LEGAL RESEARCH & WRITING I

Citation Examples - Federal Sources

A. United States Supreme Court

Santa Fe Indep. Sch. Dist. v. Doe, 530 U.S. 290 (2000).

Follow Bluebook rule 10.2, and abbreviate words in case names as in Table T6 and T10. Do not use parallel cites. Omit the court name, because the reporter clearly indicates it. If the case is not yet in the U.S. Reports, cite to S. Ct., L. Ed. 2d, or U.S.L.W., in that order.

B. United States Courts of Appeals

Abramson v. William Paterson Coll., 260 F.3d 265 (3d Cir. 2001).

Cite to the F., F.2d, or F.3d reporter. Include the court name by numbered or named circuit. (Do not misspell "2d" or "3d"; do not use a superscript format.) Include subsequent history for a first cite, but not "cert. denied" unless the case is less than two years old.

C. United States District Courts

Donovan v. City of Milwaukee, 845 F. Supp. 1312 (E.D. Wis. 1992), aff'd, 17 F.3d 944 (7th Cir. 1994).

Cite to F. Supp. (since 1932) or F. Supp. 2d, and identify the court by federal district. Use the court abbreviations in Table T7. Include subsequent history for a first cite.

D. Constitution

U.S. Const. art. I, § 9.

Abbreviate the name of the Constitution. Follow the Constitution's numbering format (e.g., Roman and Arabic numbers). Do not include a date for the current constitution.

E. Statutes

42 U.S.C. § 1983 (2012).

Cite to the official code. Include the date of the statute currently in effect, unless you are citing specifically to a previous version. If the most current version of the section is in a supplement, use that date.