

2026 Introduction

Federal Criminal Appeals offers guidance for handling and adjudicating federal criminal appeals, including the role of appellate counsel, jurisdiction, appealability, scope and standards of review, and brief-writing and oral argument skills. Key decisions from the various federal Circuits and the Supreme Court are covered in each annual edition.

New developments in this 2026 Edition of *Federal Criminal Appeals* include:

- Discussion of new circuit court decisions on appeals from guilty pleas (§§ 2:53, 2:72)
- Analysis of decisions on preservation, including the Sixth Circuit case *U.S. v. Liggins* (2026) holding that the government waived its argument that the defendant lacked standing to challenge the legality of wiretap interceptions under Title III by failing to raise that claim in its initial response to the defendant's suppression motion during the second round of litigation, despite a general remand that allowed reconsideration of previously waived issues. (§ 4:13)
- Recent decisions on mootness (§§ 3:5, 3:10, 3:29)

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