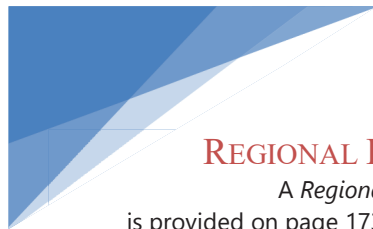


## § 10.2

**State Cases: Long Form***Title, Official, Unofficial (Year)***GUIDELINES**

- a. We have found a case titled *Smith v. Jones*. Always underline or italicize the title.
- b. The case is located in Volume 121, Page 288 of the publication titled *Kansas Reports*. State reports are official cites. Official publications are published by (or under the authority of) the state government. As a rule, the abbreviation for official state reports are the old postal abbreviations. Therefore, “Colo.” is the abbreviation for the Colorado Reports. “Ariz.” is the abbreviation for the Arizona Reports. What is the abbreviation for the official report in your state?

**REGIONAL REPORTERS**

A *Regional Reporter Map* is provided on page 173. This map and other reference material may also be found in **Appendix C** of both volumes.



- c. This abbreviation not only tells the reader what publication the case is found in; it may also tell him what court decided the case, because a state abbreviation by itself indicates that the case was decided by the highest court in that state. If the case is decided by the state appellate court, the abbreviation may have “App.” following the state abbreviation. For example:

**EXAMPLE**

*Smith v. Jones*, or *Smith v. Jones*,

**EXAMPLE**

*Smith v. Jones*, 121 Kan. 288,

- **“N.H.”** indicates the case may be found in the publication New Hampshire Reports.
  - “N.H.” also tells the researcher what court decided the case, since it only contains cases from the highest court in New Hampshire (the New Hampshire Supreme Court).
- **“N.H. App.”** indicates the publication New Hampshire Appellate Reports, which is a totally separate publication from the New Hampshire Reports.
  - “N.H. App.” also tells the reader that the case was decided by the New Hampshire Court of Appeals.

Some publication abbreviations differ from this pattern, such as the *New York Miscellaneous Reports* (Misc.), but whatever the title of the books, the publication helps to identify the court opinions contained within.

- d. Many cases can be found in more than one place. In other words, the exact same case, word-for-word, can be found in different publications. These are called parallel cites. When parallel cites exist, the writer must inform the reader of all the cites that contain the case. Since we have already cited the official cite, we must now cite any unofficial cites (which becomes the parallel cite.) Unofficial publications are private publishers rather than the government.
- e. The major unofficial publisher of cases is *West Publishing Company*, which uses the *West Reporter System*. *West* has divided the country into seven regions. Since we are citing a case decided by a state court, *West* will almost always publish that same case, word-for-word, in one of its regional reporters. For example, *Smith v. Jones* is found in the Kansas Reports (Kan.). Since *West Publishing* has placed Kansas in the Pacific region, *West* will also publish the case in the *Pacific Reporter*. The author must indicate which series is being cited. “P.” stands for *Pacific Reporter*; “P.2d” stands for *Pacific Reporter, Second Series*. Official cites always come first. Then cite the parallel cite.

**EXAMPLE**

*Smith v. Jones*, 121 Kan. 288, 369 P.2d 418

## INTRODUCTION TO CITATION FORM

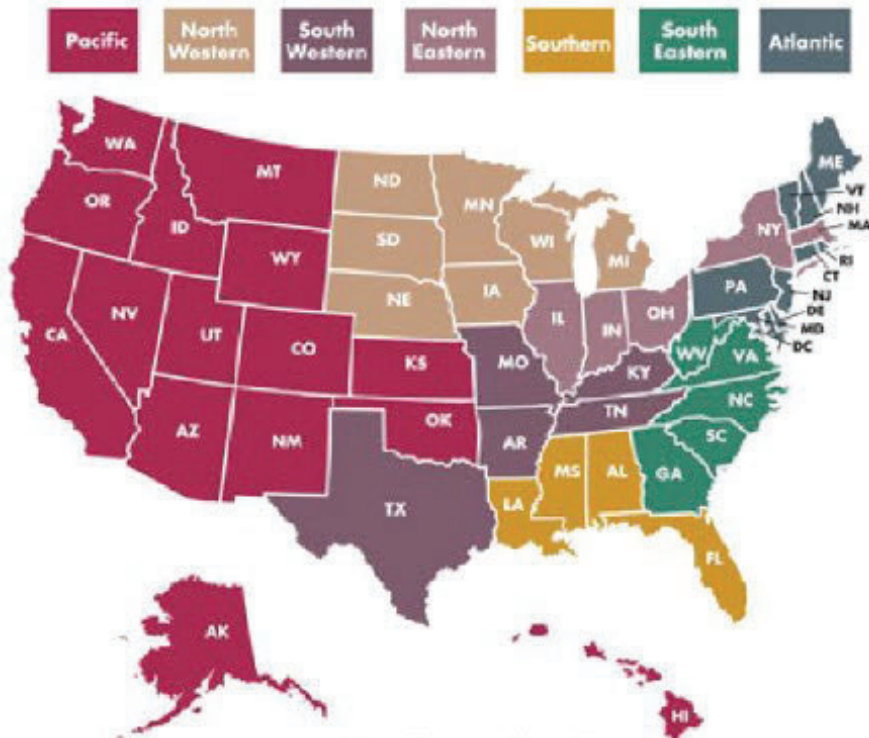
f. The reader of the cite must be able to tell how recent a case is. A case from 1918 may not carry as much weight as a case decided in 1983. The writer must provide the year the case was decided in parentheses.

g. We now have a complete state citation. The reader can tell the following just by looking at the cite:

1. **Who** the parties were
2. **What** court decided the case
3. **When** the case was decided
4. **Where** the reader can find the case.

**COMPLETED LONG FORM CITATION:**  
*Smith v. Jones*, 121 Kan. 288, 369 P.2d 418 (1979)

### DIAGRAM | REGIONAL REPORTER MAP



## INTRODUCTION TO CITATION FORM

### EXERCISE § 10.2(A) | REPORTER ABBREVIATIONS

With the help of your instructor or the Internet, list the Regional Reporter abbreviations for the corresponding publications by West.

#### *Pacific Reporter*

First Series: \_\_\_\_\_ Second Series: \_\_\_\_\_ Third Series: \_\_\_\_\_

#### *Atlantic Reporter*

First Series: \_\_\_\_\_ Second Series: \_\_\_\_\_ Third Series: \_\_\_\_\_

#### *South Eastern Reporter*

First Series: \_\_\_\_\_ Second Series: \_\_\_\_\_

#### *North Western Reporter*

First Series: \_\_\_\_\_ Second Series: \_\_\_\_\_

#### *South Western Reporter*

First Series: \_\_\_\_\_ Second Series: \_\_\_\_\_ Third Series: \_\_\_\_\_

#### *North Eastern Reporter*

First Series: \_\_\_\_\_ Second Series: \_\_\_\_\_

#### *Southern Reporter*

First Series: \_\_\_\_\_ Second Series: \_\_\_\_\_ Third Series: \_\_\_\_\_



#### **Spacing Note**

Regional reporters have no space between the publication abbreviation and the following series number (such as "P.2d"), with the exception of one series: The *Southern Reporter, Second Series* (So. 2d) does include a space before the "2d", as does the third series (So. 3d).

### EXERCISE § 10.2(B) | LONG FORM CITATION

You have found a case titled *Lipps v. Kruger*. The case was decided by the North Carolina Supreme Court. It can be found in Volume 79, Page 526 of the official publication. The unofficial publication contains the case in Volume 314, Page 142, second series. The year was 1967. Please create an acceptable Bluebook citation.

**RULES OF THUMB CITATION GUIDE**

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1. *Cite all parallel cites.*
2. *Cite the official publication first.*
3. *Italicize (or underline) the case title.*
4. *If the publication does not indicate what court decided the case, indicate the court in parentheses.*
5. *Cite the case in full the first time. Thereafter, indicate the title, use a signal, and cite the exact page on which the cite was found. For example: *Smith v. Jones, id.* at 393*

  - *supra* means the case was fully cited somewhere above.
  - *id.* means the case has been cited immediately above.
  - *Infra* means the case is cited fully below.

6. *Indicate both the start of the case and the cited page (pinpoint citation). For example, when first citing the case use: *Che v. Holt*, 143 F.2d 235, 243 (4th Cir. 1970)*
7. *If you have already cited the case but want to "pinpoint" to the exact page where the quotation you used came from, use: *Che*, 143 F.2d at 243.*