

Supreme Court of North Carolina Withdraws Order Implementing Universal Citation System



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Date 2023-01-13 10:25



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 13, 2023

Supreme Court of North Carolina Withdraws Order Implementing Universal Citation System

RALEIGH — In [an order](#) issued by the [Supreme Court of North Carolina](#), the Court announced that it is withdrawing its [previous order implementing the universal citation system](#) for judicial opinions and publications.

Although the Court initially believed that the inclusion of paragraph numbers in court opinions—a key feature of universal citations—largely could be automated, that has not been the case in practice.

The paragraph numbering has imposed significant administrative burdens on court staff responsible for preparing opinions for filing and physical publication.

At the same time, the Office of the North Carolina Appellate Reporter has made improvements to the speed at which official reporter citations are available electronically to lawyers and the public. This has alleviated a core problem addressed by universal citations, which is availability of a legal citation shortly after an opinion is released.

The Court is therefore withdrawing the order implementing universal citations. The Court will continue to evaluate the universal citation concept with the expectation that the system could be relaunched in the future.

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About North Carolina Judicial Branch

The [North Carolina Judicial Branch](#) is an equal and distinctively separate branch and core function of government. More than 7,000 Judicial Branch employees statewide administer justice in courthouses in North Carolina's 100 counties.

The [Judicial Branch budget for FY 2020–21](#) was \$598.2M, 89.2% of which is used to pay salaries and the remaining 10.8% is used for operations. The Judicial Branch receives only 2.44% of the overall State budget.

About North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts

The North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC) is the administrative agency for the [North Carolina Judicial Branch](#), providing administrative services to help the North Carolina court system operate more efficiently and effectively, taking into account each courthouse's diverse needs, caseloads, and available resources.

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