Bluebook Citation for LLM Students: U.S. Sources

Jennifer Allison
The Bluebook for LLM Students: *No Worries, You’ve Got This*

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Harvard Law School Library
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Image: https://lawblog.justia.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/bluebook.jpg
Today’s Session

1. Why?
2. Where do I start?
3. What do I need to know?
Why?

Because America.

The Bluebook is the favored citation system for U.S. law publications.

Other countries have their own citation systems, which are probably equally confusing to foreigners as the Bluebook is to you.

Don’t fear it, embrace it. 😊
Where Do I Start?

- Make sure you have the 20th edition, which was just published this year.
- Don’t use the 19th edition!
- There is a quick reference guide on the first page. I also gave you a handout.
Where Do I Start?

Start paying extra attention to the footnote citations in U.S. law review articles.
What Do I Need to Know?

What Do I Need to Know?

What is cited in most LLM papers:

• U.S. cases
• U.S. statutes
• Secondary sources, like books, journal articles, and newspaper articles
• Internet materials
• Foreign and international materials
What Do I Need to Know?

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Procedure for citing a U.S. court case:

- Read Rule 10.
- Find your jurisdiction in **T1** for specific citation rules (reporter and court name abbreviation).
- Use **T6** to abbreviate long words.
What we know about this case:
- The name: Baker v. Carr.
- The court: U.S. Supreme Court.
- The year: 1962

What we still need to know:
- Which reporter to cite – U.S., S.Ct., or what?
Procedure for citing a U.S. court case:

• Read **Rule 10**.

• Find your jurisdiction in **T1** for specific citation rules (reporter and court name abbreviation).

• Use **T6** to abbreviate long words.
U.S. Cases: Rule 10

Let's try one that's a little harder.

What we know about this case:
- The name: United States v. Windsor
- The court: U.S. Supreme Court.
- The year: 2013
U.S. Cases: Rule 10

You should have two questions at this point.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do we use “United States” or “U.S.” if the United States is a party?</td>
<td>• See rule 10.2.2 (p. 102) – abbreviate countries as indicated in table T10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• According to table T10 (p. 509), abbreviate “United States of America” to “U.S.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What if it is a U.S. Supreme Court case but there is no U.S. Reports citation for it?</td>
<td>• See table T1 (p. 233).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• It says cite U.S. Supreme Court cases to “S.Ct.” if there is no “U.S.” citation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This case, from 2013, is too recent to be published in the U.S. Reports (they’re a little behind).
What about state law cases?
What we know about this case:
- The name: Lockyer v. City and County of San Francisco
- The court: Supreme Court of California
We know how to find citation rules:

• Geographic unit as party name: Rule 10.2.2, page 102
• Which reporter to cite, and how to abbreviate the court: T1 for U.S. jurisdictions
  • California = p. 252
    • Cite the Pacific Reporter, not the California Reports.
    • The California Supreme Court is abbreviated “Cal.”

In reading Rule 10, we can also see that T6 (page 496) discusses case name abbreviations. That will help us deal with words like “and.”
Review of the procedure for citing cases:

- Read Rule 10.
- Find your jurisdiction in T1 for specific citation rules (reporter and court name abbreviation).
- Use T6 to abbreviate long words.
There are four errors in this citation. Can you find them?
Find the Errors: Case Citation

WRONG:

RIGHT:
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We’ll discuss statutes quickly so we have more time for books and periodical articles.
Procedure for statute citation:

• Read Rule 12.

• Find your jurisdiction in T1 for specific citation rules.
Considerations for U.S. Federal Statutes:

- When a statute is first enacted, it is a session law (rule 12.4).

- After that, the contents of the statute are codified, which means placed into the relevant section(s) of the United States Code (U.S.C) (rule 12.3).

- There is an official codification of the U.S.C. every six years. The last one was in 2012 (rule 12.3.2).
Considerations for U.S. Federal Statutes:

• The Bluebook prefers that you cite to the current official codification of the statute, so your citation will generally include U.S.C. and (2012).

• BOTTOM LINE: Just read rule 12 and pay attention to the examples. If you are still not sure how to cite a statute, ask a librarian and we will help you.
What Do I Need to Know?

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Secondary Sources

If it’s a book, a book chapter, or a report, use rule 15.

Secondary Sources

If it’s an article published in a periodical (journal, magazine, newspaper), use rule 16.

Image: David McDermott, Reading the Sundays. https://flic.kr/p/5jGvWA.
Procedure for citing non-periodical materials, such as books:

• Read Rule 15.

• Do NOT use the abbreviation tables in the back for book titles.
**Books: Rule 15**

In MS Word, highlight the text, and click the down arrow in the Font box on the Home toolbar. Then, in the Font window, select **Small Caps**.

Remember, for **book chapters**, you will also use **rule 15**.
Procedure for citing periodical materials, like journal articles:

• Read Rule 16.

• Abbreviate periodical titles using table T13.
What is the difference between consecutive and non-consecutive pagination?
What is the difference between consecutive and non-consecutive pagination?

Most U.S. law journals are consecutively paginated.
How do I cite a newspaper article I found online?
What Do I Need to Know?

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Rules 16 and 18 go hand-in-hand when it comes to citing online periodical articles.
Online Materials: Rule 18

Before you cite any online sources, read ALL of rule 18.

What you need to know:

• For **newspapers**: online versions can be used to replace print versions.

• Otherwise, the **preference** is that you cite to the **print** version.

• Don’t forget to use the table **T13** to abbreviate publication titles.
Online Materials: Rule 18

What about citing a website page?
See rule 18.2.2.
Online Materials: Rule 18

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Foreign Materials: Rule 20

Foreign (non-U.S.) materials: rule 20 and table T2

Considerations:

• There is not a listing in T2 for every non-U.S. jurisdiction.

• If your jurisdiction is not in T2, choose one with a similar legal system and use its rules as guidelines.

• The rules are not complete or perfect. Do your best, mimic the examples, and ask for help if you need it.
International Materials: Rule 21

International materials: rule 21 and table T3

Image: Jennifer Allison, UN Security Council.
What are the “international materials” covered by Rule 21 and T3?

- Treaties and international agreements.
- Cases from international courts and tribunals.
- Sources from the United Nations, the European Union, and other intergovernmental organizations.
Considerations for Treaties (rule 21.4):

• There are two types of treaties, bilateral (between two parties) and multilateral (between more than two parties). Each type has its own rules.

• If the U.S. is a party, the Bluebook requires you to cite a U.S. source. **ASK US** for help on this if you need it.
### What Do I Need to Know?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Source</th>
<th>Main Rule</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Cases</td>
<td>Rule 10</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Finally, rules 1-8 provide structural guidelines for all of your citations.
## Rules 1-8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rule</th>
<th>Guidelines Discussed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Rule 1| • Form and punctuation for citations.  
• Signals (such as *e.g.* and *see*) that explain how the cited source supports, compares to, or contradicts your point.  
• Parenthetical information that explains why you’re citing a source. |
| Rule 2| Typeface rules (plain, *italics*, SMALL CAPS).                                         |
| Rule 3| • Citing individual sections, parts, pages, footnotes, etc.  
• Using internal cross references to cite sources that are already cited elsewhere in your paper (*supra* and *infra*). |
| Rule 4| Short citation forms, including *id.*, *supra*, and hereinafter.                      |
| Rule 5| Quotations (indicated by “‘”) and omissions (indicated by …).                         |
| Rule 6| Abbreviations, numerals, and symbols.                                                 |
| Rule 7| Special rules for italics.                                                            |
| Rule 8| Rules for capitalization.                                                             |
Summary

- **Rules 1-8:** Structural guidance for common elements of citations
- **Rules 10-14:** U.S. primary law sources
- **Rules 15-17:** Secondary law sources
- **Rule 18:** Internet/electronic sources
- **Rule 20:** Foreign law sources
- **Rule 21:** International law sources
The End