

## Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace

As an introduction to legal-style citations, this chapter

- provides a brief synopsis of published legal resources and governmental works that follow those citation patterns;
- offers a combination of legal and traditional citations; and
- adapts some complex citations so they will be more compatible with data-management software.

The basic pattern this guide follows is this:

- SOURCE LIST ENTRY ..... Use bibliographic data from title page, to construct an entry in Basic Format: Book.
- FIRST NOTE ..... Use this same bibliographic data to construct a full note citation, to which you may choose to append “hereinafter cited as ...” and then provide the appropriate (cryptic) legal citation.
- SUBSEQUENT NOTES .... In this shortened form of the full note, you might choose to use the legal citation or use a common short citation in Book: Basic Format.
- ABBREVIATIONS ..... *Bluebook* Style strongly encourages abbreviations and lays out explicit rules for them. If you are writing for a nonlegal audience, it is better to follow the more general rule of writing: spell out everything at first use.



## LEGAL REFERENCE WORKS

### BACKGROUND

#### 13.4 Case Law vs. Statutory Law

The decisions reached in significant trial cases are known as *case law*. These represent certain cases appealed to the state or federal superior courts, whose rulings interpret unclear areas of the statutory law. Section 13.5 covers the *case reporters* that chronicle case law and the *digests*, which serve as a finding aid to the printed reporters.

Laws passed by governing bodies at the local, state, or national levels are collectively called *statutory law*. Section 13.6, below, follows these records in their natural progression from *slip laws* to *statutes* and eventually to *codes*.