

Sample Bluebook Citations

[internal links]

Citing Codes

Citing Cases

Citing Secondary Sources

Citing Codes

You must cite to a print version of a code, unless the statute does not yet appear in print. T.1 in the Bluebook can tell you which version of a code to cite, if there are multiple versions. If you do not have access to the approved code, or if the statute does not yet appear in the approved code, it may be appropriate to cite to another version of the code.

Sample citations to the *United States Code*:

- (1) 10 U.S.C. § 1050 (2000)
- (2) 12 U.S.C. § 863(b) (2000 & Supp. IV 2004)
- (3) 18 U.S.C. § 34 (Supp. II 2006)
- (4) 28 U.S.C.A. § 1404(a) (West 2007)
- (5) 42 U.S.C.S. § 88a (LexisNexis Supp. 2007).

The date and publisher are what trip most people up. Keep in mind that you are telling your reader which volumes to check to find the text of the statute you are citing. So, in example 1, the statute is found entirely in the main volume of the code, which was published in 2000. In example 2, part of the statute was amended after publication of the main volume, and the newly amended part can be found in the volume IV code supplement published in 2004. Therefore the reader needs to look in both the main 2000 volume of the code and the vol. IV supplement from 2004. In example 3, the statute was either completely amended, or newly enacted, and can only be found in the vol. II supplement from 2006.

Incidentally, the date that goes in the parenthetical is the date on the spine of the book – NOT the date the statute was enacted. If there is no date on the spine of the book, look for a date on the title page of the volume. If you still cannot find a date, look at the copyright date of the volume.

In example 4, presumably someone is citing to the *United States Code Annotated* (published by West) because the statute was recently passed and does not yet appear in the *United States Code*. In example 5, the writer is citing to the supplement of the *United States Code Service* because the law does not yet appear in the *United States Code*. The annotated versions of the code publish their supplements in pocket parts, so there is no need to tell the reader which supplemental volume to look in (“Supp. II” or “Supp. IV”) as you do with the unannotated, official version of the code.

Sample citations to the *Tennessee Code Annotated*:

- (1) Tenn. Code Ann. § 31-2-101 (2004)

(2) Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 39-5-501 to -504 (West 2007).

The first example shows a citation to a single section in the official version of the code, which is published by LexisNexis. Because it is the official version (which you learn in T.1 of the Bluebook), you do not need to include the name of the publisher in the parenthetical. In the second example, the writer is citing multiple consecutive code sections from the unofficial version of the code, published by West. Presumably the writer is citing the West version because the LexisNexis (official) version does not yet include this statute. You can find more information about the proper way to cite multiple code sections at page 62 of your Bluebook.

You can learn about short forms for statutory citation at page 113 of your Bluebook. (back to the top)

Citing Cases

Sobieski v. Cook, 556 S.W.2d 701 (Tenn. 1999).

Tennessee Supreme Court case.

Boeing v. Airbus, 276 P.3d 56, 58-60 (Wash. Ct. App. 2004).

Washington Court of Appeals case with pinpoint cite.

Check Bluebook T.1 for appropriate reporter and parenthetical information for each state.

King v. Parker, 98 F.3d 589 (6th Cir. 2001).

Case from the federal Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Note “6th” rather than “6th”. Check Bluebook page 74 for more information on correct format of ordinal numbers.

Tatiana v. Sousa, 489 U.S. 61, 68 (2004)

Citation with a pinpoint cite to a United States Supreme Court case.

Citing Secondary Sources

Jeffrey M. Hirsch, *Taking State Property Rights Out of Federal Labor Law*, 47 B.C. L. Rev. 891, 894 (2006).

Consecutively-paginated journal with pinpoint cite. Note that words in the article title are not abbreviated and author’s full name is provided. Check Bluebook T.13 for proper abbreviation of law journal title (or words in law journal title).

Jennifer R. Knight, Comment, *Copyright Misuse vs. Freedom of Contract: And the Winner Is . . .*, 73 Tenn. L. Rev. 237 (2006).

Student written-work, no pinpoint cite.

Stephanie Ball, *Telling A State Statute’s Story – Crafting a Legislative History is a Challenging But Important Research Request*, AALL Spectrum, Sept.-Oct. 2006, at 12, 13.

Article in a nonconsecutively paginated journal.

David E. Rigney, Annotation, *Propriety of Lesser-Included Offense Charge to Jury in Federal Homicide Prosecution*, 101 A.L.R. Fed. 615 (1991).

Annotation from the *American Law Reports* (ALR's).

Reba A. Best, *Identity Theft: A Legal Research Guide* 23 (2004).

Single-author work. Note that publication information does not include publisher or location of publisher. See Rule 15.4 for more information.

5 Joseph G. Cook & John L. Sobieski, *Civil Rights Actions* § 43.2 (2d ed. 2005).

Multi-volume set of books with more than one author.

42 Am. Jur. 2d *Fraud* § 107 (2004).

12 C.J.S. *Aliens and Immigration* § 53 (2002).