

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE
ADOPTION OF UNIVERSAL CITATIONS
FOR APPELLATE OPINIONS

GENERAL ORDER NO. 2001- 100

FILED
CLERK OF COURT
CNMI SUPREME COURT
DATE/TIME: 02/13/01 2:09p
BY: [Signature]
CLERK

ORDER

¶1 WHEREAS, the matter came on for consideration upon the Court's own motion to adopt a public domain citation format for appellate opinions, as described under rules 10.3.1 and 10.3.3 of The Bluebook; A Uniform System of Citation (17th Ed. 2000); and

¶2 WHEREAS, the court recognizes that advanced technology for disseminating judicial opinions has developed with the proliferation of computers and the Internet, and that the traditional citation format developed solely for the print medium has become inefficient in the age of electronic document access; and

¶3 WHEREAS, the American Bar Association and the American Association of Law Libraries have issued committee reports and recommendations favoring adoption of a new vendor-neutral and medium-neutral public domain citation format for judicial opinions, which remains constant from the date of issuance throughout all the various media now used to disseminate judicial opinions;

¶4 NOW THEREFORE, this Court adopts the public domain citation format recommended by the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), as published in the Universal Citation Guide (1999)¹, containing the following four elements without extraneous commas or periods: 1) the calendar year of issuance, 2) the geographic court designation of "MP", 3) a sequential opinion number and, for pinpoint

¹Published by the State Bar of Wisconsin, 5302 Eastpark Blvd., PO Box 7158, Madison WI 53707-7158 and available at the CNMI Law Revision Commission. Information on the Universal Citation format is available at <www.allnet.org/conunittee/citation/>

citations and 4) a paragraph number designating the precise location of the language cited.²

¶5 The Clerk of the Supreme Court shall publish each new appellate opinion with a centered caption indicating the opinion number within the permanent official Universal Citation for that opinion. Paragraphs shall be numbered using the paragraph symbol (¶) for pinpoint citations.

¶6 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT effective April 2, 2001, this AALL Universal Citation shall be used in every brief, memorandum or other document filed with this Court, when citing any published opinion of this Court released on or after January 1, 2001 and for those opinions published in the Northern Mariana Islands Reporter Volume 5 and subsequent volumes. A parallel citation to the N.M.I. Reporter may be included but is not required, since it is a local rather than a regional Reporter and a parallel citation to it is essentially redundant.

Dated this 13th day of March, 2001.


MIGUEL S. DEMAPAN, Chief Justice


ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO, Associate Justice


JOHN A. MANGLONA, Associate Justice

² For example, ABC Company vs. XYZ Company, 2001 MP 1 ¶10.