

Chapter 5:

Introduction to

Citation Form

Chapter Outline:

- ✓ § 5.1 Citation: A Legal Address
- ✓ § 5.2 State Cases: Long Form
- ✓ § 5.3 State Cases: Short Form
- ✓ § 5.4 Federal Cases
- ✓ § 5.5 Citing State Statutes
- ✓ § 5.6 Citing Federal Statutes
- ✓ § 5.7 Citation Guides & Citations At-a-Glance Sheet

§ 5.1 CITATION: A LEGAL ADDRESS

A citation (also called a legal cite) is a legal address to written authority. Authority is anything the court can or must use in reaching its decision. In arguing the law, authority is everything. When we rely on authority in a legal memorandum, or in any other form of legal writing, we must tell the reader how to find that authority for himself. To do this, we rely on citation format. Following is an introduction to the system of citation created by *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*, often called *Bluebook* citation form, the most common system of citation. Purchasing the book is optional. It is much more important that students learn the system, as opposed to simply looking up examples in the book.



The vast majority of citations can be broken into 3 basic categories:

- *State Cases: Long Form*
- *State Cases: Short Form*
- *Federal Cases*
- *State Statutes*
- *Federal Statutes*

Upon completion of this chapter, students should have a foundational understanding of the above methods of citation.

§ 5.2 STATE CASES: LONG FORM

a. We have found a case titled *Smith v. Jones*. Always underline or italicize the title.

Smith v. Jones, or Smith v. Jones,

b. The case is located in Volume 121, Page 288 of the publication titled *Kansas Reports*. State reports are official cites. Official publications are published by (or under the authority of) the state government. As a rule, the abbreviation for official state reports are the old postal abbreviations. Therefore, "Colo." is the abbreviation for the *Colorado Reports*. "Ariz." is the abbreviation for the *Arizona Reports*. What is the abbreviation for the official report in your state?

c. This abbreviation not only tells the reader what publication the case is found in; it may also tell him what court decided the case, because a state abbreviation by itself indicates that the case was decided by the highest court in that state. If the case is decided by the state appellate court, the abbreviation may have "App." following the state abbreviation. For example, "N.H." indicates the publication *New Hampshire Reports*, which contains cases from the highest court in New Hampshire (the New Hampshire Supreme Court). "N.H. App." indicates the publication *New Hampshire Appellate Reports*, which is a totally separate publication from the *New Hampshire Reports*. "N.H. App." also tells the reader that the case was decided by the New Hampshire Court of Appeals. Some publication abbreviations differ, such as the *New York Miscellaneous Reports* (Misc.). In any case, the publication helps to identify the court.

Smith v. Jones, 121 Kan. 288,

d. Many cases can be found in more than one place. In other words, the exact same case, word-for-word, can be found in different publications. These are called parallel cites. When parallel cites exist, the writer must inform the reader of all the cites that contain the case. Since we have already cited the official cite, we must now cite any unofficial cites (which becomes the parallel cite.) Unofficial publications are private publishers rather than the government.

e. The major unofficial publisher of cases is *West Publishing Company*, which uses the *West Reporter System*. *West* has divided the country into seven regions. Since we are citing a case decided by a state court, *West* will almost always publish that same case, word-for-word, in one of its regional reporters. For example, *Smith v. Jones* is found in the Kansas Reports (Kan.). Since *West Publishing* has placed Kansas in the Pacific region, *West* will also publish the case in the *Pacific Reporter*. The author must indicate which series is being cited. "P." stands for *Pacific Reporter*; "P.2d" stands for *Pacific Reporter, Second Series*. Official cites always come first. Then cite the parallel cite.

Smith v. Jones, 121 Kan. 288, 369 P.2d 418

f. The reader of the cite must be able to tell how recent a case is. A case from 1918 may not carry as much weight as a case decided in 1983. The writer must provide the year the case was decided in parentheses.

Smith v. Jones, 121 Kan. 288, 369 P.2d 418 (1979)

g. We now have a complete state citation. The reader can tell the following just by looking at the cite:

1. **Who** the parties were
2. **What** court decided the case
3. **When** the case was decided
4. **Where** the reader can find the case.

Exercise | Reporter Abbreviations

With the help of your instructor, list the Regional Reporter abbreviations for the corresponding publications by *West*.



Pacific Reporter

First Series:____ Second Series:____ Third Series:____

Atlantic Reporter

First Series:____ Second Series:____

South Eastern Reporter

First Series:____ Second Series:____

North Western Reporter

First Series:____ Second Series:____

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South Western Reporter

First Series:____ Second Series:____ Third Series:____

North Eastern Reporter

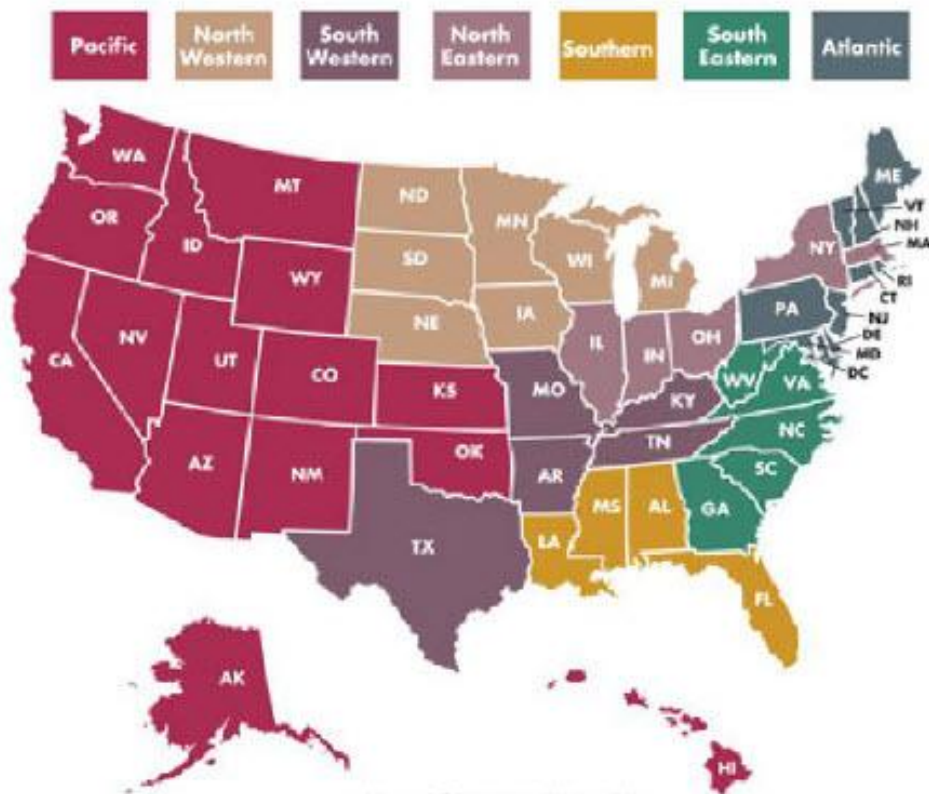
First Series:____ Second Series:____

Southern Reporter

First Series:____ Second Series:____



Diagram | Regional Reporter Map



Spacing Note

Regional reporters have no space between the publication abbreviation and the following series number (such as "P.2d"), with one exception: The *Southern Reporter, Second Series* (So. 2d) does include a space before the "2d."

Exercise | Long Form State Citation

You have found a case titled *Lipps v. Kruger*. The case was decided by the North Carolina Supreme Court. It can be found in Volume 79, Page 526 of the official publication. The unofficial publication contains the case in Volume 314, Page 142, second series. The year was 1967.

Below, or on a separate sheet, provide the proper Bluebook citation.

§ 5.3 STATE CASES: SHORT FORM

Short form refers to a case citation that only includes the unofficial cite and no official.

Some states have stopped publishing official reports. Assume, for the purposes of this exercise, that Kansas has stopped publishing the Kansas Reports. Our cite would read:

Smith v. Jones, 369 P.2d 418 (1979)

Question: Is there anything missing from this cite? Ask yourself:

Who? What? When? Where?

Answer: We can't tell *what* court decided the case.

The reader must be able to determine what court decided the case. This is done by noting the publication. If the publication is "Wash." (for *Washington Reports*), the court deciding the case is the highest court in Washington (the Washington Supreme Court). The rule is this:

If you can't tell what court decided the case by looking at the publication, you must tell the reader what court decided the case in parentheses.

Our cite should read (in short form):

Smith v. Jones, 369 P.2d 418 (Kan. 1979)

Exercise 5 | Short Form State Citation

You have found a case titled *Evers v. Chance*. It is found only in the unofficial reporter, second series, Volume 423, Page 297. The court that decided the case was the Tennessee Court of Appeals. The year was 1982. Provide the correct cite below or on a separate sheet.

Consolidated State Reports

On occasion, some citations appear to break from the established rules. In fact, citation form simply follows the functions of the publications being cited. Following is the most dramatic example of this circumstance.

Consider this citation:

Smith v. Jones, 283 N.M. 583, 628 P.2d 493 (1988)

A few states have only one publication for both their *appellate* and *supreme* court opinions. For instance, the *New Mexico Court of Appeals* and the *New Mexico Supreme Court* both publish their opinions in the same book: *The New Mexico Reports*. If the court deciding the opinion is the *New Mexico Supreme Court*, no court is necessary in parentheses (as in the example above).

However, if the court issuing the opinion was in the *New Mexico Court of Appeals*, the author must inform the reader of the court in parentheses. If the citation is to the *New Mexico Appellate Court*, the citation would be constructed as follows:

Smith v. Jones, 283 N.M. 583, 628 P.2d 493 (N.M. Ct. App. 1988)

Thus, even though the above citation appears to violate the basic *Bluebook* rules of citation form, the truth is that the citation rules have bent to the reality of the publication. (In this case, an official publication reporting two different courts.) This is what is meant by consolidated reports.

Exercise | State Case Citations Exercise

Provide the correct *Bluebook* citations for the following:

1. The case you wish to cite was decided in the Texas Civil Appellate Court. You have found a case in the Southwest Reporter, Second Series, Page 253, Volume 460. The case was Noe v. Cain. The date was 1979.
2. Your cite is Scooter v. Gabby. It was decided in the Nevada Supreme Court and was found on Page 428, Volume 260 of the unofficial publication, second series, and on Page 69, Volume 177 of the official publication. The year was 1963.
3. You have found a case decided by the North Carolina Court of Appeals in 1977, Page 387 and Volume 408 of the official cite, Page 127 and Volume 644 in the unofficial, second series. The case is titled Nimrod v. Beth.
4. Klein v. Yokum is found on Page 370 and Volume 532 in the official publication from the Appellate Court of Alabama, Civil Division. The unofficial cite is found on Page 241, Volume 684, second series. The year the trial was held was 1980. The year the opinion was written was 1981. (Note in the Citations At-a-Glance sheet the special abbreviation for the Civil Division court.)
5. Your case is Milton v. Gregg. It is found on Page 221 in the official Volume containing Colorado Supreme Court cases, Volume 352, and Volume 629, Page 29 of the unofficial reporter, second series. It was decided in 1972.

Citations At-a-Glance

See the *Citations At-a-Glance* sheet later in this chapter.



6. The title of the case is *In re Henderson*. It was decided in the Arizona Supreme Court in 1977. The official cite is Volume 386, Page 118. The unofficial publication is Volume 582, Page 893, second series.
7. The title of the case is *Mooreland v. Orbison*. It was decided in the Washington Court of Appeals in 1991. The official cite is Volume 264, Page 854. The unofficial publication is Volume 330, Page 391, second series.
8. The title of the case is *Loopis v. Dryer*. It was decided in the North Carolina Supreme Court in 1985. The official cite is Volume 292, Page 452. The unofficial publication is Volume 523, Page 1032, second series.
9. The title of the case is *Everly v. Jordan*. It was decided in the Indiana Supreme Court in 1984. The unofficial publication is Volume 822, Page 473, second series.
10. The title of the case is *Freemont v. Greenberg*. It was decided in the Tennessee Supreme Court in 1989. The unofficial publication is Volume 622, Page 83, second series.
11. The title of the case is *Smith v. Hansen*. It was decided in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 1991. The unofficial publication is Volume 583, Page 797, second series.
12. The title of the case is *Nixon v. Franklin*. It was decided in the Minnesota Supreme Court in 1987. The unofficial publication is Volume 645, Page 359, second series.

§ 5.4 FEDERAL CASES

The majority of federal case law emanates from three federal courts: The *U.S. District Courts*, the *U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeal*, and the *U.S. Supreme Court*. The same general rules of citation apply, but instead of referencing state courts, the citation must indicate the federal court that authored the opinion being cited.

U.S. District Court Citations

Cases decided by *United States District Courts* are published in the *Federal Supplement* (F. Supp.).

Spacing Note

There is a space between the "F." and the "Supp."

The *Federal Supplement* is published by *West Publishing Company*. There is no official publication for *U.S. District Court* cases.

Since it is impossible to tell which *U.S. District Court* decided the case by looking at the publication (F. Supp.), the court must be specified in parentheses. In citation format, "D." stands for district. "E.D.", then, stands for eastern district, "W.D." stands for western district, etc. Each state has at least one federal district; many have more than one. "D. Haw.", for instance, stands for the *U.S. District Court, District of Hawaii*. "S.D.N.Y." stands for the *Southern District of New York*.

Exercise | Your U.S. District Court

What is your federal district and its abbreviation?

Court: _____

Abbreviation: _____

Example

U.S. District Court citations are constructed in the following manner:

Akers v. Lewis, 462 F. Supp. 531 (D.N.M. 1976)

Spacing Note

There is generally a space between the "D." and any subsequent abbreviation, such as "W.D. Tex." or "D. Colo." The exception occurs when there are abbreviated initials only, such as "S.D.N.Y." In that case, there are no spaces.

Exercise | U.S. District Court Citation

You have found a case titled *Simms v. Kastor*. The case was decided by the *U.S. District Court* in your jurisdiction. It can be found in Volume 598, Page 256. The case was decided in 1987.

U.S. Circuit Court Citations

A federal Circuit is a collection of federal Districts. Cases decided by the *U.S. Courts of Appeal* (sometimes referred to as the *U.S. Circuit Courts*) are published in the *Federal Reporter* (F., F.2d, or F.3d).

Spacing Note

There is no space between the "F." and the series numbers that follow.

The *Federal Reporter* is published by *West*. There is no official publication for *U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeal* cases.

Again, the *Circuit Court* that decided the case is indicated in parentheses. "Cir." is the abbreviation for Circuit, preceded by the number of the appropriate Circuit (For example, "5th Cir.").

Spacing Note

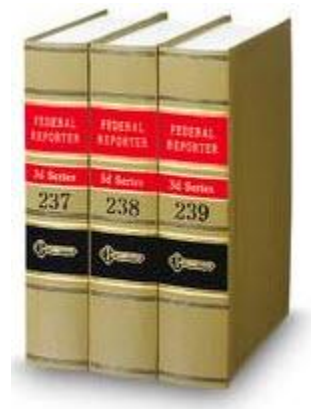
There is a space between the number (such as "4th") and the "Cir."
Example: "4th Cir."

Exercise | Your Federal Circuit Court

In what federal circuit are you located, and what is the proper abbreviation? In what federal circuit is your class located, and what is its abbreviation? (They may or may not be the same.)

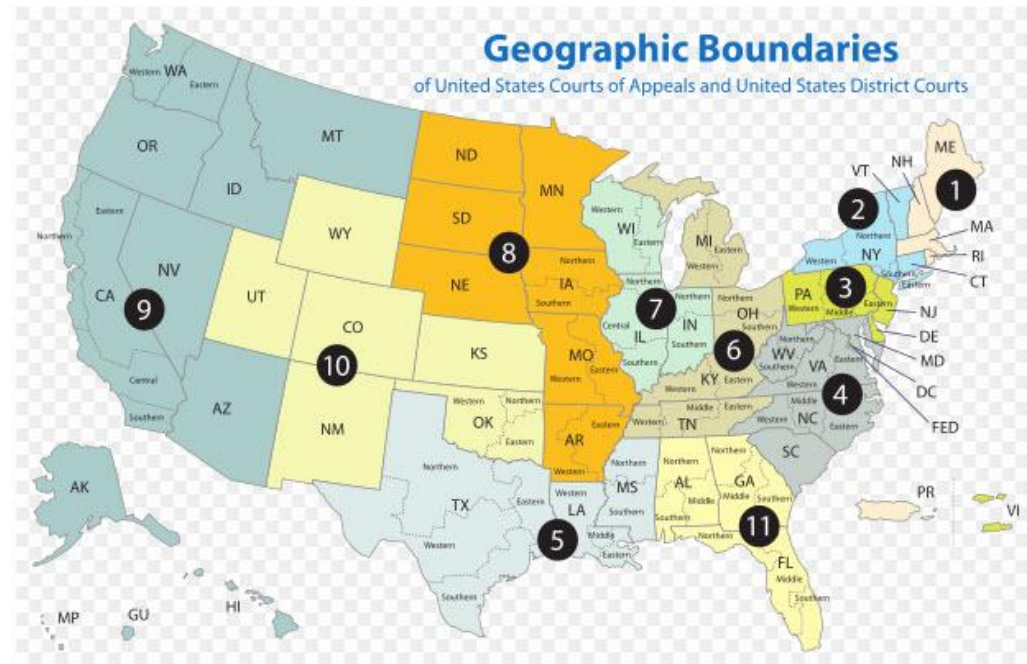
Court: _____

Abbreviation: _____



U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals citations are constructed in the following manner:

Diagram | U.S. Federal Circuits Map



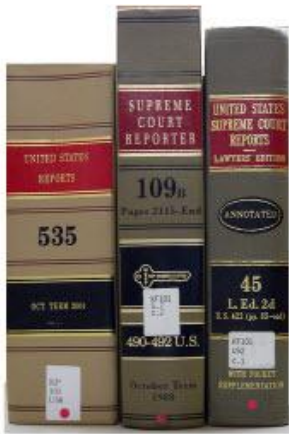
Exercise | U.S. Circuit Court Citation

During your research, you have found a case titled *Jenson v. Higgins*. The case was decided by the *U.S. Circuit Court* in your jurisdiction. The case can be found in Volume 121, Page 1298, third series. The case was decided in 1996. Use the map above, which can also be found in the foldout in the back of this manual.

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U.S. Supreme Court Cases

The *U.S. District Courts* and *U.S. Circuit Courts* each publish their opinions in a single publication (the *Federal Supplement* and the *Federal Reporter*, respectively). There are no parallel citations for those opinions. That certainly simplifies things. However, things are a bit more complicated for *United States Supreme Court* cases. Three publications publish *U.S. Supreme Court* cases:



U.S. Reports

Abbreviation: U.S.

The official publication (federal government)

Supreme Court Reporter

Abbreviation: S. Ct.

Unofficial publication by West Publishing

U.S. Supreme Court Reports, Lawyer's Edition

Abbreviation: L. Ed. – or – L. Ed. 2d

Unofficial publication by Lawyer's Cooperative

U.S. Supreme Court cases should be cited in this order:

U.S., then S. Ct. and L. Ed. 2d.

Example

A *U.S. Supreme Court* opinion would be constructed as follows:

Akers v. Lewis, 516 U.S. 331, 694 S. Ct. 265, 112 L. Ed. 2d 871 (1978)

Spacing Note

The abbreviation "U.S." has no spaces: U.S.

There is a space between the "S." and "Ct.": S. Ct.

There are spaces between the "L.", the "Ed.", and the "2d": L. Ed. 2d

Exercise | United States Supreme Court Citation

You have found a case titled *Moore v. Withers*, decided in 1981 by the *U.S. Supreme Court*. It can be found in Volume 571, Page 832 of the *U.S. Reports*, Volume 630, Page 103 of the *Supreme Court Reporter*, and Volume 712, Page 499 of *Lawyer's Edition, second series*. Provide the correct cite.

Note Regarding U.S. Supreme Court Short Form Citations

Bluebook citation form requires only the case title, the official *U.S. Reports* cite, and the year in parenthesis.

Example

A *U.S. Supreme Court* citation in short form would be constructed in the following manner:

Akers v. Lewis, 516 U.S. 331 (1978)

The above short form citation seems much simpler than the long form, and it is. It would be natural for the student to ask, why do we have to learn long form if *Bluebook* only requires short form citations for U.S. Supreme Court opinions?

The answer is that, once you are hired as a legal secretary, there is no way to know what form of citation your supervising attorney (or court rules) will require. You will be much better prepared if you know the long form citation, and if the attorney prefers short form the adjustment will be simple. However, if you only know the short form, and the attorney prefers the long form, you will appear ill-trained.

In other words, you are being trained to the "highest common denominator."

Additional Federal Case Citations

While most federal case law will be found in previously mentioned publications, the researcher may need to cite a few other sources. Citation assistance can always be found in the *Bluebook*, *A Uniform System of Citation*. The researcher can also refer to the front of the volume being cited. Most publications will inform you how they want to be cited. Here are a few more examples of citations for federal case law authorities:



Bankruptcy Reporter

This publication collects and reports full court opinions from the *U.S. Bankruptcy Court*, a division of the *U.S. District Court*.

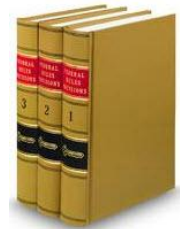
Smith v. Jones, 287 B.R. 423 (Bankr. D. Colo. 1983)

Federal Rules Decisions

This set of books reports full *U.S. District Court* opinions where a federal rule or regulation is being applied, and where that court has decided not to designate the opinion for publication.

Typically, if the opinion has been published in the *Federal Supplement*, it will not be published additionally in the F.R.D.

Smith v. Jones, 341 F.R.D. 938 (D. Neb. 1983)



Military Justice Reporter

Collects and reports full court opinions and rulings of military tribunals.

Smith v. Jones, 125 M.J.R. 637 (D. Idaho 1983)



Federal Appendix

The newest of all reporters, this publication was first issued in 2002. The opinions published in the *Federal Reporter* or the *Federal Supplement* are included in those books because they have been “designated for publication” by the court.

The *Federal Appendix* publishes those cases not designated for publication. (Some believe that such cases do not have precedential value since the court does not find them important enough to print.)

Smith v. Jones, 21 F. App’x 583 (D. Colo. 1983)



Federal Claims Reporter

This publication covers opinions from the United States Court of Federal Claims. Opinions include those involving tax refund suits, governmental contracts, environment and natural resource disputes, and civilian and military government pay issues.

Smith v. Jones, 34 Fed. Cl. 527 (E.D.N.C. 1998)



Exercise | Federal Citations

Provide appropriate *Bluebook* citations for the following:

1. Your case is *Bickers v. Beal*. It is found on page 73 in the reporter that cites U.S. District Court cases, Volume 502. It was decided in the Western District of Tennessee in 1978.
2. The title of the case is *Sonders v. Brickmont*. It is found in the Federal Supplement. The Volume is 783, page 221. It was decided in 1989 in the District of Nevada.
3. Your cite was written by a judge in the U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Texas. The case is titled *Minnie v. Mickey*, decided in 1968 and found on page 385, Volume 410.
4. The title of the case is *Jordan v. Summers*. It was decided in the federal trial court in the Middle District of Georgia. The Volume is 832, the page is 364, second series. It was decided in 1992.
5. Your case, *Us v. Them*, was decided by the U.S District Court in New Mexico and is found on page 288 and Volume 693. It was decided in 1985.
6. The title of the case is *Anton v. Everly*. It was decided in the federal trial court in the Western District of North Carolina. The Volume is 289, and the page is 141, second series. It was decided in 1966.
7. You have found a case, *Him v. Her*, located in Volume 344 of the Federal Reporter, second series, page 159. The case was decided in 1956 in the Tenth Circuit.

8. The title of the case is Trapper v. Pringle. It is found in the Federal Reporter, third series. The Volume is 88, and the page is 1103. It was decided in 1988 in the Ninth Circuit.
9. Your case is Hump v. Back. It is found on Page 538 in the reporter that cites federal court of appeals cases, Volume 655, second series. It was heard in the Second Circuit in 1989.
10. The title of the 1995 case is Vorley v. Ingleborg. It is found in the Federal Reporter, second series and was decided in the Sixth Circuit. The Volume is 901, and the page is 896.
11. The title of the 1998 case is Canterbury v. Cribbers. It was decided in the fourth federal appellate court. The Volume is 152, the page is 358, third series.
12. Your cite, Adam v. Eve, was found on page 313 and Volume 189 of the publication that contains U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeal cases, second series. It was heard in the Fifth Circuit on Dec. 19, 1956.
13. The U.S. Supreme Court decided a case you wish to cite titled Wimp v. Weasel. The official cite was in Volume 387, page 148; the Lawyer's Edition cite was on page 96, Volume 442 second series; the West publication was in Volume 408, page 161. The case was originally brought in Georgia. The date of the decision was 1979.
14. The title of the case is In re Stevens, decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1985. The official cite is Volume 342, page 728. The Supreme Court Reporter is Volume 424, page 628. The Lawyer's Edition cite is Volume 276, page 1281, second series.

§ 5.5 CITING STATE STATUTES

Although there are differences among states, many aspects of statute citation form are universally applicable from one state to the next.

What does the § symbol mean?

§ means "section." If there are two of the symbols together, §§, it means "sections" (plural). Note that there is always a space after the § symbol.

How are statutes arranged?

Statutes are arranged by topic. For instance, typically, all the statutes that deal with traffic laws are collected in the same chapter or title.

How are statutes cited?

Statutes are cited by either *title and section number* or *chapter and section number*, or *title, chapter and section number*. (Depending on the state.)

Note about Bluebook Statutory Abbreviations

While the vast majority of jurisdictions use the *Bluebook Uniform System of Citation* for citing cases, statutory citations in many jurisdictions do not conform to the *Bluebook* standards.

Example

Following are examples of citations for a Colorado state statute. As with most states, attorneys in Colorado tend to use the standard citation form. However, you will never be criticized if you use *Bluebook* form. At the end of the day, your attorney will decide which style of citation to use.

Standard citation: C.R.S. § 13-22-221(1)(a) (1999)

Bluebook citation: Colo. Rev. Stat. § 13-22-221(1)(a) (1999)

This citation refers to Title 13, Chapter 22, Section 221, Subsection 1a of the Colorado Revised Statutes. Be flexible. Various states arrange the citation so that the chapter or title, and the section number are not immediately evident. For instance: N.R.S. § 200.110. This example refers to Nevada Revised Statutes, Chapter 200, Section 110.

If you are unsure about how a statute is cited by the jurisdiction where the matter is being heard, check the local section of the *Bluebook* for the local rules in that jurisdiction. Also, the *Citation At-a-Glance Sheet* in the back of this manual provides *Bluebook* examples for all fifty states.

§ 5.6 CITING FEDERAL STATUTES

There are three hardbound resources for federal statutes:

- U.S.C. (*United States Code*)
- U.S.C.A. (*United States Code Annotated*)
- U.S.C.S. (*United States Code Service*)

When researching federal statutes, always use either the U.S.C.A., U.S.C.S., or both. While the U.S.C. contains only the statutes, the two unofficial publications contain additional research aids as well.

When citing the United States Code, cite to the official publication even if researching in an unofficial publication of the Code. (Simply drop the “A” in U.S.C.A. or the “S” in U.S.C.S.) All three sources contain the U.S. Code.

Example | Citing Federal Statutes

Following is an example of a federal statutory citation:

28 U.S.C. § 1204 (2006).

When citing statutes, both federal and state, each subsection should be referred to within its own set of parentheses. For example, if the above statute had a subsection “a,” and a sub-subsection “3,” the cite would read:

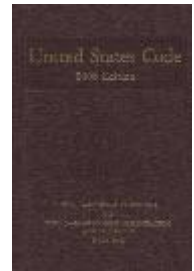
28 U.S.C. § 1204(a)(3) (1984).

Session Laws or Statutes at Large

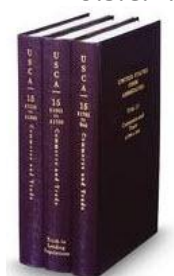
Session Laws, sometimes called Statutes at Large, are hardbound publications that collect the acts and laws passed by the state or federal legislature. Session laws are collected chronologically and arranged by year, accumulating the statutes passed or modified in a given year.

The Session Laws will consist of many volumes, each volume representing the acts and laws passed by the legislature in a given legislative session.

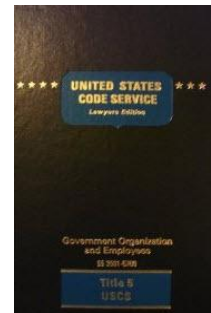
U.S.C.



U.S.C.A.



U.S.C.S.



§ 5.7 CITATION GUIDES

Citation Rules of Thumb

1. *Cite all parallel cites.*
2. *Cite the official publication first.*
3. *Italicize (or underline) the case title.*
4. *If the publication doesn't indicate what court decided the case, indicate the court in parentheses.*
5. *Cite the case in full the first time. Thereafter, indicate the title, use a signal, and cite the exact page on which the cite was found. For example: Smith v. Jones, id. at 393*

5a. *supra* means the case was fully cited somewhere above.

5b. *id.* means the case has been cited immediately above.

5c. *Infra* means the case is cited fully below.

6. *Indicate both the start of the case and the cited page (pinpoint citation). For example, when first citing the case use:*

Che v. Holt, 143 F.2d 235, 243 (4th Cir. 1970)

If you have already cited the case, but want to "pinpoint" to the exact page where the quotation you used came from, use:

Che, 143 F.2d at 243.

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CITATIONS AT-A-GLANCE

State (Region & Federal Circuit)	High Court Pub. (Court Abbrev.)	Court of Appeals Publication (Court Abbreviation)	Statutory Abbreviation
Alabama (So.) – 11 th Cir.	Ala.* (Ala.)	Ala. App.* (Ala. Civ. App.) (Ala. Crim. App.)	Ala. Code § x-x-x (year)
Alaska (P.) – 9 th Cir.	P.2d, P.3d (Alaska)	P.2d, P.3d (Alaska Ct. App.)	Alaska Stat. § x-x-x (year)
Arizona (P.) – 9 th Cir.	Ariz. (Ariz.)	Ariz. App. (Ariz. Ct. App.)	Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § x-x (year)
Arkansas (S.W.) – 8 th Cir.	Ark. (Ark.)	Ark. App. (Ark. Ct. App.)	Ark. Code Ann. § x-x-x (year)
California (P.) – 9 th Cir.	Cal. (Cal.)	Cal. App. & Cal. Rptr. (Cal. Ct. App.)	Cal. (Subject) Code § x (Pub. year)
Colorado (P.) – 10 th Cir.	Colo.* (Colo.)	Colo. App.* (Colo. Ct. App.)	Colo. Rev. Stat. § x-x-x (year)
Connecticut (A.) – 2 nd Cir.	Conn. (Conn.)	Conn. App. (Conn. App. Ct.)	Conn. Gen. Stat. § x (year)
Delaware (A.) – 3 rd Cir.	Del.* (Del.)	Del. Ch.* (Del. Ch.)	Del. Code Ann. tit. X, § x (year)
District of Columbia (A.) – D.C. Cir.	-----	A.2d (D.C.)	D.C. Code § x-x (year)
Florida (So.) – 11 th Cir.	Fla.* (Fla.)	So. 2d (Fla. Dist. Ct. App.)	Fla. Stat. § x-x (year)
Georgia (S.E.) – 11 th Cir.	Ga. (Ga.)	Ga. App. (Ga. Ct. App.)	Ga. Code Ann. § x-x-x (year)
Hawaii (P.) – 9 th Cir.	Haw. (Haw.)	Haw. App. (Haw.)	Haw. Rev. Stat. § x (year)
Idaho (P.) – 9 th Cir.	Idaho (Idaho)	Idaho (Idaho Ct. App.)	Idaho Code Ann. § x-x-x (year)
Illinois (N.E.) – 7 th Cir.	Ill. (Ill.)	Ill. App. (Ill. App. Ct.)	Ill. Comp. Stat. x/x-x (year)
Indiana (N.E.) – 7 th Cir.	Ind.* (Ind.)	Ind. App.* (Ind. Ct. App.)	Ind. Code § x-x-x-x (year)
Iowa (N.W.) – 8 th Cir.	Iowa* (Iowa)	N.W.2d (Iowa Ct. App.)	Iowa Code § x-x (year)
Kansas (P.) – 10 th Cir.	Kan. (Kan.)	Kan. App. (Kan. Ct. App.)	Kan. Stat. Ann. § x-x (year)
Kentucky (S.W.) – 6 th Cir.	Ky.* (Ky.)	Ky. App.* (Ky. Ct. App.)	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § x:x (year)
Louisiana (So.) – 5 th Cir.	La.* (La.)	La. App.* (La. Ct. App.)	La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § x (year)
Maine (N.E.) – 1 st Cir.	Me.* (Me.)	-----No Court of Appeals-----	Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. X, § x (year)
Maryland (A.) – 4 th Cir.	Md. (Md.)	Md. App. (Md. Ct. Spec. App.)	Md. Code Ann., (Subject) § x-x (Pub. year)
Massachusetts (N.E.) – 1 st Cir.	Mass. (Mass.)	Mass. App. (Mass. App. Ct.)	Mass. Gen. Laws ch. X, § x (year)
Michigan (N.W.) – 6 th Cir.	Mich. (Mich.)	Mich. App. (Mich. Ct. App.)	Mich. Comp. Laws § x-x (year)
Minnesota (N.W.) – 8 th Cir.	Minn.* (Minn.)	N.W.2d (Minn. Ct. App.)	Minn. Stat. § x.x (year)
Mississippi (So.) – 5 th Cir.	Miss.* (Miss.)	So. 2d (Miss. Ct. App.)	Miss. Code Ann. § x-x-x (year)
Missouri (S.W.) – 8 th Cir.	Mo.* (Mo.)	Mo. App.* (Mo. Ct. App.)	Mo. Rev. Stat. § x.x (year)
Montana (P.) – 9 th Cir.	Mont. (Mont.)	-----No Court of Appeals-----	Mont. Code Ann. § x-x-x (year)
Nebraska (N.W.) – 8 th Cir.	Neb. (Neb.)	Neb. App. (Neb. Ct. App.)	Neb. Rev. Stat. § x-x (year)
Nevada (P.) – 9 th Cir.	Nev. (Nev.)	-----No Court of Appeals-----	Nev. Rev. Stat. § x.x (year)
New Hampshire (A.) – 1 st Cir.	N.H. (N.H.)	No Court of Appeals	N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § x:x (year)
New Jersey (A.) – 3 rd Cir.	N.J. (N.J.)	N.J. Super. (N.J. Super. Ct. App. Div.)	N.J. Rev. Stat. § x:x (year)
New Mexico (P.) – 10 th Cir.	N.M. (N.M.)	N.M. (N.M. Ct. App.)	N.M. Stat. § x-x-x (year)
New York (N.E.) – 2 nd Cir.	N.Y. (N.Y.)	A.D. (N.Y. App. Div.)	N.Y. (Subject) Law § x (Pub. year)
North Carolina (S.E.) – 4 th Cir.	N.C. (N.C.)	N.C. App. (N.C. Ct. App.)	N.C. Gen. Stat. § x-x (year)
North Dakota (N.W.) – 8 th Cir.	N.D.* (N.W.)	N.W.2d (N.D. Ct. App.)	N.D. Cent. Code § x-x-x (year)
Ohio (N.E.) – 6 th Cir.	Ohio (Ohio)	Ohio App. (Ohio Ct. App.)	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § x.x (Pub. year)
Oklahoma (P.) – 10 th Cir.	Okla.* (Okla.)	P.2d or P.3d (Okla. Civ. App.) (Okla. Crim. App.)	Okla. Stat. tit. X, § x (year)
Oregon (P.) – 9 th Cir.	Or. (Or.)	Or. App. (Or. Ct. App.)	Or. Rev. Stat. § x.x (year)
Pennsylvania (A.) – 3 rd Cir.	Pa.* (Pa.)	Pa. Super.* (Pa. Super. Ct.)	x Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § x (Pub. year)
Rhode Island (A.) – 1 st Cir.	R.I.* (R.I.)	-----No Court of Appeals-----	R.I. Gen. Laws § x-x-x (year)
South Carolina (S.E.) – 4 th Cir.	S.C. (S.C.)	S.C. (S.C. Ct. App.)	S.C. Code Ann. § x-x-x (year)
South Dakota (S.D.) – 8 th Cir.	S.D.* (S.D.)	-----No Court of Appeals-----	S.D. Codified Laws § x-x-x (year)
Tennessee (S.W.) – 6 th Cir.	Tenn.* (Tenn.)	Tenn. App.* (Tenn. Ct. App.) - Tenn. Crim.* (Tenn. Crim. App.)	Tenn. Code Ann. § x-x-x (year)
Texas (S.W.) – 5 th Cir.	Tex.* (Tex.)	S.W. (Tex. App.) (Tex. Civ. App.) (Tex. Ct. App.)	Tex. (Subject) Code Ann. § x (Pub. year)
Utah (P.) – 10 th Cir.	Utah* (Utah)	P.2d or P.3d (Utah Ct. App.)	Utah Code Ann. § x-x-x (year)
Vermont (A.) – 2 nd Cir.	Vt. (Vt.)	-----No Court of Appeals-----	Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. x, § x (year)
Virginia (S.E.) – 4 th Cir.	Va. (Va.)	Va. App. (Va. Ct. App.)	Va. Code Ann. tit. x-x (year)
Washington (P.) – 9 th Cir.	Wash. (Wash.)	Wash. App. (Wash. Ct. App.)	Wash. Rev. Code § x.x.x (year)
West Virginia (S.E.) – 4 th Cir.	W. Va. (W. Va.)	-----No Court of Appeals-----	W. Va. Code § x.x (year)
Wisconsin (N.W.) – 7 th Cir.	Wis. (Wis.)	Wis. (Wis. Ct. App.)	Wis. Stat. § x.x (year)
Wyoming (P.) – 10 th Cir.	Wyo.* (Wyo.)	-----No Court of Appeals-----	Wyo. Stat. Ann. § x-x-x (year)

* Indicates that the publication is no longer published. However, the volumes that were once published are generally still available.

State Cases Long Form:

State Cases Long Form (with court clarification):

State Cases Short Form (highest state court):

State Cases Short Form (court of appeals):

State State Statutes (Bluebook form and Common form):

Smith v. Jones, 245 N.C. 482, 574 S.E.2d 546 (1993)

Smith v. Jones, 245 Ala. App. 482, 574 So. 2d 546 (Ala. Crim. App. 1993)

Jones v. Smith, 425 P.2d 1140 (Colo. 1997)

Jones v. Smith, 385 P.2d 266 (Colo. Ct. App. 1995)

Colo. Rev. Stat. § 14-32-110(a)(3)(2010) or C.R.S. § 14-32-110(a)(3)(2010)

FEDERAL CITATION EXAMPLES

Smith v. Jones, 245 F. Supp. 546 (S.D. Tex. 1993)

Jones v. Smith, 425 F.2d 1140 (4th Cir. 1997)

Smith v. Jones, 98 U.S. 113, 213 S. Ct. 54, 306 L. Ed. 2d 734 (1999)

Federal Statutes: 42 U.S.C. § 1309 (2006)

Federal Register: 56 Fed. Reg. 38,489 (June 28, 1995)

Code of Federal Regulations: 50 C.F.R. pt. 84 (2010)

Citation Examples

U.S. Supreme Court cases (short form): *Smith v. Jones*, 119 U.S. 476 (1972)

U.S. Supreme Court cases (long form):

Smith v. Jones, 119 U.S. 476, 355 S. Ct. 932, 412 L. Ed. 2d 828 (1972)

U.S. Court of Appeals cases: *Jones v. Smith*, 365 F.2d 138 (4th Cir. 1971)

U.S. District Court cases: *Smith v. Jones*, 289 F. Supp. 726 (E.D.N.C. 1970)

Federal statutes (always cite the official): 26 U.S.C. § 1278 (2006)

State cases (long form): *Kite v. Mott*, 241 Colo. 524, 448 P.2d 814 (1979)

State cases (short form): *Jacks v. Morns*, 526 P.2d 694 (Colo. Ct. App. 1981)

State statutes: Colo. Rev. Stat. § 19-22-302 (1984)

Court rules: H.R.C.P. 30(a)(1)

