

**INTERACTIVE CITATION  
WORKBOOK FOR *ALWD GUIDE  
TO LEGAL CITATION***

**Minnesota**

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*Hamline University School of Law*

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Editorial Offices  
630 Central Ave., New Providence, NJ 07974  
201 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94105-1831 (415) 908-3200  
[www.lexisnexis.com](http://www.lexisnexis.com)

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## MINNESOTA CITATION

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If you are familiar with *ALWD Guide* rules, Minnesota citation is very straightforward due to the lack of local rules about citation, as noted in *ALWD Guide* Appendix 1.<sup>1</sup> Minnesota courts do not require parallel citations or citation to local reporters for older cases, and they have expressed no preference as to whether to use *Bluebook* or *ALWD Guide* citation format. *ALWD Guide* format is therefore acceptable for all citations. The following information is provided to help you determine how to apply *ALWD Guide* 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. The conjunction of the lack of local rules requiring parallel citation, and the *ALWD Guide* rules, means that published Minnesota cases, regardless of age, are cited to the *North Western Reporter* or to the *North Western Reporter*, Second Series.

### STATUTES, CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS, AND RULES

Although it no longer publishes a case reporter, Minnesota does still publish a statutory code, *Minnesota Statutes*, which is the official statutory code for Minnesota. It is published every two years, and therefore does not tend to accumulate extensive supplement materials. The code's most recent publication date is 2014. The unofficial code, *Minnesota Statutes Annotated*, is published by West. Both versions of the code include constitutional provisions and rules, which are cited according to *ALWD Guide* rules.

Citations to Minnesota statutory provisions are done by sections, whose numbers include both the chapter and the section, separated by a decimal point. For example, Minnesota Statute section 480A.08 designates section 8 of chapter 480A. No title name, chapter name, or volume number is included in Minnesota statutory citations.

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<sup>1</sup> Appendix 2 of the *ALWD Guide* references a Minnesota source called *Citing Minnesota Legal Sources*. The materials provided, however, are example citations in a variety of formats rather than local rules about citation.