

Bluebook Citations

Please remember you are **REQUIRED** to use the Bluebook form of citation when citing your sources in every assignment, including your discussion board threads and replies.

The Bluebook is the most standardized form of citation used in the legal world; however, it is not the only citation form. Some courts (and even specific judges) have developed their own citation requirements. You will be expected to use the Bluebook citation form in all of your JM courses. This primer walks through how to cite most of the sources you will be using in this course. The pages and sections refer to the most recent publication, the 20th edition.

Bluebook Citation (General Information).

The Bluebook is broken into three major sections. The first section, the “blue pages,” are used by practitioners who are writing legal documents. For this course you will spend most of your time using the “blue pages.” The second, the “white pages” are used in academic writing or when the “blue pages” are silent. The third section, the “tables section” is utilized for finding specific ways to cite various statutes and courts.

In addition, the authors have created a “Quick Reference” that can be found on the back, inside cover of the Bluebook.

Citing a Book: See page 22, Section B15

A bluebook citation looks something like this:

Linda H. Edwards, Legal Writing and Analysis 16 (4th ed. 2015).

When you cite to a book you start with the name of the author, then the title of the book, the page number where you can find the information you just cited, the edition of the book, and finally the date of the book’s publishing. Please notice that the citation is not placed in parenthesis.

If I cited the book in my post it would look something like this:

“A trial court’s decision usually can be appealed to a higher court.” Linda H. Edwards, Legal Writing and Analysis 16 (4th ed. 2015).

Remember, even if you do not use a direct quote, you still need to cite the source. In addition, note the placement of the citation – at the end of the sentence. Citations go directly in the document, not at the end of the document in a reference section.

Citing a Case: See page 10, Section B10

Jones v. Star Credit Corp., 298 N.Y.S.2d 264, 265 (Sup. Ct. 1969).

OR

Jones v. Star Credit Corp., 298 N.Y.S.2d 264, 265 (Sup. Ct. 1969).

When you cite a case you start with the last name of the first party. Then you place a “v.” After the “v.” you cite the name of the second party. After the second party, place a comma, then the reporter volume number. Following the reporter volume number you place the reporter abbreviation (see T1, starting on page 233, for reporter abbreviations). After the reporter abbreviation you place the first page of the case, followed by a comma, and the specific page referred to in the information cited. If it is not clear in what court the case was decided then include the court abbreviation (T1). Finally, include the date of the decision.

Citing a Law Review Article: See page 23, Section B16

Richard A. Posner, Goodbye to the Bluebook, 53 U.Chi.L.Rev. 1343, 1345 (1986).

Always start with the full name of the author, followed by a comma. Then, cite the full name of the article (underlined or italicized), followed by a comma. Then, the volume number of the law review, followed by the abbreviation of the law review (see T13, starting on page 510). Then, the first page of the article, followed by a comma, then the specific page referred to in the information cited. Finally, the year of the publication of the article should be placed at the end in parenthesis.

Citing the Holy Bible: See page 156

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." *John* 3:16 (King James).

Notice that the book of the Bible is italicized (or underlined – see below). Also, please note the version of the Bible in parenthesis.

Citing an Internet Source: See page 26, Section B18

Eric Posner, More on Section 7 of the Torture Convention, The Volokh Conspiracy (Jan. 29, 2009, 10:04 AM), <https://www.volokh.com/posts/1233241458.html>

The author's name, then the title of the specific page of the website (underlined OR italicized), then the title of the main page of the website, the date and time the website was last updated, and the URL (make sure to remove the hyperlink, blue font, and underlining of the URL).

Underlining and Italics:

One of the hallmarks of a great “Bluebooker” is consistency. You will notice that the Bluebook method sometimes uses underlining and other times uses italics. These two are interchangeable – you may underline or italicize. But, you want to be consistent throughout the document. For example, in your discussion board thread you will include multiple sources. If you cite the Chrisman blog and the Bible you may choose to underline or italicize the appropriate parts of the citation, but be consistent and only do one or the other throughout the document.

Short Citation Forms:

There are several short citation forms that can be used once a full citation has been provided.

*See the next page for how to use short citation forms.

Short Citation Forms – Your New Best Friend

Every sentence that contains information from a source must have a citation that follows. For ease of use, make sure to utilize the short citations.

If you are going to cite the same case that you cited in the previous sentence, simply use *id.*
Example of how to properly use *id.*:

Sandra Derby, married to George Derby, filed a divorce petition alleging cruelty, but George alleged adultery by Sandra. Derby v. Derby, 378 S.E.2d 74 (Va. Ct. App. 1989). After making a post-separation agreement, the court examined the agreement to determine if the agreement was unconscionable. Id.

However, if you are going to be citing to a different case then use the short form. Example of how to properly use the short form:

Sandra Derby, married to George Derby, filed a divorce petition alleging cruelty, but George alleged adultery by Sandra. Derby v. Derby, 378 S.E.2d 74 (Va. Ct. App. 1989). After making a post-separation agreement, the court examined the agreement to determine if the agreement was unconscionable. Id. However, in Jones, the plaintiffs were a married couple who purchased a freezer. Jones, 298 N.Y.S.2d at 264. The cost of the freezer was nearly three times the value. Id. However, in Derby, the issue was whether or not the divorce agreement was unconscionable. Derby, 378 S.E.2d at 74.

Finally, remember that when you are using either the short form or *id.* it is necessary to indicate page number changes. For example:

Sandra Derby, married to George Derby, filed a divorce petition alleging cruelty, but George alleged adultery by Sandra. Derby v. Derby, 378 S.E.2d 74 (Va. Ct. App. 1989). After making a post-separation agreement, the court examined the agreement to determine if the agreement was unconscionable. Id. The court developed a two prong-test to determine unconscionability. Id. at 76.