

## LEGAL RESEARCH & WRITING I

### Citation Examples – Wisconsin State Citation Rules

#### A. Cases before 2000:

***Kellner v. Christian*, 197 Wis. 2d 183, 539 N.W.2d 685 (1995).**

Include parallel citations to both the official and unofficial reporters. Omit the court name in parentheses for the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

***Jones v. Poole*, 217 Wis. 2d 116, 579 N.W.2d 739, 742 (Ct. App. 1998).**

For a Wisconsin Court of Appeals case, follow the same citation pattern, but include the court name in parentheses. You need include a pinpoint cite for only one of the parallel reporters (your choice), but use the same reporter for later pinpoint cites.

#### B. Cases decided on/after January 1, 2000:

Since this date, a Wisconsin citation will include three parallel reporter cites (a public domain cite, the official reporter, and the unofficial reporter):

***Kitten v. State Dep't of Workforce Dev.*, 2002 WI 54, 252 Wis. 2d 561, 644 N.W.2d 649.**

Because the public domain cite shows the year, you no longer put the date in parentheses at the end.

***Kitten v. State Dep't of Workforce Dev.*, 2001 WI App 218, ¶ 7, 247 Wis. 2d 661, 634 N.W.2d 583.**

For a Wisconsin Court of Appeals citation, cite to “WI App” instead of “WI.” Notice that there is no period after “App” in the public domain cite. Otherwise the pattern of citation is the same as for Wisconsin Supreme Court cases. In public domain cites, use pinpoints to a paragraph number, rather than a page.

***Kitten*, 247 Wis. 2d 661, ¶ 6.**

For a short cite, you may use any of the parallel cites (unless your court has a preference), but give the first page of the opinion, then a pinpoint cite to a specific paragraph, not a page. Do not use “at” for short forms for Wisconsin cases after 2000.

### **C. Wisconsin Statutes**

**Wis. Stat. § 21.36(2) (2013-14).**

Cite to the current edition of the official Wisconsin Statutes, if possible, which is the 2013-14 edition. Put a space between the section number and the opening parenthesis for the date.

**Wis. Stat. § 21.36(2).**

In a short cite to a Wisconsin statute, leave off the year of the code.