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User's Guide To The Bluebook

User's Guide to The Bluebook

Revised for the twentieth edition

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References updated by Brian Christiansen



Synopsis

This Guide is designed to make your task of mastering The Bluebook[®] as easy and painless as possible. It helps alleviate the obstacles faced by students and even lawyers when using proper citation form. This text is designed as a how-to manual and takes a step-by-step approach to learning the basic skills of citation. It explains The Bluebook[®] rules, and information for each topic is found in one section rather than scattered throughout as in The Bluebook[®].

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You gotta have this if you're in law school or a lawyer. For no very good reason, courts in many places have insisted that legal citations be done according to the Ivy League Uniform System of Citation (the Bluebook) ... notwithstanding that the Bluebook is intended for law journal editors who have a much wider range of typography at their command than mere users of typewriters and word processors. What's worse, the book is revised every 5 years, whether it needs it or not, and each batch of editors introduce changes for no good reason than to be able to say they introduce changes. So you'll need the latest version of Dworsky's clear guide.

For first year law students, I'd recommend picking this up. It is only 20 pages or so long, and it

doesn't offer anything that you couldn't find in the bluebook. That being said, for \$10, it helps you ease into the bluebook very nicely. It goes over all of the basic rules in a very simple way. The examples are better than those in the bluebook, and it explains everything in a less cryptic manner. My first year legal writing class had a bluebook assignment on the first day, and there was no instruction on the bluebook at all. While everyone else was banging their head against the wall, 15 minutes of reading this and I was set. It is expensive for what you get, but it's worth it.

It will be worth it to decipher the Bluebook on your own terms, or with the help of a professor. This just gives shortcuts that really contravene learning. If you aspire to be a C- student, then go for it.

As a law student, I found this book to be very helpful. There are clear examples, full explanations and it is an approachable length. It's important to read an entire chapter at a time to get a full understanding of the different forms a single citation will take throughout your paper. This was worth the money for sure!

By using this book, you'll understand the "Blue Book" faster and easier. There's virtually no better resource for doing so than this book. In addition, it's too bad the editors of the "Blue Book" itself haven't seen fit to use the format of this book.

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Highly recommended for any law student, lawyer, judge or paralegal

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