

Law Review 13002

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Understanding Citations in Law Reviews

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9.0—Miscellaneous

The ROA Law Review articles are written so that non-lawyers can understand them, but also to provide legal authority for lawyers to read and rely upon. The case law citations may seem like so much “legal gobbledygook” to most readers, but you can refer to the following code.

Law Review 0803 and many other articles cite *Fishgold v. Sullivan Drydock & Repair Corp.*, 328 U.S. 275 (1946). Decisions of the United States Supreme Court are officially published in the *United States Reports*, which is abbreviated U.S. Only United States Supreme Court decisions are published in *United States Reports*, so when one cites a Supreme Court decision in this reporter series, it is not necessary to identify the court.

This citation means that you can find the *Fishgold* case in Volume 328 of *United States Reports*, and this case starts on page 275. Occasionally, you will find another number (like 285) following the 275. This is known as a “point cite.” This means that the particular language quoted or referred to can be found on the designated page, within the published decision.

There is a lag time of some years between the release of a Supreme Court decision and official publication in *United States Reports*. In the meantime, the case can be cited to “*Supreme Court*” (S. Ct.), which is published by the West Publishing Company.

In Law Review 864 and other articles, you will find a citation to *Petty v. Metro Government of Nashville-Davidson County*, 538 F.3d 431 (6th Cir. 2008), *cert. denied*, 129 S. Ct. 1933 (2009). Decisions of the 13 federal circuit (appellate) courts are published in *Federal Reporter*, and we are now in the third series of that reporter. This citation means that you can find the *Petty* case in Volume 538 of *Federal Reporter, Third Series*, starting on page 431. The “*cert. denied*” means that the United States Supreme Court denied *certiorari* (discretionary review). To find the denial of *certiorari*, go to Volume 129 of *Supreme Court*, page 1933.

In Law Review 0611 and other articles, you will find a citation to *Fink v. City of New York*, 129 F. Supp. 2d 511 (E.D.N.Y. 2001). This is a decision of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York. To find this published decision, go to page 511 of Volume 129 of *Federal Supplement Second Series*.

Some of the articles give *LEXIS* or *Westlaw* (WL) citations for federal district court and circuit court decisions. This means the decision is not (or not yet) published in *Federal Reporter* or *Federal Supplement*, either because the case is brand new or because the court has not submitted the decision for “official” publication.

You don’t have to go to law school for three years to understand this code, but it helps.