



**BLUE
BOOK
WEDNESDAY**

Tip #73

(CLEANED UP)

Almost all of us probably remember when Justice Thomas broke the Internet by using “(cleaned up)” in an opinion. Since then, its use has been adopted by some and shamed by others. It is not “news” that SCOTUS does not follow *The Bluebook* exactly.

THE PURPOSE

The “(cleaned up)” parenthetical is used to indicate that the author has edited the direct quote to make it less messy. It could mean several different things--removing internal quotations, updating brackets, etc.

NOT *BLUEBOOK* OFFICIAL

The “(cleaned up)” parenthetical is not officially sanctioned by *The Bluebook* (21st ed.)

If you search the online *Bluebook* for “cleaned,” there are no results.

That being said, I would venture to guess that the next edition of *The Bluebook* will address the use of this parenthetical.

VERDICT

For now, if you are a *Bluebook* textualist,
“(cleaned up)” is a no-no.

If you use *The Bluebook* as more of a guide,
then perhaps you may like this tool.

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