CITING LEGAL MATERIALS IN APA STYLE

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Agenda

- What legal materials will we discuss today and what are they?
- What is the “Bluebook”?  
- Basic principles of the Bluebook
- APA citation of U.S. statutes, cases, and regulations
- Tips and pointers
Legal materials we will cover today

- **Federal**
  - *Statutes*
  - *Regulations*
  - *Cases*

There are parallel State regimes for each.
APA defers (mostly) to Bluebook

- What is the Bluebook?

  *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*
  
  Style manual for citing in the legal setting to legal documents within the United States
Basic principles of the Bluebook

- **Core Identification**
  - Minimum elements necessary
  - Consider the audience

- **Compacting**
  - Reduce the space taken up by the citation
  - Eliminate redundancy

- **Format**
  - Standards for punctuation, typography, order of elements, mandatory elements, abbreviation of elements

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Other helpful information

- Multiple sources by competing vendors have different citations, point to same core information
  - 410 U.S. 113 (1973) [United States Reports—official version]
  - 93 S. Ct. 705 [West’s Supreme Court Reporter]
  - 35 L.Ed.2d 147 [United States Supreme Court Reports Lawyer’s Edition]

- Citation to official versions of primary law are required by the courts, but they may not be required by your instructor
Crafting Citations—Statutes--Federal

- **Popular Name**
  - Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act

- **Slip law**
  - Law as passed
  - Pub. L. 111-203

- **Statutes at Large**
  - Session laws
  - 124 Stat. 1376

- **United States Code**
  - Codified laws
  - 12 U.S.C. §5301

Reference citation:
### Elements of citation to *United States Code* (Bluebook style)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Popular or Official Name</th>
<th>Source Abbreviation</th>
<th>Date of Code Edition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Use the date the law was published, even if it is different from the date in the popular name of the law.
Crafting Citations—Regulations--Federal

**Federal Register**
Promulgation of rule found in the *Federal Register* at volume 41, page 54846, published December 15, 1976.


**In-text citation:**

**Code of Federal Regulations**
Codification of rule—found in section 22.22 of title 28 (Justice) of the Code of Federal Regulations


**In-text citation:**
(Confidentiality of Identifiable Research, 2017). OR (Confidentiality of Identifiable Research, 2017, §22.22[a]).

How this differs from standard Bluebook: Include a name for the regulation.
**Reference:**

**In-text:**
Additional formatting concerns

■ Formatting fonts
  – Small Caps are used only when writing footnotes for law review articles
  – Use italics for journal titles, book titles, and case names

■ Capitalization
  – Capitalize all words, including the initial word and the word immediately following the colon except articles, conjunctions and prepositions (unless they are the initial word or initial word after a colon)

■ Italicize titles of cases in in-text citations, but not in reference citations
Retrieval statements

- Not necessary if using original *printed* source
- Electronic databases:
  - **Bluebook**, Rule 12.5: Authentic, official or exact copies of a source available online can be cited as if they were the original print source
  - **APA**: If not using original printed source, provide name of database or URL for website, such as FDSys
    - Provide retrieval date if website content is subject to frequent change

Relevant APA Style Blog entries

■ Federal Statutes
  - http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2013/02/writing-references-for-federal-statutes.html

■ Federal Regulations

■ Federal Cases
Additional Tips

■ Inside the front and back covers contain a quick guide to the major rules, with citation examples

■ Table 1 provides preferred U.S. federal and state sources and abbreviations

■ If you can’t find an exact match to format a citation for a legal source, find the closest equivalent and adapt it—then be consistent in its use

■ If you can’t find the abbreviation for a source, call a law library and ask them to look it up for you in *Prince’s Bieber Dictionary of Legal Abbreviations*

■ Always ask your instructor about preferences for legal citation!
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APA Style
Let APA Style CENTRAL help you do the hard work of formatting your paper and citations.

Quick lookup - APA Guide, APA en Español, or DOI.

APA (6th ed.) — Search Results
How do I cite a statute

Statute or Law
References


References


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CITING LEGAL MATERIALS IN APA STYLE

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