Chastek Library

UNDERSTANDING CITATIONS TO CASES, STATUTORY CODES & LEGAL PERIODICALS

Research Guide

There are several elements to a case citation.

- Case name
- Volume
- Abbreviation for the reporter and series designation
- Beginning page number of the opinion
- Jurisdiction and court
- Date

These elements are labeled in the examples below:

Menzel v. Morse, 362 N.W.2d 465 (Iowa 1985).

case name — volume — reporter & series — beginning page number — jurisdiction & date

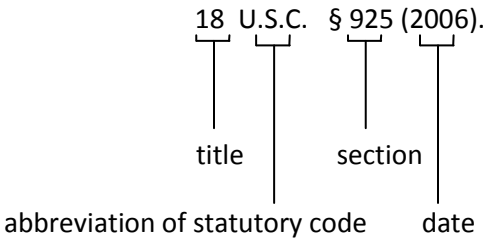
Monty v. Peterson, 85 Wash.2d 956 , 540 P.2d 1377 (1975).

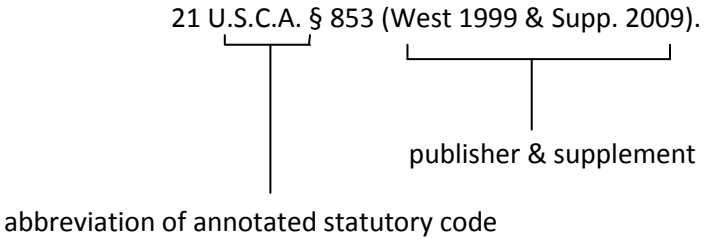
citation to official reporter — parallel citation to regional reporter

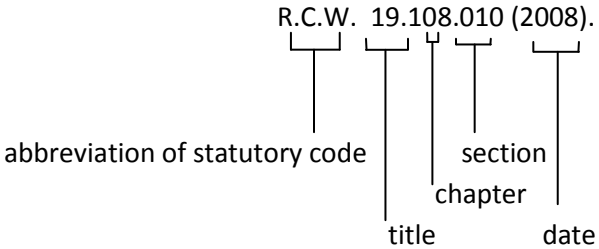
There are several elements to a basic statutory code citation. Each state has its own statutory code and formats differ, consult Table T.1 of the Bluebook for each state.

- Title or chapter
- Abbreviation of the statutory code
- Section
- Publisher (if unofficial)
- Date

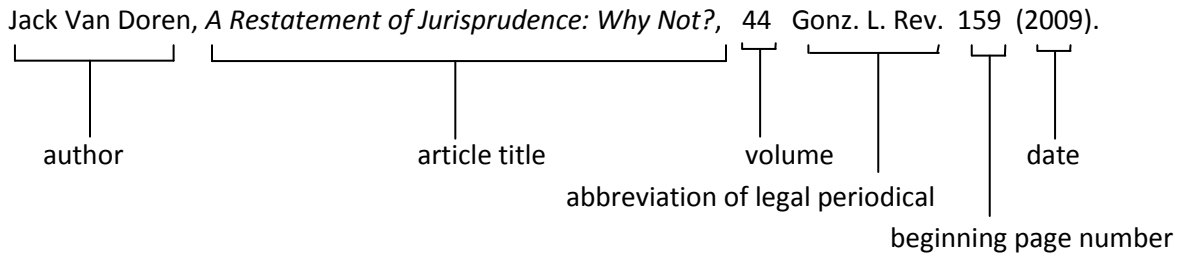
These elements are labeled in the examples below:







There are several elements to a legal periodical citation. Consult Table T.13 of the Bluebook for abbreviations to legal periodicals.

- Author
- Title of the article
- Volume
- Abbreviation to legal periodical
- Beginning page number of the article
- Date

These elements are labeled in the example below: