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

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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. 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.

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.