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Understanding And Mastering The Bluebook

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Linda J. Barris

intention to “fit the plaintiff’s insurance claim into one of the pre-ordained diagnostic categories considered compensable by her insurance carrier.” *Fitzgerald v. Caplan*, 362 S.E.2d 103, 104-05 (Ga. Ct. App. 1987). The court found that although the physician inserted the words “form designated ‘Diagnosis of nature of illness or injury,’” *id.*, the doctor’s intent was to fit into the category of “illness or injury of a non-traumatic, non-infectious, non-neurological nature,” *id.*, at 105.

In applying the rules, the court reviewed and then rejected *Stafford v. Neurological Medical, Inc.*, 811 F.2d 470 (8th Cir. 1987), a non-binding decision, where the doctor’s misconduct was virtually identical to the *Fitzgerald* case, but the nature of the claims was different. In *Stafford*, the plaintiff stated an additional claim based upon negligence and recovered on that basis, *id.*, at 475, while the present case was founded solely on a claim of intentional infliction of emotional distress. *Fitzgerald*, 362 S.E.2d at 105. The court concluded that claiming “negligent infliction of emotional distress based on mere ‘negligent information’ is a contradiction in terms.” *Id.*

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Second Edition

A Guide for Students and Practitioners

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- Case 1: No intervening cite, one page; use *id.*, with new page number.
- Case 2: First mention of *Stafford*; use full cite.
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Synopsis

The Bluebook provides the rules for legal citation, but can be intimidating and frustrating to use. This survival manual teaches how to understand and master the essential rules for legal practitioners using a simple building block approach. Rules are fully described and illustrated using: Clear explanations and illustrations of the basic components of legal citations Step-by-step instructions for building citations to the most common authorities cited by legal practitioners Detailed guidance for citing legal materials to both print and electronic sources Examples, comparison charts, illustrations, and bullet-point explanations designed for quick mastery of basic Bluebook citation rules Tips, hints and cautions to help users avoid common citation errors Cross references to the controlling Bluebook rules A user-friendly format gathering The Bluebook's scattered rules for each authority into one place. This highly accessible companion to 19th edition of The Bluebook, A Uniform System of Citation is an indispensable tool for anyone who is new to legal citation or whose skills need refreshing.

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I bought this book based on the previous glowing review and was shocked at how much this book failed to cover. I'm sure this book would be helpful for your first...maybe your second Legal Research and Writing Assignment. After that, it's not very helpful at all. In my opinion, all this book does is illustrate some of the rules. For instance in explaining the spacing & capitalization rules it has examples where to place spaces by using grey dots in between the abbreviations in order to illustrate exactly how it's supposed to look. So at a glance you can see that it's S.D.N.Y. v. S. Ct. - If you already know this... you don't need this book! In other sections, such as short form citation... it's

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The author, Linda J Barris, is a law professor, and wrote this book to help students. She wrote the book so that first year students would be able to quickly get up to speed on a brutally confusing, convoluted, and disjointed citation system, the 19th edition of the Bluebook. Basically, she takes rules that are scattered throughout the blue book, condenses them, and puts them together in a way that is easy to read and understand. It contains tips, tricks, help with common trouble spots, and examples. This book IS NOT A SUBSTITUTION for the Bluebook. Rather, it is a sort of guide book, a starting off place. Students can use this book to learn the basics and to help them navigate the significantly more complicated Bluebook. If you are already an expert and know your way around the Bluebook this book will be unhelpful. As a student, I found this book indispensable. Although I have done a lot of legal writing, I still refer to this book from time to time when I can't remember something that I should know. I highly recommend this book. At this price, there is little reason not to pick it up.

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This book won't answer all of your questions, but it will help you navigate the confusing Bluebook. The Bluebook gives very poor examples, but this book helps clear some things up. This is a must have for any editor of any review or journal. If your legal writing course or seminar course is Bluebook heavy, this book will help you too.

Now that I have branched out from the Nursing field have been studying law for a little while and I have to say that the field of Law has such inconsistencies that it is no wonder people find it confusing.. The AWLD, Bluebook, and God knows how many other "acceptable" formats exist. It is, simply, ridiculous. "Understanding and Mastering the Bluebook" makes some sense out of a very poorly designed book. I suggest that the Bluebook be removed from the shelves and replaced by this radically simplified, yet highly useful, interpretation. The fact that this 'owners manual' for the Bluebook is BIGGER than the Bluebook gives you an idea of how thorough the author is anyhow much effort was put into unraveling the most frustrating reference book on record. For the record, medicine is FAR more demanding than law yet less confusing. This book is essential for anyone studying law. Do not sell this book at the end of the semester. Buy it for keeps!!

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