

# AMA Manual of Style

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## US Legal References

Cheryl Iverson

Print Publication Year: 2007 Published Online: 2009

Publisher: Oxford University Press

ISBN: eISBN:

DOI: 10.1093/jama/9780195176339.021.55

Item type: section

A specific style variation is used for references to legal citations. Because the system of citation used is complex, with numerous variations for different types of sources and among various jurisdictions, only a brief outline can be presented here. For more details, consult *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*. Legal references, as with other references (eg, journal, book), may also be cited as electronic references (see , *Electronic References, Legal References*). | A legal reference may be included in the reference list in full, with a numbered citation in the text, or it may be included in the text

## Method of Citation

Cheryl Iverson

Print Publication Year: 2007 Published Online: 2009

Publisher: Oxford University Press

ISBN: eISBN:

DOI: 10.1093/jama/9780195176339.022.104

Item type: section

A legal reference may be included in the reference list in full, with a numbered citation in the text, or it may be included in the text parenthetically and not included in the reference list. In scholarly articles, a full citation in the reference list is preferred, but in a news article or book review, for example, a parenthetical citation in the text might be adequate. In a leading decision on informed consent, the California Supreme Court stated .... In the case of *Cobbs v Grant*<sup>1</sup> .... This reference would then appear in the reference list as follows: 1. Cobbs

## Citation of Cases

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Print Publication Year: 2007 Published Online: 2009

Publisher: Oxford University Press

ISBN: eISBN:

DOI: 10.1093/jama/9780195176339.022.105

Item type: section

The citation of a case (ie, a court opinion) generally includes, in the following order: # The name of the case (including the v) in italics. To shorten the case name, use only the names of the first party on each side; omit “et al” and “the”; use only the last names of individuals

# The volume number, abbreviated name, and series number (if any) of the reporter (bound volume of collected cases) # The page in the volume on which the case begins and, if applicable, the specific page or pages on which is discussed the point for which

## Legislative Materials

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Print Publication Year: 2007 Published Online: 2009

Publisher: Oxford University Press

ISBN: eISBN:

DOI: 10.1093/jama/9780195176339.022.106

Item type: section

The Library of Congress has a website (<http://thomas.loc.gov>) where legislative materials can be found. Include the full title of the hearing, the subcommittee (if any) and committee names, the number and session of the Congress, the date, and a short description if desired. 1. Hearings Before the Consumer Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Commerce, 90th Cong, 1st Sess (1965) (testimony of William Stewart, MD, surgeon general). 2. Discrimination on the Basis of Pregnancy, 1977: Hearings on S995 Before the Subcommittee on Labor of the Senate Committee on Human Resources, 95th Cong, 1st Sess (1977) (statement of Ethel Walsh, vice-chairman,