

**INTERACTIVE CITATION
WORKBOOK FOR *THE BLUEBOOK:*
*A UNIFORM SYSTEM OF CITATION***

Minnesota

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A UNIFORM SYSTEM OF CITATION***

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MINNESOTA CITATION FORM

If you are familiar with *Bluebook* rules, Minnesota citation form is very straightforward due to the lack of relevant local rules about citation. Minnesota courts do not require parallel citations, and they have expressed no preference as to whether to use *Bluebook* or *ALWD Manual* citation format. *Bluebook* format is therefore acceptable for all citations. The following information is provided to help you determine how to apply *Bluebook* rules that require certain types of knowledge about the Minnesota legal system.

CASES

The state of Minnesota has a three-level court system. Trial level courts are called district courts; their jurisdiction is determined by grouping counties together, or, in the case of populous counties, by a single county. These judicial districts are then designated by number. For example, the geographical area of the Fourth Judicial District covers Hennepin County.

A single intermediate court of appeals, the Minnesota Court of Appeals, has jurisdiction over the whole state, and the top level court in the state is the Minnesota Supreme Court. The Court of Appeals started operation on November 1, 1983; before that, appeals went directly from the district courts to the state Supreme Court.

Starting in 1851, the State of Minnesota published *Minnesota Reports*, but it ceased publication in 1977. Minnesota cases have been published in the *North Western Reporter* since 1879; it has been the only reporter for the state since *Minnesota Reports* ceased publication. Because no local rules require parallel citation and *The Bluebook* prefers citation to the regional reporter, published Minnesota cases, regardless of age, are cited to the *North Western Reporter* or to the *Northwestern Reporter*, Second Series.

STATUTES, CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS, AND RULES

Although it no longer publishes a case reporter, the Minnesota Office of the Revisor of Statutes does still publish a statutory code, *Minnesota Statutes*, which is the official statutory code for Minnesota. As of the creation of these exercises, the most recent print version of *Minnesota Statutes*, updated in even years, had been published in 2020, with the next print edition expected in late 2022. The online version is updated annually by the Office of the Revisor of Statutes and is available at: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/>.

Citations to Minnesota statutory provisions are done by section numbers, which are made up of the chapter number and the sub-section number, separated by a decimal point. For example, Minnesota Statute section 480A.08 designates subsection 8 of chapter 480A. No title name, chapter name, or volume number is included in Minnesota statutory citations.

Bluebook Table BT2 (“Jurisdiction-Specific Citation Rules and Style Guidelines”) might seem to suggest that Minnesota courts do have local rules, addressing the citation of certain court rules, that would require changes to *The Bluebook* form citations. The rules referenced in that table, however, relate to one of three things: 1) the full titles for certain Minnesota rules, 2) suggested (“may cite”), not mandatory, citation forms for certain Minnesota rules that do not vary from or contradict the form that would be created using *Bluebook* citation rules, and 3) a cross-reference to the rule governing when unpublished opinions may be cited, as opposed to how. The rules cited in Table BT2 therefore result in no actual changes from *The Bluebook* rules.

The link provided in *Bluebook* Table BT2 about citing Minnesota legal sources includes a number of possible, not mandatory, ways to cite different sources, including citations that follow legal citation manuals. For statutory citations, there is some variation in capitalization from the capitalization used in *Bluebook* citations. In practice, however, numerous approaches to citation are acceptable, and therefore *Bluebook* capitalization should be acceptable for statutory citations.