Chapter 10. Legal Documents

The legal profession employs a unique system of citation unlike that generally used in medicine and the sciences. This legal style is described in detail in *The Bluebook: a Uniform System of Citation* (18th ed. Cambridge (MA): Harvard Law Review Association; 2005). Because this legal standard is well established and its citation format accurately identifies legal documents for retrieval from law and general libraries, no attempt has been made to force references to legal materials such as public laws and hearings into a traditional format. Instead, examples of the common types of legal citations are provided here and the reader should consult *The Bluebook* for details.

The examples below pertain to US federal statues and legislative documents. They represent the standards followed in the United States and may not be applicable to legal documents in other countries. Documents produced by US states vary in format; see *The Bluebook*.

**Unenacted Bill**

- **originated in the House**
  

- **originated in the Senate**
  

**Public Law**


**United States Code**


Code of Federal Regulations


Federal Register

An item from the Federal Register is cited the same way as a standard journal article. Abbreviate the title to Fed Regist. and see Chapter 1A for journal article citation information.


Congressional Hearing

- House


- Senate


Congressional Report

- House report


- Senate report