

# Guide Series

## SHEPARD'S CITATIONS

After locating court decisions relevant to a particular point of law, researchers must determine if a case being cited is still good authority. The decision may have been reversed by a higher court or overruled by a subsequent decision. If so, the case may no longer be good law.

*Shepard's Citations*, the most comprehensive system of case citators in the United States, allows researchers to verify authority by listing virtually every published case, by citation, in both its official and unofficial versions, and then listing every subsequent case that has cited the case in question. You can determine if a case has been affirmed, reversed, or overruled with the use of the appropriate Shepard's volumes.

Besides verifying the status of a case, Shepard's provides parallel citations to each case, as well as citations to law review articles, attorney general opinions, and A.L.R. annotations mentioning the cited case.

*Shepard's Citations* exist for the reports of every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, every region of the National Reporter System, the federal courts, the Supreme Court, federal administrative rules and regulations, and law review articles. Volumes for state and federal statutes and court rules are also published, as are Shepard's for specialized subject areas such as taxation and labor law.

**NOTE:** At the Legal Research Center, Shepard's volumes and supplements are generally located at the end of the set covered (e.g., *Shepard's Atlantic Reporter Citations* stand at the end of *Atlantic Reporter*). An exception is the Shepard's covering the *Federal Supplement*, which is located with the *Shepard's Federal Reporter Citations* at KF 105.2 .S5. Consult SALLY to determine if the LRC has a particular Shepard's, and to find its call number location.

The *Shepard's Case Citations* and statutes for all states and federal materials are online in LEXIS.

Case and statutes citations for all states and federal materials are available online in Westlaw, use KeyCite

(OVER)

## SHEPARDIZING CHECKLIST

1. Select the appropriate Shepard's publication (i.e., California, Pacific, Federal, United States, etc.) that matches your citation.
2. Select the appropriate volume. Check the dates on the spines of the volumes, or inside the volumes and begin with the volume that first includes the year your case was decided.

Note that the sets may be split into CASES and STATUTES volumes. Make sure you choose the correct volumes. If you are shepardizing a case, use the *Cases* volumes.

3. Locate the appropriate **reporter series** within the volume (i.e., *California Reports*, *California Reports 2d*, *California Reports 3d*, *California Reports 4th*, or *California Reporter*). The names of the reporter series appear at the top of each page.
4. Find the citation for your case.

**Example:** 547 F.2d 171. The volume number (547) will be in **large boldface type on the upper outside corner** of the page. Examine the **columns for smaller boldface numbers which indicate the page number** on which your case begins (171).

5. Study the list of citations under your case.

Citations shown in parenthesis are the parallel citations. Citations without parenthesis are listed in reverse chronological order and refer to other cases citing your case. Volume number is on the left; page on the right. Letter abbreviations preceding some citations give the history of the case and the treatment of the case (e.g., o = overruled). Letter abbreviations between the volume and page specify the reporter or other citing source. Use the tables of abbreviations at the front of each volume to decipher each treatment code or reporter abbreviations. Superscript numbers in the middle of citations refer to headnotes in case reporters and correspond to points of law in cases.

6. Follow your case through all subsequent Shepard's bound volumes and paperbound supplements (gold, red, white), connecting the dates on the spines. Check the "What Your Library Should Contain" area on the cover of the paperbound updates to make sure you have looked in each Shepard's volume and supplement.

List of selected Shepard's publications held by the LRC:

- |     |  |                          |
|-----|--|--------------------------|
| 1.  | Shepard's California Citations, Cases                    | KFC 59 .S44              |
| 2.  | Shepard's California Citations, Statutes                 | KFC 39 .S53              |
| 3.  | Shepard's California Reporter Citations                  | KFC 47.2 .S53            |
| 4.  | Shepard's Code of Federal Regulations Citations          | KF 78 .S53               |
| 5.  | Shepard's Federal Citations                              | KF 105.2 .S5             |
| 6.  | Shepard's Federal Tax Citations                          | KF 6280.5 .S53           |
| 7.  | Shepard's Law Review Citations                           | Ref. Index KF 105.2 .S55 |
| 8.  | Shepard's United States Administrative Citations         | KF 153.2 .S5             |
| 9.  | Shepard's United States Citations - Cases                | KF 101.2 .S55            |
| 10. | Shepard's United States Citations - Statutes             | KF 78 .S54               |
| 11. | Shepard's United States Supreme Court Case Names Citator | Ref. KF 101.2 .S53       |

**CONTACT A REFERENCE LIBRARIAN FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE**