



FILED

SID J. WHITE

AUG 1 1995

CLERK, SUPREME COURT

By _____
Chief Deputy Clerk

sq

July 31, 1995

Clerk
Florida Supreme Court
Supreme Court Building
500 South Duval Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

85,746

85,746

IN RE: FLORIDA RULE OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE 9.800(n), CITATIONS
Case No. 85,746

Dear Justices of the Florida Supreme Court:

We are writing regarding the following proposed change to the Florida Appellate Procedure:

(n) When referring to specific material within a Florida court's opinion, pinpoint citation to the page of the Southern Reporter where that material occurs is optional, although preferred.

HyperLaw publishes CD-ROMs of federal case law, and for the last several years has been actively involved in issues relating to public domain citations and dissemination of opinions by the courts.

We do not question the motivation of the proposal, but we believe that in its present form, it will do more harm than good because it does not provide for any public domain pinpoint citation. We believe that the proposal will have absolutely no effect on the problems presented in states such as yours that do not have public domain official citations.

As a minimum, your court should begin to paragraph number its opinions and to require the use of those paragraph numbers as pinpoint citations in the future. With that addition, your proposed rule would have beneficial effects. We can assure you that paragraph numbering opinions is no more difficult than page numbering manuscripts of opinions. Enclosed are several copies of *The HyperLaw Report* which discusses the issues relating to paragraph numbering.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alan D. Sugarman".

Alan D. Sugarman
President