

# The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (2015, 20th ed.)

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# General Rules

- ▶ **Blue pages** – first section of rules for practitioners, organized as: B1, B2, B3 etc. The main white section is the rules in depth. Blue pages are meant for academics and practitioners, and the white pages are for law review articles and research papers;
- ▶ Blue pages are mostly used in briefs, motions, memoranda, and opinions. – white pages give in-depth explanation and opportunity to cross-reference. Whitepage Rules may be used to supplement corresponding Bluepage Rules;
- ▶ Local rules in a jurisdiction take precedence;
- ▶ Separate consecutive authorities with a semi colon;
- ▶ “Court” should always be capitalized when naming a specific court or when discussing the Supreme Court.
- ▶ **Underscoring.** Italics are acceptable, but only if consistent. Things that should be underlined: Case names and procedural phrases (ex parte or in re etc); titles of books, articles, legislation; explanatory phrases (aff’d , rev’d, or cert. denied etc); words introducing an authority (in, quoted in, or citing etc); cross references (Id., supra, and infra); foreign words and words italicized in the original quote.
  - ▶ Don’t underline: constitutions, statutes, names of reporters, model codes, rules, executive orders, or administrative materials.

# B1 – Structure of Legal Citations

- ▶ Citations appear in the body of the text. They suggest that footnotes are meant only for non-academic legal documents, but footnotes may be preferable for most profs.
- ▶ **Citation sentence** – a sentence consisting wholly of authorities which support the previous sentence or clause:
  - ▶ The U.S. Supreme Court has the power to invalidate statutes that are repugnant to the U.S. Constitution. [Marbury v. Maddison](#), 5 U.S. (1 Cranch) 137, 177-79 (1803) (federal laws); [Fletcher v. Peck](#), 10 U.S. (Cranch) 87, 139 (1810) (state laws); [Dred Scott v. Sandford](#), 60 U.S. (19 How.) 393, 395 (1856), [superseded by constitutional amendment](#), U.S. Const. amend. XIII. They went on to....
- ▶ **Citation clause** – like a citation sentence, but set off by commas rather than periods. These citations only relate to *part* of a sentence. Only finish a citation clause with a period if it is the last clause in a sentence:
  - ▶ The Supreme Court adopted a broad reading of the Commerce Clause during the New Deal, [see Wickard v. Filburn](#), 317 U.S. 111, 128-9 (1942), though in recent years the Supreme court has reined in its broad reading somewhat, [see United States v. Lopez](#), 514 U.S. 549, 624 (1995); [United States v. Morrison](#), 529 U.S. 598, 612-13 (2000).

# B1.2 – Introductory Signals

- ▶ **[no signal]** Cited authority (i) directly states the proposition, (ii) identifies the source of a quotation, or (iii) identifies an authority referred to in the text. Use no signal, for example, when directly quoting an authority or when restating numerical data from an authority.
- ▶ **E.g.**, Cited authority states the proposition; other authorities also state the proposition, but citation to them would not be helpful or is not necessary. “E.g.,” may be used alone or attached to any other signal (whether supportive or not). When it is attached to another signal, it should be preceded by an italicized comma and followed by a non-italicized comma. *See, e.g.*, *But see, e.g.*,
- ▶ **Accord** “Accord” is commonly used when two or more sources state or clearly support the proposition, but the text quotes or refers to only one; the other sources are then introduced by “accord.” Similarly, the law of one jurisdiction may be cited as being in accord with the law of another.
- ▶ **See** Cited authority clearly supports the proposition. “See” is used instead of “[no signal]” when the proposition is not directly stated by the cited authority but obviously follows from it; there is an inferential step between the authority cited and the proposition it supports.
- ▶ **See also** Cited authority constitutes additional source material that supports the proposition. “See also” is commonly used to cite an authority supporting a proposition when authorities that state or directly support the proposition already have been cited or discussed. The use of a parenthetical explanation of the source’s relevance (rule 1.5) following a citation introduced by “see also” is encouraged.
- ▶ **Cf.** Cited authority supports a proposition different from the main proposition but sufficiently analogous to lend support. Literally, “cf.” means “compare.” The citation’s relevance will usually be clear to the reader only if it is explained. Parenthetical explanations (rule 1.5), however brief, are therefore strongly recommended.

# B4 – Short Citation Forms

- ▶ Use “id.” When citing immediately preceding authorities (like *Ibid* from the *McGill Guide*), but ONLY if the previous citation contained only one authority.
  - ▶ Id., can be used in-text to refer to the immediately previous pinpoint/authority.
  - ▶ You may pinpoint by using “id. At 5” to indicate a new/specific pinpoint.
- ▶ “Supra” and “hereinafter” are used to refer to authorities previously cited, but you may NOT use them to refer to cases, statutes, constitutions, legislative materials etc. They may be used for books, pamphlets, reports, periodicals, non-print materials, regulations etc.

# B5 - Quotes

- ▶ Quotations of 50 or more words should be single spaced and indented on both sides, without quotation marks. The citation should appear at the left margin after the quote:

Felis catus, is your taxonomic nomenclature, an endothermic quadruped, carnivorous by nature? Your visual, olfactory, and auditory senses, contribute to your hunting skills, and natural defenses. I find myself intrigued, by your sub-vocal oscillations, a singular development of cat communications that obviates your basic hedonistic predilection, for a rhythmic stroking of your fur, to demonstrate affection. A tail is quite essential, for your acrobatic talents. You would not be so agile, if you lacked its counterbalance, and when not being utilized to aid in locomotion, it often serves to illustrate, the state of your emotion. Oh Spot, the complex levels of behavior you display, connote a fairly well developed cognitive array, and though you are not sentient, Spot, and do not comprehend, I nonetheless consider you, a true, and valued, friend.

United States v. Nixon, 418 U.S. 683, 708-09 (1974). The court then balanced this interest against the evils of forced disclosure. Id. At 710....



# B10 - Cases

- ▶ Case name, volume No. Reporter abbreviation 1st page of case, pinpoint (court: year) (parenthetical information, if any).
  - ▶ A.M. Geophysical Union v. Texaco, Inc., 60 F. 3d 913, 915 (2d Cir.: 1994).
- ▶ Four basic elements:
  - ▶ 1. The name of the case
  - ▶ 2. Where the case can be found
  - ▶ 3. The court that decided the case
  - ▶ 4. The year the case was decided.
- ▶ **Case name** – only the last names of the first party listed on each side – no first or middle names or initials. No “et al.” or “a.k.a.”
- ▶ Don't underline the comma following the case name.

# B10 - Cases 2: Abbreviations

## Abbreviations:

- ▶ “in the matter of,” “petition of,” etc = “[In re.](#)”
- ▶ “on the relation of,” “on behalf of,” etc = “[ex rel.](#)”
  - ▶ [Michael Dombroski, as Administrator of his Estate of His Minor Child, Samuel Dombroski v. Chicago Park District, et al.](#) Becomes:
    - ▶ [Dombroski ex rel. Dombroski v. Chi. Park Dist.](#)
- ▶ More abbreviations can be found at table T6
- ▶ After the first time the case name is mentioned in the written text, abbreviate states, countries, and other geographical places according to table T10.
- ▶ Never abbreviate “United States” where it is a party, but omit “the.”
  - ▶ [Seattle Times v. Univ. of Wash.](#)
  - ▶ [United States v. Haskell](#)
- ▶ In subsequent references, you can refer to on part’s name or another unambiguous identifier – “In [Haskell](#), the United States counsel....”

# B10 – Cases 3: Reporters

- ▶ **Volume No.** **Abbreviated reporter name** **first page** **pinpoint**.
  - ▶ Baker v. Carr, 369 U.S. 186, 195 (1962).
  - ▶ Newdow v. U.S. Cong., 328 F.3d 466, 471 n.3 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2003).
  - ▶ Garfias-Rodriguez v. Holder, 702 F.3d 504, 529-30 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2012) (“Chief Judge Kozinski, disagreeing with everyone.”)
- ▶ Page ranges – indicate a page range with a dash;
- ▶ For numbers of 3 or more digits, drop all repeated digits but the last two – (102-06; 1020-30).
- ▶ Abbreviated reporter names can be found in table T1 of the blue book.

# B10 – Cases 4: Court and Year

- ▶ Indicate the court then the year of the decision, but if the case is from the Supreme Court or the highest court in the state, then don't name the deciding court.
  - ▶ See Table T1 for correct abbreviations.
- ▶ Meritor Sav. Bank v. Vinson, 477 [U.S.](#) 57, 60 (1986).
  - ▶ U.S. = United States Reports;
- ▶ Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc., 134 [S. Ct.](#) 2751, 2782 (2014).
  - ▶ S. Ct. = Supreme Court Reporter;
- ▶ W. St. Group LLC v. Epro, 564 [F. Supp.](#) 2d 84, 91 ([D. Mass.](#) 2008).
  - ▶ F. Supp. = Federal Supplement; Mas.s = Massachusetts;
- ▶ People v. Armour, 590 N.W.2d 61 ([Mich.](#) 1999).
  - ▶ Mich. = Michigan High Court.
- ▶ Chaudhary v. Gen. Motors Corp., 649 P.2d 224 ([Cal.](#) 1982).
  - ▶ Cal. = California High Court
- ▶ Bates v. Tappan, 99 [Mass.](#) 376 (1868).
  - ▶ Mass. = Massachusetts High Court.

# B10 – Cases 4

**Weight and parentheticals** add information to a citation about the weight of the decision, or whether you are citing a concurring or dissenting opinion after the date parenthesis:

- ▶ Bush v. Gore, 531 U.S. 98, 144 (2000) (5-4 decision) (Breyer, J., dissenting).
- ▶ Zuni Pub. Sch. Dist. V. Dep't of Educ., 550 U.S. 81, 113 (2007) (Scalia, J., dissenting).

**Short form citation** may be used as long as it is clear which authority you are referring to, and the reader will have no trouble locating the original citation.

- ▶ Palgraf v. Long Island Railroad Co., 162 N.E. 99 (N.Y. 1928) (Cardozo J.)
- ▶ Palsgraf, 162 N.E. at 100.
- ▶ 162 N.E. at 100.
- ▶ Id., at 100.



# B11– Constitutions

- ▶ Do not use a short form (other than id.) for constrictions.
- ▶ Abbreviation of constitution cited abbreviation of amendment/article/preamble  
number of amendment/article, section symbol section number.
  - ▶ U.S. Const. art. I, § 8, Cl. 10.
  - ▶ U.S. Const. amend. XVIII, § 1.
  - ▶ Wash. Const. art. 1, § 32.

# B12 - Statutes

## Federal Codes and Session Laws

- ▶ Official name of act, published source pinpoint (parenthetical indicating year published/passed).
  - ▶ Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601-9675 (2012).
  - ▶ Department of Transportation Act, Pub. L. No. 89-670, § 9, 80 Stat. 931, 944-47 (1966).
- ▶ U.S.C. = United States Code; Published official statutes in force.
- ▶ Pub. L No. # = "Public law number;" Session laws.
- ▶ Omit the year if it is included in the statute name.

## State Statutes

- ▶ Abbreviated Name of Title (table T1.3) section number(s) (year of the edition).
  - ▶ Wash. Rev. Code § 28B.20.020 (2014).
  - ▶ Cal. Penal Code § 181 (West 2011).



# B14 – Books and Monographs

- ▶ Volume number, Author(s), Title pinpoint (edition name of editor, year of publication).
  - ▶ Matthew Butterick, Typography for Lawyers 54 (2010).
  - ▶ J. R. McNeil & William H. McNeil, The Human Web: A Bird's-Eye View of World History 319 (2003).
  - ▶ David Hunter et al., International Environmental Law and Policy 555 (3rd ed. 2006).
  - ▶ A Bentham Reader 101 (Nary Peter Mack ed., 1969).
- ▶ Short form – author's last name, supra, pinpoint.
  - ▶ Butterick, supra, 65.
  - ▶ McNeil & McNeil, supra, 322.
  - ▶ Hunter et al., supra, 560.
  - ▶ Bentham, supra, 105.

# B16 - Periodicals

- ▶ Author(s), Title, abbreviated name of publication and first page, pinpoint date of publication.
  - ▶ Fred R. Shapiro & Michelle Pearse, The Most-Cited Law Review Articles of all Time, 110 Mich. L. Rev. 1483, 1489 (2012).
  - ▶ R. H. Coase, The Problem of Social Cost, 3 J.L. & Econ. 1, 1 (1960).

## Newspaper articles

- ▶ Author(s), Title, Name of Newspaper, date published, pinpoint.
  - ▶ Abigail Sullivan Moore, This is Your Brain on Drugs, N.Y. Times, Oct 29, 2014, at A1.
  - ▶ Doug Esser, UW Library Freezes Bedbugs Off Infested Books, Seattle Times, Dec. 7, 2012, at A2.

# B18 – Online Sources

- ▶ **Author(s)**, Title of specific page, Title of the Main page (date and time), URL
  - ▶ **David Lat**, Movie Night with Justice Breyer, Above the Law (Oct. 27, 2014, 3:31 PM), <http://abovethelaw.com/204/10/movie-night-with-justice-breyer/>.
  - ▶ **Ulrich Cusbach et al.**, Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 121 (2013), [http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/wg1/WG1AR5\\_Chapter01\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/wg1/WG1AR5_Chapter01_FINAL.pdf).
- ▶ Parallel citations – you may provide an internet source for printed material
  - ▶ Am. Mining Cong. v. U.S. Army Corps of Eng'rs, No. CIV. A. 93-1754 SSH (D.D.C. Jan. 23, 1997), <http://www.wetlands.com/fed/tulloch1.htm>.

# Bluepage Tables

## Bluepage Tables

- ▶ BT1 – words used in titles of court documents
- ▶ BT2 - list of citation rules from specific jurisdictions. Local rules take precedence where they conflict.

# Dark Blue Tables (non-exhaustive)

- ▶ T1 – covers U.S., divided into four sections:
  - ▶ T1.1 and T1.2 – Federal courts and laws;
  - ▶ T1.3 – states, arranged alphabetically;
- ▶ T3 – Intergovernmental Organizations;
- ▶ T6 – Abbreviations for case names and Institutional Authors
- ▶ T7 – Court Names;
- ▶ T8 – Explanatory Phrases
- ▶ T10 – Geographical Terms
- ▶ T11 – Judges and officials;
- ▶ T13 – Periodicals
- ▶ T15 - Services