

*United States District Court
Northern District of Ohio
United States Courthouse
2 South Main Street
Akron, Ohio 44308*

Robert H. Boland, Jr.
Judge

February 26, 1997

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VIA FACSIMILE ONLY

Appellate Court and Circuit
Administration Division
ATTN: ABA Citation Resolution
Suite 4-512
Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts
Washington, D.C. 20544

Re: ABA Resolution on Citations

Dear Sir or Madam,

I write to voice my opinion regarding the American Bar Association's resolution calling for development of a standard citation system for state and federal court opinions.

In my view, it is unworkable and undesirable for several reasons.

First, paragraph 1(A) calls for sequential numbering of decisions. This might work for appellate courts which issue their opinions centrally, but it will certainly not work for multi-judge district courts where each judge issues his or her own orders and opinions.

Second, the proposed standard form of citation in paragraph 1(E) does not appear to comport with the new Sixth Circuit electronic citation form. Presuming that other circuits may also have their own electronic citation form, the newly suggested form would require all of those circuits to re-do their citations.

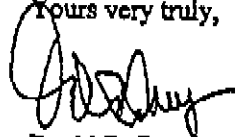
Third, and, in my view, most important, the proposed citation form, if adopted, would have serious consequences for sole practitioners and small law firms that cannot afford access to electronic databases. Requiring parallel electronic citations for all cited case authorities in briefs, etc. would be absolutely cost-prohibitive for such attorneys.

I believe citation to the West Publishing Co. reporters provides sufficient uniformity. Where opinions are also reported on electronic databases, those services can simply cite to West as has been done to date. Adding an additional electronic database citation simply adds needless and expensive complexity without adding much, if any, efficiency.

I add my voice to any and all persons who oppose the ADA's resolution.

Thank you.

Yours very truly,



David D. Dowd, Jr.
U.S. District Court

DDD:gh