

# McGill Citation for Various Sources

## Citing legislation (McGill Guide s 2.1 & 2.4)

**Statutes:** Once a bill has received the necessary legislative approval and royal assent, it becomes a statute. Statutes are first collected in Annual Volumes. Periodically, all the statutes in a particular jurisdiction (including all amendments) are found in a collection, known as the Revised Statutes. Depending on the statute referenced, not all elements of the general format will be necessary.

- **Statutes:** *Title*, Statute volume Jurisdiction Year, Chapter, Other indexing elements, (session or supplement), Pinpoint.
- **Annual Volume:** *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act, SC 2000, c 5.*
- **Revised Statutes:** *Criminal Code, RSC 1985, c C-46, s 319.*

**Bills:** Laws are first presented for consideration by the legislature in the form of bills. These bills must be debated and finally approved by the legislature before receiving royal assent and becoming enforceable statutes. Additional information may include the future statute citation after the date of assent (e.g., (assented to 23 April 2009), SO 2009, c 7.).

- **Bills:** Bill Number, *Title*, Session, Legislature, Jurisdiction\*, Year, Clause Pinpoint (additional information).  
\* Jurisdiction is only required when citing provincial bills.
- **Provincial Bill:** Bill 139, *An Act to Make April 21 Climate Change Awareness Day*, 2nd Sess, 38th Leg, Ontario, 2006, cl 3.
- **Federal Bill:** Bill C-26, *An Act to establish the Canadian Border Services Agency*, 2st Sess, 38th Parl, 2005, cl 5(1)(e) (as passed by the House of Commons 12 June 2005).

**Electronic Versions:** Federal and provincial governments now publish their statutes electronically on government websites, some which are official versions. Citations still use the print format, however.

## Citing jurisprudence (McGill Guide s 3.1)

Jurisprudence citations utilize the hierarchy of sources. It is important to provide readers with at least two sources – the main citation and parallel citation – when no neutral court citation is given; by giving multiple sources, it increases the ease of access for finding court documents. The main citation given should hold the highest authoritativeness: 1) neutral citation, 2) official report, and 3) other sources.

A **neutral citation** is given by the courts including the year of the decision, the court, and a decision number. The neutral citation is provided directly after the *Style of Cause*, also known as the name of the case. For more information, see section 3.5 of the McGill guide.

A **parallel citation** is given after a neutral citation when the court did not assign paragraph numbers in the neutral citation. The parallel citation will direct to an official case reporter for the national jurisdictions. If necessary, other sources (e.g., online databases, unofficial reporters) can be used for creating this citation. The general formation for a parallel citation is as follows:

- “[Year of Reporter] Volume Reporter abbreviated (Series) First page” as seen in the example using a parallel citation.

**Cases:** *Style of Cause*, [Year of Decision] Main citation, Pinpoint, Parallel Citation [*short form*].

Note: Do not add the “[Year of Decision]” when there is a neutral citation or when the decision year is the same as the main citation. For more information, see section 3.4 of the McGill Guide.

- **Neutral citation only:** *Style of cause*, Neutral citation, Pinpoint, [*short form*].
  - *R v Law*, 2002 SCC 10 at para 25 [*Law*].

- **Neutral citation with parallel citation:** *Style of cause*, [Year of Decision] Neutral citation Pinpoint, Parallel citation [*short form*].
  - *R v Oakes*, [1986] 1 SCR 103 at paras 12-14, 26 DLR (4th) 200 [*Oakes*].

Note: No “[Year of Reporter]” was given because this case reporter uses series. For more exceptions to the rule, review the McGill Guide section 3.7.

## Citing government documents (McGill Guide s 4.1 & 4.2)

Government documents include diverse sources ranging from legislative debates, reports from parliamentary committees, and documents and reports from other bodies such as Officers of Parliament and Commissions of Inquiry. Parliamentary documents are published by a legislative body (either federal, provincial, or territorial); all others are non-parliamentary.

**Parliamentary documents:** Jurisdiction, Legislature, *Title*, Legislative Session, Volume Number (Date) Pinpoint (Speaker).

- *House of Commons Debates*, 37-1, No 64 (17 May 2001) at 4175 (Hon Elinor Caplan).

Tip: When indicating legislative session, indicate the parliament number with a dash and then the session number. From the example above, “37-1” represents 37th Parliament, 1st session.

**Non-parliamentary documents:** Jurisdiction, Issuing Body, *Title*, (Type of Document), Other Information (Publication Information) Pinpoint.

- Statistics Canada, *Police-Reported Crime Statistics in Canada*, 2020 (Infographic), Catalogue no. 11-627-M (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, 27 July 2021).

## Citing international documents (McGill Guide s 5)

International documents include a wide range of materials from inter-governmental bodies such as the UN, the WTO, and the European Union, case law from international courts such as the International Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights, and bilateral and multilateral treaties.

**Treaties and UN Documents:** While most treaties and UN documents can now be found online, it is preferable to cite to the print version (most of the needed information should be listed on the website), with an optional reference to the electronic source.

- **General format:** *Treaty Name*, Parties if applicable, Date of signature, Treaty series reference Pinpoint (Date of entry into force and additional information).
  - *Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms*, 4 November 1950, 213 UNTS 221 at 223 (entered into force 3 September 1953).
- **UN Documents - Supplements example:** Author (if applicable), *Title*, UN Body Res **or** Dec Number, UN Body **and OR**, Session Number **or** Calendar Year, Supp Number, UN Doc Number (Calendar Year) First Page Pinpoint.
  - *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, GA Res 217A (III), UNGAOR, 3rd Sess, Supp No 13, UN Doc A/810 (1948) 71.

## Citing journal articles (McGill Guide s 6.1)

When citing journal articles, include the name of the author as it appears in the first page of the article. In addition, use the abbreviation for the name of the journal in which the article is published. Please see Appendix D in the McGill Guide for a list of law journal abbreviations, and the information page E-121 for citing non-law journals. Finally, if you used a database to retrieve the full text of the article, you can include this information at the end. Common law databases include Quicklaw (QL), Westlaw Canada (WL Can), and LexisNexis (Lexis).

**Journal articles:** Author, "Title of Article" (Year) Volume: Issue Abbreviated Journal Title First Page Pinpoint (Database Service, if applicable). **or**, DOI: <digital object identifier>.\*

\* If the citation does not have a database service and uses a DOI, you must place a comma after the pinpoint reference before inserting "DOI: <digital object identifier>."

- **Journal articles with one author:**
  - David M Tanovich, "E-Racing Racial Profiling" (2004) 41 *Alta L Rev* 905 (QL).
- **Journal articles with two authors** - authors are separated by the "&" symbol:
  - Catherine M Grosso & Barbara O'Brien, "Lawyers and Jurors: Interrogating Voir Dire Strategies by Analyzing Conversations" (2019) 16:3 *J Empirical Leg Stud* 515, DOI: < 10.1111/jels.12226>.
- **Journal articles with three authors** - authors are separated by a comma and the "&" symbol:
  - Barbara O'Brien, Catherine M Grosso & Abijah P Taylor, "Examining Jurors: Applying Analysis to Voir Dire in Capital Cases, A First Look" (2017) 107:4 *J Crim Law & Criminology* 687, DOI: <0091-4169/17/10704-0687>.
- **Journal articles with more than three authors** - include the first authors name and "et al":
  - Rafael La Porta et al, "Law and Finance" (1998) 106:6 *Journal of Political Economy* 1113 at 1152.

## Citing books (McGill Guide s 6.2)

**Books:** Author(s), Title, Edition, Other Elements (Place of publication: Publisher, Year) Pinpoint (electronic service, if applicable).

- **Book with a single author:**
  - *LW Sumner, The Hateful and the Obscene: Studies in the Limits of Free Expression* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2004).
- **Book with two authors** - authors are separated by the "&" symbol:
  - Mark Costanzo & Daniel Avram Krauss, *Forensic and legal psychology: Psychological science applied to law* (New York, NY: Worth Publishers, 2012) at 291.
- **Book with three authors** - authors are separated by a comma and the "&" symbol:
  - Patrick Fitzgerald, Barry Wright & Vincent Kazmierski, *Looking at Law: Canada's Legal System*, 6th ed (Toronto: LexisNexis, 2010).
- **Book with more than three authors** - include the first authors name and "et al":
  - CJC Sampford et al, *Retrospectivity and the Rule of Law* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006).

### Edited Books:

- **Article in an edited series:** Author(s), "Title", in Editor(s), ed(s), *Title*, (Place of publication: Publisher, Year) Pinpoint (Electronic service, if applicable).
  - Cathy Caruth, "The Claims of the Dead: History, Haunted Property and the Law" in Austin Sarat et al, eds, *Law's Madness* (Michigan: University of Michigan Press, 2003) 119.
- **Book with an editor and no author:** Editor(s), ed(s), *Title*, edition (publication information) Pinpoint (Electronic service, if applicable).
  - HG Beale, ed, *Chitty on Contracts*, 29th ed (London, UK: Sweet & Maxwell, 2004).
- **Books with an editor of another person's work:** Author(s), *Title*, Edition ed by Editor(s) (Publication information) Pinpoint (Electronic service, if applicable).
  - SA De Smith, *Judicial Review of Administrative Action*, 5th ed by Lord Woolf & Jeffery Jowell (London, UK: Sweet & Maxwell, 1995).

## Citing course materials (McGill Guide s 6.11)

Professor, *Title*, Type of Document (Faculty, Institution, date **or** year) Pinpoint.

- Dr Sasha Baglay, *The Charter and the Criminal Law and Process*, Lecture Slides (Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Ontario Tech University, Winter 2022).

Tip: When creating a course material citation, indicate the document type unless it is in the title. Examples of course material that may be cited include coursepacks (i.e., material booklets) or lecture notes.

## Citing newspapers (McGill Guide s 6.13)

When citing newspaper articles, cite to the electronic database or the online source from which you obtained the article.

**Newspaper articles:** Author(s), “Title of Article”, Newspaper (Date) Page (Database Service) **or** online: <URL>. [permalink]

- Rod Mickleburgh & Gloria Galloway, “Storm brews over drug strategy”, *The Globe and Mail* (15 January 2007) A1 (Lexis).
- Naomi Wolf, “Take the Shame Out of Rape”, *The Guardian* (25 November 2005) online: <[www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk)>. [perma.cc/5BE2-55CQ]

## Citing online materials (McGill Guide s 1.6)

For materials found online, give the citation according to its traditional form (e.g., Government document), and then add “online: name of website <URL>”, as in the Privacy Commissioner example below.

- Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, *Protecting Your Privacy on the Internet: Canada’s New Privacy Laws* (Fact Sheet) (Ottawa: Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, 2004), online: Privacy Commissioner of Canada <[http://www.privcom.gc.ca/fs\\_/02\\_05\\_d\\_13\\_/asp](http://www.privcom.gc.ca/fs_/02_05_d_13_/asp)>.

## Bibliographies (McGill Guide s 1.1)

This tip sheet demonstrates the style for footnotes and endnotes. In most cases, however, you will also be expected to include a bibliography at the end of your paper, in addition to your footnotes or endnotes. Your bibliography should be a list of all sources you have used in preparing your paper, whether or not you actually cited them, arranged alphabetically by author’s last name.

You may wish to further organize your bibliography according to categories or sources; e.g., jurisprudence, legislation, government documents, international documents and secondary sources. The style is largely the same as that for footnotes and endnotes.

## Reference

Carleton University Library, “Using Uniform Legal Citation (McGill Guide)” (2018), online (pdf): Carleton University Library <[library.carleton.ca/sites/default/\\_les/help/writing-citing/uniform\\_legal\\_style.pdf](http://library.carleton.ca/sites/default/_les/help/writing-citing/uniform_legal_style.pdf)>.

McGill Law Journal, *Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation* 9th ed. (Toronto: Thomson Reuters, 2018).

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