

# Finding Foreign & International Law

[lrcrefer@sandiego.edu](mailto:lrcrefer@sandiego.edu)

(619) 260-4612

[mfung@sandiego.edu](mailto:mfung@sandiego.edu)

(619) 260-4734

# What we will cover

In your practice you may be called upon to pull up any number of documents related to foreign and international law even if it is not your area of expertise.

- Treaties, Conventions, or other International Agreements
- International Case Law
- Foreign Law: Statutes and Case Law
- U. N. Documents

# Treaties – Bluebook Rule 21.1(a)

A treaty (sometimes called a convention, covenant, protocol, etc.) is an agreement between two or more nations or international organizations. It may be bilateral (between two countries), or multilateral (between three or more countries).

**Example:** Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations arts. 22, 24, 27 ¶ 2, Apr. 18, 1961, 500 U.N.T.S. 95.

## Common treaty sources:

U.N.T.S. (or L.N.T.S)

I.L.M.

U.S.T (or Stat.)

T.I.A.S.



# Treaties

## HeinOnline

- The Treaties and Agreements Library includes PDF images of Statutes at Large, U.S.T., T.I.A.S, Bevans, Treaties in Force, and International Legal Materials. The United Nations Law Collection includes PDF images of U.N.T.S. and L.N.T.S.

[http://www.sandiego.edu/law/lrc/find\\_resources/research\\_databases/alphabetical.php?letter=h](http://www.sandiego.edu/law/lrc/find_resources/research_databases/alphabetical.php?letter=h)

## Electronic Information System for International Law

- Free online searchable database of international law information with links to relevant primary materials and authoritative sites.

<http://www.eisil.org/>



# International Case Law – Bluebook Rule 21.5

Along with treaties, international cases are some of the most important documents of international law. The primary source of international cases is the International Court of Justice, a part of the United Nations. Other sources of important international case law include the European Court of Justice, and European Court of Human Rights.

- Oil Platforms (Iran v. U.S.), 2003 I.C.J. 161.



# International Case Law

## International Court of Justice (ICJ)

- Cases from 1947-present available for free in PDF from the ICJ website.  
<http://www.icj-cij.org/>
- Available in [HeinOnline](#) in the United Nations Documents Collection
- Also available in print in the LRC Reading Room KZ214 .R43

## European Court of Justice (ECJ)

- Cases from 1954-present available for free from EUR-Lex.  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm>
- Available on [HeinOnline](#) in the Foreign & International Law Resources Database
- Also available in print in the LRC Reading Room KJE924.5 .R471

## European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)

- Cases from 1960-present are available for free on the Court's website.  
<http://www.echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=home>
- Also available in print in the LRC Reading Room KJC5132.A52 E88



# International Case Law

## Westlaw and Lexis

- Both Westlaw and Lexis contain the full run of cases from the International Court of Justice, the European Court of Justice, and the European Court of Human Rights. Westlaw contains additional cases for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR).

There are many other international courts of law including (but not limited to) the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, and several specialized International Criminal Tribunals.

See Bluebook Rules 21.5.4-21.5.9 for clarification.



# Foreign Law

Foreign Law refers to the domestic law of any country other than the United States

- *Mousa v Sec'y of State for Def.* [2011] EWCA (Civ) 133 (Eng.), ¶ 14.
- *Ley de concursos mercantiles*, Diario Oficial de la Federacion [D.O.], 12 de Mayo de 2000 (Mex.).

**Bluebook Table 2: Foreign Jurisdictions**





# Foreign Law

## Reynolds & Flores Foreign Law Guide

- An excellent starting point for locating the statutes of another country. For each foreign country there is a brief introduction to the legal system and then a section listing sources of law by subject.

<http://www.sandiego.edu/law/library/find-resources/research-databases/alphabetical.php?letter=f>

## LRC Citechecking Guides

- A collection of research guides for finding certain foreign material in the LRC

[http://www.sandiego.edu/law/lrc/find\\_resources/cite\\_checking.php](http://www.sandiego.edu/law/lrc/find_resources/cite_checking.php)



# Foreign Law

## Global-Regulation

- Global-Regulation allows you to search in English more than 1.3 million laws and regulations (linking to the official full-text source) from 48 countries.

<http://www.sandiego.edu/law/library/find-resources/research-databases/alphabetical.php?letter=g>

## Westlaw and Lexis

- Both LexisNexis and Westlaw contain legal databases for a variety of countries. Coverage *varies widely* between the two databases.



# U.N. Documents

Use the U.N. Doc. Symbol to locate your document. If you do not have a U.N. Doc. Symbol, use AccessUN (available on the LRC Databases page) or Google to determine the appropriate identifier (e.g. U.N. Doc. S/RES/986).

- **Access UN**  
<http://www.sandiego.edu/law/library/find-resources/research-databases/alphabetical.php?letter=u>
- **Official Document System of the United Nations (ODS)**  
<http://www.un.org/en/documents/ods/>
- **Search UN (beta)**  
<https://search.un.org/index.php?lang=en>

Bluebook Rule 21.7



# Contact Us

LRC Reference

[lrcrefer@sandiego.edu](mailto:lrcrefer@sandiego.edu)

(619) 260-4612

Melissa Fung

Foreign & International Law Specialist

University of San Diego Legal Research Center

[mfung@sandiego.edu](mailto:mfung@sandiego.edu)

(619) 260-4734

