Federal Court Structure and Authority

I. Structure and Authority

a) U.S. District Courts: Trial Court

Mandatory on:

Persuasive on:

b) U.S. Courts of Appeal: Intermediate Appellate

Mandatory on:

Persuasive on:

c) U.S. Supreme Court

Mandatory on:

Persuasive on:

- Writ of Certiorari:

d) State Courts:

II. Terminology

a) Issue of First Impression:

b) Motion/Moved:

c) Ruling/Decision:
d) Order:


e) Opinion:

i) Majority/Main Opinion:

- “Delivered the Opinion of the Court”:

- Stare Decisis and Precedent:

- Obiter Dictum/Dicta:

ii) Concurring Opinion (Concurrence):

iii) Dissenting/Minority Opinion (Dissent):

iv) Plurality Opinion:

- “Announced the Judgment of the Court”: 
f) Judgment:


g) Verdict:

Other Notes:

Students can write whatever they want in this portion.