

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS**  
**CITATION AND STYLE GUIDE**

**[Revised June 2022]**

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1. Bluebook: Whenever something in this memorandum conflicts with any provision of *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (21st ed. 2020)*, this memorandum controls. **Otherwise, *The Bluebook* controls.**

## 2. Signals.

**2.1. See:** The word “see” should be italicized only when it is used as an introductory signal to a citation. A reference to another part of a document you are writing is not a citation but a direction to the reader; in that situation, therefore, “see” is not italicized. (*this is a change from the 2021 edition*).

**2.2. E.g.:** Never put a comma after *see* and *cf.*, except when they are followed by e.g.

## 3. Abbreviations.

**3.1. Reporters, Court Names, and Periodicals:** When two or more letters are used in a single abbreviation, there should be no space between them. For this purpose, an ordinal number such as 2d, 3d, or 4th is treated as a single letter.

- U.S., D.C., A.2d, F.2d, S.D.N.Y., A.L.R.3d

When an abbreviation contains more than one letter it should be preceded and followed by a space.

- U.S. App. D.C., Cal. App. 2d, Ill. 2d, So. 2d, S. Ct.
- N.D. W. Va., U. Pa. L. Rev., A.L.R. Fed.

**3.2. Footnotes:** When citing a footnote in a case or other authority, use “n.” *See The Bluebook Rule 3.2(b)* for general guidance. When referring to a footnote in the document you are writing, use “note.”

- *Coto v. Citibank FSB*, 912 A.2d 562, 566 n.4 (D.C. 2006).
- By contrast, it did persuade the trial court to cut off damages for back pay as of February 2003, finding that the Director of Sales position was eliminated at that time

due to a reorganization at WCCA. See *supra* note 4.

**3.3 Government, Department, and Agency Names:** See *The Bluebook* Rule 6(b) for general guidance. For D.C. legislation, agencies, and departments, use the following abbreviations:

- Administrative Law Judge: “ALJ”
- Basic Business License: “BBL”
- Civil Protection order: “CPO”
- D.C. Humans Rights Acts: “DCHRA”
- D.C Administrative Procedures Act: “DCAPA”
- D.C. Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs: “DCRA”
- Notice of Infraction: “NOI”
- Office of Administrative Hearings: “OAH”
- Temporary Protective Order: “TPO”

**3.4 Compass Directions:** Always abbreviate northeast, northwest, southeast, and southwest without a period; e.g.: NE, NW, SE, and SW.

#### 4. Cases.

**4.1. Case Names:** See *The Bluebook* Rule 10.2 for general guidance.

(a) *In re.* “*In the Matter of,*” “*Matter of,*” “*Petition of,*” should always be abbreviated “*In re.*”

(b) District of Columbia. Abbreviate the District of Columbia to “D.C.” *unless* it is the entire name of the party (as opposed to just a part thereof), see Rule 10.2.2.

- *Smith v. District of Columbia*, 399 A.2d 213 (D.C. 1979).
- *Smith v. D.C. Dep’t of Emp’t Servs.*, 934 A.2d 428 (D.C. 2007).
- *Bd. of Trs., the Grand Lodge of the Indep. Order of the Odd Fellows D.C.*, 225, A.3d 737 (D.C. 2020).

**4.2. Superior Court Opinions:** Opinions by Superior Court judges should be cited to the Daily Washington Law Reporter, if possible, giving the date of the opinion (not the date of publication):

- *Blue v. Gray*, 112 Daily Wash. L. Rptr. 2345 (D.C. Super. Ct. June 21, 1985).

If the opinion is not published, cite it like any other unpublished opinion:

- *Blue v. Gray*, No. 81-765 (D.C. Super. Ct. June 21, 1985). [See Rule 4.6 below for an explanation of the proper citation of slip opinions.]

**4.3. D.C. Court of Appeals Opinions:** Cite all cases from this court and its predecessor, the Municipal Court of Appeals, as follows:

- *Doe v. Roe*, 508 A.2d 1234 (D.C. 1985).

**4.3.1. Memorandum Opinion and Judgment:** Cite MOJs as follows:

- *Thomas v. United States*, No. 04-CM-722, Mem. Op. & J. at 7 (D.C. Feb. 14, 1999).

Short cite as “[NAME], Mem. Op. & J. at # (coincides with the short form of a slip opinion of *The Bluebook* Rule 10.9(a)(iii)).

**4.3.2. Rehearing:** A denial of rehearing by any court – including the Supreme Court – should not be reflected in the citation unless it is accompanied by an opinion, or unless the denial is relevant to the point for which the case is cited.

- *Breezevale Ltd. v. Dickinson*, 759 A.2d 627, 640 (D.C. 2000), *aff’d on reh’g*, 783 A.2d 573, 575 (D.C. 2001) (en banc).
- *Lyons v. United States*, 622 A.2d 34 (D.C.), *reh’g granted en banc*, 635 A.2d 902 (D.C. 1993). [Note that no year appears in the citation for the original opinion because both the original opinion and the opinion granting rehearing en banc issued in the

same year.]

**4.3.3. En Banc:** Cite en banc decision as follows:

- *Wilson-Bey v. United States*, 903 A.2d 818, 816 (D.C. 2006) (en banc)

**4.3.4. Appeal to the Supreme Court:** Be particularly careful to know the Supreme Court status of this court’s cases. The grant or denial of a petition for a writ of certiorari should always be reflected in the citation if the case is less than two years old or the denial is particularly relevant. In all other circumstances it may be assumed that certiorari was either denied or that no petition was filed.

When you are citing a case in which certiorari has been denied and wish to add something parenthetically about the case, the parenthetical comment should precede the “*cert. denied*.”

- *Doe v. Roe*, 508 A.2d 1234 (D.C. 1985) (plaintiff held liable), *cert. denied*, 462 U.S. 987 (1986).

**4.4. D.C. Circuit Opinions:** Cite only to F., F.2d, F.3d, or F.4th. Note that the court and jurisdiction – *i.e.*, “D.C. Cir.” – are added to the date parenthetical.

- *United States v. Doe*, 730 F.2d 1529 (D.C. Cir. 1984).

Include pinpoint cites as follows:

- *Doe v. Webster*, 606 F.2d 1226, 1244 (D.C. Cir. 1979).
- *Doe*, 606 F.2d at 1244.
- *Id.* at 1244.

**4.5. Order of Authority.**

**4.5.1. En Banc Opinions:** In string citations for a single proposition, cite this court’s en banc decisions ahead of other decisions from this court.

- *Wilson-Bey v. United States*, 903 A.2d 818, 836 (D.C. 2006) (en banc); *Downing v. United States*, 929 A.2d 848, 863 (D.C. 2007).

**4.5.2. State Courts:** In string citations for a single proposition, cite this court's decisions ahead of those from state courts, irrespective of the year decided.

- *Smith v. Jones*, 342 A.2d 987 (D.C. 1975); *Roberson v. Commonwealth*, 185 S.W.3d 634 (Ky. 2006).

**4.5.3. Federal Courts:** In string citations for a single proposition, cite this court's decisions ahead of those from the D.C. Circuit, the U.S. District Court for D.C., or other federal courts, irrespective of the year decided.

- *Smith v. Jones*, 342 A.2d 987 (D.C. 1975); *Brown v. Green*, 598 F.3d 321 (D.C. Cir. 2000).

**4.5.4. Supreme Court:** In string citations for a single proposition, cite Supreme Court decisions before those of this court, unless the issue is one of District of Columbia law, irrespective of the year decided.

- *Crane v. Kentucky*, 476 U.S. 683 (1986); *Coto v. Citibank FSB*, 912 A.2d 562 (D.C. 2006).

**4.6. Slip Opinions:** Opinions that do not have an official A.3d citation, use LEXIS or WESTLAW citation. If not available, use the Court of Appeals website.

**4.6.1. Website:** When citing opinions that appear on the Court of Appeals website, give the court's case number and the date of decision.

- *Doe v. Roe*, No. 85-1876 (D.C. July 31, 2007).

**4.6.2. Pinpoints:** When referring to a specific page of a slip opinion, cite as follows:

- *Doe v. Roe*, No. 85-1876, slip op. at 4 (D.C. July 31, 2007).

**4.6.3. D.C. Circuit Slip Opinions:** Cite D.C. Circuit slip opinions as follows:

- *United States v. Jones*, No. 85-6789 (D.C. Cir. Aug. 2, 2007).
- *United States v. Jones*, No. 85-6789, slip op. at 4 (D.C. Cir. Aug. 2, 2007).

**4.6.4. D.C. Court Orders:** Use a comma after the year when referring to Orders. For example, “the May 29, 2020, order”

## **5. Statutes.**

**5.1. D.C. Code:** Cite the District of Columbia Code as follows:

- Only list a D.C. Code year when referring to a historical version of the statute; when no year is listed, the document is referring to the current version of the code, same for the D.C.M.R., U.S. Code and the C.F.R.

**5.2. Section:** Always use the section symbol (§), even if you reference the D.C. Code within the text of a document.

- Citing D.C. Code §§ 22-3223(d) and -1803, appellant appeals his conviction in a bench trial of attempted credit card fraud in violation of.

Spell out and capitalize “Section,” however, if it is the first word in a sentence.

- Section 16-916.01 of the D.C. Code details the Child Support Guideline applicable to child support actions in the District.



**5.3. Spacing:** In citing statutes by section and subsection numbers, leave a space between “§” and the section number. Do not leave a space between the section number and any subdivisions enclosed in parentheses. Be sure to use a non-breaking space after a section (or paragraph) symbol to avoid an orphaned symbol at the end of the line. There should be a space before the date, which is likewise in parentheses:

- D.C. Code § 11-721(a)(2)(A). (Use a non-breaking hyphen within statutory cites to avoid breaking across lines).

## 6. Legislative Materials.

**6.1. D.C. Rules and Regulations:** Cite the Daily Washington Law Reporter, the District of Columbia Register, the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, and the District of Columbia Rules and Regulations as follows:

(a) 112 Daily Wash. L. Rptr. \_\_\_\_ (20XX)

(b) District of Columbia Register:  
51 D.C. Reg. 6052

(c) District of Columbia Municipal Regulations:  
1 D.C.M.R. § 28xx.x (20xx)

Since the D.C. Regulations are maintained online, cite the current year the MOJ/Opinion is being written. However, if the facts of the case require the citation of a regulation from an earlier time, than cite the earlier year as needed. (*See The Bluebook* Rule 12.5 for general guidance)

(d) District of Columbia Rules and Regulations:  
\_\_ D.C.R.R. § \_\_ (20xx)

**6.2. D.C. Legislative History:** Cite as follows:

D.C. Acts:

[Title], D.C. Act 23-328, 67 D.C. Reg. 7598 (June 19, 2020)

D.C. Council Reports:

[Title], D.C. Council, Report on Bill 16-205 at 4 (Feb. 28, 2006).

D.C. Committee Hearing Reports/Transcripts:

[TITLE], [Report/Hearing] on Bill No. XX-XXX before the Committee on [NAME], Council of the District of Columbia, Statement of [NAME], [AFFILIATION] at X (DATE).

**7. Court Rules:** Always include a space after R. and before the Rule number. Abbreviation of rules is appropriate in text, citations, and footnotes.

- We note at the outset that appellees made no attempt to obtain sanctions under Super. Ct. Civ. R. 11.

Because “R.” in citations refers to either “Rule” or “Rules,” it should be used in citing multiple rules as well as single ones.

- D.C. App. R. 26(c), 31(a)(5).

Do not include a date in the citation for court rules unless you are citing a previous version of the rules.

**7.1. D.C. Court of Appeals:** Cite the court’s rules as D.C. App. R. 26(c).

**7.2. D.C. Bar:** Cite as D.C. Bar R. XI, § 1(a)

**7.3. Superior Court:** Cite the Superior Court’s various rules as follows:

- (a) Superior Court Rules of Civil Procedure:  
Super. Ct. Civ. R. 4.
- (b) Superior Court Rules of Criminal Procedure:  
Super. Ct. Crim. R. 4.
- (c) Superior Court General Rules of the Family Court:  
Super. Ct. Fam. R. 4.

- (d) Superior Court Rules of Procedure for the Small Claims and Conciliation Branch:  
Super. Ct. Sm. Cl. R. 4.
- (e) Superior Court Rules of Procedure for the Landlord and Tenant Branch:  
Super. Ct. L&T R. 4.
- (f) Superior Court Rules for Domestic Relations Proceedings:  
Super. Ct. Dom. Rel. R. 4.
- (g) Superior Court Rules Governing Juvenile Proceedings:  
Super. Ct. Juv. R. 4.
- (h) Superior Court Rules for Mental Retardation Proceedings:  
Super. Ct. Ment. Ret. R. 4.
- (i) Superior Court Rules for Neglect and Abuse Proceedings:  
Super. Ct. Neg. R. 4.
- (j) Superior Court Rules of the Probate Division  
Super. Ct. Prob. R. 4.
- (k) Superior Court Rules for the Tax Division  
Super. Ct. Tax R. 4.
- (l) Superior Court Rules of Civil Procedure Agency Review  
Super. Ct. Agency Rev. R. 1(b)
- (m) Superior Court Rules Governing Proceedings in the Domestic Violence Division  
Super. Ct. Dom. Violence R. xxx
- (n) Rules Governing Proceedings under D.C. Code § 23-110  
Super. Ct. § 23-110 R. 2(b)

**7.4. Rules of the Board on Professional Responsibility:**  
Board Prof. Resp. R. 2.15

**7.5 Rules of Professional Conduct:**  
D.C. R. Prof. Conduct 1.1

**8. Jury Instructions:** Cite jury instructions as follows:

(a) Standardized Civil Jury Instructions (the “Blue Book”):  
Standardized Civil Jury Instructions for the District of Columbia,  
No. 15-6 (rev. ed. 20XX).

(b) Criminal Jury Instructions for the District of Columbia (the  
“Red Book”):  
Criminal Jury Instructions for the District of Columbia, No.  
4.102 (5th ed. 20XX).

Cite the most recent edition applicable to the instructions given in a particular case, but not an edition issued after the relevant time period, unless the later edition contains the precise wording of the applicable instruction.

**9. Formatting:**

**9.1. Font:** Times New Roman (14-point size).

**9.2. Margins:** Use one-inch margins all the way around.

**9.3. Spacing:** Two spaces after a period. Double space all text, except block quotations and footnotes. Double hard return between paragraphs.

Use a hyphen (-) for page ranges.

Use one space after a colon.

Use a space between a word and a dash.

Within a footnote, place one space after the footnote number before you begin typing the text of the footnote.

**9.4. Block Quotations:**

Quotations of fifty or more words are double indented (ten spaces) from both the right and left margins and single

spaced. When quoted material is set off by being indented in a document, do not use quotation marks.

The source of the quotation should not be enclosed in brackets, nor should it be indented. Instead, it should appear at the left margin on the line immediately following the quotation. For an illustration, *see The Bluebook Rule 5.1(a)*.

**9.5. Punctuation:** Place only periods and commas within a closed quotation mark.

**9.6. Ellipsis:** *See The Bluebook Rule 5.3* for general guidance. Where language from the middle of a quoted sentence is omitted, use an ellipsis as follows:

“The very integrity of the judicial system . . .  
depends on compulsory process.”

For omission of language at the end of a quoted sentence, use an ellipsis as follows:

“To ensure that justice is done, it is imperative that  
compulsory process be available . . . .”

Where language after the end of a quoted sentence is deleted and the sentence is followed by additional quoted material, use an ellipsis as follows:

“The need to develop all relevant facts in the adversary  
system is both fundamental and comprehensive. . . . The  
very integrity of the judicial system therefore depends  
on compulsory process.”

Be sure to use a non-breaking space between the periods in an ellipsis to avoid breaking across a line.

**9.7. Page Numbers:** Place page numbers at the top of the page. Do not number the first page.

**9.8. Headings:** Roman numerals should be in bold and followed by a period; for guidance on sub-headings, see the DCCA Opinion and MOJ Formatting Guide.

**9.9. Capitalization:** Do not capitalize “government” when referring to the United States or the District of Columbia as a party.

Do not capitalize “appellant,” “appellee,” “petitioner,” “respondent,” or “claimant.”

Do not capitalize “court” when referring to this or any other court except the Supreme Court of the United States.

**9.10. Numbers:** Any number that begins a sentence must always be spelled out and numbers zero to nine should generally be spelled out in both text and footnotes; for larger numbers, use numerals. Note: numbers containing decimal points, dollar amounts, and citations to statutes or rules should always be given in numerals.

**9.11. Italics:**

Italicize rather than underline case names. *See The Bluebook* Rule 8 for general guidance.

Do not italicize common legal terms such as *pro se*, *en banc*, *mens rea*, *de novo*, *arguendo*, *ex parte*, *lis pendens*, or *sua sponte* but italicize less common legal terms such as *feri facias*.

Do not italicize “e.g.” or “i.e.” unless “e.g.” is part of a citation signal.