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## Basic Bluebooking in Legal Documents

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## Basic Bluebooking—Case Law in Legal Documents

A full citation to a case includes: the name of the case; the published or unpublished source where you can find the case; a parenthetical that identifies the court and year of decision. You might also include other parenthetical information and subsequent history (if any). The general rule for case citations is that parallel citations are not required, unless court rules or your professor requires them. Table T.1 tells you what case reporters to cite for each court in a jurisdiction, and how to abbreviate the court and the state. The current (21st) edition of the Bluebook was published in June 2020.

The abbreviations for the name of the court and the jurisdiction are required in the parenthetical, with some exceptions: the U.S. Supreme Court, and, for state courts, rule 10.4(b) allows omission of the jurisdiction and court abbreviation if they are unambiguously conveyed by the name of the case reporter. For regional reporters, if you are citing a decision from the highest court, exclude the name of the court and include the state only. According to rule 6.2(b) do not use superscripts for ordinals. Party names may be underlined or *italicized*. Abbreviate party names according to T.6 (p304).

Source	Relevant Bluebook rules	Basic citation	Example (includes proper typeface—underscoring or italicizing is acceptable)
U.S. Supreme Court	B10.1.3(i) (p13) R10 (p95+) T.1.1 (p227)	<i>Parties</i> , volume case reporter first page (year)	<i>Stansbury v. California</i> , 511 U.S. 318 (1994).
Federal courts of appeals	B10.1.3(ii) (p13) R10 (p95+) T.1.1 (p228)	<i>Parties</i> , volume case reporter first page, (circuit court year)	<i>United States v. Campa</i> , 529 F.3d 980 (11th Cir. 2008).
Federal district courts	B10.1.3(iii) (p14) R10 (p95+) T.1.1 (p229)	<i>Parties</i> , volume case reporter first page (district court year)	<i>Lemay v. Murphy</i> , 537 F. Supp. 2d 239 (D. Mass. 2008).
NY Court of Appeals	B10.1.3(iv) (p13) R10 (p95+) T1.3 (p271)	<i>Parties</i> , volume case reporter first page (state year)	<i>Kenford Co. v. Cnty. of Erie</i> , 537 N.E.2d 176 (N.Y. 1989).
NY Appellate Division*	B10.1.3(v) (p14) R10 (p95+) T1.3 (p272)	<i>Parties</i> , volume case reporter first page (court year)	<i>People v. Heslop</i> , 849 N.Y.S.2d 301 (App. Div. 2007).
NY Appellate Division with department*	B10.1.3(v) (p14) R10 (p95+) T1.3 (p272)	<i>Parties</i> , volume case reporter first page (court department year)	<i>People v. Heslop</i> , 849 N.Y.S.2d 301 (App. Div. 3d Dep't 2007).
New York Supreme Court	B10.1.3(v) (p14) R10 (p95+) T1.3 (p272)	<i>Parties</i> , volume case reporter first page (court year)	<i>People v. Arthur</i> , 673 N.Y.S.2d 486 (Sup. Ct. 1997).
NY parallel citation (Court of Appeals)	B10.1.3(v) (p14) R10.3.1 (p103) T.1.3 (p271)	<i>Parties</i> , volume official case reporter first page, volume regional case reporter first page, volume unofficial case reporter first page (year)	<i>Kenford Co. v. Cty. of Erie</i> , 73 N.Y.2d 312, 537 N.E.2d 176, 540 N.Y.S.2d 1 (1989).
State highest court cited to regional reporter	B10.1.3(iv) (p14) R10.3 (p103+) T.1.3 (p242+)	<i>Parties</i> , volume case reporter first page (state year)	<i>Lestina v. West Bend Mut. Ins. Co.</i> , 501 N.W.2d 28 (Wis. 1993).
State lower court cited to regional reporter	B10.1.3(v) (p14) R10.3 (p103+) T.1.3 (p242+)	<i>Parties</i> , volume case reporter first page (state court year)	<i>Kaplan v. Ziff</i> , 530 N.W.2d 807 (Minn. Ct. App. 1995).

\* The Bluebook does not require the department in citations for the N.Y. Appellate Division (see rule B10.1.3(v), p14); however, many professors do. Remember that the Bluebook is only the default.

## Basic Bluebooking—Short Forms for Case Law

When citing the immediately preceding citation which cites only one source: *Id.*

If citing a different page: *Id.* at page.

When you can't use *id.*:

Source	Relevant Bluebook rules	Basic citation**	Example (includes proper typeface—underscoring or italicizing is acceptable)
U.S. Supreme Court	B10.2 (p16+) R10.9 (p116+) T.1.1 (p227)	<i>One party name</i> , volume case reporter at page	<i>Stansbury</i> , 511 U.S. at 325.
Federal courts of appeals	B10.2 (p16+) R10.9 (p116+) T.1.1 (p228)	<i>One party name</i> , volume case reporter at page	<i>Campa</i> , 529 F.3d at 985.
Federal district courts	B10.2 (p16+) R10.9 (p116+) T.1.1 (p229)	<i>One party name</i> , volume case reporter at page	<i>Lemay</i> , 537 F. Supp. 2d at 242.
NY Court of Appeals	B10.2 (p16+) R10.9 (p116+) T1.3 (p271)	<i>One party name</i> , volume case reporter at page	<i>Kenford Co.</i> , 537 N.E.2d at 182.
NY Appellate Division*	B10.2 (p16+) R10.9 (p116+) T1.3 (p272)	<i>One party name</i> , volume case reporter at page	<i>Heslop</i> , 849 N.Y.S.2d at 302.
NY Appellate Division with department*	B10.2 (p16+) R10.9 (p116+) T1.3 (p272)	<i>One party name</i> , volume case reporter at page	<i>Heslop</i> , 849 N.Y.S.2d at 302.
New York Supreme Court	B10.2 (p16+) R10.9 (p116+) T1.3 (p272)	<i>One party name</i> , volume case reporter at page	<i>Arthur</i> , 673 N.Y.S.2d at 490.
NY parallel citation (Court of Appeals)	B10.2 (p16+) R10.9 (p116+) T.1.3 (p271)	<i>One party name</i> , volume official case reporter at page, volume regional case reporter at page, volume unofficial case reporter at page.	<i>Kenford Co.</i> , 73 N.Y.2d at 315, 537 N.E.2d at 180, 540 N.Y.S.2d at 6.
State highest court cited to regional reporter	B10.2 (p16+) R10.9 (p116+) T.1.3 (p242+)	<i>One party name</i> , volume case reporter at page	<i>Lestina</i> , 501 N.W.2d at 33.
State lower court cited to regional reporter	B10.2 (p16+) R10.9 (p116+) T.1.3 (p242+)	<i>One party name</i> , volume case reporter at page	<i>Kaplan</i> , 530 N.W.2d at 810.

\*\* The one party name can be either party. When selecting the short form party name, keep in mind it should be clear to your reader what case you are citing. Rule 10.9(a)(i) on page 116 says not to use a governmental party as the party name for a short form. For instance, when coming up with a short form party name for *Miranda v. Arizona*, use *Miranda* not *Arizona*.

## Basic Bluebooking—Statutes in Legal Documents

The following chart covers citation of federal and New York State statutes. For other states, use the jurisdictional table T.1 in the Bluebook to find the proper source to cite and its format. Note that the Bluebook requires the year of the cited code edition for state statutes—either the year on the spine or the copyright year. If you are citing to multiple sections you need to use 2 section symbols (§). The current (21st) edition of the Bluebook was published in June 2020.

Source	Relevant Bluebook rules	Basic citation	Example (includes proper typeface)
United States Constitution	B11 (p18) 11 (p118-19)	U.S. Const. article or amendment, § section, cl. clause.	U.S. Const. art. I, § 9, cl. 2. U.S. Const. amend. XIV, § 2.
Federal statutes—codes*	B12.1.1 (p18-19) 12 (p120+) T.1.1 (p230)	Title number Abbreviated name of code § section (publisher if not official U.S.C. year)	42 U.S.C. § 1983 (2012). 42 U.S.C. § 1983. 12 U.S.C.A. § 1426 (West 2014). 12 U.S.C.S. § 1426 (LexisNexis 2002).
Federal statutes—codes (citing pocket part or supplement)*	12.3.1(e) (p124) T.1.1 (p230)	Title number Abbreviated name of code § section (publisher if not official U.S.C. Supp. year of supplement)	42 U.S.C. § 17282 (Supp. 2013). 12 U.S.C.A. § 1423 (West Supp. 2015). 12 U.S.C.S. § 1423 (LexisNexis Supp. 2015).
Federal statutes—codes (citing both main volume and pocket pt/ supp.)*	12.3.1(e) (p124) T.1.1 (p230)	Title number Abbreviated name of code § section (Publisher if not official U.S.C. year & Supp. year of supplement)	42 U.S.C. § 1983 (2012 & Supp. 2015). 12 U.S.C.A. § 1426 (West 2014 & Supp. 2015). 12 U.S.C.S. § 1426 (LexisNexis 2002 & Supp. 2015).
Federal statutes—session laws	B12.1.1(p19) 12.4 (p125-27) T.1.1 (p230)	Name of law, Public law no., section no. (if any), Statutes at Large citation (year) [omit year if year is part of the name of the law]	Health Professions Education Extension Amendments of 1992, Pub. L. No. 102-408, § 762, 106 Stat. 1992, 2046-47.
N.Y. statutes—codes	B12.1.2 (p19) 12 (p120+) T.1.3 (p273-75)	N.Y. subject Law § section (Publisher year)	N.Y. Penal Law § 120.05 (McKinney 2009).
N.Y. statutes—codes (citing pocket part or supplement)	12 (p120+) 12.3.1(e) (p124) T.1.3 (p273-75)	N.Y. subject Law § section (Publisher Supp. year)	N.Y. Real Prop. Law § 227-c (McKinney Supp. 2015).
N.Y. statutes—codes (citing both main volume & pocket pt. or supp.)	12 (p120+) 12.3.1(e) (p124) T.1.3 (p273-75)	N.Y. subject Law § section (Publisher year & Supp. year)	N.Y. Penal Law § 120.05 (McKinney 2009 & Supp. 2015).
New York statutes—session laws	12.4 (p125-27) T.1.3 (p283)	Name of law, Year Abbreviated name of session law compilation Page no.	Geriatric Mental Health Act, 2005 N.Y. Laws 3349.
McKinney's practice commentaries**	Rule 3.1(c)**		David D. Siegel, Practice Commentaries, McKinney's Cons Laws of NY, Book 7B, CPLR C3219:1.

\*Beginning with the 21st Ed. of the Bluebook, citing the year of the code edition is no longer required when citing the official or unofficial United States Code.

\*\* Practice commentaries are cited according to the New York Official Reports Style Manual, available at [https://www.nycourts.gov/reporter/Styman\\_Menu.shtml](https://www.nycourts.gov/reporter/Styman_Menu.shtml)

## Basic Bluebooking—Short Forms for Statutes

When citing the immediately preceding citation citing only one source: *Id.*

If citing a different section within the same title: *Id.* § section.

When you can't use *id.*:

Source	Relevant Bluebook rules	Basic citation*	Example (includes proper typeface)
United States Constitution**	B11 (p18) 11 (p119-20)	U.S. Const. article or amendment, § section, cl. clause.	U.S. Const. art. I, § 9, cl. 2. U.S. Const. amend. XIV, § 2.
Federal statutes—codes	B12.2 (p21) 12.10 (p133-34) T.1.1 (p230)	Title number Abbreviated name of code § section	42 U.S.C. § 1983. 12 U.S.C.A. § 1426. 12 U.S.C.S. § 1426.
Federal statutes—codes (citing pocket part or supplement)	12.10 (p133-34) T.1.1 (p230)	Title number Abbreviated name of code § section	42 U.S.C. § 17282. 12 U.S.C.A. § 1423. 12 U.S.C.S. § 1423.
Federal statutes—codes (citing both main volume and pocket part or supplement)	12.10 (p133-34) T.1.1 (p230)	Title number Abbreviated name of code § section	42 U.S.C. § 1983. 12 U.S.C.A. § 1426. 12 U.S.C.S. § 1426.
Federal statutes—session laws	12.10 (p133-34) T.1.1 (p230)	Name of law, Public law no., Statutes at Large citation at page	Health Professions Education Extension Amendments § 762 or § 762, 106 Stat. at 2046-47.
N.Y. statutes—codes	12.10 (p133-34) T.1.3 (p273-75)	Subject § section	Penal § 120.05.
N.Y. statutes—codes (citing pocket part or supplement)	12.10 (p133-34) T.1.3 (p273-75)	Subject § section	Real Prop. § 227-c.
N.Y. statutes—codes (citing both main volume and pocket part or supplement)	12.10 (p133-34) T.1.3 (p273-75)	Subject § section	Penal § 120.05.
New York statutes—session laws	12.10 (p133-34) T.1.3 (p275)	Name of law, Year Abbreviated name of session law compilation at page	Geriatric Mental Health Act, 2005 N.Y. Laws at 3350.

\* For statutes, it is acceptable to just use the section as the short citation as long as it doesn't confuse your reader. For instance, rather than 42 U.S.C. § 1983, you can just use § 1983. For New York, you can use § 120.05 rather than Penal § 120.05. Consult the table on page 134 of the Bluebook for acceptable short forms for statutes.

\*\* For Constitutions, do not use a short form other than *id.*

## Basic Bluebooking—Secondary Sources in Legal Documents

The Bluebook provides a standardized way to provide attribution for ideas and support for arguments in a legal document or research paper. Keep in mind that the Bluebook contains the default rules for citation—court rules or your professor may have other requirements. The current (21st) edition of the Bluebook was published in June 2020.

The inside back cover of the Bluebook has examples of citation for legal documents. The Bluepages (pages 3-60) provide an introduction to basic legal citation, and contain much of what you need to know for your first year writing assignments. Note that, although the examples in the white pages of the Bluebook make use of LARGE AND SMALL CAPITAL LETTERS, you are not required to use these in legal documents—in general they are used in footnotes for law review articles and research papers. Note also that citations from Westlaw and Lexis are not always in Bluebook format.

Source	Relevant Bluebook rules	Basic citation	Example (includes proper typeface—underscoring or italicizing is acceptable)
Book—single volume, first edition	B15.1 (p22-23) 15 (p147+)	Author(s) full name(s), <i>Title</i> pinpoint page or section (copyright year).	John Rawls, <i>A Theory of Justice</i> 251 (1971).
Book—multivolume, multiple authors, edition other than the first	B15.1 (p22-23) 15 (p147+)	Volume Author(s) full name(s), <i>Title</i> pinpoint page or section (edition copyright year).	14 Charles Alan Wright, Arthur R. Miller & Edward H. Cooper, <i>Federal Practice and Procedure</i> § 3637 (3d ed. 1998).
Law review article (consecutively paginated journals)	B16.1.1 (p23-24) 16.4 (p160) T.6 (p304-07) T.10 (p312+) T.13 (p321+)	Author(s) full name(s), <i>Title</i> , volume abbreviated title of law review first page of article, pinpoint page (year of publication).	Charles A. Reich, <i>The New Property</i> , 73 Yale L.J. 733, 765 (1964).
American Law Reports (ALR)	16.7.6 (p166)	Author(s) full name(s), Annotation, <i>Title</i> , A.L.R. series first page of annotation, pinpoint page (year). [Note: use originally published year from ALR on Westlaw]	Marjorie A. Shields, Annotation, <i>Snowboarder's Liability for Injuries to or Death of Another Person</i> , 15 A.L.R.6th 161, 170 (2006).
American Jurisprudence 2d (Am Jur 2d)	B15.1 (p23) 15.8(a) (p153)	Volume, Am. Jur. 2d <i>Title of section</i> § section (year).	6 Am. Jur. 2d <i>Assault and Battery</i> § 2 (2007).
Black's Law Dictionary	B15.1 (p23) 15.8(a) (p153)	<i>Term defined</i> , <i>Black's Law Dictionary</i> (edition year).	<i>Estoppel</i> , <i>Black's Law Dictionary</i> (11th ed. 2019).
Corpus Juris Secundum (CJS)	B15.1 (p23) 15.8(a) (p153)	Volume, C.J.S. <i>Title of section</i> § section (year).	22 C.J.S. <i>Criminal Law</i> § 324 (2007).
Newspapers	B16.1.4 (p24) 16.6 (p161-62) 16.6(f) (p162) T.10 (p312+) T.13 (p321+)	Author(s) full name(s), <i>Title</i> , abbreviated title of newspaper, full date, at first page of article, pinpoint page or URL. (Internet cite puts date in parentheses.)	Linda Greenhouse, <i>The Court Changes the Game</i> , N.Y. Times, June 30, 2009, at A21.  Linda Greenhouse, <i>The Court Changes the Game</i> , N.Y. Times (June 30, 2009), <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/30/opinion/30Greenhouse.html">http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/30/opinion/30Greenhouse.html</a> .

## Basic Bluebooking—Short Forms for Secondary Sources

When citing the immediately preceding citation citing only one source: *Id.*

If citing a different page: *Id.* at page number.

If citing a different section: *Id.* § 3210.

When you can't use *id.*:

Source	Relevant Bluebook rules	Basic citation	Example (includes proper typeface—underscoring or italicizing is acceptable)
Book—single volume, first edition	B15.2 (p23) 15.10 (p155)	Author(s) last name(s), <i>supra</i> , at page.	Rawls, <i>supra</i> , at 260.
Book—multivolume, multiple authors, edition other than the first	B15.2 (p23) 4.2 (p81-82) 15.10 (p155)	Volume Author(s) last name(s), <i>supra</i> , at page.  Volume Author(s) last name(s), <i>supra</i> , section.	14 Wright et al., <i>supra</i> , § 3690.
Law review article (consecutively paginated journals)	B16.2 (p24) 4.2 (p81-82) 16.9 (p167-69) T.10 (p312+) T.13 (p321+)	Author(s) last name(s), <i>supra</i> , at page.	Reich, <i>supra</i> , at 767.
American Law Reports (ALR)	16.7.6 (p166)	Author(s) last name(s), <i>supra</i> , at page.	Shields, <i>supra</i> , at 171.
American Jurisprudence 2d (Am Jur 2d)	B15.2 (p23) 15.10 (p155-56)	Am. Jur. 2d, <i>supra</i> , § section.	Am. Jur. 2d, <i>supra</i> , § 7.
Black's Law Dictionary	B15.2 (p23) 15.10 (p155-56)	<i>Black's, supra.</i>	<i>Black's, supra.</i>
Corpus Juris Secundum (CJS)	B15.2 (p23) 15.10 (p155-56)	C.J.S., <i>supra</i> , § section.	C.J.S., <i>supra</i> , § 324.
Newspapers	B16.2 (p24) 16.9 (p167-68) T.10 (p312+) T.13 (p321+)	Author(s) last name(s), <i>supra</i> , at page.	Greenhouse, <i>supra</i> , at A22.  Greenhouse, <i>supra</i> .