

TOTAL P.02

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT  
333 CONSTITUTION AVE., N.W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20001-2886

STEPHEN F. WILLIAMS  
UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE

(202) 273-0838  
FAX: (202) 273-0976  
E-MAIL: Stephen\_F\_Williams  
@cadc.uscourts.gov

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To: Appellate Court and Circuit Administration Division  
ATTN: ABA Citation Resolution

From: Stephen F. Williams

Paragraph Numbering and Other Devices for Facilitating Pin  
Cites

I strongly oppose adoption of a practice of numbering paragraphs in judicial opinions. Few changes would more aptly symbolize and advance the bureaucratization of the federal judiciary. The style belongs to the civil law tradition and to decisions of the Federal Communications Commission, not to the common law.

The purpose of making possible pin citations in which no private sector company has a copyright can be as well achieved by allowing or requiring citation to pages of the slip opinions, identified by \*s. (That may require insertion of some computer symbol in the computerized version of the slip opinion, but I don't see why that should be a difficulty.)

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