

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO
FEDERAL BAR EXAMINATION
SAMPLE FEDERAL JURISDICTION QUESTIONS

Plaintiff, a citizen of the state of Michigan, sues defendant, a citizen of the state of California, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico, alleging that defendant caused him damages in excess of \$75,000.00, exclusive of costs and interest, as a result of a traffic accident within the district. Defendant moves to dismiss for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. The District Court:

- a. Must grant the motion because the jurisdictional amount is not met.
- b. Must deny the motion because the District Court has diversity jurisdiction.
- c. Must grant the motion because none of the parties is a citizen of Puerto Rico.
- d. Must deny the motion because the District Court has elective jurisdiction.

Answer: (b)

Source: 28 U.S.C. §1332

The United States District Court has original jurisdiction, exclusive of the courts of the States, over:

- a. All civil actions arising under the Constitution, laws, treaties or contracts of the United States.
- b. All civil actions where the matter in controversy is no less than the sum value of \$75,000, exclusive of interests and costs, and is between citizens of different states.
- c. Any prize brought into the United States and all proceedings for the condemnation of property taken as prize.
- d. Any civil action of interpleader or in the nature of interpleader filed by any person, firm or corporation, association, or society having in his or its custody or possession money or property of the value of \$250.00 or more.

Answer: (c)

Source: 28 U.S.C. §1332(2)