Chapter 18.2

The District Courts

1. Use your background knowledge to answer the following:
   1. What is the difference between *federal* law and *state* law?
   2. What does it mean that the District Courts are “federal trial courts”?
2. Most cases in District Court are heard by a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_judge but some may be heard by:

Describe one of the two “little-known multi-judge” courts:

1. Why do District Courts hear about 80% of federal cases?
2. Explain the difference between a criminal and a civil case at the District Court level.
3. After you have read the section on Federal District Courts; why do you think these courts are divided into districts? In other words, why isn’t there simply one or two district courts to hear all the cases?

The Court of Appeals

1. How is the Court of Appeals set up (how many are there? Where are they? How many judges? Etc.)?
2. What does the Supreme Court have to do with these courts?
3. Explain the difference in jurisdiction between the 12 circuit-based courts and the 13th The Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.
4. What is the job on an appeals court?

Kansas is part of the\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_District Court.

Find the Wikipedia site for the “US Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit” and answer the following questions:

1. Where is this court located?
2. How many judges are there?
3. Who is the SCOTUS justice that “rides” this circuit?
4. List the six states this court hears appeals from:
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is broken into three districts…why (you may have to look back in your reading for this)?

Google “10th court of appeals cases”. Go to the second page of search results and click the first option (Judgepedia.org). Scroll down to “Notable cases”. Click one that interests you and summarize it below.