

Examples of Illinois Legal Citations in ALWD Format

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

Illinois Supreme Court:

Smith v. Waukegan Park Dist., 231 Ill. 2d 111, 896 N.E.2d 232 (2008).

- *Smith v. Waukegan Park Dist.* (or Smith v. Waukegan Park Dist.) is the case name
- Case names should be italicized or underlined – ALWD 1.1
- Do not italicize or underline the comma following the case name - ALWD 1.4
- The volume number to the official IL reporter (Illinois Reports, Second Series) is listed first, then the reporter, then the page number
- This is followed by the volume number of the unofficial reporter citation, N.E.2d (North Eastern Reporter Second Series), the reporter abbreviation, and the page number
- Last is the year the case was decided, in parenthesis

Aside: One can tell this is an IL Supreme Court case two ways, one is the “Ill.” indicates Illinois Supreme Court, and secondly, when nothing but a year is in the final parenthesis. These things indicate the case was decided by the highest court in a particular jurisdiction. Please note that also applies to U.S. Supreme Court cases, where “U.S.” would indicate the highest court, as would a date with nothing else in the final parenthesis.

Note: If you only have the N.E.2d cite, look on the spine of the N.E.2d volume, go to the front of the book to find Illinois Reports References, and convert this to an Illinois Reports (“Ill.”) citation. In practice, you would want to cite to the Illinois Reports, or the Illinois Reports and the North Eastern Reporter Second Series, but never just to the N.E.2d if you are in Illinois.

Note: ALWD reports that the West Illinois Decisions are off print. However, they are in print and updated as recently as January, 2010. Use the Illinois Reports Reference located in the front of each volume to convert Northeastern Reporter and Illinois Reports citations.

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

Illinois Appellate Court: (if you are referring to a decision within the state of IL)

People v. Gonzalez, 385 Ill. App. 3d 15, 895 N.E.2d 982 (1st Dist. 2008).

- It is customary to use “People” in IL when referring to the state of Illinois *ALWD* 12.2(h)
- *People v. Gonzalez* is the case name
- Do not italicize the comma following the case name (ever!)
- 385 is the volume number
- Ill. App. 3d stands for Illinois Appellate Court Reports Third Series, and is the official reporter
- The page number the case starts on is 15
- N.E.2d is an unofficial reporter
- Again, list the volume number, the reporter, and the page number to the unofficial reporter. This always comes after the citation to the official reporter, separated by a comma
- The “1st Dist. 2008” means the case was decided in 2008 in the First Judicial District of IL

Note: the above citation is what you will most commonly see in practice in IL. It does not comply exactly with the *ALWD* format. See caveat below for the “correct” citation, which is not commonly seen in practice.

Caveat:

Correct *ALWD* citation (not seen in common practice in our state!) is:

People v. Gonzalez, 385 Ill. App. 3d 15, 895 N.E.2d 982 (Ill. App.1st Dist. 2008).

See *ALWD* Appendix 1. It repeats the “Ill. App.” in the parenthesis with the district and the date. This seems redundant. While it is good to know correct *ALWD* format, this format is not commonly used by practitioners.

Note: the state of IL is referred to as “People” (not State, or Commonwealth, or Illinois) inside IL. Outside of IL, one would refer to the same case as:

Ill. v. Gonzalez, 385 Ill. App. 3d 15, 895 N.E.2d 982 (Ill. 2008).

- See *ALWD* Appendix 3 for the correct abbreviation for Illinois
- See *ALWD* 12.2(h) for how to cite a case before another state’s court
- Notice you must include “Ill.” in the parenthesis with the year of the decision, so another state’s court knows it is an IL decision

Illinois District Court:

Opinions are not published at the trial level due to the massive volume of cases heard every year.

Illinois Statutes:

765 ILCS 130 (2008).

- Volume 765 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes beginning at section 130
- 2008 is the date the code was published
- This is the official code in IL
- See *ALWD* Appendix 1, page 371

Note: the COD Library has a complete set of the Illinois official code but only selected volumes of West's Smith-Hurd Illinois Compiled Statutes Annotated. However, the numbering system of both volumes is conformed. The cite to the annotated code is the same as the cite to the official code. Use ILCS for both.

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