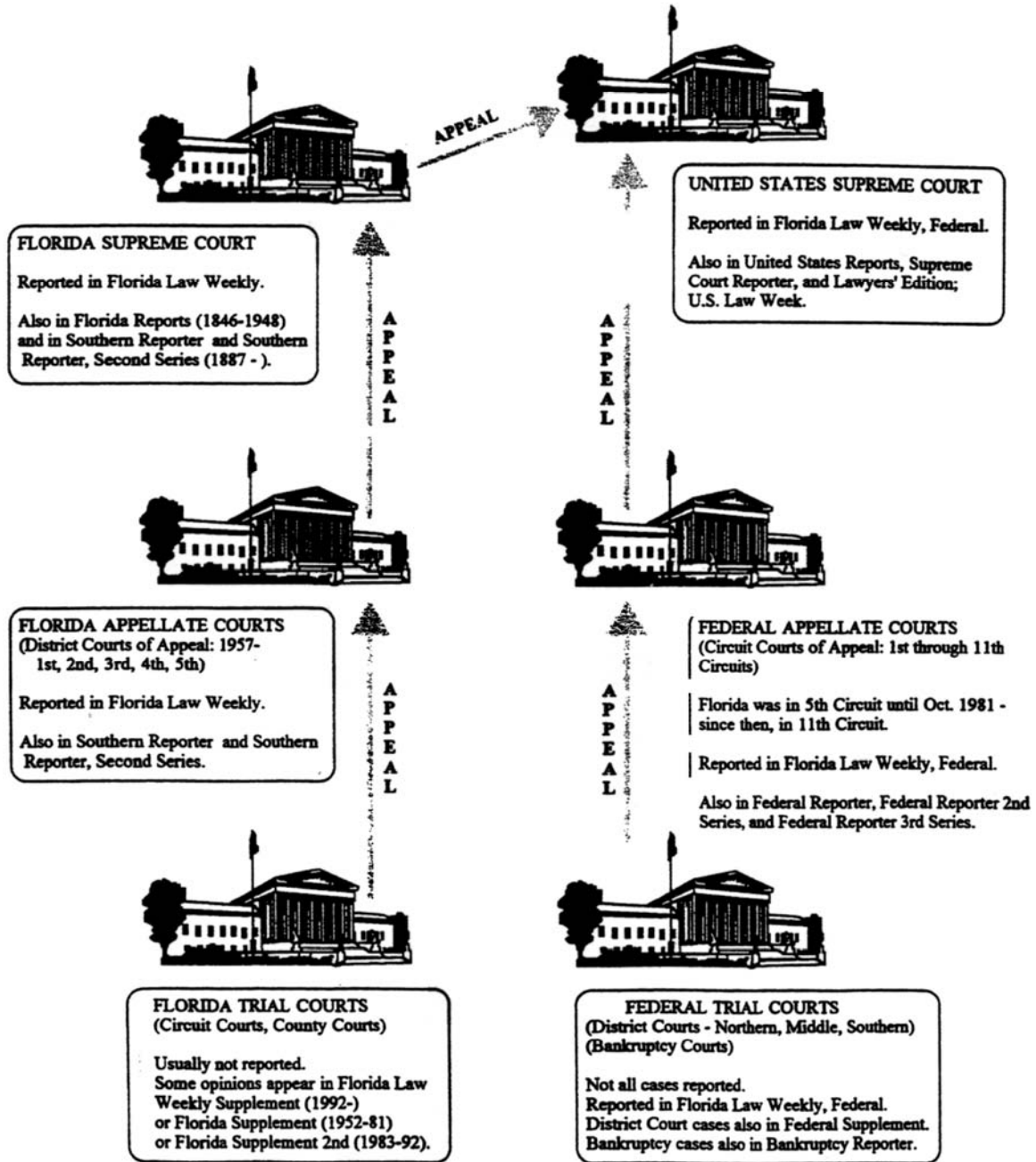


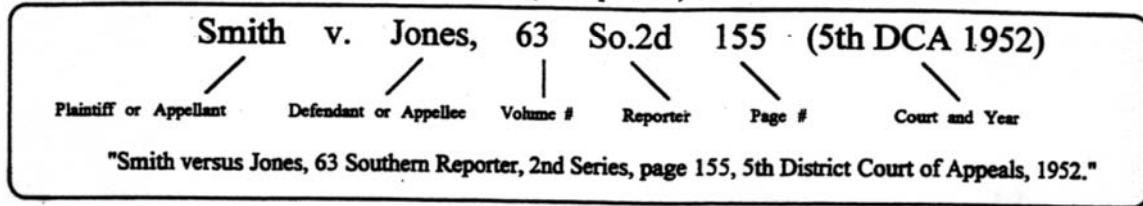
FLORIDA LAW: WHERE TO FIND IT



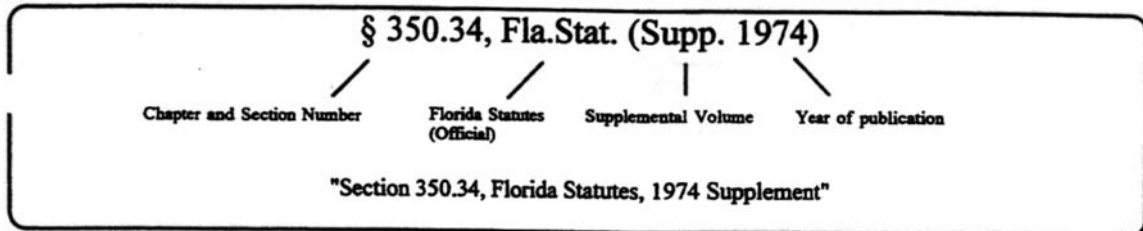
CITATION FORMATS



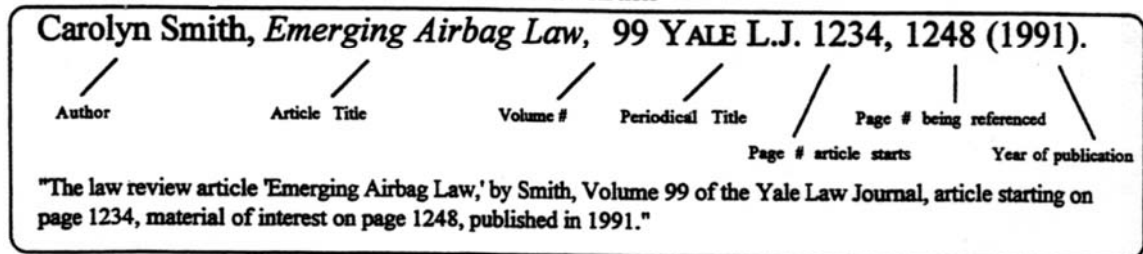
Case (or "Opinion")



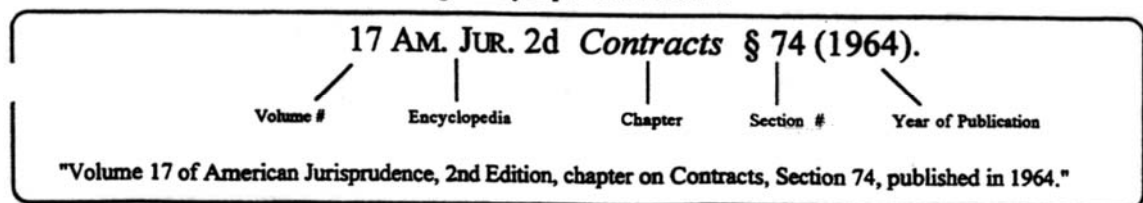
Statute



Law Review Article



Legal Encyclopedia or Treatise



HELPFUL ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|------------|--|
| Am.Jur.2d | American Jurisprudence, 2nd Edition - an encyclopedia |
| C.F.R. | Code of Federal Regulations - annual compilation of Federal regulations, organized by topic |
| F.3d | Federal Reporter, 3rd Series - reports Federal Circuit (appeals) cases; official Florida Reports - old, discontinued official Reporter of Florida Supreme Court cases |
| Fla.Jur.2d | Florida Jurisprudence, 2nd Edition - an encyclopedia |
| Fla.Stat. | Florida Statutes - the official compilation of statutes, bi-annual, organized by topic; unannotated |
| F.L.W. | Florida Law Weekly - a looseleaf, weekly Reporter of Florida state court cases from all levels Federal Supplement - reports Federal District (trial) cases; annotated; official |
| L.Ed.2d | Lawyer's Edition, 2nd Series - reports U.S. Supreme Court cases; annotated |
| L.Rev. | Law Review - a generic abbreviation, for example "UCLA L. Rev." means "UCLA Law Review" |
| S.Ct. | Supreme Court Reporter - reports U.S. Supreme Court cases; annotated |
| So.2d | Southern Reporter, 2nd Series (or "Southern Second") - reports Florida District (appeals) and Supreme Court cases as well as cases from other southern states; annotated; official |
| U.S. | United States Reports - reports U.S. Supreme Court cases; official |
| U.S.C. | United States Code - official compilation of U.S. statutes; usually behind schedule |
| U.S.C.A. | United States Code Annotated - annotated unofficial compilation of U.S. statutes |

GETTING STARTED

"How do I find out what's been happening in the law with regard to censorship and school libraries?"

For this kind of question - "recent trends" - the best place to look is law reviews. These scholarly journals track and discuss such trends, and the articles contain citations to important statutes and cases that impact the topic in question.

There are both print and electronic indices to law reviews. One popular print index is the Index to Legal Periodicals. Popular CD-ROM indices include LegalTrac and WilsonDisc. Just ask the law librarian to direct you to the index you wish to use and explain how it works, then search for some key words - like "censorship" and "school" - copy down the citations to law review articles, and go look up the articles.

"How do I find the U.S. Supreme Court's opinion in the Roe v. Wade case?"

For this kind of question - you have a case name and want to read the opinion - the best thing to do is find the "Digest" that covers the decisions of that court. For example, the "Supreme Court Digest" covers the opinions of the U.S. Supreme Court. Each digest has a "Table of Cases" in the final few volumes that lists cases by the first party's name, for example you would look under "R" for "Roe v. Wade." If you just have the second party's name, such as "Wade," you could look the case up in the "Defendant-Plaintiff Table" which lists cases by the second party's name. These tables give you a case citation to one or more Reporters. Just find the case in the appropriate Reporter by using the citation.

"How do I get an overview of the law in the area of landlord-tenant in Florida, especially oral leases?"

For this kind of question - overview of a particular area, with details available if desired - the best thing to do is start with a legal encyclopedia. Note that some areas of law may be ill-defined in a state, or else have federal overtones - like bankruptcy - so sometimes you need to check a general U.S. legal encyclopedia, like American Jurisprudence 2d, as well as the Florida one, Florida Jurisprudence 2d. Legal encyclopedias are arranged like normal ones, with chapters by topic and a big index at the end to help you find what you want. Once you find the appropriate chapter and section, you will find a discussion of the area in question as well as citations to leading statutes and cases. Remember each chapter has a table of contents at the beginning that shows you the organization of the chapter, as well as references to other chapters that may be relevant.

AND REMEMBER TO ALWAYS "CHECK THE SUPP" !