

Examples of Federal Citation Formats in ALWD format

ALWD & Darby Dickerson, *ALWD Citation Manual* (3d ed., Aspen Publishers 2006)
(hereinafter ALWD)

United States Supreme Court:

Tex. v. Johnson, 491 U.S. 397, 109 S. Ct. 2533, 105 L. Ed. 2d 342 (1989).

- Abbreviate Texas to Tex. See *ALWD* Appendix 3(b)
- Name of case is italicized (*Tex. v. Johnson*) or underlined (Tex. v. Johnson) - *ALWD* 1.1
- Do not italicize or underline the comma after the case name – *ALWD* 1.4
- “v.” means versus
- List official reporter (U.S.) first, followed by the unofficial reporters (S. Ct. and L. Ed 2d) in the order set forth in this example
- Volume number of official reporter (U.S.) is 491. It is listed before the reporter
- Page number where case begins (397) is listed immediately after name of reporter
- Year case was decided follows in parentheses

Note: Bluebook citation is Texas v. Johnson, 491 U.S. 397 (1989). There are significant differences between these citations. Follow the format favored by your boss, and/or by the judge for whom you are preparing documents.

Note: All citations are complete sentences. Place a period after every citation.

Note: The COD library has the Supreme Court Reporter, Lawyers Edition (L.Ed.).

United States Court of Appeals:

Knology, Inc. v. Insight Commun. Co., 393 F.3d 656 (6th Cir. 2004).

- “F.3d” (Federal Reporter Third Series) is the reporter - *ALWD* Chart 12.1
- Always check *ALWD* Appendix 3 for abbreviations
- 6th Cir. indicates the case was heard by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals
- 2004 is the date the case was decided
- Remember, never italicize the comma following the case name
- Notice you must put the court deciding the case and the year the case was decided in parenthesis following the volume, reporter, and page number the case can be found on

United States District Court:

Stratton v. Marsh, 71 F. Supp. 2d 475 (E.D. Pa. 1999).

- F. Supp. (Federal Supplement) is a reporter - *ALWD* Chart 12.1
- E.D. Pa. means the case was heard in the Eastern District of PA
- 1999 is the year the case was decided
- Notice you must put the court deciding the case and the year the case was decided in parenthesis following the volume, reporter, and page number the case can be found on

Westlaw slip opinion: (U.S. Court of Appeals)

Akkard v. Jones, 201 WL 173891 (8th Cir. Jan. 20, 2010).

- In this citation, WL means Westlaw
- Information inside the parenthesis means the case was decided on Jan. 20, 2010, by the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals
- Slip opinions are unreported and only available in separately paginated format
- See *ALWD* 12.18(a)

United States Statutes:

19 U.S.C. § 2411 (2000).

- Correct format for United States Code (official code, published every six years)
- 19 is the title number
- § means section (you can make this symbol on your computer by holding down the alt button and pressing 21)
- 2411 is the section
- 2000 is the year the Code was published

19 U.S.C.S. § 2411 (Lexis 2000).

Note we have these volumes in the COD Library

- See *ALWD* Appendix 1, p. 405
- This is the United States Code Service, published by Lexis
- It is unofficial and annotated

19 U.S.C.A. § 2411 (West 2000).

- See *ALWD* Appendix 1, p. 405
- This is the United States Code Annotated, published by West
- It is unofficial and annotated

The above citation examples, in *ALWD* format, have been compiled by Lorri Scott, J.D., Maria Mack, J.D., and Linda Jenkins, J.D.