

Contents

Bluebook 101

- [Cases](#)
- [Electronic Sources](#)
- [Secondary Sources](#)
- [Short Citation Forms](#)
- [Signals](#)
- [Statutes](#)
- [Related Info](#)

Updated Feb. 25, 2008.

The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation is filled with rules, examples, cross-references, and tables. Students and lawyers are often expected to abide by its edicts but find it challenging to figure out just what they're supposed to do. Part of the problem is the *Bluebook's* thoroughness -- it's just overwhelming. So we have developed some short presentations on discrete topics to help students make sense of it all.

Washington practitioners note: GR 14 requires that citations in court documents "conform with the format prescribed by the Reporter of Decisions." Generally, that means *Bluebook* format, but there are some exceptions (for instance, citing "RCW" instead of "Wash. Rev. Code"). Be sure to look at the Reporter of Decisions **Style Sheet**.

Secondary Sources

Secondary sources are covered in *The Bluebook* (18th ed. 2005) in

- Rule 15 (Books, Reports, and Other Nonperiodic Materials), pp. 129-37,
- Rule 16 (Periodical Materials), pp. 138-47,
- Rule 17 (Unpublished and Forthcoming Sources), pp. 147-51, and
- Rule 18 (Electronic Media and Other Nonprint Resources), 151-61.

Table T.13 (pp. 349-72) lists abbreviations for hundreds of law journals, as well as abbreviations for words commonly used in periodical titles (for those not listed). Table T.14 lists abbreviations for publishing terms (such as edition, revision, translation) you might need to cite a book.

Here are PowerPoint slideshows that explain the rules and give examples for different secondary sources:

- [books and articles](#)
- [magazines and newspapers](#)
- [electronic sources](#)
- [short citation forms \(*id.*, *supra*\)](#)

state court.

- T.6 (Case Names), pp. 335-37, and T.7 (Court Names), pp. 337-40, tell you how to abbreviate (guess what) case names and court names.
- T.8 (Explanatory Phrases), p. 340, gives you a menu of all the things that can happen to a case, such as affirmance or overruling.
- T.10 (Geographical Terms) tells you how to abbreviate state names in case citations (p. 342).

[View the PowerPoint slideshow](#) on cases.

Statutes

The Bluebook (18th ed., 2005) rule for citing statutes is Rule 12, pages 101-13. Jurisdiction-specific abbreviations for statutory compilations are found in Table T.1, pages 193-242.

[View the PowerPoint slideshow](#) on statutes.

Signals

[View the PowerPoint slideshow](#) on introductory signals.

Related Information

For more resources on using the *Bluebook*, see:

- Peter W. Martin (Cornell), [Introduction to Basic Legal Citation](#)
- [Bluebook Abbreviations of Law Review Titles](#)
- Gallagher guide on [Cite Checking & Library Research](#)
- Gallagher guide on [Legal & General Writing Resources](#)
- Gallagher guide on [Legal Research Sources for the Innocence Project Northwest Clinic](#), especially the section on [Citing Unusual Sources](#)