Uniform Maine Citations, 2015 Edition (superseded)

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## PREFACE

Beginning with the 2010 edition and continuing through the 2015 edition, *Uniform Maine Citations* undertakes to provide annually updated guidance for the location and proper form for citation to Maine-specific primary and secondary sources of legal research and writing. As with the editions that most recently preceded it, this edition is published on the *Maine Law Review* website and is updated at least annually to recognize new developments and new sources of Maine-related legal research. Because *Uniform Maine Citations* is published and regularly updated on-line and can be downloaded and printed from the website, no separate print publication will be prepared.

*Uniform Maine Citations* continues to be organized so that similar types of references appear together. The organization is grouped by primary or secondary research materials, including subdivisions for (1) statutory and legislative materials, including constitutions, statutes, legislative documents, and municipal ordinances; (2) court decisions, rules, and documents; (3) executive agency regulations, reports, and other documents; and (4) secondary materials that analyze and interpret the primary materials, including Maine-specific treatises, practice books, and legal periodicals. Beyond guidance for proper citation, the primary and secondary sources identified in this edition constitute a useful catalogue of materials available to support research into Maine laws, judicial opinions, and areas of law. Further, this edition identifies the major law libraries and the state and federal court and state government websites that provide free access to primary sources for Maine-specific legal research materials.

*Uniform Maine Citations* was originally prepared by Michael D. Seitzinger and Charles K. Leadbetter, members of the Maine Bar. Revisions to *Uniform Maine Citations* from 2010 through 2014 were initiated by and prepared under the direction of Professor Nancy A. Wanderer, Director of the Legal Research and Writing Program at the University of Maine School of Law and current professor of law, emerita.

This 2015 edition of *Uniform Maine Citations* has been reviewed and revised by Sara T.S. Wolff, Associate Legal Writing Professor at the University of Maine School of Law, in collaboration with Elizabeth Tull, the 2015-2016 Technical Editor of the *Maine Law Review*. Extensive revisions are incorporated in this 2015 edition to update and add citation forms and examples; to maintain general consistency with *The Bluebook* and *ALWD Guide to Legal Citation*, both of which were revised since the 2014 edition of *Uniform Maine Citations* was prepared; and to recognize significant changes to Maine court rules that have recently gone into effect. As he has for many years on prior editions, Donald G. Alexander, Associate Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, has provided substantial assistance in updating this edition. Rose Everitt and Crystal Bulges, Senior Law Clerks for the Maine Supreme Judicial Court and former editors of the *Maine Law Review*; Nancy Rabasca, librarian at Cleaves Law Library in the Cumberland County Courthouse; and Sally Enoch, Clerk and Staff Attorney for the Maine Workers’ Compensation Board’s Appellate Division, have also provided valuable input into this edition.
We hope the 2015 edition of *Uniform Maine Citations* provides useful guidance to the bench, the bar, law students, and the public in locating, using, and citing to sources and materials supporting Maine legal research.

Sara T.S. Wolff
September 2015
INTRODUCTION: LOCATION AND CITATION OF RESEARCH MATERIALS

A. Locating Research Materials

Most research materials identified in this edition can be located in print at the three major law libraries in Maine: the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library, located in the State Capitol Building in Augusta; the Donald Garbrecht Law Library at the University of Maine School of Law, located at the Law School in Portland; and the Cleaves Law Library, located in the Cumberland County Courthouse in Portland. In addition to having the print materials available, each of these law libraries has a website and materials that can provide guidance to support on-scene or on-line legal research efforts. The library websites each provide links to other websites that provide free access to primary materials – constitutions, statutes, regulations, ordinances, court opinions, and court rules – for legal research.

The Maine law library websites can be located using the library name and most common web search applications. Alternatively the web address of the library may be used and saved for repeat use. Following is the web address for each principal Maine law library:

1. The Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library is accessible at http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlibrary/

2. The Donald Garbrecht Law Library at the University of Maine School of Law is accessible at www.mainelaw.maine.edu/library

3. The Cleaves Law Library is accessible at www.cleaves.org

Other websites providing free access to primary materials for legal research relating to Maine issues include:

1. The Maine Judicial Branch (or Maine Courts), www.courts.maine.gov, for Maine Supreme Judicial Court opinions, court rules and amendments, administrative orders, court forms, and information about the Maine courts and related entities regulating bar admissions and the professional conduct of judges and attorneys.


4. Maine Revised Statutes, [www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/), for currently effective versions of the Maine Revised Statutes, except that in the fall there may be a gap between the time when most amendments enacted in the current year become effective and the time that all amendments are incorporated into the Maine Revised Statutes.


7. The United States Supreme Court, [www.supremecourt.gov](http://www.supremecourt.gov), for opinions, court rules, briefs and transcripts of oral arguments, and other information about the Court.

8. The United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, [www.ca1.uscourts.gov](http://www.ca1.uscourts.gov), for court opinions, rules, and other information about the Court of Appeals and practice before the First Circuit.


**B. Citation Practices**

1. **General References**

   Proper citation of sources and materials used in legal research and writing enables one to find the referenced source in order to review it in detail or to check for the accuracy of the reference to the source. This edition of the *Uniform Maine Citations* provides uniform citations for materials used in legal research and writing for Maine courts or other fora or audiences in Maine and relating to Maine issues. When this edition does not provide guidance for proper citation format, users should consult the comprehensive national citation practice books, *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (Columbia Law Review Ass’n et al. eds., 20th ed. 2015) or *ALWD Guide to Legal Citation* (5th ed. 2014), authored by ALWD and Coleen M. Barger. References to *The Bluebook* and to *ALWD Guide to Legal Citation* throughout this edition of *Uniform Maine Citations* are to the 20th and 5th editions, respectively.

   When guidance for citation to a particular source cannot be found, the writer should first look for an analogous source and develop a citation using the analogous source citation as guidance. If there is no analogous source, the writer should develop a citation that will enable him or her and any other person to find the source for review if desired. A citation
should include (1) the name and author, if any, of the internal article or subdivision specifically discussed; (2) the title of the source and name of the publication in which the source appears; (3) the page number or other identifier of the referenced source within the publication; (4) the date of the publication; and (5) if the source was viewed on a website, the date of the visit to the website.

2. References to Website Sources

Today, web-based research is the primary method for identifying and reviewing most materials used in legal research and writing. There is lingering concern as to whether reference material found on the web is authentic, accurate, and current. However, experience indicates minimal basis for these concerns when utilizing the website of a court or other government agency that has published a particular document, or websites of government or academic law libraries that have uploaded their material from or hyperlinked to the original government source. The same may be said of the principal commercial legal research sources, LEXIS and Westlaw, which have uploaded their material from the original source and added content like additional or expanded citations, new page numbers, and headnotes without changing the original text. In fact, web-based sources may be more accurate and current than print sources because copies of official documents are added to court or agency websites as they are published, and changes in documents like administrative or court rules, and occasional changes in administrative orders or court opinions, are often incorporated into web publications as soon as the change is made or takes effect.

Electronic research can yield results as authentic and accurate as, and more current than, printed materials research. However, URLs present three unique challenges: (1) URL codes may be subject to change each time a website format changes; (2) many URL codes now are one or more lines long; and (3) a single keyboarding error in entry can render the citation useless. This edition recommends a variation on the standard citation format to address these issues.

Citation to electronic research materials should utilize the same uniform citation formats applicable to print material whenever possible. The Bluebook Rules B18 (for practitioner documents) and 18 (for scholarly writing) may always be used in their standard forms to cite to authorities available on the web. This includes Rules B18.1.2 and 18.2.1(b), providing for parallel citations to increase access to the resource. However, if the writer of a practitioner document is concerned that the URL is too long or may change in the future, he or she may replace it with (1) the recognized name of the website, (2) the category heading on the website under which the material was found, and, if not otherwise present in the citation, (3) the date that the website was last visited. A parenthetical indication following the main citation should then provide the remaining guidance to access the document file on the website. Thus:

---

1 For instance, the URL code for the third edition of Uniform Maine Citations changed between the initial draft and the final draft of the 2010 edition.
-- The January 2001 advisory notes to Rule 7 of the Maine Rules of Appellate Procedure, accessed on the Maine Judicial Branch website, would be cited as follows:


-- A United States Supreme Court opinion without an available proprietary cite, accessed on that Court’s website, would be cited as follows:


-- A Maine Department of Environmental Protection conduct of enforcement hearing regulation, accessed on the Maine Secretary of State’s website, would be cited as follows:


-- An article in the Bangor Daily News:


OR

Seth Koenig, Judge Rules Portland Ordinance Banning Panhandlers, Others from Median Strips is Unconstitutional, Bangor Daily News (Feb. 12, 2014), Bangor Daily News website/News/Portland (search for “Judge rules Portland ordinance”).

NOTE: This exception to Rules B18 only applies to practitioner documents. Scholarly writing should continue to follow Rule 18 as written.
3. Abbreviations

Abbreviation practice for this edition generally follows the practices recommended in The Bluebook Rule 12.9.3. However, for writing prepared for Maine courts or another forum or audience limited to Maine, this edition recommends that for citation to Maine statutes and rules, the abbreviation “Me.” not be used, and that, consistent with general Maine citation practice, only the letter “M.” be used. Thus, by example:


“M. Bar R.” means the Maine Bar Rules.

“M.R.S.” means the Maine Revised Statutes.

“M.R.S.A.” means the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated.

Appeals to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, sitting as the Law Court when it considers appeals, have docket numbers that include the abbreviation prefix of the county of origin of the appeal. For example, And-10-696. The only exceptions are direct appeals from the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), the Board of Environmental Protection (BEP), the Business and Consumer Docket (BCD), the Workers’ Compensation Board (WCB), some appeals limited to criminal sentences (SRP), and certified questions from federal courts (Fed). Only the first letter of the docket number prefix is capitalized when it represents the first three letters of a word, such as for county names or the word “Federal.” However, the prefix is in all capital letters when the letters represent the first letters of a multi-word name, e.g., “PUC.”

Maine Superior Court cases and decisions also have docket numbers that include an abbreviation for the county where the case was filed. For purposes of citation to docket numbers, Maine county names should be abbreviated. The abbreviation should use the first three letters of the county’s name, as follows:

Androscoggin ............................................................... And
Aroostook ................................................................. Aro
Cumberland ............................................................ Cum
Franklin ................................................................. Fra
Hancock ................................................................. Han
Note, however, that the county name is not abbreviated when a trial court is itself referenced in a judicial opinion or other legal writing, such as “Superior Court (Lincoln County, Cole, C.J.)” and “Knox County Probate Court (Emery, J.).”
PRIMARY SOURCES

I. CONSTITUTIONS

The *Uniform Maine Citations* format for Constitutions generally follows, with some variation, *The Bluebook* Rules B11 and 11 and *ALWD Guide to Legal Citation* Rule 13.

A. United States Constitution

Provisions of the Constitution of the United States should be cited as follows:

U.S. Const. preamble.

U.S. Const. art. I, § 9, cl. 3.

U.S. Const. amend. XIV, § 1.

B. Maine Constitution

1. Provisions of the Maine Constitution currently in effect should be cited as follows:

   Me. Const. preamble.

   Me. Const. art. I, § 5.

   Me. Const. art. IV, pt. 1, § 3.

   Me. Const. art. I, § 9, cls. 1, 5.

2. Provisions of the Maine Constitution that have been repealed or amended should be cited as follows:


C. Debates and Journal of the Maine Constitutional Convention

The Debates and Journal of the Maine Constitutional Convention should be cited as follows:

Debates and Journal of the Constitutional Convention of the State of Maine (1819-1820) 159 (1894).
D. Constitutional Commissions

1. Constitutional Commission of 1875

The Constitutional Commission of 1875 proposed seventeen separate amendments to the Maine Constitution. The Commission’s proposed amendments, which appear as proposed resolves among the legislative documents of the 54th Legislature (1875), should be cited by reference to the number and title assigned to them by the Commission as follows:

Const. Comm’n 1875, Proposed Amend. No. 5 (Apportionment of Representatives).

2. Constitutional Commission of 1963

The four reports of the 1963 Constitutional Commission should be cited as follows:


L.D. 1476 at 8 (101st Legis. 1963).
II. STATUTES AND ORDINANCES

The Uniform Maine Citations format for Statutes and Ordinances generally follows The Bluebook Rule 12 and ALWD Guide to Legal Citation Rule 14. The Uniform Maine Citations formats for related legislative materials should be used in place of The Bluebook Rule 13 and ALWD Guide to Legal Citation Rules 14 and 15 when they differ.

A. Maine Revised Statutes (M.R.S.) and Maine Revised Statutes Annotated (M.R.S.A.)

In its opinions, the Law Court cites to Maine Revised Statutes (M.R.S.) for current statutes and Maine Revised Statutes Annotated (M.R.S.A.) for statutes dated 2004 and earlier. Citation to either is acceptable in practice.

Maine Revised Statutes is a set of softbound volumes that West publishes annually without any annotations. The Maine Revised Statutes are the general laws governing the State of Maine. They may be found in many law libraries and larger public libraries. The Maine Revised Statutes may also be found on the Maine Legislature’s website. As an example of a citation to a Maine statute, 14 M.R.S. § 1851 means the referenced statute can be found in the statute books or on-line by looking for title 14 and then section 1851. The Maine Revised Statutes are organized into general categories or “titles.” While the Maine Revised Statutes include only thirty-nine title numbers, many titles have a letter identification in addition to a number identification. For example, there is a Title 17 and a separate Title 17-A. Titles are subdivided into individual “sections.” Most titles also have an intermediate division into “chapters,” but chapter numbers are not included in citations to statutes.

When citing to Maine Revised Statutes for a statute currently in effect, include parenthetically the year of publication of the softbound volume.

1. A statute currently in effect should be cited as follows:

   1 M.R.S. § 402(3) (2014).

2. Subsections, paragraphs, and multiple paragraphs of the Maine Revised Statutes should be cited as follows:


   17-A M.R.S. § 360(1)(A), (C) (2014).
3. Consecutive sections or subsections should be cited by inclusive section or subsection numbers, not “et seq.,” as follows:


4. Acceptable short forms are as follows:

1 M.R.S. § 402(3). (statute cited previously, but not in immediately preceding citation).

§ 402(3). (statute cited previously, but not in immediately preceding citation, if the title would be clear from the context).

Id. § 1102. (title cited in immediately preceding citation, but different provision within the same title).

Id. (identical provision to that cited in immediately preceding citation).

5. A law that has been modified by an amendment in effect before the annual republication of Maine Revised Statutes should be cited as follows:


Note: The “emergency” reference would appear only when an amendment is enacted as emergency legislation, to take effect immediately upon the Governor’s signature or upon another specified date prior to the date set pursuant to Me. Const. art. IV, pt. 3, § 16 (stating that non-emergency legislation takes effect ninety days after final adjournment of the legislative session in which a law was enacted).

6. There will be a time in the fall of each year when laws enacted by the Legislature, and in effect in that year, will be incorporated into the electronic version of the Maine Revised Statutes that appears on the Maine Legislature’s website, before publication of the softbound edition of the Maine Revised Statutes for that year. If it is necessary to cite to the amended version of a statute or a newly enacted statute as it appears on the Legislature’s website, before publication of the softbound volume, the statute should be cited, for example, as follows:

14 M.R.S. § 6321-A (2009), Maine State Legislature/Statutes (last visited Nov. 18, 2009).
Maine Revised Statutes Annotated is a set of hardbound volumes published by West. It is supplemented by annual pocket parts and, for some volumes, by separate pamphlets when there have been major statutory revisions. In addition to statutes and the Maine and U.S. Constitutions, Maine Revised Statutes Annotated includes a history of the development of Maine laws, a brief legislative history of each section, and brief headnotes referencing Law Court, First Circuit, and United States District Court for the District of Maine opinions, and occasionally other sources that have discussed the section or previous versions of the section.

Citations to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated should include reference to the title, section, subsection, and, in parentheses, to the year of copyright of the hardbound volume or supplement in which the statutory provision appears or, if a statute currently in force is accessed online, the date that the database was accessed.

1. Sections contained entirely in a hardbound volume should be cited as follows:


2. Sections contained entirely in a pocket supplement should be cited as follows:


3. Sections, the provisions of which are contained in both a hardbound volume and its pocket supplement, should be cited as follows:


4. Sections contained in a separate softbound pamphlet, rather than a pocket supplement, should be cited as follows:


5. Subsections and paragraphs of the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated should be cited as follows:

6. Acceptable short forms are as follows:

26 M.R.S.A. § 625. (statute cited previously, but not in immediately preceding citation).

§ 625. (statute cited previously, but not in immediately preceding citation, if the title would be clear from the context).

*Id.* § 1420-A. (title cited in immediately preceding citation, but different provision within the same title).

*Id.* (identical provision to that cited in immediately preceding citation).

7. Statutes no longer in effect should be cited as follows:


8. A version of a statute that has since been modified by an amendment should be cited as follows:


9. Consecutive sections or subsections should be cited by inclusive section or subsection numbers, not “*et seq.*,” as follows:


**B. Maine Revised Statutes: 1841 to 1954**

1. Before their last complete revision in 1964, the Maine Revised Statutes were revised nine times from 1841 to 1954. Statutory provisions appearing in these earlier revisions were not set forth by title and section number, but by chapter and section number. Sections contained in these nine revisions should be cited by reference to chapter and section number and year of the revision as follows:

R.S. ch. 171, § 22 (1841).

R.S. ch. 133, § 14 (1857).
R.S. ch. 133, § 16 (1871).
R.S. ch. 133, § 16 (1883).
R.S. ch. 134, § 18 (1903).
R.S. ch. 135, § 18 (1916).
R.S. ch. 145, § 18 (1930).
R.S. ch. 147, § 18 (1954).

2. Sections contained in a supplement to the 1954 revision should be cited as follows:


3. If for some reason citation cannot be made to one of these earlier revisions of the revised statutes, the statute should be cited by reference to the session law enacting it.

C. Commentary

1. Comments to Maine statutory provisions, with the abbreviation “cmt.” used in place of the term “comment,” should be cited as follows:


2. Comments to uniform acts or model codes that appear in the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated, if citation to the Uniform Law rather than the Maine statute or Maine comment is necessary, should be cited by the uniform act or model code provision and the year of the comment as follows:


D. Session Laws

Maine session laws should be cited by the year, chapter number, and, where applicable, the section number. Session laws are numbered in order as approved, beginning with reference to the odd-numbered year in which each newly elected legislature first meets to conduct business. Enactments passed in even-numbered years since 1920 are cited by reference to the preceding odd-numbered year. When the effective date of an enactment has special significance, it should be included.

1. Public Laws should be cited as follows:


   Note: The “emergency” reference would appear only when an amendment is enacted as emergency legislation, to take effect immediately upon the Governor’s signature or at some specified date before the constitutionally specified date for effectiveness of non-emergency legislation, which is ninety days after final adjournment of the legislative session in which the law was enacted.

2. Private and Special Laws should be cited as follows:


3. Resolves should be cited as follows:

   Resolves 2007, ch. 183.

4. Constitutional Resolutions should be cited as follows:


   [Referring to resolutions, as passed by the Legislature].


   [Referring to resolutions, as approved by the electorate after passage by the Legislature. See also the cite form at section I.B.2. for adopted amendments to the Maine Constitution].
5. Legislative addresses by the Governor, the Chief Justice or others and proclamations of constitutional amendments should be cited by the year and page or pages of the Laws of Maine, as follows:

2009 Me. Laws 1499 (State of the Judiciary address of Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley to first regular session of 124th Legis.).

E. Revisor’s Report

The annual Revisor’s Report made by the Revisor of Statutes pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 95, in the course of the update of the statutory database by that office appears in the annual publication of the Laws of the State of Maine. It should be cited by the year, chapter number, the section number, and section revised, as follows:


F. Bills and Amendments to Bills

1. Legislative Documents

Legislative documents (“bills”) should be cited by the legislative document number; the particular section of the bill, the summary, or the statement of fact, where appropriate; the session number of the legislature that considered the bill; and the year. The senate paper or house paper number assigned to the bill is omitted from the citation form both for brevity and because this number is not particularly helpful as a research device. Legislative documents should be cited as follows:

L.D. 1439 (124th Legis. 2009).

L.D. 1456, § 3 (124th Legis. 2009).

L.D. 1460, Summary (124th Legis. 2009).


Include a pinpoint citation as follows:

2. Amendments

A committee, Senate, or House amendment should be cited by the letter assigned the amendment, the legislative document amended (and where appropriate the amendment being amended), the filing number of the amendment, the session number of the legislature that considered the amendment, and the year, as follows:


G. Legislative Debate

1. Pages of the Maine Legislative Record ordinarily should be cited by reference to the volume number (where appropriate), page, and year. Note that, starting in 1991, the page numbering differentiates between the Legislative Record for the House (H) and the Senate (S).

Legis. Rec. 745 (1943).


2. Some volumes of the Legislative Record contain debate for both a regular session and one or more special sessions. In such cases the debate at the special session(s) is repaginated.

Citation to debate in these volumes should include reference to the regular or special session during which the debate occurred, as follows:


H. Testimony Before the State Legislature

The preferred format for citing testimony before a Maine legislative committee should include the full subject matter title as stated on material to be cited, the L.D. number, the subcommittee name (if any), the committee name, the Legislature’s number, the page number (if any), and the year of publication, with an explanatory parenthetical identifying the person testifying:


I. Journals of the Senate and House

Pages of the Journal of the Senate of the State of Maine and the Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Maine should be cited as follows:


House Jour. 2911 (123d Legis. 2008).

Copies of the journals are available at the State Law Library, the Secretary of State (Archives), and the office of the branch of the Legislature producing the particular journal.

J. Reports of Joint Standing Committees and Joint Select Committees of the Legislature

A study report of a joint standing committee or joint select committee of the Legislature should be cited by reference to the title of the report, page, and date of publication (or year if precise date is unavailable).


K. Reports and Documents of Legislative and Gubernatorial Commissions

The Legislature or Governor from time to time will establish special commissions or committees to study an area of law and to issue a report on their findings. Occasionally the Legislature will establish the commission, typically by private and special law, but provide for appointment of its members by the Governor or other person(s). Citations to reports and other documents of these special commissions should include the name of the commission, the title of the report or document, page, and date of publication (or year if precise date is unavailable).

Commission to Study the Promotion, Expansion, and Regulation of the Harness Racing Industry, Final Report to the 123d Legislature 1 (Dec. 2007).

Right to Know Advisory Committee, Second Annual Report to the 123d Legislature (Jan. 2008).

L. Municipal Ordinances

A municipal ordinance that has been codified should be cited by reference to the municipality, code section or other subdivision, and the full date or year of the most recent version of the ordinance that, as with statutes, was in effect to govern the issues presented in the case or other legal writing. An ordinance that is uncodified should be cited by reference to the municipality, name of the ordinance, section or other subdivision (if applicable), and the date of the most recent version the ordinance that was in effect to govern the issues presented.

1. Municipal ordinances found in print should be cited as follows:

   Portland, Me., Code § 3-16 (Dec. 1, 2000).

   Manchester, Me., Cemetery Ordinance § 12.1 (June 14, 2007).

2. Municipal ordinances found electronically should be cited as follows:

3. Acceptable short forms are as follows:

Codified ordinances:

Portland, Me., Code § 3-16. (ordinance cited previously, but not in immediately preceding citation).

§ 3-16. (ordinance cited previously, but not in immediately preceding citation, if the excluded citation information would be clear from the context).

_Id._ § 3-17. (citation refers to a codified ordinance within the same title, chapter, or part as an ordinance cited in the immediately preceding citation, but to a different section within that title, chapter, or part).

_Id._ (identical provision to that cited in the immediately preceding citation).

Uncodified ordinances:

Manchester, Me., Cemetery Ordinance § 12.1. (ordinance cited previously, but not in immediately preceding citation).

Cemetery Ordinance § 12.1. (ordinance cited previously, but not in immediately preceding citation, if the excluded citation information would be clear from the context).

_Id._ (identical provision to that cited in the immediately preceding citation).

The use of “Me.” as an abbreviation here is deliberately inconsistent with the general rule to abbreviate “Maine” as “M.” for rules and statutes (e.g. “M.R.S.A.”). This is so because the “Me.” in this context serves only to identify a particular geographic locale, not to indicate a rule of statewide applicability.
III. COURT OPINIONS AND DOCUMENTS

The Uniform Maine Citations format for Court Opinions generally follows The Bluebook Rule 10 and ALWD Guide to Legal Citation Rule 12. The 2012 edition of the Uniform Maine Citations removed the need to use a parallel pincite for opinions of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, beginning January 1, 1997, when the Court began to use a public domain citation with numbered paragraphs. Opinions from other jurisdictions that utilize a similar citation format to the Maine public domain citation may be cited accordingly. The Uniform Maine Citations format for court documents should be used in place of The Bluebook Rule 10.8.3 and ALWD Guide to Legal Citation Rule 12.18.

A. Federal Court Decisions

1. Supreme Court of the United States

a. Decisions of the United States Supreme Court should be cited to the official reporter as follows:


Pinpoint citations should reference page numbers in the following style:


b. Supreme Court decisions not yet reported with page numbers in the United States Reports should be cited to the United States Reports volume number that appears in the slip opinion and to an alternative source, in the following order of preference:

i. Supreme Court Reporter:


ii. United States Supreme Court Reports, Lawyers’ Edition:


iii. An on-line source such as LEXIS or Westlaw for decisions not yet available in a print reporter:


c. Unreported Supreme Court decisions should be cited to an online database or service as follows:


d. For citations to Supreme Court opinions reported in United States Reports prior to 1875 and other special Supreme Court citation forms, see The Bluebook T1.1 or ALWD Guide to Legal Citation Rule 12.4(b)(4).

2. United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit

a. Reported First Circuit decisions should be cited as follows:

McCreaht v. Holder, 573 F.3d 38 (1st Cir. 2009).

Pinpoint citations should reference page numbers in the following style:

McCreaht v. Holder, 573 F.3d 38, 40 (1st Cir. 2009).
b. Reported First Circuit decisions not selected for publication in the Federal Reporter, but appearing in the Federal Appendix, should be cited as follows:

Williams v. Techtronic Indus. of N. Am., Inc., 600 F. App’x 1, 1-2 (1st Cir. 2015).

c. Unreported First Circuit decisions or decisions not yet reported in the Federal Reporter should be cited as follows:


d. First Circuit decisions in which a petition for certiorari has been filed should be cited as follows:


Note: Do not include the reference “petition for cert. filed” after the Supreme Court makes a disposition on the petition.

e. First Circuit decisions in which a petition for certiorari has been granted should be cited as follows:

Pharm. Research & Mfrs. of Am. v. Concannon, 249 F.3d 66 (1st Cir. 2001), cert. granted, 122 S. Ct. 2657 (2002).

Note: Do not include the reference “cert. granted” after the Supreme Court decides the case.

f. First Circuit decisions in which a petition for certiorari has been denied should be cited as follows:

Torres v. Dennehy, 615 F.3d 1, 5 (1st Cir. 2010), cert. denied, 131 S. Ct. 1038 (2011).

Note: Reference a denial of certiorari only when the denial of certiorari was within the past two years or if this information is particularly important to the discussion.
g. Ceremonial proceedings reported in the Federal Reports series should be cited as follows:


3. United States District Court for the District of Maine

a. Decisions of the United States District Court reported in the Federal Supplement should be cited as follows:


Pinpoint citations should reference page numbers in the following style:


b. Decisions of the United States District Court reported in the Federal Rules Decisions should be cited as follows:


c. Unreported decisions of the United States District Court or decisions not yet reported in the Federal Supplement should be cited as follows:


With pinpoint citation:


d. Unreported orders or other court actions or papers should be cited by docket number. Letters added to the docket number should be included in the citation because the letters are part of the official case designation to identify the type of case and the specific District Court judge assigned, e.g., Chief Judge Nancy Torresen (T or NT), Judge D. Brock Hornby (H or DBH), Judge Jon D. Levy (L or JDL), Judge George Z. Singal (S or GZS), or Judge John A. Woodcock, Jr. (W or JAW).

The docket number also identifies the court location, either by letter, i.e., Bangor (B) or Portland (P), or, more recently, through the first digit in the docket number, i.e., Bangor (1) or Portland (2).


The letters indicate that the order was entered in a civil case assigned to Judge Woodcock in Bangor.


The “2” as the first digit and the letters indicate that the order was entered in a civil case assigned to Judge Levy in Portland.

4. *Bankruptcy Court*

a. Decisions of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maine found in the Bankruptcy Reporter (1979-present) should be cited as follows:


Pinpoint citations should reference page numbers in the following style:


b. Decisions of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maine found in an electronic database should be cited (shown here with pinpoint citations) as follows:


c. Decisions of the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the District of Maine found in the *Bankruptcy Reporter* (1979-present) should be cited as follows:


d. Decisions of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit regarding bankruptcy should be cited as follows:

*Pratt v. Gen. Motors Acceptance Corp. (In re Pratt)*, 462 F.3d 14 (1st Cir. 2006).

**B. Maine Supreme Judicial Court Decisions**

1. Supreme Judicial Court Sitting as the Law Court

The Maine Supreme Judicial Court is referred to as the “Law Court” when sitting as an appellate court to hear and decide appeals.

a. Law Court decisions issued on or after January 1, 1997, should be cited as follows:


i. If the A.3d cite is not yet available, cite as follows:

*State v. Beckwith*, 2015 ME 72, ___ A.3d ___.

*Note*: Law Court decisions use dashes, --- A.3d ---, rather than underlining in anticipation of decisions being made available on-line with hyperlink applications that may obscure sections of citations that are underlined.

ii. Pinpoint citations should reference paragraph numbers assigned by the Law Court, but not the Atlantic Reporter page numbers, in the following style:


*State v. Beckwith*, 2015 ME 72, ¶ 12, ___ A.3d ___. (if the A.3d cite is not yet available).
iii. Acceptable short forms are as follows:

*Hoch*, 2011 ME 24, ¶ 12, 16 A.3d 137. (decision cited previously, but not in immediately preceding citation).

*Id.* ¶ 13. (decision cited in immediately preceding citation, but different paragraph of opinion).

*Id.* (same decision and paragraph as that cited in immediately preceding citation).

iv. Footnotes should be cited as follows:

*Estate of Hoch v. Stifel*, 2011 ME 24, ¶ 10 n.2, 16 A.3d 137. (citation to footnote only).

*Estate of Hoch v. Stifel*, 2011 ME 24, ¶¶ 10 n.2, 12 nn.3-4, 16 A.3d 137. (citation to footnotes only).

*Estate of Hoch v. Stifel*, 2011 ME 24, ¶¶ 10, 12 & n.3, 16 A.3d 137. (citation to both the text of the opinion and the footnote).

b. Law Court decisions issued on or after January 1, 1966, and before January 1, 1997, should be cited as follows:


i. Pinpoint citations should reference page numbers in the following style:


ii. Acceptable short forms are as follows:

*Nolette*, 679 A.2d at 1085. (decision cited previously, but not in immediately preceding citation).

*Id.* at 1086. (decision cited in immediately preceding citation, but different page).

*Id.* (same decision and page as that cited in immediately preceding citation).
iii. Footnotes should be cited as follows:


c. Law Court decisions issued after 1885 and before January 1, 1966 (215 A.2d 919 (Me. 1966)) should be cited, with parallel citations, as follows:


i. Pinpoint citations should reference page numbers in *both* reporters as follows:


ii. Acceptable short forms are as follows:

    *Cook*, 155 Me. at 310, 154 A.2d at 171. (decision cited previously, but not in immediate preceding citation).

    *Id.* at 313, 154 A.2d at 172. (decision cited in immediate preceding citation, but at different page).

    *Id.*, 154 A.2d at 173. (decision cited in immediate preceding citation, but at different page in the second reporter)

    **Note**: *Id.* may be used only to refer to the first reporter in a parallel citation. For Law Court decisions between 1885 and 1966, the second part of the parallel citation must always include the reporter and pinpoint citation.

d. Law Court decisions issued before 1885 should be cited as follows:


e. *Per Curiam* Law Court decisions

    A “per curiam” decision, that is, a decision issued by the Law Court as a whole, or the panel of justices sitting on the particular appeal, and not signed by a particular justice, should be cited as follows:

f. Law Court Memoranda of Decision

The Supreme Judicial Court has adopted M.R. App. P. 12(c), which addresses decisions issued by the Law Court. This Rule notes that a memorandum of decision does not establish precedent. The supporting advisory notes indicate that a memorandum of decision should not be cited as precedent in legal briefs, memoranda, or judicial opinions. Rule 12(c) replaces the Court’s “Administrative Order in Regard to Memoranda of Decision” dated February 9, 1989 (No. SJC-114). Rule 12(c) is discussed in detail in the August 2004 Advisory Note supporting adoption of Rule 12(c), which may be found at Maine Judicial Branch website/Rules, or at pages 116 to 117 of Alexander, Maine Appellate Practice (4th ed. 2013).

A memorandum of decision has a separate citation format and should be cited as follows:


g. Law Court appeals that have not been decided should be cited by reference to the Law Court docket number and the date the appeal was docketed in the Law Court, as follows:


h. A Law Court decision in which a petition for certiorari has been filed should be cited as follows:


Note: Do not include the reference “petition for cert. filed” after the Supreme Court makes a disposition on the petition.

i. A Law Court decision in which a petition for certiorari has been granted, but the case has not been decided, should be cited as follows:

j. A Law Court decision in which a petition for certiorari has been denied should be cited as follows:


_Ewing v. Me. Dist. Ct., 2009 ME 16, 964 A.2d 644, cert. denied, No. 08-1419, 2009 U.S. LEXIS 4880 (June 29, 2009)._  

**Note:** Reference a denial of certiorari only when the denial of certiorari was within the past two years or if this information is particularly important to the discussion. Denial of cert petitions may be referenced to the Supreme Court Reporter (‘S. Ct.’), Westlaw, or LEXIS.

k. A Law Court decision from which an appeal has been dismissed should be cited as follows:


**Note:** Include the information about the appeal’s dismissal only if it occurred within the past two years or if this information is particularly important to the discussion.

l. A Law Court decision that has been affirmed by the United States Supreme Court should be cited as follows:


_State v. Moulton, 481 A.2d 155 (Me. 1984), aff’d, 474 U.S. 159 (1985)._  

m. A Law Court decision that has been vacated by the United States Supreme Court should be cited as follows:

_State v. Patten, 436 A.2d 387 (Me. 1981), vacated, 457 U.S. 1114 (1982)._  

n. A Law Court decision that has been modified on reconsideration should be cited as follows:

_Me. Cent. R.R. Co. v. Halperin, 379 A.2d 980 (Me. 1977), modified, 381 A.2d 8 (Me. 1977)._
2. *Sentence Review for Propriety*

“A sentence of any length may be appealed directly as a matter of right when the defendant claims that the sentence is illegal, imposed in an illegal manner, or beyond the jurisdiction of the court, and the illegality appears plainly in the record.” *State v. Schmidt*, 2010 ME 8, ¶ 5, 988 A.2d 975. However, on direct appeal, the Law Court reviews only the legality, not the propriety, of a sentence. *Id.* Since 1989, review of sentences for propriety, usually involving a challenge to the length of the sentence, has been subject to a separate discretionary review process before the Sentence Review Panel pursuant to M.R. App. P. 20. Decisions of the Law Court following reference to the Court by the Sentence Review Panel are treated and cited like any other Law Court opinion. Before 1989, sentence review for propriety was conducted by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Judicial Court.

a. Decisions of the former Appellate Division of the Supreme Judicial Court, which are not reported, should be cited as follows:


b. Decisions of the Sentence Review Panel of the Supreme Judicial Court, which are not reported, should be cited as follows:


3. *Supreme Judicial Court Sitting Other Than as the Law Court*

Citation to decisions of the Supreme Judicial Court when not sitting as the Law Court depends on the matter before it:

a. *Opinion of the Justices*

Opinions issued pursuant to article VI, section 3, of the Maine Constitution are the opinions of the justices individually; however, the document responding to the article VI, section 3, question is called the *Opinion of the Justices*. It should be cited as follows:

i. For opinions issued since 2001:

*Opinion of the Justices*, 2004 ME 54, 850 A.2d 1145.
ii. For opinions issued from 1966 to 2001:

*Opinion of the Justices*, 709 A.2d 1183 (Me. 1997).

iii. For opinions issued from 1885 to 1966:


b. Judicial Disciplinary Proceedings

i. Decisions of the Supreme Judicial Court in original proceedings involving judicial discipline prior to 2004 should be cited as follows:


ii. For decisions issued since 2003:

*In re Nadeau*, 2007 ME 21, 914 A.2d 714.

c. Attorney Disciplinary and Bar Admission Proceedings

Prior to January 1982, the docket number used by the Supreme Judicial Court to identify attorney disciplinary and bar admission proceedings was “SJC-[No.].” Thereafter this form was replaced by “BAR-[year]-[No.].”

i. Decisions of a single justice, sitting in the Supreme Judicial Court, that are not reported should be cited as follows:


ii. Decisions of a single justice, sitting in the Supreme Judicial Court, relative to these original proceedings and that are reported in the *Maine Manual on Professional Responsibility*, should be cited as follows:


iii. Appeals from single justice decisions in attorney admission and discipline matters are heard by the Supreme Judicial Court, sitting as the Law Court, see *Bd. of Overseers of the Bar v. Condon*, 2008 ME 24, 940 A.2d 1065 (per curiam), and should be cited in the same manner as Law Court opinions.
d. Other Decisions of the Supreme Judicial Court:

The Supreme Judicial Court has original jurisdiction to hear and decide some other matters, including original actions reapportioning state legislative and congressional districts and appeals from proceedings when the Maine House of Representatives or the Senate reapportions itself. Decisions in such matters should be cited as follows:

For direct reapportionment:


For reapportionment appeals:


4. Ceremonial Proceedings

Ceremonial proceedings reported in the Maine Reporter should be cited as follows:


5. Oral Argument Recordings, Transcripts, and Summaries

Oral arguments before the Law Court are recorded, and most oral arguments are streamed live through the Judicial Branch website. There is no recent practice of the Law Court preparing official or unofficial written transcripts of oral arguments, but for a period of time in the 19th century, Reporters of Decisions prepared and published summaries of the arguments and the briefs immediately preceding the Court’s opinions in the Maine Reports.

a. Citations to audio recordings of oral arguments before the Law Court should only be made if no written transcript is available. Citations to audio recordings of oral arguments should be as follows:

When a publicly-accessible URL of the audio recording is available, indicate the URL pursuant to The Bluebook Rule 18 and ALWD Guide to Legal Citation Rule 30.

b. Citations to summaries of arguments prepared by the Reporter of Decisions should be as follows:

Summary of Plaintiff’s Argument, Brown v. Weymouth, 36 Me. 414, 415 (1853).

C. Maine Trial Court Decisions

1. Superior Court

a. Decisions of the Maine Superior Court published on LEXIS or Westlaw should be cited as follows (one example without a pincite and the other with a pincite):


b. The acceptable short forms, with pincites, are as follows:


Id. at *2.

c. Decisions available in a slip opinion should be cited as follows:


Note: Page citations may be added, e.g., “at 5,” when available and appropriate for use.

Note: Letter abbreviations appearing in the docket number may include CV (civil), CR (criminal), RE (real estate), AP (appeal), and FM (family matters).
d. The first time the Superior Court is referenced in the text of an opinion or other legal writing, it should be referenced as follows:

“... the Superior Court (Lincoln County, Bradford, J.).”

2. District Court

a. Decisions of the Maine District Court should be cited as follows:


b. The first time the District Court is referenced in the text of an opinion or other legal writing, it should be referenced as follows:

“... the District Court (Bangor, Gunther, J.).”

3. Unified Criminal Dockets

Effective July 1, 2015, case management of all criminal cases is managed in unified criminal dockets on a county-wide basis presided over by Superior Court Justices and District Court Judges.

a. Decisions of Unified Criminal Dockets should be cited as follows:


b. The first time the trial court is referenced in the text of an opinion or other legal writing, it should be referenced as follows:

“... the Unified Criminal Docket (Penobscot County, A. Murray, J.).”

c. Subsequent references to Unified Criminal Docket courts can be to “the trial court” or just “the court.” The court should not be referred to as the District Court or the Superior Court.

4. Specialized Courts

Opinions or orders by specialized courts like the Drug Court and Family Division are part of the general docket for the trial court and should be cited as opinions of the Maine Superior Court or Maine District Court, whichever is appropriate, as follows:

State v. Smith, [add specific docket number] (Me. Super. Ct., And. Cty., July 29, 2013). [This is a hypothetical case.]
Doe v. Doe, [add specific decision number] (Me. Dist. Ct., Portland, July 29, 2013). [This is a hypothetical case.]

5. Business and Consumer Court

The Business and Consumer Docket is a separate part of the trial courts. Decisions of the Business and Consumer Court should be cited as follows:


6. Probate Court

a. There are probate courts for each of the sixteen Maine counties. Decisions of the Probate Court should be cited as follows:

In re Guardianship of Virgil T., Ken. Cty. Prob. Ct. [add specific docket number which may vary by county] (full date).

[This is a hypothetical case name not reflecting an actual case, which may have confidential aspects.]

b. When a Probate Court is referenced in the text of an opinion or other legal writing, it should be referenced the first time it appears in the text as follows:

“. . . the Waldo County Probate Court (Longley, J.).”

D. Court Documents, Transcripts, and Records

When citing to court documents, transcripts, and records in the same case as the cited material, abbreviate the titles of those documents, cite to a paragraph or page, and enclose the entire citation in parentheses. If the citation serves as a citation sentence, place a period after the paragraph or page within the parentheses; if the citation serves as a clause, omit the period and place within the punctuation for the pertinent textual clause. If necessary to avoid confusion, include the date that the document was prepared.

1. Pleadings

Plaintiff’s Complaint, paragraph 9 (Pl.’s Compl. ¶ 9.)
Defendant’s Answer, paragraph 6
(Def.’s Ans. ¶ 6.)

Defendant’s Counterclaim, paragraph 13
(Def.’s Countercl. ¶ 13.)

2. Motions

Motion to Dismiss, paragraph 3
(Mot. Dismiss ¶ 3.)

Defendant’s Motion to Suppress, page 8
(Def.’s Mot. Suppress 8.)

Plaintiff’s Motion in Limine, page 4
(Pl.’s Mot. Limine 4.)

3. Transcripts

Motion Transcript, page 17, April 25, 2009
(Mot. Tr. 17 (Apr. 25, 2009).)

Sentencing Transcript, page 2
(S. Tr. 2.)

4. Summary Judgment Documents

Plaintiff’s Opposition to Defendant’s Motion for Summary Judgment, page 12
(Pl.’s Opp’n to Def.’s Mot. Summ. J. 12.)

Supporting Statement of Material Facts, paragraph 7
(Supp. S.M.F. ¶ 7.)

Opposing Statement of Material Facts, paragraph 12
(Opp. S.M.F. ¶ 12.)

5. Supporting Documents

Affidavit of James Kane, paragraphs 1-2
(Kane Aff. ¶¶ 1-2.)
Deposition of Sheila Dennison, page 23 (Dennison Dep. 23.)

Defendant’s Interrogatory, number 2 (Def.’s Interrog. No. 2.)

6. Appellate Documents

Petitioner’s Brief, page 33 (Pet’r’s Br. 33.)

Respondent’s Brief, page 12 (Resp.’s Br. 12.)

Appellant’s Brief, page 6 (Blue Br. 6.)

Appellee’s Brief, page 12 (Red Br. 12.)

Appendix, page 85 (A. 85.)

Appendix B, page B-9 (B App. 9.)

Appendix III, page 9 (III App. 9.)

Record, page 73 (R. 73.)

7. Exhibits in Any Court Document

Exhibit A (Ex. A.)

Plaintiff’s Exhibit B, page 2 (Pl’s Ex. B 2.)

Defendant’s Exhibit C, paragraph 9 (Def.’s Ex. ¶ 9.)

8. When citing to court documents in law review articles, or any time the case to which the document relates might be unclear, add a comma followed by a citation to that case, as follows:


IV. MAINE COURT RULES

The Uniform Maine Citations format for Maine court rules generally follows The Bluebook Rule 12.9.3 and ALWD Guide to Legal Citation Rule 16.

A. Location and Citation of Maine Court Rules and Advisory Notes

Current versions of all rules promulgated by the Maine Supreme Judicial Court appear on the Maine Judicial Branch website.

The website includes the complete, current rules as well as advisory notes or reporter’s notes for:

- The Maine Rules of Civil Procedure
- The Maine Rules of Unified Criminal Procedure
- The Maine Rules of Appellate Procedure
- The Maine Rules of Evidence
- The Maine Rules of Professional Conduct
- The Maine Rules for Guardians Ad Litem,
- The Maine Bar Rules, and
- The Maine Code of Judicial Conduct

The website also includes the complete, current rules for:

- The Maine Rules of Probate Procedure
- The Maine Rules of Small Claims Procedure
- The Maine Rules of the Committee on Judicial Responsibility and Disability
- The Maine Bar Admission Rules
- The Maine Rules for the Maine Assistance Program for Lawyers
- The Maine Rules for Lawyers’ Fund for Client Protection, and
- The Rules for the Maine Civil Legal Services Fund Commission

The Court’s website is the most up-to-date source and thus the primary citation source for these materials. See Me. Judicial Branch, Court Rules, www.court.maine.gov/rules_adminorders/rules/index.shtml (last visited July 16, 2015). Rules are also published annually, with some recent advisory notes, in the various print publications: Maine Court Practice Rules (Tower), Maine Court Ethics Rules (Tower), and Maine Rules of Court (ThomsonWest).

Reporter’s notes are the notes that support original promulgation of the rule. Advisory committee’s notes usually indicate an amendment recommended by a Court advisory committee. Advisory notes may indicate a rule developed by the Court itself, although
the distinction between advisory committee’s notes and advisory notes is not always clear.

**Note:** Citation to specific rules currently in effect and general citation to reporter’s notes or advisory notes for a particular rule need not include any date or source indicator with the rule citation.

For citation to print sources:


Other less comprehensive print sources for reporter’s notes and advisory notes are addressed in the discussion of the individual rules.

**B. Maine Rules of Civil Procedure**

Using the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure as a general example of citation form for rules and supporting notes, suggested citation practice follows:

1. Maine Rules of Civil Procedure should be cited as follows:


2. Reporter’s notes to the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure should be cited as follows:

   M.R. Civ. P. 12 reporter’s notes.
3. The preferred source for specific reporter’s notes, advisory committee’s notes, and advisory notes is:


4. Advisory committee’s notes to amendments to the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure also appear in both the Maine Reporter and in Maine Civil Practice. Citation may be made to either of those sources.


M.R. Civ. P. 33(a) advisory committee’s note to 1981 amend., Me. Rptr., 428-433 A.2d LII.

M.R. Civ. P. 5 advisory committee’s note to 2001 amend., Me. Rptr., 770-777 A.2d XXXII.

C. Maine Rules of Business and Consumer Docket Procedure [Abrogated]

These rules, promulgated in 2008, were abrogated effective September 1, 2014. They have been replaced by chapter XIV of the Civil Rules. Citation should include the date of the most recent official source in which the cited rule appears and the date of repeal, as follows:


D. Maine Rules of Unified Criminal Procedure

The Maine Judicial Branch adopted the Maine Rules of Unified Criminal Procedure to replace the Maine Rules of Criminal Procedure and/or prior Administrative Orders regarding proceedings in Unified Criminal Dockets. The Maine Rules of Unified Criminal Procedure became effective by county on a phased-in schedule in the first half of 2015, and apply in all counties as of July 1, 2015.

1. Maine Rules of Unified Criminal Procedure should be cited as follows:

2. Committee advisory notes to the Maine Rules of Unified Criminal Procedure as originally promulgated should be cited as follows:


3. Maine Rules of Criminal Procedure, now abrogated, should be cited as follows, providing the date of the most recent official source in which the cited rule appears and the date of repeal:


4. The Judicial Branch website publishes the Maine Rules of Unified Criminal Procedure, which have completely replaced the former Maine Rules of Criminal Procedure. However, the Maine Rules of Unified Criminal Procedure with Advisory Notes, published on the website, include advisory notes both to the Maine Rules of Unified Criminal Procedure and to amendments to the former Maine Rules of Criminal Procedure after their adoption in 1965. The Maine Rules of Unified Criminal Procedure with Advisory Notes do not include notes regarding rules that had been abrogated before the adoption of the Maine Rules of Unified Criminal Procedure. For Reporter’s Notes and commentary to the 1965 adoption of the Maine Rules of Criminal Procedure, see Glassman, Maine Practice: Rules of Criminal Procedure Annotated (1967).

Reporters’ and advisory notes to the now-abrogated Maine Rules of Criminal Procedure should be cited as follows:

M.R. Crim. P. 35 reporter’s notes.


Advisory committee’s notes to amendments to the now-abrogated Maine Rules of Criminal Procedure also appear in the Maine Reporter. Advisory committee’s notes up to 1995 appear in Maine Criminal Practice. If citation to a print source, rather than the website source discussed in section IV(B)(3) above is desired, citation should be made to one of the print sources, as follows:

M.R. Crim. P. 4(a) advisory committee’s notes to 2001 amend., Me. Rptr., 762-769 A.2d LXIV.

M.R. Crim. P. 39D(f) Supreme Judicial Court notes to 1987 amend., Me. Rptr., 510-521 A.2d XXXVIII.


**E. Uniform Criminal Docket Local Rules of Procedure [Abrogated]**

These Local Rules were abrogated effective January 1, 2015. Citation should provide the date of the most recent official source in which the cited rule appears and the date of repeal.


**F. Maine Rules of Evidence**

1. Maine Rules of Evidence, which were restyled effective January 1, 2015, and which replace the Maine Rules of Evidence in effect prior to that date, should be cited as follows:

   M.R. Evid. 804(b)(3).

2. Advisory committee’s notes to the Maine Rules of Evidence as originally promulgated should be cited as follows:


   **Note:** The word “advisers”’’ is spelled here as it appears in the advisory note.

3. Reporter’s notes and advisory committee’s notes to amendments to the former Maine Rules of Evidence, as well as Maine restyling notes and federal advisory and restyling committee notes to the restyled Maine Rules of Evidence, appear with the Rules of Evidence on the Maine Judicial Branch website. Reporter’s notes and advisory committee’s notes to amendments to the former Maine Rules of Evidence also appear in the *Maine Reporter* and *Maine Evidence*. Citation should be made to these sources as follows:

   M.R. Evid. 412 advisory committee’s note to 2000 amend., Sept. 2000, Me. Rptr., 746-754 A.2d LXXIII.


G. Maine Rules of Appellate Procedure

1. Maine Rules of Appellate Procedure should be cited as follows:

   M.R. App. P. 8(g)(2).

2. Advisory notes to the Maine Rules of Appellate Procedure as originally promulgated should be cited as follows:


   Complete, current sets of advisory notes to the Maine Rules of Appellate Procedure may be found, organized by date, under each rule on the Maine Judicial Branch website.

3. Advisory notes to amendments to the Maine Rules of Appellate Procedure appear on the Judicial Branch website and in the *Maine Reporter* and *Maine Appellate Practice*. Citation should be made to these sources as follows:


H. Maine Rules of Probate Procedure

1. Maine Rules of Probate Procedure should be cited as follows:

2. Forms contained in the Appendix of Forms to the Maine Rules of Probate Procedure should be cited as follows:

M.R. Prob. P. Form DE-405.

3. Advisory committee’s notes to the Maine Rules of Probate Procedure as originally promulgated and amendments to the rules appear in both the Maine Reporter and the 1981 supplement to Maine Civil Practice. Citation should be made to either of these sources as follows:


M.R. Prob. P. 62(a) advisory committee’s note to 1999 amend., Me. Rptr., 725-735 A.2d XXVII.

I. Rules for the Family Division of the Maine District Court [Abrogated]

[These rules were abrogated effective January 1, 2009. They have been replaced by Chapter XIII of the Civil Rules.]

1. Rules for the Family Division of the Maine District Court should be cited, providing the date of the most recent official source in which the cited rule appears and the date of repeal, as follows:


2. Amendments to the Rules for the Family Division of the Maine District Court should be cited as follows:


J. Maine Rules for Guardians Ad Litem

1. Maine Rules for Guardians Ad Litem, effective September 1, 2015, should be cited as follows:


2. Reporter’s notes to the Maine Rules for Guardians Ad Litem appearing on the Judicial Branch website should be cited as follows:


3. Abrogated Maine Rules for Guardians Ad Litem should be cited as follows:

4. Appendices to the Maine Rules for Guardians Ad Litem should be cited as follows:

**K. Maine Rules of Small Claims Procedure**

1. Maine Rules of Small Claims Procedure should be cited as follows:
   M.R.S.C.P. 6(c)(2).

2. Advisory committee’s notes to the Maine Rules of Small Claims Procedure as originally promulgated should be cited as follows:
   M.R.S.C.P. 5 original advisory committee’s note.

3. Advisory committee’s notes to amendments to the Maine Rules of Small Claims Procedure appear in the *Maine Reporter*. Citation should be made to this source as follows:
   M.R.S.C.P. 3(d) advisory committee’s notes to 1999 amend., Me. Rptr., 716-724 A.2d LII.

**L. Maine Administrative Court Rules [Abrogated]**

[These rules were abrogated, effective March 15, 2001.]

1. Although Maine Administrative Court Rules are no longer in effect, they may still be cited for historical purposes as follows:

2. Forms contained in the Appendix of Forms to the Maine Administrative Court Rules should be cited as follows:
3. Advisory committee’s notes to the Maine Administrative Court Rules as originally promulgated appear in both volume 385-388 A.2d of the Maine Reporter and in the supplement to Maine Civil Practice. Citation should be made to either of these sources as follows:

M. Admin. Ct. R. 26 advisory committee’s note, Me. Rptr., 385-388 A.2d XL.


4. Advisory committee’s notes and explanatory notes to amendments to the Maine Administrative Court Rules appear in the Maine Reporter and should be cited as follows:

M. Admin. Ct. R. 73(b)(1) advisory committee’s note, Me. Rptr., 510-521 A.2d XCVI.

M. Admin. Ct. R. 50 explanatory note, Me. Rptr., 522-536 A.2d CCXLIX.

M. Administrative Orders of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court

1. Administrative Orders of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court should be cited as follows:


2. Administrative Orders of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court that have been amended should be cited as follows:


N. Maine Code of Judicial Conduct

1. The Maine Code of Judicial Conduct was completely replaced and recodified, effective September 1, 2015. The revised Code of Judicial Conduct has an Introductory Note, a Terminology section, a Preamble, and then is organized into Canons, with separate Rules under each Canon.

The revised Maine Code of Judicial Conduct should be cites as follows:

a. For citation to a Canon:

b. For citation to a Rule:


c. For citation to a Canon and Rules:

M. Code Jud. Conduct Canon 1, R. 2.11, 3.11.

2. The abrogated Maine Code of Judicial Conduct should be cited as follows:


O. Maine Rules of the Committee on Judicial Responsibility and Disability

The Maine Rules of the Committee on Judicial Responsibility and Disability should be cited as follows:


P. Maine Bar Rules

1. The Maine Bar Rules were repealed in their entirety and replaced, effective July 1, 2015. The former Maine Bar Rules were abrogated, effective July 1, 2015.

The new Maine Bar Rules should be cited as follows:

M. Bar R. 6(b)(1)(A).

2. Reporter’s notes to the Maine Bar Rules, effective July 1, 2015, should be cited as follows:

M. Bar R. 6 reporter’s notes, June 2015.

3. Abrogated Maine Bar Rules should be cited as follows:


**Q. Maine Rules of Professional Conduct**

The Maine Supreme Judicial Court adopted the Maine Rules of Professional Conduct, effective August 1, 2009. On the same date, Maine Bar Rule 2-A (Aspirational Goals for Lawyer Professionalism), Maine Bar Rule 3 (Code of Professional Responsibility), and Maine Bar Rule 8 (Contingent Fees) were abrogated and replaced by the Maine Rules of Professional Conduct.

1. The Maine Rules of Professional Conduct should be cited as follows:

   M.R. Prof. Conduct 3.6.

2. Comments and Reporter’s Notes to the Maine Rules of Professional Conduct and any advisory committee’s notes to amendments should be cited as follows:

   M.R. Prof. Conduct 1.7 cmt. (26).

   M.R. Prof. Conduct 1.7 reporter’s notes.

   M.R. Prof. Conduct 1.10(e) advisory note to 2010 amend., Feb. 2010.


**R. Maine Rules for Lawyers’ Fund for Client Protection**

Maine Rules for Lawyers’ Fund for Client Protection should be cited as follows:

M.R. Lawyers’ Fund for Client Protection 10(a)(3).

**S. Maine Bar Admission Rules**

1. Maine Bar Admission Rules should be cited as follows:

   M. Bar Admission R. 5(a)(2).
2. Advisory notes and Board of Bar Examiners notes to the Maine Bar Admission Rules should be cited as follows:

M. Bar Admission R. 9A advisory committee’s note to 2011 amend., Nov. 2011.

T. Maine Rules for the Maine Assistance Program for Lawyers

Maine Rules for the Maine Assistance Program for Lawyers should be cited as follows:

M.R. Assistance Program for Lawyers preamble.
M.R. Assistance Program for Lawyers 5(A).

U. Rules for the Maine Civil Legal Services Fund Commission

Rules for the Maine Civil Legal Services Fund Commission should be cited as follows:


V. Opinions Issued by the Grievance Commission and the Professional Ethics Commission of the Board of Overseers of the Bar

[Some of this material is available on the Board of Overseers of the Bar website.]

1. Opinions issued by the Grievance Commission appear in the Maine Manual on Professional Responsibility and should be cited as follows:


2. Opinions issued by the Professional Ethics Commission that appear in the Maine Manual on Professional Responsibility should be cited as follows:


3. Opinions issued by the Professional Ethics Commission that have not yet appeared in the Maine Manual on Professional Responsibility should be cited as follows:

V. FEDERAL LOCAL COURT RULES

The *Uniform Maine Citations* format for federal local court rules is a variant on *The Bluebook* Rule 12.9.3 and *ALWD Guide to Legal Citation* Rule 16.

**A. Local Rules for the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit**

The Local Rules for the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit should be cited as follows:

1st Cir. Local R. 46.0(a)(1).

**B. Local Rules for the United States District Court for the District of Maine**

The Local Rules for the United States District Court for the District of Maine should be cited as follows:

D. Me. Local R. 56(a).
VI. STATE EXECUTIVE AGENCY OPINIONS, ORDERS, REGULATIONS, AND REPORTS

In addition to the examples below, The Bluebook Rule 14 and ALWD Guide to Legal Citation Rule 18 may be useful for citing to various executive agency materials.

A. Attorney General Opinions

1. Almost continuously since 1901 the annual reports of the attorney general to the Governor, reprinted in hardbound volumes through 1972, include the opinions of the Attorney General. No other hardbound source exists. Consequently, citation to Attorney General opinions must reflect a parallel citation. The name of the opinion may be included.


2. Citation to Attorney General opinions from 1973 through 1978, which were neither reprinted in hardbound volumes nor numbered, should be cited to the date of the opinion as follows:


3. In 1979 the Attorney General’s office began numbering its opinions consecutively by year and number. Citation to Attorney General opinions from 1979 to the present should reflect this numbering system as follows:


Copies of Attorney General opinions are available at the Department of the Attorney General, the State Law Library, and the Donald L. Garbrecht Library at the University of Maine School of Law. Some opinions are available on the Office of the Maine Attorney General website.
B. Executive Orders

The system used to number Executive Orders changed in January 1974 to reflect the fiscal year in which the order was issued and in 2012 to reflect the calendar year of issuance. Executive Orders should be cited to the number and date of the order as follows:


Me. Exec. Order No. 6 FY 01/02 (June 19, 2002).


Copies of recent executive orders are available at the Office of the Governor, on the Governor’s Office website, in the State Law Library, and in the University of Maine School of Law Library. Copies of older executive orders are available at the State Law Library and the Maine State Archives.

C. State Administrative Regulations

Rules and regulations adopted by Maine state administrative agencies are organized by the Secretary of State’s Office and published in the Code of Maine Rules (C.M.R.). The administrative rules and regulations are most readily available on-line through the Secretary of State’s website and the link for “Rules By Department” (www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/rules.html).

The rules have assigned numbers including an initial two-digit number that identifies the state department or independent agency publishing the rule and a subsequent three-digit number that identifies either a subagency publishing the rule or a subdivision of the agency rules. Pursuant to the Secretary of State’s citation system, the reference “C.M.R.” follows these initial five numbers and is then followed by the chapter number and any section number(s) internal to the regulation. When subsections of rules appear on the page in a traditional outline structure, similar to the structure used in statutes, use the citation format used for citing subsections of statutes.

Following are examples of citations to state agency rules or regulations using the Secretary of State’s numbering and reference system:

1. Department of Agriculture (01), Maine Milk Commission (015), regulation addressing definitions (§ 1) related to milk pricing orders (ch. 1) should be cited as follows:

   01-015 C.M.R. ch.1, § 1 (2014).
2. The milk pricing schedule (ch. 3), as amended effective January 4, 2015, should be cited as follows:


3. Department of Environmental Protection (06), procedural regulations (096), concerning the processing of applications and other administrative matters (ch. 2), specifically hearings on license applications (§ 7) and the criteria for holding hearings (B), should be cited as follows:

06-096 C.M.R. ch. 2, § 7(B) (2013).

4. The print publication of the Code of Maine Rules is organized by volume numbers, with citation as follows:

2 C.M.R. 06 096 002-3 § 7(B) (2013).

Volume numbers, independent of the department and sub-agency numbering system, are not included in the numbering system on-line. However, use of volume numbers, when they can be identified, is preferred if the hard volumes are available.

D. Public Utilities Commission Proceedings

1. Orders of the Maine Public Utilities Commission after January 1, 1997, should be cited as follows:


2. Proceedings of the Maine Public Utilities Commission prior to January 1, 1997, reported in the Public Utilities Reports should be cited as follows:


3. Proceedings of the Maine Public Utilities Commission prior to January 1, 1997, which have not been reported in the Public Utilities Reports, should be cited as follows:

Documents and orders filed in Maine Public Utilities Commission matters are also available on the Maine Public Utilities Commission website (https://mpuc-cms.mainecourtsearch.gov/).

E. Workers’ Compensation Board (formerly Workers’ Compensation Commission) and its Appellate Division

Note: The Workers’ Compensation Board (W.C.B.) used to be called the Workers’ Compensation Commission (W.C.C.).

1. Decisions of the Workers’ Compensation Board’s current Appellate Division, established in 2011 and in effect as of September 1, 2012, should be cited by reference to the decision number, rather than the docket number, as follows:


2. Decision of the Former Appellate Division

   a. Reported decisions of the former Appellate Division, prior to the establishment of the current Appellate Division, should be cited by reference to the page number in the volumes published by Tower Law Books until 1990, then by Butterworth Legal Publishers, using the appropriate abbreviation (W.C.C. or W.C.B.) as follows:


   b. Slip opinions of the former Appellate Division, prior to the establishment of the current Appellate Division, should be cited by reference to the decision number rather than the docket number, using the appropriate abbreviation (W.C.C. or W.C.B.), as follows:


3. Reported decisions of hearing officers or, after October 15, 2015, of administrative law judges, should be cited using the W.C.B. file number as follows:

4. Rules of the Workers’ Compensation Commission or Workers’ Compensation Board should be cited, using the appropriate abbreviation (W.C.C. or W.C.B.), as follows:


Me. W.C.C. Rule 18.5.

**F. Board of Tax Appeals Decisions**

Decisions of the Maine Board of Tax Appeals should be cited as follows:


**G. Board of Property Tax Review Decisions**

Decisions of the Maine State Board of Property Tax Review should be cited as follows:


**H. Reports and Studies of State Departments and Agencies**

Reports and studies of state departments and administrative agencies should be cited by reference to the department or agency, title of the report or other document, and page and date of publication (or year if precise date is unavailable).


SECONDARY SOURCES

VII. TREATISES AND PRACTICE BOOKS

The Uniform Maine Citations format for treatises and practice books generally follows The Bluebook Rule 15 and ALWD Guide to Legal Citation Rule 20. Authors’ first names may be omitted for the commonly cited treatises below.

A. Appellate Procedure


B. Citation and Reference Guide

Uniform Maine Citations should be cited as follows:

Uniform Maine Citations § VII(B) (2015 ed.).

C. Civil Procedure

1. Maine Civil Practice
   a. The soft bound volumes should be cited as follows:

      2 [or 3 or 3A] Harvey & Merritt, Maine Civil Practice § 4:4 at 153 (3d, 2014-2015 ed.).

   b. References to the main volume of the second edition and to the supplement to the second edition should be cited as follows:


   c. References only to the 1981 supplement to the second edition should be cited as follows:

2. *The Maine Rules of Civil Procedure with Advisory Committee Notes and Practice Commentary*

The soft bound volume should be cited as follows:


**D. Constitutional Law**


**E. Corporations**


**F. Criminal Procedure**

1. *Maine Criminal Practice* should be cited to the most current year of supplementation as follows:


2. *Maine Practice: Rules of Criminal Procedure Annotated*

   a. The main volume should be cited as follows:


   b. The supplement, last published in 1975, should be cited as follows:


   c. References to both the main volume and the supplement should be cited as follows:


**G. Debtor-Creditor Law**


**H. Employment**


**I. Equity**

1 [or 2 or 3] Whitehouse, *Equity Practice* § 98 at 190 (1915).

**J. Estate Planning and Probate**

I [or II] Benoit et al., *A Practical Guide to Estate Planning in Maine* § 3.3.6 at 3-39 (Hunt, ed., 2012).


K. Evidence


L. Family Law


Prescott, *Maine Family Law Forms: Discovery, Trial and Settlement* § 1.01 (F1.1) at 6 (3d ed. 2001).


M. Jury Instructions


N. Land Use


O. Professional Responsibility


See also III.B.3.c. and IV.V. for additional citation forms.

P. Public Utilities

Q. Real Estate

1. Maine Real Estate Law and Practice
   a. The main volume should be cited as follows:
      
      Cowan & Scannell, Maine Real Estate Law and Practice § 9:28 at 401 (2d ed. 2007).
   
   b. The supplement should be cited as follows:
      
      Cowan & Scannell, Maine Real Estate Law and Practice § 8:6 at 2 (Supp. 2009).
   
   c. References to both the main volume and the supplement should be cited as follows:
      


R. Remedies

Horton & McGehee, Maine Civil Remedies § 16-1(c) at 324 (4th ed. 2004).

S. School Law


T. Torts

Maine Tort Law

1. The main volume should be cited as follows:

   Simmons, Zillman & Gregory, Maine Tort Law § 13.27 at 13-52 (2004 ed.).
2. The supplement should be cited as follows:


3. References to both the main volume and the supplement should be cited as follows:


**U. Trial, Pretrial, and Post-Trial Practice**

Bryant et al., *A Practical Guide to Superior Court Practice in Maine* § 1.13 at 1-12
(Humphrey & Robitzek, eds., 2015).


**V. Workers’ Compensation**

VIII. PERIODICALS

The Uniform Maine Citations format for periodicals generally follows The Bluebook Rule 16 and ALWD Guide to Legal Citation Rule 21.

A. Maine Law Review

1. The Maine Law Review was published from 1908 to 1920 (volumes 1-13) and from 1962 to the present. Articles in the Maine Law Review should be cited as follows:


2. Student written articles should be cited as follows:


B. Ocean and Coastal Law Journal

1. The Ocean and Coastal Law Journal has been published since 1994. Articles in the Ocean and Coastal Law Journal should be cited as follows:


2. Student written articles should be cited as follows:


C. Peabody Law Review and Portland University Law Review

Articles in the Peabody Law Review (5 vol.; 1936-1941) and the Portland University Law Review (7 vol.; 1949-1961), both of which are no longer published, should be cited as follows:

Matthew Williams, The Case for Occupational Disease, 3 Peabody L. Rev. 26 (1938).

D. Maine Bar Bulletin and Maine Bar Journal

1. The Maine Bar Bulletin was published by the Maine State Bar Association from September 1967 to November 1985. The Bulletin was then replaced by the Maine Bar Journal.

2. Articles in the Maine Bar Journal should be cited as follows:


3. Articles in the Maine Bar Bulletin, starting with volume 11, should be cited as follows:


4. Because volumes 1-10 of the Maine Bar Bulletin are separately paginated within each issue, citations to articles appearing in volumes 1-10 should be cited as follows:


E. Proceedings of the Maine State Bar Association

Articles and discussions contained in the Maine State Bar Association Proceedings, which are no longer published, should be cited to the page and date of proceeding as follows:


F. Maine Lawyers Review

Articles in the Maine Lawyers Review should be cited as follows:

Judge Hornby to Become Senior Judge, Me. Lawyers Rev. 1 (Aug. 6, 2009).

G. The Ethical Lawyer

Articles in *The Ethical Lawyer*, a publication of the Continuing Legal Education Committee of the Maine State Bar Association, should be cited as follows: