

# Bluebook Cheat Sheet

## Mastering the Bluebook • Teresa Bruce • University of Colorado Law School

The examples in this list are for the most common citations. Use them, along with the Universal Punctuation Rule (see footnote 2), as general patterns for formatting your own citations.

1. Full Cite, Reported Case: Int'l Fid. Ins. Co. v. Crosland, 490 F. Supp. 446, 448 (S.D.N.Y. 1980).<sup>1</sup>
2. Full Cite, Unreported Case: Int'l Snowmobile Mfrs. Ass'n v. Norton, No. 00-CV-229-B, 2004 WL 2337372, at \*3 (D. Wyo. Oct. 14, 2004).
3. Full Cite, Federal Statute: 42 U.S.C. § 1983 (2000).
4. Full Cite, State Statute (Colorado): Colo. Rev. Stat. § 13-21-402.5 (2014).
5. Full Cite, State Statute (California): Cal. Educ. Code § 48222 (West 2008).
  
6. Short Cite, Reported Case: Armentrout, 842 P.2d at 176.
7. Short Cite, Unreported Case: Int'l Snowmobile, 2004 WL 2337372, at \*3.
8. Short Cite, Federal Statute: 42 U.S.C. § 1983.
9. Short Cite, State Statute (Colorado): Colo. Rev. Stat. § 13-21-402.5.
10. Short Cite, State Statute (California): Educ. § 48222.
  
11. Reporter Abbreviations (Supreme Court):<sup>2</sup> U.S., S. Ct., L. Ed. (ignore the commas)
12. Reporter Abbreviations (Federal Circuit): F., F.2d, F.3d (ignore the commas)
13. Reporter Abbreviations (Federal Trial): F. Supp., F. Supp. 2d (ignore the commas)
14. Reporter Abbreviations (Atlantic): A., A.2d, A.3d (ignore the commas)
15. Reporter Abbreviations (Pacific): P., P.2d, P.3d (ignore the commas)
16. Reporter Abbreviations (Southern): So., So. 2d, So. 3d (ignore the commas)
17. Reporter Abbreviations (Colorado Reports): Colo.
18. Reporter Abbreviations (Colorado Court of Appeals Reports): Colo. App.
19. Reporter Abbreviations (various New York state reporters): N.Y., N.Y.2d, N.Y. Sup. Ct., Misc., Misc. 2d (ignore the commas)

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<sup>1</sup> If you prefer italics to underlining, italicize everything underlined in this Cheat Sheet. Don't mix underlining and italicization.

<sup>2</sup> For correct spacing of abbreviations for reporters and courts, put spaces around multi-letter abbreviations and squeeze single characters together; treat numbers—whether cardinal or ordinal—as single characters. *In the examples, the spaces are underlined in red, for visibility, but you should not underline them in real citations.*

20. Court Abbreviations (All Federal Circuit Courts): 1st\_Cir., 2d\_Cir., 3d\_Cir., 4th\_Cir., 5th\_Cir., 6th\_Cir., 7th\_Cir., 8th\_Cir., 9th\_Cir., 10th\_Cir., 11th\_Cir., D.C.\_Cir. (ignore the commas)
21. Court Abbreviations (Select Federal District Courts): D.\_Colo., M.D.\_Ala., C.D.\_Cal., S.D.N.Y., E.D.\_Wash. (ignore the commas)
22. Court Abbreviations (Select State Courts): Colo., Colo.\_App., Cal.\_Ct.\_App., Ill.\_App.\_Ct., N.C.\_Ct.\_App., N.Y.\_App.\_Div. (ignore the commas)
23. Subsequent History (Affirmance): Cent. Ill. Pub. Serv. Co. v. Westervelt, 342 N.E.2d 463, 464 (Ill. App. Ct. 1976), aff'd, 367 N.E.2d 661 (Ill. 1977).
24. Subsequent History (Reversal): Lee v. Lampert, 607 F. Supp. 2d 1204, 1217 (D. Or. 2009), rev'd, 610 F.3d 1125 (9th Cir. 2010).
25. Subsequent History (Overruling): Nat'l League of Cities v. Usery, 426 U.S. 833 (1976), overruled by Garcia v. San Antonio Metro. Transit Auth., 469 U.S. 528 (1985).
26. Subsequent History (Denial of Certiorari): United States v. Jenkins-Watts, 574 F.3d 950, 964 (8th Cir. 2009), cert. denied, 130 S. Ct. 1915 (2010).
27. Order of Authorities (String Cite With Different Types of Authorities): (1) constitutions; (2) federal statutes; (3) state statutes; (4) federal cases; (5) state cases; and (6) secondary authorities.<sup>3</sup>
28. Order of Authorities (String Cite With Cases Only): (1) U.S. Supreme Court cases in reverse-chronological order; (2) federal circuit-court cases in reverse-chronological order; (3) federal trial-court cases in reverse-chronological order; and (4) state-court cases in alphabetical order; for each state, put cases in rank order (i.e., higher-court cases before lower-court cases) and, for each rank, in reverse-chronological order.
29. Introductory Signals (With Short Cite):
 

<u>E.g., Armentrout</u> , 842 P.2d at 176.	<u>See generally Armentrout</u> , 842 P.2d at 176.
<u>Accord Armentrout</u> , 842 P.2d at 176.	<u>Contra Armentrout</u> , 842 P.2d at 176.
<u>See Armentrout</u> , 842 P.2d at 176.	<u>But see Armentrout</u> , 842 P.2d at 176.
<u>See also Armentrout</u> , 842 P.2d at 176.	<u>But cf. Armentrout</u> , 842 P.2d at 176.
<u>Cf. Armentrout</u> , 842 P.2d at 176.	



*When problems arise, consult these materials in order: (1) Cheat Sheet; (2) Bluebook's inside back cover; (3) Bluebooking chapter of Workbook; & (4) Bluebook's Bluepages. If you still can't find the answer, consult the Bluebook's Index & go to wherever it directs you.*

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<sup>3</sup> There are additional rules, for ordering additional authorities in the Bluebook. Refer to Rule 1.4 for more information.