Synopsis

ALWD Citation Manual: A Professional System of Citation, now in its Fourth Edition, upholds a single and consistent system of citation for all forms of legal writing. Clearly and attractively presented in an easy-to-use format, edited by Darby Dickerson, a leading authority on American legal citation, the ALWD Citation Manual is simply an outstanding teaching tool. Endorsed by the Association of Legal Writing Directors, (ALWD), a nationwide society of legal writing program directors, the ALWD Citation Manual: A Professional System of Citation, features: a single, consistent, logical system of citation that can be used for any type of legal document complete coverage of the citation rules that includes: - basic citation - citation for primary and secondary sources - citation of electronic sources - how to incorporate citations into documents - how to quote material and edit quotes properly - court-specific citation formats, commonly used abbreviations, and a sample legal memorandum with proper citation in the Appendices two-color page design that flags key points and highlights examples Fast Formats quick guides for double-checking citations and Sidebars with facts and tips for avoiding common problems diagrams and charts that illustrate citation style at a glance The Fourth Edition provides: facsimiles of research sources that a first-year law student would use, annotated with the elements in each citation and a sample citation for each flexible citation options for (1) the United States as a party to a suit and (2) using contractions in abbreviations new rules addressing citation of interdisciplinary sources (e.g., plays, concerts, operas) and new technology (e.g., Twitter, e-readers, YouTube video) updated examples throughout the text expanded list of law reviews in Appendix 5 A new Wire-O binding in the Fourth Edition offers greater durability and makes the pages open perfectly flat for ease of use. Self-stick tabs now included in the book encourage students to flag frequently referenced pages for added convenience. Indispensable by design, the ALWD Citation Manual: A Professional System of Citation, Fourth Edition, keeps on getting better

Book Information

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First, a disclosure - I was a co-chair of the ALWD Citation Manual Oversight committee and so am not disinterested in the book. In a hands-on competition between the ALWD Citation Manual and the Bluebook, the ALWD Citation Manual wins hands down. When you try to use each book (the "hands-on" test), the ALWD Citation Manual is simply incomparably superior to the BB. About three years ago, the Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD, variously pronounced "Al Wid" or "All Wood" (I personally prefer the latter)), an organization of more than 200 members representing approximately 150 law schools, undertook the ambitious project of developing and publishing a new legal citation manual. The years of work came to fruition when the ALWD Citation Manual was published. This book, prepared by professionals for professionals, will, I believe, eventually displace The Bluebook.

ALWD Citation Manual and the Bluebook
One of the guiding ideas for the new manual was that it would be, for the most part, a restatement of the rules of citation based on the citation form actually used by experts. As a result of this conservative approach, citation done in the ALWD format will be familiar to practitioners and scholars alike. There are a number of small changes, but the citations will be instantly understood by any lawyer who learned any one (or more) of the 16 different versions of citation promulgated by the 16 different editions of The Bluebook. Because the learning (and unlearning) to be done is minimal, it will be easy to adapt to either system and to move between them.

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