

## From the Editor

### *The Universal Citation Guide*

In appointing the Task Force on Citation Formats in Spring 1994, AALL President Kay Moller Todd initiated a process of citation reform that, four years later, resulted in the publication of the *Universal Citation Guide*<sup>1</sup> (*UCG*) by the American Association of Law Libraries. The task force had produced a report in 1995 that made several substantive recommendations regarding changes in citation form for cases and statutes, as well as asking the AALL executive board to establish a standing committee in its place.<sup>2</sup> The board approved the recommendations,<sup>3</sup> and the newly formed Committee on Citation Formats, chaired by Rita T. Reusch,<sup>4</sup> began work.

Under its charge from the AALL executive board, the committee sought to develop citation rules and forms that would allow consistent citation of legal information regardless of publisher or publication medium. Over the next four years the committee worked diligently, producing drafts,<sup>5</sup> gathering comments, interacting with organizations such as the American Bar Association and states interested in citation reform, and finally, publishing the *Universal Citation Guide*. On its publication, the AALL executive board approved the following resolution:

Whereas legal information is increasingly published and made available in a wide variety of formats such as printed books from numerous publishers, government Internet home pages, and proprietary databases;

And whereas access to legal information is dependent upon a useable and comprehensible citation which accurately identifies the material being cited;

And whereas access is maximized by the use of a universal citation that is functional regardless of the format of the information;

And whereas the AALL Committee on Citation Formats has written the *Universal*

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1. COMM. ON CITATION FORMATS, AM ASS'N LAW LIBRARIES, *UNIVERSAL CITATION GUIDE* (1999) [hereinafter *UNIVERSAL CITATION GUIDE*].
  2. TASK FORCE ON CITATION FORMATS, AM ASS'N LAW LIBRARIES, *FINAL REPORT* ¶¶ 92–95 (1995), reprinted in 87 L. LIBR. J. 577, 605 (1995).
  3. MINUTES OF THE AALL EXECUTIVE BOARD, July 13, 14, 18 & 20, 1995, at 2103, 2108 (on file at American Association of Law Libraries Headquarters, Chicago).
  4. The committee has been chaired by Rita T. Reusch in 1995–96, Marcia Koslov from 1996–98, and co-chaired by Koslov and Paul George from 1998–99 to the present.
  5. See *The Universal Legal Citation Project: A Draft User Guide to the AALL Universal Case Citation*, 89 L. LIBR. J. 7 (1997); *The Universal Legal Citation Project: A Draft User Guide to the AALL Universal Statutory Citation*, 90 L. LIBR. J. 91 (1998); *The Universal Legal Citation Project: A Draft User Guide to the AALL Universal Regulatory Citation*, 90 L. LIBR. J. 509 (1998).

*Citation Guide* which provides a model for citation formats for cases, statutes, constitutions, and administrative regulations;

Be it resolved that the American Association of Law Libraries adopts the *Universal Citation Guide* and recommends its incorporation in the publication and citation of legal information.<sup>6</sup>

In accordance with that resolution, and in the hope of having *Law Library Journal* serve as a model for other publications, the *Law Library Journal* and *AALL Spectrum* Editorial Board and Advisory Committee approved the use of the *UCG* in *Law Library Journal*, effective with the publication of the first issue of volume 92 in Winter 2000.<sup>7</sup>

Although the *UCG* does not include rules for the citation of secondary authorities in the current edition, the Committee on Citation Formats has indicated that the form to be followed for articles “should consist of the year of publication, the abbreviation of the publication, and the number for the particular article assigned consecutively for each year. . . . In addition, the need for citing specific portions of an article requires the numbering of the paragraphs for each article.”<sup>8</sup> With the current issue, the *Journal* will adhere, where appropriate and to the extent possible, to this recommendation and to the rules of the *UCG*. The most noticeable changes are the addition of paragraph numbers to each article and the designation, in brackets on the table of contents page, of article numbers for each separate piece in the issue. In those instances where issuing bodies have provided the means to use the citation form called for by the *UCG* (e.g., states adding paragraph numbers to their cases), that form will be followed in citations to authority. Otherwise, the citation conventions of *The Bluebook*<sup>9</sup> will continue to be used by the *Journal*.<sup>10</sup>

—Frank G. Houdek

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6. MINUTES OF THE AALL EXECUTIVE BOARD, July 15, 16 & 22, 1999, at 2731–32 (on file at American Association of Law Libraries Headquarters, Chicago).

7. Minutes of *Law Library Journal* and *AALL Spectrum* Editorial Board and Advisory Committee Meeting, Oct. 1–2, 1999 (on file with *Law Library Journal*).

8. Letter from Marcia Koslov and Paul George, co-chairs, AALL Citation Formats Committee, to Ruth Levor, chair of AALL *Law Library Journal* and *AALL Spectrum* Editorial Board and Advisory Committee, and Frank Houdek, editor of *Law Library Journal* 1 (Sept. 22, 1999) (on file with author).

9. THE BLUEBOOK: A UNIFORM SYSTEM OF CITATION (16th ed. 1996).

10. See UNIVERSAL CITATION GUIDE, *supra* note 1, at ¶ 24 (For . . . issues not addressed in this guide, the researcher should follow the most current edition of *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*).