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Book Review

William R. Slomanson

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BOOK REVIEW

Current American Legal Citations. Doris Bieber. Buffalo, New York: William S. Hein Co., Inc. 1983. Pp. 342. \$9.25 (paper).

*William R. Slomanson**

There once was a book of creation,
Called *A Uniform System of Citation*;
With general rules for all of the schools,
It quickly caught on in the nation.¹

Current American Legal Citations,
The companion for bluebook gyrations;
Now brings to fruition, in Second Edition,²
The editor's new flagellations.

Citations, because bound in green,
Though arguably still to be seen,
Hints that the bluebook might one day be forsook,
By novices who crave what cites mean.

The content is now bifurcated,
A blessing for those that have waited;
Arranged in two columns, to bar legal slaloms,
The left and the right must be mated.

The left side lists each complete entry,
Known to writers for over a century;
The signals and courts, reviews and reports,
For new schools and even the gentry.³

The right side then sets forth the gist,
Of every conceivable twist;
With abbreviated samples, 2100 examples,
Exceeding the sleek bluebook list.

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1. Slomanson, Book Review, 68 A.B.A.J. 735 (1982) (reviewing *A Uniform System of Citation* (13th ed. 1981)).

2. The book is the second edition of a work entitled *Dictionary of Current American Legal Citations*. The title was changed to prevent confusion with a similar work by the same author, entitled *Dictionary of Legal Abbreviations Used in American Law Books*. D. Bieber, *Current American Legal Citations* iii (1983).

3. The "bluebook" lists only five of Harvard's law reviews. *A Uniform System of Citation* 96 (13th ed. 1981). This "greenbook" lists and provides citation examples for the eight Harvard law reviews. D. Bieber, *supra* note 2, at 112-14.

She decided to alphabetize,
Both columns to cut down the size
Of time it will take, to find or to fake,
Citations that merit the prize.

Each cite quite closely conforms,
To the biblically based bluebook norms;
And where the citation defies explanation,
Plain English averts many storms.

But certainly one must concede,
That now there are *two* books to read;
When the majority has so much authority,
Can it be that the text can precede?