INTRODUCTION TO CITATION FORM

§ 10.6 Federal Statutes

The United States Code



There are three hardbound sources for federal statutes:

U.S.C.	(United States Code)
U.S.C.A.	(United States Code Annotated)
U.S.C.S.	(United States Code Service)

When **researching** federal statutes, always use either the U.S.C.A., U.S.C.S., or both. While the U.S.C. contains only the statutes, the two unofficial publications contain additional research aids as well. However, when **citing** the United States Code, cite to the official publication even if researching in an unofficial publication of the Code. (Simply drop the "A" in U.S.C.A. or the "S" in U.S.C.S.) All three sources contain the U.S. Code, and the Code is the only thing you will ever quote from within these publications.

An example of a federal statutory citation:

28 U.S.C. § 1204 (2006).

When citing statutes, both federal and state, each subsection should be referred to within its own set of parentheses. For example, if the above statute had a subsection "a," and a sub-subsection "3," the cite would read:

28 U.S.C. § 1204(a)(3) (1984).

CHAPTER

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CHAPTER 10

Session Laws or Statutes at Large

Session Laws, sometimes called Statutes at Large, are hardbound publications that collect the acts and laws passed by the state or federal legislature. Session laws are collected chronologically and arranged by year, accumulating the statutes passed or modified in a given year. The Session Laws will consist of many volumes, each volume representing the acts and laws passed by the legislature in a given legislative session.

You may on rare occasions see references to Session Laws, typically in briefs filed with the court. But it is likely you will go your entire career without needing to reference Session Laws. Thus, you will not be required to learn their form here. However, for future reference, if needed:

Cite to the title of the Act (if one exists) or the date of the act if a title is not apparent, the public act number, the year (serves as a volume number for session law publications), the title of the session law publication, and the page number on which the Act begins (if pinpoint citing also include the page to which you are citing).

Example 1: Animal Control Act, Pub. Act 78-795, 1973 Ill. Laws 2408 Example 2: Act of June 11, 1997, Pub. Act 90-9, 1997 Ill. Laws 2259, 2263.

CITATION EXAMPLES

U.S. Supreme Court cases (short form): Smith v. Jones, 119 U.S. 476 (1972)	
U.S. Supreme Court cases (long form): Smith v. Jones, 119 U.S. 476, 355 S. Ct. 932, 412 L. Ed. 2d 828 (1972)	
U.S. Court of Appeals cases: Jones v. Smith, 365 F.2d 138 (4th Cir. 1971)	
U.S. District Court cases: Smith v. Jones, 289 F. Supp. 726 (E.D.N.C. 1970)	
Federal statutes (always cite the official): 26 U.S.C. § 1278 (2006)	
State cases (long form): Kite v. Mott, 241 Colo. 524, 448 P.2d 814 (1979)	
State cases (short form): Jacks v. Morns, 526 P.2d 694 (Colo. Ct. App. 1981)	
State statutes: Colo. Rev. Stat. § 19-22-302 (1984)	
Court rules: H.R.C.P. 30(a)(1)	