Bluebook Examples for Common Citations

Books (Rule 15):
For books, the author’s name should appear as it does on the title page of the book, in small caps followed by a comma. The title of the book, also in small caps, should follow. A pinpoint citation directly follows the title, which designates the specific pages on which the cited material appears. The date follows in parentheses, preceded by the edition designation if applicable (see rule 15.4).

RICHARD L. ABEL, AMERICAN LAWYERS 50 (1989).
If this was a different edition, it would appear as follows: RICHARD L. ABEL, AMERICAN LAWYERS 50 (2d ed. 1989).

Shorter Works in a Collection (Rule 15.5):
When a shorter work appears in a collection with various authors, the name of the author of the shorter work should appear as it does on the first page of the article, in normal typeface, followed by a comma. The title of the shorter work should then appear in italics, followed by a comma and an italicized “in”. The title of the collection comes next in small caps. The first page on which the shorter work appears and a pinpoint cite to any particular material cited (separated by a comma) follows. Finally, the editors and date should appear in parentheses, as well as the edition if appropriate.


Periodicals (Rule 16):
In journals that are consecutively paginated throughout an entire volume, the name of the author of the article should appear as it does on the title page, in normal typeface, followed by a comma. The article title should appear in italics, followed by a comma. The volume number, periodical name (in small caps), first page on which the article appears, and pinpoint citations should follow. The year is then enclosed in parentheses.


In journals and magazines that are non-consecutively paginated (separately paginated within each issue) and in most newspaper articles, the author’s name appears as it does on the title page, in normal typeface, followed by a comma. The article title should appear in italics, followed by a comma. The periodical title is next, in small caps, followed by a comma. The date is set off by commas and the page on which the first page of the article appears is preceded by “at” with any applicable pinpoint cite, following a comma.

Barbara Ward, Progress for a Small Planet, HARV. BUS. REV., Sept. 1979, at 89, 91.
**Internet Sources (Rule 18.2):**

Internet sources can be confusing, but there are generally two times to cite to the Internet.

1. When the cited material is not available in a traditional print source or on a widely available commercial database. “Not available” means:
   a. “No print / database source never existed” (e.g. Yahoo! website) OR
   b. “No print / database source exists anymore” (e.g. Hitler destroyed every copy) OR
   c. “The only copies of the print source in the world, or the only database that contains the data, are practically impossible to access” (e.g. the Vatican owns the only remaining print copy)

2. When . . .
   a. the cited material is available in a traditional print source AND
   b. you have already provided a citation to the traditional print source AND
   c. the content of the Internet source is identical to that of the printed version AND
   d. a parallel citation to the Internet will substantially improve access

There are two possible treatments for Internet sources:

1. The URL for a direct citation is always introduced by nothing – just setoff the URL with a comma, at the end of the citation – corresponds to Case One above.
   a. No print analogue with date listed on site (Rule 18.2.3e):


   b. No print analogue, no date listed (provide the date that you last accessed the site) (Rule 18.2.3):


   c. Print analogue (Rule 18.2.3):


2. The URL for a parallel citation is always introduced by “available at” – corresponds to Case Two above (Rule 18.2.2).
   a. If the Morgansen article had also appeared in print, but it was difficult to find:


**Short Forms (Rule 4):**

Once a source has been cited, if it is cited again later in the article, in most cases, you can use a short form – either *Id.* or *supra*. The *Id.* form is used when citing the immediately preceding authority within the same footnote or within the immediately preceding footnote. This only
applies when the preceding footnote contains just one authority, however. Indicate where the second citation differs from the first, such as the specific page number being cited.

2. Id.
3. Id. at 56.
4. See id.

The supra form is used when a source has been cited in a previous footnote, but not the one directly preceding or if the directly preceding footnote has multiple citations in it. This form includes the last name of the author (using the typeface as was originally cited) followed by a comma, supra note X (whatever footnote number the source originally appeared in) followed by a comma, “at” and the new pinpoint cite if applicable. Supra should not be used to refer to constitutions, legislative materials, or cases. (See rule 4.2)

22. Abel, supra note 1, at 52.

Signals (Rule 1.2):
Signals are used to introduce citations. They are supposed to tell the reader what the relationship is between the proposition in the text and the cited material. The most common signals are:

1. [no signal] – cited authority either directly states the proposition, identifies the source of a quotation, or identifies an authority the author refers to in the text
2. see – cited authority clearly supports the proposition; the proposition is not directly stated by the cited authority, but it obviously follows from it
3. e.g., – cited authority states the proposition, as do other authorities, but citing to all of them would not be helpful or is not necessary
4. see generally – cited authority contains helpful background material related to the proposition; an explanatory parenthetical should accompany this signal to explain the relevance of the source. If you feel that you cannot formulate a parenthetical or the author did not intend a parenthetical, please indicate that in the footnote comment section of your cite checking report.

Note that commas do not follow see, see also, or see generally.

It is imperative that you provide a pinpoint cite in your citation if you are referring to a specific page or group of pages. Sometimes sources introduced by the “see generally” signal will not have pinpoint cites if the entire article or book provides background information. However, in that case, an explanatory parenthetical should follow the citation to explain the relevance of the source.

See generally Emmanuel Lazega, The Collegial Phenomenon: The Social Mechanisms of Cooperation Among Peers in a Corporate Law Partnership (2001) (arguing that a corporate law partnership is an example of a specific collegial organization in which partners lock themselves into a long-term situation).