

# University of Houston Clear Lake

## WRITING CENTER

### THE BLUEBOOK: A UNIFORM SYSTEM OF CITATION

*The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* is most often used in legal studies, criminology, and legal practice.

If a class requires you to use *The Bluebook*, you will need to use the most recent publication, ***The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*, 22<sup>nd</sup> edition**. The 21<sup>st</sup> edition of *The Bluebook* can be found in the university's writing center, university libraries, and public libraries. Changes between the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> edition can be found here: <https://www.legalbluebook.com/preface-to-the-twenty-second-edition>

This handout briefly lists some of the basic citation rules of *The Bluebook*. **The official website also has a quick citation guide here:** <https://www.legalbluebook.com/bluebook/v22/quick-style-guide>

It is important to note that *The Bluebook*

- Utilizes two types of citation systems. The “Blue Pages” of *The Bluebook* discuss the proper citation format for documents used while practicing law (court documents and legal memoranda). **The “White Pages” of *The Bluebook* illustrate the proper way to cite in academic and scholarly writing.**
- Requires the use of footnotes containing citations when writing academic or scholarly works.<sup>1</sup>
- Contains tables (T1–T16) located near the back of the book that list court information, statutory information, and abbreviations that will be used throughout your citations.

**This tip-sheet will focus on the “White Pages” of *The Bluebook*.**

Helpful notes that refer to tables in *The Bluebook* are included, for example: (consult T1).

Please note that, if you are writing a document to be submitted to the court or a legal memorandum, the rules explained below will not apply and you will need to use the “Blue Pages”.

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<sup>1</sup> This is an example of a footnote. Your citation should go here. See *The Bluebook* for more information.

## Cases: Rule 10

- Name of the case (consult T6): Jackson v. Metro. Edison Co.
- Volume number of the reporter in which the case appears: 348
- Abbreviated name of the reporter (consult T1): F. Supp.
- First page on which the case appears: 954
- Page(s) to which you wish to cite: 956–58
- Parenthetical containing deciding court information (unless the information is clear from the reporter name) and year in which the case was published (consult T1): (M.D. Pa. 1972)

*Citation:* Jackson v. Metro. Edison Co., 348 F. Supp. 954, 956 –58 (M.D. Pa. 1972).

## Constitutions: Rule 11

- U.S. or abbreviated name of the state (consult T10): N.M.
- Const.
- Cite to specific subdivisions
- No parenthetical needed for provisions currently in force

*Citation:* N.M. Const. art. IV, § 7.

## Statutes: Rule 12

- Title number: 28
- Abbreviated name of the code (consult T1): U.S.C.
- Section symbol: §
- Section number(s): 1291
- Parenthetical containing publisher (if required) and date information (consult T1): (2006)

*Citation:* 28 U.S.C. § 1291 (2006).

## Books: Rule 15

- Full name of the author(s), in big and small capitals: FRANCIS A. CAREY
- Name of the work, in big and small capitals: ORGANIC CHEMISTRY
- Page(s) to which you wish to cite: 310
- Parenthetical with editor(s) name(s), edition/publisher, and year of publication: (Kent A. Peterson et al. eds., 6th ed. 2006).

*Citation:* FRANCIS A. CAREY, ORGANIC CHEMISTRY 310 (Kent A. Peterson et al. eds., 6th ed. 2006).

*Citation:* CHARLES DICKENS, BLEAK HOUSE 49–55 (Norman Page ed., Penguin Books 1971) (1835).

## Periodical Materials: Rule 16

### For journal articles:

- Full name of the author(s): David Rudovsky
- Title of the article, in italics: *Police Abuse: Can the Violence be Contained?*
- Journal volume number: 27
- Abbreviated name of the journal, in big and small capitals: HARV. C.R.-C.L. L. REV.
- Page on which the article begins: 465
- Page(s) to which you wish to cite: 500
- Parenthetical with date of publication: (1992).

*Citation:* David Rudovsky, *Police Abuse: Can the Violence Be Contained?*, 27 HARV. C.R.-C.L. L. REV. 465, 500 (1992).

### For magazine articles:

- Full name of the author(s): Robert J. Samuelson
- Title of the article, in italics: *A Slow Fix for the Banks*
- Name of the magazine, in big and small capitals: NEWSWEEK
- Cover date of the issue with abbreviated month (consult T12): Feb. 18, 1991
- at
- First page of the article: 55

*Citation:* Robert J. Samuelson, *A Slow Fix for the Banks*, NEWSWEEK, Feb. 18, 1991, at 55.

### For newspaper articles with an author:

- Full name of the author(s): Seth Mydans
- Headline, in italics: *Los Angeles Police Chief Removed for 60 Days in Inquiry on Beating*
- Abbreviated name of the newspaper, in big and small capitals: N.Y. TIMES
- Date of article with abbreviated month (consult T12): Apr. 5, 1991
- at
- Page on which the article appears: A1

*Citation:* Seth Mydans, *Los Angeles Police Chief Removed for 60 Days in Inquiry on Beating*, N.Y. TIMES, Apr. 5, 1991, at A1.

## Direct Citation to Internet Sources: Rule 18.2.2

- Full name of the author(s): Eric Goldman
- Title of the webpage, in italics: *When Should Search Engines Ignore Court Orders To Remove Search Results?*
- Title of the main page in big and small capitals, abbreviated per T10 & T13: TECH. & MARKETING L. BLOG
- Publication date, time-stamp if available: (Sept. 4, 2013)
- URL (but not if it is too long or complicated – use the root URL if that is the case and append a parenthetical):  
[http://blog.ericgoldman.org/archives/2013/09/when\\_should\\_sea.htm](http://blog.ericgoldman.org/archives/2013/09/when_should_sea.htm)
- R. 18.2.1(d) requires all online content cited or generated by authors to be captured and stored in a permanent setting. When using an archival tool like perma cc, put the archive URL in brackets at the end of the citation: [https://perma.cc/U2AN-2TXE]

*Citation:* Eric Goldman, *When Should Search Engines Ignore Court Orders To Remove Search Results?*, TECH. & MARKETING L. BLOG (Sept. 4, 2013), [http://blog.ericgoldman.org/archives/2013/09/when\\_should\\_sea.htm](http://blog.ericgoldman.org/archives/2013/09/when_should_sea.htm) [<https://perma.cc/U2AN-2TXE>].