

CITING LEGAL SOURCES

Here's a useful website for figuring out how to cite legal sources:

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/citation/>

And here are some examples of legal citations—

Judicial decisions:

- *Planned Parenthood Arizona, Inc. v. Humble*, 753 F.3d 905 (9th Cir. 2014)
- *Czapinski v. St. Francis Hospital, Inc.*, 2000 WI 80, 236 Wis. 2d 316, 613 N.W.2d 120
- *Kootenai Environmental Alliance, Inc. v. Panhandle Yacht Club, Inc.*, 671 P.2d 1085 (Idaho 1983)

Constitution citations:

- U.S. Const. art. III, § 2, cl. 2
- U.S. Const. amend. XIII, § 2
- N.Y. Const. art. I, § 9, cl. 2

Statute citations:

- 42 U.S.C. § 405(c)(2)(C)(ii)
- Iowa Code § 602.1614
- Cal. Prob. Code § 141

Regulation citations:

- 20 C.F.R. § 404.260
- Code Me. R. 12 170 7 § 5
- Minn. R. 3050.2600
- Tex. Admin. Code tit. 40, § 705.3101 (2012 effective Sept.1)

Journal article citations:

- Naomi R. Cahn, “Civil Images of Battered Women: The Impact of Domestic Violence on Child Custody Decisions,” 44 *Vanderbilt Law Review* 1041 (1991)
- Steven G. Calabresi & Kevin H. Rhodes, “The Structural Constitution: Unitary Executive, Plural Judiciary,” 105 *Harvard Law Review* 1155, 1158 (1992)
- Frank H. Easterbrook, “Substance and Due Process,” 1982 *Supreme Court Review* 85, 114

The following is adapted from an old webpage, Davis Library's Research Guide: Finding Laws.

How to Read a Case Law Citation

A **case** citation is most often made up of three parts: a volume number, an abbreviation (for the source or the publication in which [it] is reported), and a page number. ... The year the case was decided and a more precise identification of the court may be included in parentheses as a 4th part. Case citations are interpreted as follows:

265	U.S.	274
Volume number where the case appears	Abbreviation for the title set of books reporting the case	Page number on which the case begins

Often a case will be reported in several different reporters. These additional references are known as parallel citations. Two examples of parallel citation are given here:

United States Supreme Court case: *Texas v. Johnson*, 491 U.S. 397, 109 S. Ct 2533, 105 L.Ed.2d 342 (1989)

North Carolina Supreme Court case: *Bailey v. State*, 353 N.C. 142, 540 S.E.2d 313 (2000)

The most frequently requested law reporters are listed in alphabetical order by abbreviation in the following table. You can use the given call number to find the different reporters in the reference section of the library. You will find online the text of these titles and many more, including other regional and state reporters, through searching WestLaw Campus Research either on subject or citation. Reporters are arranged chronologically. Digests are similar to reporters, but are arranged by subject.

Abbreviation	Reporter Title	Print Call Number
A. or A.2d or Atl. or Atl2d	Atlantic Reporter (1 st & 2 nd series)	N/A
F. or F2d or F3d	Federal Reporter (1 st , 2 nd , & 3 rd series)	R 348.7346 W538f
F.S. or F.Supp. or F.Supp.2d	Federal Supplement (1 st & 2 nd series)	R 348.7346 W538
L.Ed. or L.Ed.2d	Lawyer's Edition (U.S. Supreme Court)	R 345.4 U58r
N.C. or N.C.2d	North Carolina Reporter (Supreme Ct.)	R 348.756 N864r
N.C. App.	North Carolina Court of Appeals Reports	N/A
	North Carolina Digest	R 348.75602 W516nc
NCLW	North Carolina Lawyer's Weekly	Current Periodicals
S.C. or S.Ct.	Supreme Court Reporter (U.S.)	R 348.734 W516
S.E. or S.E.2d	Southeastern Reporter	R 348.756 N864r
U.S.	United States Supreme Court Reports	R 345.4 U58r
USCA	United States Code Annotated	R 348.7323 U583u
USLW	United States Law Week	N/A