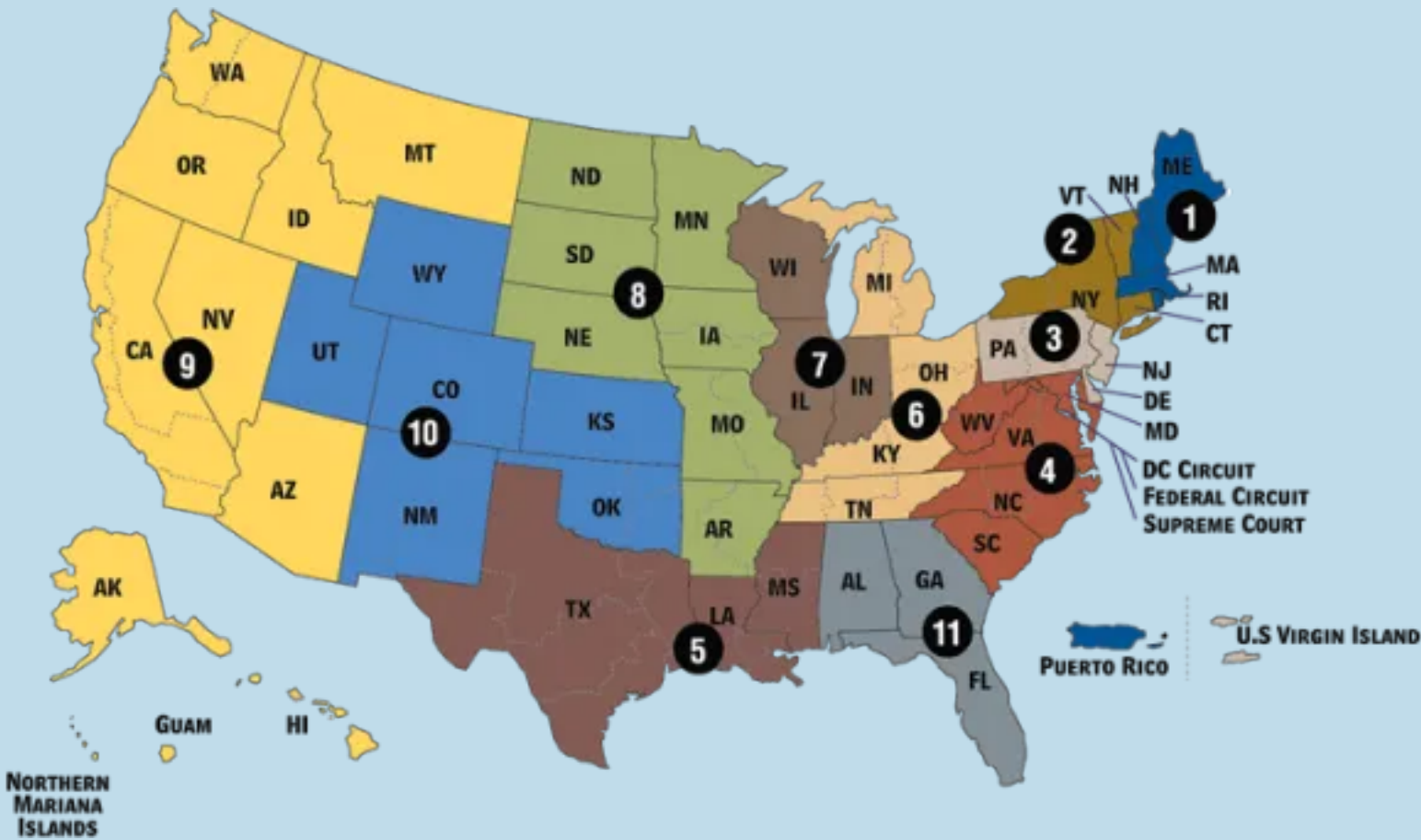
- Three or more judges on the bench
- No witness stand
- No jury box

3 or more Judges · No Witnesses · No Jurors

APPELLATE COURTS: 13 CIRCUITS

Typically 3-Judge panels; Sometimes En Banc (All Judges)

Image Source: uscourts.gov/about-federal-courts/educational-resources



Developed by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts

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