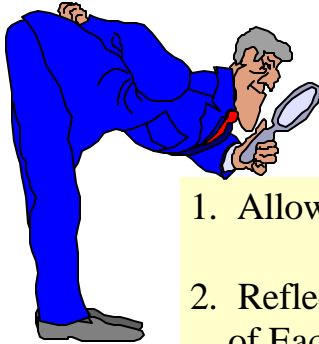


# THE IMPORTANCE OF CITATION

Research, Writing & Advocacy  
Professor Hensel  
October 2, 2001

## Why Do We Need It?



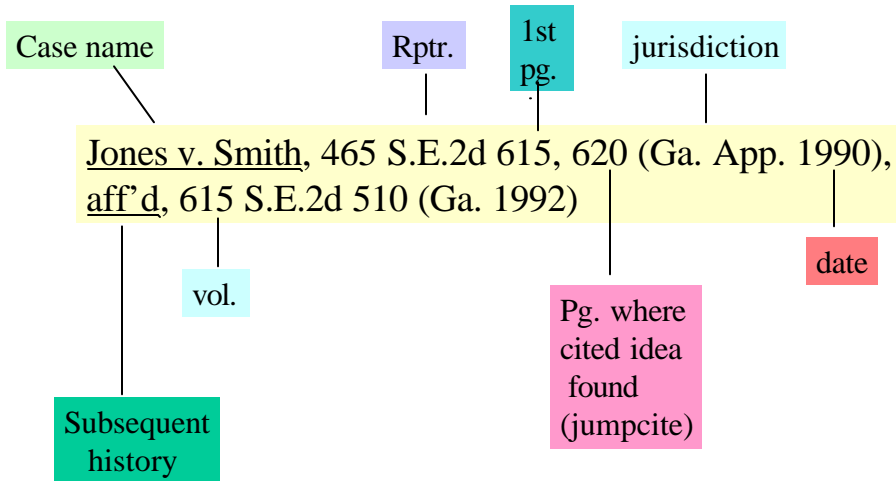
1. Allows Readers to Find and Verify Sources
2. Reflects the Weight and Persuasiveness of Each Source
3. Reflects that Your Memo / Brief is Well Researched.

## How Important Is It?

1. Poor Format Detracts Significantly From Your Argument.
2. If Judge Cannot Verify Source, Your Credibility is Gone.
3. Provides a Means to Attack Opponent.

# I. CASES: LONG FORM

Bluebook Rule 10



# ABBREVIATIONS

Jones v. Smith, 465 A.2d 615, 620 (N.J. 1990)

T.6 - Bluebook  
App. 3 - ALWD

T.1 - Bluebook  
App. 1 - ALWD

Note: Federal Jurisdictions ALWD - Appendices 1& 4

Note: No Abbreviations used in the text.

# Spacing

- a. No space in between consecutive single capital letters.

**Ex: S.D.N.Y.**

- b. One space between two abbreviations when EITHER is not a single capital letter.

**Ex: F.\_Supp.**

- c. Include a space on either side of the following symbols: ¶ §



## When to Cite a Case:

1. Generally, after every proposition that you have taken from a case. If the proposition comes from more than one case, use a string cite separated by semicolons (e.g., after a synthesized rule).

*Ex:* Courts are more likely to find a defendant was induced when he has a close personal relationship with the agent. X v. Y, 415 S.E.2d 20, 25 (Ga. 1995); P v. T, 220 Va. App. 19, 21 (1996).

2. No need to cite a case in the short answer, fact application, or conclusion of a memo.
3. Do NOT cite a case in the middle of the sentence. Citations almost always go at the end of the sentence.
4. If you are citing facts from a case that all appear on the same page, you may skip a line or two without repeating the cite.

## Parallel Citations - Choosing a Reporter

1. Must check local rules to determine if parallel citation is required or which reporter is preferred. (T.1 – Bluebook; Rule 12 – ALWD)
2. If jurisdiction is clear from the reporter name, it need not be included with the date.

Ex: X v. Y, 510 Ga. App. 65, 66 (1995)  
X v. Y, 65 S.E.2d 410, 411 (Ga. App. 1995)

## Subsequent History

Bluebook Rule 10.7; ALWD Rule 12.8

Proper Abbreviations: T.9 – Bluebook  
Pg. 78 - ALWD

Generally:

1. cert. denied generally left off if case is more than 2 years old.
2. Only added to the full citation, not the short form.

# Citing to Westlaw or Lexis

Bluebook Rule 10.8; ALWD -12.12

Jones v. Young, 1999 WL 268765 at \*7 (N.D. Ga. 1995)

Jones v. Young, 1999 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 20645 at \*7 (N.D. Ga. 1995)

NOTE: Only cite the computer version where no published version exists.

## Short Form – Cases

Bluebook – 4.1, 10.9

AFTER you have cited a case in full, you may use an abbreviated cite:

Jones v. Young, 410 S.E.2d 505, 510 (Ga. 1995)

becomes

Jones, 410 S.E.2d at 510

OR

410 S.E.2d at 510 (where it is clear to which case you are referring).

**THE READER MUST BE ABLE TO FIND THE  
CITE SIMPLY BY REFERRING TO THE SHORT  
FORM. AS A RESULT,**

Jones, at 510

**IS NEVER ACCEPTABLE.**

## The Use of Id.

Id. is an acceptable way to refer back to the **immediately preceding case.**

Jones v. Young, 410 S.E.2d 505, 510 (Ga. 1995)

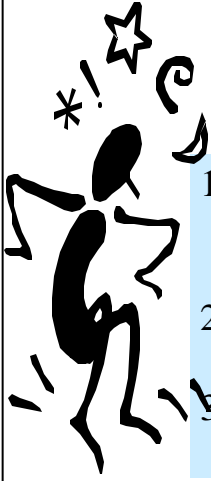
becomes

Id. (if the cite refers to the SAME page)

or

Id. at 515 (if the cite refers to a DIFFERENT page).

## General Considerations - Short Form



1. Clarity is paramount - if there is any confusion, use the long form.
2. You cannot use Id. following a string cite.
3. If your reader has to turn to the page to find the cite, generally you should not use Id.

## Parentheticals

Bluebook Rule 1.2,1.5, 10.6; ALWD -Rule 12.11

Can be used to describe:

- A. The weight of authority  
*Ex:* X v. Y, 56 F.2d 1, 5 (11th Cir. 1996) (en banc)
- B. Dissenting, concurring, or plurality opinions  
*Ex:* X v. Y, 110 U.S. 16, 20 (1996) (O'Connor, J., dissenting)
- C. Explanatory information

## The Use of See

1. If you are citing a case for the direct proposition expressed in the text, you do not need an introductory signal.
2. If you are citing cases that stand for the general proposition expressed in the text and are not citing a particular case, introduce the cases beginning with See
3. If you are citing a particular case for the direct proposition along with parenthetical support that stands for a similar proposition, the parenthetical support is introduced by See also

**EXAMPLE:**

An individual is lawfully present, in part, where there are no signs restricting public access. Messa v. Sullivan, 209 N.E.2d 872, 873 (Ill. App. Ct. 1965). See also Dobrin v. Stebbins, 259 N.E.2d 405, 406 (Ill. App. Ct. 1970) (private property).

