

# Common Abbreviations and Legal Citation Examples for Selected Federal Government Documents Legislative, Regulatory and Statutory

By Rick McKinney on behalf of and with assistance from members of the Legislative Research Special Interest Section, Law Librarians' Society of Washington, D.C., Inc.  
Last update - September 2017

Citations for law reviews generally follow the White Pages of *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* which often employs LARGE AND SMALL caps to designate many titles. However, U.S. courts and litigation practitioners generally follow the Blue Pages of that work which often uses italics or underlining. This brief resource generally follows the Blue Pages, but it is important to be consistent and include enough identifying information so a researcher can find the cited document.

Annals of Cong. – *Annals of Congress* (1<sup>st</sup> Cong. to 18<sup>th</sup> Cong., 1<sup>st</sup> Sess., 1789-1824)  
Ex: 18 Annals of Cong. 1766 (1819) [*ALWD Guide*, Rule 15.10(c)(1)]

B – Bid protest decisions have assigned #s given by GAO's Comptroller General, 1921+  
Ex: Assisted Housing Servs. Corp., B-406738 (Comp. Gen. Aug. 15, 2012).

C.B. – *Cumulative Bulletin*, Internal Revenue Serv., U.S. Treas. Dept. (also Cum. Bull.)  
Ex: Rev. Rul. 83-137, 1983-2 C.B. 41 [*Bluebook* Table T1.2]  
Ex: See 1999-1 Cum. Bull. 960

C.F.R. – *Code of Federal Regulations* (just "CFR" is used by the Office of the Federal Register)  
Ex: 47 C.F.R. § 73.609 (1999) [*Bluebook* Rule 14.2]  
Ex: FTC Credit Practices Rule, 16 C.F.R. § 444.1 (2016) [*Bluebook* Rule 14.2]  
Ex: 47 CFR 73.609 (1999) [*OFR Document Drafting Handbook* sec. 3-17]

ch. – chapter numbers used for each act before 1957; U.S.C.A authority cites use "c."  
Ex: Clayton Act, ch. 323, § 7, 38 Stat. 730, 731-32 (1914) (current version at 15 U.S.C. § 18 (2012)) [*Bluebook* Rule 12.2.1]

Comm. Print – Committee prints in the House and Senate (also abbreviated "S. Prt." for Senate prints and sometimes as "H. Prt." for House prints. Prints are generally studies or draft legislation and are often unnumbered or with each committee having its own series of #s within a Congress. Since 98<sup>th</sup> Cong. Senate has own print series #s  
Ex: *Staff of S. Comm. on the Judiciary, 81<sup>st</sup> Cong., Rep. on Antitrust Law* 17 (Comm. Print 1950) [*Bluebook* Rule 13.4(c)]  
Ex: *Staff of the H. Comm. on Rules, Rules Committee Print 115-17, Thin Blue Line Act* (showing text of H.R. 115 as ordered by the H. Comm. on the Judiciary) (May 9, 2017).

Comp. Gen. – *Decisions of the Comptroller General of the United States* (selected)  
Ex: 61 Comp. Gen. 428 (1982). [bound volumes of selected decisions, 1921-94]

- Comp. of Pres. Docs. – *Compilation of Presidential Documents* (“Daily” and “Weekly”)  
 Ex: See 1972 Weekly Comp. of Pres. Doc. at 553.  
 Ex: See 2009 Daily Comp. Pres. Doc. at 2 (Feb. 4, 2009) [*Bluebook* Tab. T1.2]
- Conf. Rep. – Conference reports are the agreed upon text from a House/Senate conference committee and often have an explanatory statement as well.  
 Ex: H.R. Rep. No. 98-1037, at 3 (1984) (Conf. Rep.) [*Bluebook* Rule 13.4]  
 Ex: S. Rep. No. 95-601, at 5 (1977) (Conf. Rep.) [*Bluebook* Rule 13.4]
- Cong. Globe – *Congressional Globe* (23d Cong., 1<sup>st</sup> Sess., to 42d Cong., 2d Sess., 1833-1873) (Note: no vol. numbers in most of the Cong. Globe)  
 Ex: Cong. Globe, 41<sup>st</sup> Cong., 1<sup>st</sup> Sess. 500-01 (1869) [*ALWD Guide*, Rule 15.10]
- Cong. Rec. – *Congressional Record* (daily and bound editions) (“CR” occasionally used)  
 Ex: 145 Cong. Rec. H1817 (daily ed. Apr. 12 1999) (statement of Rep. Pease)  
 Ex: 145 Cong. Rec. 6145 (1999) (statement by Rep. Pease) [*Bluebook* R. 13.5]
- CRS – Cong. Research Service reports, Library of Cong. (#s with R, RL, RS, or year)  
 Ex: Louis Fischer, Cong. Research Serv., RL31340, *Military Tribunals: The Quirin Precedent* 30 (2002) [*Bluebook* Rule 13.4(d)]
- Exec. Order No. – Executive Order (“E.O.” is used by the Office of the Federal Register)  
 Ex: Exec. Order No. 11,609, 3 C.F.R. § 586 (1971-1975, *reprinted as amended in* 3 U.S.C. § 301 app. at 404-07 (2012). [*Bluebook* Table T1.2]  
 Ex: E.O. 10530, 19 FR 2709 [*OFR Document Drafting Handbook* § 3.1]
- Fed. Reg. – *Federal Register* (“FR” is used by the Office of the Federal Register)  
 Ex: Importation of Fruits and Vegetables, 60 Fed. Reg. 50,379, 50,381 (Sept. 29, 1995) (to be codified at 7 C.F.R. pt. 300) [*Bluebook* Rule 14.2(a)]  
 Ex: 42 FR 52394, Sept. 30, 1977 [source given at 21 CFR 73.1162]
- Fed. Res. Bull. – *Federal Reserve Bulletin* (sometimes abbreviated as F.R.B. or FRB)  
 Ex: *MNC Financial Inc.*, 73 Fed. Res. Bull. 740 (July 2, 1987)  
 Ex: *MNC Financial, Inc.* 73 Fed. Res. Bull. 740 at 742 (July 2, 1987)
- FRS – Federal Reserve System, documents like enforcement actions  
 Ex: Written Agreement Between Ridgedale State Bank and Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Docket No. 03-024-WA/RB-SM (July 29, 2003) [*Bluebook* Table T1.2]
- GAO – Government Accountability Office reports (formerly General Accounting Office)  
 Ex: U.S. Gov’t Accountability Off., GAO-08-751, *Food and Drug Administration: Approval and Oversight of the Drug Mifeprex* 27 (2008) [*Bluebook* Rule 13.4(c)]
- GPO – Government Publishing Office (formerly Government Printing Office)  
 Ex: *The Constitution of the United States*, 108th Cong., 1st sess., H.Doc. 108-96 (Washington: GPO, 2003)

H. Con. Res. – House concurrent resolution (also as “H.R. Con. Res.” or “H.C.R.”)  
 Ex: H.R. Con. Res. 133, 94<sup>th</sup> Cong. (1975) (enacted) [*Bluebook Rule 13.2(b)*]

H.J. Res. – House Joint Resolution (also abbreviated as “H.R. J. Res.” and “H.J.R.”)  
 Ex: H.J. Res. 99, 115<sup>th</sup> Cong. (as passed by House and Senate, Apr. 28, 2015)  
 Ex: H.R.J. Res. 124, 105<sup>th</sup> Cong. (1998) [*Bluebook Rule 13.2(a)*]

H.R. – House of Representatives consecutively numbered bills in a single Congress  
 To become law bills normally clear both chambers and the President.  
 Ex: H.R. 422, 106<sup>th</sup> Cong. (1999) [*Bluebook Rule 13.2*]  
 Ex: Financial CHOICE Act of 2017, H.R. 10 (as passed by House, Jun. 8, 2017)  
 GPO uses many different abbreviations for different versions of bills and resolutions. For a complete listing see *About Congressional Bills*,  
[https://www.gpo.gov/help/about\\_congressional\\_bills.htm](https://www.gpo.gov/help/about_congressional_bills.htm).  
 ih – as introduced in the House (must be a House bill #)  
 rh – as reported in the House (from a House committee)  
 eh – as engrossed in the House (House bill passed by House)  
 rfh – as referred to the House (Senate passed bill sent to House)  
 eah – as an engrossed amendment in House (passed Senate bill)  
 en – as enrolled and sent to the President (cleared both chambers)

H.R. Con. Res. – House concurrent resolution (also as “H. Con. Res.” or “H.C.R.”)  
 Concurrent resolutions must clear both chambers but not the President.  
 Ex: H.R. Con. Res. 133, 94<sup>th</sup> Cong. (1975) (enacted) [*Bluebook Rule 13.2(b)*]

H.R. Doc. No. – House of Representatives document (also abbreviated as H. Doc.)  
 House and Senate documents generally come from the Executive branch.  
 Ex: *Carlton Koepge, The Road to Industrial Peace*, H.R. Doc. No. 82-563,  
 at 29-30 (1953) [*Bluebook Rules 13.4 and 15.1*]  
 Ex: *The Constitution of the United States*, 108<sup>th</sup> Cong., 1<sup>st</sup> sess., H.Doc. 108-96  
 (Washington: GPO, 2003)

H.R.J. Res. – House Joint Resolution (also abbreviated as “H.J. Res.” and “H.J.R.”)  
 Joint resolutions must clear both chambers and the President.  
 Ex: H.R.J. Res. 124, 105<sup>th</sup> Cong. (1998) [*Bluebook Rule 13.2(a)*]  
 Ex: H.J. Res. 99, 115<sup>th</sup> Cong. (as passed by House and Senate, Apr. 28, 2015)

H.R. Rep. No. – House of Representatives report (also abbreviated as “H. Rept. No.”,  
 “H. Rept.”, “H.R. Rept. No.”, “H.R. Rep.”, “H. Rpt. No.”, “H. Rp.”)  
 House reports “generally” concern specific legislative measures.  
 Ex: H.R. Rep. No. 98-1037, at 3 (1984) (Conf. Rep.) [*Bluebook Rule 13.4*]  
 Ex: See H. Rept. No. 1078, 49<sup>th</sup> Cong., 1<sup>st</sup> Sess., p. 1 [found in 313 U.S. 100]  
 Ex: H. Rept. 101-247, at 1340 [found at 124 T.C. No. 4 (2005)]

H.R. Res. – House of Representative resolution (also abbreviated as “H. Res.”)  
 Simple resolutions concern one chamber and are passed by just one.  
 Ex: H.R. Res. 811, 108<sup>th</sup> Cong. (2004) (enacted) [*Bluebook Rule 13.2(b)*]

- I.R.C. – Internal Revenue Code (“26 U.S.C.” may be replaced with “I.R.C.”)  
Ex: I.R.C. § 61 (2012) [*Bluebook* Rule 12.9.1]
- Op. Att’y Gen. – Opinions of the Attorney General, U.S. (1791-date)  
Ex: 39 Op. Att’y Gen. 484 (1940) [*Bluebook* Rule 14.4]  
Ex: Legality of Revised Phila. Plan, 42 Op. Att’y Gen. 405 (1969) [Tab. T1.2]
- Op. O.L.C. – Opinions of the Office of Legal Counsel, U.S. D.O.J.  
Ex: Applicability of Exec. Order No. 12,674 to Pers. Of Reg’l Fishery Mgmt. Councils, 17 O.L.C. 150, 154 (1993)
- Proclamation No. – Presidential Proclamation (usually on commemorative matters)  
Ex: Proclamation No. 5366, 50 Fed. Reg. 37,635 (Sept. 14, 1985)
- Pub. L. No. – Public Law number (also abbreviated as Pub. L., P.L., PL, Public No.)  
Unique #s assigned US public laws since 1907, officially cited from 1957.  
Ex: National Environment Policy Act of 1969, Pub. L. No. 91-190, § 102, 83 Stat. 852, 853 (1970) (prior to 1975 amendment) [*Bluebook* Rule 12.1]  
Ex: Securities Act of 1933 (Public No. 22–73d Congress) [former citation way]  
Ex: US PL 105-158 (1998) [*Universal Citation Guide*, 3d ed., p. 53]
- Reg. Deb. – *Register of Debates* (18<sup>th</sup> Cong., 2d Sess., to 25<sup>th</sup> Cong., 1<sup>st</sup> Sess., 1824-1837) (Note: from 1833 to 1837 the series covered Congressional debate contemporaneously with the Cong. Globe)  
Ex: 11 Reg. Deb. 130 (1836) [*ALWD Guide*, Rule 15.10(c)(1)]
- R.S. – Revised Statutes, U.S. (enacted in 1873, 1878)  
Ex: R.S. § 5240A, as added Pub. L. 111-203, title III, §318(b), July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 1526 [Source authority cited for in 12 U.S.C. § 16]
- S. – Senate bills (consecutively assigned to all Senate bills in a single Congress)  
To become law bills normally clear both chambers and the President.  
Ex: S. 516, 105<sup>th</sup> Cong. § 2 (1997) [*Bluebook* Rule 13.2]  
Ex: Clear Skies Act, S. 485, 108<sup>th</sup> Cong. (2003)  
Ex: S. 593, 101<sup>st</sup> Cong. (as passed by Senate May 31, 1989)  
GPO uses many different abbreviations for different versions of bills and resolutions. For a complete listing see *About Congressional Bills*, [https://www.gpo.gov/help/about\\_congressional\\_bills.htm](https://www.gpo.gov/help/about_congressional_bills.htm).  
is – as introduced in the Senate (must be a Senate bill #)  
rs – as reported in the Senate (from a Senate committee)  
eas – as an engrossed amendment in Senate (passed House bill)  
rfs – as referred in the Senate (House passed bill sent to Senate)  
en – as enrolled and sent to the President (cleared both chambers)
- S. Con. Res. – Senate Concurrent Resolution (generally a resolution of honor/support)  
Enacted con. resolutions must clear both chambers but not the President.  
Ex: S. Con. Res. 27, 113<sup>th</sup> Cong. (2013). [*Bluebook* Rule 13.2 (b)]  
Ex: S. Con Res. 97, 94<sup>th</sup> Cong., 90 Stat. 3024 (1976) [*Bluebook* Rule 13.2(b)]

- S. Exec. Doc. No. – Senate Executive Document (pre 1981 Exec. Branch treaty docs)  
Ex: *Extradition Treaty with Japan*, S. Exec. Doc. No. Q, 96<sup>th</sup> Cong. (1<sup>st</sup> Sess., 1979)
- S. Exec. Rep. No. – Senate Executive Report (generally Senate committee recommendations on treaties and other matters)  
Ex: *Tax Convention with Hungary*, S. Exec. Rep. No. 112-4 (2013)
- Serial No. – Serial number assigned to a House hearing within a committee generally from the 98<sup>th</sup> Congress (1983) forward  
Ex: *House Hearing, 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, Serial No. 111-68 (Committee on Homeland Security) and Serial No. 111-123 (Committee on Foreign Affairs), U.S. Mexico Security Cooperation: Next Steps for the Merida Initiative, May 27, 2010.*  
Ex: *Protection from Personal Intrusion and Privacy Act of 1998: Hearing on H.R. 2448 and H.R. 3224 Before the H. Comm. On the Judiciary, 105<sup>th</sup> Cong. (1968).* [Bluebook Rule 13.3]
- S. Hrg. – Senate Hearing – since the 98<sup>th</sup> Cong. (1983) each Senate hearing publication has been assigned a consecutive number within a Congress.  
Ex: *S. Hrg. 114-5 – Federal Reserve Accountability and Reform: Hearing Before the S. Comm. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Mar. 3, 2015,* <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CHRG-114shrg93893/pdf/CHRG-114shrg93893.pdf>. [Bluebook Rule 13.2, 13.7, 18.2.2(d)]  
Ex: *Federal Reserve Accountability and Reform: Hearing Before the S. Comm. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, 114<sup>th</sup> Cong. (2015).* [Bluebook Rule 13.2]
- S.J. Res. – Senate Joint Resolution (for enactments, joint resolutions must clear both chambers and the President).  
Ex: S.J. Res. 10, 114<sup>th</sup> Cong. (2015).
- S. Misc. Doc. No. – Senate Miscellaneous Document (generally early documents printed by special request during the 19<sup>th</sup> century)  
Ex: *Maryland Reform Convention*, S. Misc. Doc. No. 3, 31<sup>st</sup> Cong., 2d Sess. (1850)
- S. Rep. No. – Senate Report number (also abbreviated as S. Rept., S. Rept. No., S. Rep., S. Rp.). Senate reports generally accompany legislation.  
Ex: S. Rep. No. 84-2 at 7 (1955) [Bluebook Rule 13.4]  
Ex: S. Rep. No. 95-601, at 5 (1977) (Conf. Rep.) Bluebook Rule 13.4
- S. Prt. – Senate committee prints published as studies or draft legislation. Since 1983 (98<sup>th</sup> Cong.) the Senate has numbered all its pamphlet size committee prints in a series for each Congress.  
Ex: S. Prt. 113-31 – *Republican Staff of the S. Comm. on Finance, Staff Report on Comprehensive Tax Reform for 2015 and Beyond* (Dec. 2014).

### S. Res. – Senate Resolution

Simple resolutions concern one chamber and are passed by just one.

Ex: S. Res. 218, 83d Cong., 100 Cong. Rec. 2972 (1954) (enacted).

Ex: S. Res. 150, 115<sup>th</sup> Cong. [*Bluebook* Rule 13.2]

### S. Treaty Doc. No. – Senate Treaty Document

Ex: Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, art. 2(2), *opened for signature* Dec. 10, 1984, S. Treaty Doc. No. 100-20 (1988), 1465 U.N.T.S. 85, (“CAT”). [*Bluebook* Table T4.1]

### Stat. – *U.S. Statutes At Large* (official publ. of U.S. laws chron. arranged, GPO)

Ex: National Environment Policy Act of 1969, Pub. L. No. 91-190, § 102, 83 Stat. 852, 853 (1970) (prior to 1975 amendment) [*Bluebook* Rule 12.1]

### SuDoc – Superintendent of Documents, GPO (most U.S. Government publications are assigned a SuDoc item number series and an individual SuDoc class. No.)

Ex: Item No.0572-C, Class. No. AE 2.106:82/99; v. 82 Fed. Reg. No. 99, May 24, 2017

### U.S.C. – *United States Code* (official publ. of U.S. general & permanent laws, GPO)

Ex: 12 U.S.C. § 339(c) (2012 & Supp. II 2014) [*Bluebook* rule 12.3]

Ex: 12 U.S.C. § 339(c) (2015) [common court practice]

Ex: 12 U.S.C. § 339(c) (Off. of Law Rev. Counsel through laws in effect on...)

### U.S.C.A. – *United States Code Annotated* (unofficial, Thomson Reuters)

Ex: 12 U.S.C.A. § 1956 (Westlaw through Pub. L. No. 113-93) [*Bluebook* R.12.5]

### U.S.C.S. – *United States Code Service* (unofficial, LexisNexis)

Ex: 12 U.S.C.S. § 1956 (Lexis through Pub. L. No. 113-108 [*Bluebook* Rule 12.5])

### U.S. Const. – *United States Constitution*

Ex: See U.S. Const. art. I, § 8, cl. 17 [*Bluebook* Rule 8(ii)]

## Legal Citation Manuals and Practices

[\*The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation\*](#) (most widely used – purchase only)

The *Bluebook* Table BT2 has jurisdiction-specific citation rules and style guides.

[\*ALWD Guide to Legal Citation\*](#) (legal writing practitioner guide – purchase only)

[\*Universal Citation Guide\*](#), 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. ([AALL pub. series](#) via William S. Hein & Co.- purchase)

[Introduction to \*Basic Legal Citation\*](#) (free HTML resource by Prof. Peter Martin of Cornell U. Law Sch. on Cornell’s Legal Info Inst. site - uses *The Bluebook & ALWD Guide*)

[\*The Indigo Book: An Open and Compatible Implementation of the Uniform System of Citation\*](#). (free HTML resource by Prof. Christopher Springman, et al. of NYU Law Sch).

[\*The Maroonbook - The University of Chicago Manual of Legal Citation\*](#) adopted by the University of Chicago Law Review (simple principles; free PDF downloads, 93 p.).

[\*Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook\*](#) - authority citations & practices

[\*United States Code\*](#) citation practices for authorities and notes (like [49 U.S.C. § 21301](#))