§ 9.11

Social Media

Citing Online Sources

It was not long ago that it was considered bad form to cite online sources (other than primary authority found on *Westlaw* or *Lexis*). Now it is not only acceptable, if used in support of primary sources the author can create powerful, hard-to-defend arguments.

CITING AN ENTIRE WEBSITE

In this case you do not need to include the citation in any list of references or *Table of Authorities* (although it is not forbidden). Just include the name of the website and its address within the text.

Example:

The question of a property owner having the right to require that customers wear facemasks is not as clear cut as it might first appear. Courts have diverged on the issue. The *Centers for Disease Control* has, with increasing assurance, declared that wearing facemasks protects against the spread of a virus more than it protects the wearer of the mask. (https://www.cdc.gov/)

CITING A SPECIFIC QUOTE FROM A WEBSITE

When including a specific quote from an online source, while not required, it is recommended to include the citation in your list of references or *Table of Authorities*. Include the name of the website and its address. Use a hanging indent of ½ inch or 5 spaces if used in a list of references, such as a Table of Authorities.

Initially Cite the Quote Within the Document:

According to the Centers for Disease Control, one should "Wear a Mask to Protect Others in case you're infected with COVID-19 but don't have symptoms." (https://www.cdc.gov/)

Then Provide the Full Citation in the Table of Authorities:

Centers for Disease Control (2019) *Wear a Mask to Protect Others* (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-wear-cloth-face-coverings.html)