**Practice Pointer: Anatomy of a Case Brief**

**What is a case brief?**

A case brief is a summary of a court decision. Well written case briefs are usually read in order to save time, instead of rereading the original decision to understand its importance.

**\*Case briefing is an important skill to master because attorneys will often ask you to summarize a case in the form of a case brief.**

1. **Citation**

Case briefs start with a case citation making it a lot easier to find the original decision.

A citation includes the parties that were involved in the lawsuit, the volume number of the reporter, abbreviated names of the case reporter, the page number which the case begins and the year that the case was decided on

**Example:** Miranda v. Arizona, 384 U.S. 436 (1966).

**Parties-** Miranda v. Arizona

**Volume number-** 384

**Abbreviated case reporter**- United states reporter (U.S)

**Page number**- 436

**Year that the case was decided on**- 1966

1. **Procedural History**

In a procedural history the facts are explaining the status of the case. Its an explanation as to how the case was able to reach the court system.

1. **Issues**

The issues would be the questions that the parties asked the court to decide.

Examples: discrimination, racism etc

1. **Holding**

The holding addresses the specific question before the court. It is the courts answer to the issue.

1. **Facts**

When writing the facts you have to make sure to include the names of the parties, be specific about what party they belong to. For example who is the defendant or plaintiff, appellant or appellee. Explain as to why the party went for legal assistance.

1. **Reasoning**

In the reasoning you should explain the courts process, relevant cases that were used, as well as statutes. You want to explain all that the court used to come to their decision. Your goal is to explain the law that the court relied on when making their decision.

1. **Disposition**

A disposition is at the end of your case briefing because it is well known as the procedural result of the courts decision. It is the conclusion of your summary, telling others just how the case resulted in.