

## § 10.3

**State Cases: Short Form***Title, Unofficial (Court Year)***GUIDELINES**

Short form refers to a case citation that only includes the unofficial cite and no official.

Some states have stopped publishing official reports. Assume, for the purposes of this exercise, that Kansas has stopped publishing the Kansas Reports. Our cite would read:

*Smith v. Jones*, 369 P.2d 418 (1979)

**Question:**

Is anything missing from this cite? Ask yourself: *Who? What? When? Where?*

**Answer:**

We can't tell *what* court decided the case.

The reader must be able to determine what court decided the case. This is done by noting the publication. If the publication is "Wash." (for *Washington Reports*), the court deciding the case is the highest court in Washington (the Washington Supreme Court). The rule is this:

*If you can't tell what court decided the case by looking at the publication, you must tell the reader what court decided the case in parentheses.*

Our cite should read (in short form):

**COMPLETED  
SHORT FORM CITATION:**

*Smith v. Jones*, 369 P.2d 418 (Kan. 1979)

## EXERCISE § 10.3(A) | SHORT FORM CITATION

You have found a case titled *Evers v. Chance*. It is found only in the unofficial reporter, second series, Volume 423, Page 297. The court that decided the case was the Tennessee Court of Appeals. The year was 1982. Provide the correct cite below or on a separate sheet.

**Consolidated State Reports**

On occasion, some citations appear to break from the established rules. In fact, citation form simply follows the functions of the publications being cited. Following is the most dramatic example of this circumstance. Consider this citation:

*Smith v. Jones*, 283 N.M. 583, 628 P.2d 493 (1988)

This citation follows the rules being taught and appears to be an appropriate Bluebook citation. Judging from this citation, the court that issued the opinion would have been the N.M. Supreme Court.

However, a few states have only one publication for both their *appellate* and *supreme* court opinions. For instance, the *New Mexico Court of Appeals* and the *New Mexico Supreme Court* both publish their opinions in the same book: *the New Mexico Reports*. If the court deciding the opinion is the *New Mexico Supreme Court*, no court is necessary in parentheses (as in the example above). However, if the court issuing the opinion was in the *New Mexico Court of Appeals*, the author must inform the reader of the court in parentheses. If the citation is to the *New Mexico Appellate Court*, the citation would be constructed as follows:

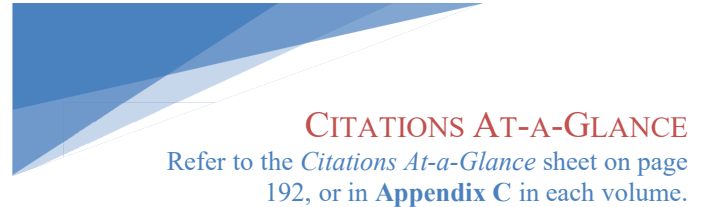
*Smith v. Jones*, 283 N.M. 583, 628 P.2d 493 (N.M. Ct. App. 1988)

Thus, even though the above citation appears to violate the basic *Bluebook* rules of citation form, the truth is that the citation rules have bent to the reality of the publication. (In this case, an official publication reporting two different courts.) When a state official reporter includes both *Appellate Court* and *Supreme Court* opinions, they are usually referred to as **consolidated reports**.

**EXERCISE § 10.3(B) | STATE CITATIONS EXERCISE (LONG FORM & SHORT FORM)**

Provide the correct *Bluebook* citations for the following:

1. The case you wish to cite was decided in the Texas Civil Appellate Court. You have found a case in the *Southwest Reporter, Second Series, Page 253, Volume 460*. The case was *Noe v. Cain*. The date was 1979.
2. Your cite is *Scooter v. Gabby*. It was decided in the Nevada Supreme Court and was found on Page 428, Volume 260 of the unofficial publication, second series, and on Page 69, Volume 177 of the official publication. The year was 1963.
3. You have found a case decided by the North Carolina Court of Appeals in 1977, Page 387 and Volume 408 of the official cite, Page 127 and Volume 644 in the unofficial, second series. The case is titled *Nimrod v. Beth*.
4. *Klein v. Yokum* is found on Page 370 and Volume 532 in the official publication from the Appellate Court of Alabama, Civil Division. The unofficial cite is found on Page 241, Volume 684, second series. The year the trial was held was 1980. The year the opinion was written was 1981. (Note, in the Citations At-a-Glance sheet, the special abbreviation for the Civil Division court.)
5. Your case is *Milton v. Gregg*. It is found on Page 221 in the official Volume containing Colorado Supreme Court cases, Volume 352, and Volume 629, Page 29 of the unofficial reporter, second series. It was decided in 1972.



State (Region & Federal Circuit)	High Court Pub. (Court Abbrev.)	Court of Appeals Publication (Court Abbreviation)	Statutory Abbreviation
Alabama (S) - 1 <sup>st</sup> Cir.	Ala. (Ala.)	Ala. App. (Ala. Civ. App.) (Ala. Civ. App.)	Ala. Code § xxx (year)
Alabama (S) - 1 <sup>st</sup> Cir.	P.2d P.3d (Alabama)	P.2d P.3d (Alabama Ct. App.)	Alabama Stat. § xxx (year)
Arizona (P) - 9 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Ariz. (Ariz.)	Ariz. App. (Ariz. Ct. App.)	Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § xx (year)
Arkansas (S.W.) - 8 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Ark. (Ark.)	Ark. App. (Ark. Ct. App.)	Ark. Code Ann. § xxx (year)
California (P) - 9 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Cal. (Cal.)	Cal. App. & Cal. Reg. (Cal. Ct. App.)	Cal. (Subject) Code § x (Pub. year)
Colorado (P) - 10 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Colo. (Colo.)	Colo. App. (Colo. Ct. App.)	Colo. Rev. Stat. § xxx (year)
Connecticut (A) - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cir.	Conn. (Conn.)	Conn. App. (Conn. App. Ct.)	Conn. Gen. Stat. § x (year)
Delaware (A) - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Cir.	Del. (Del.)	Del. Ch. (Del. Ch.)	Del. Code Ann. tit. X, § x (year)
District of Columbia (A) - D.C. Cir.	-----	D.C. (D.C.)	D.C. Code § xxx (year)
Florida (S) - 11 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Fla. (Fla.)	Fla. App. (Fla. Ct. App.)	Fla. Stat. § xxx (year)
Georgia (S.E.) - 11 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Ga. (Ga.)	Ga. App. (Ga. Ct. App.)	Ga. Code Ann. § xxx (year)
Hawaii (P) - 9 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Haw. (Haw.)	Haw. App. (Haw.)	Haw. Rev. Stat. § x (year)
Idaho (P) - 9 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Idaho (Idaho)	Idaho (Idaho Ct. App.)	Idaho Code Ann. § xxx (year)
Illinois (N.E.) - 7 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Ill. (Ill.)	Ill. App. (Ill. App. Ct.)	Ill. Comp. Stat. xxx (year)
Indiana (N.E.) - 7 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Ind. (Ind.)	Ind. App. (Ind. Ct. App.)	Ind. Code § xxx (year)
Iowa (N.W.) - 8 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Iowa (Iowa)	N.W.2d (Iowa Ct. App.)	Iowa Code § xxx (year)
Kansas (P) - 10 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Kan. (Kan.)	Kan. App. (Kan. Ct. App.)	Kan. Stat. Ann. § xxx (year)
Kentucky (S.W.) - 6 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Ky. (Ky.)	Ky. App. (Ky. Ct. App.)	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § xxx (year)
Louisiana (S) - 5 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	La. (La.)	La. App. (La. Ct. App.)	La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § xxx (year)
Maine (N.E.) - 1 <sup>st</sup> Cir.	Me. (Me.)	-----No Court of Appeals-----	Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. X, § x (year)
Madison (A) - 4 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	MD (Md.)	MD App. (MD Ct. App.)	MD Code Ann. (Subject) § xx (Pub. year)
Massachusetts (N.E.) - 1 <sup>st</sup> Cir.	Mass. (Mass.)	Mass. App. (Mass. App. Ct.)	Mass. Gen. Laws tit. X, § x (year)
Michigan (N.W.) - 6 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Mich. (Mich.)	Mich. App. (Mich. Ct. App.)	Mich. Comp. Laws § xx (year)
Minnesota (N.W.) - 8 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Minn. (Minn.)	N.W.2d (Minn. Ct. App.)	Minn. Stat. § xx (year)
Mississippi (S) - 5 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Miss. (Miss.)	So. 3d (Miss. Ct. App.)	Miss. Code Ann. § xxx (year)
Missouri (S.W.) - 8 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Mo. (Mo.)	Mo. App. (Mo. Ct. App.)	Mo. Rev. Stat. § xx (year)
Montana (P) - 9 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Mont. (Mont.)	-----No Court of Appeals-----	Mont. Code Ann. § xxx (year)
Nevada (N.W.) - 9 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Nev. (Nev.)	Nev. App. (Nev. Ct. App.)	Nev. Rev. Stat. § xxx (year)
Nevada (P) - 9 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Nev. (Nev.)	Nev. App. (Nev. Ct. App.)	Nev. Rev. Stat. § xx (year)
New Hampshire (A) - 1 <sup>st</sup> Cir.	N.H. (N.H.)	-----No Court of Appeals-----	N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § xxx (year)
New Jersey (A) - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Cir.	N.J. (N.J.)	N.J. Super. (N.J. Super. Ct. App. Div.)	N.J. Rev. Stat. § xxx (year)
New Mexico (P) - 10 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	N.M. (N.M.)	N.M. (N.M. Ct. App.)	N.M. Stat. § xxx (year)
New York (N.E.) - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cir.	N.Y. (N.Y.)	A.D. (N.Y. App. Div.)	N.Y. (Subject) Law § x (Pub. year)
North Carolina (S.E.) - 4 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	N.C. (N.C.)	N.C. App. (N.C. Ct. App.)	N.C. Gen. Stat. § xxx (year)
North Dakota (N.W.) - 8 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	N.D. (N.D.)	N.W.2d (N.D. Ct. App.)	N.D. Cent. Code § xxx (year)
Ohio (N.E.) - 6 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Ohio (Ohio)	Ohio App. (Ohio Ct. App.)	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § xx (Pub. year)
Oklahoma (P) - 10 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Okla. (Okla.)	P.2d or P.3d (Okla. Civ. App.) (Okla. Civ. App.)	Okla. Stat. tit. X, § x (year)
Oregon (P) - 9 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Or. (Or.)	Or. App. (Or. Ct. App.)	Or. Rev. Stat. § xx (year)
Pennsylvania (A) - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Cir.	Pa. (Pa.)	Pa. Super. (Pa. Super. Ct.)	x Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § x (Pub. year)
Rhode Island (A) - 1 <sup>st</sup> Cir.	R.I. (R.I.)	-----No Court of Appeals-----	R.I. Gen. Laws § xxx (year)
South Carolina (S.E.) - 4 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	S.C. (S.C.)	S.C. (S.C. Ct. App.)	S.C. Code Ann. § xxx (year)
South Dakota (N.W.) - 8 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	S.D. (S.D.)	-----No Court of Appeals-----	S.D. Codified Laws § xxx (year)
Tennessee (S.W.) - 6 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Tenn. (Tenn.)	Tenn. App. (Tenn. Ct. App.) - Tenn. Civ. App. (Tenn. Civ. App.)	Tenn. Code Ann. § xxx (year)
Texas (S.W.) - 5 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Tex. (Tex.)	S.W. (Tex. App.) (Tex. Civ. App.) (Tex. Ct. App.)	Tex. (Subject) Code Ann. § x (Pub. year)
Utah (P) - 10 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Utah (Utah)	P.2d or P.3d (Utah Ct. App.)	Utah Code Ann. § xxx (year)
Vermont (A) - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cir.	Vt. (Vt.)	-----No Court of Appeals-----	Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. x, § x (year)
Virginia (S.E.) - 4 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Va. (Va.)	Va. App. (Va. Ct. App.)	Va. Code Ann. tit. xx, § xx (year)
Washington (P) - 9 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Wash. (Wash.)	Wash. App. (Wash. Ct. App.)	Wash. Rev. Code § xxx (year)
West Virginia (S.E.) - 4 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	W. Va. (W. Va.)	-----No Court of Appeals-----	W. Va. Code § xx (year)
Wisconsin (N.W.) - 7 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Wis. (Wis.)	Wis. (Wis. Ct. App.)	Wis. Stat. § xx (year)
Wyoming (P) - 10 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	Wyo. (Wyo.)	-----No Court of Appeals-----	Wyo. Stat. Ann. § xxx (year)

\* Indicates that the publication is no longer published. However, the volumes that were once published are generally still available.

State Cases Long Form: Smith v. Jones, 243 N.C. 482, 574 S.E.2d 546 (1993)  
 State Cases Long Form (with court clarification): Smith v. Jones, 245 Ala. App. 412, 574 So. 2d 546 (Ala. Civ. App. 1993)  
 State Cases Short Form (highest state courts): Jones v. Smith, 425 P.2d 1189 (Colo. 1972)  
 State Cases Short Form (court of appeals): Jones v. Smith, 383 P.2d 366 (Colo. Ct. App. 1995)  
 State Statutes (Bluebook form and Common form): Colo. Rev. Stat. § 14-32-100a(3)(2010) or C.R.S. § 14-32-100a(3)(2010)

FEDERAL CITATION EXAMPLES  
 Smith v. Jones, 453 F. Supp. 34 94 (S.D. Tex. 2020)      Jones v. Smith, 978 F.2d 1449 (4th Cir. 2020)  
 Smith v. Jones, 98 U.S. 113, 213 S. Ct. 54, 366 L. Ed. 2d 714 (1899)      Federal Register: 56 Fed. Reg. 58,489 (June 28, 1995)      Code of Federal Regulations: 50 C.F.R. pt. 84 (2010)

6. *The title of the case is In re Henderson. It was decided in the Arizona Supreme Court in 1977. The official cite is Volume 386, Page 118. The unofficial publication is Volume 582, Page 893, second series.*
  
7. *The title of the case is Mooreland v. Orbison. It was decided in the Washington Court of Appeals in 1991. The official cite is Volume 264, Page 854. The unofficial publication is Volume 330, Page 391, second series.*
  
8. *The title of the case is Loopis v. Dryer. It was decided in the North Carolina Supreme Court in 1985. The official cite is Volume 292, Page 452. The unofficial publication is Volume 523, Page 1032, second series.*
  
9. *The title of the case is Everly v. Jordan. It was decided in the Indiana Supreme Court in 1984. The unofficial publication is Volume 822, Page 473, second series.*
  
10. *The title of the case is Freemont v. Greenberg. It was decided in the Tennessee Supreme Court in 1989. The unofficial publication is Volume 622, Page 83, second series.*
  
11. *The title of the case is Smith v. Hansen. It was decided in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 1991. The unofficial publication is Volume 583, Page 797, second series.*
  
12. *The title of the case is Nixon v. Franklin. It was decided in the Minnesota Supreme Court in 1987. The unofficial publication is Volume 645, Page 359, second series.*