

U.S. Courts Opinions – An FDsys Collection

U.S. Courts Opinions Collection Learning Objectives

- Understand when to use the U.S. Courts Opinions collection
- Identify the courts of the opinions collection on GPO's Federal Digital System;
- Navigate the collection; and
- Find opinions from multiple access points

Origin of the U.S. Courts

“The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish.”

Judiciary Act of 1789

"An Act to establish the Judicial Courts of the United States"

FIRST CONGRESS. SESS. I. CH. 20. 1789.

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CHAP. XX.—*An Act to establish the Judicial Courts of the United States.*(a)

STATUTE I.
Sept. 24, 1789.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the supreme court of the United States shall consist of a chief justice and five associate justices,(b) any four of whom shall be a quorum, and shall hold annually at the seat of government two sessions, the one commencing the first Monday of February, and the other the first Monday of August. That the associate justices shall have precedence according to the date of their commissions, or when the commissions of two or more of them bear date on the same day, according to their respective ages.

Supreme court to consist of a chief justice, and five associates.

Two sessions annually.
Precedence.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the United States shall be, and they hereby are divided into thirteen districts, to be limited and called as follows, to wit: one to consist of that part of the State of Massachusetts which lies easterly of the State of New Hampshire, and to be called Maine District; one to consist of the State of New Hampshire, and to be called New Hampshire District;(c) one to consist of the remaining part of the State of Massachusetts, and to be called Massachusetts district; one to consist of the State of Connecticut, and to be called Connecticut District; one to consist of the State of New York, and to be called New York District; one to consist of the State of New Jersey, and to be called New Jersey District; one to consist of the State of Pennsylvania, and to be called Pennsylvania District; one to consist of the State of Delaware, and to be called Delaware District; one to consist of the State of Maryland, and to be called Maryland District; one to consist of the State of Virginia, except that part called the District of Kentucky, and to be called Virginia District; one to consist of the remaining part of the State of Virginia, and to be called Kentucky District; one to consist of the State of South Carolina, and to be called South Carolina District; and one to consist of the State of Georgia, and to be called Georgia District.

Thirteen districts.

Maine.
N. Hampshire.
Massachusetts.

Connecticut.
New York.
New Jersey.
Pennsylvania.
Delaware.
Maryland.

Virginia.
Kentucky.

South Carolina.
Georgia.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That there be a court called a District Court, in each of the afore mentioned districts, to consist of one judge, who shall reside in the district for which he is appointed, and shall be called a District Judge, and shall hold annually four

A district court in each district.

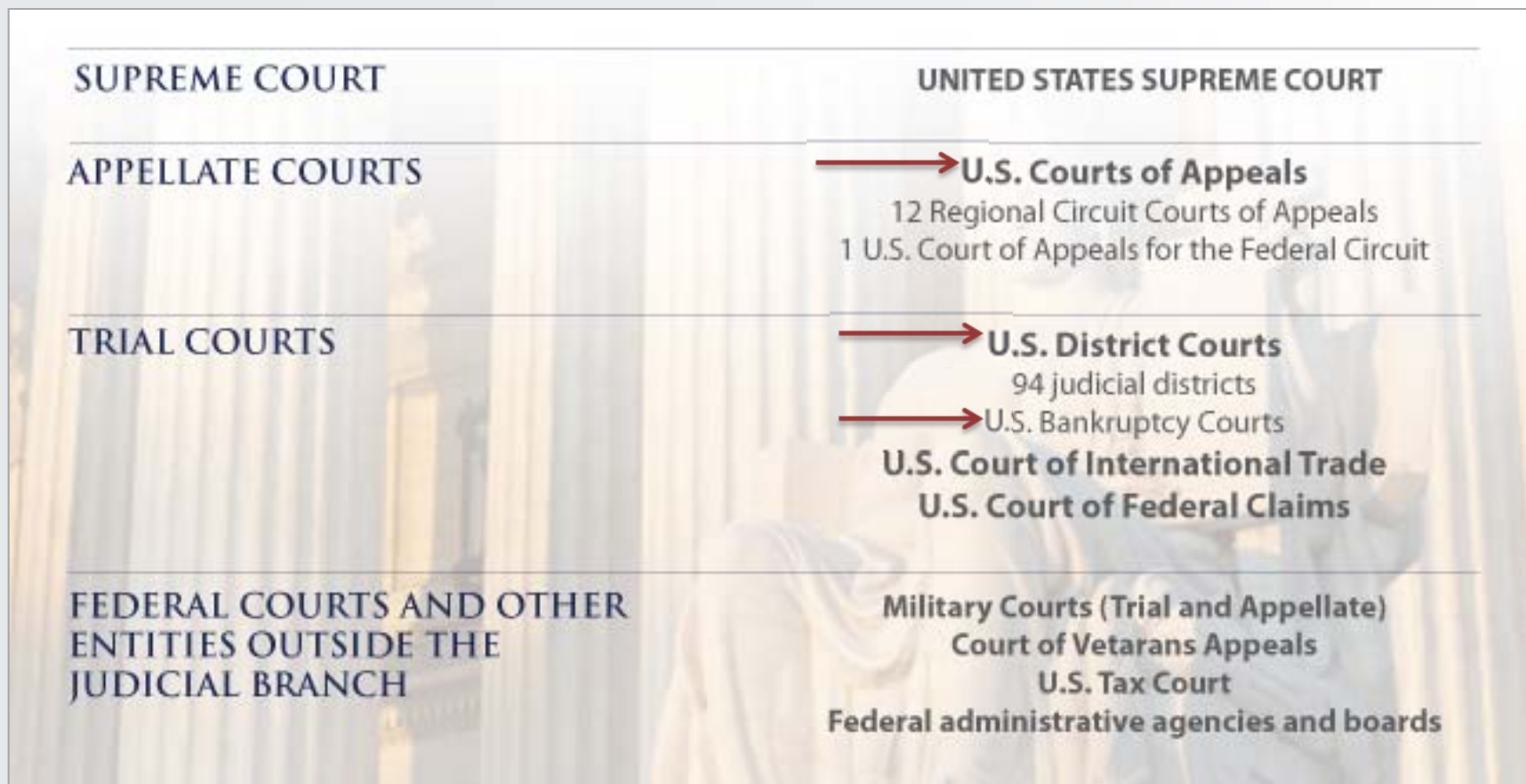
E-Government Act of 2002

Requires that Federal courts provide Web access to the substance of written opinions issued after April 16, 2005 in a text searchable format.

Increasing Access to Lower Federal Court Opinions

- March 2011 – Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Government Printing Office and the Administrative Office of the United States Court signed
- October 2011 – Pilot project launched to make U.S. appellate, district, and bankruptcy court opinions accessible through GPO's FDsys
- September 2012 – The Judicial Conference of the United States approved national implementation of pilot
- March 2014 – Milestone of more than 1,000,000 opinions accessible through FDsys

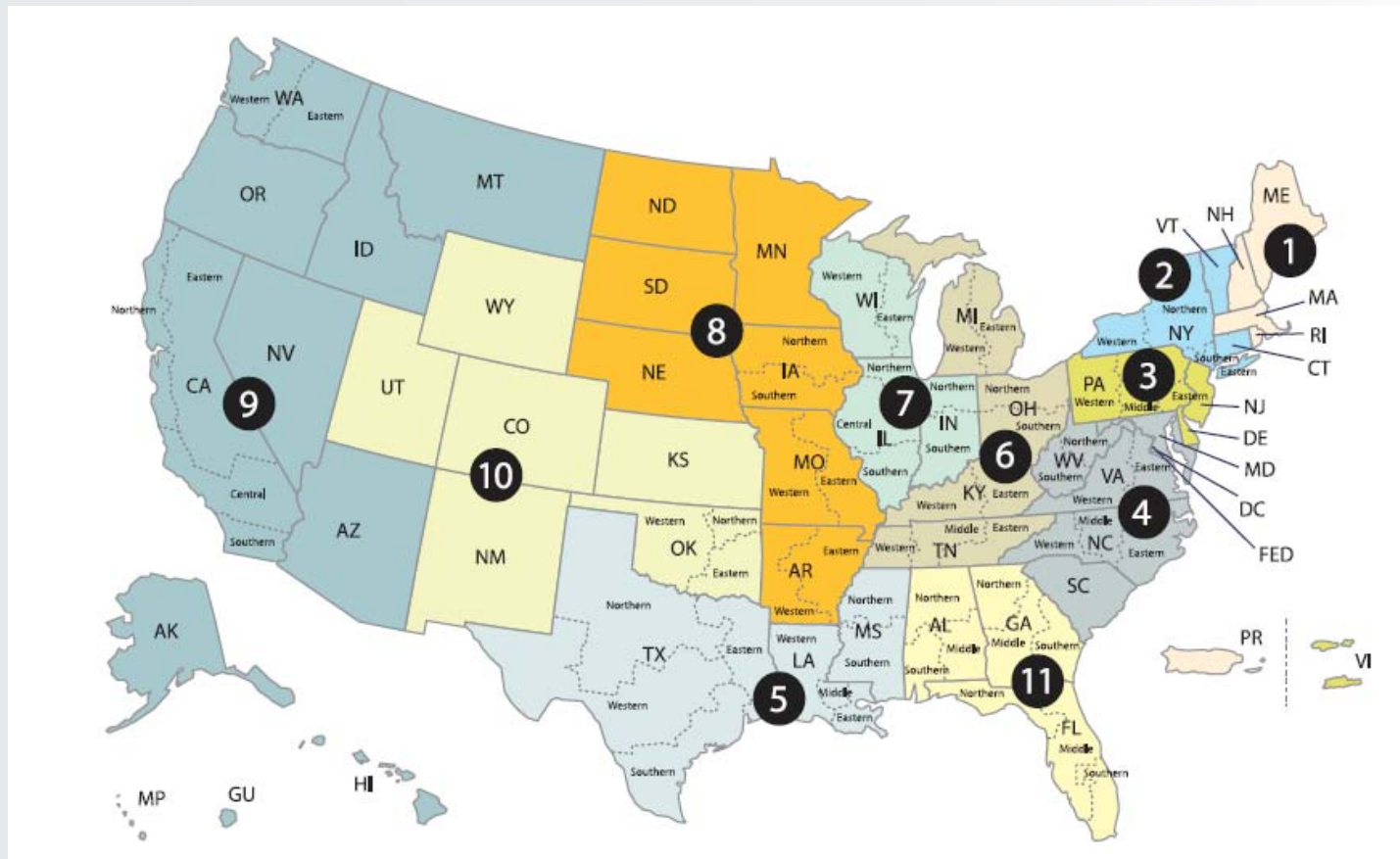
Federal Court Structure



<http://www.uscourts.gov/FederalCourts.aspx>

In FDsys

U.S. Courts of Appeals and U.S. District Courts



<http://www.uscourts.gov/uscourts/images/CircuitMap.pdf>

Cases Heard by Federal Courts

Federal Courts

- Constitutionality of a law.
- Crimes under statutes enacted by Congress.
- Cases involving the laws, regulations and treaties of the U.S.
- Ambassadors and public ministers.
- Disputes between two or more states.
- Patent, copyright, and other intellectual property issues.
- Admiralty law.
- Bankruptcy cases.
- Interstate and international trade law matters.

Federal or State Courts

- Crimes punishable under both federal & state law.
- Federal constitutional issues.
- Certain civil rights claims.
- "Class action" cases.
- Environmental regulations.
- Certain disputes involving federal law.

Date Filed

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

Court Name

HOLY CROSS NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION
VERSUS
UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF
ENGINEERS

Case Name

CIVIL ACTION
NO. 03-370
Ref. 10-1715
SECTION "L"(4)

Case Type

Case Number

ORDER & REASONS

Court Ruling

Before the Court are two cross-motions for summary judgment: (1) Plaintiffs Holy Cross Neighborhood Association, Gulf Restoration Network, Louisiana Environmental Action Network, Citizens Against Widening the Industrial Canal, and Sierra Club's Second Motion for Summary Judgment (R. Docs. 176, 187), and (2) the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment (R. Doc. 192). The Court has received and reviewed the briefs and heard from the parties on oral argument. After considering the arguments raised, as well as the applicable facts and law, the Court is ready to rule. For the following reasons, IT IS ORDERED that Plaintiffs' Second Motion for Summary Judgment is GRANTED IN PART AND DENIED IN PART and the Corps' Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment is GRANTED IN PART AND DENIED IN PART.

Opinion Parts

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