

COUGHLIN'S REVISED CHART!

on binding/persuasive authorities in fed/state courts

1) State or Federal Issue? 2) Which court are you in?	Binding Authority	Persuasive Authority (<i>"all other courts" !!!</i>)
State issue in state trial court	That state's <i>intermediate appellate court</i> That state's highest court	All federal courts Other states' state courts Other state trial courts in the same state
State issue in state <i>intermediate appellate court</i>	That state's highest court	All federal courts Other states' state courts State trial courts in the same state Other state <i>intermed. appellate courts</i> in the same state
State issue in state's highest court	That state's highest court	All federal courts Other states' state courts State trial courts in the same state State <i>intermed. app. cts.</i> in the same state
Federal issue in state trial court	US Supreme Court	All federal district courts All federal circuit courts State courts
Federal issue in state <i>intermediate appellate court</i>	US Supreme Court	All federal district courts All federal circuit courts State courts
Federal issue in state's highest court	US Supreme Court	All federal district courts All federal circuit courts State courts
State issue in federal district court	Interpretations from the state's highest court	All federal courts Other state courts
State issue in federal circuit court	Interpretations from the state's highest court	All federal courts Other state courts
State issue in U.S. Supreme Court	Interpretations from the state's highest court	All federal courts Other state courts
Federal issue in federal district court	US Supreme Court Federal circuit court in the circuit where the district court is	Other federal circuit courts Other federal district courts All state courts
Federal issue in federal circuit court	That federal circuit court US Supreme Court	Other federal circuit courts Other federal district courts All state courts
Federal issue in US Supreme Court	US Supreme Court	All federal circuit courts All federal district courts All state courts

adapted from The Writing Center at Georgetown University Law Center, Which Court Is Binding? Mandatory vs. Persuasive Cases (2004).