



United States Code Citation, The "Yellow Book" California Style Manual

Student Name: _____

Course: _____

Instructor: _____

Date: _____

About This DLA

Important Note

Before starting this DLA you must have successfully completed the Integrating Legal Quotations DLA. All the activities in this DLA must be completed in their entirety before meeting with a tutor and receiving credit. Where indicated, complete your work on this sheet.

Objective

Now that you understand how to integrate a reference to your legal sources, you must learn the **exact** format for your legal references. The California state court system follows the *California Style Manual*, better known as the "Yellow Book." This book gives very specific rules on how to cite various legal sources, including federal codes and statutes. This activity illustrates how to cite federal codes and statutes following the Yellow Book format.

Understanding Federal Codes and Statutes in Yellow Book format

There are three codes for United States statutes, one official and two unofficial.

1. **United States Code:** This is the official code and should be the preferred citation when available. It is abbreviated U.S.C.
2. **United States Code Annotated:** One of the two unofficial codes, it is abbreviated U.S.C.A.
3. **United States Code Service:** The second unofficial code, it is abbreviated U.S.C.S.

Examples:

- ❖ (14 U.S.C. § 193.)
- ❖ (11 U.S.C.A. § 522.)
- ❖ (42 U.S.C.S § 1988.)

The California Style Manual General Rules for Citation of Federal Codes

1. When putting the citation within parenthesis, the title number appears first, followed by the abbreviation for the federal code and then the section symbol and number. Usually, the date of the code's enactment is not used, unless the code provision has been superseded or has been impacted in some way. If such is the case, include the year at the end of the citation in parentheses.

Example:

- ❖ 46 U.S.C. § 951 (repealed 11/23/98)

2. Federal code citations can only be abbreviated when contained within parentheses; no parentheses means no abbreviation should be used.

Examples:

- ❖ 14 United States Code section 193.
- ❖ (14 U.S.C. § 193.)
- ❖ 11 United States Code Annotated section 522.
- ❖ (11 U.S.C.A. § 522.)
- ❖ 42 United States Code Service section 1988.
- ❖ (42 U.S.C.S. § 1988.)

Note: From the examples above, note the spacing within the parentheses. It should be spaced as follows:

([Title number] space [Abbreviated code] space [section symbol] space [section number] period)

If a date is being used, the format shown above should be used.

3. Code citations should not be italicized or underscored.

Special Citations

1. The codes for the Internal Revenue Service are contained within title 26 of the United States Code. This means that any citation referring to "26 U.S.C." is in relation to the IRS. Consequently, the IRS has its own abbreviation, Int.Rev. Code. Once again, note the lack of a space between the 'Int' and 'Rev', but the space between 'Rev' and 'Code'. All of the following citations refer to the same section of the Internal Revenue Code.

Examples:

- ❖ Internal Revenue Code section 217.
- ❖ (Int.Rev. Code § 217.)
- ❖ 26 United States Code section 217.
- ❖ (26 U.S.C. § 217.)

2. According to the Yellow Book, citations of the federal administrative rules and regulations published in the Code of Federal Regulations should be formatted as:

([Title], space [Volume number] space C.F.R. space [section symbol] space [section] space (year)period)

Examples:

- ❖ (Shipping, 46 C.F.R. § 221.1 (1998).)
- ❖ (Aeronautics and Space, 14 C.F.R. § 13.101 (1997).)

3. Providing a popular name for an act often assists in identification, but is not required.

Example:

- ❖ Americans with Disability Act

Activities (approximately 1 hour)

Refer to the rules above, and be prepared to explain your answers when you meet with a tutor. Please check off each box when you have completed the task.

1. Citation Correction

Correct the following citations.

14 U.S.C. §193

(14 United States Code section 193)

26 *United States Code* section 217.

Section 10 in title 8 of the U.S.C.

(Title 36 of the United States Code section 112).

In 1998, the rules of shipping were contained in volume 46 of the Code of Federal Rules section 221.1.

2. Review the DLA

Go to <https://mtsac2.mywconline.com> and use the [Mt. SAC Writing Center Appointment System](#) to make a DLA appointment, or sign-up to see a tutor on the "DLA Walk-in" list in the Writing Center. During your session, briefly discuss the effective elements of United States Code Citation.

Student's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Tutor's Signature _____

Date: _____

If you are an individual with a disability and need a greater level of accessibility for any document in The Writing Center or on The Writing Center's website, please contact the Mt. SAC Accessible Resource Centers for Students, access@mtsac.edu, (909) 274-4290.

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