

RECOGNIZING AND READING LEGAL CITATIONS MARYLAND STATE LAW LIBRARY

JANUARY 1994

BY MICHAEL S. MILLER AND STAFF

Michael S. Miller is Director of the Maryland State Law Library.

When judges, lawyers, legal assistants and others make statements about the law, or quote directly or paraphrase from a legal publication, they must support each statement with an abbreviated reference (citation) to the cited material. Ordinarily, this "cite" is to a statute, court opinion, rule of procedure, administrative regulation or some secondary source of authority, such as a legal encyclopedia or textbook. The general purpose of the legal citation, then, is the same as a footnote in other forms of literature.

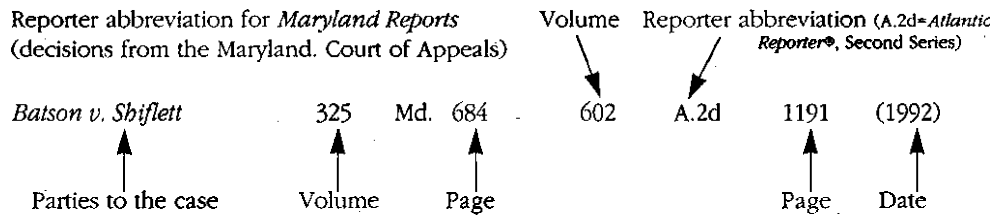
The following illustrations of forms of citations for various Maryland legal publications generally reveal what publication is being cited, where the reader can go to find that information, when the information came into existence and perhaps who wrote or was responsible for the information:

Examples of Nine Maryland Legal Citations

1. Reported (Published) Court Opinion:

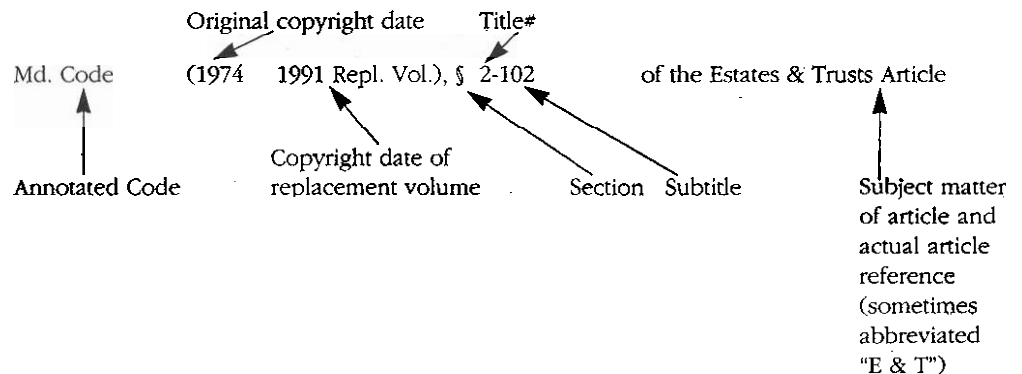
Batson v. Shiflett, 325 Md. 684, 602 A.2d 1191 (1992).

Parallel citation:

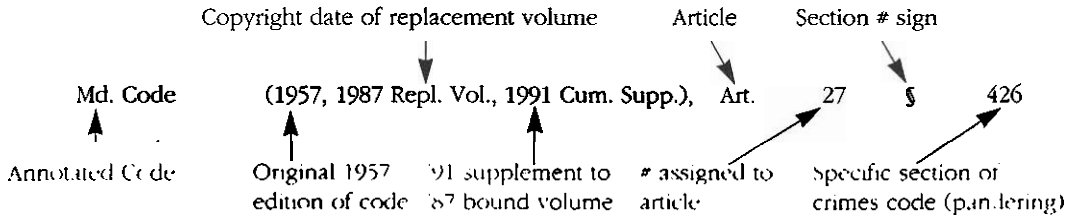


2. Section of the Annotated Code of Maryland:

a. Md. Code (1974, 1991 Repl. Vol.), § 2-102 of the Estates & Trusts Article (Maroon Volume)

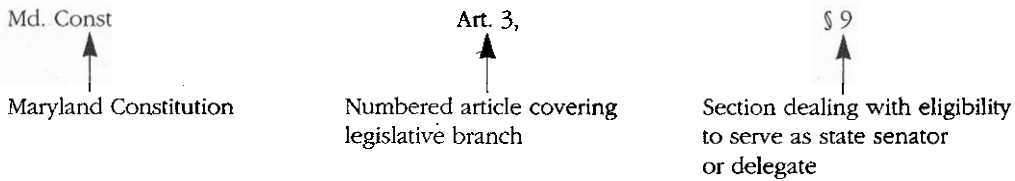


b. Md. Code (1957, 1987 Repl. Vol., 1991 Cum. Supp.), Art. 27 § 426. (Black Volume)



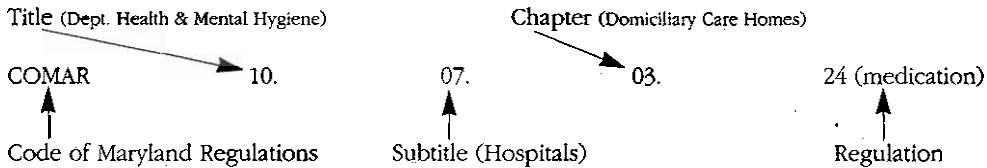
3. Maryland Constitution:

Md. Const. art. 3, § 9



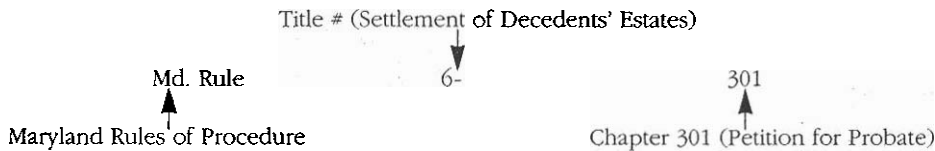
4. Maryland Administrative Regulations:

COMAR 10.07.03.24



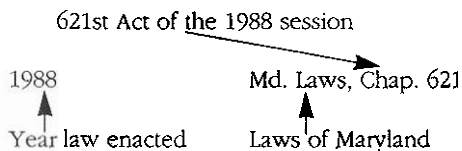
5. Maryland Rules of Procedure (Court Rules):

Md. Rule 6-301

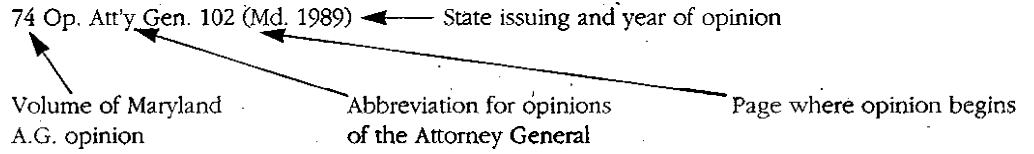


6. Maryland Session Laws:

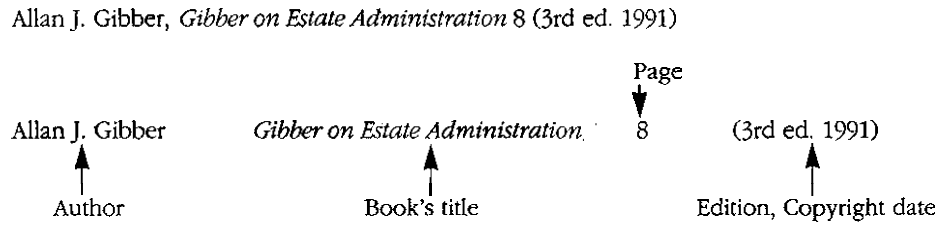
1988 Md. Laws, Chap. 621



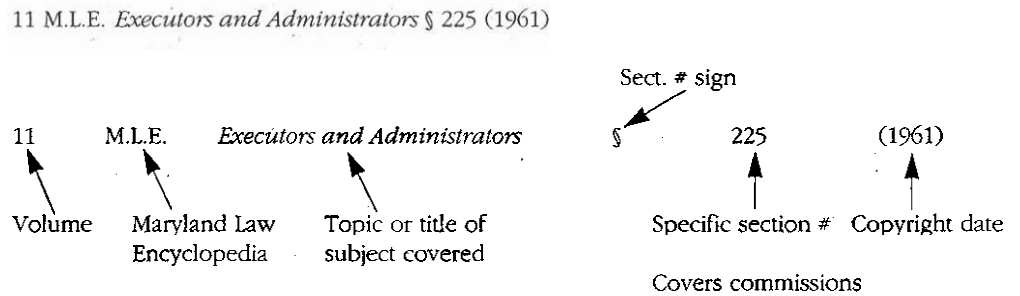
7. Maryland Attorney General Opinions:



8. Maryland Legal Treatise (Textbook):



9. Legal Encyclopedia:



10. Legal Periodical Article:

