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

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

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>

**Reference:**

**In-Text:**
(Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, 2010).

*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.

**Reference:**

**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

**Reference:**

**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.
Crafting Citations—Cases—Federal

Parts and formatting of the reference, United States Supreme Court cases

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**Name(s) of parties**: Roe v. Wade

**Volume Source Page**: 410 U.S. 113

**Date**: 1973

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*Text of decision in Roe v. Wade is found beginning on page 113 of volume 410 of the United States Reports.*

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**In-text**: Note: case name IS italicized. *(Roe v. Wade, 1973).* or *(Roe v. Wade, 1973, p.115).*
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 in in-text citations

■ 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)
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 [govinfo](https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2010-title12/pdf/USCODE-2010-title12-chap53-sec5301.pdf) (formerly 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

- Bluebook:
  - 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!
Sherman Library APA citation widget

1. NSU Florida Library website
2. Citation Help: Style Guides
   - Style Guides
   - NSU Writing and Publishing Manual
3. APA Citation Style
   - Academic Writer (previously APA Style CENTRAL)
   - APA Books

How do I cite a statute

Statute or Law

References


References


Questions? Ask A Librarian!
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http://lib.nova.edu/ask