**Anatomy of a Citation**

**LIST THE REPORTER**

List the reporter and abbreviate its title pursuant to the Universal Punctuation Rule: put spaces around multi-letter abbreviations, but squeeze single letters together; treat numbers as single letters.

Always identify the court (unless the reporter unambiguously does so for you, as U.S. Reports, which we abbreviate "U.S.," does for the U.S. Supreme Court). Abbreviate the court's name pursuant to the Universal Punctuation Rule (explained later in this chapter).

(6) Year of decision

(4) Pincite

(4)

1st pg.

(3) Reporter

(3) Volume

(2) Parties

Always abbreviate the party's names pursuant to Bluebook Tables T.6 and T.10. If you see a word that's longish, might come up frequently in litigation, and would be easy to abbreviate, you should look it up in T.6; chances are, you'll find it there.

(1) Signal

See Int'l Fid. Ins. Co. v. Crosland**,** 490 F. Supp. 446, 448 (S.D.N.Y. 1980).

**ABBREVIATE THE PARTIES' NAMES**

**IDENTIFY THE** **COURT**

(5) Court

Figure 15

The white box in the middle of the diagram shows a "full" citation. You must provide a *full* citation the first time you cite to any given authority. Subsequent citations to that authority, called "short" citations, are abbreviated versions of the full citation. They're discussed below. The blue boxes at the top of the diagram identify all of the citation's six component parts. The red boxes at the bottom of the diagram are reminders that we must always abbreviate the names of the parties, the reporter, and the court. For abbreviating party names, use Bluebook Tables T.6 and T.10. For abbreviating reporters and courts, use The Bluebook's magic bullet: the Universal Punctuation Rule or "UPR," discussed below.

We'll talk more about all of these concepts in lectures, particularly component #2 (party names), component #4 (page numbers), and component #6 (the year of decision). These items are easier to discuss orally than in writing. So let's table them for now, and focus on the three items that, I think, make sense to discuss in writing: introductory signals, reporter names, and court names.

Table 8, below, explains the meaning of each of the eleven introductory signals. These signals can be used with all sorts of legal authorities, not just cases. They give the legal reader information about how strongly, or in what way, the authority supports the author's assertion. This subsection is for reference; it will make complete sense only in the context of our bluebooking lectures and your own attempts to draft bluebook-compliant citations.