

Bluebook – Short Forms

Experiential Legal Writing I – Fall 2016

What is Short Form Citation?

- Provide Full Citation if you cite it for the first time
- For subsequent citations, may use short form citation
- **B10.2** – Short Form for cases
- **B12.2** – Short Form for statutes
 - See also Rule 12.10

Short Forms: Cases

1. Id.

- Use Id. if you are citing the same page of the same case that you cited in the **immediately preceding citation**.
- Use Id. at (pinpoint page) if you are citing a different page of the same case that you cited in the **immediately preceding citation**.
- **Example:** Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consectetur adipiscing elit. Baker v. Carr, 369 U.S. 186, 190 (1962). Fusce convallis leo in sagittis posuere. Id. Proin sit amet congue mauris non accumsan risus. Id. at 195.

Short Forms: Cases

- The “i” in id. is capitalized only when it begins a citation sentence.
- Do NOT use id. if the immediately preceding citation contains multiple authorities. Instead, use the case name short form
- **Wrong:** Donec cursus risus id sem condimentum dictum. [Baker v. Carr, 369 U.S. 186, 190 \(1962\)](#); [United States v. Baxter, 492 F.2d 150, 152 \(9th Cir. 1973\)](#). Quisque consectetur pellentesque dui et varius. Id.
 - Wrong because the reader would not know whether id. refers to Baker or Baxter

Short Forms: Cases

2. Case Name Short Form. Use this

- If there is an intervening citation (“A” – “B” – “A”) OR
- If the immediately preceding citation contains multiple authorities (see previous slide)

Format: [Shortened case name; usually the first party] + Volume + Reporter + at + pincite

- Let’s say you want to cite Baker v. Carr, 369 U.S. 186 (1962) for the second time. This time you want to cite to page 195 of the case.
- Baker, 369 U.S. at 195.

Short Forms: Cases

- Shortened Case Name
 - Usually use the first party
 - But use the second party if the first party is a governmental entity, a geographical unit, or a frequent litigant
 - May also shorten long names
 - First Nat'l Trust & Inv. Corp. -> First Nat'l
- Two cases where the first party has the same name
 - If you cite both Adams v. Jefferson and Adams v. Madison
 - Use Jefferson and Madison
 - Using Adams for both cases would be confusing.

Short Forms: Cases

- Quisque sit amet nibh at nisi egestas pretium id vel magna. [Indiana v. Edwards](#), 554 U.S. 164, 170 (2008). In quam massa, blandit ut magna vitae, malesuada dignissim tortor. [Baker v. Carr](#), 369 U.S. 186, 190 (1962). Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. (cite page 172 of [Indiana v. Edwards](#))
 1. Can't use id. because there is an intervening citation ([Baker](#))
 2. Can't use the first party because it is a geographical unit (State of Indiana). Use [Edwards](#) for shortened case name
 3. [Edwards](#), [volume] + [reporter] + at + [pincite].
 4. [Edwards](#), 554 U.S. at 172.

Short Forms: Statutes

1. Id. (B12.2.2)

- Use id. if there is no intervening citation AND you are citing the same statute.
- Use id. § [section number] if you are citing another statute found in the same title or chapter as the immediately preceding citation.
- Maecenas cursus sit amet ligula ac feugiat. [Ga. Code Ann. § 16-5-20 \(2012\)](#). Suspendisse semper ex sit amet malesuada convallis. Id. Aenean ac elit feugiat, malesuada ex ut, tristique sem. Id. § 16-5-21.
- No “at”

Short Forms: Statutes

2. Short Citation (**Rule 12.10**)

- Can't use Id.
 - If there is an intervening citation (Statute X → Case Y or Statute Y → Statute X)
 - If the previous citation was to a statute from different title or chapter
 - (17 U.S.C. § 107 → 28 U.S.C. § 1331). Use full citation if you cite 28 usc 1311 for 1st time.
- Full Citation: **Ga. Code Ann. § 16-5-20 (2012)**
- Short Citation
 - **Ga. Code Ann. § 16-5-20**
 - (use this “longer” short form if you cite multiple statutes)
 - **§ 16-5-20**
- No need for parenthetical

Short Forms: Statutes

2. Short Citation (**Rule 12.10**)

- Quisque consectetur pellentesque dui et varius. [Ga. Code Ann. § 16-5-20 \(2012\)](#). Aliquam velit diam, convallis vitae vehicula sit amet, euismod pharetra odio. [Ga. Code Ann. § 3-1-3 \(2012\)](#). (full citation b/c different title). Curabitur auctor laoreet gravida. [Ark. Code Ann. § 16-5-20 \(2012\)](#). Morbi placerat sagittis nisi at commodo. **[provide a short citation for Ga. Code Ann. § 16-5-20 (2012)]**
- **Ga. Code Ann. § 16-5-20.**
- “§ 16-5-20” would be confusing. (Arkansas vs. Georgia)

Short Forms: Statutes

2. Short Citation (**Rule 12.10**)

- Quisque consectetur pellentesque dui et varius. [17 U.S.C. § 107 \(2012\)](#). Aliquam velit diam, convallis vitae vehicula sit amet, euismod pharetra odio. [Baker v. Carr, 369 U.S. 186, 190 \(1962\)](#). Morbi placerat sagittis nisi at commodo. [§ 110](#). Interdum et malesuada fames ac ante ipsum primis in faucibus. Pellentesque feugiat gravida condimentum. [Indiana v. Edwards, 554 U.S. 164, 170 \(2008\)](#). Suspendisse semper ex sit amet malesuada convallis. Curabitur auctor laoreet gravida. [§ 109](#).
- Here, “shorter” short form is acceptable because the statutes you are citing are from the same title (Title 17 of U.S.C.)

Short Forms: Statutes

- Short Form for Westlaw/Lexis version of statutes
- Rule 12.5(d)
- Full Citation: **Ga. Code Ann. § 16-5-20 (West, Westlaw with leg. passed during 2016 Sess. of Ga. Gen. Assemb.)**
- Short form:
 1. **Ga. Code Ann. § 16-5-20 (Westlaw) OR**
 2. **§ 16-5-20 (Westlaw)**

Short Forms: Statutes

- Recap (1/2)
- Use Id. if
 - No intervening citation AND
 - You are citing the same statute (id.) or another statute from the same title or chapter (id. § 108).
- Use Short citations if
 - There is an intervening citation

Short Forms: Statutes

- Recap (2/2)
- Use Full Citation if
 - the statute you are about to cite for the first time comes from a different title or chapter from the statute in the immediately preceding citation.
 - Cum sociis natoque. **17 U.S.C. § 107 (2012)**. Pellentesque non elementum elit. **28 U.S.C. § 1331 (2012)**.
- Electronic Sources
 - Ga. Code Ann. § 16-5-20 (Westlaw)
 - Parenthetical -> (name of the database)