

CITING YOUR SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Every statement of law in your brief must be supported by a citation to a case, statute, rule, constitutional provision, treatise, law review article or other source that supports the statement you are making. The citation is usually contained in parentheses at the end of the sentence. (See [Sample Brief](#).) For example, your brief might state: "The elements of a cause of action for negligence are: duty, breach of duty, legal cause, and damages." (*Friedman v. Merck & Co.* (2003) 107 Cal.App.4th 454, 463.)

The California Style Manual is the manual followed by California courts for citation form. You can find the California Style Manual in any law library. However, if you follow the general guidelines in this Appendix, you will probably not need to consult the California Style Manual. The court is mainly interested in finding out where you got the information you have included in the brief. Your brief will be accepted as long as the citations are clear enough to identify your reference sources.

Here are some simple guidelines for proper citation form:

CASES:

You should include the name of the case you are citing, the year it was decided, the name of the official reporter, the volume and page number of the official reporter where the case appears, and the page number in the case that specifically supports the proposition of law you are stating. For example, a California Supreme Court case would be cited as follows: *Intel Corp. v. Hamidi* (2003) 30 Cal.4th 1342, 1351. The "30 Cal.4th" refers to volume 30 of the fourth series of Official California Reports, which is the official reporter for California Supreme Court opinions. The "1342" refers to the page in volume 30 where the case starts. The "1351" is the page number of the case you are referring to in your brief. Similarly, a California Court of Appeal case would be cited as follows: *Albertson's, Inc. v. Young* (2003) 107 Cal.App.4th 106, 113. The "107 Cal.App.4th" refers to volume 107 of the fourth series of Official California Appellate Reports, which is the official reporter for California Court of Appeal opinions.

Federal court citations follow the same general format. United States Supreme Court cases can be found in three separate reporters: United States Reports (abbreviated U.S.), Supreme Court Reporter (abbreviated S.Ct.), and United States Supreme Court Reports, Lawyers' Edition (abbreviated L.Ed.). You may cite to any of these reporters. For example: *Montana v. United States* (1981) 450 U.S. 544, 551. For other federal courts, your citation should identify which federal circuit or district court decided the case. Federal circuit court cases are cited as follows: *Clicks Billiards, Inc. v. Sixshooters, Inc.* (9th Cir. 2001) 251 F.3d 1252, 1257. "9th Cir." indicates that the case was decided by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and "F.3d" refers to the third series of the Federal Reporter. Federal

district court cases are cited as follows: *Plute v. Roadway Package System, Inc.* (N.D. Cal. 2001) 141 F.Supp.2d 1005, 1010. "N.D.Cal." indicates that the case was decided by the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, and "F.Supp.2d" refers to the second series of the Federal Supplement Reporter.

For cases from other states, you will need to cite to the National Reporter System regional reporter or the state's official reporter. Identify which state court decided the case in your citation. Here is an example: *In re Gatti* (Or. 2000) 8 P.3d 966, 972-973. "P.3d" refers to the third series of the Pacific regional reporter. Here is another example: *Fischer v. Governor* (N.H. 2000) 749 A.2d 321, 326. "A.2d" refers to the second series of the Atlantic regional reporter.

STATUTES:

For a California statute, give the name of the code and the section number. For example, Code of Civil Procedure, section 1011 or Family Code, section 3461. For a federal statute, cite to the United States Code (abbreviated U.S.C.). Include the title and section number. For example, 28 U.S.C. section 351. "28" refers to the title of the U.S. Code that you are citing.

RULES:

For rules, identify the body of rules you are citing and the specific rule number. For example, Cal. Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-500 or Cal. Rules of Court, rule 8.220(a).

CONSTITUTIONS:

For constitutions, identify whether you are referring to the California or United States Constitution and refer to the specific constitutional provision you are relying on. For example, California Constitution, article IX, section 2 or United States Constitution, Fourteenth Amendment.

TREATISES:

For legal treatises, you should indicate the volume number of the treatise you are citing (if it has more than one volume), the author of the treatise, the title, edition and year, and the section and page number that supports the proposition of law you are stating. For example, 5 Witkin, Summary of California Law (9th ed. 1988) Torts, § 607, p. 706. This is a citation to volume 5 of a treatise by author Witkin entitled Summary of California Law, and the specific portion of the treatise cited is section 607 of the Torts chapter on page 706.

LAW REVIEWS AND JOURNALS:

For law review or journal articles, you should identify the author, title of the article, year it was printed, name of the law review or journal, volume and page number, and the specific page number of the article you are citing to. For example: Volokh, *The Mechanics of the Slippery Slope* (2003) 116 Harv. L.Rev. 1026, 1033. The abbreviation "Harv. L.Rev." stands for Harvard Law Review, and this article

appears in volume 116 of the Harvard Law Review at page 1026. If you do not know the proper abbreviation, you may spell out the entire journal name in your citation.

OTHER SOURCES:

If you are citing any other source, do your best to identify the source as accurately as possible, so that someone reading your brief could easily find it and look it up. As a general rule, you should identify the author, title, year, volume, section, and page number.