Federal Courts Generally:

- **Federal District Courts** are Trial Courts, e.g. Northern District Court of Texas (N.D. Tex.).
  - District Court opinions are published in the *Federal Supplement* (*F. Supp.*).
  - Appeal to the U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeal or, rarely, to the U.S. Supreme Court.
  - Google the name of the court for information, local rules, and opinions online.

- **Appeals to the U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals** - e.g., 5th Circuit.
  - Appeals may be heard first by a three-judge panel of the Circuit.
  - And next may be appealed to all the judges of the Circuit. (Judges are from the various states of the Circuit - except D.C., which is a Circuit in itself.)
  - Circuit Court opinions are published in the *Federal Reporter* (e.g., *F.3d*).
  - For more information, go to http://www.uscourts.gov/courtsofappeals.html or google the Circuit, e.g., U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

- **Final appeals** are made to the United States Supreme Court.
  - By *writ of certiorari* (a request for the Court to accept the appeal).
  - U.S. Supreme Court opinions are published in *United States Reports* (*U.S.*).
  - For more information, go to http://www.supremecourtus.gov/.

- **Citation Style**: Local court style or *The Bluebook*, T.1, Federal (first page of table).

Federal Motion Practice Resources:

- **Federal Rules of Civil Procedure**:
  - Title 28 of the *United States Code*, in print, and online on many federal court websites, on the Cornell Legal Information Institute website, in library books and treatises, and online in Lexis and Westlaw.

- **Federal Local Court Rules**: on the Court’s website. (Google the name of the Court.)

- **Rules Resources Used by Federal Court Judges**:
  - These are multi-volume treatises with extensive analysis and case citations for each rule.

- **Sources for the Forms for Filing Motions**
  - U.S. Courts forms (including 12(B)), at http://www.uscourts.gov/rules/cvforms2.htm
  - Form books in the Mason Law Library - beside copier in Mason Law Library reading room.
    - E.g.: *Bender’s Federal Practice Forms*, *West's Federal Forms*, *Federal Procedural Forms*.
    - Use the form books’ indexes to locate the forms.