Welcome. Our first class is Tuesday, August 25th from 9:05-10:55 a.m. in Room 203.

• In our dark blue/red casebook (HAZARD, FLETCHER, BUNDY & BRADT’S PLEADING AND PROCEDURE: CASES AND MATERIALS, 11th edition, 2015), please read pages 1-13 (the structure of a lawsuit), 13-17 (the structure of the court system), 26-31 notes 7 & 8 (a brief history of the Federal Rules and how they are created), and 34 note 1 (remedies).

• In our light purple Rules book (West’s FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, 2015-2016 EDUCATIONAL EDITION), please read Rules 1, 2, 3, & 4 (a)-(c) (on pages 47, 49, 50, & 50-51, respectively). Read only the short texts of the Rules themselves, and not the notes following each Rule. And as indicated, only read the first three sections (a-c) of Rule 4.

• Be ready to discuss these questions (below) in class. To prepare for these discussions, if possible, try to find a first-year colleague or two and share and compare your answers — perhaps over coffee or tea in the Central Commons?

(1) What is this course about? Why is it called “Civil” Procedure? And what “Procedure” is referenced in the course title?
(2) What is the difference between procedural law and substantive law? (For a hint, see casebook pages 6c and 34 note 1)
(3) If you had to design a system to resolve civil disputes, what key goals or attributes would it have?
(4) Do the federal and state trial courts differ? If yes, how? (For a hint, see casebook pages 14-16)
(5) Did you find this reading assignment to be difficult? Why? What will you do the next time you read a Civ Pro assignment to address these difficulties? Did talking with colleagues help?

There is a downloadable PDF of this page on the web assignment board.