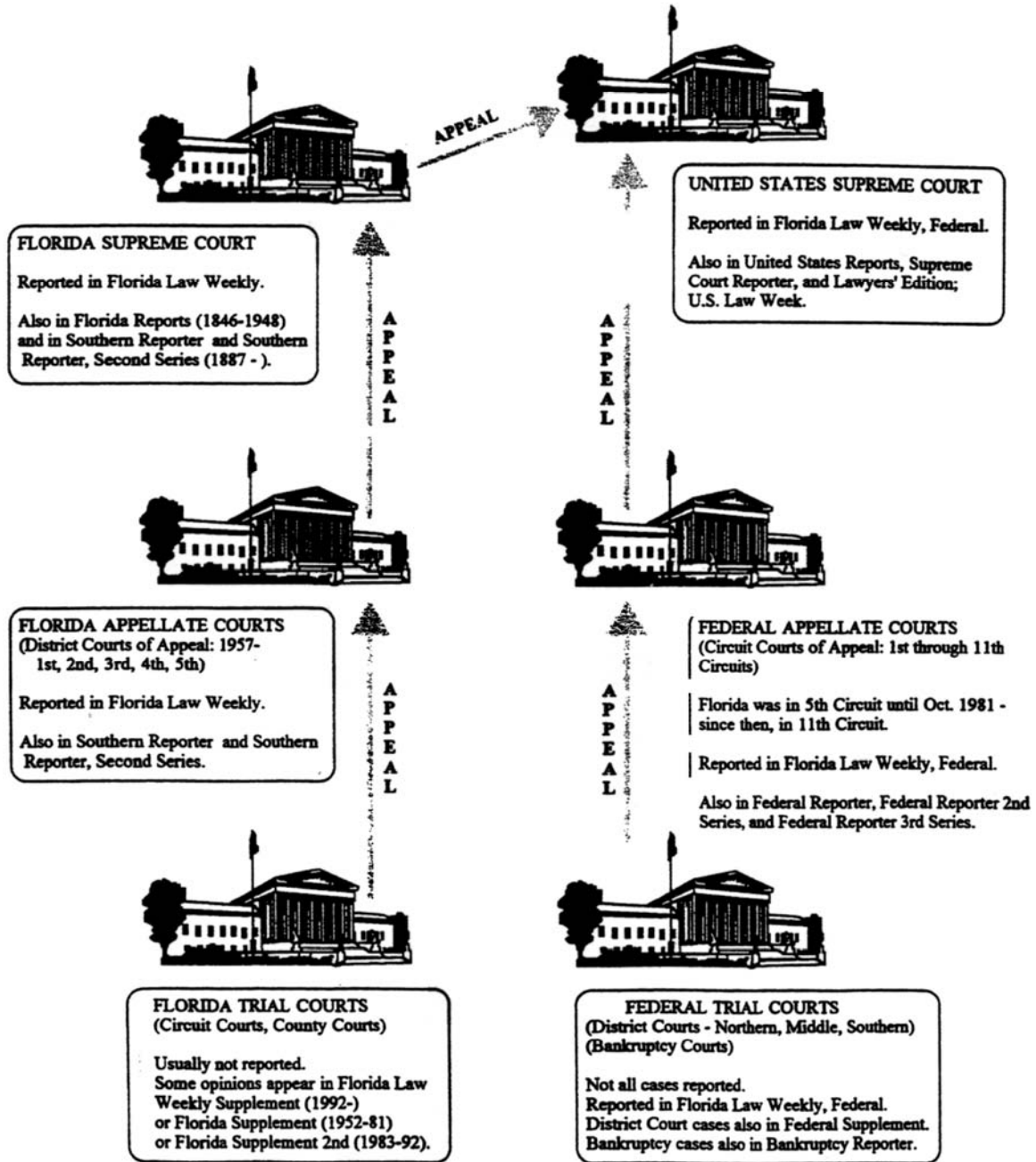


FLORIDA LAW: WHERE TO FIND IT



CITATION FORMATS



Case (or "Opinion")

Smith v. Jones, 63 So.2d 155 (5th DCA 1952)

Plaintiff or Appellant Defendant or Appellee Volume # Reporter Page # Court and Year

"Smith versus Jones, 63 Southern Reporter, 2nd Series, page 155, 5th District Court of Appeals, 1952."

Statute

§ 350.34, Fla.Stat. (Supp. 1974)

Chapter and Section Number Florida Statutes (Official) Supplemental Volume Year of publication

"Section 350.34, Florida Statutes, 1974 Supplement"

Law Review Article

Carolyn Smith, *Emerging Airbag Law*, 99 YALE L.J. 1234, 1248 (1991).

Author Article Title Volume # Periodical Title Page # being referenced Page # article starts Year of publication

"The law review article 'Emerging Airbag Law,' by Smith, Volume 99 of the Yale Law Journal, article starting on page 1234, material of interest on page 1248, published in 1991."

Legal Encyclopedia or Treatise

17 AM. JUR. 2d *Contracts* § 74 (1964).

Volume # Encyclopedia Chapter Section # Year of Publication

"Volume 17 of American Jurisprudence, 2nd Edition, chapter on Contracts, Section 74, published in 1964."

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" !