



## BLUEBOOK CITATIONS: A PRIMER

JM and LLM Students: You are REQUIRED to use the Bluebook form of citation when citing your sources in every assignment, including your discussion board threads and replies. The Bluebook is the most standardized form of citation used in the practice of law; however, it is not the only citation form. Some courts (and even specific judges) have developed their own citation requirements. You will be expected to use the Bluebook citation form in all of your JM and LLM courses. This primer walks a student through how to cite most of the source types that you will be using in your courses.

Bluebook Citation (General Information).

The Bluebook is divided into three major sections. The first section, the “blue pages,” is used by practitioners who are writing legal documents. For this course, you will spend most of your time using the “blue pages.” The second, the “white pages” is used in academic writing or when the “blue pages” are silent. The third section, the “tables section,” is utilized for finding specific ways to cite various statutes and courts. In addition, the authors have created a “Quick Reference” that can be found on the back, inside cover of the Bluebook.

Note: The 22nd edition of *The Bluebook*, released at the end of May 2025, is the most substantial change to legal citation in at least a decade and includes significant updates such as new rules for citing AI-generated content, tribal law, and clearer guidelines for digital sources. It also introduces new citation signals and allows for modified citations in cleaned-up quotations, enhancing usability for modern legal practices. Be sure to always refer to your Bluebook, 22<sup>nd</sup> Edition, for all citation formatting guidance.

### **ALL RULES UPDATE (22<sup>ND</sup> EDITION):**

Web-based resources now incorporate the new rule 18.2.1 (p. 185) that requires an archived version of the source as it existed at the time of citing to it. Such websites must either be preserved using an archival tool like perma.cc or be preserved in digital/physical form and be on file with either the author or the journal publishing the piece where the citation appears.

**DISCLAIMER:** This citation primer's sole purpose is to provide students with basic Bluebook citation requirements for general academic application. It is not meant to be an exhaustive citation resource. Students should refer to the Bluebook 22<sup>nd</sup> edition for further guidance.

## **BOOK CITATIONS: SECTION B15, P. 23**

Your Bluebook citation should look like this:

Linda H. Edwards, Legal Writing and Analysis 16 (4th ed. 2015).

When citing a book, start with the name of the author, then the title of the book, the page number where you can find the information you just cited, the edition of the book, and finally the date of the book's publication. Please note that the citation is not placed in parentheses.

A book citation should look like this:

“A trial court’s decision usually can be appealed to a higher court.” Linda H. Edwards, Legal Writing and Analysis 16 (4th ed. 2015).

Remember, all paraphrased content and direct quotes must be cited to the original source. In addition, note the placement of the citation – at the end of the sentence. Citations are placed directly in the body of the document, not at the end of the document in a reference section.

## **CASE CITATIONS: SECTION B10, P. 11**

*Jones v. Star Credit Corp.*, 298 N.Y.S.2d 264, 265 (Sup. Ct. 1969).

OR

Jones v. Star Credit Corp., 298 N.Y.S.2d 264, 265 (Sup. Ct. 1969).

When you cite a case, start with the last name of the first party. Then place a “v.” After the “v.” cite the name of the second party. After the second party, place a comma, then the reporter volume number. Following the reporter volume number, place the reporter abbreviation (see T1, starting on page 233, for reporter abbreviations). After the reporter abbreviation, place the first page of the case, followed by a comma, and the specific page referred to in the information cited. If it is not clear in what court the case was decided, then include the court abbreviation (T1). Finally, include the date of the decision.

## **LAW REVIEW ARTICLE CITATIONS: SECTION B16, P. 24**

Richard A. Posner, Goodbye to the Bluebook 53 U.Chi.L.Rev. 1343, 1345 (1986).

Always start with the full name of the author, followed by a comma. Then, cite the full name of the article (underlined or italicized), followed by a comma. Then, the volume number of the law review, followed by the abbreviation of the law review (see T13, starting on page 346). Then, the first page of the article, followed by a comma, then the specific page referred to in the information cited. Finally, the year of the publication of the article should be placed at the end in parentheses.

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## **BIBLE CITATIONS: SEE P. 162**

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." *John* 3:16 (King James).

Note that the books of the Bible are italicized or underlined. Also, please note that the Bible version is in parentheses.

## **INTERNET CITATIONS: SECTION B18, P. 28 (ALSO SEE RULE 18.2)**

Eric Posner, More on Section 7 of the Torture Convention, *The Volokh Conspiracy* (Jan. 29, 2009, 10:04 AM), <https://www.volokh.com/posts/1233241458.html>

The author's name, then the title of the specific page of the website (underlined OR italicized), then the title of the main page of the website, the date and time the website was last updated, and the URL (make sure to remove the hyperlink, blue font, and underlining of the live URL). Be sure to also apply the additional 22<sup>nd</sup> Edition requirements: Rule 18.2 (perma.cc **or** on file with author).

### **B5.3: See p. 9, Modifying Quotations and Citations for Clarity**

"[A]nd 'on the merits' adjudication is" understood as "one that actually 'pass[es] directly on the substance of [a particular] claim' before the court." Semtek Int'l Inc. v. Lockheed Martin Corp., 531 U.S. 497, 501–02 (2001) (alteration in original) (quoting Restatement (Second) of Judgments § 19 cmt. a (A.L.I. 1982)).

Now becomes:

"And on the merits adjudication is" understood as "one that actually passes directly on the substance of a particular claim before the court." Semtek Int'l Inc. v. Lockheed Martin Corp., 531 U.S. 497, 501–02 (2001) (citation modified).

## **RULE 18: THE INTERNET, ELECTRONIC MEDIA, AND OTHER NONPRINT RESOURCES, SEE P. 181, AND RULE 18.3 – AI-GENERATED CONTENT, SEE P. 191. (NOTE: THE ARCHIVE MANDATE APPLIES)**

Refer to Rule 18 for all basic citation forms. Note that all digital/physical content must be preserved and on file with the author. The author must produce this content on demand/request by a judge (or professor).

For AI large language model use, citations must include prompt authors, model names, exact text of the prompt, dates, and where the outputs are stored by the author as PDFs. Refer to Rule 18.3 for all basic citation forms.

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## **APPLYING UNDERLINING OR *ITALICS*:**

One of the hallmarks of excellent Bluebook application is consistency with formatting. You will notice that the Bluebook method sometimes applies underlining, while at other times applies italics. These formats are interchangeable – you may underline or italicize. However, be consistent with your citation format application throughout each assignment. One or the other, but NEVER both.

## **BLUEBOOK: SHORT CITATIONS**

Every sentence that contains information from a source (directly quoted or paraphrased) must be followed by an appropriately formatted Bluebook citation. For ease of use for both writer and reader, be sure to apply short citations as required for Bluebook.

If you are going to cite the same case that you cited in the previous sentence, simply use the Id. (translates – same place). Example of how to properly apply the Id. –

Sandra Derby, married to George Derby, filed a divorce petition alleging cruelty, but George alleged that Sandra committed adultery. Derby v. Derby, 378 S.E.2d 74 (Va. Ct. App. 1989). After making a post-separation agreement, the court examined the agreement to determine if the agreement was unconscionable. Id.

However, when citing to a different case, then use the short form. Example of how to properly use the short form: Sandra Derby, married to George Derby, filed a divorce petition alleging cruelty, but George alleged that Sandra committed adultery. Derby v. Derby, 378 S.E.2d 74 (Va. Ct. App. 1989). After making a post-separation agreement, the court examined the agreement to determine if the agreement was unconscionable. Id. However, in Jones, the plaintiffs were a married couple who purchased a freezer. Jones, 298 N.Y.S.2d at 264. The cost of the freezer was nearly three times the value. Id. However, in Derby, the issue was whether or not the divorce agreement was unconscionable. Derby, 378 S.E.2d at 74.

Finally, remember that when you are using either the short form or Id., it is necessary to indicate page number changes. For example, Sandra Derby, married to George Derby, filed a divorce petition alleging cruelty, but George alleged adultery by Sandra. Derby v. Derby, 378 S.E.2d 74 (Va. Ct. App. 1989). After making a post-separation agreement, the court examined the agreement to determine if the agreement was unconscionable. Id. The court developed a two-prong test to determine unconscionability. Id. at 76.

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