

Pace University

DigitalCommons@Pace

Pace Law Faculty Publications

School of Law

2017

Basic Bluebooking in Legal Documents

Cynthia Pittson

Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.pace.edu/lawfaculty>



Part of the [Legal Education Commons](#), and the [Legal Writing and Research Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Cynthia Pittson, Basic Bluebooking in Legal Documents, Pace Law Faculty Publications (2017), <http://digitalcommons.pace.edu/lawfaculty/1054/>.

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the School of Law at DigitalCommons@Pace. It has been accepted for inclusion in Pace Law Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Pace. For more information, please contact dheller2@law.pace.edu.

Basic Bluebooking—Case Law in Legal Documents

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 (20th) edition of the Bluebook was published in May 2015.

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. Party names may be underlined or *italicized*.

| 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 (p94+) T.1.1 (p233) | <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 (p94+) T.1.1 (p234) | <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) (p13) R10 (p94+) T.1.1 (p235) | <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 (p94+) T1.3 (p279) | <i>Parties</i> , volume case reporter first page (state year) | <i>Kenford Co. v. Cty. of Erie</i> , 537 N.E.2d 176 (N.Y. 1989). |
| NY Appellate Division* | B10.1.3(v) (p14) R10 (p94+) T1.3 (p280) | <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 (p94+) T1.3 (p280) | <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 (p94+) T1.3 (p280) | <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 (p102) T.1.3 (p279) | <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) (p13) R10.3 (p102+) T.1.3 (p248+) | <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 (p102+) T.1.3 (p248+) | <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.

Turn over for short form citation examples

Basic Bluebooking—Short Forms for Case Law

When citing the immediately preceding citation citing 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 (p16-17) R10.9 (p115+) T.1.1 (p233) | <i>One party name</i> , volume case reporter at page | <i>Stansbury</i> , 511 U.S. at 325. |
| Federal courts of appeals | B10.2 (p16-17) R10.9 (p115+) T.1.1 (p234) | <i>One party name</i> , volume case reporter at page | <i>Campa</i> , 529 F.3d at 985. |
| Federal district courts | B10.2 (p16-17) R10.9 (p115+) T.1.1 (p235) | <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 (p16-17) R10.9 (p115+) T1.3 (p279) | <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 (p16-17) R10.9 (p115+) T1.3 (p280) | <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 (p16-17) R10.9 (p115+) T1.3 (p280) | <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 (p16-17) R10.9 (p115+) T1.3 (p280) | <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 (p16-17) R10.9 (p115+) T.1.3 (p280) | <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 (p16-17) R10.9 (p115+) T.1.3 (p248+) | <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 (p16-17) R10.9 (p115+) T.1.3 (p248+) | <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—either the year on the spine or the copyright year. The current (20th) edition of the Bluebook was published in May 2015.

| Source | Relevant Bluebook rules | Basic citation | Example (includes proper typeface) |
|--|---|--|---|
| United States Constitution | B11 (p17) 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 (p236) | Title number Abbreviated name of code § section (publisher if not official U.S.C. year) | 42 U.S.C. § 1983 (2012). 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 (p236) | 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 part or supplement) | 12.3.1(e) (p124) T.1.1 (p236) | 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 (p125-26) T.1.1 (p236) | Name of law, Public law no., 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, 106 Stat. 1992. |
| N.Y. statutes—codes | B12.1.2 (p19) 12 (p111+) T.1.3 (p280-83) | 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 (p111+) 12.3.1(e) (p124) T.1.3 (p280-83) | 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 and pocket part or supplement) | 12 (p111+) 12.3.1(e) (p124) T.1.3 (p280-83) | 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 (p125-26) 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. |

* Practice commentaries are cited according to the New York Official Reports Style Manual, available at http://www.nycourts.gov/reporter/New_Styman.htm

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 (p17) 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 | B12.2 (p20-21) 12.10 (p133-34) T.1.1 (p236) | 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 (p236) | 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 (p236) | 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 (p236) | Name of law, Public law no., Statutes at Large citation at page | Health Professions Education Extension Amendments of 1992, 106 Stat. at 1998-99. |
| N.Y. statutes—codes | 12.10 (p133-34) T.1.3 (p280-83) | Subject § section | Penal § 120.05. |
| N.Y. statutes—codes (citing pocket part or supplement) | 12.10 (p133-34) T.1.3 (p280-83) | 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 (p80-83) | Subject § section | Penal § 120.05. |
| New York statutes—session laws | 12.10 (p133-34) T.1.3 (p283) | 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.

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 (20th) edition of the Bluebook was published in May 2015.

The inside back cover of the Bluebook has examples of citation for legal documents. The Bluepages (pages 3-56) 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, Lexis, and Bloomberg Law 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 (p149+) | 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 (p149+) | 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 (p162) T.13 (p510+) T.10 (p502+) | 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 (p168) | 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 (p24) 15.8(a) (p155) | 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 (p24) 15.8(a) (p155) | <i>Term defined</i> , <i>Black's Law Dictionary</i> (edition year). | <i>Estoppel</i> , <i>Black's Law Dictionary</i> (10th ed. 2014). |
| Corpus Juris Secundum (CJS) | B15.1 (p23) 15.8(a) (p155) | 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 (p163-64) 16.6(f) (p164) T.13 (p510+) T.10 (p502+) | 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), http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/30/opinion/30Greenhouse.html . |

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 (p157) | 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 (p80-81) 15.10 (p157) | 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 (p80-81) 16.9 (p170-71) T.13 (p510+) T.10 (p502+) | Author(s) last name(s), <i>supra</i> , at page. | Reich, <i>supra</i> , at 767. |
| American Law Reports (ALR) | 16.7.6 (p168) | 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 (p157) | Am. Jur. 2d, <i>supra</i> , § section. | Am. Jur. 2d, <i>supra</i> , § 7. |
| Black's Law Dictionary | B15.2 (p23) 15.10 (p157) | <i>Black's, supra.</i> | <i>Black's, supra.</i> |
| Corpus Juris Secundum (CJS) | B15.2 (p23) 15.10 (p157) | C.J.S., <i>supra</i> , § section. | C.J.S., <i>supra</i> , § 324. |
| Newspapers | B16.2 (p24) 16.9 (p170-71) T.13 (p510+) T.10 (p502+) | Author(s) last name(s), <i>supra</i> , at page. | Greenhouse, <i>supra</i> , at A22. Greenhouse, <i>supra</i> . |