Write On 2022

GLJ Law Fellows Bluebook Workshop

April 20, 2022
1) Write On Overview
2) Why Bluebook?
3) How to cite a case comment
4) How to approach the BB exam
5) General Bluebooking tips
6) Practice Questions and Q&A
Introductions!
Write On Overview

- Can choose any two-week period from May 20 to July 6, 2022
  - Bluebook exam not separately timed!
- Three components:
  - Case Comment (essay)
  - Bluebook/editing test
  - Personal statement — different prompts, can complete ahead of time
- Different journals weigh components differently
- Nothing you need to be doing now to prepare!
Questions?
Why Bluebooking is useful

● Significant portion of your first-year work on journal
  ○ Checking the substantive + technical accuracy of citations

● Useful skill to have in practice
  ○ Summer internship
  ○ Clerkship
  ○ Incoming associates

● Bluebooking is a good way to show your attention to detail
Bluebooking for a law review

- Law review citations are primarily in whitepages (versus bluepages for practitioner writing)
  - Below the line footnotes (for Bluebook exam) or endnotes (for Case Comment)

- Citations sometimes use different typefaces (including small caps)

- Remember:
  - **Bluebook Exam**: Citations in footnotes (look at law review articles online for examples)
  - **Case Comment**: Citations in endnotes (look at Sample Materials and Case Comment on website)
How to cite a case comment

- **Write-On Packet**
  - Ex: Principal Case, Supreme Court Cases, Circuit Court Cases, District Court Cases, Statutory & Regulatory Provisions, Secondary Sources

- **Important BB Rules**
  - Abbreviations (T6)
  - Unreported cases (Rule 10.8)
  - U.S. Constitution (Rule 11)
  - Statutes (Rule 12)
  - Short Forms (Rule 10.9 for cases and Rule 12.10 for statutes)
How to cite a case comment

● Helpful rules
  ○ Short citations
    - *Id.* = short cites to immediately preceding cases/other authority so long as the footnote contains only one authority (Rule 4.1)
    - Five Footnote Rule (Rule 10.9)
      - In law review footnotes, a short form for a case may be used if it clearly identifies a case that (1) is already cited in the *same footnote* or (2) is cited (in either full or short form, including “*id.*”) in *one of the preceding five footnotes*
    - *Supra* = short cites to law review articles and books, NOT cases (Rule 4.2)
      - *Powell, supra note 3, at 76.* (refers back to law review article by Powell cited in full in note 3)
  ○ Periods at the end of footnotes
  ○ Signals (Rule 1.2) and which recommend parentheticals (Rule 1.5)
  ○ Pincites (Rule 3.2)

● Check out
  ○ Sample Materials and Case Comment on Write On Competition website
  ○ Not necessarily CORRECT, but good place to start
How to approach the BB exam

(1) Tab your Bluebook (consider free trial for online BB!)
(2) Review the whitepages
(3) Create a schedule—don’t wait until the last minute!
(4) Check your work

(5) *Before:* Visit Georgetown Law Library’s Online Bluebook Guide

(6) *Before:* Review Georgetown Law Library’s Bluebook Guides & Handouts
   (a) Bluebooking Scholarly Legal Writing
   (b) Everything You Wanted to Know that the Bluebook Does Not Tell You Clearly
   (c) Some of the Most Obscure Bluebook Rules or How to Really Impress Even the Most Expecting Bluebooker
General Bluebooking tips

- Tab R1–3, 5, 8, 10–18 (whitepages); T1, 6, 9, 12, 13
- Navigation
  - Start with rules 10–18: what kind of source am I citing?
  - Next go to T1: what is the general format (more important for state)
  - Look at the sub-rules for each element of the citation (e.g., law review authors is R16.2)
  - Check rules 1–8 for other formatting issues (e.g., signals, order of parentheticals, order of sources, etc.)
  - Check every character for weird issues (e.g., double spaces)
- Check the index (or Ctrl+F) if confused!
Citing a case

- Rule 10
- Case names are NOT italicized in the full citation
- BUT case names ARE italicized in short cites (remember: the Five Footnote Rule!)
  - E.g., *Roe*, 410 U.S. at [PINCITE], NOT Roe, 410 U.S. at [PINCITE]
- If you are citing to the same case but there are more than 5 footnotes between the original cite and your current cite, a full case citation is needed again.

*NOTE:* when you reference a case “above the line” in the text of your Case Comment, the case name (either full or short name) is italicized, but the actual citation should be in an endnote
Citing a litigation document

- E.g., a complaint, a brief, etc.
- Rule 10.8.3
  - Note: case name is not italicized!
  - Commercial database identifier is optional
Citing a book

Rule 15

- **Thomas A. Mauet, Trial Techniques and Trials** 289 (10th ed. 2017).
  - BUT 2d ed. NOT 2nd (see rule 6.2(b))
  - Page ranges (see rule 3.2(a))
Citing an online newspaper article

Rule 16.1


● Remember small caps for newspaper name!

● Review T6 (and the paragraphs before T6) for abbreviations in periodical titles (note that articles are often dropped, i.e., “a,” “at,” “in,” “of,” and “the”)
Citing a footnote

Rule 3.2(b)

- To cite ONLY the footnote:

- To cite the discussion on the page and the footnote:

- To cite multiple footnotes:
Other Misc. Tips (1)

- Double check your italics!
  - The period after id. is italicized.
  - The comma after see, e.g., is NOT italicized.
- Double check T6 for abbreviations of words in case names, institutional author names, and periodical titles
- Double check T10.1 for U.S. states and cities
- Double check T12 for abbreviations of months
- Double check T13 for abbreviation of names of periodicals
Other Misc. Tips (2)

Rule 1.3

- In a string cite, citations of the same type (i.e., supporting) are separated by a semicolon. Only the first signal is capitalized.

- In a string cite, citations of different types (i.e., supportive vs. contradictory) go in different sentences.
Other Misc. Tips (3)

- Make sure that signals that should have parentheticals have them. **Rule 1.2**
  
  *see also, see generally.*

- Check the order of your parentheticals. **R1.5(b)**
  
  *McCreary Cnty. v. ACLU, 545 U.S. 844, 887 (2005) (Scalia, J., dissenting)*
  
  *(emphasis added) (quoting another source).*
Practice Questions and Q&A
How would you cite the online Politico article entitled “Biden’s sweeping climate goal comes down to one thing,” authored by Michael Grunwald on April 25, 2021?
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Relevant rule: BB 18.2.2

How would you cite page 133 of Maya Gandhi’s groundbreaking article “Join Our Journal,” which begins on page 120 of the 111th volume of *The Georgetown Law Journal* published in 2022?
How would you cite page 133 of Maya Gandhi’s groundbreaking article “Join Our Journal,” which begins on page 120 of the 111th volume of *The Georgetown Law Journal* published in 2022?

Relevant rules: BB 16, T. 6/13

How would you cite page 51 of the Respondent’s Brief, which was filed on August 25, 2020, for the pending case Public Citizen v. Hennepin County in the Eighth Circuit, docket number No. 20-0223?
How would you cite page 51 of the Respondent’s Brief, which was filed on August 25, 2020, for the pending case *Public Citizen v. Hennepin County* in the Eighth Circuit, docket number No. 20-0223?

Relevant rules: BB 10.8.3, BB 10.2.1(f) for county, T6 for abbreviations.

Questions?