

## **APPENDIX 4**

### **COURT ABBREVIATIONS**

This appendix contains abbreviations for federal courts. Abbreviations for state courts can be developed by consulting **Appendix 1** and **Rule 2** concerning abbreviations and spacing. In addition, abbreviations for state courts and territorial courts can be located at [www.alwd.org](http://www.alwd.org). If you cannot find an entry for the court you wish to cite, consult **Appendix 3**, which contains general abbreviations.

#### **A. State Courts**

The listed state courts include each state's court of last resort, any intermediate appellate court, and trial courts of general jurisdiction. Courts are listed hierarchically, with the highest court in the state appearing first. For appellate courts, follow item 2 in Rule 12.6(b) about adding departments or divisions whenever possible.

##### **Court**

Alabama Supreme Court  
Alabama Court of Civil Appeals  
Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals  
Alabama Circuit Court  
Alaska Supreme Court  
Alaska Court of Appeals  
Alaska Superior Court  
Arizona Supreme Court  
Arizona Court of Appeals  
Arizona Superior Court  
Arkansas Supreme Court  
Arkansas Court of Appeals  
Arkansas Circuit Court  
Arkansas Chancery Court  
California Supreme Court  
California Court of Appeal  
California Superior Court  
Colorado Supreme Court  
Colorado Court of Appeals  
Colorado District Court  
Connecticut Supreme Court  
Connecticut Appellate Court  
Connecticut Superior Court  
Connecticut Circuit Court

##### **Abbrev.**

**Ala.**  
**Ala. Civ. App.**  
**Ala. Crim. App.**  
**Ala. Cir.**  
**Alaska**  
**Alaska App.**  
**Alaska Super.**  
**Ariz.**  
**Ariz. App.**  
**Ariz. Super.**  
**Ark.**  
**Ark. App.**  
**Ark. Cir.**  
**Ark. Ch.**  
**Cal.**  
**Cal. App.**  
**Cal. Super.**  
**Colo.**  
**Colo. App.**  
**Colo. Dist.**  
**Conn.**  
**Conn. App.**  
**Conn. Super.**  
**Conn. Cir.**

<b>Court</b>	<b>Abbrev.</b>
Delaware Supreme Court	<b>Del.</b>
Delaware Superior Court	<b>Del. Super.</b>
Delaware Court of Chancery	<b>Del. Ch.</b>
Delaware Family Court	<b>Del. Fam.</b>
District of Columbia Court of Appeals	<b>D.C. App.</b>
District of Columbia Superior Court	<b>D.C. Super.</b>
Florida Supreme Court	<b>Fla.</b>
Florida District Court of Appeal	<b>Fla. Dist. App.</b>
Florida Circuit Court	<b>Fla. Cir.</b>
Georgia Supreme Court	<b>Ga.</b>
Georgia Court of Appeals	<b>Ga. App.</b>
Georgia Superior Court	<b>Ga. Super.</b>
Hawaii Supreme Court	<b>Haw.</b>
Hawaii Intermediate Court of Appeals	<b>Haw. App.</b>
Hawaii Circuit Court	<b>Haw. Cir.</b>
Idaho Supreme Court	<b>Idaho</b>
Idaho Court of Appeals	<b>Idaho App.</b>
Idaho District Court	<b>Idaho Dist.</b>
Illinois Supreme Court	<b>Ill.</b>
Illinois Appellate Court	<b>Ill. App.</b>
Illinois Circuit Court	<b>Ill. Cir.</b>
Indiana Supreme Court	<b>Ind.</b>
Indiana Court of Appeals	<b>Ind. App.</b>
Indiana Superior Court	<b>Ind. Super.</b>
Iowa Supreme Court	<b>Iowa</b>
Iowa Court of Appeals	<b>Iowa App.</b>
Iowa District Court	<b>Iowa Dist.</b>
Kansas Supreme Court	<b>Kan.</b>
Kansas Court of Appeals	<b>Kan. App.</b>
Kansas District Court	<b>Kan. Dist.</b>

**SIDEBAR A4-1****THE STRUCTURE OF STATE COURT SYSTEMS**

For more details about each court—such as the number of judges or justices—and for diagrams of each state’s judicial system, consult the most recent annual edition of *Federal-State Court Directory* (Robert S. Want ed., Want Pub. Co.) or of *BNA’s Directory of State and Federal Courts, Judges, and Clerks* (Judith A. Miller ed., BNA). In addition, the National Center for State Courts has compiled a list of state and federal court Web sites that can be accessed at <http://www.ncsc.dni.us>.

<b>Court</b>	<b>Abbrev.</b>
Kentucky Supreme Court	<b>Ky.</b>
Kentucky Court of Appeals	<b>Ky. App.</b>
Kentucky Circuit Court	<b>Ky. Cir.</b>
Louisiana Supreme Court	<b>La.</b>
Louisiana Court of Appeal	<b>La. App.</b>
Louisiana District Court	<b>La. Dist.</b>
Maine Supreme Judicial Court	<b>Me.</b>
Maine Superior Court	<b>Me. Super.</b>
Maryland Court of Appeals	<b>Md.</b>
Maryland Court of Special Appeals	<b>Md. Spec. App.</b>
Maryland Circuit Court	<b>Md. Cir.</b>
Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court	<b>Mass.</b>
Massachusetts Appeals Court	<b>Mass. App.</b>
Trial Court of the Commonwealth	<b>Mass. Cmmw.</b>
Michigan Supreme Court	<b>Mich.</b>
Michigan Court of Appeals	<b>Mich. App.</b>
Michigan Circuit Court	<b>Mich. Cir.</b>
Minnesota Supreme Court	<b>Minn.</b>
Minnesota Court of Appeals	<b>Minn. App.</b>
Minnesota District Court	<b>Minn. Dist.</b>
Mississippi Supreme Court	<b>Miss.</b>
Court of Appeals of the State of Mississippi	<b>Miss. App.</b>
Mississippi Circuit Court	<b>Miss. Cir.</b>
Mississippi Chancery Court	<b>Miss. Ch.</b>
Missouri Supreme Court	<b>Mo.</b>
Missouri Court of Appeals	<b>Mo. App.</b>
Missouri Circuit Court	<b>Mo. Cir.</b>
Montana Supreme Court	<b>Mont.</b>
Montana District Court	<b>Mont. Dist.</b>
Nebraska Supreme Court	<b>Neb.</b>
Nebraska Court of Appeals	<b>Neb. App.</b>
Nebraska District Court	<b>Neb. Dist.</b>
Nevada Supreme Court	<b>Nev.</b>
Nevada District Court	<b>Nev. Dist.</b>
New Hampshire Supreme Court	<b>N.H.</b>
New Hampshire Superior Court	<b>N.H. Super.</b>
New Jersey Supreme Court	<b>N.J.</b>
New Jersey Superior Court, Appellate Division	<b>N.J. Super. App. Div.</b>
New Mexico Supreme Court	<b>N.M.</b>
New Mexico Court of Appeals	<b>N.M. App.</b>
New Mexico District Court	<b>N.M. Dist.</b>
New York Court of Appeals	<b>N.Y.</b>
New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division	<b>N.Y. App. Div.</b>
New York Supreme Court	<b>N.Y. Sup.</b>
North Carolina Supreme Court	<b>N.C.</b>
North Carolina Court of Appeals	<b>N.C. App.</b>
North Carolina Superior Court	<b>N.C. Super.</b>

<b>Court</b>	<b>Abbrev.</b>
North Dakota Supreme Court	<b>N.D.</b>
North Dakota Court of Appeals	<b>N.D. App.</b>
<i>(Note: The North Dakota Court of Appeals was a temporary court, effective July 1, 1987 through January 1, 2000.)</i>	
North Dakota District Court	<b>N.D. Dist.</b>
Ohio Supreme Court	<b>Ohio</b>
Ohio Court of Appeals	<b>Ohio App.</b>
Ohio Court of Common Pleas	<b>Ohio Com. Pleas</b>
Oklahoma Supreme Court	<b>Okla.</b>
Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals	<b>Okla. Crim. App.</b>
Oklahoma Court of Appeals	<b>Okla. App.</b>
Oklahoma District Court	<b>Okla. Dist.</b>
Oregon Supreme Court	<b>Or.</b>
Oregon Court of Appeals	<b>Or. App.</b>
Oregon Circuit Court	<b>Or. Cir.</b>
Pennsylvania Supreme Court	<b>Pa.</b>
Pennsylvania Superior Court	<b>Pa. Super.</b>
Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court	<b>Pa. Cmmw.</b>
Rhode Island Supreme Court	<b>R.I.</b>
Rhode Island Superior Court	<b>R.I. Super.</b>
South Carolina Supreme Court	<b>S.C.</b>
South Carolina Court of Appeals	<b>S.C. App.</b>
South Carolina Circuit Court	<b>S.C. Cir.</b>
South Dakota Supreme Court	<b>S.D.</b>
South Dakota Circuit Court	<b>S.D. Cir.</b>
Tennessee Supreme Court	<b>Tenn.</b>
Tennessee Court of Appeals	<b>Tenn. App.</b>
Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals	<b>Tenn. Crim. App.</b>
Tennessee Circuit Court	<b>Tenn. Cir.</b>
Tennessee Criminal Court	<b>Tenn. Crim.</b>
Tennessee Chancery Court	<b>Tenn. Ch.</b>
Texas Supreme Court	<b>Tex.</b>
Texas Court of Criminal Appeals	<b>Tex. Crim. App.</b>
Texas Court of Appeals	<b>Tex. App.</b>
Texas District Court	<b>Tex. Dist.</b>
Texas Criminal District Court	<b>Tex. Crim. Dist.</b>
Utah Supreme Court	<b>Utah</b>
Utah Court of Appeals	<b>Utah App.</b>
Utah District Court	<b>Utah Dist.</b>
Vermont Supreme Court	<b>Vt.</b>
Vermont Superior Court	<b>Vt. Super.</b>
Vermont District Court	<b>Vt. Dist.</b>
Virginia Supreme Court	<b>Va.</b>
Virginia Court of Appeals	<b>Va. App.</b>
Virginia Circuit Court	<b>Va. Cir.</b>
Washington Supreme Court	<b>Wash.</b>
Washington Court of Appeals	<b>Wash. App.</b>

<b>Court</b>	<b>Abbrev.</b>
Washington Superior Court	<b>Wash. Super.</b>
West Virginia Supreme Court	<b>W. Va.</b>
West Virginia Circuit Court	<b>W. Va. Cir.</b>
Wisconsin Supreme Court	<b>Wis.</b>
Wisconsin Court of Appeals	<b>Wis. App.</b>
Wisconsin Circuit Court	<b>Wis. Cir.</b>
Wyoming Supreme Court	<b>Wyo.</b>
Wyoming District Court	<b>Wyo. Dist.</b>

## **B. Federal Courts**

<b>Court</b>	<b>Abbrev.</b>
United States Supreme Court	<b>U.S.</b>

### **United States Courts of Appeals**

<b>Court</b>	<b>Abbrev.</b>
First Circuit	<b>1st Cir.</b>
Second Circuit	<b>2d Cir.</b>
Third Circuit	<b>3d Cir.</b>
Fourth Circuit	<b>4th Cir.</b>
Fifth Circuit	<b>5th Cir.</b>
Sixth Circuit	<b>6th Cir.</b>
Seventh Circuit	<b>7th Cir.</b>
Eighth Circuit	<b>8th Cir.</b>
Ninth Circuit	<b>9th Cir.</b>
Tenth Circuit	<b>10th Cir.</b>
Eleventh Circuit	<b>11th Cir.</b>
D.C. Circuit	<b>D.C. Cir.</b>
Federal Circuit	<b>Fed. Cir.</b>

### **United States District Courts**

<b>Court</b>	<b>Abbrev.</b>
Middle District of Alabama	<b>M.D. Ala.</b>
Northern District of Alabama	<b>N.D. Ala.</b>
Southern District of Alabama	<b>S.D. Ala.</b>
District of Alaska	<b>D. Alaska</b>
District of Arizona	<b>D. Ariz.</b>
Eastern District of Arkansas	<b>E.D. Ark.</b>
Western District of Arkansas	<b>W.D. Ark.</b>
Central District of California	<b>C.D. Cal.</b>
Eastern District of California	<b>E.D. Cal.</b>
Northern District of California	<b>N.D. Cal.</b>
Southern District of California	<b>S.D. Cal.</b>
District of the Canal Zone	<b>D.C.Z.</b>

**(Note:** The D.C.Z. ceased to exist on March 31, 1982.)

District of Colorado	<b>D. Colo.</b>
District of Connecticut	<b>D. Conn.</b>
District of Delaware	<b>D. Del.</b>

**Court**

District of D.C.  
 Middle District of Florida  
 Northern District of Florida  
 Southern District of Florida  
 Middle District of Georgia  
 Northern District of Georgia  
 Southern District of Georgia  
 District of Guam  
 District of Hawaii  
 District of Idaho  
 Central District of Illinois  
 Northern District of Illinois  
 Southern District of Illinois  
 Northern District of Indiana  
 Southern District of Indiana  
 Northern District of Iowa  
 Southern District of Iowa  
 District of Kansas  
 Eastern District of Kentucky  
 Western District of Kentucky  
 Eastern District of Louisiana  
 Middle District of Louisiana  
 Western District of Louisiana  
 District of Maine  
 District of Maryland  
 District of Massachusetts  
 Eastern District of Michigan  
 Western District of Michigan  
 District of Minnesota  
 Northern District of Mississippi  
 Southern District of Mississippi  
 Eastern District of Missouri  
 Western District of Missouri  
 District of Montana  
 District of Nebraska  
 District of Nevada  
 District of New Hampshire  
 District of New Jersey  
 District of New Mexico  
 Eastern District of New York  
 Northern District of New York  
 Southern District of New York  
 Western District of New York  
 Eastern District of North Carolina  
 Middle District of North Carolina  
 Western District of North Carolina  
 District of North Dakota  
 District of the Northern Mariana Islands  
 Northern District of Ohio  
 Southern District of Ohio  
 Eastern District of Oklahoma  
 Northern District of Oklahoma

**Abbrev.**

**D.D.C.**  
**M.D. Fla.**  
**N.D. Fla.**  
**S.D. Fla.**  
**M.D. Ga.**  
**N.D. Ga.**  
**S.D. Ga.**  
**D. Guam**  
**D. Haw.**  
**D. Idaho**  
**C.D. Ill.**  
**N.D. Ill.**  
**S.D. Ill.**  
**N.D. Ind.**  
**S.D. Ind.**  
**N.D. Iowa**  
**S.D. Iowa**  
**D. Kan.**  
**E.D. Ky.**  
**W.D. Ky.**  
**E.D. La.**  
**M.D. La.**  
**W.D. La.**  
**D. Me.**  
**D. Md.**  
**D. Mass.**  
**E.D. Mich.**  
**W.D. Mich.**  
**D. Minn.**  
**N.D. Miss.**  
**S.D. Miss.**  
**E.D. Mo.**  
**W.D. Mo.**  
**D. Mont.**  
**D. Neb.**  
**D. Nev.**  
**D.N.H.**  
**D.N.J.**  
**D.N.M.**  
**E.D.N.Y.**  
**N.D.N.Y.**  
**S.D.N.Y.**  
**W.D.N.Y.**  
**E.D.N.C.**  
**M.D.N.C.**  
**W.D.N.C.**  
**D.N.D.**  
**D.N. Mar. I.**  
**N.D. Ohio**  
**S.D. Ohio**  
**E.D. Okla.**  
**N.D. Okla.**

<b>Court</b>	<b>Abbrev.</b>
Western District of Oklahoma	<b>W.D. Okla.</b>
District of Oregon	<b>D. Or.</b>
Eastern District of Pennsylvania	<b>E.D. Pa.</b>
Middle District of Pennsylvania	<b>M.D. Pa.</b>
Western District of Pennsylvania	<b>W.D. Pa.</b>
District of Puerto Rico	<b>D.P.R.</b>
District of Rhode Island	<b>D.R.I.</b>
District of South Carolina	<b>D.S.C.</b>
District of South Dakota	<b>D.S.D.</b>
Eastern District of Tennessee	<b>E.D. Tenn.</b>
Middle District of Tennessee	<b>M.D. Tenn.</b>
Western District of Tennessee	<b>W.D. Tenn.</b>
Eastern District of Texas	<b>E.D. Tex.</b>
Northern District of Texas	<b>N.D. Tex.</b>
Southern District of Texas	<b>S.D. Tex.</b>
Western District of Texas	<b>W.D. Tex.</b>
District of Utah	<b>D. Utah</b>
District of Vermont	<b>D. Vt.</b>
Eastern District of Virginia	<b>E.D. Va.</b>
Western District of Virginia	<b>W.D. Va.</b>
District of the Virgin Islands	<b>D.V.I.</b>
Eastern District of Washington	<b>E.D. Wash.</b>
Western District of Washington	<b>W.D. Wash.</b>
Northern District of West Virginia	<b>N.D.W. Va.</b>
Southern District of West Virginia	<b>S.D.W. Va.</b>
Eastern District of Wisconsin	<b>E.D. Wis.</b>
Western District of Wisconsin	<b>W.D. Wis.</b>
District of Wyoming	<b>D. Wyo.</b>

### **Military Courts**

<b>Court</b>	<b>Abbrev.</b>
United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces	<b>Armed Forces App.</b>

## **SIDEBAR A4-2**

### **DISSECTING A DISTRICT COURT ABBREVIATION**

The abbreviation for “District” is “D.” Many states have more than one district; these districts are designated by geography. The choices may be Central (C.), Eastern (E.), Middle (M.), Northern (N.), Southern (S.), or Western (W.). To formulate the abbreviation for a United States District Court, put the geographic designation before “D,” and then add the state abbreviation. For state abbreviations, see **Appendix B**. Consult **Rule 2** for information about how to space the abbreviation.

**Court**

United States Court of  
Veterans Appeals  
United States Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals  
United States Army Court of Criminal Appeals  
United States Coast Guard Court of Criminal Appeals  
United States Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals

**Abbrev.**

**Vet. App.**  
**A.F. Crim. App.**  
**Army Crim. App.**  
**Coast Guard Crim. App.**  
**Navy-Marine Crim.  
App.**

**Bankruptcy Courts**

Each United States District Court has a corresponding bankruptcy court. To cite a bankruptcy court, add Bankr. to the district court abbreviation.

*Examples:*

Bankr. N.D. Ala.  
Bankr. D. Mass.

**Other Federal Courts****Court**

Court of Federal Claims  
Court of Customs and Patent Appeals  
Court of Claims  
Claims Court  
Court of International Trade  
Tax Court

**Abbrev.**

**Fed. Cl.**  
**Cust. & Pat. App.**  
**Ct. Cl.**  
**Cl. Ct.**  
**Ct. Intl. Trade**  
**Tax**