

SIDEBAR 12.4

NAMES AND DATES OF EARLY UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT REPORTERS

The first 90 volumes of United States Reports originally were named for the individuals (the “reporters”) who compiled the cases for publication. Although you should not cite the named reporter, you will find several sources that do. Therefore, use this chart only for purposes of conversion.

Reporter and Abbreviation	U.S. Volumes	Years
Dallas (Dall.)	1–4	1789–1800
Cranch (Cranch)	5–13	1801–1815
Wheaton (Wheat.)	14–25	1816–1827
Peters (Pet.)	26–41	1828–1842
Howard (How.)	42–65	1843–1860
Black (Black)	66–67	1861–1862
Wallace (Wal.)	68–90	1863–1874

The first 107 volumes of United States Reports (through the 1882 term) generally do not provide the date of the decision. Because you must provide a year for the citation, you will need to consult another source to locate the date. Some Web sites now provide date information for early Supreme Court cases. One site is the United States Supreme Court’s official Web site, <http://www.supremecourtus.gov>. When you visit the Court’s Web site, select “Opinions” and then “Dates of Early Supreme Court Decisions.”

speak with attorneys and judges who practice in the jurisdiction and to consult local research guides, such as *Illinois Legal Research* (2d ed., Carolina Academic Press 2009) by Professor Mark E. Wojcik, or *Oregon Legal Research* (2d ed., Carolina Academic Press 2007) by Professor Suzanne E. Rowe.

(3) Format for parallel citations

- (a) Cite official reporters before unofficial reporters. Consult **Appendix 1** to determine which reporters are official and which are unofficial.
- (b) If there are two official reporters, place the government-published reporter before the commercially published reporter. This rule typically