CITING ANNOTATED CODES
(What do I use for the date?)

Generally
The date you use in the parentheses of a statutory code citation signals the reader where to go to read the entire text of the code section. Is the text of the section solely in the bound volume? Or is part of the section amended in the pocket part? Or is the code section entirely re-written as amended in the pocket part?

Where does the reader have to go to read the code section as amended?

a. Bound volume only
If the entire text of the statute is found only in the bound volume (no amendment in the pocket part), cite it as:

20 U.S.C.A. § 102 (West 2010).
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Date of bound volume

b. Bound volume and pocket part
If the text of the statute appears in the bound volume but is partially amended in the pocket part, signal the reader by citing in the parentheses the dates of both the bound volume and the pocket part.

18 U.S.C.A. § 611 (West 2000 & Supp. 2011).
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Date of bound vol. | Date of pocket part
"Supp." = pocket part

How do you know if the code section is only partially amended in the pocket part? See if any subsections in the pocket part have a bracketed note "[See main volume for . . . .]" or "[Unchanged]". If so, then the reader must put together the entire amended code section from: 1) the changed subsections in the pocket part, and 2) the unchanged subsections in the bound volume.

Example: Here is a page from the pocket part of the USCA volume for title 18 USCA section 611.

§ 611. Voting by aliens

[See main volume for text of (a) and (b)]

(c) Subsection (a) does not apply to an alien if–

(1) each natural parent of the alien (or, in the case of an adopted alien, each adoptive parent of the alien) is or was a citizen (whether by birth or naturalization);

(2) the alien permanently resided in the United States prior to attaining the age of 16; and

(3) the alien reasonably believed at the time of voting in violation of such subsection that he or she was a citizen of the United States.

(As amended Pub. L. 106-395, Title II, § 201(d)(1), Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1635.)

Pocket part — The bracketed insert "[See main volume for text of (a) and (b)]" indicates that (a) and (b) are unchanged from the bound volume. So, to read the entire text of § 611 as amended, the reader would need to consult both the bound (main) volume and the pocket part.

c. Pocket part only

If the entire text of the statute is found only in the pocket part, cite only to "Supp." and the date of the pocket part.

How do you know if the text in the pocket part totally replaces the text of the section in the bound volume or simply partially amends it? If there is no bracketed "[See main volume for . . . .]" or "[Unchanged]", then you may assume that the pocket part text is the complete amended code section.

42 U.S.C.A. § 3056a (West Supp. 2011).

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"Supp." = pocket part (with pocket part date)

d. Quarterly supplement

If a statutory change appears in a quarterly supplement, cite it to the "Supp" with the month and year. (The month distinguishes a quarterly supplement from a pocket part.)

26 U.S.C.A. § 6056 (West 2002 & Supp. July 2011).

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Date of bound volume "Supp." with month and year indicates Quarterly supplement (instead of pocket part)

e. Amended in legislative service

If a code section is amended by a session law found only in a legislative service pamphlet, cite it as:

38 U.S.C.A § 3729(b)(2)(B) (West Supp. 2011), as amended by Restoring GI Bill Fairness Act of 2011, Pub. L. No. 112-26 § 3(a), 125 Stat. 268, 269.

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Specific amending section

NOTE: The publisher designation appears in the parentheses — regardless of which date is used. For USCA, use "West". For U.S.C.S., use "LexisNexis." If using a state code, consult T.1 of the Bluebook and use whatever abbreviation for the publisher is listed under "Statutory Compilations" for your state.