**ANNOTATIONS AND COMMENTS**

Rule 404. [Fed. R. Evid.] Character Evidence; Crimes or Other Acts

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(b) Crimes, Wrongs, or Other Acts.

(1) Prohibited Uses. Evidence of a crime, wrong, or other act is not admissible to prove a person’s character in order to show that on a particular occasion the person acted in accordance with the character.

(2) Permitted Uses; Notice in a Criminal Case. This evidence may be admissible for another purpose, such as proving motive, opportunity, intent, preparation, plan, knowledge, identity, absence of mistake, or lack of accident. On request by a defendant in a criminal case, the prosecutor must:

(A) provide reasonable notice of the general nature of any such evidence that the prosecutor intends to offer at trial; and

(B) do so before trial — or during trial if the court, for good cause, excuses lack of pretrial notice.

*United States v. Beechum*, 582 F.2d 898 (5th Cir. 1978) (en banc), *cert. denied*, 440 U.S. 920 (1979), discusses at length the tests to be applied in admitting or excluding evidence under Rule 404(b); and, more specifically, the different standards that apply depending upon the purpose of the evidence, i.e., to show intent versus identity, for example. *See id*. at 911 n.15.

Both the Supreme Court and the Eleventh Circuit have expressly endorsed the *Beechum* test*. Huddleston v. United States*, 485 U.S. 681 (1988); *United States v. Miller*, 959 F.2d 1535 (11th Cir. 1992) (en banc), *cert. denied*, 506 U.S. 942 (1992).