

# BLUEBOOK vs. ALWD

## CITATION

### *Table of Key Differences*

The following table illustrates key differences between the Bluebook and ALWD citation systems, with examples drawn primarily from Dickerson's [ALWD-Bluebook Comparison Charts](#). The following table is organized by alphabetical topic, with the relevant Bluebook and ALWD rules listed beneath each topic. You can skip to specific topics utilizing the table of contents below. You can return to the table of contents by clicking on "Return to TOC" in the divider bar. Bluebook rules provided in the practitioner [Bluepages](#) are abbreviated with a blue "B."; law review rules are abbreviated normally with "Rule."

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<div>Topic</div> <div>Bluebook   ALWD</div>		Explanation
<b>Abbreviations</b>		<p>The Bluebook uses apostrophes in some abbreviations (see Tables 6-16); ALWD does not use apostrophes in abbreviations (see appendices 3-5).</p> <div> <div>Ass'n, Gov't, Int'l, Pol'y</div> <div>Bluebook</div> </div> <div> <div>Assoc., Govt., Intl., Policy</div> <div>ALWD</div> </div> <p>The Bluebook requires that all words included in its abbreviation tables must be abbreviated in case citations; ALWD affords more flexibility when choosing whether to abbreviate words provided in its abbreviation appendices.</p> <p>See also <a href="#">cases</a>, <a href="#">legislative materials</a>.</p>
<div>Bluebook</div> <div>B. 5.1.1(v), B. 10.1, Rule 6.1</div>	<div>ALWD</div> <div>Rule 2</div>	

**Administrative Materials** (unofficial electronic source)

**Bluebook**  
Rule 18.1.3

**ALWD**  
Rule 19.1(d)(2)

The Bluebook requires citations to administrative, legislative, and executive material retrieved from commercial databases (e.g., Westlaw) must provide the name of the database and any unique identifier; ALWD requires the name of the database and the date in a parenthetical.

**FTC Credit Practice Rule, 16 C.F.R. § 444.1 (2007), WL 16 CFR s 444.1.**

Bluebook

**FTC Credit Practice Rule, 16 C.F.R. § 444.1 (Westlaw current through Jan. 23, 2009).**

ALWD

**A.L.R. Annotations**

**Bluebook**  
Rule 16.6.6

**ALWD**  
Rule 24

The Bluebook requires annotation references include the word “Annotation” after the author’s name; ALWD eliminates this requirement.

**William B. Johnson, Annotation, Use of Plea Bargain or Grant of Immunity as Improper Vouching for Credibility of Witness in Federal Cases, 76 A.L.R. Fed. 409 (1986).**

Bluebook

**William B. Johnson, Use of Plea Bargain or Grant of Immunity as Improper Vouching for Credibility of Witness in Federal Cases, 76 A.L.R. Fed. 409 (1986).**

ALWD

**Books** (treatises)

**Bluebook**  
B. 9, Rule 15

**ALWD**  
Rule 22

The Bluebook places the volume number at the beginning of a work; ALWD places it after the title. The Bluebook inserts “at” before a page number if the page number could be confused with a different part of the citation; ALWD eliminates this requirement. The Bluebook includes the publisher only where the book is published by someone other than the original publisher; ALWD always requires the inclusion of the publisher.

**7A Charles Alan Wright et al., Federal Practice and Procedure § 1751, at 10-17 (3d ed. 2005).**

Bluebook

(continued on next page)

<b>Bluebook</b> Rule 22	<b>ALWD</b> Rule 1	<p>Charles Alan Wright et al., <u>Federal Practice and Procedure</u> vol. 7A, § 1751, 10-17 (3d ed., West 2005).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ALWD</p> <p>The Bluebook permits the use of “et al.” for two or more authors; ALWD permits the use of “et al.” for three or more authors.</p>
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<p><b>Capitalization</b></p> <p><b>Bluebook</b> B. 10.6 Rule 8</p>	<p><b>ALWD</b> Rule 3</p>	<p>The Bluebook requires the capitalization of a preposition in a heading or title when the preposition is five or more letters long; ALWD eliminates this requirement.</p> <p>William Schwarzer et al., <u>Federal Civil Procedure Before Trial</u> § 5 (2007).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Bluebook</p> <p>William Schwarzer et al., <u>Federal Civil Procedure before Trial</u> § 3, 3-4 (Rutter Group 2007).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ALWD</p>
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<p><b>Case Citations</b> (electronic source)</p> <p><b>Bluebook</b> Rule 18.1.1</p>	<p><b>ALWD</b> Rule 12.12</p>	<p>The Bluebook requires the inclusion of a case’s docket number when citing from a commercial database; ALWD eliminates this requirement. The Bluebook requires that a single asterisk (*) precede page numbers; ALWD retains this rule but adds the requirement of two asterisks for page spans.</p> <p>Gibbs v. Frank, No. 02-3924, 2004 U.S. App. LEXIS 21357, at *8-9 (3d Cir. Oct. 14, 2004).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Bluebook</p> <p>Gibbs v. Frank, 2004 U.S. App. LEXIS 21357 at **8-9 (3d Cir. Oct. 14, 2004).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ALWD</p>
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<p><b>Case Citations</b> (print source)</p> <p><b>Bluebook</b> B. 5, Rule 10</p>	<p><b>ALWD</b> Rule 12</p>	<p>The Bluebook requires the use of <i>italics</i> (or <u>underlining</u>) for all case names in legal memorandum or court documents, but requires ordinary type for case names in full law review citations; ALWD requires the use of <i>italics</i> (or <u>underlining</u>) for case names in all situations. The Bluebook requires the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(continued on next page)</p>

<div>Bluebook</div> <div>B. 5, Rule 10</div>	<div>ALWD</div> <div>Rule 12</div>	<p>abbreviation of certain words in case citations; ALWD does not make abbreviation mandatory. The Bluebook incorporates “Ct.” in the abbreviations of many court names; ALWD eliminates this element in its court abbreviations. The Bluebook does not require inclusion of district or division information unless that information is of “particular relevance”; ALWD requires the inclusion of district or division information for state courts.</p> <div> <div>MBNA Am. Bank, N.A. v. Cardoso, 707 N.E.2d 189 (Ill. App. Ct. 1998).</div> <div>Bluebook</div> </div> <div> <div>MBNA Am. Bank, N.A. v. Cardoso, 707 N.E.2d 189 (Ill. App. 1st Dist. 1998).</div> <div>ALWD</div> </div> <p>When citing multiple decisions from the same year, the Blue-book only requires the date of decision to be placed in the last cited case; ALWD requires the date in all citations.</p>
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<div>(citations to) <b>Footnotes &amp; Endnotes</b></div> <div>Bluebook</div> <div>Rule 3.2(b), (c)</div>	<div>ALWD</div> <div>Rule 7</div>	<p>The Bluebook does not place spaces between “n.” (single note) or “nn.” (multiple notes) and the cited page number; ALWD requires a space between “n.” or “nn.” and the page number.</p> <div> <div>Akhil Reed Amar, <u>The Two-Tiered Structure of the Judiciary Act of 1789</u>, 138 U. Pa. L. Rev. 1499, 1525 n.80 (1990).</div> <div>Bluebook</div> </div> <div> <div>Akhil Reed Amar, <u>The Two-Tiered Structure of the Judiciary Act of 1789</u>, 138 U. Pa. L. Rev. 1499, 1525 n. 80 (1990).</div> <div>ALWD</div> </div>
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<div><b><i>Id.</i></b> (short form citations)</div> <div>Bluebook</div> <div>B. 5.2, Rule 4.1, 10.9, 12.9</div>	<div>ALWD</div> <div>Rule 11.3, 29.4, 29.6</div>	<p>The Bluebook prohibits the use of <i>id.</i> in law review footnotes when referring to a case six or more times in a row; ALWD eliminates this prohibition. The Bluebook allows the use of <i>id.</i> for any authority other than internal cross-references, although court documents customarily use a short form other than <i>id.</i>; ALWD prohibits the use of <i>id.</i> entirely when citing to certain court documents (e.g., appellate records).</p>

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<b>Internal Cross-References</b> <i>(supra &amp; infra)</i>		<p>The Bluebook spells out “note” after the terms <i>supra</i> or <i>infra</i>; ALWD utilizes an abbreviation “n.” after the terms <i>supra</i> or <i>infra</i>.</p> <div> <div> Bluebook Rule 3.5 </div> <div> ALWD Rule 10 </div> </div> <p><b>See <i>supra</i> note 12 and accompanying text.</b></p> <p><b>See <i>supra</i> n. 12 and accompanying text.</b></p>
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<b>Internet Citations</b>		<p>The Bluebook provides different citation formats depending upon the character of the information cited. The typeface used and placement of the date depend upon whether the online information is analogous to a print source (e.g., an online article is formatted by analogy to periodical materials under rule 16). In contrast, ALWD uses one consistent format. The Bluebook uses “visited” to preface the date of a source without a print analogue; ALWD instead uses “accessed” where appropriate.</p> <div> <div> Bluebook Rule 18.2.3 </div> <div> ALWD Rule 40 </div> </div> <p>article available only online →</p> <p>undated, non-analogous source → {</p> <p><b>Douglas Gantenbein, <u>Mad Cows Come Home</u>, Slate, Jan. 5, 2004, <a href="http://slate.msn.com/id/2093396/index.html">http://slate.msn.com/id/2093396/index.html</a>.</b></p> <p><b>JusticeDaily.com, <u>Weird and Dumb International Law</u>, <a href="http://www.justicedaily.com/weird/part2.html">http://www.justicedaily.com/weird/part2.html</a> (last visited May 21, 2004).</b></p> <p><b>JusticeDaily.com, <u>Weird and Dumb International Law</u>, <a href="http://www.justicedaily.com/weird/part2.html">http://www.justicedaily.com/weird/part2.html</a> (accessed May 21, 2004).</b></p>
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<b>Legal Dictionaries</b>		<p>The Bluebook provides a special citation format for legal dictionaries; ALWD does not distinguish between legal dictionaries and other books.</p> <div> <div> Bluebook Rule 15.8 </div> <div> ALWD Rule 25 </div> </div> <p><b><u>Black’s Law Dictionary</u> 240 (8th ed. 2004).</b></p>

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<b>Bluebook</b> Rule 15.8	<b>ALWD</b> Rule 25	<b>Black's Law Dictionary 240</b> (Bryan A. Garner ed., 8th ed., West 2004).  ALWD
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<b>Legal Periodicals</b>  <div> <b>Bluebook</b> B. 5, Rule 16         </div> <div> <b>ALWD</b> Rule 23         </div> <div> consecutively paginated journal → { </div> <div> non-consecutively paginated journal → { </div>		<p>The Bluebook distinguishes between consecutively paginated and non-consecutively paginated journals, providing different rules for each; ALWD eliminates most of the distinctions between the two, requiring only a longer date within a parenthetical for non-consecutively paginated journals.</p> <div> <b>Ernest A. Young, <u>The Rehnquist Court's Two Federalisms</u>, 83 Tex. L. Rev. 1 (2004).</b> Bluebook         </div> <div> <b>Ernest A. Young, <u>The Rehnquist Court's Two Federalisms</u>, 83 Tex. L. Rev. 1 (2004).</b> ALWD         </div> <div> <b>Leslie A. Gordon, <u>Banking on Faith</u>, A.B.A. J., Apr. 2005, at 22.</b> Bluebook         </div> <div> <b>Leslie A. Gordon, <u>Banking on Faith</u>, 91 ABA J. 35 (Apr. 2005).</b> ALWD         </div> <p>The Bluebook distinguishes between student written material and non-student material by adding an explanatory term (e.g., "Comment," "Note," etc.) after the student's name; ALWD retains this rule but uses a single term ("Student Author").</p>
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<b>Legislative Materials</b>  <div> <b>Bluebook</b> B. 6.1.6, Rule 13         </div> <div> <b>ALWD</b> Rule 15, 16         </div>	<p>Both the Bluebook and ALWD use a similar citation format for legislative materials; however, the Bluebook abbreviates some words differently than ALWD and requires the year of publication, whereas ALWD requires the exact date for unenacted bills and resolutions.</p> <p>To compare relevant abbreviations, see Bluebook Rule 13.2 and ALWD Rule 15.1(a); see also <a href="#">abbreviations</a> above for a list of abbreviation tables.</p>	

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<b>Numbers</b> <div> <div>Bluebook</div> <div>Rule 6.2</div> </div> <div> <div>ALWD</div> <div>Rule 4</div> </div>		<p>The Bluebook requires the writer spell out numbers zero to ninety-nine when used in textual sentences or footnotes; ALWD allows the writer to choose whether to spell out numbers or use numerals. The Bluebook requires the use of commas only for number strings of five or more digits (e.g., 1,234,567 vs. 9876); ALWD generally requires commas for number strings of four or more digits (e.g., 9,876), although some exceptions apply (e.g., page numbers).</p>
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<b>Order of Authority</b> (within a signal) <div> <div>Bluebook</div> <div>B. 4.5, Rule 1.4</div> </div> <div> <div>ALWD</div> <div>Rule 45</div> </div>		<p>The Bluebook treats federal courts of appeals as one single court and arranges them in reverse chronological order; ALWD arranges these courts first by ordinal (e.g., 1st, 2nd, etc.) and then in reverse chronological order.</p> <p>The Bluebook treats federal district courts as one single court and places them in reverse chronological order; ALWD arranges these courts first alphabetically by state, then alphabetically by district (e.g., N.D. Ala., S.D. Ala.), then in reverse chronological order.</p> <p>The Bluebook orders federal statutes and evidentiary rules before state statutes and evidentiary rules; ALWD does not separate these materials by jurisdiction, placing all statutes ahead of all evidentiary rules. (For other minor differences <i>compare</i> Bluebook Rule 1.4 <i>with</i> ALWD Rule 45.)</p>
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<b>Page Spans</b> <div> <div>Bluebook</div> <div>Rule 3.2(a)</div> </div> <div> <div>ALWD</div> <div>Rule 5</div> </div>		<p>The Bluebook generally retains only the last two digits of a concluding number in a page span (e.g., “103-07”); ALWD allows the writer to choose whether to retain only the last two digits or retain all the digits of a concluding number.</p>
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<b>Quotations</b> <div> <div>Bluebook</div> <div>B. 12, Rule 5</div> </div> <div> <div>ALWD</div> <div>Rule 47</div> </div>		<p>The Bluebook requires block indentation for quotations of fifty or more words; ALWD requires block indentation for quotations of fifty or more words <i>or</i> for quotations that exceed four lines of typed text.</p>

## Related Authority

**Bluebook**  
Rule 1.6

**ALWD**  
Rule 46.4

The general Bluebook rule is to preface related authority with an italicized explanatory phrase, without the use of a parenthetical; ALWD places all related authority within a parenthetical.

**Kan. Stat. Ann. § 21-3502(1)(d) (1969), construed in State v. Chaney, 5 P.3d 492, 495 (Kan. 2000).**

Bluebook

**Kan. Stat. Ann. § 21-3502(1)(d) (1969) (construed in State v. Chaney, 5 P.3d 492, 495 (Kan. 2000)).**

ALWD

For cases in which the primary authority directly cites or mentions the related authority, the Bluebook requires that citations to related authority be provided in a parenthetical with the explanatory phrase in normal type.

**State v. Chaney, 5 P.3d 492, 495 (Kan. 2000) (construing Kan. Stat. Ann. § 21-3502(1)(d) (1969)).**

Bluebook

## Signals

**Bluebook**  
B. 4,  
Rule 1.2-1.3

**ALWD**  
Rule 44

The Bluebook places a comma after some signals (one example is “see, e.g.”); ALWD does not place punctuation after any signals. The Bluebook arranges signals into categories (e.g., supporting, contradicting) and requires a new citation sentence begin where a different category of signal is used; ALWD encourages string citations and does not require a new citation sentence where a different category of signal is used.

**See Mass. Bd. of Ret. v. Murgia, 427 U.S. 307 (1976) (per curiam). But see Gualt v. Garrison, 569 F.2d 993 (7th Cir. 1977).**

Bluebook

**See Mass. Bd. of Ret. v. Murgia, 427 U.S. 307 (1976) (per curiam); but see Gualt v. Garrison, 569 F.2d 993 (7th Cir. 1977).**

ALWD



**Typeface**  
(cases)**Bluebook**B. 2, 5.1.1  
Rule 2, 10**ALWD**

Rule 1, 12

The Bluebook provides different typeface rules for case names depending upon the type of document (i.e., court filing vs. law review) or the location of the case name within the document. For practitioner documents, the Bluebook requires that case names always be *italicized* (or underlined). For law review articles, the Bluebook requires that full case names used in textual sentences, as well as short form case names in textual and citation sentences, be *italicized* (or underlined). For full case names in law review citation sentences, the Bluebook requires normal font (i.e., no *italics*). ALWD requires that case names always be *italicized* (or underlined).

**Typeface**  
(SMALL CAPS)**Bluebook**

Rule 2

**ALWD**Rule 1.1,  
Sidebar  
23.2

The Bluebook requires the use of SMALL CAPITAL LETTERS in law review articles when citing certain sources. These include the titles of most non-case law sources (e.g., books, restatements, evidentiary rules), the name of a book's author, and the periodical abbreviation of law journals.

**RESTATEMENT (THIRD) OF UNFAIR COMPETITION § 3 (1995).**

Bluebook

**Charles A. Reich, The New Property, 73 YALE L.J. 733, 737-38 (1964).**

Bluebook

ALWD does not require the use of SMALL CAPITAL LETTERS although it does provide guidance in Sidebar 23.2 when dealing with publishers who do require this typeface. The rule in Sidebar 23.2 generally mirrors the Bluebook rule above.