



University of Connecticut School of Law Library



HOW TO UPDATE CASE LAW USING *SHEPARD'S CITATORS*

It is very important that you make sure that your case is still good law before relying upon it in a legal argument. It is not only embarrassing, but unprofessional, to cite to an overruled or modified case. The most traditional way to update a case is to "Shepardize" it. *Shepard's* lists:

- citations to any published decisions in your case (the "history");
- additional, or "parallel" citations to your case in other reporters; and
- all subsequent published cases that cite your case (the "treatment").

In the University of Connecticut Law Library, most *Shepard's Citators* are located at the end of the set of Reporters that they cover. To Shepardize your case:

1. Find the *Shepard's* set that covers the reporter your case is in. The reporters covered are listed on the spine or cover of each set.
2. Find the most recent pamphlet or "advance sheet" (usually red or yellow but some may look like newsprint) updating that set.
3. Read "What Your Library Should Contain" on the cover of the most recent advance sheet.
4. Look up your case (by volume and page number) in **all** the *Shepard's* volumes covering the volume of your reporter listed in "What Your Library Should Contain."

Shepard's uses symbols to indicate how other cases have affected your case. The symbols vary from set to set, but in general "o" means your case was overruled, "f" means your case was followed, "q" means your case was questioned and "d" means your case was distinguished. For a complete list of *Shepard's* symbols and abbreviations look for the table at the beginning of every *Shepard's* volume.

KeyCite, an online legal citation index, is available for patron use at the 3d Floor PC Kiosk.