

## BLUEBOOK CITATION FORMS<sup>1</sup>

This note summarizes the most important Bluebook rules. When in doubt, consult the Bluebook.

### Some general rules

1. Every quotation in the text requires a citation providing the authority for the citation (including the page number on which the quotation is found).
2. Likewise, the first time a case is introduced in the text it needs a full citation at the end of the case name (rather not at the end of the sentence). If, following the case name, the sentence also includes a quotation from the case, use a pin cite at the end of the sentence.

As the Supreme Court observed in *Copperweld Corp. v. Independence Tube Corp.*,<sup>1</sup> to have the capacity to conspire the entities must be capable to “deprive[ing] the marketplace of independent centers of decisionmaking that competition assumes and demands” by coordinating their behavior, which is “inherently is fraught with anticompetitive risk.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 467 U.S. 752 (1984).

<sup>2</sup> *Copperweld*, 467 U.S. at 768-69; accord *American Needle, Inc. v. Nat'l Football League*, 130 S. Ct. 2201, 2212 (2010); *Robertson v. Sea Pines Real Estate Cos.*, 679 F.3d 278, 284 (4th Cir. 2012); *Omnicare, Inc. v. UnitedHealth Group, Inc.*, 629 F.3d 697, 706 (7th Cir. 2011).

3. In an article for a legal journal, citations must be in footnotes. In a memorandum of law, citations may be in either the footnote or in the text (but be consistent throughout the paper with whatever you choose to do).
4. In U.S. legal writing, if a footnote number appears at the end of a sentence, it goes after the final punctuation mark (e.g., “The sky is blue.<sup>4</sup>”; not “The sky is blue<sup>4</sup>.”)

### Punctuation and typefaces

1. In textual material, “section” is spelled out (“Section 7 of the Clayton Act,” not “§ 7 of the Clayton Act). Rule 12.10(b)-(c).
  - a. *Exception*: Use the symbol when referencing the U.S. Code (e.g., 28 U.S.C. § 1292(b)). Rule 12.10(c).

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<sup>1</sup> THE BLUEBOOK: A UNIFORM SYSTEM OF CITATION (21st ed. 2020).

- b. *Exception:* The symbol may be used in citations contained in the text.  
Rules 12.10(c), 6.2(c).
- 2. When a pin cite refers to a footnote, there is no space between the “n.” and the footnote number (e.g., n.4, not n. 4). Rule 3.2(b).
- 3. There is a space between a section sign and a statute number (e.g., 15 U.S.C. § 1). *See* Rules 3.3, 6.2(c).
- 4. When using “*id.*,” use “at” before a page number (e.g., *id.* at 327) but not before a section or paragraph symbol (e.g., *id.* § 1). Rule 3.3(c).
- 5. The words “see” or “see, for example,” are not italicized when used in a sentence: “For more explanation, see, for example, Michael L. Katz & Janusz A. Ordover, R&D *Cooperation and Competition*, in BROOKINGS PAPERS ON ECONOMIC ACTIVITY: MICROECONOMICS 1990, at 172 (M. N. Baily & C. Winston eds., 1990).”

Note: In textual material, use “see, for example,” not “see, e.g.,”  
Rule 1.2(e)

- 6. The titles of speeches are not italicized. Rule 17.2.6. Abbreviate the speaker’s title and institutional affiliation according to Tables T6, T10, and T11.

Jonathan Kanter, Ass’t Att’y Gen., Antitrust Div., U.S. Dep’t of Justice,  
Remarks at the American Economic Liberties Project 2024  
Antimonopoly Summit (May 21, 2024).

- 7. The abbreviations “i.e.” and “e.g.” are not italicized when used in a sentence, Rule 1.2(e), but “e.g.” is italicized when used as an introductory signal in a case citation in a footnote. Rule 1.2.
- 8. “Per se” is not italicized.

## Cases

- 1. Case names are italicized in *textual* material, whether in the body or in a footnote. Rule 2.2(a)(i), Rule 2.2(b)(i).
- 2. Case names, however, are *not* italicized part of a citation to authority in a footnote. Rule 2.1(a).
- 3. Italics are used for short form citations. Rule 2.1(a); see Rule 10.9.
- 4. Always spell out “United States” in a case name when the U.S. is a party, but use the abbreviation when it is part of an agency or company name. Rule 10.2.1(k) (example). *This is one of the most common Bluebooking mistakes.*

United States v. Grinnell Corp., 384 U.S. 563 (1966).

*But:*

American Pharm. Ass’n v. U.S. Dep’t of Justice, 467 F.2d 1290  
(6th Cir. 1972)

Southern Concrete Co. v U.S. Steel Corp., 394 F. Supp. 362 (N.D. Ga.  
1975)

5. In abbreviating the Federal Trade Commission in a case name, use “FTC,” not “F.T.C.” The latter refers to the official reporter.
6. Do not include “et al.” in a case name. Rule 10.2.1(a).
7. There is no need to include any “cert. denied” history in a citation (although Rule 10.7 indicates that cert. denied history should be included if the circuit court decision is less than two years old or the denial is particularly relevant).
8. Some common abbreviations for use in case names *in footnote case citations*:

Association	Ass’n
Chem.	Chem.
Commission	Comm’n
Commissioner	Comm’r
Communication	Commc’n
Company	Co.
Corporation	Corp.
Department	Dep’t
Electric [al, ity]	Elec.
Engineering	Eng’g
Enterprise	Enter.
Incorporated	Inc.
Industry [y, ies, ial]	Indus.
International	Int’l
Limited	Ltd.
Litigation	Litig.
Machine [ry]	Mach.
Management	Mgmt.
Manufacturer	Mfr.
Manufacturing	Mfg.
Marketing	Mkt.
Mechanic [al]	Mech.
Medic[al, ime]	Med.
National	Nat.
Organiz[ation, ing]	Org.
Pharmaceutic[s, al]	Pharm.
Product [ion]	Prod.
Securit[y, ies]	Sec.
Service	Serv.
System	Sys.
Technology	Tech.

For other case name abbreviations, see Table T6. Unless otherwise indicated in Table T6, add an “s” to make the abbreviation for the plural.

NB: *In textual sentences*, whether in the main text of in footnote text, abbreviate only widely known acronyms and these eight words:

&  
Ass'n  
Bros.  
Co.  
Corp.  
Inc.  
Ltd.  
No.

Rule 10.2.1(c).

9. Abbreviations for geographical terms in case citations are given in Table T10.
10. Some illustrative examples of case citations. Note that every U.S. case citation has a case name, a reporter reference, and a parenthetical with the court (except for the Supreme Court) and the year of decision. A decision published in Westlaw or LexisNexis must also include the docket number.

*Official reporters*—Cite to the official reporter whenever available

Brown Shoe Co. v. United States, 370 U.S. 294 (1962).

NB: Spell out “United States.” The court is not included in the parenthetical with the date because it is indicated by the “U.S.” in the reporter reference.

T.W. Elec. Serv. v. Pacific Elec. Contractors Ass’n, 809 F.2d 626 (9th Cir. 1987).

High Fructose Corn Syrup Antitrust Litig., 216 F.3d 621 (7th Cir. 2000).

NB: In earlier editions of the Blue Book, this would have been *In re* High Fructose Corn Syrup Antitrust Litig., 216 F.3d 621 (7th Cir. 2000). The 21st edition prescribes that the “In re” be dropped. Rule 10.2.1(b).

Blessing v. Sirius XM Radio Inc., 775 F. Supp. 2d 650 (S.D.N.Y. 2011).

*Westlaw and Lexis-Nexis* (Rule 10.8.1(a))

FTC v. Meta Platforms Inc., No. 5:22-CV-04325-EJD, 2023 WL 2346238, at \*31 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 3, 2023).

For pin cites, use a comma after the case number, followed by an “at” and a star-page number.

Altria Group, Inc., No. 9393, 2022 WL 622476 (F.T.C. Feb. 23, 2022) (initial decision).

For agency administrative adjudications, omit all procedural phrases (including “*In re*”). Rule 14.3.1.

For an ALJ’s decision, note this in a parenthetical. Rule 14.3.1.

*FTC official reports*

R.R. Donnelley & Sons Co., 120 F.T.C. 36 (1995).

For more examples, see Rule 10.1.

**Authority for propositions**

1. When a case name appears in the text for the first time, insert a footnote with the formal citation to the case immediately after the case name, not at the end of the sentence. *See* Rule 1.1(a).
  - a. If the case is authority for the sentence in which the case name appears, insert a footnote at the end of the sentence with pinpoint citation. Rule 3.2
2. Use a pinpoint citation (sometimes called a “pin cite” or a “jump cite”) to give authority for a proposition. Always use a pinpoint citation when quoting from the text of a case or other authority.
3. Give the page number or numbers where the authority appears after the title of the citation source.

United States v. Kissel, 218 U.S. 601, 606-07 (1910).

4. Use an “at” if the page number may be confused with another part of the citation, such in as Westlaw or Lexis-Nexis citations. Set off “at” with a comma:

*In re* Webkinz Antitrust Litig., No. C 08-1987 RS, 2010 WL 4168845, at \*4 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 20, 2010).

*Note:* Use “*In re*” if included in the name of a case adjudicated in federal court. Rule 10.2.1(b). (But do not use “*In re*” in administrative adjudications. Rule 14.3.1.)

**Statutes**

1. Current official code
  - 15 U.S.C. § 1
  - Hart-Scott-Rodino Act, 15 U.S.C. § 18a
  - Clayton Act § 7A, 15 U.S.C. § 18a

*Note:* As of 2020, citations to the federal code, whether official or unofficial, do not require a date. Rule 12.3.2.

2. Official session laws

**Foreign Trade Antitrust Improvements Act,**

Celler-Kefauver Act, Pub. L. No. 81-899, 64 Stat. 1125 (1950) (codified as amended at 15 U.S.C. §§ 18, 21).

*Older statutes:*

Sherman Act, ch. 674, 26 Stat. 209 (1890) (current version at 15 U.S.C. §§ 1 to 7).

Clayton Act, ch. 323, 38 Stat. 730 (1914) (current version at 15 U.S.C. §§ 12 to 27).

3. Specific section within an official session law:

Antitrust Criminal Penalty Enhancement and Reform Act, Pub. L. No. 108-237, § 215, 118 Stat. 661, 668 (2004) (codified at 15 U.S.C. § 1)

Page on which Section 215 appears

**Citing authority in footnotes**

1. A signal gives the relationship between a proposition and the authority cited in support of the proposition. Rule 1.2.

Signal	Use
[no signal]	Directly stands for the proposition, is the source of a quotation, or was mentioned in the proposition
<i>E.g.</i> ,	The cited authority is one of multiple authorities directly stating the proposition, but where citation to additional authorities is unnecessary
<i>Accord</i>	When an authority is cited that first stated the proposition or is most associated with it, use “accord” for authority that follows the primary authority on the proposition.  ZF Meritor, LLC v. Eaton Corp., 696 F.3d 254, 270 (3d Cir. 2012) (holding that “a prerequisite to any exclusive dealing claim is an agreement to deal exclusively”); <i>accord</i> Aerotec Int’l, Inc. v.

	Honeywell Int'l, Inc., 836 F.3d 1171, 1181 (9th Cir. 2016).  There is no comma after accord.
<i>See</i>	The authority supports, but does not directly state, the proposition. There is no comma after “see” if the authority immediately follows the signal.
<i>See also</i>	The authority supports the proposition, but not as strongly as with a “see” signal. Given the weaker relationship, a parenthetical explanation following the authority is often included. Rule 1.2.
<i>Cf.</i>	The authority supports a proposition different from the main proposition but sufficiently analogous to lend support to the main proposition. A parenthetical explanation is typically required.
<i>Contra</i>	The authority directly states a proposition directly contrary to the main proposition
<i>But see</i>	The authority clearly supports a proposition directly contrary to the main proposition
<i>But cf.</i>	The authority supports a proposition analogous to the contrary of the main proposition. Usually requires a parenthetical explanation.
<i>See generally</i>	The authority provides helpful background material related to the proposition

The strength of a signal in descending order is [no signal], “see,” “see also,” and “cf.” Authorities should be cited by signal in descending order of their strength. Rule 1.3.

- a. Signals are italicized in citations, but not when used as verbs in textual material. Rules 1.2, 2.1(d).
  - b. Unless followed by an “e.g.,” do not use a comma after a signal.
2. *Order of authorities within each signal*: Beginning in the twenty-first edition of the Bluebook (2020), authorities should be ordered in a logical manner with more authoritative sources preceding less authoritative ones. Rule 1.4

### Previously cited authority

1. Use “*id.*” when citing the immediately preceding authority (but only when the immediately preceding citation contain only one authority). Rule 4.1. If the pin cite differs, use “*id.* at [pin cite page number]”. *Id.*
2. *Cases*. In law review footnotes, a short form for a case may be used if it clearly identifies a case that (a) is already cited in the same footnote or (b) is cited (in either full or short form, including “*id.*”) in one of the preceding five

footnotes. Otherwise, a full citation is required (unless using a “*supra*” cross-reference). Rule 10.9(a).

<sup>17</sup> *United States v. Kissel*, 218 U.S. 601, 606-07 (1910).

<sup>21</sup> *Kissel*, 218 U.S. at 609

Otherwise, a full citation is required. Rule 10.9(a).

3. *Secondary authority.*

- a. Use “*supra*” when citing to previously cited authority (unless *id.* is appropriate). The *supra* form usually consists of the last name of the author, followed by a comma and the word *supra* and the footnote number where the authority first appeared, another comma, and a pin cite. Rule 4.2.

<sup>25</sup> Roy J. Epstein, *An Econometrics Primer for Lawyers*, ANTITRUST, Summer 2011, at 29, 30.

<sup>31</sup> See Epstein, *supra* note 25, at 31.

NB: Spell out “note” when using *supra*.

- b. The *supra* form starts with the last name of the author if a natural person, the full name if an institutional author, or the title of the work if no author is cited, followed by a comma and the words “*supra* note,” followed by a comma and the footnoted number where the authority is fully cited, followed (if appropriate) by a comma and a pin cite.<sup>2</sup> For the author, use the same typeface as in the full citation. Rule 4.2(a):

<sup>29</sup> Crane, *supra* note 16, at 37. [an article]

<sup>30</sup> AREEDA AND HOVENKAMP, *supra* note 4, at ¶ 533c. [a book]

- c. If more than two authors, use “et al.”:

<sup>31</sup> KEETON ET AL., *supra* note 22, § 2, at 4. [a book]

- d. A *supra* form may be preceded by an introductory signal:

<sup>32</sup> See Steuer, *supra* note 2, at 102. [an article]

- e. If two authorities in the paper have the same author, distinguish the two by adding a short form of the work:

<sup>33</sup> HOVENKAMP, ANTITRUST ENTERPRISE, *supra* note 25, at 202. [a book]

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<sup>2</sup> If the pin cite is a page number, use an “at” after the comma. If the pin cite is a section or paragraph number, do not use an “at” after the comma.

<sup>34</sup> Hovenkamp, *Antitrust Policy*, *supra* note 27, at 216. [an article]

f. Hereinafter

- i. For authority that would be cumbersome to cite with the *supra* form or for which the regular shortened form may confuse the reader, you can specify a specific short form. After the full citation, in brackets start with the word “hereinafter” and then the specific short form you would like to use. Rule 4.2(b).

<sup>3</sup> U.S. DEP’T OF JUSTICE & FEDERAL TRADE COMM’N,  
HORIZONTAL MERGER GUIDELINES (1992) (with  
Apr. 8, 1997 revisions to § 4 on efficiencies)  
[hereinafter 1992 MERGER GUIDELINES]

...

<sup>35</sup> 1992 MERGER GUIDELINES, *supra* note 3, § 2.

**Books, articles, working papers, and press releases**

1. Abbreviations for many legal periodicals (and terms used in the titles of periodicals of all types) may be found in Table T13.
2. Use an “&” and not “and” in a citation with multiple authors. Rule 15.1(a)-(b).
3. Books are cited in footnotes small caps (along with their authors). Rule 2.1(b).
4. Editors are cited in normal case with parenthetical and a comma follows ed. or eds. Rule 15.2.

Kenneth G. Elzinga & David E. Mills, *The Brand Name Prescription Drugs Antitrust Litigation*, in *THE ANTITRUST REVOLUTION* (John E. Kwoka, Jr. & Lawrence J. White eds., 4th ed. 2004).

The edition comes after the editors in the parenthetical and does not have a comma.

5. In citing a chapter in a collected work, the “in” is italicized. Rule 1.6(a)(i).

John T. Scott, *Historical and Economic Perspectives of the National Cooperative Research Act*, in *COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT: THE INDUSTRY-UNIVERSITY-GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIP* 65 (Albert N. Link & Gregory Tassef eds., 1989).

6. For working papers, in the parenthetical commas follow the sponsoring organization and the paper number. Rule 17.4.

Jonathan B. Baker & Carl Shapiro, *Reinvigorating Horizontal Merger Enforcement* (Competition Policy Center, Paper CPC07-071, Oct. 2007)).

7. There are no italics in the citation of a press release:

Press Release, U.S. Dep't of Justice, Antitrust Div., Justice Department Reaches Settlement in Suit to Block ASSA ABLOY's Proposed Acquisition of Spectrum Brands' Hardware and Home Improvement Division (May 5, 2023)

Rule 17.2.3 (example).

### **Examples and special citation forms—U.S.**

1. Sherman Act § 1, 15 U.S.C. § 1.
2. Clayton Act §§ 5(b)-5(h), 15 U.S.C. §§ 16(b)-16(h).
3. U.S. DEP'T OF JUSTICE & FEDERAL TRADE COMM'N, HORIZONTAL MERGER GUIDELINES (1992) (with Apr. 8, 1997 revisions to § 4 on efficiencies) [hereinafter 1992 MERGER GUIDELINES]. *See* Rule 14.2(d) (use small caps when citing to stand-alone reports).
4. U.S. Dep't of Justice, Merger Guidelines, 49 Fed. Reg. 26,823 (1984). Rule 14.2(b) (no small caps when cited as published in the Federal Register).
5. U.S. Dep't of Justice, Merger Guidelines § 4, 49 Fed. Reg. 26,823 (1984) [hereinafter Non-Horizontal Merger Guidelines].
6. Antitrust Div., U.S. Dep't of Justice, Model Corporate Conditional Leniency Letter (Apr. 4, 2022), <https://www.justice.gov/atr/page/file/1490291/download>. Rule 14.2(b).
7. Scott D. Hammond, Dep. Ass't Att'y Gen., Antitrust Div., U.S. Dep't of Justice, The Evolution of Criminal Antitrust Enforcement over the Last Two Decades, Remarks Before the ABA Criminal Justice Section 24th Annual National Institute On White Collar Crime, Miami, Florida (Feb. 25, 2010). Rule 15.1(c) (institutional authors); Rule 17.1.6 (speeches).
8. Brief of Economists as Amici Curiae Supporting Petitioners at 15, *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544 (2007) (No. 06-480). Rule 10.8.3.
9. Author, *Title of article*, ANTITRUST, Fall 2007 [season and year], at [page]. Rule 16.5 (for nonconsecutively paginated journals and magazines).
10. *Coordinated Effects Analysis: The Arch Coal Decision*, ANTITRUST SOURCE, Mar. 2005, at 1, 3. Rule 16.5 (for nonconsecutively paginated journals and magazines).
11. Complaint at 7, *Cardinal Health, Inc.*, No. C-4339 (FTC filed July 21, 2011). This is not strictly the Blue Book form. Rule 10.8.3 provides that if not

decision has been rendered, the date in the parenthetical be the date that the court document was filed—here, (FTC July 21, 2011)—without the word “filed”. If the a decision was entered, then the case should be cited in the normal way, with the docket number provided in a parenthetical. Since so many FTC decisions are not published for years, I find the above form to be more informative whether a decision has been published or not.

12. Cardinal Health, Inc.; Analysis of Agreement Containing Consent Order to Aid Public Comment, 76 Fed. Reg. 44,924 (July 27, 2011). Rule 14.2(b).
13. Complaint ¶¶ 8-10, 12(b)-(c), Actavis, Inc., No. C-4414 (F.T.C. issued Sept. 27, 2013) (settled by consent order).

### **Examples and special citation forms—EU<sup>3</sup>**

1. Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, May 9, 2008, 2008 O.J. (C 115) 1 (effective Dec. 1, 2009) [hereinafter TFEU]. Rule 21.9(c).
2. Consolidated Version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, March 30, 2010, 2010 O.J. (C 43) 87 [hereinafter Consolidated TFEU]. Rule 21.9(c).
3. Treaty Establishing the European Community, Nov. 10, 1997, 1997 O.J. (C 340) 3 [hereinafter EC Treaty].
4. Council Regulation 139/2004 of 20 January 2004 on the Control of Concentrations between Undertakings, 2004 O.J. (L 24) 1 (EC) [hereinafter 2004 MERGER REGULATION]. *See* Rule 21.9(a)(ii).
5. Commission Regulation 1/2003, arts. 3, 11, 16, 2003 O.J. (L 1) 1 (EC). *See* Rule 21.9(a)(ii).
6. Regulation 4064/89 of 21 December 1989 on the Control of Concentrations between Undertakings, 1990 O.J. (L 257) 13 (EEC) [hereinafter 1989 MERGER REGULATION].
7. Guidelines on the Assessment of Horizontal Mergers under the Council Regulation on the Control of Concentrations between Undertakings, 2004 O.J. (C 31) 5 [hereinafter EU HORIZONTAL GUIDELINES].
8. Guidelines on the Assessment of Non-Horizontal Mergers under the Council Regulation on the Control of Concentrations between Undertakings, 2008 O.J. (C 256) 6 [hereinafter EU NON-HORIZONTAL GUIDELINES].

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<sup>3</sup> The Blue Book is weak on citation forms for European Union and European Commission materials. Some of the forms in this note are extrapolated and do not appear in the Blue Book.

9. Notice on Remedies Acceptable Under Council Regulation No. 4064/89 and Under Commission Regulation No. 447/98, 2001 O.J. (C 68) 3.
10. Case No. COMP/M.3333, Sony/BMG, Commission Decision of 19 July 2004, *annulled*, Case T-464/04, Independent Music Publishers and Labels Ass'n (Impala) v. Comm'n, 2006 E.C.R. II-02289, *on reinvestigation*, Case COMP/M.3333, Sony/BMG, Commission Decision of October 3, 2007.
11. Case No. COMP/M.2220, General Elec./Honeywell, Commission decision of July 3, 2001, *upheld in part in* Case T-210/01, Gen. Elec. Co. v. Comm'n, 2005 E.C.R. 11-5575. NB: The "M" in the case number stands for "mergers." In an abuse of dominance decision, there would just be a number.
12. Case T-83/91, Tetra Pak, 1994 E.C.R. II-755, *aff'd*, C-333/94P, 1996 E.C.R. I-5951. *See* Rule 21.5.2.
13. Case C-12/03 P, Comm'n v. Tetra Laval BV, 2005 E.C.R. I-987, *aff'g* Case T-5/02, Tetra Laval v. Comm'n. 2002 E.C.R. II-4381, *overruling* Case No. COMP/M.2416, Tetra Laval/Sidel, Commission decision of 13 January 2003.
14. Case T-342/99, Airtours v Comm'n, 2002 E.C.R. II-2585.
15. Cases T-310/01 & T-7702, Schneider Elec. SA v. Comm'n (Oct. 22, 2002).
16. European Commission Press Release IP/01/939, The Commission Prohibits GE's Acquisition of Honeywell (July 3, 2001). Rule 21.9(f).
17. MARC IVALDI, BRUNO JULLIEN, PATRICK REY, PAUL SEABRIGHT & JEAN TIROLE, THE ECONOMICS OF TACIT COLLUSION (Final Report for DG Competition, European Commission, 2003).

### Random observations

1. Notwithstanding the tendency of some (including some courts), antitrust is not spelled with a hyphen: it is "antitrust," not anti-trust.
2. Unless the court in question is the Supreme Court, the word "court" is not capitalized (e.g., "The district court held . . .").
3. Use "supracompetitive," not "supercompetitive."
4. Do not capitalize firm or product in "firm 1" or "product A" (not "Firm 1," "Product A").