Welcome back. Our first class is Thursday, August 25th from 1:00-2:50 p.m. in Room 203.

• Please read pages 1-19 (through note 1 on p. 19) in our COMPLEX LITIGATION casebook by MARCUS, SHERMAN & ERICHSON (6th edition).

• Also read Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 1, 18(a), 20, and 23(a). You will find a current copy of the Federal Rules on reserve for this course in the law library or online at http://www.uscourts.gov/rules-policies/current-rules-practice-procedure (select the link under “Rules of Civil Procedure”).

• This first reading assignment raises a number of critical questions that will help frame the course. So be ready to discuss these foundational issues:

  (1) What makes a case complex?
  (2) What are the advantages and disadvantages of combining like claims in one action?
  (3) How might procedure affect substance (e.g., case outcome) in complex cases?
  (4) Do procedural devices, which allow for combining many parties and claims in one lawsuit, place too much enforcement power in the hands of private individuals?
  (5) Are the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure really up to the task of handling complex actions?