Thurgood Law Library

Brown Bag Sessions

February 17, 2022 at 12 PM - Bluebook Review
Meeting ID: 880 5706 5442 Password: 049431

Presented by Law Library Staff

Nanette Collins, Reference Librarian & Legal Research Instructor
Tara Long, Appointed Director & Lawyering Process Instructor
Law Library General Information
Hours & Contact Info

**LAW LIBRARY HOURS (School Year)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Regular Hours</th>
<th>Reference Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday – Friday</td>
<td>7:30 a.m. – 9 p.m.</td>
<td>8 a.m. – 5 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>9 a.m. - 9 p.m.</td>
<td>9 a.m. - 2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>12 p.m. – 9 p.m.</td>
<td>12 p.m. – 4 p.m.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Library hours change and are reduced or extended for holidays and certain times of the year. Please check the Library Facebook page and Circulation Desk for updates.

Circulation Desk: (713) 313-7125
Reference Desk: (713) 313-1108

TMSL Library Remote Assistance
Ø Help by Phone
Call 713-313-7125; 713-313-1108
*Responses to messages within 2 business days.

Ø Assistance by Email.
Send your requests to lawlibraryhelp@tmslaw.tsu.edu
Responses within 2 business days

Ø Microsoft Teams
Law Library Reference Assistance
# Library Staff

**Tara N. Long**  
Director & Faculty Research Librarian

**Patrina Epperson-Emmanuel**  
Circulation Librarian

**Nanette Collins**  
Reference Librarian

**Daniel Samford**  
Systems Librarian

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library Support Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denise Cebrun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cataloging Clerk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Muldrew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mail Clerk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Library Services

- Faculty Services
- Circulation/Borrowing Materials
- Reference/Research Assistance
- Interlibrary Loan
- Instructional Programs
- Special Collections
- Study Rooms/ Quiet Study
- Printing
- Scanner
AN INTRODUCTION TO CITING CASES ACCORDING TO

THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW LIBRARY
SPRING 2022
The Bad News

• You do not need to memorize the Bluebook rules
  • You can always refer to the Bluebook

• Some citation forms are used so often that you will ultimately remember the correct format without referring to the Bluebook

The Good News

• Bluebook rules are nitpicky in the extreme
  • Example: The Bluebook instructs you to underline or italicize the entire case name up to but not including the comma that follows the case name, see p. 12, Bluepages Tip, B10.1.1(v)

• Using Bluebook citation form correctly requires a high degree of attention to detail

• Putting citations in proper Bluebook form takes more time than you might expect
Did you know that Attorneys cite more than most? We use Bluebook to cite.

WRITING A CITATION

A CITATION IS:

➢ A reference to a source from which an author derives their information.
➢ Attribution of unoriginal work to the correct source.

A CITATION IN THE LAW IS:

➢ A reference to a legal authority such as a case, statute, rule.
➢ A reference to a document in support of your argument.
A GOOD CITATION INCLUDES:

1. A verifiable reference.
   - It should be easy for others to find your authorities.

2. The use of standardized and consistent format.

3. All information necessary to determine the weight of the authority.

Would you cite dogster in a law school paper? Why?

Would you cite wikipedia in a law school paper? Why?
The blue pages contain citation forms for court documents and legal memoranda. The white pages contain citation forms for law journal footnotes and detailed rules on citation and style.

### ORGANIZATION OF THE BLUEBOOK:

- Condensed Table of Contents (outside back cover)
- Quick References are inside the book.
  - Academics – front of book
  - Practitioners – back of book
- Bluepages are light blue
  - B1 to B21
  - BT1 to BT2
- Citation Rules are the white pages in the middle.
  - General rules: R1 to R9
  - Resource specific rules: R10 to R21
- Tables & Abbreviations are dark blue
  - T1 to T16
- Index is made up of the white pages in the back.

*A Citation Sentence needs the same structure as any other sentence:*

- Punctuation and spacing is mandatory.
- Sentences start with a capital letter and end with a period.

In *Employer v. Employee*, 123 P.2d 456, 458 (Mont. 1985), the court held that false imprisonment is willful detention of another without that person’s consent.
3 COMPONENTS OF BASIC CASE CITATION

1: Case Names

Rule 10.2
&
B10.1.1

2: Published source of the case

This refers to where to find the case.

Rule 10.3
&
B10.1.2

Sometimes called the address of the case.

3: Parenthetical Information

This refers to the Court and year of decision.

✓ Court – Rule 10.4 & B10.1.3
✓ Courts Geographical Location – Rule 10.4 & B10.1.3
✓ Year the case was decided – Rule 10.5 & B10.1.3

The citation may be followed by other parenthetical information, such as subsequent history of the case.
The case name can be in *italics* or *underlined*.

**CASE CITATION EXAMPLE:**

Am. Geophysical Union v. Texaco, Inc., 60 F.3d 913, 915 (2d Cir. 1994)

**KNOW THE CITATION STRUCTURE**

1. Case Name
2. Published Source of the Case
3. Parenthetical Information
WRITING CASE NAMES

**Italicize or underline**

B2 & Rule 2

Usually X v. Y format where X is the plaintiff, petitioner, appellant, etc. and Y is the defendant, respondent, appellee (but check local rules)

**Abbreviating B6, B10, Rule 6, 10 & T6**

In citation sentence (citation is after your sentence) abbreviate all possible words (even first) per T6 except geographical names of parties (B10.1.1(v) & Rule 10.2.2).
- Fed. Sav. & Loan v. Smith, 117 S.W.2d 54 (Tenn. 1999).

In a citation clause (a citation in the middle of a sentence) abbreviate only words from B10.1.1(vi).
- Federal Savings & Loan v. Smith, 117 S.W.2d 54 (Tenn. 1999).
CASE NAMES
TO ABBREVIATE OR NOT TO ABBREVIATE

DO
ABBREVIATE

DON’T
ABBREVIATE

➢ Words listed on T6
➢ Widely known acronyms such as:
  ➢ NAACP, NLRB, AARP, CIA (Rule 6.1b, B10.1.1(v) and 10.2.1c)
  ➢ 8 words listed in B10.1.1(vi) & Rule 10.2.1c such as “Co.” “&” “No.”
➢ Any Geographical Unit listed in T10 unless the unit is a named party (B10.1.1(v) & Rule 10.2.2)

➢ States, countries and geographical units listed in T10 when named as a party to the lawsuit
  ➢ Ex: City of Houston v. . . . .
➢ For Case Names in Textual Sentences, See B10.1.1(vi) on Page 12.
➢ “United States” when it is a party to the Lawsuit. Rule B10.1.1(v)
Omissions from Case Names

B10.1.1(i) – (iv)
Rule 10.2.1(a) & (b)

- Alternative names
  - D/B/A or A/K/A
- References to multiple parties such as “et al”
- All procedural phrases except the first which is abbreviated to “ex rel.” or “in re” (note the period)
- Duplication in business designation
  - Don’t use “Co. and Inc.” or “Ltd. and Corp.”
    1. Jones, Inc.

Geographical Terms

- Omit “of America” in United States of America:
- Omit “State of,” “Commonwealth of,” or “People of”
  - BUT, if you are in a state court and that state is a party, then drop its name:
    2. State v. Spears, 517 S.W.2d 190 (Tex. 1950).

Rule 10.2.1(d) – (f)

- “the” as the first word in a party’s name
- Descriptive terms such as “plaintiff” or “trustee”
Case Located in a Published Source

• This usually refers to a book called a case reporter (because it reports cases).
• How to find the case:

  Party1 v. Party2, 123 F.2d 456 (Court + date).

  • Volume #  Abbreviated Book Name  Page #

• It can also be a reference to an electronic location:
• Example of an electronic reference:


Published Source / Book Names
B10.1.2 & Rule 10.3

• Federal Supreme Court Cases are in:
  U.S. or S. Ct. or L.E. or U.S.L.W.
  i. Cite in this order of preference
     ii. Do not use parallels

• Federal Court of Appeals cases are in:
  F., F.2d or F.3d
  i. ALWAYS use legal ordinals, not 2nd or 3rd

• Federal District Court cases are in:
  F. Supp., F. Supp. 2d or F. Supp. 3d

• State cases are in specific reporters as well.
**SPACING**

B6 & Rule 6

- Close up all adjacent single capital letters
  - N.W.
  - S.D.N.Y.

- Do not close up single capital letters with longer abbreviations
  - D. Mass.
  - F. Supp.

- Ordinals are treated like single capitals (no space)
  - F.3d
  - S.E.2d
  - A.L.R.4th

**PARALLEL CITES**

Rule 10.1.3(v)

A parallel cite can occur when the same case is published in two or more books.

- Federal Cases: Do not parallel cite
- State Cases: Use parallel cites when a state’s Local Rules require them – B10.1.3


[Official Site Reporter](#)  [Unofficial Regional Reporter]
Focus on PAGE NUMBERS

PINPOINT

Use a pinpoint whenever possible when citing material from a specific page.

Ex: 231 Mont. 73, 79

FIRST PAGE

What to do when the information came from the first page.

Ex: 231 Mont. 73, 73

PAGE SPANS

If numbers consist of three or more digits, drop any repetition, other than the final two digits.

Ex: 100 – 06
Ex: 1979 – 87
Component 3: Parenthetical Information

On October 11, 1981 the 11th Cir. was split out of the 5th Cir. Rule 10.8.2

PARENTHETICAL INFORMATION

COURT JURISDICTION

FEDERAL COURTS

Supreme Court
Do not include name of deciding court (1999).

Court of Appeals (13)
Eleven by number, two by name:
(7th Cir. 1999) or
(D.C. Cir. 1999) or
(Fed. Cir. 1999)

District Court (94)
District and state
(E.D. Tenn. 1999)
See BT2
**PARENTHELICAL INFORMATION**

**COURT JURISDICTION**

**STATE COURTS**

Include the name of the State abbreviated according to T1. (S.C. Ct. App. 1999).

Include the year the case was decided. (N.Y. App. Div. 1987).

Include the name of the court abbreviated according to T1. (Tex. Crim. App. 2005).
SHORT FORM CITATIONS

• The first time you cite to a case, use its full citation
• Thereafter, use one of these forms of short cites:
  • United States v. Chandler, 414 U.S. at 343
  • Chandler, 414 U.S. at 343
  • 414 U.S. at 343
  • Id. at 343
  • Typically, use the first party’s name in a short form citation, but do not use United States as a short form

• Use Id. only if there are no intervening cases
• Ex: The court affirmed the judgment. Smith v. Wells, 42 So. 2d 832 (Fla. 1999). The plaintiffs were awarded $10,000. Id. at 833.
• Note that the period after Id. is underlined

• See:
  • Rule B10.2
  • Rule 10.9

It’s all in the details. Pay attention to format. Every detail is important.
SHORT FORM EXAMPLES


• Short citation where there are intervening citations: Foster, 24 F. Supp. 2d at 874.

• Short citation where there are no intervening citations, and the pincite referenced is different from the preceding citation: Id. at 876.

• Short citation where there are no intervening citations, and the pincite referenced is the same as the preceding citation: Id.
SHORT FORM FOR UNREPORTED CASES

• Rule 10.9(a)(ii)

• For cases only on Westlaw or Lexis, use the unique database identifier in the short form.

• Lexis Example


• Westlaw Example:

  • Short form: Kvass, 1991 WL 47632, at *3.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Court</th>
<th>Reporter(s)</th>
<th>Reporter Abbreviation</th>
<th>Parenthetical Information</th>
<th>Sample Citation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Supreme Court Reporter</td>
<td>S. Ct.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cite to U.S. because its official.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Supreme Court Reporter, Lawyer’s Edition</td>
<td>L. Ed. Or</td>
<td>Anything else is redundant</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>L. Ed. 2d</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>United States Law Week</td>
<td>U.S.L.W.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Court of Appeals</td>
<td>Federal Reporter</td>
<td>F.</td>
<td>Court name:</td>
<td>Bloch v. Ribar, 156 F.3d 673 (6th Cir. 1998).</td>
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<td>F.2d</td>
<td>- 11 by Number</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Eastern District of Missouri)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>F. Supp 3d</td>
<td>Year</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
CITING CURRENT TEXAS STATUTES

- **Rule B12.1.2 of the Bluebook**

- Texas is re-codifying its statutes into subject matter codes but the recodification is not complete. Cite some laws to their individual codes and some to the Vernon’s Texas Civil Statutes Annotated.

- The abbreviations for the statutes and codes of Texas can be found in T3 on page 288.

- A citation includes 1) the abbreviated name of the code 2) the cited section number 3) the year and publisher of the code.

- **Examples**
CITING A FEDERAL STATUTE

- Refer to Bluebook Rule 12 and B12 for citing statutes
- Citing the Official Code is Preferable (Bluebook p. 120)
- A citation of an official or unofficial code includes
  - 1) the title number
  - 2) the abbreviated name of the code
  - 3) the section symbol and section number
  - 4) the publisher for codes published by non-governmental agencies

**EXAMPLES:**
THINGS TO REMEMBER
WHEN CITING

Avoid These Common Mistakes

1. Make sure you include a pinpoint citation if you are citing a specific section of the case.

2. Do not copy citations from databases or the reporter. They do not have to follow (21th ed.) Bluebook Rules.

3. The comma after the case name is not italicized or underlined.
It is also important for you to learn how to cite so you can read a citation. It is important to know the court, jurisdiction and date of a case.

➢ As every law student knows, putting citations in Bluebook format is a hassle. If you are not using a citation manager to insert your citations into your paper in Bluebook format, you can get some help from Westlaw, Lexis Advance, and other websites. **However, none of these services or websites work perfectly, so you still have to double-check all citations.**

➢ Lastly, citation services may not cover local citing rules required by some jurisdictions, such as Texas, so you will still have to check the Bluebook and local citing rules to cite correctly.

➢ When you are in private practice, you may not have access to Lexis or Westlaw.
Questions?

Reference Hours
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Saturday (9:00 AM – 2:00 PM)
Sunday (12:00 PM – 4:00 PM)

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- Email: lawlibraryhelp@tmslaw.tsu.edu
- Chat in Microsoft Teams - Law Library Reference Assistance
- Zoom meeting request by setting up an appointment; call (713) 313-7125

Please fill out the evaluation survey after this presentation.