STRUCTURE OF THE FEDERAL COURTS

**What is a District Court?**
- It is a trial court where cases start. Facts are established and law is applied.

**What is a Circuit Court?**
- It is an appellate court where decisions of trial courts are reviewed.

**DISTRICT COURTS**
- **What You'll See in the Courtroom**
  - 1 judge on the bench.
  - A witness stand. A jury box.
- **1 JUDGE**
- **YES WITNESSES**
- **6-12 JURORS**

**CIRCUIT COURTS OF APPEALS**
- **What You'll See in the Courtroom**
  - 3 or more judges on the bench. No witness stand. No jury box.
- **3 OR MORE JUDGES**
- **NO WITNESSES**
- **NO JURORS**

**TRIAL COURTS ★ 94 DISTRICTS**
- 1-4 Districts per State
- California: 4 Districts
- Oklahoma: 3 Districts
- Maine: 1 District

**APPELLATE COURTS ★ 13 CIRCUITS**
- Typically three-judge panels
- Sometimes, en banc (all judges)

This is a teaching tool that simplifies key points for students. Find detailed information at <uscourts.gov> Educational Resources.