

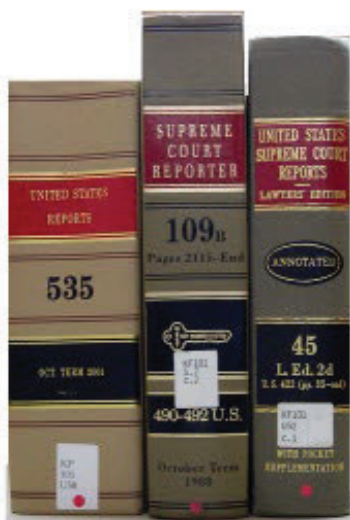
CHAPTER 10

INTRODUCTION TO CITATION FORM

Chapter Outline

VOLUME 1, CHAPTER 10

- § 10.1 Citation: A Legal Address
- § 10.2 State Cases: Long Form
- § 10.3 State Cases: Short Form
- § 10.4 Federal Cases
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Chapter 10 Introduction

THE BRIDGE BETWEEN LEGAL RESEARCH AND LEGAL WRITING

Citations are the mechanism by which a person is led to a case, statute, court rule, article, administrative regulation, or other relevant material.

While it is possible that you will be provided with a case or statute at the beginning of a research project, it is much more likely you will start with the issues relevant to the matter and will need to find your own material using a law library or online sources such as *Westlaw* or *Lexis*.

Once you have found a case, statute, or other item, you will likely quote just a fraction of the case or statute. The part that is most relevant to the matter you are researching. In your writing you will need to tell the reader where they can find that material in the law library or online. This is where citations come in.

Fortunately, laws, articles, and other legal material that are now being published online almost always use the same citation formula as the law library. Thus, learning the system presented in this textbook translates to both physical and online law libraries.

IN THIS CHAPTER . . .

CITATION FORM

STATE AND FEDERAL CITATIONS

CASE LAW AND STATUTORY CITATIONS

§ 10.1

Citation: A Legal Address*Where Authority Can Be Found***FOUNDATIONAL SKILL**

A citation (also called a legal cite) is a legal address to written authority. Authority is anything the court can or must use in reaching its decision. In arguing the law, authority is everything. When we rely on authority in a legal memorandum, or in any other form of legal writing, we must tell the reader how to find that authority for himself.

To do this, we rely on citation format. Following is an introduction to the system of citation created by *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*, often called *Bluebook* citation form, the most common system of citation. Purchasing the book is optional. It is much more important that students learn the system, as opposed to simply looking up examples in the book.

Most citations can be broken into 5 basic categories:

- **State Cases: Long Form**
- **State Cases: Short Form**
- **Federal Cases**
- **State Statutes**
- **Federal Statutes**

Upon completion of this chapter, students should have a foundational understanding of the above methods of citation.

SYSTEM OF CITATION**The Bluebook**

This textbook teaches citation form based on *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*, with just a couple of exceptions. It is the most widely used reference for citation structure.

