

BRATISLAVA LAW REVIEW STYLE GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

1. OVERVIEW

The *Bratislava Law Review* ('BLR') follows the Oxford University Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities ('OSCOLA'). The official OSCOLA guidance is available through the University of Oxford:

<https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/oscola>

This document is intended as a supplement to OSCOLA and summarises:

- BLR conventions that **deviate from or add to OSCOLA**;
- BLR conventions concerning matters **not specifically covered by OSCOLA**;
- **requirements** that apply **specifically** to references submitted to BLR; and
- **common pitfalls** in applying the BLR citation conventions.

Unless this Style Guide provides a specific BLR rule, **OSCOLA should be followed**.

The current **OSCOLA 5th edition** is the applicable general reference point. BLR's submission guidelines expressly direct authors to OSCOLA and require the source list to be supplied in OSCOLA format. The source list is not printed in the published article but is used for linking citations to publications.

2. GENERAL RULE

BLR does not constitute a wholly independent citation system.

The journal expressly asks authors to follow the quotation and citation standards of OSCOLA. Where BLR provides an example for a source type not explicitly covered by OSCOLA, that example should be treated as the BLR convention for that source type.

The hierarchy is therefore:

1. **BLR-specific rule**, where BLR expressly regulates the matter;
2. **BLR supplementary convention**, where BLR addresses a matter not adequately covered by OSCOLA; and
3. **OSCOLA**, for all other citation matters.

3. DEVIATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO OSCOLA

1. **DOI** – BLR requires authors to include the **assigned DOI number, where applicable, for each reference item**. The DOI should be given as a link to the online publication.

Example (in bold):

Article:

Ondrej Blažo, 'Article Title' (2025) 15(1) *Journal Name* 100, 112-114
<https://doi.org/10.xxxx/xxxxx> accessed 10 September 2026.

Monograph:

Martin Búran, *Book Title* (2nd edn, Oxford University Press 2025) 100–105
<https://doi.org/10.xxxx/xxxxx> accessed 10 September 2026.

Chapter in an edited monograph:

Ema Mikulová, 'Chapter Title' in Ondrej Blažo and Tomáš Žifčák (eds), *Book Title* (Oxford University Press 2025) 100, 112–114 <https://doi.org/10.xxxx/xxxxx> accessed 10 September 2026.

If a cited publication has a DOI, check and include it.

2. **Pinpoint References** – BLR expressly requires references to identify the **specific page or pages** of the cited publication unless there is a justification for referring to the publication as a whole.

Example (in bold):

Patrik Gábor, *Book title* (Princeton University Press 2011) **27-28**.

If there are several specific pages, they should be marked as follows:

Patrik Gábor, *Book title* (Princeton University Press 2011) **27, 30 and 37**.

The same principle applies to journal articles and other paginated publications.

Examples (in bold):

Tomáš Žifčák, 'Article Title' (2025) 15(1) *Journal Name* 100, **112-114**
<https://doi.org/10.xxxx/xxxxx> accessed 10 September 2026.

or

Tomáš Žifčák, 'Article Title' (2006) 115 *Journal Name* 1346, **1348, 1380 and 1396**.

Be aware, that the bibliography (see below) should identify the publication as a whole and should therefore **not include the pinpoint page**.

3. Judicial Decisions and Administrative Decisions

I. *International and European Courts and Tribunals*

Judgments, decisions, advisory opinions, orders, and other judicial decisions of **international and European courts and tribunals** should be cited in accordance with the current edition of **OSCOLA**. This applies, in particular, to the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ), international criminal courts and tribunals, and other international judicial or quasi-judicial bodies covered by OSCOLA.

The citation format prescribed by OSCOLA for the respective court, tribunal, or type of decision should be followed.

Examples:

Case C-542/09 *Commission v the Netherlands* EU:C:2012:346.

Case C-247/23 *Deldits* EU:C:2025:172, para 45.

Broniowski v Poland (Merits) (Judgment) [GC] ECtHR App No 31443/96 (22 June 2004).

Ukraine and the Netherlands v Russia (Jurisdiction and Admissibility) (Decision) [GC] ECtHR App Nos 8019/16, 43800/14 and 28525/20 (25 January 2023), para 826.

Arrest Warrant of 11 April 2000 (DRC v Belgium) (Judgment) [2002] ICJ Rep 3.

Legal Consequences of the Separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965 (Advisory Opinion) [2019] ICJ Rep 95.

II. *Judgments and Decisions from National Jurisdictions*

For **judgments and decisions from national jurisdictions**, BLR requires compliance with the following standard:

Case name, Court in English (complemented by original name or acronym), Country, full date, case number, report or collection if applicable and is relevant, ECLI (if applicable), para/paras.

Examples:

ABC Kft v Hungarian Competition Authority, Supreme Court (Kúria), Hungary, 10 April 2021, Kfv.I.35.123/2020/6.

Novák v Slovenská republika, Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic (Najvyšší súd Slovenskej republiky), Slovakia, 15 June 2021, 3 Cdo 45/2020, paras 120-121.

Verbraucherzentrale Nordrhein-Westfalen eV v Meta Platforms Ireland Ltd, Higher Regional Court in Cologne (Oberlandesgericht Köln), Germany, 10 March 2025, 15 UKL 2/25, ECLI:DE:OLGK:2025:052315UKL225005, para 25.

Where a judgment or decision **does not have an identifiable case name**, the case name may be omitted and the citation should begin with the name of the court, while the remaining elements of the citation should be provided in accordance with the standard above.

Alternatively, where a case is commonly known or can be meaningfully identified by an established descriptive name, such designation may be provided in square brackets before the citation.

Examples:

Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic (Ústavný súd Slovenskej republiky), Slovakia, 15 September 2025, I. ÚS 45/2025, para 25.

[*Plastic Surgeons case*] Regional Court Frankfurt am Main (Landgericht Frankfurt am Main), Germany, 9 October 2025, 2-06 O 271/25, ECLI:DE:LGFFM:2025:0910206O2712500, paras 25-26.

III. Subsequent references:

Use the shortened case name followed by a cross-reference to the footnote containing the full citation and, where relevant, a pinpoint reference.

Examples:

ABC Kft (n 25).

Novák (n 26) para 120.

Verbraucherzentrale Nordrhein-Westfalen eV (n 27) paras 89-90.

Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic, I. ÚS 45/2025 (n 28) para 25.

Plastic Surgeons case (n 29) paras 25-26.

For pinpoint references to numbered paragraphs in judgments and decisions cited under the **BLR citation standard**, use *para* or *paras*. **BLR does not use square brackets for paragraph references.**

Do not use: [25].

Use: para 25.

For references to multiple paragraphs, use **paras**, followed by the relevant paragraph number or range (eg **paras 25-28**).

4. National Legislation

For **national legislative act and other acts** BLR requires the following structure:

First reference: *Title in English (Original title) (Acronym)* (Jurisdiction) [collection, if applicable].

Examples:

Act No 343/2015 Coll on Public Procurement (Zákon o verejnom obstarávaní) (ZVO) (Slovakia)
Act against Restricting Competition (Gesetz gegen Wettbewerbsbeschränkungen) (GWB) as amended [BGBl. I S. 1750, 3245]

Subsequent references: Original title shall be dropped or acronym only shall be used; **be aware that** only official or standard acronyms usually used in respective jurisdictions shall be used, such as TFEU, GWB, ZOHS.

A marginal note:

EU legislation and European Commission decisions should be cited in accordance with the current edition of OSCOLA. Authors should follow the OSCOLA citation format applicable to the respective type of EU legal act or Commission decision.

Examples:

Meta (Case DMA.100055) Commission Decision C(2025) 2091 [2025] OJ C/2025/3466.
Regulation (EU) 2022/1925 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 September 2022 on contestable and fair markets in the digital sector and amending Directives (EU) 2019/1937 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Digital Markets Act) [2022] OJ L 265/1.

5. **Abbreviations** – Where an established OSCOLA abbreviation exists, it should be used in accordance with OSCOLA (TFEU; ECtHR; ECHR, etc.).

6. Journal Names and Issue Numbers

When citing articles published in **print or online journals**, the **full name of the journal must be provided**, even where a commonly used abbreviation exists. The **issue number should also be included whenever available**, regardless of whether pagination is continuous throughout the volume. Where pagination begins again with each issue, the issue number **must always be provided**.

Example:

Ondrej Blažo, 'Article Title' (2025) 15(1) *Bratislava Law Review* 100, 112–114.

7. **Footnotes – First reference:** BLR uses full given names in a number of footnote citations, for example: **John Stuart Mill**, *On Liberty and Other Essays* (Oxford University Press 2015) 13.

8. Order of Sources in Footnotes

BLR does not enforce **the order of sources in footnotes** prescribed in OSCOLA § 1.1.4. Thus, for the avoidance of doubt, where multiple sources are cited in support of a single proposition, there is no need to list them in chronological (or any other particular) order.

9. Sources in Languages Other than English

Sources in languages other than English should **always be cited in their original language and script**, including sources written in non-Latin scripts (eg Cyrillic, Chinese, Arabic, Greek, or Japanese).

Where a source is written in a **non-Latin script**, **all relevant bibliographic elements appearing in that script should be transliterated into the Latin alphabet**. The transliteration should be provided in square brackets immediately after the corresponding element in the original script. This applies, where relevant, to titles of articles, books and chapters, journal titles, names of publishers, and other bibliographic information.

An **English translation of the title may also be provided**, where the author considers it useful. The English translation is optional and should follow the original title and its transliteration.

Examples:

Olexij Meteňkanyč, 'Право і справедливість' [Pravo i spravedlyvist] (2025) 12(3) *Юридичний журнал* [Iurydychnyi zhurnal] 45, 48.

Olexij Meteňkanyč, 'Право і справедливість' [Pravo i spravedlyvist; 'Law and Justice'] (2025) 12(3) *Юридичний журнал* [Iurydychnyi zhurnal; *Legal Journal*] 45, 48.

For sources written in the **Latin alphabet**, no transliteration is required:

Hans Müller, 'Recht und Gerechtigkeit' ['Law and Justice'] (2025) 15(1) *Juristische Zeitschrift* [Law Journal] 120.

Olexij Meteňkanyč and Nikolas Sabján, 'Pohlavie =/≠ rod (?) a právo' ['Sex =/≠ Gender (?) and Law'] in Ľubomír Batka (ed), *Autonómia a sebaurčenie intersex a transrodových osôb* [Autonomy and Self-Determination of Intersex and Transgender Persons] (Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave 2025) 38.

The English translation is **optional** and may therefore be omitted:

Hans Müller, 'Recht und Gerechtigkeit' (2025) 15(1) *Juristische Zeitschrift* 120.

Olexij Meteňkanyč and Nikolas Sabján, 'Pohlavie =/≠ rod (?) a právo' in Ľubomír Batka (ed), *Autonómia a sebaurčenie intersex a transrodových osôb* (Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave 2025) 38.

10. Footnotes – Subsequent Reference:

If citations from the same work follow one after the other, 'Ibid' should be used. Example:
Ibid 323.

If they do not follow one after the other, the following form should be used:

Mill (n 15) 78.

- n 15 = the number of the footnote where the work is first mentioned. 15 is just an example.
- 78 = the page number cited in the footnote in question. 78 is just an example.

11. Bibliography - The bibliography follows a different convention from footnotes. Instead of full first names, only initials are given, and the order is reversed compared with the footnotes.

Example (in bold):

Raz J, *The Morality of Freedom* (Oxford University Press 1986).

The bibliography therefore **does not reproduce the footnote citation verbatim**.

The bibliography **is not published as part of the paper in the journal issue**. It is published separately on the article's webpage and is also used for copyediting and editorial purposes during the publication process.

12. Use of Italics and Bold Type

Authors may use italics and bold type in the text where necessary for emphasis or to distinguish specific terms or passages.

Italics are generally used for **case names, titles of books and journals, foreign-language words or expressions, and terms or phrases that require particular emphasis**. They may also be used when introducing a key concept or term for the first time.

Bold type may be used more sparingly, particularly for **labels or elements of the text that require stronger visual emphasis**. It should generally not be used merely to emphasise ordinary arguments or statements in the body of the text.

Authors should avoid excessive or inconsistent use of either form of emphasis.

13. Modifications to Quotations

Any **addition, alteration, or other modification** made to the original wording of a quotation must be indicated by **[square brackets]**. Square brackets should also be used where a letter is changed from upper to lower case, or vice versa, to integrate the quotation grammatically into the surrounding text.

Omissions from quotations should be indicated by **an ellipsis in round brackets (...)**, rather than in square brackets.

Example:

Original: 'The applicant argued that the national authorities had failed to recognise his legal status and that this failure seriously affected his private and family life.'

Quotation: The applicant maintained that 'the national authorities had failed to recognise [the applicant's] legal status (...) [which] seriously affected his private and family life'.

14. Capitalisation of Titles

Unless otherwise specified by OSCOLA or these Guidelines, **all major words should be capitalised** in the titles of chapters and subchapters, as well as in the titles of most English-language sources cited in footnotes, including books, book chapters, journal articles, journals, and working papers.

Example:

Ema Mikulová, 'The Protection of Fundamental Rights in European Union Law' (2025) 15(1) *European Law Review* 100.

However, where OSCOLA prescribes a different form of capitalisation for a particular type of source, that form must be followed. In particular, titles of EU Regulations, Directives, Decisions, Recommendations, and Opinions should not be converted into headline-style capitalisation.

Example:

Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the **protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data**, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) [2016] OJ L119/1.

For **non-English-language sources**, the capitalisation conventions of the original language should be preserved; English headline-style capitalisation should not be imposed.

Example:

Olexij Meteňkanyč and Nikolas Sabján, 'Pohlavie ≠ rod (?) a právo' in Ľubomír Batka (ed), *Autonómia a sebaurčenie intersex a transrodových osôb* (Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave 2025) 38.

15. Use of Quotation Marks

Unless otherwise specified by OSCOLA or these Guidelines, **single inverted commas (' ') should be used instead of double quotation marks (" ")** throughout the text. Double quotation marks should only be used where specifically required by OSCOLA, these Guidelines, or where a quotation appears within another quotation.

16. Academic Titles and Affiliations in the Main Text

Academic titles and degrees should be reproduced in their original form and should not be translated or adapted to titles used in another academic system. In particular, titles such as *docent* or its abbreviated form *doc.* should not be translated as *Associate Professor*, as these designations may refer to different academic qualifications or positions in different jurisdictions. Where relevant, the person's current institutional position may be stated separately from their academic title.

Example:

Use:

doc. JUDr. Peter Novák, PhD.

Do not use:

Associate Professor Peter Novák, PhD.

Academic and professional titles, degrees, institutional affiliations, and positions of persons mentioned in the paper **should not be included in the main text**. Where such information is relevant or desirable, it should be provided in **a footnote at the person's first mention**.

This rule applies particularly to **conference reports** and **book reviews**, where multiple participants, speakers, organisers, or authors may be identified. In the main text, persons should generally be referred to by their full name only, without academic titles, degrees, positions, or institutional affiliations.

Do not use:

The introductory session continued with remarks from prof. JUDr. Ing. Ondrej Blažo PhD., from the Institute of European Law, Faculty of Law of Comenius University Bratislava, and Mgr. Olexij M. Meteňkanyč, PhD., from the Department of Theory of Law and Philosophy of Law, Faculty of Law of Comenius University Bratislava.

Use:

The introductory session continued with remarks from Ondrej Blažo¹ and Olexij M. Meteňkanyč.²

Footnotes:

¹ prof. JUDr. Ing. Ondrej Blažo PhD., Institute of European Law, Faculty of Law of Comenius University Bratislava.

² Mgr. Olexij M. Meteňkanyč, PhD., Assistant Professor, Department of Theory of Law and Philosophy of Law Faculty of Law of Comenius University Bratislava.

The corresponding footnotes may provide, where appropriate, the person's academic and professional titles, degrees, position, and institutional affiliation.