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# The Bluebook<sup>®</sup>

## A Uniform System of Citation

### 21st Edition

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For nearly 95 years, law students, lawyers, scholars, judges, and other legal professionals have relied on *The Bluebook's* unique system of citation. Compiled by the *Harvard Law Review Association*, the *Columbia Law Review*, the *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*, and the *Yale Law Journal*, *The Bluebook* remains the most widely used legal citation system in the United States. Today, it governs the style and formatting of various references and elements of a legal publication, including capitalization, italicization, quotations, abbreviations, and more.

The newest edition retains the same basic approach to legal citation established by its predecessors, though the layout has been updated to make the information easier to access. Some citation forms have been expanded, elaborated upon, or modified from previous editions to reflect the ever-expanding range of authorities used in legal writing and to respond to suggestions from the community.

***The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation, 21st Edition\****

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# Noteworthy Changes in the 21st Edition

## THE BLUEPAGES

- **B6** now provides practitioners with the option of closing up abbreviations in reporter names to conserve the number of words used in court documents.
- **Bluetable BT2** has been updated to reflect the current local citation rules in federal and state courts.

## THE WHITEPAGES

- **Rule 1.4** no longer dictates an order of authorities within a signal. Instead, authorities should be ordered in a logical manner, with more relevant sources preceding less relevant sources.
- **Rule 1.5(b)** has been revised to clarify the placement of “hereinafter” and “last visited” parentheticals in citations to internet sources.
- **Rule 3.3(d)** has been added to govern citation to “flush” language and examples, such as those found in Treasury Regulations.
- **Rule 9(a)** has been revised to clarify the use of first names for judges.
- **Rule 10.6.2** was added to bring *The Bluebook* into conformity with current U.S. Supreme Court practice regarding citations to stay or bail applications ruled on by a single justice.
- **Rule 10.8.1(a)** provides clearer guidance on citing to case docket numbers.
- **Rule 12.3** has been changed to require citation to the official federal code “if available,” rather than “whenever possible.” This change is intended to facilitate citation to unofficial codes in online databases.
- **Rule 12.3.2** no longer requires a date in citations to the federal code, whether official or unofficial.
- For state sources of law, **Rule 12.5(b)** now allows citation to online sources for official state and municipal statutes and ordinances *whenever* available online, rather than when *only* available online.
- **Rule 17.2.2** was updated to better cite modern dissertations and theses.
- **Rule 18** has been updated throughout to provide a consistent format for indicating a specific time in video and audio recordings.
- **Rule 18.8** was added to provide guidance on citing photographs and illustrations.
- **Rule 21** was updated to reflect the growing availability of online sources in international law.

## THE TABLES

- **Table T1** has been revised to reflect the most current titles for the various statutory compilations, session laws, and administrative compilations and registers.
- **Table T2** has been removed from the print version of *The Bluebook* and now resides exclusively online at [www.legalbluebook.com](http://www.legalbluebook.com), free of charge. Eleven jurisdictions have been updated and one new jurisdiction added.
- **Table T6** now contains all words previously contained in **tables T6** and **T13.2**, and its reach has been expanded to supply abbreviations for case names, institutional authors, and periodical titles.
- **Table T13.1** has been renamed **table T13**, and it continues to supply abbreviations for common institutional names.
- **Table T13.2** has been deleted due to its merger with **table T6**.
- Terms have been added to or modified in tables **T6**, **T7**, **T10**, **T13**, and **T15** as appropriate.