

***Voice for the Defense* General Guidelines**

The *Voice for the Defense* Editorial Committee reviews all submissions for accuracy, clarity, grammar, and compliance with accepted legal citation standards. Authors should use *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* or, at least, the *Texas Rules of Form* (the “Greenbook”). Whichever system is chosen must be used consistently throughout the article.

Minor errors may be corrected by the Editorial Committee. Submissions that contain substantial or pervasive citation deficiencies or other errors may be returned to the author for revision or approval of suggested edits prior to publication.

The following examples reflect citation formats commonly used in *Voice for the Defense* articles and are provided for guidance only. Authors should consult *The Bluebook* or the *Texas Rules of Form* for citations not addressed below.

Common Citation Examples

1. Case Law

- Texas Court of Criminal Appeals
 - *Ex parte Garcia*, 547 S.W.3d 228, 231 (Tex. Crim. App. 2018).
- Texas Courts of Appeals
 - *Smith v. State*, 612 S.W.3d 123, 130 (Tex. App.—San Antonio 2020, pet. ref’d).
- United States Supreme Court
 - *Strickland v. Washington*, 466 U.S. 668, 687 (1984).
- Federal Courts of Appeals
 - *United States v. Jones*, 998 F.3d 697, 702 (5th Cir. 2021).
- Unpublished / Memorandum Opinions
 - *Smith v. State*, No. 04-22-00123-CR, 2023 WL 4567890, at *3 (Tex. App.—San Antonio July 19, 2023, no pet.) (mem. op., not designated for publication).

2. Statutes

- U.S. Constitution - U.S. CONST. amend. VI.
- Texas Constitution - Tex. Const. amend. VI.
- Texas Code of Criminal Procedure - Tex. Code Crim. Proc. art. 38.072.
- Texas Penal Code - Tex. Penal Code § 22.01.
- Federal Statutes - 18 U.S.C. § 924(c).

3. Rules

- Texas Rules of Evidence - Tex. R. Evid. 403.
- Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure - Tex. R. App. P. 44.02.
- Federal Rules of Evidence - Fed. R. Evid. 702.

4. Secondary Sources

- George E. Dix & John M. Schmolesky, *Texas Practice: Criminal Practice and Procedure* § 41:23 (3d ed. 2011).

5. Online Sources

- Texas Judicial Branch, *Texas Rules of Evidence* (effective Apr. 1, 2024), <https://www.txcourts.gov>.