This summary presents a number of examples of citations that follow the Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation (8th edition, Toronto, Carswell, 2014 [Guide]), but it is not exhaustive. In case of conflict between the examples presented herein and the Guide, the latter has precedence. The summary also explains some of the rules respecting the use of footnotes and quotations.

A. Presentation of the main rules regarding of citations

I. Books


II. Periodicals


III. International Treaties

*General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade*, 30 October 1947, 58 UNTS 187 (entered into force 1 January 1948) [GATT 1947].


IV. United Nations Documents


V. Other International Institutions’ Documentation

A. European Union


B. Council of Europe


C. Organization of American States


VI. Jurisprudence

A. International Court of Justice


B. World Trade Organization

WTO Documents


WTO Panel and Appellate Body


C. Inter-American Court of Human Rights


D. European Court of Human Rights

a. Pre-1999

Kurt v Turkley (1998), 74 ECHR (Ser A) 1152, 27 EHRR 373.
b. **1999 and after**


**VII. Newspaper Article**


B. Rules for Footnotes and Quotes

I. How to Indicate a Footnote in the Text

In legal writing, footnotes are indicated by superscripted numbers. Roman numerals and special characters are not used.

Place the footnote number at the end of the sentence, after the punctuation. When referring to a word, place the footnote number directly after the word, wherever it occurs in the sentence. When quoting a source, place the footnote number after the quotation marks ("sentence", and, where applicable after the quotation marks and the punctuation ("sentence".

II. Where footnotes appear

Footnotes are placed at the bottom of the same page as the text to which they refer and are set in a smaller font than the main text. A horizontal line separates the footnote from the main text.

III. Prior and subsequent References

a. Ibid

In a footnote, Ibid refers the reader to the immediately preceding reference, which may be a full citation, a supra, or another Ibid. An Ibid used without a pinpoint reference refers to the same pinpoint as in the previous footnote.

b. Supra

Supra refers the reader to the footnote containing the original, full citation. It is immediately followed by the number of the note, and followed by the pinpoint reference, if applicable. For example, “Supra note 4 at 55”.

c. Infra

Infra refers the reader to a subsequent footnote, though its use is strongly discouraged.

IV. Citing Sources that Quote or Reprint the Original Source

Whenever possible, cite the original source of quotes. If the original source is not available (or only in archives), it is acceptable to cite a source that quotes from the original source or reprints it in its entirety. In this case, provide a complete citation to the original work, followed by “reprinted in” and the citation to the citing source.

V. General Rules for Quotations

Quotation that are four lines long or fewer are placed in the text, and are introduced with quotation marks. The quotation marks are those of the language that the text is written in, as opposed to those of the quotation. That is, if the text in English, English quotation marks are used (“ “), and if the text is in French, French quotation marks are used (« »), regardless of the language of the quotation.
Indent from both margins (1.25 cm on the left and the right) and single space quotations of more than four lines. Do not use quotation marks. Legislative provisions may be indented even if they are fewer than four lines long.

In either case, the quote must be presented exactly as it appears in the original source. Any deviation, from the original must be clearly indicated in brackets. For example, if a portion of the original text is omitted from the quotation, this must be indicated with brackets and ellipsis marks: [...]. If quotations are modified, for example to make the verb tense match the text, the modified portion of the verb is flagged with brackets: adopt[ed].

All quotations must have a footnote with a pinpoint reference.