EXERCISE

CITATIONS AND BLUEBOOKING

Background

You're on a litigation team that's submitting a summary judgment motion this week. The brief has been drafted and redrafted over the course of the last month between nearly every member of your team and the client. The brief is hopefully final now and the partner asked you to redo a complete cite check.

As you're conducting the cite check, you realize that a lot of things got messy in the revision process. You've found that one of the cases, cited multiple times, undermines part of your argument. Then you noticed that all the signals have been deleted from the brief except for "c.f." The "c.f." signals seem to come before cases that need to be compared to illustrate the point. Finally, there are few parenthetical explanations, and a good number of cases are cited without any explanation or discussion of the case.

Instructions

Come prepared to discuss these questions:

- For each citation, what should you be checking?
- What should you do about the case that undermines part of your argument?
- When do you need a signal before a citation?
- Is the use of "c.f." that you've noticed throughout the brief correct usage?
- Should you do anything about the parenthetical explanations?