

Author's Introduction

2025–2026 Edition

The primary objective of *Federal Trial Handbook: Civil* is to give trial attorneys and judges the ability to find quick, accurate answers to their legal questions both before and during trial. Since I began authoring this publication in 2013, I have worked to comprehensively align its text with this overarching goal. More than ever, *Federal Trial Handbook: Civil* offers the reader a hands-on, how-to-do commentary; an extensive analysis of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Federal Rules of Evidence as those rules impact a civil trial; citation and analysis of key federal statutes and doctrines; and an expanded look at federal case law in each circuit.

Highlights of the 2025–2026 Edition:

- To improve the accessibility of commentary, citations, and case law illustrations, this 2025-2026 Edition continues the process of updating and reformatting *Federal Trial Handbook: Civil*:
 - The text of numerous sections has been expanded to identify and discuss differences in the law between federal circuit courts.
 - Footnotes have been expanded, where practical, to include case citations to each circuit.
 - All supporting citations have been reviewed and updated, where necessary.
 - The Handbook's civil volumes are more portable than in past years, making it easier for you to keep them by your desk or carry to court.
- The chapters continue to be organized in an intuitive manner that will help users find useful information quickly. The 2025-2026 Edition is divided into five parts: Jurisdiction and Pretrial Matters, Civil Trials, Evidence at Trial, Elements of Claims, and Miscellaneous Proceedings.
- New “how to do it” and “Practice Tip” materials have been included in many evidence and trial practice sections. The chapters addressing summary judgment, the conduct of a trial, the province of the court and jury, trial by the court,

jury trials, challenging a juror, order of proof, the verdict, the judgment, admission of evidence, objections to evidence, demonstrative evidence, circumstantial evidence, and photographic evidence, among others, have been expanded or enhanced.

- This edition provides new and current references and citations to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Federal Rules of Evidence, important federal statutes, case law updates, and American Jurisprudence 2d.

The editorial staff at Thomson Reuters, especially Stephen Tarolli, has provided valuable insight and guidance during the preparation and writing of this *Federal Trial Handbook*. Many thanks to them.

Now, let me comment about Judge Robert S. Hunter, the original author of this Handbook. Judge Hunter was an experienced jurist, actively practicing his trade for many years in Quincy, Illinois. I did not personally know Judge Hunter, but he was widely respected as a scholar and gentleman who continued writing about the law into his nineties, long after most of his colleagues had retired from the practice of law. The legal profession owes Judge Hunter a tremendous debt of gratitude for his many sustained years of unselfish contribution and service to our legal profession. Judge Hunter passed on February 22, 2012, at the young age of 92.

I invite commentary about this and future editions of *Federal Trial Handbook: Civil*. It is important that this book serve your needs, so please communicate and tell me how it can be written to best assist your practice. My email address is sarthur@harrisonmoberly.com.

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