



# HOW TO FIND A CASE

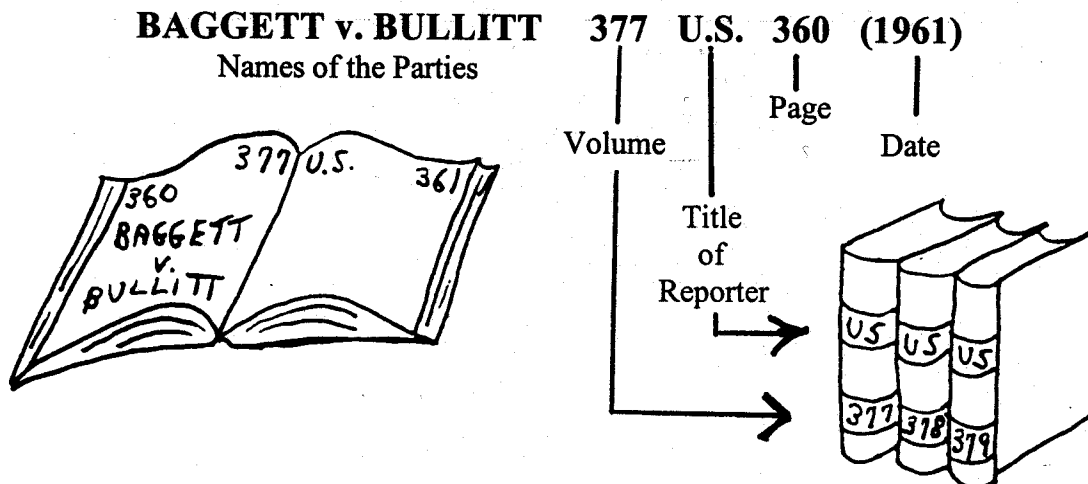
A court's published decisions and opinions are called **Reports**. The publication in which they appear is called a **Reporter**. Reports are published in chronological order, by date of decision. Some courts publish recent decisions in paperback issues until the bound volumes appear. The rate at which new volumes appear varies with each reporter, it can depend on how busy the court is, i.e., a volume is published when it is filled.

A case's **Citation** is used to locate a specific decision within a **Reporter Set**. This is by far the quickest way to locate a case report, so it is important to include the citation with the name of the case whenever you refer to it.

Case reports are cited by the names of the parties, the name of the reporter, the volume and page, and the date of the decision. If the name of the court is not entirely clear from the citation, that may be included as well.

## READING CITATIONS

This is a typical case citation:



**So this case is in volume 377 of the U.S. Reports on page 360!**

The rules governing correct legal citation forms are too numerous to list here. They are compiled in the book, *A Uniform System of Citation* (**RESERVE & LAW KF 245 .B58**) and are discussed in most guides to legal research. Some of these guides can be found in the call number **LAW KF 240**. These guides are also listed and described in the library handout, *Basic Legal Research in the Lloyd Sealy Library at John Jay College of Criminal Justice*, available at the Reference Desk.



## CASE REPORTERS AVAILABLE IN THE JOHN JAY LIBRARY

<u>ABBREVIATION</u>	<u>TITLE OF REPORTER</u>	<u>CALL NUMBER</u>
<b>A.</b>	Atlantic Reporter (1885-1938)	<b>LAW KF 135 .A7</b>
<b>A.2d</b>	Atlantic Reporter, Second Series (1938-date)	<b>LAW KF 135 .A72</b>
<b>A.D.</b>	New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division Reports (1896-1955)	<b>LAW KFN 5048 .A3</b>
<b>A.D.2d</b>	New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division Reports, Second Series (1956-date)	<b>LAW KFN 5048.A32</b>
<b>A.L.R.2d</b>	American Law Reports, Annotated, Second Series (1948-1965)	<b>LAW KF 105 .A52</b>
<b>A.L.R.3d</b>	American Law Reports, Annotated, Third Series (1965-1980)	<b>LAW KF 105 .A53</b>
<b>A.L.R.4th</b>	American Law Reports, Annotated, Fourth Series (1980-1991)	<b>LAW KF 105 .A532</b>
<b>A.L.R.5th</b>	American Law Reports, Annotated, Fifth Series (1992-date)	<b>LAW KF 105 .A533</b>
<b>A.L.R.Fed.</b>	American Law Reports, Federal (1969-date)	<b>LAW KF 105 .A54</b>
<b>F.</b>	Federal Reporter (1880-1924)	<b>LAW KF 105 .F39</b>
<b>F.2d</b>	Federal Reporter, Second Series (1924-1993)	<b>LAW KF 105 .F4</b>
<b>F.3d</b>	Federal Reporter, Third Series (1993-date)	<b>LAW KF 105 .F42</b>
<b>F.Cas.</b>	Federal Cases (1789-1880)	<b>FILM KF 105 .F3</b>
<b>F.R.D.</b>	Federal Rules Decisions (1941-date)	<b>LAW KF 8830 .A3</b>
<b>F.Supp.</b>	Federal Supplement (1932-date)	<b>LAW KF 105 .F5</b>
<b>L.Ed.</b>	U.S. Supreme Court Reports, Lawyer's Edition (1754-1956)	<b>LAW KF 101 .A4</b>
<b>L.Ed.2d</b>	U.S. Supreme Court Reports, Lawyer's Edition, Second Ser. (1956-date)	<b>LAW KF 101 .A42</b>
<b>Misc.</b>	New York Miscellaneous (1893-1955)	<b>LAW KFN 5051 .A3</b>
<b>Misc.2d</b>	New York Miscellaneous, Second Series (1955-date)	<b>LAW KFN 5051.A32</b>
<b>N.E.</b>	Northeastern Reporter (1885-1936)	<b>LAW KF 135 .N6</b>
<b>N.Y.</b>	New York Court of Appeals Reports (1847-1956)	<b>LAW KFN 5045 .A2</b>
<b>N.Y.2d</b>	New York Court of Appeals Reports, Second Series (1956-date)	<b>LAW KFN 5045.A22</b>
<b>N.Y.L.J.</b>	New York Law Journal (1967-1992 film, latest 3 mos. Reserve Room)	<b>KFN 5069 .N4</b>
<b>N.Y.S.</b>	New York Supplement (1888-1937)	<b>LAW KFN 5045.A32</b>
<b>N.Y.S.2d</b>	New York Supplement, Second Series (1937-date)	<b>LAW KFN 5045.A33</b>
<b>S.Ct.</b>	Supreme Court Reporter (1882-date)	<b>LAW KF 101 .A5</b>
<b>U.S.</b>	U.S. Supreme Court Reports (1754-date) (Also available: FILM KF 101 .A3)	<b>LAW KF 101 .A3</b>
<b>U.S.L.W.</b>	U.S. Law Week (1993-date)	<b>LAW KF 132 .U5</b>