



1961

General Citation Rules

North Dakota Law Review

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Recommended Citation

North Dakota Law Review (1961) "General Citation Rules," *North Dakota Law Review*. Vol. 37 : No. 4 , Article 1.

Available at: <https://commons.und.edu/ndlr/vol37/iss4/1>

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EDITOR'S PREFACE

Though the Law and its means of implementation are, by some inherent genetic factor, conservative and slow moving, there do come times of change. With this issue of the **North Dakota Law Review** there originate certain changes which are, as the lawyers say, patent or apparent on its face. One of the most obvious of these is the preface itself, a means by which we hope to explain the content and purpose in an informal and abbreviated style.

The next feature we would focus the reader's attention upon is the printed signal list. The use of signals is a little known art among practitioners and, indeed, little enough understood among legal writers. However, in any accurate and extensive citation of authority they are a necessity. The listing in the foreward is a simplified version based on several standard references. It can be used as a basis for a more thorough understanding of authority cited in the Law Review or other legal writings. It can be used by practitioners in trial or appellate briefing to aid a virtue often lacking—succinctness.

We might also note that the book review section has been revised. Its present division is into two portions; one being the student written section, headed "book notes", and the other professional or "expert" written, headed "book reviews". The type and subject of the book given for student review are more rigidly controlled and the student is to do sufficient research for a good critical comparative analysis. If the reader is not interested in the book itself, the material should still give him a good background on the subject involved.

It is to be hoped that such changes are advancements, and we, necessarily, believe them to be so. Though no small portion of innovations die on the vine, the plant advances through the life of some. For the editors of this publication there is a special obligation to advance.

GENERAL CITATION RULES

Key to Introductory Signals Used in Citations

- No-signal:** No signal preceding the citation indicates that the case is cited for a square holding of either **law** or **fact**.
- Accord,:** Indicates a holding which, although factually distinguishable, directly upholds the proposition of **law** stated.
- See:** Indicates basic source material supporting, although not stating, the opinion or conclusion of **law** or **fact** asserted. (i. e., "it seems", "it is arguable", "it may be", etc.)
- Cf.:** Indicates any authority analogous to the statement, conclusion, or opinion of **law** asserted but which may involve **facts** materially different.
- Contra,:** Indicates a holding, regardless of factual distinction, which directly opposes the proposition of **law** or **fact** stated.
- But see:** Indicates authority which casts doubt upon the proposition of **law** or **fact** asserted but does not contradict the conclusion as a whole.
- But cf.:** Indicates an authority which by analogy suggests a result contrary to the statement, conclusion, or opinion of **law** asserted.
- E.g.,:** Indicates that the authorities cited is a sampling of other like authorities and may be used in citations introduced by "see" or "But see".
- Compare . . . with . . .:** Indicates that some support for the proposition may be given by a comparison between authorities rather than directly with the text.