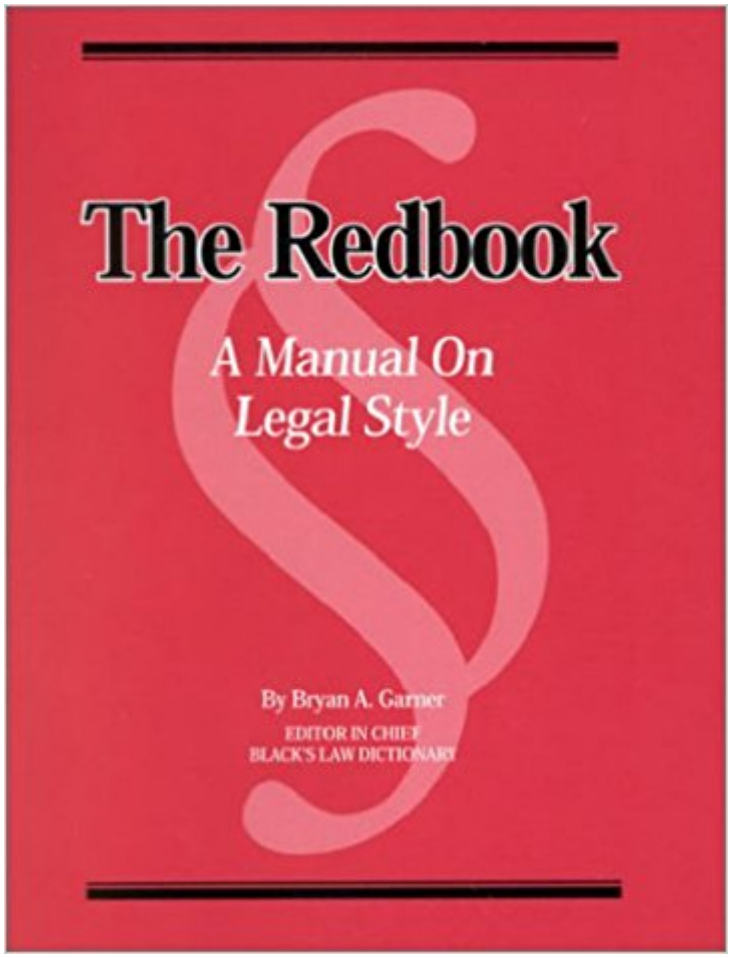
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# The Redbook: A Manual On Legal Style




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## Synopsis

The Redbook provides a comprehensive guide to the essential rules of legal writing. Unlike most style or grammar guides, it focuses on the special needs of legal writers, answering a wide spectrum of questions about grammar and style – both rules as well as exceptions. The Redbook also gives detailed, authoritative advice on punctuation, capitalization, spelling, footnotes, and citations, with illustrations in legal context. Designed for law students, law professors, practicing lawyers and judges, the work emphasizes the ways in which legal writing differs from other styles of technical writing. The "how-to" sections deal with editing and proofreading, numbers and symbols, and overall document design.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you love knowing about proper grammar and sentence construction, and are an attorney, then this book is essential. Instead of relying on generic English grammar reference books from your undergrad days you should literally throw all those away now, and use this. This is by an attorney, for attorneys, where all the examples are related to legal matters (contract clauses, statues, legal cites, etc.).I cannot go two pages without gasping at something that I didn’t know.Aside from the useful and relevant subject matter, the quality of the explanations themselves are so concise. Being an aspiring grammar Nazi I have always been disappointed in the narrow examples that typical English grammar books provide. Even beyond the usefulness of the legal-centric focus, I’ve learned more reading this book than any previous generic English grammar book owing to the author’s razor-sharp intellect.

THE REDBOOK is an excellent resource for beginning students of legal style. It's a concise manual for the multivariate points of English grammar, vocabulary, and document presentation. It covers nearly every major grammatical rule in concise form, loaded with tight and concise examples; discusses commonly misunderstood words and their usage (ala Mr. Garner's MODERN LEGAL USAGE); and provides a concise presentation of legal document type, purpose, and presentation. Overall--well done.Unfortunately, no work is without its flaws. This text has a few typographical errors. For instance, one instructional note indicates that articles contained in periodicals should not be italicized, however the example provided is italicized! Additionally, one example which was supposed to contain the word "not" was incorrectly typed as "note." Though these are not major errors, they undercut the author's lexicographic philosophy of clarity, due care, and empathy for the reader; such errors force the reader to invariably double-take--and in a grammar style book! Even so, these errors are not the norm in this work.I greatly enjoy studying this text and I would encourage any one to purchase it if they are either 1) beginning legal style training or 2) learning English grammar in a legal-business professional environment.May God bless you in your diligent studies of the written and spoken English word!

I purchased this book after hearing several faculty members at my law school sing its praises, and reading rave reviews here on . When the book came, I was disappointed.There's absolutely nothing wrong with the book. It's a good book. It has a lot of great information. But, if you write well already, if you had a good legal writing course, or if your written material scored well in moot court, this book is just going to collect dust on your shelf. I know plenty of lawyers who could really benefit from an afternoon with this book, but I know plenty of lawyers who could have written it, too. If you feel your legal writing could use some work, by all means, purchase this book; if you're confident in your legal writing, and you're just looking for that little boost, you probably won't find it here.By way of explanation, here are chapters in this book:1) Punctuation. This chapter covers the use of common punctuation marks, such as commas, semicolons, and quotation marks, as well as lesser-used marks like the em dash, slashes, and bullets.2) Capitalization. 'Nuff said.3) Italics, Boldface, and Underlining.4) Document Design. Arguably one of the more valuable chapters in this book; it covers the use of white space, margins, headers, headings, etc. Things that get very little attention unless they begin to interfere with the flow of the document.5) Numbers.6) Typographic Symbols. E.g., the section symbol, the paragraph symbol, the degree symbol, etc.7) Spelling. While I sincerely believe that spelling is becoming a lost art that desperately needs revival, I'm not sure that a book (at least,

any book other than the dictionary) is the appropriate avenue for doing so.8) Citation. Or, you know, just spin through that other book named after a primary color.9) Footnotes.10) Grammar. Grammar _has_ taken a back seat in modern-day primary and secondary school curriculum, but again, I'm not sure that this book is the best way to fix that problem.11) Stuffy Words and Legalese. If you didn't learn this stuff in your legal writing class, you need to learn it somewhere, so I guess I can't complain about it being here.12) Troublesome Words. No joke, this book has a chapter on homonyms, idioms, etc. This also makes a passable attempt at replacing your legal dictionary, but I wouldn't toss ol' Black just yet.13) Editing and Proofreading. This chapter is better than it sounds, but the important takeaway from this chapter is just to ask yourself what you're trying to say, and why you're saying it in any particular manner.14) Research Memos. Now we're getting to the good stuff. From here on out, it gives two model documents for each of the chapters. Depending on your legal writing class, this stuff can be invaluable, or can be a complete review.15) Opinion Letters.16) Demand Letters.17) Pleadings. Be sure to be aware that your jurisdiction or judge might require a different format than what's in this book.18) Motions.19) Appellate Briefs. I've gotta say, I hope you're not entering appellate practice with just this book to guide you, but if you are, it's definitely better than nothing.20) Contracts. Ignore the examples, focus on the tips for formatting and style. Write your own contract and tailor it to your practice area.

very helpful for anyone dealing with legal documents. We all know there are specifics on legal documents but few know the real formatting needed. This book tells what to put where and how in any given legal document from brief's to petitions to decisions and case law.

Excellent. Keeps my grammar skills, and punctuation in check; a must have for anyone especially if you work in a law office!

Its Brian Garner, so you know the book is meticulously written. Good lawyer stuff in here. It complements the blue book nicely. For the most part, whenever I have a stylistic or grammar question, this book has the answer. Still, some things are a matter of opinion, and you have to go with your gut. As for the price, not great. In the end, this thing is not totally necessary. You can probably find most answers online somewhere.

Legal style and citations are not intuitive to most people. This is a great resource for those seeking to get better at these arts. Great book from a great author.

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