

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

Locating the Law

A Handbook for Non-Law Librarians

Fifth Edition, Revised



Southern California Association of Law Libraries

2011

PUBLIC ACCESS TO LEGAL INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Locating the Law

A Handbook for Non-Law Librarians

Fifth edition,

Revised

Edited by June Kim

Southern California Association of
Law Libraries

2011

*Public Access to Legal Information (PALI) Committee,
Southern California Association
of Law Libraries*

June Kim, Chair

2010-2011 COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Joan Allen-Hart, Judy K. Davis, Catherine Deane,
Esther Eastman, Michelle Gorospe, Curtis Jones,
Jennifer Lentz, Janine Liebert
David McFadden, Patrick Meyer, and Lisa Shultz

Forward

The law ...should surely be accessible at all times and to everyone.

--Franz Kafka

The Southern California Association of Law Libraries (SCALL) Committee on Public Access to Legal Information (PALI) is charged with providing consulting services and related educational programs to public and other non-law libraries offering open access to legal information.

Public access to legal information is extremely important in today's rapidly changing legal environment. In recognition of the public's need to know their legal rights and how statutes, administrative regulations, and judicial cases affect their lives, SCALL is pleased to present the fifth edition of *Locating the Law: A Handbook for Non-Law Librarians*, 2009. This publication, as each of the earlier editions pointed out, is not intended to replace a detailed legal research guide nor is it to be a substitute for the advice of a licensed attorney. *Locating the Law* is intended to provide basic information about California and federal legal materials: what they are, how they are organized, and how to use them.

The full text of the fifth edition of *Locating the Law* will be available free of charge on the SCALL Web site. For economic and environmental reasons the publication will no longer be produced in print format. Additionally, the electronic only version will make updating more effective and efficient. Web site addresses have been supplied for most of the materials discussed in each chapter. Further, when *Locating the Law* is viewed over the Internet, readers will be able to find sources of information almost instantly by clicking on the hyperlinked text provided throughout this publication. As used in this handbook, Internet access means electronically available. When commercially available Internet services are described within, they are identified as fee-based services.

As a member of SCALL for fifteen years (1992-2007) and former PALI chair, I know that previous editions of this handbook have been used by librarians both within and outside of California and have assisted paralegals, law students, legal administrative assistants, attorneys and others. The editor and authors hope the fifth edition will continue to be an important resource for locating legal information.

Readers with questions, comments and suggestions for revisions may use the *Contact Us* link on the *Locating the Law* page at <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/scall/locating.htm>.

LOCATING THE LAW, FIFTH EDITION

With your help, the members of the PALI Committee will strive to keep this new online edition as up-to-date as possible.

October 2009

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Preface

The Southern California Association of Law Libraries (SCALL) Committee on Public Access to Legal Information (PALI) is pleased to present the revised fifth edition of *Locating of Law: A Handbook for Non-Law Librarians*.

The revision of the fifth edition of *Locating the Law* was completed in November 2011. Because most of the edits involved updating links or deleting obsolete resources, the Committee decided that this version of *Locating the Law* did not include enough substantive changes to qualify as a new edition. A couple of changes, however, do merit a mention here. New PALI member Janine Liebert suggested several new titles to add to *Chapter 10: Bibliography of Self-Help Resources*. In addition, the list of common abbreviations in law previously included at the end of *Chapter 2: How to Read a Legal Citation* is now Appendix B. We hope that providing this handy list in its new location as a separate appendix will make it more accessible to researchers.

I would like to thank the PALI members who updated the 2009 versions of their chapters: David McFadden, Joan Allen-Hart, Patrick Meyer, Lisa Schultz, Jennifer Lentz, and Esther Eastman. I would also like to acknowledge the assistance provided by Judy K. Davis and several new members of PALI, Catherine Deane, Michelle Gorospe, Curtis Jones and Janine Liebert. Also, PALI thanks Ramon Barajas for his technical assistance.

On behalf of the 2010-2011 Committee on Public Access to Legal Information, I hope that the revised fifth edition of *Locating the Law* will be a useful resource to public librarians in California and elsewhere.

November 2011

June Kim
Chair, Public Access to Legal Information Committee (2010-2011)
Southern California Association of Law Libraries

Acknowledgments

The 2008-2009 Public Access to Legal Information (PALI) Committee is pleased to present the fifth edition of *Locating the Law: A Handbook for Non-Law Librarians*. The new edition reflects the hard work, diligence and expertise of over a dozen California law librarians, all of whom volunteered their time to this project. Given that eight years have passed since the last edition, it should not surprise readers to know that the changes to this publication are extensive. The Committee had its work cut out for it and, I believe, rose to the challenge.

As editor, I had the privilege of working with all of the members of the Committee. Especially during the last four months,¹ when the editing process was most intensive, I became exceedingly familiar with each person's contributions to this publication. I hope to convey my appreciation of the Committee's accomplishments here, as well as in the quality of the final product, which I hope meets the expectations of the Committee members. The chapters and appendices are excellent as separate work, but they are even better together, in what I hope is a cohesive whole.

The chapter and appendix authors are Joan Allen-Hart, Laura A. Cadra, Karla Castetter, Esther Eastman, June Kim, Jennifer Lentz, David McFadden, Patrick Meyer, and Lisa Shultz. A detailed list is in the table below.

<i>SECTION/CHAPTER</i>	<i>AUTHOR</i>	<i>TITLE/AFFILIATION</i>
PREFACE	Ruth Hill	Director of Library Services & Assoc. Professor of Law, Southern University Law Center (Baton Rouge, LA)
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	June Kim	Senior Reference Librarian, UCLA School of Law

¹ Mid-May 2009 through September 2009.

LOCATING THE LAW, FIFTH EDITION

CHAPTER 1: <i>Introduction</i>	Karla Castetter	Library Director, Thomas Jefferson School of Law
CHAPTER 2: <i>How to Read a Legal Citation</i>	David McFadden	Senior Reference Librarian, Southwestern Law School
CHAPTER 3: <i>Basic Legal Research Techniques</i>	Joan Allen-Hart	Assistant Director, Retired, San Diego County Public Law Library
CHAPTER 4: <i>Legal Reference vs. Legal Advice</i>	Joan Allen-Hart	Assistant Director, Retired, San Diego County Public Law Library
CHAPTER 5: <i>California Law</i>	Laura A. Cadra	Head of Reference/Foreign & Int'l Law Librarian, Loyola Law School Los Angeles
CHAPTER 6: <i>Bibliography of California Resources</i>	Patrick Meyer	Associate Library Director, Thomas Jefferson School of Law
CHAPTER 7: <i>Federal Law</i>	Karla Castetter	Library Director, Thomas Jefferson School of Law
CHAPTER 8: <i>Bibliography of Federal Law Resources</i>	June Kim	Senior Reference Librarian, UCLA School of Law

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CHAPTER 9: <i>Assisting Self-Represented Litigants in California</i>	Laura A. Cadra and June Kim	Head of Reference/Foreign & Int'l Law Librarian, Loyola Law School Los Angeles (Laura) and Senior Reference Librarian, UCLA School of Law (June)
CHAPTER 10: <i>Bibliography of Self-Help Resources</i>	Lisa Schultz	Faculty Services/Reference Librarian, Loyola Law School Los Angeles
CHAPTER 11: <i>Availability, Accessibility and Maintenance of Legal Collections</i>	Joan Allen-Hart	Assistant Director, Retired, San Diego County Public Law Library
CHAPTER 12: <i>Major Law Publishers</i>	Jennifer Lentz	Head of Collection Development & Reference Librarian, UCLA School of Law
APPENDIX A: <i>Glossary of Legal Terms</i>	June Kim	Senior Reference Librarian, UCLA School of Law
APPENDIX B: <i>California County Law Libraries</i>	Esther Eastman	Reference Librarian, LA Law Library
APPENDIX C: <i>California Law Schools</i>	Karla Castetter	Library Director, Thomas Jefferson School of Law

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PALI Committee members, not included in the above list of authors, and who assisted in the editing process are Judy K. Davis, Head of Access Services, USC Law Library, and Tammy Pettinato, former reference librarian at UCLA Law Library. They acted as two extra pair of eyes, for which I am grateful. Special thanks also to David McFadden, a chapter author, who volunteered to assist in the editing process.

I also want to thank Ruth Hill, former PALI chair, who graciously agreed to write the preface to the fifth edition. Ruth was a long-time member of SCALL before she moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana to become library director of Southern University Law Center. Moreover, two people deserve special mention: Jessica Wimer, 2008-2009 President of SCALL, for her encouragement and support and Ramon Barajas, the SCALL Webmaster, for his technical skills and expertise.

Last but not least, many, many thanks to Laura Cadra, who provided invaluable assistance to me during the past four months. I consulted with Laura on all issues for which I needed a second opinion—from structure and organization of the chapters, formatting, whether to include or exclude information, and much more. She also helped in the editing process by reviewing several of the chapters. In addition, she graciously agreed to co-author the new chapter, [*Assisting Self-Represented Litigants in California*](#) (Chapter 9).

On behalf of the chapter authors, the PALI Committee members, Ruth Hill, Jessica Wimer, and Ramon Barajas, I hope that the fifth edition of *Locating the Law: A Handbook for Non-Law Librarians* will be a useful resource to public librarians in California and elsewhere.

June Kim, Chair
SCALL Public Access to Legal Information Committee
2007-2009

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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

This introductory chapter gives an overview of legal research and provides general descriptions of the sources one should consult. Detailed descriptions of California and federal law may be found in Chapters 5 and 7, respectively. In addition, see Chapters 6 and 8 for detailed bibliographies of California and federal legal materials.

Contents:

- [*Categories of Legal Research Sources*](#)
- [*Constitutional Law*](#)
- [*Statutory Law*](#)
- [*Case Law*](#)
- [*Administrative Law*](#)
- [*How It All Fits Together*](#)
- [*Basic Tips for Locating the Law*](#)
- [*Selected Bibliography*](#)

Categories of Legal Research Sources

The goal of most legal research is to identify the answer to one's legal question. *Were my rights violated? How do I probate a will? Can I adopt my stepchild?* Finding the answer or solution requires research into the applicable legal basis or *authority*. In other words, which laws apply to my legal issue?

In order to identify applicable laws, one must first have a basic understanding of the U.S. legal system. In the United States, there is a federal government as well as fifty state governments. Each of these 51 governments has executive, legislative and judicial branches, all of which have the power to promulgate laws. These state and federal governments share authority over some legal matters but have distinct authority over others. Hence, one of the first questions a legal researcher must address is whether state law or federal law applies to his or her legal problem.

Second, one must distinguish between three different types of sources—primary,

secondary, and finding tools (or aids). Primary sources of law are the official pronouncements of the government's lawmakers: court decisions, statutes, and regulations. They are the legal rules that govern our society. Secondary sources of law describe the law, discuss a legal problem or set out a model piece of legislation. Secondary sources of law include law review articles, treatises,¹ restatements,² hornbooks,³ and practice manuals. Finding tools facilitate access to primary and secondary sources of law and include indexes, digests,⁴ and citators.⁵

Each type of source described above has a distinctive place in the hierarchy of *legal authority*. Authority may be (1) primary or secondary and (2) mandatory or persuasive. Indeed, while courts and other decision makers are often open to guidance from a wide range of sources, only primary authority can be mandatory in application (which means that the court decision, statute, or regulation must be followed). For example, a decision from a state's highest court is mandatory authority in its jurisdiction and must be followed by the lower state courts. Similarly, a state statute must be followed within the state. However, some primary authority is only persuasive. Persuasive authority is that which the court or other decision maker may consider it but is not obligated to follow. For example, California state courts may find other state court cases persuasive, but are not bound to follow court opinions from any of the other 49 states. Moreover, there are varying degrees of persuasiveness. A well-respected treatise, albeit a secondary source of law, may have more persuasive force than decisions from courts in other states.⁶

Primary Sources of Law

The primary sources of federal law are the U.S. Constitution, the enactments of the U.S. Congress, the decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court and of the lower federal courts (i.e., Courts of Appeals and District Courts), the regulations and rulings of the federal administrative agencies, and the executive orders and proclamations of the President of the United States. The primary sources of law for each state are the state constitution, the enactments of the state legislature, the decisions of the state courts, the regulations

¹ Treatises are books on legal topics. A treatise can be one volume or many volumes.

² Restatements are prepared by the American Law Institute and literally "restate" (or summarize) general case law principles in specific areas of law.

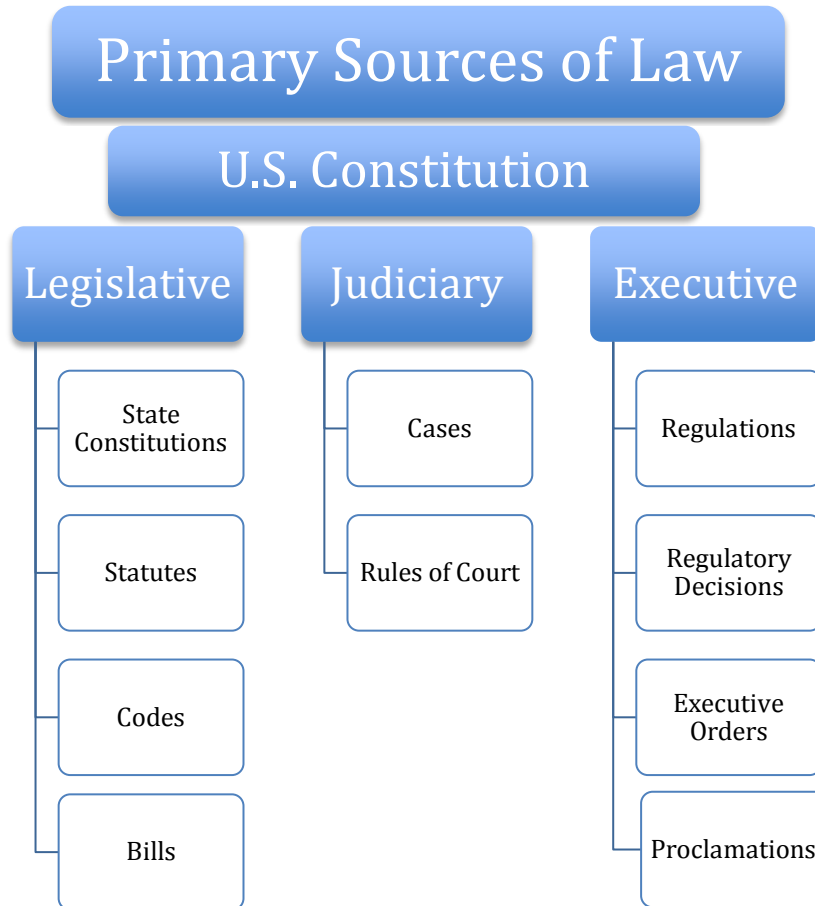
³ Hornbooks are one-volume books on a legal topic often used by law students.

⁴ Subject indexes to case law.

⁵ Citators serve two functions: updating a source of law and leading the researcher to additional sources of law.

⁶ See Amy E. Sloan, "Types and Weight of Authority," in *Basic Legal Research*, 4th ed. (Aspen Publishers, 2009) at 4-9; Richard K. Neumann, "The Hierarchy of Authority," in *Legal Reasoning and Legal Writing: Structure, Strategy, and Style*, 5th ed. (Aspen Publishers, 2005) at 148-151.

and rulings of the state administrative agencies, and the orders of the states' governors. Within each state, municipalities may have their own charter, ordinances and administrative regulations.



Other sources of primary law include tribal laws passed by Indian sovereign nations and international laws (usually expressed in the form of treaties between two or more nations).

Hence, it is important for researchers to determine at the beginning of their research whether federal or state law is implicated and which type of primary law applies to their legal problem.

Secondary Sources

Most law librarians will suggest starting legal research with a secondary source. This advice is especially relevant to those who are new to legal research or new to a specific subject area of legal research. Secondary sources, such as practice guides or handbooks,

will summarize a subject area of law, describing (and providing the citations to) the applicable statutes, court opinions and regulations. Not only does this save the researcher time in identifying the relevant primary law, but it also provides the background information needed to frame intelligent questions, determine the best research paths, and learn the key terms used in the area of law. Moreover, scholarly commentaries (in law reviews or legal treatises) can have persuasive influence on the law-making process by drawing attention to the flaws in current legal doctrine and suggesting alternative methods.

Although many public libraries will not add legal treatises, hornbooks, practice guides, and law reviews to their physical collections, they will likely have legal self-help books,⁷ which will provide an excellent starting point for most researchers. It is worth noting here that legal secondary sources are generally not available for free on the Internet. In any case, for those unfamiliar with these sources, it is recommended that they use secondary sources in print, in order to take advantages of the indexes, tables and other finding aids included therein. Secondary sources are referenced throughout these chapters, with the idea that librarians will be able to locate the best area library to serve the needs of their users.

Finding Tools

The third and final type of legal research material is the finding tool. These research aids would never be cited in a court brief, law review article or legal memorandum, but are, nonetheless, critical to anyone updating or searching for primary and secondary sources. *West's California Digest* is an example of a finding and indexing tool for California case law. Shepard's citation titles such as *Shepard's United States Citations* or *Shepard's California Citations* are examples of updating tools. The process of updating cases and other legal materials is colloquially called *Shepardizing*, whether or not one is using a *Shepard's* tool. Online updating is widely available in public law libraries—either through LexisNexis, which owns *Shepard's*, or through Westlaw, which has its own updating service called KeyCite.

Constitutional Law

The highest law of the land is the U.S. Constitution. As a grant of power to the federal government to rule in the name of the people, the Constitution defines the basic rights

⁷ See Chapter 9: [Assisting the Self-Represented Litigant in California](#) and Chapter 10: [Bibliography of California Self-Help Resources](#).

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of U.S. citizens. It cannot be changed except by amendments proposed by two-thirds of both houses of Congress and ratified by three-fourths of the states, or by a constitutional convention. The U.S. Supreme Court is the final authority on interpreting the U.S. Constitution. No law, whether state or federal, is valid unless made in accordance with the U.S. Constitution and with the interpretations of the U.S. Supreme Court. All state constitutions, state statutes, and county and municipal charters and ordinances are subordinate to the U.S. Constitution.

A state's constitution is analogous to the U.S. Constitution in that it is the supreme law within the boundaries of that state, and all state statutes must be in accordance with it. However, a state constitution is inferior to the U.S. Constitution, as well as to all valid federal statutes.

In California, the state constitution can be amended by the legislature and by the voters. Amendment by voters is accomplished by the initiative and referendum processes. Initiatives and referendum appear on the ballot as propositions. If passed, they are incorporated into the Constitution.

Statutory Law

In basic terms, a statute is an enactment by a legislative body. Statutes are the acts, or bills, written and passed by the United States Congress or by the state legislatures (and signed (or not vetoed) by the chief executive).

Statutes are published in chronological order (i.e., in the order in which they are signed into law). To provide a more logical (and accessible) arrangement of these laws, most statutes are collected and systematically arranged, usually by subject, into a separately published set called a *code*. The federal laws are codified into the *United States Code*, which is subdivided into 50 *titles*. Each title covers a certain subject. For example, Title 15 deals with commerce and trade. California's codes are identified by name instead of numbered titles. For example, the laws dealing with taxes are in the Revenue and Taxation Code. In addition to federal and state statutes, there are municipal and county ordinances, which are enactments of bodies such as county boards and city councils.

Statutes and codes are published in both official and unofficial versions. Official versions are published by the government itself or by a commercial publisher under contract with the government while unofficial versions can be offered by several commercial publishers. The text of the law is identical in both official and unofficial

publications. The difference is that the official versions are usually not annotated, while unofficial publications generally are annotated. The annotations in the unofficial publications include such helpful information such as references to court opinions interpreting the code sections, citations to law review articles, summaries of legislative histories, and a list of related administrative regulations, if there are any. Another difference between official and unofficial versions is that the commercial publisher may be able to publish and update the unofficial version more frequently.

<i>TYPES</i>	<i>DEFINITION</i>	<i>NOTES</i>
Bill	A proposed law, introduced before the legislature	Current bills may be viewed on the legislature's official Web site. For older bills, especially those that did not become law, users may have to refer to print or microform sources.
Statute	A bill that is passed by the legislature (and usually signed by the executive). A statute may add, revise, or repeal an existing law.	Numbered chronologically as they are approved by the legislature. Refer to subject indexes and cross-reference tables.
Code	A subject arrangement of statutes	Commercially published codes tend to be updated much more frequently than official publications. In either case, one must always consult the cumulative supplements (pocket parts), which show any changes that have been made to the law since the print volume was published.

Case Law

The United States is a *common law* country. This means that, in addition to statutes passed by legislative bodies, the collected history of cases decided by judges in various courts is also part of our law. The underlying principle of such a system is that similar cases should be treated in a similar way. This principle is referred to as precedent, or, in

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Latin, *stare decisis*.

The written opinion of a judge or of a panel of judges is also referred to as a case. A case usually includes a brief description of the factual background of the situation and a short history of the legal procedures that brought the dispute before the present court followed by the court's reasoning in reaching its decision.

Judicial decisions are published, or *reported*, only if they change or clarify a rule of law. Generally, trial level state court decisions are not published. Only some appellate decisions are reported. All cases from the U.S. Supreme Court and from state supreme courts are published.

Like statutory law, judicial law or cases are published in both official and unofficial versions. The difference between the official and unofficial version lies in the publisher and in the editorial enhancements. The text of an opinion is the same in both versions. Editors for the unofficial publishers often add a summary of the case and identify individual points of law discussed in the case with special topic headings and numbers called headnotes. These headings can then be used to find similar cases in the case finding tools called digests.

<i>COURT</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>PUBLISHED?</i>	<i>PRINT PUBLICATION</i>	<i>INTERNET ACCESS</i>
<i>Supreme Court</i>	U.S. Supreme Court	Yes, all cases are published.	<i>United States Reports</i> <i>Supreme Court Reporter</i> <i>U.S. Supreme Court Reports, Lawyers' Edition</i> <i>U.S. Law Week</i>	Yes, all cases are available online from numerous sites. See Chapter 8: <i>Bibliography of Federal Law Resources</i>
	California Supreme Court	Yes, all cases are published.	<i>California Reports</i> <i>California Reporter</i> <i>Pacific Reporter</i>	Yes, all cases from 1850 to present are available through California Courts and SCOCAL .
<i>Appellate Courts</i>	U.S. Courts of Appeals	Some cases are published.	<i>Federal Reporter</i> <i>Federal Appendix</i>	Yes, published cases from 1950 forward are available on Public Library of Law .

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	California Courts of Appeal	Some cases are published.	<i>California Reporter</i> <i>Pacific Reporter</i> <i>California Appellate Reports</i>	Yes, all published cases from 1850 to present are available through California Courts .
<i>Trial Courts</i>	U.S. District Courts	Some cases are published.	<i>Federal Supplement</i> <i>Federal Rules Decisions</i>	Yes, some published cases are available on Justia .
	California Superior Courts	No.	n/a	No, not for free. Some superior courts may allow online access to some court documents, but there is usually a charge.

Administrative Law

Agency Regulations & Decisions

Administrative law is created when a state or federal agency issues regulations, or when an administrative official decides a dispute in the subject area for which the agency is responsible. Examples of federal regulatory agencies are the Federal Communications Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Federal Trade Commission. California state regulatory bodies include agencies such as the Public Utilities Commission and the Public Employment Relations Board.

These agencies are authorized by the federal or state legislative bodies to promulgate rules, or regulations, governing the area of the agencies' special knowledge. Such agencies also have their own procedural rules to follow when settling disputes. They may also have their own administrative law judges, who hear cases and reach decisions involving the interpretation of the agencies' regulations.

Administrative decisions, or cases, are usually published in special loose-leaf services⁸

⁸ Loose-leaf services are binders where pages with new information are inserted to replace the pages with outdated information. Loose-leaf services are updated at varying intervals, depending on the volatility of the area of law they cover.

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whose coverage is limited to a particular subject, such as antitrust or labor law. Loose-leaf publications are generally issued by commercial publishers. Most publishers offer these services as online subscriptions as well. However, many federal and state agencies are now putting their current decisions, procedures and rules on their Web sites. Federal and California regulations are available on the Internet (see Chapter 6: *Bibliography of California Law Resources* and Chapter 8: *Bibliography of Federal Law Resources*).

Executive Orders & Proclamations

The major legal documents issued by the President of the United States are executive orders and proclamations, which are described in detail in Chapter 7: [Federal Law](#) and Chapter 8: [Bibliography of Federal Law Resources](#). California makes available recent [Executive Orders](#) (as well as older executive orders under “Archives”) on the [Governor’s Web site](#).

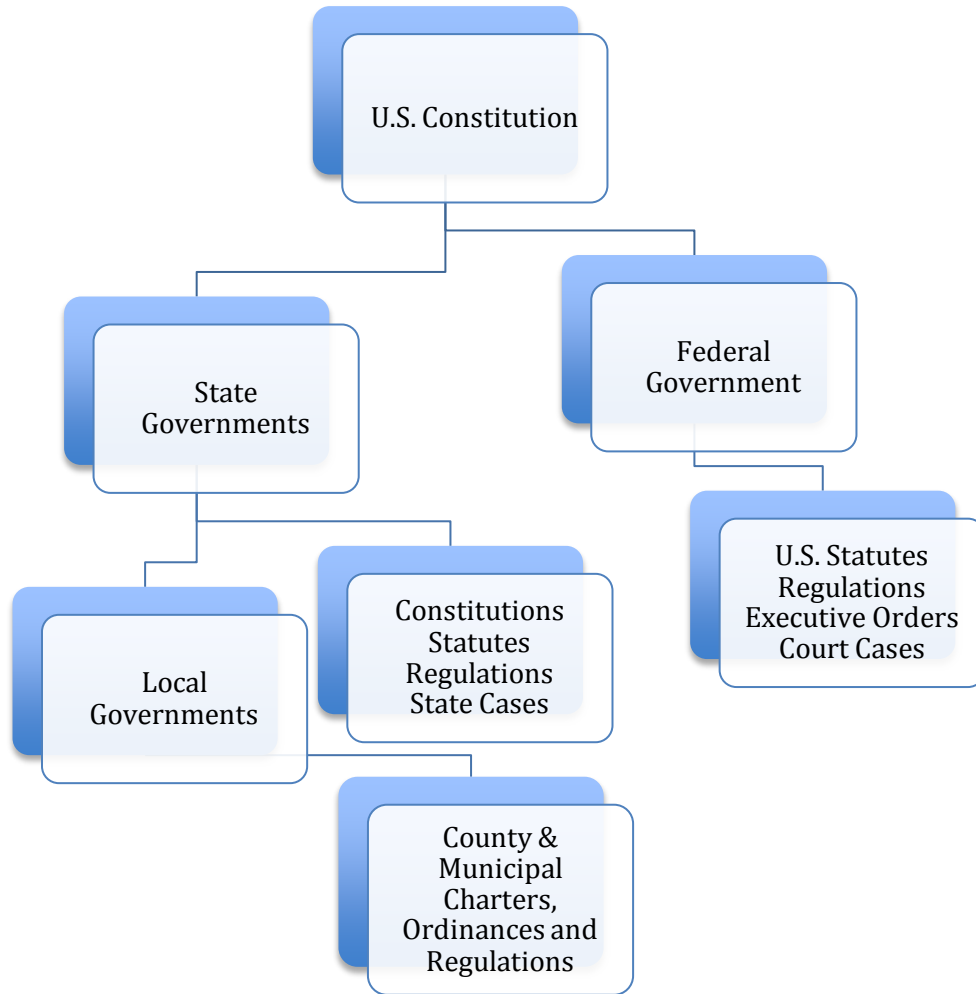
How It All Fits Together

There are fifty-one separate legal systems in operation in the United States—the federal system and each of the state systems. In any one instance, federal law alone may apply, state law only may be relevant, or there may be a mixture of state and federal issues. In general, the federal courts are responsible for applying and interpreting federal statutes and the U.S. Constitution, and the state courts for applying and interpreting the state’s constitution and state statutes. Bear in mind that there may also be relevant county and municipal ordinances as well as state and federal administrative regulations and rulings, which may apply to a legal issue.

How do all these different systems fit together? Since a full answer to that question would require far more space than is available here, a brief explanation will have to suffice. First, the powers of the federal government are defined in the Constitution. Conflicts between state and federal laws are governed by the Supremacy Clause of the Constitution (Article VI, paragraph 2), which establishes the Constitution, federal statutes, and U.S. treaties as “the supreme law of the land.”⁹ Thus, federal laws have legal superiority over state constitutions and laws. Second, no laws may contradict any of the Constitution’s principles.

⁹ For full-text (as well as links to annotations) of this Article, see Cornell Law School’s Legal Information Institute, at <http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/articlevi>.

Briefly outlined, the hierarchy of our legal system is as follows:



Basic Tips for Locating the Law

Tip 1: Use finding aids

Most legal publications are well organized. Look for indexes, cross-reference tables, tables of cases and other special features.

Tip 2: Parallel citations lead you to the same official text

Primary sources of law, especially statutory or case law, may be published by more than one publisher. The *text* of the law itself will be the same, no matter which case reporter or which version of the code you decide to use.

Tip 3: Cases can be published and unpublished

Remember that the vast majority of court cases are *unpublished*, in the sense that they are not available online or printed in case reporters. This is especially true of trial court cases. The patron who wants to read the decision of a highly publicized trial needs to understand that, although the trial may be reported in the news, there is no published *decision*, as such. There may be a brief court order or memoranda in the case file. A trial transcript may or may not be included in the case file. One must contact the court clerk directly to find out whether they provide copying services to the public. Sometimes one is required to contact the court reporter directly for trial court transcripts, which can be costly (depending on the length of the trial).

Tip 4: Update your research

The law is constantly changing. To determine the current status of the law, check the currency of the information:

- Is there a pocket part?
- A paperback supplement?
- If loose-leaf, when was the last update filed?
- Is there a Web site available which is reliable, current and free or low-cost?

Tip 5: Not all legal Internet sources are created equal

Using Google can be extremely helpful in finding all sorts of useful information. However, in legal research, one must be extremely careful in evaluating the results gathered from a general Internet search. A good rule of thumb is to use the Advanced Search option and limit to the domains *.edu* and *.gov* to find more reliable sites. Other options are to use Internet search engines that refine your results for you, such as Cornell Law Library's Legal Research Engine¹⁰ or Findlaw's Lawcrawler.¹¹

Below you will find a short list of reputable Web sites as well as three legal research guides in print. Note that throughout the fifth edition of *Locating the Law*, you will find numerous links to Internet sources that law librarians use on a daily basis. Print resources are, for the most part, reserved for the bibliographies. Nevertheless, since print sources continue to be used in legal research, selected titles are highlighted in the explanatory chapters as well.

¹⁰ <http://library.lawschool.cornell.edu/WhatWeDo/ResearchGuides/Legal-Research-Engine.cfm>

¹¹ <http://lawcrawler.findlaw.com/>



Selected Bibliography

Basic Legal Research Guides

- In print:
 - *Fundamentals of Legal Research*, 9th ed. Steven M. Barken, Roy M. Mersky, & Donald J. Dunn. New York: Foundation Press, 2009.
 - *Legal Research: How to Find and Understand the Law*, 15th ed. Stephen Elias. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2009.
 - *Legal Research in a Nutshell*, 10th ed. Morris L. Cohen & Kent Olsen. St. Paul, MN: Thomson West, 2010.
- On the Internet:
 - *Public Law Library's Basic Legal Research—A Mini Research Class*:
<http://www.publiclawlibrary.org/research.html>
 - *Law Library of Congress' Guide to U.S. Federal Law Online*
(See also link to guide to U.S. States & Territories):
<http://www.loc.gov/law/help/guide/federal.php>
- In person:
 - LA Law Library's Legal Research 101: Knowing the Basics:
http://www.lalawlibrary.org/events/courses/courses_LR101.aspx

Other Internet Sources:

- FindLaw's Introduction to the U.S. Legal System:
<http://public.findlaw.com/library/legal-system/>
- Cornell Law School's Legal Information Institute (LII): <http://www.law.cornell.edu>
- U.S. Government Printing Office
GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys): <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/home.action>
- Judicial Council's California Courts: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/>
- Legislative Counsel's Official California Legislative Information:
<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/> or the new beta site: <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>
(accessed Nov. 4, 2011).

Chapter 2

HOW TO READ A LEGAL CITATION

A citation (or cite) in legal research is a reference to a specific legal source, such as a constitution, statute, reported case, treatise¹ or law review article. Like non-legal citations, it is a shorthand method of identifying an authority. One basic format of a legal citation includes the volume number, the title of the publication, the page or section number, and date. The titles of primary² legal authorities are generally abbreviated. This format may look unfamiliar at first to non-law librarians who are accustomed to seeing citations where the title is unabbreviated, followed by the volume and page numbers. This chapter will describe citations to cases, statutes or codes, and law reviews and treatises. A short discussion of legal citation manuals and a list of common abbreviations are also included in this chapter.

Contents:

- [Cases](#)
- [Statutes or Codes](#)
- [Law Reviews and Treatises](#)
- [Citation Manuals](#)

Cases

Court cases (i.e., judicial opinions) can be published by more than one publisher. Because of this, there can be more than one citation appearing after the name of the case. The first citation given in this string of numbers and letters is to the official reports for a particular court, and is called the official citation. The official reports are published by the publisher with whom that court has contracted to publish its cases. For example, in California, the official reports for the state Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal are currently published by LexisNexis. The California Supreme Court cases are published

¹ Treatises are books on legal topics.

² Primary legal authorities are constitutions, statutes/codes, case decisions (also known as judicial opinions), and regulations and regulatory decisions.

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in the *California Reports* (1st - 4th series)³ and the Courts of Appeal cases in *California Appellate Reports* (1st - 4th series).⁴

The citations given after the first, official cite are known as unofficial or parallel citations. The text of the opinion is the same in all sources, whether they are designated as official or unofficial. Here is an example:

Lyle v. Warner Bros. Television Prods., 38 Cal. 4th 264, 132 P.3d 211, 42 Cal. Rptr. 3d 2 (2006)

The citation in our example above begins with the case name, which includes the plaintiff/appellant’s last name, Lyle, and an abbreviated version of the defendants/respondents’ name, Warner Brothers Television Productions. The first citation, to the *California Reports*, is the official citation. The second and third citations are considered parallel citations because they refer to unofficial sources—to the *Pacific Reporter* and *California Reporter*, respectively. The goal is to provide the researcher with several options by which to locate the same judicial opinion. Case reporters are hundreds of volumes and a library may only have space (and the budget) for one of these sets.

Below you will find additional examples of the official and parallel citations for a California Supreme Court case and a California Court of Appeal case.

CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT CITATIONS		
Name of Parties	Official Citation	Parallel Citations
<p>Marvin v. Marvin</p> <p>↓ ↓</p> <p>Plaintiff v. Defendant</p>	<p>18 Cal. 3d 660</p> <p>↙ ↓ ↘</p> <p>Volume Page</p> <p>Number 18</p> <p>↓</p> <p>California Reports, Third Series</p>	<p>557 P.2d 106, 134 Cal. Rptr. 815 (1976)</p> <p>↓ ↓</p> <p>Pacific Reporter, Year of</p> <p>Second Series decision</p> <p>↓</p> <p>California Reporter</p>

³ Abbreviated Cal. or C. 1st series, 1850-1934 (vol. 1-220); 2d series, 1943-1969 (vol. 1-71); 3d series, 1969-1991 (vol. 1-54); 4th series, 1991-present (vol. 1 -)

⁴ Abbreviated Cal. App. or C.A. 1st series, 1905-1934 (vol. 1-140); 2d series, 1934-1969 (vol. 1-276); 3d series, 1969-1991 (vol. 1-235); 4th series, 1991- present (vol. 1 -)

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CALIFORNIA COURT OF APPEAL CITATIONS		
Name of Parties	Official Citation	Parallel Citation
<p>Daniels v. Weigum</p> <p>↓ ↓</p> <p>Plaintiff v. Defendant</p>	<p>194 Cal. App. 2d 620</p> <p>↙ ↓ ↘</p> <p>Volume Page</p> <p>Number 194</p> <p>↓</p> <p>California Appellate Reports, Second Series</p>	<p>15 Cal. Rptr. 57 (1961)</p> <p>↙ ↓ ↘</p> <p>Volume Year of</p> <p>Number 15 decision</p> <p>↓</p> <p>California Reporter</p>

The California Supreme Court case has two parallel citations. The first is to the *Pacific Reporter*, and the second is to the *California Reporter*. The Court of Appeal case has one parallel citation, to the *California Reporter*.

In the above examples, note the inclusion of the series number after *California Reports* (3d series) and after *Pacific Reporter* (2d series). This is a crucial part of the citation because publishers start numbering from volume 1 when they begin a new series. Therefore, there is more than one volume with the number 18 on it in the *California Reports*: there is a volume 18 in the first series, another volume 18 in the second series, another volume 18 in the third series, and yet another volume 18 in the fourth series. (The absence of a 2d, 3d or 4th from a citation indicates that the volume is part of the first series.)

The following is an example of a citation for a United States Supreme Court case:

UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT CITATIONS		
Name of Parties	Official Citation	Parallel Citations
<p>Brown v. Board of Education</p> <p>↓ ↓</p> <p>Plaintiff v. Defendant</p>	<p>347 U.S. 483</p> <p>↙ ↓ ↘</p> <p>Volume Page</p> <p>Number 347</p> <p>↓</p> <p>United States Reports</p>	<p>74 S.Ct. 686, 98 L.Ed. 873 (1954)</p> <p>↓ ↓ ↓</p> <p>Supreme Court Year of</p> <p>Reporter decision</p> <p>↓</p> <p>U.S. Supreme Court Reports, Lawyer's Edition</p>

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As with the California Supreme Court case, there are two parallel citations. Here, the first one is to the *Supreme Court Reporter* and the second is to the *U.S. Supreme Court Reports, Lawyers' Edition*.

Cases from the thirteen United States Courts of Appeals and the trial level United States District Courts are published by West in the *Federal Reporter* and *Federal Supplement*, respectively. The *Federal Appendix* includes decisions from the Courts of Appeals that were not selected for publication in the *Federal Reporter* and are generally of lesser precedential value. Like other case reporters, the *Federal Reporter*, *Federal Appendix*, and *Federal Supplement* are arranged in series. Unlike other case citations, however, there are no parallel citations to these reporters.

Examples of citations from each of these reporters are shown below. Note that these citations include the court that issued the decision.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS & DISTRICT COURT CITATIONS	
Name of Parties	Citations
<p>Mattel, Inc. v. MCA Records, Inc.</p> <p>↓ ↓</p> <p>Plaintiff v. Defendant</p>	<p>296 F.3d 894 (9th Cir. 2002)</p> <p>Volume Page Year of Number 296 ↓ Decision</p> <p>↓ ↓ ↓</p> <p>Federal Reporter, U.S. Court of Appeals Third Series for the Ninth Circuit</p>
<p>United States v. Ramirez</p> <p>↓ ↓</p> <p>Plaintiff-Appellee v. Defendant-Appellant</p>	<p>44 F. App'x 80 (9th Cir. 2002)</p> <p>Volume Page Year of Number 44 ↓ Decision</p> <p>↓ ↓ ↓</p> <p>Federal Appendix U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit</p>
<p>Butler v. Target Corp.</p> <p>↓ ↓</p> <p>Plaintiff v. Defendant</p>	<p>323 F. Supp. 2d 1052 (C.D. Cal. 2004)</p> <p>Volume Page Year of Number 323 ↓ Decision</p> <p>↓ ↓ ↓</p> <p>Federal Supplement, U.S. District Court, Central Second Series District of California</p>

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Statutes or Codes

Another common type of legal citation likely to be encountered is a citation to a statute or code.⁵ The major difference between a case citation and a statute or code citation is that the latter will usually not include a parallel citation. Also, the year of publication of the print volume is used, not the year of enactment or amendment.

Here are two examples: Cal. Rev. & Tax Code § 2280 (West 1998) and Cal. Lab. Code § 5304 (Deering 2006). The year next to the publisher refers to the publication date of the print volume.

The first citation refers to section 2280 of the California Revenue and Taxation Code published in *West's Annotated California Codes*. The second citation is to section 5304 of the California Labor Code published in *Deering's California Codes Annotated*. Again, note the absence of parallel citations for code sections.

CALIFORNIA CODE CITATIONS		
Title of Code	Section Number	Publisher & Date
Cal. Rev. & Tax. Code [California Revenue & Taxation Code]	§ 2280	(West 1998)
Cal. Lab. Code [California Labor Code]	§ 5304	(Deering 2006)

The following are examples of citations to the U.S. Code.

UNITED STATES CODE CITATIONS		
Title of Code	Section Number	Publisher & Date
8 U.S.C. [United States Code]	§ 1152	(2006)

⁵ The terms *statutes* and *codes* are generally used interchangeably.

15 U.S.C.A. [United States Code Annotated]	§ 1601	(West 2009)
42 U.S.C.S. [United States Code Service]	§ 2000e-3	(LexisNexis 2005)

The major difference between the California Codes and the *United States Code* is that titles in the former are identified by subject (Civil, Penal, Family, etc.), whereas titles of the *U.S. Code* are arranged by number. In the examples above, title 8 of the *U.S. Code* is Aliens and Nationality; title 15 is Commerce and Trade; and title 42 is the Public Health and Welfare.⁶ Also note that the United States Code is the official government publication, while the other two are commercially published.

Law Reviews and Treatises

Law review and other legal periodical citations follow the standard format of author, title, volume number, abbreviated title of the law review, beginning page number, and date. An example would be:

Jonathan Zasloff, *Law and the Shaping of American Foreign Policy: From the Gilded Age to the New Era*, 78 N.Y.U. L. Rev. 239 (2003).

Note that the title of the law review is abbreviated. Sources to decipher such abbreviations are listed below.

Treatises, books on a particular legal topic, are generally cited by author, title and year. Unlike other citation systems, the publisher is usually not included in the citation.

Citation Manuals

Further discussion on citations and guidance as to the proper citation format can be found in *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (19th ed. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard

⁶ GPO Access provides the [U.S. Code](#) by year and by title.

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Law Review Association, 2010), and in Edward W. Jessen, *California Style Manual: A Handbook of Legal Style for California Courts and Lawyers* (4th ed. West Group, 2000). There is also a newer citation manual which is beginning to gain acceptance in law schools: Association of Legal Writing Directors & Darby Dickerson, *ALWD Citation Manual: A Professional System of Citation* (4th ed. Aspen Publishers, 2010). For further assistance with both the *Bluebook* and *ALWD Citation Manual*, consult Peter W. Martin, [Introduction to Basic Legal Citation](#) (Legal Information Institute, fall 2011). This online resource introduces the reader to the basics of legal citation principles, illustrating throughout with examples from each citation system.

Citations are necessarily in an abbreviated form. To assist you with deciphering some of the more common abbreviations used in legal citations, a list of abbreviations follows this section. The above mentioned style manuals may be of help in understanding abbreviations. For more complete lists of legal abbreviations, see the following works:

Black's Law Dictionary, 9th ed. St. Paul, MN: West, 2009 (Appendix A).

Mary Miles Prince, *Prince's Bieber Dictionary of Legal Abbreviations*, 6th ed. Buffalo, NY: William S. Hein & Co., 2009.

Steven M. Barkan, Roy M. Mersky & Donald J. Dunn, *Fundamentals of Legal Research*, 9th ed. New York, NY: Foundation Press, 2009 (Appendix A).

University of Washington Marion Gould Gallagher Law Library, [Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

Please note that most law book publishers devise their own system of abbreviations that may vary from the examples shown below. Therefore, check the preface to each source for their in-house abbreviation explanations. Although many legal researchers are now relying on the online citators, the print version of *Shepard's Citations* is a leading example of a legal research tool that uses unique symbols and abbreviations.

Also, there is a movement in some states (but not yet California) to move toward a publisher and format neutral/vendor neutral citation style. There is a list of "Jurisdiction-Specific Citation Rules and Style Guides" in the 19th edition of the Harvard Bluebook in Table BT2 (on pages 30-51) that includes citations to court rules dealing with public domain citations. In any case, older sources will continue to use the more traditional publisher based systems.



Internet Sources Cited in this Chapter

U.S. Code, Browse by Year and by Title:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collectionUScode.action?collectionCode=USCODE>

Introduction to Basic Legal Citation: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/citation/>

Acronyms and Abbreviations, University of Washington Marion Gould Gallagher Law Library:

<http://lib.law.washington.edu/pubs/acron.html>

Chapter 3

BASIC LEGAL RESEARCH TECHNIQUES

This chapter is intended to serve as a guide for public librarians assisting users who have legal reference questions. In many ways, a library user seeking legal information is no different from any other library user. You use the same reference skills to assist users seeking legal information as you would with users seeking information about, for instance, history or biology.

Still, finding and using legal resources can be tricky. The good news, as discussed in other chapters in this book, is that many legal resources, especially primary law (cases, statutes, regulations, local ordinances, and related government information), are now available online. Nonetheless, because a general knowledge of the print publications helps one to understand and navigate online resources, this chapter also covers traditional print resources.

Contents:

- [*Initial Steps*](#)
 - [*Identifying the Legal Issues*](#)
 - [*Using the TARP Method*](#)
 - [*Identifying Relevant Legal Resources*](#)
 - [*Consult a Secondary Source First*](#)
 - [*Accessing Print Legal Materials: Using the Indexes*](#)
 - [*Print vs. Online Resources*](#)
- [*Finding the Law*](#)
 - [*Finding Statutes*](#)
 - [*Using a Popular Name Table*](#)
 - [*Updating Statutory Law in Print*](#)
 - [*Federal Statutes on the Internet*](#)
 - [*California Statutes on the Internet*](#)
 - [*Finding Agency Rules & Regulations*](#)
 - [*Federal Regulations*](#)
 - [*California Regulations*](#)
 - [*Other Methods of Finding Regulations*](#)

- [Finding Case Law](#)
 - [Traditional Subject Approach to Case Law: Print Digests](#)
 - [Case Name Approach](#)
 - [Using the Annotated Codes to Find Case Law](#)
 - [Legal Citators](#)
 - [Locating Case Law on the Internet](#)
- [Finding Local Government Law](#)
- [Online Resources](#)
 - [Commercial Legal Databases](#)
 - [Free Internet Sources](#)
- [Internet Sources Cited in this Chapter](#)

Initial Steps

Conducting a thorough reference interview will allow you to more effectively identify the legal resources that may provide answers to the user's questions. The first steps in answering a legal research question are (1) to identify the legal issues by conducting a thorough reference interview and by using the TARP method (discussed below) and (2) to identify the legal resources the user should consult, which includes secondary sources and indexes in the print collection as well as relevant online resources.

Identifying the Legal Issues

A person seeking legal information will often begin by presenting a factual scenario, ending with a very general question. Here are two examples:

My neighbor's dog barks all night long, and I'm tired of putting up with the noise. I've called the police, but they never want to come out, because they say it is not an emergency situation. They also tell me I have to take my neighbor to court and sue him. Is this true? I want to know my legal rights!

My landlord comes into my apartment when I am at work. I think he is going through my personal items. He says he is there to do repairs, but I haven't seen any improvement to all the problems I have complained about. Can he come into my apartment anytime he wants to? And what can I do to actually get him to repair my leaky faucets and broken stove?

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Other legal reference questions may be deceptively straightforward as initially presented by the user:

I was driving my brand-new red Mercedes, and it was totaled in an accident. I need to find all the cases on car accidents. Can you help me?

I received a letter from the state announcing a public hearing on a highway expansion that is going to go right through my neighborhood. Can the government build the highway if my neighbors and I object to it?

Regardless of how the question is phrased, the user is ultimately asking what law or laws apply to his or her situation. Your first task, as in any reference interview, is to analyze the information provided in order to identify the relevant facts and to weed out the irrelevant. To determine the relevant facts, you will usually need to ask additional questions. At this point, it is appropriate to briefly address concerns about the unauthorized practice of law.

Librarians conducting a reference interview should not be afraid to ask questions of someone seeking legal information. Asking questions in order to make recommendations about appropriate legal resources to consult **does not** constitute giving legal advice.

Do not be afraid to exercise your expertise as an information specialist! A librarian who conducts an effective reference interview can assist the user in identifying the facts that may be relevant to the legal issue (whatever it may be). While the user may have difficulty in initially describing the situation, by asking a few appropriate questions you can help the user help him or herself by starting to identify the relevant facts. Ultimately, however, it is the user's responsibility to determine the legal issue(s) involved in his or her situation and make a decision as to how he or she will handle the problem.

- *Using the TARP Method*

Many legal researchers use a systematic approach called the **TARP** method to analyze fact situations (see table on next page).

It is not always necessary to think of words to fit each TARP category. However, an analysis of the facts with TARP will suggest alternative ways in which the problem can be researched. Use your imagination.

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T	THING or subject matter, place, or property (e.g., divorce, contested will, dog bite)
A	Cause of ACTION or ground for defense (e.g., breach of contract, mistaken identity)
R	RELIEF sought or type of lawsuit (e.g., monetary damages, injunction)
P	PERSONS or PARTIES involved & their relationship to each other (e.g., husband-wife, employer-employee, landlord-tenant)

At this point, the most important task for the librarian is to try to ascertain the most relevant facts in the user's reference question. Begin the reference interview by ascertaining:

1. What information is already known? For example, the user may have part or all of a case name, the popular name of a law, or a code citation.
2. In which jurisdiction will research be conducted? Is the research only for California law, only federal law, or perhaps both? Remember that county or city municipal ordinances may also apply.
3. What are the factual issues involved? An issue is the question a court (or the researcher) must answer to solve a specific legal problem.

The issue may already be clearly formulated, such as:

What is the penalty for shoplifting?

Are handwritten wills valid in California?

Who is at fault in a car accident when one car rear-ends another?

One thing you can do is assist the user in separating the relevant from the irrelevant facts. Is it relevant that the two vehicles involved in the car accident example mentioned above were both painted red? Probably not. Is it relevant that one of the vehicles was a private car and the other was a fire engine with its siren blaring as it raced to answer an alarm? Perhaps, but do remember that the answer will ultimately be a legal conclusion, made either by the user acting as her own attorney, or by an attorney representing the user in the legal matter.

Once the user and the librarian identify the potentially relevant facts, the next

step is for the librarian to use his or her professional expertise to identify the appropriate resources that are likely to answer the user's questions. As in any other interaction, the librarian's responsibility is to assist the user in locating relevant resources that may answer the research question.

The major difference when providing legal reference is that the librarian must then step back, as it is the user's responsibility to do his or her own legal research and come to a conclusion about the legal issues and the relevant law that applies to the specific situation. Often, due to the complexity of legal issues, a person will reach the conclusion that he or she needs to consult a lawyer.

Identifying Relevant Legal Resources

Once the legal issue(s) have been identified, the challenge for the librarian is to identify the legal resources available in the collection or online which are most likely to provide answers. Many public libraries have some basic legal titles and self-help law books. It may be helpful to have one or two legal research books available for public library users, such as Nolo's [*Legal Research: How to Find and Understand the Law*](#). Public libraries in California may also want to have a number of the California law-specific self-help books.¹

It cannot be stressed enough that legal materials must be kept current, as the law is constantly changing. Many public libraries purchase the Nolo Press self-help law books, either in hard copy or in e-format, for the general public. [Nolo Press](#) and [Nolo Press Occidental](#) are very reputable publishers who are committed to keeping their materials up-to-date, so librarians can confidently refer users to the current editions of these resources.²

- *Consult a Secondary Source First*

Once the general legal terms are identified, the user will likely need to become more familiar with a specific area of law. Most researchers find it helpful to start with a secondary source such as a legal encyclopedia, a treatise, or a legal periodical article before researching primary authority. Secondary sources summarize and interpret the law in a narrative format. They also give useful

¹ Please see Chapter 10: [Bibliography of Self-Help Resources](#) for an extensive list of self-help publications and online resources.

² For more specific information on basic legal reference collections for public libraries, see Chapter 11: [Availability, Accessibility and Maintenance of Legal Collections](#).

background information and provide references to relevant primary sources.

One of the most useful secondary sources is a legal encyclopedia, which can be found in some non-law libraries. Legal encyclopedias provide good overviews of many legal topics, with numerous references to primary law and other secondary materials. There are three legal encyclopedias useful to researchers in California: *California Jurisprudence 3rd*, (abbreviated as *Cal. Jur. 3d*), which covers California law, and the two national encyclopedias: *American Jurisprudence 2d* (abbreviated as *Am. Jur. 2d*) and *Corpus Juris Secundum* (abbreviated as *C.J.S.*). The latter two titles cover all jurisdictions in the United States.

Another useful secondary source for those interested in California civil law is [Witkin's Summary of California Law](#). This authoritative, multi-volume treatise provides an overview of major areas of California law: torts, contracts, landlord-tenant, employment, and family law, to name a few. A separate Witkin treatise, [California Criminal Law](#) (scroll to bottom of page) discusses crimes and criminal procedure.

Common features of these secondary legal sources include subject indexes, as well as tables of cases and statutes cited. They are updated regularly with pocket parts (which are inserted in the back of the bound volumes) or supplementary pamphlets to reflect changes in the law or new cases. Please note that neither the [Witkin publications](#) nor the legal encyclopedias described above are available for free on the Internet.

- ***Accessing Print Legal Materials: Using the Indexes***

Despite many dire predictions to the contrary, printed law books are still widely used by researchers at all levels of experience. For the librarian with limited experience in legal materials, it can be comforting to know that using law books is not very different from using other kinds of reference books. Most law books have subject indexes, tables of contents, and tables of cases and statutes, as well as other helpful information. Whether looking for statutes, cases, or commentary on a particular topic, the index is usually the best place to begin research. In most indexes, both commonplace words as well as legal terms are used; often a subject is indexed under several different words or phrases. As an example: *statutes of limitation* may also be referred to as *limitations of actions*.

The first words to look for in the index are those that you have identified through TARP. If you are not successful using those words, you should not

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assume there is nothing on point. Also, you should not stop searching the index simply because you have found a single relevant reference. There may be other applicable statutes or relevant cases. For example, California statutes that address driving while intoxicated may be found in both the Penal and the Vehicle Codes.

As stated in other chapters of this publication and in the section above, novice legal researchers should start with a secondary source, such as a [Nolo Press](#) book. These publications are written in plain English and will provide citations to relevant cases and statutes. Secondary sources will also provide the researcher with keywords and terms that may not otherwise occur to the researcher.

For the purposes of identifying alternative terms, dictionaries and thesauri (particularly legal dictionaries and thesauri) may be consulted.³ Moreover, there are a number of legal Web sites which may be helpful in identifying the appropriate terminology for a particular issue.⁴ Later, this chapter will highlight the most reputable and authoritative legal Web sites.

USE ALTERNATE TERMS	
Closely related words	<i>Blind, as well as visually impaired or disabled</i>
Broader categories	<i>Instead of car or station wagon, use automobile, vehicle or motor vehicle</i>
Narrower categories	<i>Instead of accidents, try hit and run or slip and fall</i>
Synonyms	<i>Child, as well as minor, infant, juvenile or delinquent</i>
Antonyms	<i>Marriage and nuptial vs. divorce, dissolution, annulment or separation</i>

³ Examples of legal dictionaries and thesauri include *Black's Law Dictionary*, 9th ed. Bryan A. Garner, ed. in chief (West, 2009), *Burton's Legal Thesaurus*, 4th ed. William C. Burton (McGraw-Hill, 2007), *Random House Webster's Dictionary of the Law*, James E. Clapp (Random House, 2005), and *A Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage*, 3rd ed. Bryan A. Garner (Oxford University Press, 2011).

⁴ Please see [Law.com Dictionary](#), [Lawyers.com's Legal Dictionary](#), [Jurist's Legal Dictionaries](#), Nolo's [Plain-English Law Dictionary](#) and [FindLaw's Practice Area Definitions](#).

- *Print vs. Online Resources*

As previously stated, a vast amount of legal information is available for free online. In addition to government Web sites, there are commercially published online resources, such as West's [FindLaw](#) and Lexis's [Communities](#),⁵ as well as online resources created by academic and county law libraries. Online legal research can be daunting, however, depending on the researcher's familiarity with legal terminology and understanding of the organization of legal authority. As with all online research, the adage "garbage in, garbage out" is true when someone attempts to retrieve relevant information without a clear understanding of the legal concepts involved. The initial challenge, then, is in deciding whether it is more efficient to start with an online search, or whether it makes sense to start with the books. Consider the following two questions:

I have a traffic ticket. What is VC 23152?

I want to read the California case, Marvin v. Marvin.

If the librarian is able to identify VC as an abbreviation for Vehicle Code, he or she can assist the user in going online to the Web site for [Official California Legislative Information](#), which provides online access to the codes (select the button "California Law"), and locate section 23152 of the Vehicle Code⁶, which is one of the statutes dealing with driving under the influence. As for the *Marvin* case, the user can be directed to the California opinions database at the [Judicial Council's California Courts](#) Web site. Both of these resources will be discussed in more detail below. The point is that when a user has a specific citation to a case, statute, or regulation, going to the online resource is preferable in most situations.

Aside from questions relating to specific code sections, regulations, cases, and citing (discussed in greater detail below), the choice of using a print resource over an online resource depends on the complexity of the question and the expertise of the researcher. Certainly, a librarian's options may also be limited by the availability of print resources in his or her own collection, the proximity of a

⁵ [LexisNexis Communities](#) have replaced lexisOne. However, you are still able to access the same forms and free case law from this page.

⁶ Checkmark the box next to the Vehicle Code and enter the section number into the search box. Also note that a beta site for California legislative information was launched in the fall of 2011: <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>

law library with the needed sources, and the user's willingness or ability to visit that law library.

Finding the Law

Because access to the Internet is now almost universal in public libraries, and much primary legal authority is available through government and other Web sites, the remainder of this chapter will provide an overview of traditional print legal materials, providing references to online sources where appropriate. Legal information from each branch of government will be discussed in this order: statutes, regulations, case law, and a short description of local government ordinances and codes. The chapter concludes with a discussion of a few of the most reputable and useful legal Web sites.

Finding Statutes

Many public and college libraries in California collect one or more of the printed federal codes, as well as one or both California annotated codes. Once the user has a general idea of the major legal issues involved, he or she should be directed to the federal or state codes for applicable statutes. This is advisable even when the user has already done some case law research and believes he or she has identified the relevant cases. If the user is not sure whether state law or federal law governs, he or she should consult both the state and federal codes, as some legal issues are covered by more than one jurisdiction.

As discussed in detail in Chapter 1: [Introduction](#) and Chapter 7: [Federal Law](#), statutes are laws passed by the U.S. Congress and the various state legislatures. Federal laws are assigned public law numbers and California laws are assigned chapter numbers. Statutes are first published chronologically (by public law number or chapter number) and then reorganized by subject into codes. The federal code is published by the government in the *United States Code* (abbreviated *U.S.C.*) and in two commercial publications: *West's United States Code Annotated* (abbreviated *U.S.C.A.*) and *Lexis' United States Code Service* (abbreviated *U.S.C.S.*).

California codes (discussed in detail in Chapter 5: [California Law](#)) are published in *West's Annotated California Codes* (published by West) and in *Deering's California Codes Annotated* (published by Lexis). Annotated codes include references to case law and other sources in addition to the text of the statutes themselves. The text of the statutes is the same in all sets of codes for a particular jurisdiction; however, indexing words, case

annotations, and references to other sources are chosen by the publication editors and may differ from one set to another.

Each codified set includes a comprehensive general index, which is republished annually. In addition, each also includes a table of contents and a separate index for each subject code or title. Because some legal issues may be addressed in a number of laws, in several different subject codes or titles, it is best to start with the general index when looking for relevant statutory law. As an example, California laws involving drugs and other controlled substances can be found in the Penal Code, the Health and Safety Code, and the Vehicle Code.

Starting with the general index usually helps the researcher identify the relevant subject code title(s) that cover the broad legal topic. He or she can then go to the specific code and use the code index and/or table of contents to find the precise sections relevant to his or her research. Use the words identified through TARP to search the index. Both legal and factual words are indexed. Once the user has identified a relevant section of the code using the index, he or she can go to that code section and read the text of the statute. For the California codified sets, the code names and sections are on the spines of the volumes. For the federal codified sets, the title name, number and sections are on the spines.

Be sure to tell the user to read the information that follows the text of the code section. There are often references to legal encyclopedias, treatises (such as the above-mentioned [Witkin's](#)) or periodical articles that discuss the statute.

Most importantly, there will usually be case summaries (or annotations), often referred to as *Notes of Decisions*. The *Notes of Decisions* for a particular statute summarize the cases that have interpreted that section and include citations to the cases (See Chapter 2: [How to Read a Legal Citation](#)). For some statutes, especially in the federal codes, there may be many cases where the courts have interpreted or applied the law. The case annotations are organized by specific topic and subtopic, with an outline of the topics and subtopics provided at the beginning of the *Notes*. After identifying some potentially relevant cases in the annotations, the researcher should read the complete opinions in these cases (discussed further below). Legal researchers never rely solely on the case annotations to understand the legal issues that were decided in the case.

Those researching California law should know that in addition to the general indexes contained at the end of the *West's* and *Deering's* codified sets, there is an alternative general index to the California codes entitled *LARMAC, The Consolidated Index to the Constitution and Laws of California*, which is republished annually.

- ***Using a Popular Name Table***

Another useful tool contained in many of the code sets is the Popular Name Table. This table is useful when the user knows the name of a particular act, but not the code citation. For example, if a user wants to find the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, she can look up this name in the Popular Name Table of either *U.S.C.A.* or *U.S.C.S.* to identify the correct title and section number in the federal code. In both the federal and state codes published by West, the Popular Name Tables are located at the end of the General Indexes (after the Z's). Fortunately, there is free online access to the federal Popular Name Table from the following two Web sites:

[U.S. House of Representatives' Office of Law the Revision Counsel](#)
[Cornell Law School's Legal Information Institute \(LII\)](#)

While *Deering's California Codes Annotated* does not contain a separate popular name table, the General Index for this set includes popular names of many state laws (e.g., the Brown Act) as index entries. An additional publication entitled *Shepard's Acts and Cases by Popular Name: Federal and State* allows the researcher to locate federal and state legislation by popular name, but is usually found only in law libraries.

- ***Updating Statutory Law in Print***

The annotated federal and California codes, like many other types of legal publications, are updated by annual pocket parts and supplementary pamphlets, each one of which incorporates the changes in the law that have taken place in a particular bound volume of the code since that volume was last published. Researchers must remember to check the relevant section(s) in the bound volume(s) and in the corresponding pocket part(s) or supplementary pamphlet(s) to determine if the law has been amended or repealed, and whether there are new case annotations or other references.

Unlike the annotated codes, the official *United States Code* is not updated regularly by pocket parts or supplementary pamphlets that correspond to specific volumes of the code. Instead, the official code is republished every six years and is updated annually by a series of hardbound supplements. For this reason, researchers are advised not to rely on the printed *U.S. Code* for the most current version of a statute.

There are additional sources that a researcher can use to find even more recent statutes and amendments not yet incorporated into the annual supplements. For example, both *U.S.C.A.* and *U.S.C.S.* have supplementary pamphlets that update the sets after the annual pocket parts are published. These pamphlets follow the same classification scheme as the bound volumes are organized by subject code or title. Even more up-to-date than those supplements, are the monthly advance sheets to *United States Code Congressional and Administrative News* (abbreviated *U.S.C.C.A.N.*), which contain the text of newly enacted legislation, arranged by public law number.⁷ Both *U.S.C.S.* and *U.S.C.A.* also have legislative service pamphlets that contain the text of the most recent public laws arranged by public law number.⁸

For California statutes, both *West's* and *Deering's* have advance legislative service pamphlets that can be used to update the annual pocket parts or supplementary pamphlets contained in their respective codes. The legislative service pamphlets for California contain statutes recently passed by the California legislature, which are arranged chronologically by chapter number.⁹

The advance sheets to *U.S.C.C.A.N.*, as well as the California legislative service pamphlets, contain subject indexes and a number of tables. One such table enables the researcher to use a bill number to identify the chapter number or public law number of the new statute. The indexes allow you to locate recent legislation by subject and popular names of acts. In addition, the current California laws are available online, as described in the section below.

Unfortunately, this multi-step process is cumbersome. The commercial databases (Westlaw, LexisNexis, and other lower-cost alternatives, such as [Loislaw](#) and [Fastcase](#)) are updated frequently and offer the researcher the assurance that he or she is relying on a law that has not been recently amended. Local academic and county law libraries often provide public access to these commercial legal services for free. Users can either contact the library directly or search the libraries' Web sites for information on electronic databases available for public use. Below is more information on several of these online databases.

- *Federal Statutes on the Internet*

⁷ Most law libraries have this multi-volume set.

⁸ For more detailed information on federal materials, see Chapter 7: [Federal Law](#).

⁹ For more detailed information on California materials, see Chapter 5: [California Law](#).

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There are several websites that provide free access to the unannotated federal statutes. While all use the same *U.S. Code* (prepared by the Law Revision Counsel of the House), each has a different “front end” (way to access and search). Deciding which site to use for federal statutory research is dependent on how much information is available at the start of the search session, as well as the type of information that is sought. Many legal researchers often go to more than one web site to be sure that they have located all relevant information:

1. [*Cornell's Legal Information Institute \(LII\)*](#)

This site provides access to the *United States Code* that is easy to navigate for the researcher who is familiar with federal law and knows the title in which a statute will be contained. The searcher can enter the title and section number of the code and be linked to the current text as produced on the House of Representatives site. Another great feature of this site is the [Popular Names of Acts in the US Code](#) that provides links to statutes and other resources related to recent federal laws, such as legislative documents on [Thomas](#). There is also a search engine that permits keyword searches.

2. [*House of Representatives, Office of the Law Revision Counsel*](#)

The House's version of the *Code* actually links directly to the Web site of the Office of the Law Revision Counsel, the agency responsible for compiling and publishing the *U.S.C.* This site is fairly easy to navigate and one of the best features is that recent amendments to laws are incorporated, and a note about the amendment is appended at the end of each statute. It also has very simple search options for researchers who are looking for the text of a statute and already have the *U.S.C.* citation. Furthermore, it offers the option of keyword searches within specific titles. However, in terms of citation to the official *U.S.C.*, the following caution on the site should be noted: “*While every effort has been made to ensure that the Code database on the web site is accurate, those using it for legal research should verify their results against the printed version of the United States Code available through the Government Printing Office.*” Also note that the new [United States Code beta](#) site was launched in the fall 2011, which introduces new search features.

3. [*United States Code on GPO's Federal Digital System \(FDsys\)*](#)

This is the official online version of the *U.S. Code*, produced online in the same way that the print *U.S. Code* is published by the Government Printing Office (GPO). FDsys contains the virtual main editions of the

U.S. Code, which has been provided to GPO by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the U.S. House of Representatives. The most current edition is the 2006 edition. Annual cumulative supplements are published in order to present the most current information.

4. [*Library of Congress' Thomas*](#)

This is Congress' official Web site, which is maintained through the Library of Congress. A link on the homepage sends the researcher to the *Code* as published by the [Office of the Law Revision Counsel](#) as discussed above. In addition, Thomas has federal bills, committee reports, and other legislative documents.

- *California Statutes on the Internet*

California statutes are available on the [Official California Legislative Information](#) Web site. This site is maintained by the Legislative Counsel of California and contains the text of the current California codes. The codes are searchable by keyword and citation, or can be browsed section by section within each subject title. A new [beta site](#) for California legislative information was released in the fall of 2011. As of Nov. 4, 2011, it did not yet include a *California Law* option.

Finding Agency Rules & Regulations

Administrative law is a huge, complex category of law. Often, when Congress or a state legislature sees a need to regulate in a certain area, it will write a statute in very general terms and delegate the power to issue specific rules and regulations to an administrative agency that specializes in this area. The rules and regulations issued by the administrative agencies are referred to as administrative law. Agencies deal with such issues as eligibility requirements for Medi-Cal and safety standards for various products such as toys.

As our society has become more and more complex, Congress and the state legislatures have been forced to delegate more and more of their legislative powers to administrative agencies, which has significantly augmented the role that administrative law plays in our legal system and in our everyday lives. In California, there are more than 200 agencies, departments, commissions, and other entities that have some regulatory power. Chapter 5: [California Law](#) and Chapter 7: [Federal Law](#) discusses federal and California administrative materials in more detail. Below is a summary of the major resources for locating federal and California administrative law.

- *Federal Regulations*

The Government Printing Office (GPO) publishes federal administrative regulations, which are first issued in chronological order in the *Federal Register*. Regulations are later codified by subject in the *Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.)*. Like the *U.S. Code*, the *C.F.R.* is organized into 50 broad subject titles. There is an official subject index to the *C.F.R.* contained at the end of the set. The entire set is revised annually in paper bound volumes. Each year has a different spine color. There are also commercially published *C.F.R.* indexes. Researchers may need to update a specific *C.F.R.* section, to determine if it has been recently amended. The *List of CFR Sections Affected (LSA)* pamphlet lists all of the *C.F.R.* sections affected by new regulations issued since the *C.F.R.* annual revision. Consult the *Federal Register* issues, which contain *CFR Parts Affected* tables for the months following the latest *LSA* that covers your subject. These tables usually appear in the *Federal Register* issues at the end of each month. All of the sources discussed in this paragraph are available online through [GPO's Federal Digital System \(FDsys\)](#).¹⁰

- *California Regulations*

In California, regulations are codified by subject and published in *Barclays Official California Code of Regulations (CCR)*, which is published by West in loose-leaf format. The state's administrative code is divided into 27 titles and each title focuses on a particular topic (e.g., Title 5, Education). All of the rules for a particular agency are kept together in *CCR*. Each title contains detailed tables of contents that can be consulted to find the relevant regulations. There is a detailed subject index for the *California Code of Regulations*, called the *Master Index*. The state regulations are also available online through the Web site of the [Office of Administrative Law \(OAL\)](#).

The OAL has contracted with West to provide online public access to the state regulations. However, one title, Title 24 Building Standards, is not published as part of the *Official California Code of Regulations*, nor is it available on the OAL

¹⁰ The migration of information from GPO Access into FDsys was completed in 2011. As of November 5, 2011, GPO Access is no longer updated or maintained. Until it is shut down in 2012, it will be available as a reference archive. For a table that outlines the relationship between the collections on GPO Access and FDsys collections, see http://www.gpo.gov/help/gpo_access_and_fdsys_content_collection_mapping.htm

Web site. Title 24 is copyrighted and published by the International Conference of Building Officials.¹¹

- ***Other Methods of Finding Regulations***

The Master Index to the *California Code of Regulations* contains a *Statutes to Regulations* table that lists the regulations related to the various California statutory code sections. For federal regulations, the official *C.F.R.* index contains a similar table called a *Table of Authorities*, which lists the regulations issued under the authority of the various federal statutory code sections. Researchers who have a statutory code section may find these tables particularly useful when trying to locate related regulations. Regulations related to a particular statute may also be referenced in the annotations to the code section in either *West's Annotated California Codes* or *Deering's California Codes Annotated*.

Finding Case Law

Case law is judge-made law issued by the appellate courts in the form of written opinions. Courts and attorneys are concerned with case law because our legal system is based in part on the recording of precedents. Under this system, courts apply the same law to similar cases. Sometimes, courts are bound to follow prior precedents (e.g., when the precedent comes from the U.S. Supreme Court). Even if the prior authority is not binding on a court, the prior decisions still have persuasive authority and courts rely on these prior decisions in subsequent cases. Generally, the more similar a previously decided case is to the case at hand, the more likely it is that a court will follow the prior precedent. Thus, it is the job of the researcher to look for cases that are as similar as possible (both from a factual, as well as a legal standpoint) to the case at hand.

- ***Traditional Subject Approach to Case Law: Print Digests***

Because cases are published chronologically, historically the researcher needed an index to access case law. Cases are indexed in multi-volume sets called digests. For California cases, two digests are available: *McKinney's Digest of*

¹¹ Please note that you will not find the California Building Standards Code (Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations) online for free. However, Part 2 and the California Fire Code, Part 9 of Title 24, are available for viewing online via the [International Code Council's](#) Web site. In addition, Title 24, Part 1, 6, 8, 10, 11, & 12 are available in PDF form on the [Building Standards Commission Web site](#). The California Building Standards Code is published every 3 years and is updated by supplements in intervening years. It is available for purchase or available to the public at no cost through [depository libraries](#) (click on the "DOC" link for list of names and addresses of depository libraries throughout California).

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Official Reports and *West's California Digest*. For federal cases, there is the *West Federal Practice Digest* series, which indexes all reported federal opinions, including the U.S. Supreme Court. West publishes the *Supreme Court Digest* and Lexis publishes the *Digest of U.S. Supreme Court Reports, Lawyers' Edition*. Both focus exclusively on U.S. Supreme Court cases.

West also publishes the *Decennial Digest* series, which covers all federal and state cases from throughout the country, as well as regional digests that correspond to various regional reporters published by West (e.g., *Pacific Digest*, *South Eastern Digest*, etc.).

The West digests are organized by legal topics, which are subdivided into many smaller sections known as key numbers, each of which represents a specific legal/factual issue.

All digests have multi-volume subject indexes. In the digests published by West, these indexes are called *Descriptive Word Indexes*. To find cases that are factually similar to the user's, one should use the words identified through TARP as discussed at the beginning of the chapter. *The Descriptive Word Index* directs the researcher to a topic and a key number. Once the topic and key number that covers the legal issue are identified, the digest volume containing that topic and key number must be located. Under the key number, you will find many short summaries (i.e., annotations) of cases that deal with the legal issue at hand.

Researchers must read through the annotations to identify the cases that may be promising. At the end of each annotation is the name of the case and its citation. Again, users should always be advised to read the actual opinion in a case and not to rely solely on the annotations in the digests, which are written by editors, not judges.

Because the key numbers are arranged in the digest in a logical classification scheme, users who are having difficulty isolating a relevant key number from the *Descriptive Word Index* may find it helpful to browse one or more of the topical outlines that exist for each topic in the digest. A list of the digest topics can be found at the beginning of all of the digest volumes. Even if a user has already found a relevant key number, she may still wish to browse the topical outline for that topic to find related key numbers. Another way of finding other relevant topics and key numbers is to look up a relevant case in the appropriate case reporter. West case reporters contain *headnotes* (which summarize the rules of law) at the beginning of the case with the relevant topic and key numbers also

provided. Often, browsing the *headnotes* of a relevant case will provide a researcher with ideas of other relevant topics and key numbers to look up in the digest.

Note: West uses the same topics and key numbers in each of its digests. This enables the researcher to readily find relevant cases from a multitude of jurisdictions.

Like other legal materials, the digests are updated with pocket parts and supplementary pamphlets. When looking up a particular topic and key number, after checking the appropriate bound volume of the digest, remember to check the pocket part or supplementary pamphlet for more recent case annotations under your relevant topic and key number.

- ***Case Name Approach***

What if the user has the name of a case, such as *Brown v. Board of Education*, but no citation? A case citation can be found by consulting the *Table of Cases* volumes found at the end of the digest. The *Table of Cases* is merely an alphabetical listing, by plaintiff, showing the name of all reported cases covered in the digest. There is also a *Defendant-Plaintiff Table*. Like all other digest volumes, the *Table of Cases* and *Defendant-Plaintiff Table* are updated with pocket parts or pamphlets.

As mentioned earlier, *Shepard's Acts and Cases By Popular Name: Federal and State* may also be an effective way of finding the citation to a well-known case by its popular name (e.g., *Closed Shop Case*). However, it is not comprehensive, so the digest tables may need to be consulted for less prominent cases.

- ***Using the Annotated Codes to Find Case Law***

As noted above, case law can be very important when doing statutory research. When looking for cases related to a particular statute one should begin with the case annotations contained in the annotated codes (as opposed to starting with the digests). After consulting the annotations (and reading the cases summarized therein), one should consult the relevant digest for additional cases, since the digest may summarize cases not included in the annotations to the codes.

- ***Legal Citators***

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[*Shepard's Citations*](#) enables a researcher to find all of the subsequent cases that have cited to a particular case. *Shepard's* is used primarily to trace the history of a case, to determine whether a case is still valid and to find other relevant authority to support one's arguments. Researchers should always "*Shepardize*" a case before relying on it in court or in a court document. The *Shepard's* hardcopy sets are kept up-to-date with both bound supplements and supplementary pamphlets. Researchers using *Shepard's* must consult all supplementary volumes and pamphlets in order to do a complete search for the subsequent treatment of a case. The preface pages of each volume contain detailed illustrations of actual usage and have a table of abbreviations. Researchers should be cautioned that since judicial opinions are issued daily, the *Shepard's* print copies are out of date from the date that they are published. Additionally, they are extremely cumbersome to use, especially when compared with online versions. Hence, because many law libraries subscribe to [*Shepard's online*](#) through LexisNexis, users should contact their local law library. Westlaw has developed a similar online service, called [KeyCite](#), which links the researcher to other cases. Again, some law libraries provide public access to Westlaw. A list of county law libraries is available online at the [Public Law Library](#), under [Find Your ...](#)

- ***Locating Case Law on the Internet***

Until recently, a user who was attempting to do extensive case law research, even with a fairly clear set of facts, usually needed to be referred to the closest law library open to the public. This was because searching for case law on the Internet was frustrating and time-consuming, since the commercially published reporter series containing appellate decisions are copyrighted publications, which are not available for free online.

Increasingly, recent and even historical cases are available for free online. In November 2009, Google launched a Legal Opinions and Journals database (available via its [Google Scholar](#) search). Go to the [Advanced Scholar Search](#) page to limit your search to only U.S. federal court opinions or to search court opinions from individual states or combination of states. Keep in mind that because you are searching the full text opinions your searches will inevitably result in many cases not directly relevant to your research. Please see the section on Google's [Advanced Scholar Search Tips](#) for options on how to refine your search.

In addition, various sites, covering specific legal topics, often contain the full text of significant cases. All appellate courts, federal and state, are now making their

recent decisions available on their Web sites. Most of these Web sites can now be searched by case name, docket number or date of decision, and many sites have some type of search engine. Retrospective coverage for earlier decisions, however, varies significantly from one site to another.¹²

United States Supreme Court cases can be located on a number of Web sites. One of the easiest to access is [FindLaw's US Supreme Court Opinions](#). This site contains U.S. Supreme Court opinions back to 1893 (volume 150 of the *United States Reports*), which can be searched by citation, case name or keyword.

As stated previously in this chapter, California cases are available online for free on the [Judicial Council's California Courts](#) site. Several years ago, Lexis agreed to provide free online access to California cases as part of its contract to be the official publisher of the state court reporters. A link on the official court Web site takes the researcher to a special Lexis page for searching California cases from 1850 to within six months of publication. Cases can be retrieved by citation to the official and unofficial reporters. Natural language is the default search. For terms and connectors searching, click on the Advanced Search link. A new source worth noting is [SCOCAL](#), a joint project between the Robert Crown Law Library at Stanford Law School and [Justia](#), Inc. The site provides free access to the full text California Supreme Court opinions from 1934 to present, along with detailed annotations of selected cases written and edited by students in Stanford's Advanced Legal Research class. Also note that some briefs and other court documents are available on this site, free of charge.

Finding Local Government Law

City and county ordinances are local statutes passed by city councils and county boards of supervisors. For most local jurisdictions, there is a codified set that arranges the local ordinances by topic (like the state and federal codes). Usually there is a subject index for the local code. Today, most municipalities have official Web sites that publish their ordinances and codes, in addition to other official information, such as minutes of meetings, calendars of events, etc.¹³ However, if a local community is slow in publishing its ordinances or does not have a Web site, the county office or city hall may

¹² For a links to federal and state courts, please see WashLaw's [United States Courts](#) and [State Resources](#) pages.

¹³ Please see Chapter 6: [Bibliography of California Law Resources](#) for a list of municipal code & ordinance resources. Also useful is the Local Gov't tab on UCLA Law Library's LibGuide on [Online Legal Research](#) at <http://libguides.law.ucla.edu/content.php?pid=34909&sid=256604>.

be your only recourse to finding this information.

Online Resources

The increasing availability of online legal information offers the advantages of speed and timeliness for the experienced researcher. In recent years, costs for subscribing to LexisNexis, Westlaw, and other online legal services, have become more affordable, as legal information vendors have increasingly marketed their products outside of the traditional legal community. Today, researchers can subscribe to some legal databases for as little as \$100 per month.

The good news is that many county law libraries in California now offer access to one or more of the subscription legal databases for the public. To locate the closest county law library to you and obtain information about their publicly available resources, please see Appendix C of this publication or go to the [Public Law Library](#) Web site (click on [Find Your ...](#))

Commercial Legal Databases

For some users, subscription to one of the commercial legal databases may be a viable alternative to the extra time it would require to visit a law library or to navigate the free resources on the Internet. These users would be fairly advanced online researchers and not averse to spending their own money, in exchange for the convenience of doing their research from their own computer. There are several options from which to choose: [Fastcase](#), [LexisNexis Communities](#),¹⁴ [Loislaw](#), [VersusLaw](#), and [Westlaw by Credit Card](#). These legal services are described in [Georgetown's Free & Low Cost Legal Research Guide](#).

Free Internet Sources

In addition to Georgetown's Guide, Pace Law Library has a guide entitled [Free and Low Cost Resources for Legal Research](#), which includes several New York state sources. UCLA Law Library also has a guide called [Online Legal Research: Beyond LexisNexis and Westlaw](#) that includes many California resources.

¹⁴ As of April 5, 2011, LexisNexis discontinued LexisNexis by Credit Card, its Research Value Packages and transactional access to enhanced case law available at lexisONE. In addition, [LexisNexis Communities](#) have replaced lexisOne, although you are still able to access the same forms and free case law offered through lexisOne.

In concluding this chapter, here is a summary of several of the better-known legal Web sites:

- [FindLaw](#)

Probably the largest and best known of all the legal meta-sites, FindLaw was originally created in 1996 by several attorneys who sold their site to Thomson West in 2001. FindLaw has a user-friendly search engine (i.e., Law Crawler, powered by Google) that can search within the site or across the Web. Users create a free “My FindLaw” account and can create a customized homepage for their specific legal research requirements. And most important of all, users have confidence that information retrieved through this site will be legitimate and reliable. The “new” FindLaw continues to grow and has some great features, such as offering separate interfaces for the public, for the legal practitioner, and for students.

While researchers are able to access many of the same thousands of links to law and related sites (more than 50,000) from any of the three interfaces, FindLaw for the Public offers information in more than 100 subject areas, which are all arranged in an easy-to-view format:

1. Overview of the legal topic;
2. Subject FAQ (frequently asked questions);
3. Links to related resources, including forms.

- [Cornell Law School's Legal Information Institute \(LII\)](#)

One of the most venerable portals to legal information, LII continues to be one of the most frequently visited Web sites since its launch in 1993. LII provides links to more than 90,000 other sites. Its version of the *United States Code* (discussed above) is the single most heavily visited source for this item. In addition, all opinions of the United States Supreme Court from 1990 to the current term are available (organized by party name), as well as over 600 earlier decisions selected for their historic importance.

There are a number of easily-accessible drop-down menus for the most frequently accessed sources from LII's home page, including: federal and state constitutions and codes, court opinions, law by jurisdiction, basic legal citation information, and directories, which includes a link to the [University Law Review Project](#). This service allows the researcher to sign up to receive abstracts of current law review articles (from the LII homepage, go to the *Directories* page and click on *Journals* for registration information). This also links the researcher back to [FindLaw's Academic Law Reviews and Journals](#) page.

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The real highlight of Cornell LII's site, however, is under the "Law about" link to [Wex](#), "a collaboratively-edited legal dictionary and encyclopedia" which offers the online researcher access to primary and secondary materials arranged in more than 130 main legal topics, each of which is broken down in the following manner:

1. Each topic begins with an "Overview," which offers a concise explanation/definition of the legal topic, similar to that found in traditional print legal encyclopedias such as *C.J.S.* or *Am. Jur. 2d*.
2. There is also a "Menu of Sources" which provides links to online federal and state materials, including statutes, regulations, and selected court decisions about the particular area of law.
3. "Other Resources" links the researcher to other Internet (both free and fee) sites with information about these topics.
4. Finally, there are links to "Other Topics" in Wex, which are related to the present topic.

- [Washburn University School of Law's WashLaw](#)

This site, maintained by the staff of the Washburn Law Library, organizes much of the information available in an alphabetical index by jurisdiction, for state, federal, and international law. Each page is organized similarly, with links to the following:

1. The official home page for the jurisdiction
2. Statutes and other legislative documents
3. Administrative codes and regulations
4. Courts and related agencies, other resources (opinions, forms, rules, etc.)
5. Historical documents (if available), such as constitutions

There is also a separate "Master Index," which provides an interesting A-Z listing of law-related topics not found on other sites.

(Hint: For easy, one-stop shopping to all official websites for California's state, county and local governments, bookmark [WashLaw's California page](#)).



Internet Sources Cited in this Chapter

California Law

- Legislative Counsel of California: www.leginfo.ca.gov
For California Bills (1993-1994 legislative session to current), California Codes and the California Constitution.
- Judicial Council of California's California Courts:
<http://www.courts.ca.gov/opinions.htm>
California court opinions, forms, and rules (links at the top of screen)
- California Office of Administrative Law: www.oal.ca.gov
California Code of Regulations, Notice Register, Proposed Regulations, and State Agency Index
- California Building Standards Commission: www.bsc.ca.gov
- Public Law Library: www.publiclawlibrary.org

Federal Law

- GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys): <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/home.action>
Congressional bills, the U.S. Code, Code of Federal Regulations, and the Federal Register
- Thomas: <http://thomas.loc.gov>
U.S. Congressional Bills, Resolutions, Schedules, Calendars

Legal Dictionaries

- Law.com: <http://dictionary.law.com/>
- Lawyers.com: <http://research.lawyers.com/glossary/>
- Jurist's Legal Dictionaries: <http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/dictionary.htm>
- Nolo's Free Dictionary: <http://www.nolo.com/dictionary>
- FindLaw's Practice Area Definitions: <http://public.findlaw.com/library/padefinitions.html>

Low Cost Legal Databases

- Fastcase: <https://www.fastcase.com>
- LexisNexis Communities Portal:
<http://www.lexisnexis.com/community/portal/content/lexisonelandingpage.aspx>
- Loislaw: <http://www.loislaw.com/>
- VersusLaw: <http://www.versuslaw.com/>

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Law Library Research Guides

- Georgetown Law Library's Free & Low Cost Legal Research: <http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/freelowcost.cfm>
- Pace Law Library's Free and Low Cost Resources for Legal Research: <http://libraryguides.law.pace.edu/free>
- UCLA Law Library's Online Legal Research: Beyond LexisNexis & Westlaw: <http://libguides.law.ucla.edu/onlinelegalresearch>

Commercial Legal Publishers:

- Nolo Press: <http://www.nolo.com>
- Nolo Press Occidental: <http://www.nolotech.com>
- Witkin Legal Institute: <http://www.witkin.com/index.html>
- Lexis Shepard's Citations Service: <http://law.lexisnexis.com/shepards>
- Lexis Shepard's in Print: <http://www.lexisnexis.com/shepards-citations/print/features.asp>
- Westlaw's KeyCite: <http://west.thomson.com/support/user-guide/keycite.aspx>

Chapter 4

LEGAL REFERENCE VS. LEGAL ADVICE

“No person shall practice law in California unless the person is an active member of the State Bar.”¹

In California, it is illegal for individuals who are not members of the California State Bar Association to practice law. The practice of law has been defined by California courts as:

“ . . . doing or performing services in a court of justice, in any matter depending therein, throughout its various stages, and in conformity to the adopted rules of procedure. But in a larger sense it includes legal advice and counsel, and the preparation of legal instruments and contracts by which legal rights are secured, although such matter may or may not be pending in court.”²

Contents:

- [*The Issue Presented*](#)
- [*What an Non-Attorney Can and Cannot Do*](#)
- [*How to Help Users Find Legal Assistance*](#)
- [*Have a Written Policy*](#)
- [*Suggested Readings*](#)
- [*Internet Sources Cited in this Chapter*](#)

The Issue Presented

When or in what situations legal reference may constitute the unauthorized practice of law has been the topic of professional library literature since the early 20th century.³ If one takes the most common sense view, the issue is whether a user who goes to a public library to do legal research reasonably believes that the communications between him or her and the librarian creates an attorney-client relationship. Most people, queried

¹ California Business & Professions Code §§ [6125-6133](#).

² Smallberg v. The State Bar, 212 *California Reports* 113, 119 (1931), citing Eley v. Miller, 34 *Northeastern Reporter* 836, 837-838 (Ind. Ct. App. 1893).

³ Margaret E. Hall, “Reference Work in a Law Library,” 31 *Law Library Journal* 238 (1938).

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about this scenario, would probably answer with a resounding “no.” However, while there is no documented case of a librarian being prosecuted for practicing law without a license, the real concern for our profession is a matter of ethics. No librarian wants to give bad or inaccurate information to their library’s users.

Nonetheless, it is foreseeable that in an effort to provide good service, a librarian may go beyond providing reference assistance and begin offering personal opinions or advice. Under this scenario, the librarian may inadvertently, but unduly, influence the user in deciding not only what his or her specific legal issue may be, but also the course of action which should be taken to resolve the legal issue.

It is important to remember that in times of stress, people often neglect to mention facts that may be crucial to the legal issue. If the librarian is mistaken in his or her understanding of the facts or legal issues involved (possibly because the user has not communicated his or her question clearly), the librarian’s interventions could negatively affect the ultimate outcome of the user’s legal problem.

Imagine the following scenario at the reference desk of your public library:

Library User: I would like information on security deposits. I just got a letter from my old landlord. He is not going to give me any of my security deposit back. I left the apartment cleaner than it was when I moved into it! In fact, I even painted the apartment while I lived there for almost a year. Now I get this letter from him saying I won't be getting my deposit back, and not only that, he is threatening to sue me for more money!”

Public Librarian: “Landlords can’t do that! They have to provide you with a list of any deductions for repairs they make from your deposit,” as she prepares to hand a copy of Nolo’s [Tenant’s Rights](#) book to the user.

Library User: “Really? In that case, I am going to the court to get the papers to sue him first right now.” Out of the library he goes, without looking at the book being offered to him.

In this scenario, there is no issue of unauthorized practice of law. However, by commenting on the user’s situation, the librarian may have inadvertently influenced the library user’s course of action in dealing with this potential legal problem. Without conducting a thorough reference interview, the librarian was not able to assist the user in identifying the facts which may determine the legal issues involved.

It is possible that the landlord had to re-paint the entire apartment to cover the inappropriate colors (think neon pink, yellow & blue) chosen by Library User (who did leave the apartment clean). Also, Library User may not have paid rent for the last month he lived in the apartment, assuming it was covered by the move-in deposit. The cost of repainting the apartment may have been more than the amount the landlord was holding in the tenant's account, causing the landlord to demand more money from Library User. There are a number of unknown facts which could impact the legal issues of this landlord-tenant dispute.

This scenario is an example of how the comments of a librarian who does not know all the relevant facts might influence a library user to act in ways that may not be in their best interests. Presumably, no librarian would ever knowingly provide bad information to users, but when assisting those seeking legal information, additional sensitivity and caution is important. Conducting a thorough reference interview⁴ allows the librarian to assist the user in identifying potential legal issues such as:

Can the landlord deduct for the cost of re-painting the apartment when the tenant lived there for a year?

Is the letter Library User received the legal equivalent to the required "list of repairs and deductions"?

What a Non-Attorney Can and Cannot Do

Librarians in all types of libraries are committed to giving the very best service possible. The following is a list of "**dos and don'ts**" to serve as a guide when public librarians assist a user with legal reference questions. In general, librarians who recommend books and other sources, teach legal research techniques, and help in constructing searches, are providing legal reference.

On the other hand, a librarian who "takes over" the user's legal question by interpreting and making conclusions about the legal problem may inadvertently cross the line. Librarians, paralegals and other non attorneys may know where to find legal information, but are not trained in the procedures and rules of the court, or in legal theory, and most importantly, are not licensed to practice law. It is imperative that users research their own issues and come to their own conclusions about how the law applies

⁴See Chapter 3: [Basic Legal Research Techniques](#) for additional information on how to identify the relevant legal issues in a reference interview.

CHAPTER 4: LEGAL REFERENCE VS. LEGAL ADVICE

to their particular situations.

Ultimately, it is the user's decision as to what the particular legal issue is and how or whether he or she will handle his or her own legal problem or obtain representation. There are plenty of legal procedures self-represented litigants can handle themselves, such as small claims court matters, but when issues get complicated, there is usually no substitute for a good attorney. Attorneys are trained in the law, they understand legal theory, they have experience with forms and court procedures, and they have malpractice insurance in case matters go awry.

LEGAL REFERENCE	(Probably) LEGAL ADVICE
Non-attorneys <i>do</i> :	Non-attorneys <i>do not</i> :
Recommend law books on particular subjects, including books that provide forms and will explain the law and procedures of the courts, and demonstrate how to effectively use them by explaining the indexes and tables of contents	Recommend a specific legal form, explain how to fill in the form, or fill out a legal form for the user. (It is permissible to refer users to form books. The user will need to ultimately decide whether to use those forms or not.)
Help to find the broad definition of legal words or phrases, usually by using sources such as <i>Black's Law Dictionary</i> , <i>Cal. Jur. 3rd</i> , <i>Words and Phrases</i> , etc.	Offer an opinion as to how a user's specific legal problem should be handled.
Perform an online search to provide the user with information which may be relevant to his legal question	Identify any single law as <i>the</i> statute (or regulation, or case) that will answer the user's legal question.
Suggest search terms when using indexes or finding tools	Help a person by interpreting the law (statutes, regulations, or cases)
Teach legal research techniques such as the use of digests and Shepard's	Write a brief, prepare a will, or draft a contract
Locate biographical information about attorneys and judges	Interpret any legal document from a court or an attorney

How to Help Users Find Legal Assistance

There may be a variety of legal resources, agencies, or other groups in your community that are not well-publicized. This section briefly describes three steps that librarians may take to prepare for law-related questions from library users. For further information, please see Chapter 9: *Assisting Self-Represented Litigants* for a description of the California Courts' programs for *pro se* litigants, as well as those offered by California county law libraries, nonprofit legal aid organizations and local law schools.

First call or check out the Web site of the closest public law library

There are often legal resources available in the community to assist people who are reluctant or unable to consult an attorney when they are initially confronted with a legal problem. For public librarians in California, a great resource is the Council of California County Law Librarians' [Public Law Library](#) Web site. There are five "modules": (1) [Ask Now](#) is a law librarian service which lets you ask questions and get answers in real time. Hours are limited to week days; (2) [Self-Help](#) provides links to Web sites which include content for use by the self-represented litigant; (3) [Find Your...](#) allows users to find the nearest county law library; (4) [Mini Research Class](#) is a mini research guide intended to help users learn the legal process. Classes include "Learning How to Research," "Finding the Forms You Need," and "The Importance of Updating Your Research;" and (5) [Legal Links](#) are links divided into categories to help the researcher find the information he or she requires. Categories include "General Legal Research," "California Resources," "Federal Resources," "Local Law," "Legal Directories," and "Forms and Rules."

There is a county law library in every county in California. Though they are funded separately from the public library, they are open to the public, and offer some reference service. They usually have a good collection of self-help law books, such as the [Nolo Press](#) publications. While many law librarians do have legal training, they do not give any legal advice--they provide reference service. County law libraries often compile a listing of local legal resource services (such as the State Bar-approved lawyer referral service or a legal clinic which offers *pro bono* services in the area), and they will be happy to share this information with public libraries. In addition, because many county law libraries are located in or near courthouses, the librarians may be able to provide information about domestic violence clinics which assist victims in getting temporary restraining orders, as well as other important programs, such as adoption clinics, mediation services for divorce, landlord-tenant, or neighbor disputes. Library users may be unaware of these resources, which may prove to be good starting points.

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Be familiar with local bar associations and other legal service providers

You may also contact your local county bar association to find out what resources they have available in your area. Many county bar associations in California have *pro bono* programs, where attorneys volunteer time to legal causes and to people who cannot afford an attorney. In addition, some law schools offer legal clinics run by students who are supervised by attorneys. Contact your local law schools to get more information regarding this option.

There are legal aid societies and community outreach programs which may host legal clinics. Often senior citizen centers will have a lawyer visit on a regular basis.

Be familiar with the basic online federal and state resources

Check out the Web sites of federal and state government agencies for answers to questions about their internal policies and procedures. This will assist library users who are involved in a dispute with these agencies. [*The United States Government Manual*](#) is often a good resource to begin a quest for information about federal agencies. For general information about federal laws and regulations, remember to refer the user to [USA.gov](#).

For information about California law and legal resources, do not forget to refer the user to the [Official State of California](#) Web site. There are links to all types of state government information from the main page.

Go to the [California State Bar](#) Web site for information about lawyer referral services to the public.

Have a Written Policy

People who need legal help are often apprehensive and may even be desperate to get the answer they want. When a library staff member becomes overly eager in assisting users, it can give the impression that a library is willing to do more than the law allows. All library staff should be educated regarding giving legal reference assistance. A posted written statement of the library's policy is often useful in helping staff understand their limitations, as well as notifying the public.

Be sure to prominently display your library's policy regarding legal reference assistance. The following language may assist you in developing your library's policy:

**A MESSAGE TO OUR USERS
ABOUT LEGAL REFERENCE QUESTIONS:**

It is unlawful for members of the Library staff to help users interpret legal materials they read or to advise them how the law might apply to their situation because these actions would constitute the unauthorized practice of law. It would also require an amount of personal service that a staff of our size cannot provide if we are still to carry out other duties. For those reasons, our staff must limit themselves to advising you which materials might be helpful to you, where they are located, and how to find information in them. Please do not think our staff is being uncooperative when they suggest that you interpret the materials you read for yourself and make your own decisions as to how the material you have read applies to your legal problem. Our staff will be happy to help you find the materials you need, and to show you how to use the various legal publications.

If you need further help to solve your legal problem, you may wish to consult one of the following legal service organizations:

[LIST YOUR LOCAL LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDERS HERE]

A file of organizations that offer legal services may be very useful. Keep track of organizations' URLs, addresses and phone numbers, as well as their hours of operation, and what services they provide. It is a good idea to note if they charge for their services, if they offer help over the phone, if an appointment is necessary, etc.

It is every librarian's goal to be helpful and to give excellent reference service. By recommending appropriate legal resources, teaching users how to use the sets (e.g., indexes, tables, etc.) in your collection, and helping choose search terms and translating legal citations, we are keeping ourselves within the bounds set by the law and our professional ethics. We are also doing more good than harm to a user's legal situation.

Suggested Readings

Yvette Brown, "From the Reference Desk to the Jail House: Unauthorized Practice of Law and Librarians," *Legal Reference Services Quarterly*, p. 31-45, v. 13, no. 4, 1994.

Paul D. Healey, "Pro Se Users, Reference Liability, and the Unauthorized Practice of Law: Twenty-Five Selected Readings," *Law Library Journal*, p. 133-139, vol. 94, no. 1, 2002. Available online at www.aallnet.org/products/pub_llj_v94n01/2002-08.pdf

Larry D. Richmond, Jr., "The Pro Se Patron: An Ethical Rather than Legal Dilemma," *Legal Reference Services Quarterly*, p. 75-84, v. 22, no. 2-3, 2003.

State, Court, & County Law Libraries, A Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries, *Unauthorized Practice of Law Toolkit*, available at http://www.aallnet.org/sis/sccll/toolkit/unauthorized_practice.htm.



Internet Sources Cited in this Chapter

Public Law Library: <http://www.publiclawlibrary.org/>

United States Government Manual (1995-1996 edition to current edition):

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=GOVMAN>

USA.gov: <http://www.usa.gov/>

State of California: <http://www.ca.gov/>

California State Bar: http://www.calbar.ca.gov/state/calbar/calbar_home.jsp

Chapter 5

CALIFORNIA LAW

The state of California has done a great job of making its primary sources of law widely available via the Internet. In addition, legal publishers publish a multitude of secondary sources in print and in online databases. This abundance of information has made researching California law easy for some and overwhelming for others. For those without a legal background (and most with one), it is always advisable to start with a secondary source.¹

Contents:

- [Secondary Sources](#)
- [Primary Sources](#)
 - [California Constitution](#)
 - [California Statutory Law](#)
 - [Legislative Process](#)
 - [California Case Law](#)
 - [California State Court System](#)
 - [California Case Law Publications](#)
 - [California Regulations & Regulatory Decisions](#)
 - [City & County Municipal Codes](#)
- [Other Resources](#)
 - [California County Law Libraries](#)
 - [California Attorneys](#)
 - [California Judges](#)
- [Selected Bibliography](#)
 - [Print Sources](#)
 - [Internet Sources](#)

¹ Secondary sources describe and explain the law and provide background information and citations to primary sources of law.

Secondary Sources

There are many California secondary sources geared specifically towards non-lawyers. [Nolo Press](#) is one of the most well respected legal self-help publishers. Titles such as *The California Landlord's Guide: Rights and Responsibilities*, *California Tenants Rights*, *How to Do Your Own Divorce in California*, and *U.S. Immigration Made Easy* are found in many public libraries and serve as an excellent starting place for non-lawyers doing their own legal research. [The Nolo Press](#) Web site also has a [Legal Encyclopedia](#) which offers brief entries on many legal topics. Chapter 10: *Bibliography of Self-Help Resources* includes an extensive list of self-help books and Web sites, including numerous Nolo Press publications, arranged by subject area.

Another excellent resource is the California Judicial Council's [California Courts](#) Web site. The California Judicial Council created the [California Courts Online Self Help Center](#) to assist self-represented litigants and others in learning about California law and court procedures. The [Self Help Center](#) offers information on common legal matters such as divorce, child custody and visitation, landlord/tenant issues, and small claims court in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese. It includes guides for completing necessary court forms and links to legal service organizations and lawyer referral programs. It also provides links to state agencies that assist with legal problems such as employment discrimination.

The [Self Help Center](#) also provides access to [AskNow's Law Librarian Service](#) which connects users with county law librarians throughout the state. Law librarians may suggest strategies and resources to help individuals with their particular legal research needs.

Primary Sources

It is important to keep in mind that primary sources of law – constitutions, statutes, cases, regulations, and regulatory decisions – all work together to form “the law” on a particular subject. A good secondary source will explain how these pieces of primary law fit together and which is most important for a particular legal issue. Please refer to Chapter 6: *Bibliography of California Law Resources* for a list of secondary sources, including legal encyclopedias, treatises, practice guides, and handbooks, which are all specific to California legal research.

A few words of caution: while researchers often just want to read the text of the Vehicle

Code section they allegedly violated or the text of a recent California Supreme Court decision, caution should be exercised in looking at any one of the primary sources of law in isolation when a broader topic is researched.

California Constitution

The first California Constitution was drafted by a group of 48 delegates in 1849. In 1878, a second constitutional convention was convened and in 1879, 152 delegates drafted the second California Constitution. Though amended numerous times, the 1879 Constitution continues to serve as the framework for California government and the rights of its citizens.²

The California Constitution may be found in many sources including within the sets of the California Codes. The California Legislative Counsel provides a searchable copy of the current [California Constitution](#) under the *California Law* button on its [Web site](#).

California Statutory Law

The statutory laws of California consist of acts passed by the California legislature and by the California electorate through the initiative process. The legislative process is explained below. For more information on the initiative process, see [A History of the California Initiatives](#) available from the California Secretary of State.³

Statutes are organized by subject and published in the California codes. Codes provide the current version of statutes arranged by topic. Please see the next page for a list of California codes.

California does not publish an official version of its codes. Two unofficial versions of the codes, *West's Annotated California Codes* published by West and *Deering's California Codes Annotated* published by LexisNexis, contain all 29 codes. Both sets are arranged alphabetically by code title and include the California Constitution and the California Rules of Court. As indicated by their titles, both sets are annotated, meaning that they include references to cases, law review articles, and other materials which discuss and help explain individual code sections. Both sets are updated by yearly pocket parts,

² See *The California State Constitution: A Reference Guide* (Joseph R. Grodin, Calvin R. Massey, and Richard B. Cunningham, 1993) for a discussion of the history of the California Constitution and commentary on its provisions.

³ See also J. Fred Silva, *The California Initiative Process: Background and Perspective* (Public Policy Institute of California, 2000), available at http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/op/OP_1100FSOP.pdf.

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newspaper-like pamphlets inserted in the back of each volume, or by supplementary pamphlets. Some individual code titles such as the Civil Code, Evidence Code, and Vehicle Code are also published in unannotated paperback versions, often called compact codes. These volumes are republished yearly to incorporate any changes to the codes.

Both annotated and unannotated codes contain indexes to assist in locating particular sections. *West's Annotated California Codes* and *Deering's California Codes Annotated* both contain indexes to each individual code title as well as general indexes to the entire set of codes. *LARMAC Consolidated Index to the Constitution and Laws of California* is a separate index to the California Codes published yearly. It is not easy to guess in which code a particular statute will be found. Therefore, it is best to start in one of the general indexes or in *LARMAC* to locate relevant code sections.

<i>CALIFORNIA CODES</i>	
Business and Professions Code	Insurance Code
Civil Code	Labor Code
Code of Civil Procedure	Military and Veterans Code
Commercial Code	Penal Code
Corporations Code	Probate Code
Education Code	Public Contract Code
Elections Code	Public Resources Code
Evidence Code	Public Utilities Code
Family Code	Revenue and Taxation Code
Financial Code	Streets and Highways Code
Fish and Game Code	Unemployment Insurance Code
Food and Agriculture Code	Vehicle Code
Government Code	Water Code
Harbors and Navigation Code	Welfare and Institutions Code
Health and Safety Code	

The California Legislative Counsel provides a current set of the [California Codes](#) on its Web site. Individual codes or the entire set of 29 codes may be searched by keyword. In

addition, the table of contents for each code may easily be printed or downloaded. The Legislative Counsel's version of the [California Codes](#) is the most up-to-date but lacks annotations and historical notes.⁴

*Legislative Process*⁵

The laws which eventually become part of the California codes begin in the state legislature as bills. Bills passed by the legislature are enacted into law and become statutes. Statutes are published in chronological order in the official *Statutes and Amendments to the Codes* which serves as the permanent record of all statutes passed by the California Legislature. A single statute may affect (add to, revise, or repeal) more than one code section and, over time, one code section may be affected by many different statutes. *West's Annotated California Codes* and *Deering's California Codes Annotated* keep each code volume up-to-date with statutory changes through the use of pocket parts and supplementary pamphlets. Compact codes are republished each year so as to reflect any statutory change.

In order to understand why a certain statute was enacted by the legislature, a legislative intent (or history) search may be made. Legislative history research involves collecting the documents generated at each step of the legislative process and then reading them for evidence of intent. Locating legislative history documentation requires that one first understand the process by which a bill becomes a statute.⁶

The legislative process begins with the introduction of a bill on the floor of the Senate or the Assembly. Only a legislator may introduce a bill, but government agencies and community organizations, as well as individuals often propose the subject matter. The Legislative Counsel drafts the bill into the proper form and also provides a commentary in the preface of the bill, called the Legislative Digest.

Bills introduced in the Assembly are assigned a number preceded by *A.B.* Bills introduced in the Senate are assigned a number preceded by *S.B.* The Legislature meets in two-year sessions (e.g. 2009-2010) and bill numbers are assigned in sequential order

⁴ Note that in the fall of 2011, the Legislative Counsel released a beta site for California legislative information: <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>. As of November 4, 2011, the California Codes had not yet been added to the new site.

⁵ [California's Legislature](#), published by the Office of the Assembly Chief Clerk, is an in-depth introduction to the legislative process and to California state government. It is also available for purchase (currently \$5) from the Legislative Bill room ((916) 445-2323).

⁶ The Legislative Counsel offers a detailed chart of the [California legislative process](#) [PDF], available via the [Legislative Publications](#) button (scroll down the page to [California's Legislature](#)).

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during each session. Bill numbers start anew with each new legislative session. It is therefore imperative when researching legislative intent to be able to specify:

- ✓ A.B. or S.B.
- ✓ the bill number
- ✓ the year the bill was introduced or passed

As a bill makes its way through the legislative process, it must follow certain rules. Once it is passed by both the Assembly and the Senate, it is submitted to the Governor for his signature. If the Governor signs the bill, it becomes a law effective January 1 of the following year. If the act is not signed within twelve days and the Legislature is still in session, it becomes a law without the Governor's signature. If the Governor vetoes the bill, it can still become a statute on a two-thirds majority vote from each house of the Legislature. Once a bill becomes a statute, the Secretary of State assigns it a chapter number and it is placed chronologically in the official *Statutes and Amendments to the Codes*. The Legislative Counsel has made the [statutes](#) (starting from the 1993-94 legislative session) available on its [Web site](#).

During the legislative process, documents such as committee analyses and reports may be generated. These documents may offer evidence of the legislative intent behind a particular statute.⁷ Committee analyses, voting records, veto messages, and bill versions from the 1993-94 legislative session to the present may be found for individual bills in the [Bill Information](#) portion of the California Legislative Counsel's Web site. Legislative information, both for bills which were passed into law and those which died may be searched by bill number, bill author, or keyword. While not providing complete legislative history documentation, the [Bill Information](#) portion of the Legislative Counsel's Web site has made legislative documents much more accessible and may provide insight into legislative intent.⁸

If a more complete legislative history is desired, the best place to start is in a library that serves as a state depository. There are also commercial legislative intent service companies that will research and prepare legislative histories for a fee.⁹

⁷ Compiling legislative documents can be a time-consuming and frustrating task and many times the documents fail to reveal the legislator's intent.

⁸ The [California Legislative Information beta](#) site offers new functionality to the *Bill Search* and *bill Text Search* Features.

⁹ Please see the *Selected Bibliography* at the end of this chapter for examples for commercial legislative intent research services.

Most libraries that collect legislative intent materials also have worksheets which are designed to guide the researcher through the process and are keyed to the materials available in their own collections. An excellent example is the [California Legislative History Checklist](#) available from the [LA Law Library](#). Listed below are seven basic steps to get a researcher started on legislative intent research.

1. Check the annotations to the code section in both *West's Annotated California Codes* and *Deering's California Codes Annotated* for law review articles and/or cases that discuss legislative intent.
2. Check the history notes which follow the code section in *West's* and *Deering's* for chapter number and year. Note that many different statutes may have affected a code section over time. One must read the annotations and decide which statute or statutes one needs to research based on how each statute affected that code section.
3. Read the original statute and, if available, the Legislative Digest in the *Statutes and Amendments to the Codes*.
4. Convert the chapter number into a bill number. Before 1970, check Volume 1 of the *Statutes and Amendments to the Codes*, Table of Laws Enacted. After 1970, check the last volume of the *Statutes and Amendments to the Codes*, Summary Digest.
5. Check published sources of legislative intent:
 - a. *Pacific Law Journal* (1970-1997) renamed *McGeorge Law Review* (1998 – Present), Annual Review of Selected California Legislation, which covers legislation from 1970 to the present.
 - b. CEB's *Review of Selected Code Legislation*, which covers some years prior to 1970.
 - c. The [Bill Information](#) portion of the Web site of the [California Legislative Counsel](#) gives bill text and committee analyses from the 1993-94 legislative session to the present.¹⁰
6. If the library you are using has California legislative materials:
 - a. Read the various versions of the bill.
 - b. Read the Assembly File Analysis.

¹⁰ Again, the [California Legislative Information beta](#) site adds new functionality to the *Bill Search* feature. However, as of Nov. 4, 2011, you can only search from the 1999-2000 session year to the current session.

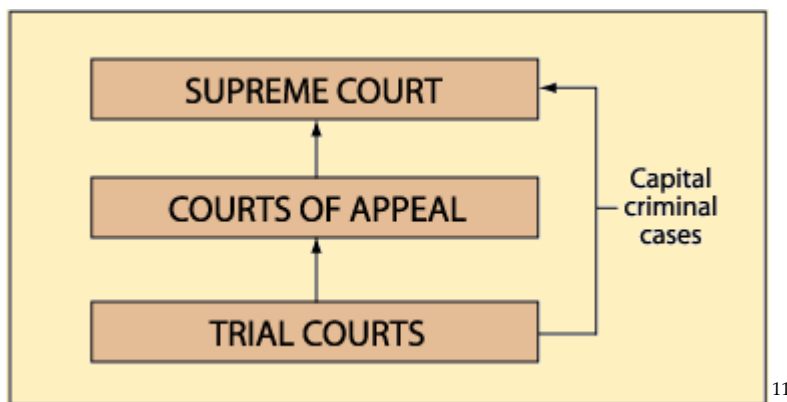
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- c. Read the Final History, which will list all actions and committees which studied the bill.
 - d. Check the indexes to the *Senate and Assembly Journals* for references to Legislative Counsel Opinions or Statements of Intent.
 - e. Check for hearings and reports.
7. [Contact](#) the [California State Archives](#) in Sacramento, (916) 653-7715. The Archives maintains bill files which may contain correspondence, reports, and other useful materials. The State Archives will compile a package of legislative documents but the process generally takes several weeks.

California Case Law

Cases are the written opinions rendered by judges in particular cases. Cases resolve disputes between parties by interpreting statutes and regulations. Cases can also establish “the law” in areas where there are no governing statutes or regulations. Not all cases result in a written opinion, nor are all written opinions formally published or “reported.”

- *California State Court System*



Like most states, California has a three-tiered court system. The [California Supreme Court](#) is the highest court. Cases do not originate in the Supreme Court but arrive there on appeal from a lower court. The Supreme Court’s reviewing power allows it to decide important legal questions and to maintain uniformity in California law. The Supreme Court is composed of a Chief Justice and six Associate Justices.

¹¹ Diagram is from the [California Judicial Council](#) Web site.

The [California Courts of Appeal](#) are the basic appellate courts for the state. There are six appellate districts: First District – San Francisco; Second District – Los Angeles and Ventura; Third District – Sacramento; Fourth District – San Diego, San Bernardino/Riverside and Santa Ana; Fifth District – Fresno; Sixth District – San Jose. Each district has a presiding justice and two or more judges.

[Superior Courts](#) are the trial level courts within California. All California cases must begin in a superior court. There is one superior court in each of California’s 58 counties (each court may maintain multiple branches). Municipal courts were unified with superior courts in 2001.

As stated above, cases are the written opinions rendered by judges in particular cases. Decisions from the superior courts are not generally published and must be retrieved directly from the court. Cases from the California Courts of Appeal and the California Supreme Court are published in both official and unofficial versions. In either case, only the text of the opinions comes from the court itself; the editorial matter, such as the case summary and headnotes, differ between the official and unofficial versions.

- *California Case Law Publications*

Below is a chart that shows where California cases are published.

<i>COURT</i>	<i>PUBLICATION TITLE</i>
California Supreme Court	<i>California Reports</i> (Official) <i>West’s California Reporter</i> (Unofficial) <i>West’s Pacific Reporter</i> (Unofficial)
California Appellate Courts	<i>California Appellate Reports</i> (Official) <i>West’s California Reporter</i> (Unofficial)
Trial Courts (e.g., Los Angeles Superior Court)	Decisions are not published.

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[Appellate cases from 1850 to the present](#) are also available in a searchable database provided by LexisNexis, the official publisher of California cases, on the [California Courts](#) Web site. In addition, [SCOCAL](#), a joint project between [Justia](#) and Stanford Law School Library, provides free access to California Supreme Court opinions (from 1934 to present), along with annotations, briefs, documents and news.

California Regulations & Regulatory Decisions

California regulations are rules and procedures promulgated by state agencies which allow the implementation of statutes. Regulations are a binding source of law similar to statutes and cases.

California regulations are found in the *California Code of Regulations* (formerly called the *California Administrative Code*) published by the [California Office of Administrative Law](#). The *California Code of Regulations* (CCR) is divided into 27 numbered titles (excluding Title 24, see paragraph below) and then into sections. A typical citation would read 25 CCR 60, where 25 is the title number and 60 is the section number. The print version of the CCR is published by Barclays, a division of West Publishing Company (a Thomson Reuters business), and is published in loose-leaf format. Update pages are issued weekly. Regulations can be found by consulting the subject index or, where a relevant code section is known, by consulting the Statutes to Regulations Table.

The [CCR](#) is also available online through the [Office of Administrative Law](#). Regulations can be accessed through an agency list, a table of contents, or a subject search through one or more titles. Note that Title 24, the Building Code, is not published as part of either the print or online version of the CCR, since it is copyrighted and published by the ICBO (International Conference of Building Officials). The *California Regulatory Notice Register* updates the CCR.

State administrative boards and agencies such as the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board and the Franchise Tax Board often have judicial or quasi-judicial authority and may issue administrative decisions. Finding these decisions may often be a challenging task. Many subject-specific books will include administrative decisions. Check state agency Web sites for their regulations, decisions, forms, and other information of interest. The California State Web page offers a [listing of California agencies](#) and their Web sites.

City and County Municipal Codes

Article 11 of the [California Constitution](#) gives cities and counties the authority to pass legislative acts, called ordinances, relating to municipal affairs. These ordinances are collected and arranged by topic in municipal codes and county codes.

Most city and county Web sites include their own ordinances. U.C. Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies provides a list of [California Local Codes and Charters](#) and includes links to those available on the Internet.

Other Resources

California County Law Libraries

Because many public libraries have limited legal research resources, it may be necessary to refer users to a local county law library. By statute, each of the 58 counties in California maintains a county law library whose mission is to provide free access to legal materials to all persons interested in the law. The county law libraries vary greatly in size and resources. Several, including the [LA Law Library](#), the [Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County Law Library](#), and the [San Diego County Public Law Library](#) collect not only California legal materials, but materials for the federal system and for other states as well. The [LA Law Library](#) also has an extensive collection of foreign and international law materials.

The larger county law libraries maintain Web sites that provide access to their catalogs and include helpful research guides and lists of local legal providers. Some also provide in-person classes and training on legal research topics. The county law libraries also participate in [AskNow's Law Librarian service](#) which allows real-time legal reference assistance over the Internet.

A [list of the California county law libraries](#) may be found at the [Council of California County Law Librarians](#) Web site and in [Appendix C](#) of this publication.

California Attorneys

To practice in California, an attorney must be a member of the California State Bar. Furthermore, only active members of the State Bar are entitled to practice law within California.

CHAPTER 5: CALIFORNIA LAW

The [State Bar](#) makes its member records available to the public through its [Attorney Search](#) feature. Information provided for individual attorneys includes current contact information, undergraduate and law schools, and, most importantly, status¹² and disciplinary history.

California attorneys can become certified legal specialists in one or more of 19 legal specialties including bankruptcy, elder law, family law, immigration law and tax law. Individuals can search for [certified legal specialists](#) (link provided in search box under “more search options” or by using the Advanced Attorney Search (scroll down to the bottom of the page)).

The [State Bar](#) also includes information on how to file a [complaint](#) against an attorney.

[Martindale-Hubbell](#) is a national directory of lawyers. Its publisher, LexisNexis, has made the database available at no charge. Lawyers may be searched by name or by specialty and geographic region. The [Advanced Search Feature](#) also allows searching by language or law school attended.

[Avvo.com](#) also provides a national database of lawyers. In addition to providing biographical information, Avvo.com provides ratings for attorneys based on its own proprietary ratings system.

Lawyers identified through either [Martindale-Hubbell](#) or [Avvo.com](#) should be checked in the California State Bar [Attorney Search](#) database for active status and disciplinary history.

California Judges

Biographical information on California judges may be found on individual court Web sites. The Judicial Council provides a full [listing of courts](#) and their Web sites.

Biographical information may also be found in *Judicial Profiles* published by the Daily Journal Corporation. This multi-volume set includes information on state court judges as well as federal judges sitting in California. Check your local law library’s catalog or call the reference desk to find out if you have access to the print volumes.¹³ The *Judicial*

¹² Statuses include active, inactive, not entitled to practice law, disbarred, and resigned. Only active members can practice law.

¹³ For a directory of California County Law Libraries, see [Your Public Law Library](#) or [Appendix C](#) of this publication. Contact information and links to the libraries’ Web sites are included (when available).

Profiles are also available on the [Daily Journal's](#) Web site but require both a subscription and a fee.

The [California Commission on Judicial Performance](#) is an independent state agency responsible for investigating complaints of judicial misconduct and for disciplining judges. Its jurisdiction includes all judges of California's superior courts, justices of the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court, and former judges for conduct prior to retirement and resignations. See its [Web site](#) for additional information, including instructions on [how to file a complaint](#) against a judge.



Selected Bibliography

Print Sources:

- Lisa Guerin & Patricia Gima. *Nolo's Guide to California Law*, 11th ed. (July 2011)
- Daniel Martin. *Henke's California Law Guide*, 8th ed. (LexisNexis Matthew Bender, 2006)
- Larry D. Dershem. *California Legal Research Handbook*, 2nd ed. (W.S. Hein & Co., 2008).
- John K. Hanft. *Legal Research in California*, 6th ed. (Thomson West, 2007)

Internet Sources:

- *Secondary Sources*
Nolo Press: <http://www.nolo.com/>
California Courts Self Help Center: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp.htm>
AskNow's Law Librarian Service: http://www.247ref.org/portal/access_law3.cfm
- *California Constitution*
<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/const.html>
- *California Statutory Law*
A History of the California Initiatives: http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/init_history.pdf
Legislative Counsel's Official California Legislative Information:
<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov> or <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>
California Codes: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html>
California Legislative Information beta: <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>
(accessed on Nov. 2, 2011).
- *California Legislative Process*
California's Legislature: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/califleg.html>

CHAPTER 5: CALIFORNIA LAW

California Bill Information: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html>
Chart of Legislative Process: http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pdf/Ch_09_CaLegi06.pdf
California Statutes: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/statute.html>
California Legislative History Checklist, LA Law Library:
<http://www.lalawlibrary.org/research/pathfinders/califleghistory/default.aspx>
California State Archives: <http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/>

- ***California Legislative Intent Research Services***

Legislative Intent Services: <http://www.legintent.com/> (800) 666-1917
Legislative Research Inc.: <http://www.lrihistory.com/> (916) 442-7660
Jan Raymond Legislative History & Intent: <http://www.lhclearinghouse.com/>
(888) 676-1947

- ***California Cases***

California Courts Web site: <http://www.courts.ca.gov>
California Supreme Court: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/courts/supreme/.htm>
California Courts of Appeal: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/courts/courtsofappeal/.htm>
California Superior Courts: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/superiorcourts.htm>
California Cases: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/opinions/.htm>
SCOCAL: <http://scocal.stanford.edu/>

- ***California Regulations and Regulatory Decisions***

California Office of Administrative Law: <http://www.oal.ca.gov/>
California Code of Regulations: <http://ccr.oal.ca.gov/linkedslice/default.asp?SP=CCR-1000&Action=Welcome>
California State Web Site: <http://www.ca.gov/>
State Agency Directory: <http://www.ca.gov/CaSearch/Agencies.aspx>

- ***California City and County Municipal Codes***

California Constitution: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/const.html>
California Local Codes and Charters, U.C. Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies:
<http://igs.berkeley.edu/library/cagovdocs/calcodes.html>

- ***California County Law Libraries*** (see also Appendix C of this publication)

Council of County Law Librarians: <http://www.cccll.org/>
Listing of County Law Libraries: <http://www.publiclawlibrary.org/find.html>
Los Angeles Law Library: <http://www.lalawlibrary.org/default.aspx>
Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County Law Library:
<http://www.co.alameda.ca.us/law/index.htm>
San Diego County Public Law Library: <http://www.sdcppl.org/>

- ***California Attorneys***

California State Bar: <http://calbar.ca.gov/Home.aspx>

Attorney Search: <http://members.calbar.ca.gov/fal/MemberSearch/QuickSearch>

Lawyer Regulation: Overview of Attorney Discipline System:

<http://calbar.ca.gov/Attorneys/LawyerRegulation.aspx>

Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory: <http://www.martindale.com/> or

<http://www.lawyers.com/>

Avvo.com: <http://www.avvo.com/>

- ***California Judges***

California Courts: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/courts.htm>

California Commission on Judicial Performance: <http://cjp.ca.gov/>

How to File a Complaint: http://cjp.ca.gov/file_a_complaint.htm

Daily Journal: <http://www.dailyjournal.com/>

Chapter 6

BIBLIOGRAPY OF CALIFORNIA LAW RESOURCES

This chapter lists a wide variety of California legal materials and includes both print and Internet sources. This bibliography begins with the California Constitution, and then is arranged by branch of government: legislative branch resources (e.g., codes, statutes, bills), judicial branch resources (e.g., case law, digests, court rules, jury instructions); executive branch resources (e.g., administrative rules and regulations); and municipal and county codes and ordinances. Also included are sources related to California attorney and judges as well as secondary sources (e.g., form books, legal encyclopedias, treatises, practice guides, and handbooks). This document includes hyperlinks throughout. For a list of URLs, please see the end of this chapter.

For self-help sources, readers should refer to Chapter 9: [Assisting Self-Represented Litigants](#) and Chapter 10: [Bibliography of Self-Help Resources](#) of this publication. Also be sure to review Chapter 1: [Introduction](#) to determine how each of these types of materials, such as legislative codes, case law reporters, administrative rules and regulations, and secondary sources, relate to each other, as well as Chapter 5: [California Law](#), which gives an overview of California law.

Contents:

- [California Constitution](#)
- [California Legislative Branch Materials](#)
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 - [Agency Decisions & Orders](#)
 - [Agency Reports](#)
 - [The Governor's Executive Orders, Proclamations & Press Releases](#)
- [California Municipal & County Codes, Ordinances](#)
- [California Attorneys & Judges](#)
 - [Professional Responsibility](#)
 - [Directories](#)
- [Secondary Sources for California Legal Research](#)
 - [California Legal Research Guides](#)
 - [Legal Encyclopedias](#)
 - [Witkin Treatises](#)
 - [Treatises, Practice Guides & Handbooks](#)
 - [Corporations](#)
 - [Civil Procedure](#)
 - [Employment Law](#)
 - [Estate Planning](#)
 - [Family Law](#)
 - [Landlord-Tenant](#)
 - [Real Property](#)
 - [Taxation](#)
 - [Formbooks](#)
- [List of Internet Sources Cited in this Chapter](#)

California Constitution

The California Constitution is the supreme law of California. Copies of the California Constitution are available at nominal cost from the [Legislative Bill Room](#), State Capitol,

in Sacramento.¹ The Constitution is reprinted in the [annotated codes](#) and is also available on the [State Constitution](#) page of the [California Legislative Counsel](#) Web site, the official site for California legislative information.²

California Legislative Branch Materials

This section will cover finding aids, statutes, codes, bills and resolutions, initiatives referenda, ballot propositions, and legislative process resources.

Statutes & Codes

- *Finding Aid*

LARMAC Consolidated Index to the Constitution and Laws of California. Matthew Bender. Annual.

A handy, one-volume index, LARMAC uses “non-legalese” and offers a detailed subject index to the codes. Also note that the publications listed below under *Statutes* and *Codes* also include their own indexes and tables.

- *Statutes*

Newly passed legislation is bound and printed in chronological order (by date passed into law). These chronological compilations are either called statutes or session laws.

California Statutes and Amendments to the Codes. Annual.

This is an official publication of all laws enacted by the legislature in a given year, prior to codification in the annotated code sets. This set includes tables and indexes.

The [California Statutes](#) page on the [California Legislative Counsel](#) site provides the full text of California statutes from 1993 to present. Users may search by

¹ Phone inquiries/orders may be placed by calling the Legislative Bill Room at 916-445-2323. One may download order forms from the [Legislative Bill Room](#) Web page.

² Please note that in the fall of 2011, the [California Legislative Information beta](#) site was launched. As of Nov. 4, 2011, the neither the California Codes nor the California State Constitution had been added to the new site.

chapter number³ or by keyword.⁴

- **Codes**

Legislative code sets are collections of current statutes, arranged by subject. Some people consider code sets to be easier to use than session laws because similar statutes are placed together in the code sets and because of an enhanced index. Code sets may be either annotated with editorial enhancements or unannotated.

- **Annotated Codes**

These sets provide the text of the statute as well as references to court decisions and secondary sources that serve to explain the meaning of the code section. For that reason, annotated code sets are the most often used source for legislative research. Two complete sets of annotated codes are available from commercial publishers LexisNexis and West. Both sets include the full text of the codes, the California Constitution, and Rules of Court.

Deering's California Codes, Annotated. LexisNexis. 175+ vols. Pocket parts. With *Deering's California Codes Advance Legislative Service.*

West's Annotated California Codes. Thomson West. 180+ vols. Pocket parts. With *West's California Legislative Service.*

- **Unannotated Codes**

Typically these sets are compilations of one or a few of the 29 California code titles. Calling them “unannotated” is a bit of a misnomer, as they often include a minimal amount of annotations.

Deering's California Desktop Code Series. LexisNexis. Various code subjects and Rules of Court. Annual.

Parker's California Codes. Michie. Various code subjects and Rules of Court. Annual.

³ A bill is “chaptered” by the Secretary of State after it has been approved by both houses of the legislature and has been signed by the governor (or becomes law without the governor’s signature).

⁴ *Supra*, note 2.

CHAPTER 6: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CALIFORNIA LAW RESOURCES

The Standard California Codes: 6 in 2. LexisNexis. Includes the following codes: Civil, Civil Procedure, Evidence, Family and Probate, as well as California Rules of Court. Annual.

West's California Codes, Desktop Edition. Thomson West. Various code subjects and Rules of Court. Annual.

The [California Law](#) page on the [California Legislative Counsel](#) site provides full text access to all 29 California codes. One must select a code and click on "Search" to display the table of contents for a code or select one or more codes and enter keywords in the search box at the bottom of the page. Also note that to search the entire code, select the box next to "All" at the bottom of the list of codes.

Legislative Process Materials

- *Finding Aids*

[Legislative Index](#). California Legislative Counsel.

Provides a subject matter index to all legislative measures for the current legislative session; indicates the subject of each bill, constitutional amendment, and current or joint resolution as introduced and as amended. Note that entries are not removed from the index when the subject matter is deleted from the measure in the course of passage.

[Table of Sections Affected](#). California Legislative Counsel.

An index to each section of the California Constitution, codes and uncodified laws affected by measures introduced; PDF and html documents include links to the bill measures and chapter number (if applicable).

- *Bills & Resolutions*

The [Legislative Bill Room](#) provides copies of all legislative publications to the public, including single copies of individual bills.

[Legislative Hearings & Reports Index](#) (U.C. Hastings Law Library, 1984 to present).

[Legislative Highlights](#) (California Senate Office of Research, from 1991)

Search for “legislative highlights”; this source provides a wonderful and succinct review of legislation.

[California Law Revision Commission Recommendations on Legislation](#) (1957-current). This commission is the seminal bipartisan bill evaluator and legal issue researcher for our state.

The [Bill Information](#) page on the [California Legislative Counsel](#) site provides the full text of bills, resolutions, and constitutional amendments. Users may view the status, history, votes, analysis, and veto messages as well. Search by bill number, by author(s) or keyword. Available from the 1993-1994 legislative session to the current legislative session. Note the link to an [Index](#), which lists all bills introduced in the Assembly and Senate.⁵

- ***Legislative Publications***

Journal. California Legislature. State Printing Off. 1849/50-

Contains an account of the proceedings of each house, not a verbatim record of the debates, titles of all measures introduced, considered, or acted upon, the full text of all amendments to any such measures, the text of all house resolutions, roll calls, messages from the Governor, and the rules of the Senate and Assembly. Includes an alphabetical subject index and a bill action index.

[Senate Daily Journal](#). California Legislature. State Printing Office. 1850 to present. Available online through the Legislative Counsel, under “Legislative Publications,” from October 2002 to present. Click on hyperlinked title above.

Assembly Daily Journal. California Legislature. 1849 to present. Online resources include the State Assembly Web page for current issues of the *Daily Journal* and the Chief Clerk’s Archive page for issues dated before 1994:

[California State Assembly](#) Web page. 1995 to present.

[Chief Clerk’s Archive](#). Office of the Chief Clerk, California State Assembly. 1849-2005.

⁵ Again, at the time of this revision, the Legislative Counsel released a beta site for California legislative information: <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>. As of November 2, 2011, it included new functionality to the *Bill Search* feature and the bill *Text Search* feature had been improved with the addition of a Boolean search option.

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Daily File. California Legislature.

The *Daily File* is the agenda of business for each legislative day. It also contains a table of all bills and constitutional amendments with their dates of introduction. The *Assembly File* includes titles of all committee hearing notices and all measure eligible for floor actions.

[Current Assembly & Senate Daily File\(s\)](#) are available on the [Legislative Counsel](#) Web site.

[Current Assembly Daily File](#) is available on the [California Assembly](#) Web site.

Initiatives, Referenda, Ballot Pamphlets & Propositions

[California Elections, Ballot Measure Update](#). California Secretary of State.

Provides current information on ballot measures; the complete ballot pamphlets for the current and previous elections, from March 1996 to present. Links to the University of Hastings College of Law's *California Ballot Initiatives and Propositions Databases*. Links to *Initiatives & Resources* (which includes links to historical voter information guides, from March 1996 to present).

[California Ballot Measures Databases](#). University of California Hastings College of the Law Library.

The *California Ballot Propositions Database* and the *California Ballot Initiatives Database* are comprehensive (from 1911 to 2003) and searchable. The databases contain the full text of the propositions and initiatives, along with any accompanying material, including ballot pamphlets.

[California Ballot Propositions](#). Los Angeles County Law Library.

Users may browse ballot propositions from 1980 to current.

California Judicial Branch Materials

Court Decisions

Court decisions are published in bound volumes called reporters. California has both official and unofficial reporters. The text of the case opinion is the same in both sources, but the editorial enhancements will differ.

- ***Official Court Reporters***

Reporters that are sanctioned by the State of California to contain published case law are called official reporters.

California Reports. LexisNexis.

Includes full text opinions of California Supreme Court cases. The first series includes volumes 1 to 220 (1850-1934); *California Reports, 2nd* includes volumes 1 to 71 (1934-1969); *California Reports, 3rd* includes volumes 1 to 54 (1969-1991); *California Reports, 4th* includes volumes 1 to present (1991-).

California Appellate Reports. LexisNexis.

Includes published opinions of the California Courts of Appeal and Appellate Departments of the Superior Courts. First series includes volumes 1 to 140 (1905-1934); *California Appellate Reports, 2nd* includes volumes 1 to 276 (1934-1969); *California Appellate Reports, 3rd* includes volumes 1 to 235 (1969-1991); *California Appellate Reports, 4th* includes volumes 1 to present (1991-).

California Official Reports (Advance Sheets). LexisNexis.

Recent court decisions appear in advance sheets (paperbacks which are discarded when bound volumes arrive).

[Court Opinions](#) on the [California Courts](#) Web site. Judicial Council of California. The entire run of *California Official Reports & California Appellate Reports* is available for free at this official Web site.

In addition, [slip opinions](#) from the last 120 days for the California Supreme Court and the California Courts of Appeal that have been either certified for publication or ordered published are available on the [Opinions](#) page of the [California Courts](#) Web site as well. Supreme Court opinions are posted immediately after filing. Court of Appeal opinions are usually posted within hours of filing. These slip opinions may become superseded during the time they are made available on this Web site – so proceed with caution.

- ***Unofficial Court Reporters***

Unofficial court reporters are published commercially and do not have government sanction. Court decisions are reprinted in their entirety by commercial publishers West, the Daily Journal Corporation and Incisive Media (formerly ALM). West's reporters use the ubiquitous "key number system" to categorize cases by subject, as do the West's digests, for subject access to case reporters.

CHAPTER 6: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CALIFORNIA LAW RESOURCES

California Reporter. Thomson West.

First series includes volumes 1 to 286 (1960-1992). *California Reporter, 2d* includes volumes 1 to 135 (1992-2004), and *California Reporter, 3d* includes volumes 1 to present (2004 -) with advance sheets. This series contains decisions of the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal and Appellate Departments of the California Superior Courts.

Pacific Reporter. Thomson West.

First series includes volumes 1 to 300 (1883-1931) and *Pacific Reporter, 2d* includes volumes 1 to present (1991-) with advance sheets. This series contains appellate decisions from fifteen western states, including California. It ceased publication of California Courts of Appeal decisions in 1960, but continues to publish California Supreme Court opinions.

Daily Appellate Report (D.A.R.). The Daily Journal.

This publication is an insert in the *Los Angeles Daily Journal* and the *San Francisco Daily Journal*, both published by the Daily Journal Corporation. This publication contains the full text of both Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal decisions within a few days of the decision. It also includes full text of decisions from the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, the U.S. Supreme Court, and the California Attorney General.

[Cal Law](#). ALM.

A regional news source from Law.com. Cal Law is a subscription based Web site for California opinions. The subscription fee is heavily discounted if you also subscribe to *The Recorder*, which is the daily legal newspaper for Northern California. This site also contains the *California Daily Opinion Service (C.D.O.S.)*, which is similar to the *Daily Appellate Report* that was described directly above.

[FindLaw's California Cases](#). Thomson Reuters (West).

FindLaw provides the full text of California Supreme Court and appellate court opinions dating back to 1934. Registration is free. Unannotated.

[LexisNexis Communities](#). LexisNexis.⁶

Search the last ten years of State & Federal Courts and U.S. Supreme Court from 1781 to present.

⁶ LexisNexis Communities have replaced lexisOne. You will still be able to access the same [free forms](#) and [free case law](#) through the Communities Portal.

Digests

Digests provide the only means of conducting comprehensive subject searches of court decisions in the print format. Find an appropriate legal topic and subtopic by using the index volumes and you'll be directed to the main digest volumes, where you will find short summaries of all decisions in your jurisdiction. The subject headings, or "headnotes," are assigned to a case by the publisher, and correspond to the subject headings in that publisher's digest.

The following digest sets correspond to the West Reporter sets:

West's California Digest. West Group. 1850 to 1949.

West's California Digest, 2nd. Thomson West. 1950 to present.

West's Pacific Digest. Thomson West. 1962-present.

These digest sets correspond to the former official reports:

McKinney's New California Digest. Bancroft-Whitney. 1850-1968.

California Digest of Official Reports, 3rd & 4th series. Bancroft-Whitney. 1969-2003.

Court Rules

Court rules ensure the proper control of litigation by establishing uniform procedures. There are rules that apply to all California state courts, to all appellate courts, and to all trial courts. There are also "local rules" that are set by each individual court. A litigant must abide by all applicable court rules.

Deering's California Codes: Rules Annotated. LexisNexis. 4 vols.

Deering's California Desktop Code Series. Rules of Court & 9th Circuit Rules. LexisNexis. Annual.

California Rules of Court, State. Thomson West. Annual.

Also in *West's Annotated California Codes (Court Rules)*

California Civil Practice Statutes & Rules, Annotated. Thomson West. Annual.

[Official California Rules of Court](#). Judicial Council of California.

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Local Court Rules:

Court Rules: Northern California. Daily Journal Co. Loose-leaf. 9 vols.

Court Rules: Southern California. Daily Journal Co. Loose-leaf. 8 vols.

Metropolitan News-Enterprise Rules of Court. Metropolitan News Co. Loose-leaf. Publishes court rules for individual counties as well as state court rules.

[Official Local Court Rules.](#) Judicial Council of California.

Provides links to the local rules of the superior courts of California. Alphabetical by county.

Jury Instructions

During a trial a judge gives specific instructions to a jury before deliberation begins. The use of the CACI (for civil cases) and CALCRIM (for criminal cases) jury instructions are strongly encouraged by the California Rules of Court. The older sets of jury instructions, BAJI and CALJIC, were drafted by the Committee on Standard Jury Instructions, and include notes explaining their use, history, and relevant cases. Most of the publications below are updated with a new edition each year or twice each year. In most cases, your local library will retain the latest edition only.

- ***Civil Jury Instructions***

Judicial Council of California, Civil Jury Instructions (CACI). Matthew Bender. 2 vols.

Judicial Council of California, Civil Jury Instructions (CACI). Thomson West. 2 vols.

[Civil Jury Instructions \(CACI\).](#) Judicial Council of California.

California Jury Instructions, Civil (BAJI). Thomson West. 2 vols.

- ***Criminal Jury Instructions***

Judicial Council of California Criminal Jury Instructions (CALCRIM). Matthew Bender.

Judicial Council of California, Criminal Jury Instructions (CALCRIM). Thomson West. 2 vols.

[Criminal Jury Instructions \(CALCRIM\)](#). Judicial Council of California.

California Jury Instructions Criminal (CALJIC). Thomson West.

California Jury Instructions Criminal Forms (CALJIC). Thomson West. 2 vols.

CJER Mandatory Criminal Jury Instructions Handbook. California Center for Judicial Education and Research.

California Executive Branch Materials

California's executive branch is large and complex.⁷ There are hundreds of executive, administrative, and advisory agencies. Most California administrative law research will focus on regulatory rules and regulations, which begins this section. Also covered are agency reports, decisions and orders as well as executive orders and proclamations.

Administrative Rules & Regulations

Administrative rules and regulations are issued by state agencies and are designed to implement or explain legislation. Administrative rules and regulations carry the same force of law as legislation and published case law.

Barclay's Official California Code of Regulations. Barclays Law Publishers. 25+ vols. 1980-present. Loose-leaf. Formerly *California Administrative Code*.

The full text of the [California Code of Regulations \(CCR\)](#) is available for free online in full text (except for Title 24), maintained by West under contract with the State of California Office of Administrative Law.

California Regulatory Notice Register (Z-Register) contains the most recent notices of *proposed* actions by state agencies which relate to the repeal, adoption, or amendment of regulations contained in the *California Code of Regulations*.

⁷ Please see the organizational chart, available at http://www.cold.ca.gov/Ca_State_Gov_Orgchart.pdf.

CHAPTER 6: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CALIFORNIA LAW RESOURCES

The [California Regulatory Notice Register](#) is online (in PDF) on the California Office of Administrative Law Web site. From 2002 to present.

California Regulatory Code Supplement (Digest of New Regulations).

This source offers the official changes (*final* actions) to the *California Code of Regulations*, on a weekly basis. From the point in time that the changes are published in this source, the changes await codification into the *California Code of Regulations*. Note that this source only includes those changes that have actually been made, whereas the Z-Register includes all proposed changes (which may not actually become law).

[Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations](#), called the *California Building Standards Code*, is published independently of the rest of the *California Code of Regulations*.

It is published every three years and updated by supplements in intervening years. It is available to the public at no cost through [depository libraries](#) (click on the “DOC” link for a list of names and addresses for depository libraries throughout California).

There are several parts to the *California Building Standards Code*:

California Building Standards Administrative Code (Part 1)

California Building Code (Part 2).

California Residential Building Code (Part 2.5)

California Electrical Code (Part 3)

California Mechanical Code (Part 4)

California Plumbing Code (Part 5)

California Energy Code (Part 6)

California Historical Building Code (Part 8)

California Fire Code (Part 9)

California Existing Building Code (Part 10)

California Green Building Standards Code (CAL Green Code) (Part 11)

California Reference Standards Code (Part 12)

[2010 Triennial Edition of CCR, Title 24.](#) California Buildings Standards Commission. Applies to all occupancies that applied for a building permit on or after January 1, 2011, and remains in effect until the effective date of the 2013 triennial edition.

For more information on Title 24 of CCR and the selected parts that are available online, please visit the [California Buildings Standards Commission](#) Web site.

California Agency Decisions, Orders & Reports

Some agencies have decisions and orders posted online. The quickest way to find out is to search that agency's Web site. The State of California posts an Agency Directory (link below), which provides links to the agencies' sites. Reports are rarely posted online. To find out if an agency has published a report, go to the Legislative Counsel's [Agency Reports](#) database.

[California State Agencies Directory](#). State of California.

Alphabetical listing of state agency Web sites. Links to State agencies, departments, boards and commissions. Also includes links to frequently requested projects, programs, and other nonprofit organizations related to government.

- *Agency Decisions & Orders*

Note that the print version of an agency decision may be deemed the controlling or official version. Contact the individual agency directly for availability of the print decision. In addition, because of the transitory nature of the Internet, some of the links below are sure to have been changed since the publication of this chapter. If a link is broken, please use the [Agency Directory](#) to find the agency Web page and look for either a tab or link to the publications listed below. Indeed, listed below are a just a few examples of agency decisions and orders posted online.

[Office of the Attorney General's Legal Opinions](#).

The legal opinions of the Attorney General issued since 1986 are posted to this Web site. Search opinions by year, by keyword or phrases, and by specific citations. Yearly indexes (since 1997) are also posted to this site.

[1972-2010 Reported CEQA Cases](#). California Natural Resources Agency.

Provides online access to court decisions relating to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Includes court reporter citations.

[Fair Employment and Housing Commission Decisions](#).

Precedential decisions from 2000 to 2010.

[Department of Managed Health Care Complaint & Arbitration Decisions](#).

CHAPTER 6: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CALIFORNIA LAW RESOURCES

Once a year, the Department of Managed Health Care prepares a report on complaints and Independent Medical Reviews. These reports (from 2000) are posted on this page. Also on this page, scroll down to view the link, is the Arbitration Decisions database, which the public can search and view.

[Department of Social Services Precedential Decisions.](#)

This page summarizes cases and provides links to the decisions (in PDF).

[Fair Political Practices Commission.](#)

Access to [Opinions](#) (from 1975-2006), [Enforcement Summaries](#), [Advice Letters](#) (1990-present), and [Complaint Closure Letters](#) (from 2009-present).

[Medical Board of California Precedential Decisions.](#)

Decisions that contain a significant legal or policy determination of general application that is likely to recur may be designated as precedential. Once a decision is designated as precedential, the Board may rely on it and parties may cite to such a decision in arguments to the Board and courts. May search decisions by keyword or by index.

[Office of Administrative Hearings' Special Education Decisions & Orders.](#)

Search for decisions from July 1, 2005 to present. May search by keyword, name of judge, case number, and school district. May also browse a listing of all decisions. Links to decisions issued prior to July 1, 2005 are located at the bottom of this page.

- ***Agency Reports***

[Agency Reports.](#) California Legislative Counsel.

This database provides information about reports by various state and local agencies. The information is processed and updated continuously by the Legislative Counsel. For a copy of the report, one must contact the agency directly.

The Governor's Executive Orders, Proclamations & Press Releases

[Executive Orders](#), [Proclamations](#), [Public Notices](#) and [Press Releases](#). The Governor of the California.

View current press releases, speeches, executive orders, proclamations, and public notices. After you have selected one of the aforementioned types of documents (e.g., *Executive Orders*), notice the links under *Archives* on the left side

of the screen. If the links above fail, go to the [Governor of California](#) page and place your mouse over *Newsroom*.

California Municipal & County Codes, Ordinances

Many city and county municipal codes and ordinances are posted online. If a city or county self-publishes its codes and ordinances, you will find a link on the city or county's Web site. Normally, a self-published municipal code will have limited search features and may not be updated frequently.

There are several commercial publishers of municipal codes. UCLA Law Library has a comprehensive list of those publishers on one of its LibGuides pages, [Municipal codes online](#), which is on the "Local Gov't Law" tab of the guide called [Online Legal Research: Beyond LexisNexis & Westlaw](#). Please note that none of these databases is comprehensive. You will find a state's cities in more than one database. For this reason, researchers who need to search for codes in multiple cities and would like to do one general search (rather than search the codes of each city and county separately) will face some difficulties.

If you are looking for one city or one county's municipal code or ordinances, the easiest thing to do is to simply use a search engine such as Google or Yahoo or Bing to find the city's Web site or search for the city name and "municipal code."

An excellent source for California municipal and county codes and ordinances is the Institute of Government Studies Library, UC Berkeley, [California Local Codes and Charters](#) page.

California Attorneys & Judges

Professional Responsibility

Rules of Professional Conduct must be adhered to by California attorneys and judges. Ethics Opinions serve to guide the ethical conduct of attorneys through the use of hypothetical situations that are commented on. State Bar Court slip opinions are ethical rulings regarding California attorneys, but are not final opinions and thus are not citable in a court document.

CHAPTER 6: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CALIFORNIA LAW RESOURCES

- *Digest*

California State Bar Court Reporter. Office of the State Bar Court. 1990- . 6 vols. Loose-leaf. Includes topical digests and a table of cases (including case numbers and subsequent history notations).

- *California Rules of Professional Conduct & Code of Judicial Ethics*

[California Code of Judicial Ethics](#) (PDF). Amended by the Supreme Court of California effective April 29, 2009.

California Rules of Professional Conduct, State Bar Act. State Bar of California. Annual.

[California Rules of Professional Conduct](#). State Bar of California.

The linked title above should take you to the Rules of Professional Conduct page on the California Bar site. On this page, there are links to the current rules, previous rules, and the proposed rules of professional conduct.

- *Ethics Opinions & Rulings*

California Compendium on Professional Responsibility. Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct, State Bar of California. Paul W. Vapnek, editor in chief. 1983-. Loose-leaf. Includes formal opinions, California Rules of Professional Conduct, the State Bar Act, and proposed rules.

[Ethics Opinions](#). The State Bar of California Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct. 1965 to present.

California State Bar Court Reporter. Office of the State Bar Court. 1992- . Loose-leaf.

[Published Slip Opinions](#). The State Bar Court, Review Department.

The full text of slip opinions are posted here, where they remain until they are published in their final form in the [California State Bar Court Reporter](#). These are not finalized opinions and thus are not citable in a court document.

Directories

[Attorney/Member Search](#). State Bar of California.

The member records directory of the California State Bar provides contact information and education history for members of the state bar. In certain circumstances, incidents of public discipline are also provided. The Advanced Search page allows users to search for names that “sound like” your entered term. This feature helps if you are not certain of the spelling of an attorney’s name.

California Courts and Judges. Deborah Bogen. James Pub. Co. 2001-. Annual.

Provides information on California’s federal and state court judges and describes court structure and function of judges.

California Directory of Attorneys. Daily Journal Corp. 2009.

California Lawyers. Daily Journal Corp. 1990-. Semiannual.

Contains an alphabetical list of names and addresses of California attorneys in Northern and Southern California. Also contains a listing of federal and state courts as well as federal and state officials.

Court Directory Los Angeles. Daily Journal Corp. 1989-. Biweekly.

Published as a biweekly insert in the *Los Angeles Daily Journal*. It contains detailed contact information.

Judicial Profiles (Southern California). Daily Journal Corp. 1995-. Loose-leaf.

Profiles current California federal and state court judges.

Judicial Profiles (Northern California). Daily Journal Corp. 1995-. 7 vols. Loose-leaf.

Profiles current California federal and state court judges.

Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory. Martindale-Hubbell. 17 vols.

Volume 2 and contains a listing of California firms and attorneys. Attorney profiles include biographical information as well as areas of practice.

[Martindale-Hubbell Lawyer Locator](#). Contains credentials and contact information for over one million attorneys.

2009 Parker Directory of California Attorneys. (90th ed.). LexisNexis. 1980-. Annual.

This directory lists practicing attorneys and law firms in California by county but only provides addresses and telephone numbers.

San Diego County Attorney Directory 2009. (52nd ed.). The Daily Transcript Corp.

CHAPTER 6: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CALIFORNIA LAW RESOURCES

San Diego Lawyer Directory 2008. San Diego County Bar Association.

[West's Legal Directory on FindLaw](#).

This directory offers credentials and contact information on attorneys from the U.S. and Canada.

Secondary Sources for California Legal Research

Secondary sources offer two major benefits – they summarize an unfamiliar area of law, and they provide citations to the law. There are many forms of secondary sources. With few exceptions, traditional secondary sources are not available on the free Internet. So unless a hyperlink is included below, assume that the listed resource is a print resource. However, there is an online book, published by the Office of the Assembly Chief Clerk, which may be helpful to those researchers who need an introduction to the legislative process and state government.

[California's Legislature](#). Office of the Assembly Chief Clerk. (2006)

This book is “an in-depth introduction to the legislative process and state government. This heavily illustrated book is an excellent resource for students, lobbyists, state employees, and the general public. Topics include state history, constitutional and election law, term limits, state emblems, legislative procedure, the executive and judicial branches, and a legislative glossary.”

Access it [online](#) for free (in PDF) or order from the [Legislative Bill Room](#) for \$5.00 per copy by calling (916) 445-2645 or placing an order by mail by filling out the [order form](#) (PDF).

This section begins with a short list of resources on California legal research. Legal encyclopedias, treatises, practice guides and handbooks, and formbooks follow.

California Legal Research Guides

California Legal Research Handbook, 2nd ed. Larry D. Dershem. William S. Hein. 2008.

Henke's California Law Guide, 8th ed. Daniel W. Martin. LexisNexis. 2006.

Legal Research in California, 6th ed. John K. Hanft. Thomson West. 2007.

Legal Encyclopedias

Legal encyclopedias include many short narrations of the law, arranged by topic. References to California case law and statutory law are included. Since the topics are numerous and the narrations are short, it is the perfect way to start the research process when you are researching an unfamiliar area of law: You'll likely find something related to your issue, and it will not be overly detailed. Because of the brevity of the narrations, it is nearly always necessary to consult a more detailed secondary source (see the next section on Treatises, Practice Guides, and Handbooks) before proceeding to primary law research.

There is one legal encyclopedia directly relating to California law: *California Jurisprudence 3d*. Thomson West. 1972-. 74+ vols.

Witkin Treatises

Bernard Witkin was a legal scholar who dedicated most of his professional life to writing a series of treatises covering all aspects of California law. After his death in 1995, the Witkin Legal Institute continued his legacy by updating and then producing new editions of his works. Despite its grand title, *Summary of California Law* covers civil law only. His co-author in the criminal law set is Norman L. Epstein.

California Criminal Law, 3rd ed. Witkin Legal Institute. 2000-. 6 vols.

California Evidence, 4th ed. Witkin Legal Institute. 2000-. 3 vols.

California Procedure, 5th ed. Witkin Legal Institute. 2008-. 10 vols.

Summary of California Law, 10th ed. Witkin Legal Institute. 2005-. 16 vols.

Treatises, Practice Guides & Handbooks

The [California Continuing Education of the Bar \(CEB\)](#) publishes several excellent handbooks, some of which are listed below. In addition, the CEB publishes Action Guides, which are pamphlet sized, inexpensive publications containing basic how-to instructions for a variety of legal situations. [The Rutter Group](#) and [Matthew Bender](#) also produce many useful practice guides for California law. For a full list of legal publishers, please see Chapter 8.

CHAPTER 6: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CALIFORNIA LAW RESOURCES

What follows are major California secondary source works by legal subject. Those subjects include [Corporations](#), [Civil Procedure](#), [Employment Law](#), [Estate Planning](#), [Family Law](#), [Landlord-Tenant](#), [Real Property](#), and [Taxation](#). Sources are listed alphabetically by title.

- ***Corporations***

Advising California Nonprofit Corporations, 3rd ed. Continuing Education for the Bar of California. 2009-. 2 vols. Loose-leaf.

Ballantine & Sterling California Corporation Laws, 4th ed. Henry W. Ballantine. Matthew Bender. 1962-. 7 vols.

California Corporation Practice & Forms Manual. Data Trace Publishing Company. 1999-. 3 vols.

California Practice Guide: Corporations. Hugh C. Friedman. The Rutter Group. 1984-. 2 vols. Loose-leaf.

Counseling California Corporations, 3rd ed. Continuing Education for the Bar of California. 2008-. 2 vols. Loose-leaf.

Financing and Protecting California Businesses. Lawrence S. Branton. Continuing Education of the Bar, 2006-.

Marsh's California Corporation Law, 4th ed. Harold Marsh, Jr. et al. Aspen Publishers. 4 vols. 2000-.

Organizing Corporations in California, 3rd ed. Keith W. McBride, et al. Continuing Education of the Bar. 2001-. 2 vols. Loose-leaf.

- ***Civil Procedure***

California Civil Discovery Practice, 4th ed. Continuing Education of the Bar. 2006. 2 vols. Loose-leaf.

California Civil Litigation Forms Manual. Continuing Education of the Bar. 2 vols. Loose-leaf.

California Civil Practice: Procedure. Thomson West. 1992-.

California Civil Procedure Before Trial, 4th ed. Continuing Education of the Bar. 2004-. 3 vols. Loose-leaf.

California Depositions and Discovery Practice. Matthew Bender. 1987-. 3 vols. Loose-leaf.

California Practice Guide: Civil Procedure Before Trial. Weil, Robert I., and Ira A. Brown, Jr. The Rutter Group. 1983-. 3 vols. Loose-leaf.

California Procedure, 5th ed. Witkin Legal Institute. 2008-. 10 vols.

California Trial Practice: Civil Procedure During Trial, 3rd ed. Continuing Education of the Bar. 1995-. 3 vols. Loose-leaf.

Matthew Bender Practice Guide: California Civil Discovery. Matthew Bender. 2003-. 1 vol. Loose-leaf.

Matthew Bender Practice Guide: California Pretrial Civil Procedure. Matthew Bender. 2003-. 3 vol. Loose-leaf.

Matthew Bender Practice Guide: California Trial and Post-Trial Civil Procedure. Matthew Bender. 2006-. 2 vols. Loose-leaf.

Younger on California Motions. Thomson West. 2008.

- ***Employment Law***

Advising California Employers and Employees, 2nd ed. Continuing Education of the Bar. 2005-. 3 vols. Loose-leaf.

California Employment Law. Matthew Bender. 1989-. 4 vols. Loose-leaf.

California Practice Guide: Employment Litigation. The Rutter Group. 2001-. 3 vols.

Labor and Employment in California, 2nd ed. Matthew Bender. 1997-. 1 vol. Loose-leaf.

Wage and Hour Manual for California Employers, 13th ed. Richard J. Simmons. Castle Publications. 2008.

CHAPTER 6: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CALIFORNIA LAW RESOURCES

Wrongful Employment Termination Practice, 2nd ed. Continuing Education of the Bar. 1997-. 2 vols. Loose-leaf.

- ***Estate Planning***

California Decedent's Estate Practice, 2nd ed. Continuing Education of the Bar. 2009-. 3 vols.

California Estate Planning. Continuing Education of the Bar. 2002-. 2 vols.

California Practice Guide: Probate. The Rutter Group. 1986-. 2 vols. Loose-leaf.

California Probate Practice. Matthew Bender. 1991-. 4 vols.

California Probate Procedure, 6th ed. Matthew Bender. 1998-. 2 vols. Loose-leaf.

California Trust Administration, 2nd ed. Continuing Education of the Bar. 2001-. 2 vols. Loose-leaf.

California Trust and Probate Litigation. Continuing Education of the Bar. 1999-. 2 vols.

California Trust Practice. Matthew Bender. 1996-. Loose-leaf.

California Wills and Trusts. 1991-. 3 vols. Loose-leaf.

California Will Drafting, 3rd ed. Continuing Education of the Bar. 1992-. 3 vols. Loose-leaf.

Drafting California Irrevocable Trusts, 3rd ed. Continuing Education of the Bar. 1997-. 2 vols. Loose-leaf.

Drafting California Revocable Trusts, 4th ed. Continuing Education of the Bar. 2003-. 2 vols. Loose-leaf.

- ***Family Law***

Bassett on California Community Property Law. Thomson West. 1988-. Annual pamphlet.

California Child Custody Litigation and Practice. Continuing Education of the Bar. 2006-. Loose-leaf.

California Community Property With Tax Analysis. Matthew Bender. 1985-. Loose-leaf.

California Domestic Partnerships. Continuing Education of the Bar. 2005-. Loose-leaf.

California Family Law Litigation Guide. Matthew Bender. 1992-. 5 vols. Loose-leaf.

California Family Law, Practice and Procedure, 2nd ed. Matthew Bender. 1994-. 6 vols. Loose-leaf.

California Guardianship Practice. Continuing Education of the Bar. 2005-. Annual pamphlet.

California Marital Settlement & Other Family Law Agreements, 3rd ed. Carol Amyx, et al. Continuing Education of the Bar. 2005-. 2 vols. Loose-leaf.

California Practice Guide: Family Law. William P. Hogoboom. The Rutter Group. 1981-. 3 vols. Loose-leaf.

Dividing Pensions and Other Employee Benefits in California Divorces. Continuing Education of the Bar. 2006-. Loose-leaf.

Family Law. Financial Discovery. Continuing Education of the Bar. 2008-. Loose-leaf.

Practice under the California Family Code: Dissolution, Legal Separation, Nullity. Continuing Education of the Bar. 1992-. Annual pamphlet.

West's California Code Forms: Family, 2nd ed. Thomson West. 2006.

- ***Landlord-Tenant***

California Eviction Defense Manual, 2nd ed. Myron Moskovitz et al. Continuing Education of the Bar. 1993-. 2 vols. Loose-leaf.

CHAPTER 6: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CALIFORNIA LAW RESOURCES

California Landlord-Tenant Practice, 2nd ed. Myron Moskovitz et al. Continuing Education of the Bar. 1997-. 2 vols. Loose-leaf.

California Practice Guide: Landlord-Tenant. The Rutter Group. 1989-. 2 vols. Loose-leaf.

Matthew Bender Practice Guide: California Landlord-Tenant Litigation. Matthew Bender. 2003-. Loose-leaf.

- ***Real Property***

California Civil Practice. Real Property Litigation. Thomson West. 4 vols. Loose-leaf.

California Mortgage, Deeds of Trust and Foreclosure Litigation, 4th ed. Continuing Education of the Bar. 2009-. Loose-leaf.

California Practice Guide: Real Property Transactions. The Rutter Group. 2001-. 2 vols. Loose-leaf.

California Real Estate Finance Practice: Strategies & Forms. Continuing Education of the Bar. 2000-. 2 vols. Loose-leaf.

California Real Estate Law and Practice. Matthew Bender. 1973-. 17 vols. Loose-leaf.

California Real Property Practice Forms Manual. Continuing Education of the Bar. 1988-. Loose-leaf.

California Real Property Remedies and Damages. Continuing Education of the Bar. 2002-. 2 vols. Loose-leaf.

California Real Property Sales Transactions, 4th ed. Continuing Education of the Bar. 2 vols. 2007-. Loose-leaf.

Miller & Starr California Real Estate, 3d ed. Thomson West. 2000-.

Miller & Starr California Real Estate Forms, 2nd ed. Thomson West. 2005-. Loose-leaf.

Real Property Exchanges. Continuing Education of the Bar, 3rd ed. 2002-. Loose-leaf.

- **Taxation**

California Estate and Gift Tax Planning: Forms and Practice Manual. Data Trace Publishing. 1999-. 2 vols. Loose-leaf.

California Small Business Guide. Formation, Operation and Taxation. Matthew Bender. 1998-. 4 vols. Loose-leaf.

Guidebook to California Taxes. Commerce Clearing House. 1950-. Annual pamphlet.

Taxing California Property. Thomson West. 2008-. 3 vols. Loose-leaf.

Formbooks

California Civil Litigation Forms Manual. Continuing Education of the Bar. 1980-. 2 vols. Loose-leaf.

California Civil Practice. Thomson West. 1992-. 40+ vols. Loose-leaf.

California Forms of Pleading and Practice, Annotated. Matthew Bender. 55+ vols. Loose-leaf.

California Judicial Council Forms Manual. Continuing Education of the Bar. 1981-. 4 vols. Loose-leaf.

California Legal Forms: Transaction Guide. Matthew Bender. 36 vols. Loose-leaf.

California Points and Authorities. Matthew Bender. 24 vols. Loose-leaf.

California Transaction Forms, Thomson West.

West's California Code Forms with Practice Commentaries. Thomson West.
Keyed to specific California legislative code sections.

West's Judicial Council Forms, Thomson West. 1986-. 4 vols. Annual pamphlet.
[California Judicial Council forms](#) are also available on the [California Courts](#) site.



List of Internet Sources Cited in this Chapter

- **California Legislative Counsel's Official California Legislative Information:**
Home page: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/index.html>
State Constitution: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/const.html>
Statutes: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/statute.html>
Codes: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html>
Bill Information: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html>
Bill Index: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilindex.html>
Legislative publications, including *Daily File*, *Legislative Index*, *Table of Sections Affected*, *Senate Daily Journal*, *Assembly Daily Journal*, *Assembly Handbook*, and *Agency Reports*:
<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/legpubs.html>
California's Legislature, Order Form:
http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pdf/Order_Form_CaLegi06.pdf
Agency Reports: <http://www.agencyreports.ca.gov/>
California's Legislature: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/califleg.html>
Order Form: http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pdf/Order_Form_CaLegi06.pdf
- **Other legislative materials:**
California State Legislature: <http://www.legislature.ca.gov/>
California State Senate: <http://www.senate.ca.gov/>
California State Assembly: <http://www.assembly.ca.gov/defaulttext.asp>
Office of the Chief Clerk: <http://www.assembly.ca.gov/clerk/>
Publications Archive: <http://192.234.213.35/clerkarchive/>
Legislative Bill Room: <http://www.dgs.ca.gov/osp/Programs/BillRoom.aspx>
Legislative Hearings & Reports Index (U.C. Hastings Law Library):
<http://library.uchastings.edu/Welcome.html>
Senate Office of Research's Legislative Highlights: <http://sor.govoffice3.com>
California Law Revision Commission recommendations on Legislation (1957-current):
<http://www.clrc.ca.gov/Mreports-publications.html>
- **Judicial Council of California's California Courts:**
Opinions: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/opinions.htm>
Forms: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/forms.htm>
Rules: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/rules.htm>
Courts: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/courts.htm>
California Jury Instructions: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/966.htm>
California Code of Judicial Ethics (linked on the Rules page, see above):
http://www.courts.ca.gov/xbcr/cc/ca_code_judicial_ethics.pdf

- ***Executive Branch Materials:***
California Office of Administrative Law: www.oal.ca.gov
California Code of Regulations: <http://www.oal.ca.gov/CCR.htm>
California Regulatory Notice Register: http://www.oal.ca.gov/Notice_Register.htm
California Code of Regulations, Title 24, see California Building Standards Commission: <http://www.bsc.ca.gov/default.htm>
California State Agencies Directory: <http://www.ca.gov/CaSearch/Agencies.aspx>
Office of the Attorney General Legal Opinions: <http://oag.ca.gov/opinions>
Reported CEQA cases: <http://ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/cases/>
Fair Employment and Housing Commission Decisions: <http://www.fehc.ca.gov/act/decision.asp>
- ***Initiatives, Referenda, Propositions, Ballot Propositions:***
California Secretary of State (Initiatives, Referenda, Propositions): http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_j.htm
California Ballot Measures Database, from UC Hastings (Propositions, Initiatives, Referenda, Ballot Pamphlets): <http://library.uchastings.edu/library/california-research/ca-ballot-measures.html>
LA Law Library's Ballot Propositions Page: <http://www.lalawlibrary.org/research/ballots/default.aspx>
- ***Attorneys & Judges:***
State Bar of California: <http://www.calbar.ca.gov/>
Attorney/Member Search: <http://members.calbar.ca.gov/fal/MemberSearch/QuickSearch>
Rules of Professional Conduct page: <http://rules.calbar.ca.gov/Rules/RulesofProfessionalConduct.aspx>
Ethics Opinions: <http://ethics.calbar.ca.gov/Ethics/Opinions.aspx>
Published slip opinions, State Bar Court of California: <http://www.statebarcourt.ca.gov/Opinions/PublishedOpinions.aspx>
Martindale-Hubbell: <http://www.martindale.com/Find-Lawyers-and-Law-Firms.aspx>
FindLaw's Lawyer Directory: <http://lawyers.findlaw.com/>
- ***Secondary Source Publishers:***
Continuing Education of the Bar (CEB): <http://ceb.com>
The Rutter Group: <http://www.ruttergroup.com>
Matthew Bender: <http://www.bender.com>
- ***Other Sources of California Court Opinions:***
Cal Law: <http://www.callaw.com>
lexisONE.com: <http://www.lexisone.com/lx1/caselaw/freecaselaw?action=FCLDisplayCaseSearchForm>
FindLaw's California Cases: <http://www.findlaw.com/cacases/>

Chapter 7

FEDERAL LAW

The U.S. federal system consists of executive, legislative, and judicial branches, each of which creates legal information that can be the subject of legal research. This chapter provides brief descriptions of the legislative process and the federal judiciary and focuses on the primary sources of federal law (i.e., cases, statutes, and regulations). Included are references to both print and Internet sources. For a more detailed list of federal law sources please see Chapter 8: [Bibliography of Federal Law Resources](#).

Contents:

- [U.S. Constitution](#)
- [Federal Legislation](#)
 - [The Legislative Process](#)
 - [Federal Statutes](#)
 - [Researching Federal Legislative History](#)
 - [Tracking Current Legislation](#)
 - [Determining Legislative Intent](#)
 - [Selected Legislative History Sources](#)
- [Federal Case Law](#)
 - [The Federal Judiciary](#)
 - [Federal Case Law Publications](#)
- [Federal Regulations & Regulatory Decisions](#)
- [Presidential Materials](#)
- [Selected Bibliography](#)
- [List of Internet Sources Cited in this Chapter](#)

U.S. Constitution

The United States Constitution is the most important document for all Americans. It creates the framework for politics, limits the government's powers, and guarantees that citizens have fundamental freedoms. The U.S. Supreme Court is the ultimate court that interprets the meaning and scope of the Constitution.

While the actual text of the Constitution can be printed in twenty pages or less, the legal research sources, such as cases and treatises which offer analysis and interpretation of this basic document, number in the millions of pages.¹ The text of the Constitution may be found in many standard reference sources available in every library (e.g., dictionaries and encyclopedias). It is printed at the beginning of the *United States Code*, the official publication of federal statutes. The Internet is also a great source. For a historical perspective, one may view a signed copy of the Constitution on the National Archives' [America's Historical Documents](#) Web page. For those seeking commentary and analysis, the Government Printing Office (GPO) makes available editions and supplements (from 1992 forward) of the [Constitution of the United States, Constitutional Analysis and Interpretation](#).² Another great Internet resource is Cornell University Law School Legal Information Institute (LII)'s [U.S. Constitution](#) page, which has the Constitutional text, along with the annotations prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS).

Federal Legislation

*The Legislative Process*³

Because a majority of Congressional bills originate in the House of Representatives, the following discussion traces the progress of a bill that originates in the House. Please note that Senate procedures are very similar.

Ideas for bills come from varied sources including constituents, members of the President's Cabinet and members of the Congress. Proposed legislation may take one of four forms: bills, simple resolutions, joint resolutions or concurrent resolutions. The designated bill number (e.g., H.R. 1 or S. 1) that a proposed piece of legislation receives does not change as the bill progresses from one house to the next. In the federal system,

¹ An excellent six-volume set, *Encyclopedia of the American Constitution*, 2nd ed. Leonard W. Levy, Kenneth L. Karst and Adam Winkler, eds. Macmillan Reference USA, 2000, includes articles on constitutional doctrines, landmark court opinions, individuals, and historical periods.

² This is an extensive and authoritative source published by the Congressional Research Service. Scroll down the page of "Additional Government Publications" to the most recent 2002 edition and supplements. The 1992 edition and supplements are also available on this page.

³ For background articles about the federal legislative process, please consult the following: Charles W. Johnson, Parliamentarian, United States House of Representatives. [How Our Laws Are Made](#) (July 24, 2007) and Robert B. Dove, Parliamentarian, United States Senate, [Enactment of a Law](#) (February 1997).

CHAPTER 7: FEDERAL LAW

“H.R.” designates a bill which originated in the House of Representatives and “S.” signifies that a bill originated in the Senate. In contrast, in the California legislative system “S. B.” designates a Senate bill and “A.B.” identifies an Assembly bill.

The first and second readings of a House bill are accomplished by publication of its title in the [Congressional Record](#); while in the Senate, the bill title is read aloud. Once introduced, bills are assigned to appropriate committees for consideration. Each committee has jurisdiction over particular types of proposed legislation. These committees may opt to route a bill to a specialized subcommittee.

Committees schedule public hearings for important bills so that witnesses for and against the proposed measure may present testimony. The subcommittee that has been assigned the bill will then decide whether to table the bill, or to report the bill out favorably to the full committee. The bill may be reported out favorably either with or without amendments. An appointed committee member will prepare a detailed report if the committee decides to report the bill favorably to the House. All reports issued, beginning with the 91st Congress, are numbered with a prefix designating the issuing Congress, followed by the report number (e.g., [H. Rpt. 110-513](#)).

Bills of a noncontroversial nature may be placed on a consent calendar, where they will quickly be passed without debate. Other bills not on the consent calendar may be debated on the floor and amendments to the text may be offered.

Voting takes place after the third reading of the bill. If a bill passes the House, it will then be sent to the Senate where the procedure is more formal. If the bill is noncontroversial, it may be considered at the time of introduction and passed without delay. Other bills are read a second time and are subject to the debate/amendment procedure. After the third reading, a vote is taken. A majority is required for the bill to pass. The version of the Senate bill that has passed is returned to the House with a request for concurrence in the amendments.

Conference committees will be appointed by each house to resolve differences in proposed, disputed amendments. If an appointed conference committee is unable to agree on the amendments, it will be discharged and a new conference committee appointed. Both the House and the Senate must vote to accept the conference committee report and the identical text of amendments, or a bill will not become law.

Bills that successfully pass both houses are enrolled and sent to the President for his action. The bill will become law either by Presidential approval and signature, or by the

lapse of ten days in which no action has been taken. If the President disapproves of a bill, he returns his veto with his objections to the originating house. A two-thirds majority in each house is required to override the Presidential veto.

Federal Statutes

Bills approved through the federal legislative process become statutes and are known as Public Laws. [Public Laws](#) are numbered sequentially with the Congress number and item number designation (e.g., [Pub. L. 107-236](#)). The [Public Laws](#) are published in chronological order by Congressional year in volumes called the [United States Statutes at Large](#). This large set is published in print by the government and is available online through GPO's [Federal Digital System \(FDsys\)](#). Researchers who wish to read the legislation in its entirety as Congress passed it will need to refer to the *Statutes at Large*. The laws are arranged by their Public Law numbers (e.g., Pub. L. 108-262) and are cited by volume and page number (e.g., 118 Stat. 696).⁴ In addition, one may find selected statutes in a set published by Thomson West called *United States Code, Congressional and Administrative News (USCCAN)*.

However, the most helpful compilation of federal laws is the subject arrangement found in the official [United States Code](#), which is prepared and published by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the U.S. House of Representatives.⁵ The *U.S. Code* is arranged by 50 numbered "Titles" (e.g., Title 15 deals with commerce and trade).⁶ New editions of the *U.S. Code* are published every six years, with cumulative supplements published annually to update the bound volumes. Because laws are passed throughout a Congressional session, the issue of currency should be a concern for researchers using the official *U.S. Code*. Fortunately, [Cornell's LII U.S. Code Collection](#) integrates the date listings on the House servers with the [Library of Congress' Thomas service](#) to notify searchers of any updates to sections which have changed.

The two commercial publishers, Thomson West's *United States Code Annotated* (U.S.C.A.) and LexisNexis' *United States Code Service* (U.S.C.S.), update much more

⁴ In this case, the law was passed by the 108th Congress and was assigned the number 262. You will find this law in the *U.S. Statutes at Large* (abbreviated as Stat.) in volume 118 and starting on page 696.

⁵ Note that during the summer of 2011, the House Law Revision Counsel launched a [new site in beta](#) to test out new search features. The [United States Code](#) is also available online through GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys).

⁶ One may browse titles on GPO's FDsys by selecting a year and clicking *Go*. Here's the [list of titles from 2009](#).

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frequently than the official *United States Code*. If these sources are available to researchers, they should be consulted, not only because of the issue of currency, but also because of their added content. While they both offer the same subject arrangement as the *U.S. Code* and reproduce the same statutory language, these sets also include notes of court decisions, regulations and other sources that interpret or discuss the text of the federal laws. Hence, citations to the Consumer Product Safety Act may appear as 15 U.S.C. § 2051 et seq., 15 U.S.C.A. § 2051 et seq., or 15 U.S.C.S. § 2051 et seq. Each refers to the same statutory language, which appears in Title 15 (Commerce and Trade) and begins at section 2051. In addition, in the annotated codes, following the statutory language and notes, researchers will find references to relevant sections in the *Code of Federal Regulations* (discussed at the end of this chapter), citations to law review commentaries and other secondary sources, and cases that have discussed or referred to this section of the Consumer Product Safety Act. For other examples of code citations, please see page Chapter 2: *How to Read a Legal Citation*.

Each set of the U.S. Code includes a subject index. A particularly useful finding tool is the *Table of Popular Names of Acts*. Oftentimes, researchers will know only the name of the act as it is referred to in the popular press (e.g., Family and Medical Leave Act). In order to find the citation to the act in the *U.S. Code* or the *Statutes at Large*, one may look up the popular name of the act in either U.S.C.A. or U.S.C.S. or using one of the following online sources: the U.S. House of Representative's [Popular Name Tool](#) or Cornell Law School, Legal Information Institute's [Popular names of Acts in the US Code](#).

Researching Federal Legislative History

Legislative history traces the legislative process of a particular bill for the purpose of (1) locating the current status of a bill and monitoring its progress, or (2) determining the legislators' intent behind the enactment of a law to explain or clarify ambiguities in the language or the perceived meaning of that law. The work of compiling a legislative history involves searching for the documents generated during the legislative process such as the various versions of a bill; committee hearings, reports and prints; debates; and presidential messages. While there are many sources to aid a researcher in locating these documents, this discussion highlights readily available Internet sources as well as print sources commonly found in law libraries and in larger public libraries. See *Selected Legislative History Sources* at the end of this section for additional sources.

- *Tracking Current Legislation*

[Thomas](#), a service of the Library of Congress, was launched in 1995 to make federal legislative information freely available to the public. Bills in the current Congressional session can be searched by bill number or key word and can be browsed by sponsor name.

[Thomas](#) provides the text of pending bills as well as a link to the *Bill Status and Summary* file which indicates the current status of the bill and the last major action on the bill. It also offers links to the [Congressional Record](#) (floor debates) and links to committee actions. Once a bill is passed into law, Thomas will include the Public Law as well.

Researchers can also search for analysis and commentary on a bill as it goes through Congress in publications such as *Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report*, the *New York Times*, and the *Washington Post*.

- ***Determining Legislative Intent***

Compiling a legislative history to determine intent can be a daunting task, especially if you are unfamiliar with this type of legal research. Once you know the steps involved, however, legislative history research can be straightforward. Fortunately, many law libraries offer detailed guides to federal legislative history research.⁷

The first step in legislative history research is to determine whether someone has already compiled the legislative documents for you. Some libraries have complete legislative histories in both paper copy and microform. Search in the library catalog by title (e.g., legislative history housing act 1961), by subject (e.g., United States Laws, etc. Bankruptcy law of the United States), or by committee name (e.g., U.S. Congress House (or Senate) Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs Sub-committee on Indian Affairs Menominee Restoration Act).

*Sources of Compiled Legislative Histories*⁸ also offers a good starting point for locating completed histories. The Law Librarians' Society of Washington, D.C.

⁷ UCLA Law Library has a detailed [Federal Legislative History Research Guide](#). In addition, [an alphabetical list of state legislative history guides](#) has been compiled by Jennifer Bryan Morgan, Documents Librarian, Indiana University School of Law Library—Bloomington.

⁸ Compiled by Nancy P. Johnson, published by the American Association of Law Libraries, and updated by loose-leaf. Available to HeinOnline subscribers (check your local college or university for access).

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(LLSDC)'s [Legislative Source Book](#), which is compiled by members of the Legislative Research Special Interest Section, is another excellent resource. Some of this material has been published in print for many years, and is now also available on their Web site. Resources include *Federal Legislative History Research: A Practitioner's Guide to Compiling the Documents and Sifting for Legislative Intent*, *A Research Guide to the Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations*, and *Selected Congressional Research Service Reports on Congress and Its Procedures*. Also note [Legislative Histories of Selected U.S. Laws on the Internet](#), which is arranged by popular name and public law number.

For laws enacted since 1970, the CIS (Congressional Information Service) Index provides the most comprehensive single access to legislative histories for all major bills. The index volumes and companion abstract volumes bring together all the bills, hearings, reports, etc. as well as related bills from the same or prior sessions of Congress. All the documents (except full text of debates) are available in microfiche and online via the LexisNexis Congressional database. LexisNexis also publishes a retrospective collection.

Unfortunately, compiled legislative histories are not always available. Researchers wanting to research the legislative intent are best served in a law library or a depository library. The following steps offer a methodology for identifying and locating the appropriate legislative documents:

1. Read the Code section in *U.S.C.A.* or *U.S.C.S.*
2. Look at the "Historical Note" (which follows the text of the Code section). In the *U.S.C.A.* look for a citation to the *U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News* (USCCAN) for legislative history and purpose.
3. Review the annotations for references to cases and law review articles that discuss legislative intent.
4. Take note of the Public Law citation (e.g., Pub. L. 90-325).
5. Consult one of the following publications to identify relevant documents:
 - a. *CIS/Annual's* Index of Bill, Report and Document Numbers
 - b. *USCCAN's* Table of Legislative History
6. Read the statute's history

- a. The original bill and any subsequent versions
[Thomas](#) includes bills from the 101st Congress forward.
Finding aids: CCH Congressional Index, CIS/Annual, [Congressional Record Index](#)
- b. Committee hearings and reports
Finding aids: CCH Congressional Index, CIS/Annual, CIS U.S. Congressional Committee Hearings Index, Monthly Catalog/Cumulative Subject Index⁹
- c. House & Senate conference reports
Finding aids: CCH Congressional Index, CIS/Annual, [Congressional Record, Catalog of U.S. Government Publications](#), USCCAN, U.S. Serial Set Index
- d. Debates in Congress
Finding aid: [Congressional Record Index](#)
- e. Roll call votes
Finding aid: CCH Congressional Index, [Congressional Record Index](#), [House Journal](#), [Senate Journal](#), and Senate's [Roll Call Votes & Tables](#) page
7. Look at any Presidential statements
 - a. [Public Papers of the President](#)
 - b. [Compilation of Presidential Documents](#)
8. Locate veto messages
 - a. [Congressional Record](#)
 - b. [House](#) and [Senate Journals](#)
 - c. [Compilation of Presidential Documents](#)
9. Find the Congressional votes on vetoes

⁹ The *Monthly Catalog of the United States Government Publications*, which had been printed since the passage of the Printing Act of 1895, was discontinued with the December 2004 edition. For publications issued prior to 1976, the printed *Monthly Catalog* should be consulted. The print editions were distributed to [federal depository libraries](#). For publications issued after 1976, please use the online [Catalog of U.S. Government Publications](#) (CGP), which provides descriptive records for historical and current publications and provides direct links to those that are available online.

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- a. *CCH Congressional Index*
- b. [Congressional Record](#)

- ***Selected Legislative History Sources***

Below is a chart with the Internet addresses and selected contents of the most efficient and reliable sources for federal legislative materials.

NAME	GPO ACCESS	THOMAS	CORNELL'S LII	FINDLAW
Link	<u>Government Publications by Collection on GPO's FDsys</u>	<u>Library of Congress' Thomas</u>	<u>Legal Information Institute (LII)</u>	<u>FindLaw's Federal Government Resources</u>
Selected Contents	U.S. Constitution, U.S. Code, Statutes at Large, Congress. Bills, Congressional Record, Congress. Hearings, Congress. Reports, and much more.	Bills & Resolutions, Bill Summary & Status, House & Senate Roll Call Votes, Congressional Record Daily Digest, Committee Reports, and more.	U.S. Constitution, CRS Annotated Constitution, U.S. Code, & Popular Names of Acts in the U.S. Code.	U.S. Constitution, U.S. Code, Table of Popular Names, links to Thomas, GPO Access, etc.

Another notable site is Vanderbilt University's [Frequently Used Sites Related to U.S. Government Information](#).

Print Sources:

1. *Commerce Clearing House (CCH). Congressional Index (1938-current)*
Lists each bill by number and all the pages in that year's Congressional Record on which the bill is mentioned.
2. *CIS/Index (LexisNexis) (1970-current)*
Lists each public law in the annual abstracts volume chronologically and references hearings, reports, documents and prints.
3. *Digest of Public General Bills and Resolutions (GPO) (1971-1990)*
Contains summaries of each Public Law. Gives dates of reports, debate,

roll call, and passage. Ceased with final issue for 101st Congress, 2nd session.

4. Nancy P. Johnson. *Sources of Compiled Legislative Histories: A Bibliography of Government Documents, Periodical Articles, and Books: 1st Congress to 102d Congress* (AALL Publication No. 14, 1996)

Arranged by Public Law number. Includes an author and title index as well as an act index.

5. Bernard D. Reams, Jr. *Federal Legislative Histories: An Annotated Bibliography and Index to Officially Published Sources* (Greenwood Press, 1994)
6. *United States Code, Congressional and Administrative News (USCCAN)* (Thomson West) (1952-current)

Reprints major House, Senate, and Conference Reports for most Public Laws.

Federal Case Law

Case law, which consists of the written opinion of judges rendered in particular cases, is one of the most important sources of U.S. legal authority. While cases involve a specific dispute between parties, judges, in their written decisions, will shape legal doctrine by interpreting statutes and regulations. Statutes, however clearly worded, must be read in conjunction with court decisions that construe and apply their provisions. Cases can also “create” law in areas where there are no governing statutes or regulations.

*Federal Judiciary*¹⁰

The judicial power of the United States is vested in the Supreme Court of the United States and the various inferior or lower federal courts. Federal courts hear cases based on the U.S. Constitution, cases dealing with treaties or federal law, and certain other conflicts. Examples of issues based on federal law are immigration, bankruptcy, and federal taxation. Although the U.S. Supreme Court does have original jurisdiction (i.e., it may be the first court to hear a particular case) for some matters such as disputes

¹⁰ See also the U.S. Courts’ [Understanding the Federal Courts](#), which provides an introduction to the federal judicial system, its organization and administration, and its relationship to the legislative and executive branches of the government. Sections are linked on the left, highlighted by arrows.

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between states, it is predominantly an appellate court. The U.S. Supreme Court is compelled to hear certain cases, but in most situations it is within the Court's discretion whether or not to hear an appeal. Cases come to the U.S. Supreme Court from both lower federal courts and state courts, but there must be a federal question involved. Ordinarily, cases are appealed from the highest state appellate court (e.g., the California Supreme Court) or from one of the U.S. Courts of Appeals.

The U.S. Courts of Appeals are the primary federal appellate courts. The United States is divided geographically into twelve circuits.¹¹ California is in the Ninth Circuit, which is based in San Francisco. In the Ninth Circuit, bankruptcy appeals can be made either to the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel or to the Circuit Court. There is also a special Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Cases from all fifty states based on patent appeals and appeals from the Court of International Trade, United States Claims Court, the Merit System Protection Board, and other specified cases are appealed to the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

District Courts are the trial courts for the federal system. California is divided into four districts. The Northern District is based in San Francisco; the Central District sits in Los Angeles and Santa Ana; the Southern District has offices in San Diego; and the Eastern District sits in Sacramento and Fresno. District courts are courts of first instance for most federal questions. There is also a bankruptcy court in each district.

In addition to the regular court system, there are several administrative agencies with judicial or quasi-judicial powers. The U.S. Tax Court and the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) are two examples. Appeals from these agencies go to the Courts of Appeals.

Federal Case Law Publications

Cases are published chronologically in multi-volumes sets called "reporters" or "reports." When the volumes reach a certain number (e.g., 100 or 300) the publisher will start over with volume one and designate it the publication's second series. For example, the *Federal Reporter* began in 1880 and is currently in its third series. Hence, there is more than one volume with the number 1 in the *Federal Reporter* series: volume 1 of the first series (cited as F.), volume 1 of the second series (cited as F.2d.), and volume 1 of the third series (cited as F.3d).

¹¹ For a Circuit map, please see http://www.uscourts.gov/court_locator.aspx.

Please note that while all decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court are published, only some of the U.S. Courts of Appeals and U.S. District Courts' decisions are published. Also note that there are separate reporters for specialized subject fields of federal law. For example, the decisions of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces (formerly U.S. Court of Military Appeals) are published in West's *Military Justice Reporter* (1978 to current). The *Bankruptcy Reporter* (1980-current) contains the decisions of the U.S. Bankruptcy Courts and the bankruptcy decisions from the U.S. District Courts. For a complete list of federal court reporters, please see Table 1.1: United States Jurisdictions, Federal of *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*, 19th ed. (Harvard Law Review Association, 2010).

Below is a chart that shows where federal cases are published.

COURT	PUBLICATION TITLE
U.S. Supreme Court	<i>United States Reports</i> (Official) <i>West's Supreme Court Reporter</i> (Unofficial) <i>LexisNexis' Supreme Court Reports, Lawyers' Edition</i> (Unofficial) ¹²
U.S. Courts of Appeals	<i>West's Federal Reporter</i> (Unofficial) <i>West's Federal Appendix</i> (Unofficial) ¹³
U.S. District Courts	<i>West's Federal Supplement</i> (Unofficial) <i>West's Federal Rules Decisions</i> (Unofficial) ¹⁴

The chart on the next page lists the Internet sources where one may find federal cases.

¹² Although only the printed bound volumes of the *United States Reports* contain the final, official opinions of the Supreme Court, the time lag between issuance of an opinion and its final publication in a bound volume is about four years. For this reason, print researchers must consult one of the unofficial, commercial publications, which are far more current.

¹³ Cases not selected for publication (by West's editors) in the *Federal Reporter* series are published in the *Federal Appendix*.

¹⁴ This set began publication in 1940 and contains a selected number of U.S. District Court decisions dealing with procedural issues under the *Federal Rules of Civil Procedure* and the *Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure*.

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FEDERAL CASES ON THE INTERNET		
<i>U.S. Supreme Court</i>	<i>U.S. Courts of Appeals</i>	<i>U.S. District Court*</i>
<p>Official Web site of the U.S. Supreme Court (for latest opinions and U.S. Reports from volumes 502 et seq.)</p> <p>The Public Library of Law (volume 1 of <i>U.S. Reports</i> to current decisions)</p> <p>LexisNexis' Communities Free Case Law (1781 to present)</p> <p>FindLaw (1893 to present)</p> <p>Cornell's Legal Information Institute (decisions from 1990 and over 600 historic decisions)</p>	<p>The Public Library of Law (1950 to present, except 11th Circuit (1981 to present) and Federal Circuit (1982 to present))</p> <p>OpenJurist (U.S. Court of Appeals opinions from 1880)</p> <p>LexisNexis Communities Free Case Law (last 10 years)</p> <p>FindLaw (varies by circuit, earliest opinions are dated between 1994 and 1997)</p> <p>Cornell's Legal Information Institute (varies by circuit, earliest opinions are dated in 1992)</p>	<p>Justia's Federal District Court Cases (from 2002)</p> <p>FindLaw (provides links to official district courts' Web sites, arranged alphabetically by state)</p> <p>Cornell's Legal Information Institute (varies by district)</p> <p>*Note that district court opinions are not readily available for free on the Internet. Consider contacting your local academic library or public law library for availability of LexisNexis Academic Universe or public access Westlaw or LexisNexis.</p>

Federal Regulations & Regulatory Decisions

Federal regulations are rules and procedures promulgated by the executive and administrative agencies, which are delegated power by Congress. Agencies have both quasi-legislative power and quasi-judicial power. Hence, agencies may promulgate binding regulations and issue decisions involving particular parties on a case-by-case basis. Agencies may also issue advisory opinions or decisions, which may also be called orders or releases. This area of research is often called administrative law. Researchers new to this area of law may consult the [United States Government Manual](#), which provides comprehensive information on the agencies of the legislative, judicial, and executive branches. Another useful resource is Louisiana State University Libraries' [Federal Agency Directory](#). It lists current/active/existing U.S. federal government agencies. Since the directory is not annotated, researchers should use this resource

when they know the name of the agency but do not know the URL.

Regulations

Regulations supply detailed explanations and interpretations for the broad mandates of Congressional acts. Regulations are a binding source of law similar to statutes and cases. Regulations from all federal agencies can be found in two publications issued by the government. The [Federal Register](#) is a daily publication that contains the text of new and proposed regulations.¹⁵ The [Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\)](#) is the codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register. Consult Appendix C of the [U.S. Government Manual](#) for a list of agencies and where they appear in the CFR.

Research for federal regulations should begin with the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).¹⁶ The CFR is divided into 50 titles that represent the broad areas subject to federal regulation. Each title is divided into chapters, usually bearing the name of the issuing agency, which are divided further into parts that cover specific regulatory areas. Within the titles are chapters subdivided into subchapters by subject and then into parts dealing with specific topics. CFR parts are further subdivided into subparts and finally into sections. Each title is published annually, with the new edition replacing the old. An index is also published. The publication schedule divides the CFR into fourths, with one-fourth of the titles being published in the spring, one-fourth in the summer, etc. A typical citation would read 23 C.F.R. § 750.308, where 23 is the title number and 750.308 is the section number.

During the year, the daily Federal Register prints amendments to the CFR, and provides cross-referenced tables to allow the researcher to determine whether a particular CFR section has been amended since the last annual edition was published. The [e-CFR](#) is a current, daily edition of the CFR. Please note that it is not an official, legal edition of the CFR.

Regulatory Decisions

Federal agencies such as the National Labor Relations Board and the Federal Maritime Commission often have judicial or quasi-judicial authority and may issue

¹⁵ Also available is a prototype edition of the Federal Register: <http://www.federalregister.gov/>. In addition, the Office of the Federal Register's [Public Inspection Desk](#) provides access to documents that will appear in the next days' Federal Register, as well as selected documents scheduled for later issues.

¹⁶ Id. The [List of CFR Sections Affected](#) (1997-present) is available on FDsys.

administrative decisions. The decisions of many agencies are not published officially by the agency. Electronic database and loose-leaf law publishers are the main sources for this information. However, an increasing number of administrative decisions are becoming available on the Internet, but there is little consistency in how agencies provide access to this information. The University of Virginia Library's [Administrative Decisions & Other Actions – By Agency](#) provides links to administrative actions that are outside the scope of the CFR or the FR. The only other avenue for these decisions and rulings is to make a request to the appropriate agency.

Presidential Materials

Materials that emanate from the President's lawmaking function include executive orders for officers in departments and agencies and proclamations for announcing ceremonial or commemorative policies. Executive orders and proclamations may be found in the *Federal Register*, *Code of Federal Regulations* and the Web sites listed below.

Presidential Materials available on [GPO's Federal Digital System \(FDsys\)](#)
Includes the [Budget of the U.S. Government](#), the [Economic Report of the President](#), and [Compilation of Presidential Documents](#).

[Presidential Actions](#) (via the White House's official Web site)
Includes recent Executive Orders, Memoranda, and Proclamations

[Codification of Presidential Proclamations and Executive Orders](#) (via NARA)
Provides access to the edited and re-arranged text of Presidential Proclamations and Executive Orders from April 13, 1945 to January 20, 1989. This page also includes a link to the [Executive Orders Disposition Tables](#), which begins with E.O. 7532, January 8, 1937 and includes title, signature date, *Federal Register* citation, and detailed histories of amendments and revocations.

[The American Presidency Project](#)

Established in 1999 as a collaboration between John Woolley and Gerhard Peters at the University of California, Santa Barbara, this site contains over 86,000 documents related to the study of the Presidency. The Document Archive includes the Messages and Papers of the Presidents (Washington to Taft, 1789-1913), the Public Papers of the President (Hoover to Bush, 1929-1993), as well as documents such as party platforms, candidates' remarks, formal farewell addresses, and much more.

Selected Bibliography

- *Basic Legal Research: Tools and Strategies*, 4th ed. Amy E. Sloan (Aspen, 2009)
- *Finding the Law*, 13th ed. Robert C. Berring & Elizabeth A. Edinger (Thomson West, 2009)
- *Fundamentals of Legal Research*, 9th ed. Steven M. Barken, Roy M. Mersky, & Donald J. Dunn (Foundation Press, 2009)
- *Legal Research Explained*, 2nd ed. Deborah E. Bouchoux (Aspen Publishers, 2010)
- *The Process of Legal Research*, 7th ed. Christina L. Kunz et al. (Aspen Publishers, 2008)



List of Internet Sources Cited in this Chapter

U.S. Constitution:

America's Historical Documents: <http://www.archives.gov/historical-docs/>
Constitution of the United States, Constitutional Analysis and Interpretation:
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=GPO> (scroll down
list of Additional Government Publications)
Cornell University Law School's Legal Information Institute (LII), Constitution with CRS
annotations: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/anncon/>

Federal Legislation:

Statutes at Large:
<http://www.gpo.gov/searchwebapp/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=STATUTE>
U.S. Code:
<http://uscode.house.gov/>
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/>
<http://www.gpo.gov/searchwebapp/browse/collectionUSCode.action?collectionCode=USCODE>
Thomas: <http://thomas.loc.gov>
Popular Name Tables:
<http://uscode.house.gov/popularnames/popularnames.htm>
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/topn/>
Articles on the federal legislative process:
<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/lawsmade.toc.html>
<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/enactment/enactlawtoc.html>

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GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys): <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/home.action>

Cornell's Legal Information Institute: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/>

FindLaw's Federal Government Resources:

<http://www.findlaw.com/10fedgov/legislative/index.html>

GODART's Frequently Used Sites Related to U.S. Federal Government Information:

<http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/romans/fdtf/>

Federal Legislative History Sources:

Indiana University, Maurer School of Law, State Legislative History Research Guides:

<http://www.law.indiana.edu/lawlibrary/research/guides/statelegislative/index.shtml>

UCLA Federal Legislative History Research Guide:

<http://libguides.law.ucla.edu/federallegislativehistory>

Law Librarians' Society of Washington, D.C.

Legislative Source Book: <http://www.llsdc.org/sourcebook/>

Legislative Histories of Selected U.S. Laws on the Internet:

<http://www.llsdc.org/Leg-Hist/>

Congressional Bills:

<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/multicongress/multicongress.html>

<http://www.gpo.gov/searchwebapp/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=BILLS>

Congressional Calendars:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=CCAL>

Office of the Clerk, U.S. House: <http://clerk.house.gov/>

Contact Elected Officials: <http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>

List of Federal depository libraries: <http://www.gpo.gov/libraries/>

Catalog of U.S. Government Publications: <http://catalog.gpo.gov/F>

NARA's Finding Aids to Legislative Records:

<http://www.archives.gov/legislative/finding-aids/index.html>

Congressional Record Index:

<http://www.gpo.gov/searchwebapp/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=CRI>

Congressional Record:

<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/LegislativeData.php?n=Record>

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=CREC>

House Journal:

<http://www.gpo.gov/searchwebapp/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=HJOURNAL>

Congressional Calendars:

<http://www.gpo.gov/searchwebapp/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=CCAL>

Public Papers of the President:

<http://www.gpo.gov/searchwebapp/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=PPP>

Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents:

<http://www.gpo.gov/searchwebapp/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=CPD>

Federal Case Law:

Understanding the Federal Courts:

<http://www.uscourts.gov/FederalCourts/UnderstandingtheFederalCourts/FederalCourtsInAmericanGovernment.aspx>

U.S. Supreme Court: <http://www.supremecourt.gov/>

The Public Law Library: <http://www.plol.org/Pages/Search.aspx>

LexisNexis Communities Free Case Law:

<http://www.lexisone.com/lx1/caselaw/freecaselaw?action=FCLDisplayCaseSearchForm&lloc=L1ED&tcode=PORTAL>

OpenJurist: <http://openjurist.org/>

FindLaw:

<http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.html>

http://www.findlaw.com/10fedgov/judicial/appeals_courts.html

http://www.findlaw.com/10fedgov/judicial/district_courts.html

Cornell's LII:

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/>

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/federal/opinions.html>

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/federal/districts.html#circuit>

Federal Regulations & Regulatory Decisions:

United States Government Manual:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=GOVMAN>

Federal Agency Directory: <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/gov/index.html>

Federal Register:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=FR>

<http://www.federalregister.gov/>

Code of Federal Regulations:

<http://www.gpo.gov/searchwebapp/browse/collectionCfr.action?collectionCode=CFR>

e-CFR: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/ecfr/> or <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/>

Administrative Decisions & Other Actions—By Agency (University of Virginia):

http://www2.lib.virginia.edu/govtinfo/fed_decisions_agency.html

Presidential Materials

GPO's FDsys: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collectiontab.action>

Current Presidential Actions (via Official site of the White House):

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions>

Codification of Presidential Proclamations & Executive Orders (NARA):

<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/>

Executive Orders Disposition Tables (NARA):

<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/disposition.html>

American Presidency Project: <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/index.php>

Chapter 8

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF FEDERAL LAW RESOURCES

As discussed in Chapter 7: [Federal Law](#), the three branches of government—the U.S. Congress, the federal judiciary, and the executive branch—create federal law. This annotated bibliography consists of primary and secondary sources of federal law and will assist those conducting federal legal research in identifying sources to consult. Included are print sources, Internet sites, reference titles, research guides, and finding aids.

Contents:

- [United States Constitution](#)
 - [U.S. Constitution, with Commentary & Analysis](#)
 - [U.S. Constitution as Historical Document](#)
- [Legislative Branch Resources](#)
 - [Finding Aids](#)
 - [Statutes & Codes](#)
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 - [Directories](#)
- [Judicial Branch Resources](#)
 - [Court Decisions \(i.e., Cases or Case Law\)](#)
 - [U.S. Supreme Court Cases](#)
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 - [Digests](#)
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- [Executive Branch Resources](#)
 - [Administrative Law](#)
 - [Federal Regulations](#)

- [Administrative Decisions & Rulings](#)
 - [Presidential Documents](#)
 - [Other Executive Branch Resources](#)
- [Reference Sources](#)
 - [General Reference Sources](#)
 - [Research Guides](#)
- [List of Internet Sites Cited in this Chapter](#)

United States Constitution

U.S. Constitution, with Commentary & Analysis

The Constitution of the United States of America: Analysis and Interpretation: Annotations of Cases Decided by the Supreme Court of the United States to June 28, 2002. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 2004.

Prepared by the Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, the bound volume is over 2600 pages and is supplemented by pocket parts.

Online Access:

- [Constitution of the United States: Analysis and Interpretation](#) (GPO's FDsys): Scroll down the page of "Additional Government Publications" to browse the 2002 edition and supplements (2004, 2006, 2008 and 2010). Also may browse the 1992 edition and supplements (1996, 1998, and 2000).
- [CRS Annotated Constitution](#): Hyper-texted interpretation provided by Cornell University Law School's Legal Information Institute (LII) which includes links to U.S. Supreme Court opinions, the *U.S. Code*, and the *Code of Federal Regulations*.

Encyclopedia of the American Constitution, 2nd ed. Leonard W. Levy, Kenneth L. Karst & Adam Winkler, eds. NY: Macmillan Reference USA, 2000.

This six-volume set, supplemented by bound volumes, covers all aspects of constitutional law, including important cases with brief outlines of the constitutional issues involved. It is available online via Gale's Virtual Reference Library (subscription required).

Encyclopedia of Constitutional Amendments, Proposed Amendments, and Amending Issues, 1789-2002, 2nd ed. John R. Vile. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2003.

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This encyclopedia includes more than 500 short explanatory essays, which cover specific cases, individuals, organizations, legal concepts and topics. Each entry is followed by suggestions for further reading. It includes a bibliography, list of cases, and an index. Available online via NetLibrary (subscription required).

U.S. Constitution as Historical Document

[National Archives and Records Administration \(NARA\), Charters of Freedom, Constitution of the United States](#)

Download high-resolution images of the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and the Bill of Rights. Other resources include articles, exhibits, and links to questions and answers.

[The Library of Congress, American Memory, Documents from the Continental Congress and Constitutional Convention, 1774-1789](#)

Includes the Continental Congress Broadside Collection, the Constitutional Convention Broadside Collection, and early printed versions of the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. Access full color scanned images as well as text versions of documents. Full text searchable.

[Yale Law Library, The Avalon Project, The American Constitution – A Documentary Record](#)

Provides the full text (in html) of several pre-Constitutional legal documents, as well as numerous historical documents in the categories of "Revolution and Independence," "Credentials of the Members of the Federal Convention," "the Constitutional Convention," and "Ratification and Formation of the Government."

Legislative Branch Resources

Finding Aids

CIS/Index. Washington, DC: Congressional Information Service, 1970-.

This multi-volume set indexes nearly every Congressional document and is published monthly, with quarterly cumulations and annual bound volumes. Online access through LexisNexis Congressional Universe (subscription required).

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Congressional Masterfile. Washington, DC: Congressional Information Service, I—1789-1969, 1993; II—1970-present, 1989-.

The CD-ROM version of the *CIS/Index*. Part I indexes pre-1970 documents. Part II is updated quarterly.

Congressional Index. Chicago, IL: Commerce Clearing House, 1937/38-.

This two-volume set (one for each house of Congress) includes the status of legislation, committees, members of Congress, voting records, etc. for each Congress from the 75th Congress (1937-39) to the current Congress.

Shepard's Acts and Cases by Popular Names: Federal and State, 5th ed. Colorado Springs, CO: Shepards, 1999.

Indexes federal and state statutes and landmark cases by common names. This two-volume set is updated by a cumulative supplement.

U.S. Code Table of Acts Cited By Popular Name

This table, included in the indexes to the *U.S. Code*, *U.S.C.A.* and *U.S.C.S.*, lists laws alphabetically under either the short titles assigned by Congress or names by which they are commonly known, and provides citations to the *Statutes at Large* and *U.S. Code*.

Online Access:

- o [Popular Name Tool](#), U.S. House of Representatives, Office of Law Revision Counsel
- o [Popular Names of Acts in the U.S. Code](#), Cornell Law School's Legal Information Institute

[Catalog of U.S. Government Publications](#)

This online catalog is the finding tool for current and historical publications from the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the U.S. government (from July 1976 to present) in both electronic and print format. Updated daily, it provides direct links to publications available online. The monthly (with semiannual and annual indexes) print version ceased with no. 1345 (Dec. 2004). Consult the print *Monthly Catalog* for publications issued prior to July 1976.

Statutes & Codes

United States Statutes at Large. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1789-.

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This official, multivolume set includes the acts (both public and private) passed during each Congress, published chronologically. The bound volumes are kept up to date by slip laws (i.e., individual pamphlets designated by public law number, containing the text of newly passed legislation).

Available online via [FDsys](#) from volume 117 (108th Congress, 1st Session (2003)) through volume 121 (110th Congress, 1st Session (2007)), as of November 3, 2011). For current slip laws, see the FDsys' [Public and Private Laws](#) page (104th Congress to current Congressional session).

U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News. St. Paul, MN: West Group, 1952-.

This set (abbreviated as *USCCAN*) is an unofficial publication of the acts of Congress in chronological order. Beginning with the 76th Congress, 1st Session (1939), this set is far more current than either the official slip laws or the *United States Statutes at Large*. Non-cumulative pamphlets keep the bound volumes up to date. *USCCAN* is also a valuable source for legislative histories and includes presidential proclamations and executive orders.

United States Code. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1926-.

This official publication is the codification by subject matter of the general and permanent laws of the United States. Published by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Code is divided by broad subjects into 50 titles. New editions are published approximately every 6 years and are updated by annual cumulative supplements.

Online Access:

- o [The U.S. House of Representatives, Office of Law Revision Counsel, United States Code](#): Search and download titles and chapters of the *U.S. Code*. Links to classification tables, a popular name tool, and Thomas. Click on the "About" link for information on currency of the Code. Note that a [beta site](#) was released (accessed Nov. 3, 2011).
- o [GPO's FDsys, United States Code](#): Search the most recent official edition of the *U.S. Code*. Also available are prior editions (from 1994), plus supplements.

[Cornell Law School's Legal Information Institute \(LII\), U.S. Code Collection](#)

Generated from the most recent official version made available by the U.S. House of Representatives; includes an update service that integrates the services of the House server with the Library of Congress' Thomas service.

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United States Code Annotated. St. Paul, MN: West Group, 1927-.

This unofficial publication follows the same title and section arrangement as the official *U.S. Code*, but includes annotations to judicial decisions, law review articles, and references to other West publications. The bound volumes are supplemented by pocket parts and monthly statutory supplements.

United States Code Service. Charlotte, VA: LEXIS Law Publishing, 1997-.

This unofficial publication follows the same title and section arrangement as the official *U.S. Code*, but includes annotations to judicial decisions, relevant administrative regulations, law review articles and other secondary sources. It includes a cross-reference table to the *Code of Federal Regulations* and is supplemented by pocket parts and monthly advance sheets.

Bills & Resolutions

Congressional Bills and Resolutions. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1789-.

This set (paper or microfiche) includes the full-text of Senate and House bills and resolutions.

[Thomas](#) (Library of Congress)

93rd Congress to current Congress; in Advanced Search, may search multiple Congresses, limit by Congressional sponsor, by committee, by date of introduction, and by type of legislation.

[GPO's FDsys Congressional Bills](#) (Government Printing Office)

103rd Congress to current Congress; the database is updated daily by 6 a.m. (EST). May browse by type of bill and by Congress; provides links to table of years and session dates of Congress and to a Congressional Bills Glossary.

[American Memory's Bills and Resolutions](#), *A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation* (Library of Congress)

Provides the text of bills and resolutions from the 6th Congress to 42nd Congress in the House of Representatives; the 16th Congress to the 42nd Congress in the Senate; and the 18th Congress to the 42nd Congress for Senate Joint Resolutions.

Legislative History Sources

Included below are compiled legislative history sources as well as numerous individual Congressional publications. Please use the [Catalog of U.S. Government Publications](#) to

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locate specific congressional publications (for those issued before July 1976, consult the print *Monthly Catalog*, which are retained by many [federal depository libraries](#)). Researchers should also consult the sources listed under [Legislative Finding Aids](#) for indexes and other resources that will aid in identifying documents produced in Congress during the enactment of a law (debates, hearings, reports, etc.).

- ***Compiled Legislative History Sources***

Hein's Federal Legislative Histories Collection. Buffalo, NY: W. S. Hein, 1997?-.

This collection contains full-text legislative histories on a select number of historically significant legislation, such as the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. It is available in microfiche and online through [HeinOnline](#) (subscription required). Accompanied by *Federal Legislative Histories: An Annotated Bibliography and Index to Officially Published Sources*, compiled by Bernard D. Reams, Jr. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1994.

[Legislative Source Book](#). Law Librarians Society of Washington, D.C. (LLSDC).

This online resource includes research guides, directories, and links to other sources for federal legislative histories, including [Electronic Sources for Federal Legislative History Documents with Years/Congresses Available](#), by Richard J. McKinney.

Sources of Compiled Legislative Histories: A Bibliography of Government Documents, Periodical Articles, and Books, 1st Congress—94th Congress. Nancy P. Johnson. Littleton, CO: Published for the American Association of Law Libraries by F. B. Rothman, 1979-. This one-volume loose-leaf publication contains citations to published legislative histories. It is arranged by public law number and includes an author-title index and public law index. Available online through [HeinOnline](#) (subscription required).

U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News. St. Paul, MN: West Group, 1952-. This set includes select legislative histories materials. Includes citations to other reports and Congressional Record dates.

- ***Congressional Publications***

Calendars of the United States House of Representatives and History of Legislation. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1900s?-.

This publication is issued daily, with weekly cumulations. The Monday issue

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includes a subject index to all House and Senate legislation. Available on [FDsys](#) (104th Congress to current Congress).

Congressional Record. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1873-. The official record of the proceedings and debates of the U.S. Congress. Published daily when Congress is in session, the *Congressional Record* (CR) consists of 4 sections—Daily Digest, House, Senate, and Extension of Remarks. Following each session of Congress, the daily CR is revised, printed, repaginated, and permanently bound.

Note: The debates for sessions prior to 1873 are recorded in *The Debates and Proceedings in the Congress of the United States* (1789-1824), *The Register of Debates in Congress* (1824-1837), and *The Congressional Globe* (1833-1873), which are available online at the Library of Congress' American Memory, [A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates \(1774-1875\)](#)

[Thomas' Congressional Record](#)

Search multiple Congresses from the 101st Congress (1989-1990) to the present. May also view the latest *Daily Digest* or browse the *Daily Issues*. There is also a keyword index. Limit searches by member of Congress, section of the Congressional Record and by date.

[GPO's FDsys Government Publications](#) page includes the following:

- *Daily Congressional Record* (Volume 140 (1994) to present)
- Bound *Congressional Record* (Volumes 145 - 147 (1999 to 2001))
- *Congressional Record Index*, an index to the daily issues of the *Congressional Record* from 1983 to the present in two parts: a listing of individuals, organizations, and topics and the History of Bills, which lists legislative actions reported in the *Congressional Record*.

[Congressional Committee Prints](#)

Committee prints are publications issued by Congressional committees on topics related to their legislative or research activities and are good sources for statistical and historical information as well as legislative analysis. Unfortunately, the procedures for printing and publication of these prints differ with each committee and, hence, are inconsistent. The Senate has a numbering system for its committee prints (based on the Congress and order in which the print was released; e.g., S. Prt. 108-3), but the House does not. They are not

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normally included in the *U.S. Congressional Serial Set*. However, sometimes committee prints are ordered printed as [Congressional Documents](#), if the information they contain is in demand. Documents have a larger distribution than committee prints.

[FDsys](#) provide online access to prints, from the 102th Congress (1991-92) forward. [FDsys](#) also provides access to Congressional Documents from 99th Congress (1985-86) to current Congress.

U.S. Congressional Serial Set. Washington, DC: U.S. GPO, 1817 -.

Commonly referred to as the *Serial Set*. Contains House and Senate Reports and House and Senate Documents, which are arranged by session of Congress and numbered report/document. Documents before 1817 may be found in the [American State Papers](#), which is available online at the Library of Congress' [American Memory](#).

[FDsys](#) provide online access to Congressional Documents and Congressional Reports. GPO's page also includes numerical lists of documents and reports and the [schedule of Serial Set volumes](#).

[Thomas' Committee Reports](#), 104th Congress (1995-1996) forward.

Browse committee reports by type: House, Senate, Conference or Joint, or search the full-text. Limit by committee or by date.

[U.S. Congress Conference Reports](#)

For current and previous Congress only.

Congressional Hearings.

A hearing is a meeting or session of a Senate, House, joint, or special committee of Congress, usually open to the public, to obtain information and opinions on proposed legislation, conduct an investigation, or evaluate/oversee the activities of a government department or the implementation of a federal law. In addition, hearings may also be purely exploratory in nature, providing testimony and data about topics of current interest.

[GPO's FDsys](#) contains selected House and Senate hearings for the 99th Congress (1985-86) forward. Whether or not a hearing is disseminated on FDsys depends on the committee.

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[Rutgers – Camden School of Law, U.S. Congressional Documents Archive](#)

Full-text archive of selected Congressional hearings and committee prints, dated from the 1970s to 1998. As of November 3, 2011, there were 13,213 documents available, with plans to add new materials over the next several years. May browse listings or search full-text.

Federal Government News Sources

CQ Weekly. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 1998-.

The Hill. Washington, DC: Capitol Hill Publishing Company, 1994-.

National Journal's Congress Daily. Washington, DC: National Journal, 1991-.

Roll Call. Washington, DC: Roll Call Group, 1955-.

Free online resources include:

- [Government News](#) (via USA.gov)
- [GovTrack](#) (follow the status of federal legislation, subscribe to RSS feeds & email updates)
- [CapitolHearings.org](#) (a service from C-SPAN)
- [C-SPAN Alert](#) (an email alert service; receive the latest on C-SPAN scheduling, Capitol Spotlight, trivia, special guests and programming announcements, and unique C-SPAN programming).
- [United States Senate Media Galleries](#)
- [United States House of Representatives' Media Resources](#)
- Publications.USA.gov: Formerly known as the Federal Citizen Information Center (FCIC), a one-stop source for answers to questions about consumer problems and government services. May download or order a number of publications on a variety of topics (e.g. Medicare, consumer information, cars etc.).

Directories

[Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774-present](#)

Biographies of all members of Congress from 1774 to the present. Searchable by name, position (e.g., Representative, Senator, Delegate), state, party (e.g., Democrat, Federalist, Republican), and year or congress. Biographies include years of service, place and date of birth, education, and political career and link

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to bibliography, research collections, and House and Senate history pages.

Congressional Staff Directory. Washington, DC: C.Q. Press, 1959-.

Annual directory of members of Congress which includes addresses, telephone and fax numbers, email and Web addresses; biographies and photographs; state map with district highlighted; staff members with titles and legislative responsibilities; all district offices with address, phone, fax, and staff; and leadership positions, committees, subcommittees and caucuses. In addition, detailed information on committees and members' congressional districts.

Congressional Yellow Book. Washington, DC: Washington Monitor, 1976-.

Brief biographies of members of Congress and specific details on legislative staff assignments in Washington and in their home districts. Directories of committees and subcommittees, including detailed information on legislative staff. Quarterly.

[Congressional Directory](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1888-.

Index to members of Congress, committees, staff and agencies. Searchable by keyword and browsable by state or section. Includes Congressional District maps, biographies, and committee assignments. Available online via GPO Access (from 105th Congress (1997-98) forward).

Judicial Branch Resources

Reported court decisions are an important source of law in the Anglo-American legal system. Court decisions are published in books called reporters. Different reporters are published for different courts. Digests serve as subject indexes to reporters, enabling researchers to find specific cases by legal issue. Citators such as *Shepard's* give up-to-date information on the status of cases. These three types of sources (case reporters, digests, and citators) must be used together to conduct thorough case law research. Public libraries often have neither the space nor the budget to maintain these services. Therefore, it is recommended that users with case law research be referred to local law libraries.

Court Decisions (i.e., Cases or Case Law)

- *U.S. Supreme Court Cases*

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United States Law Week. Washington, DC: Bureau of National Affairs, 1933-.

This publication (cited as U.S.L.W.) is a comprehensive source for current information on the Court's activities. Volume 1 includes the full-text of Supreme Court opinions. Volume 2 includes current cases and statutes from federal and state court and legislatures.

United States Reports. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1790-.

The official reporter for U.S. Supreme Court decisions (cited as U.S.). Cases are published first as bench opinions, then as slip opinions, then in advance sheets, and finally in bound volumes. The official Web site for the [U.S. Supreme Court](#) includes slip opinions and the full text bound volumes from volume 502 (1991) to the most current bound volume (which is volume 550 (2006) as of March 23, 2011).

United States Supreme Court Reports, Lawyers' Edition. Charlottesville, VA: LEXIS Law Publishing, 1997-.

This unofficial reporter (cited as L.Ed., L.Ed.2d) contains editorial summaries, headnotes, and annotations. It is kept up to date by advance reports, Later Case Service volumes, pocket parts and Interim Edition volumes.

West's Supreme Court Reporter. St. Paul, MN: West Group, 1988-.

Like the *Lawyers' Edition*, this unofficial reporter (cited as S.Ct.) contains editorial summaries and headnotes. It is kept up to date by advance sheets.

Supreme Court Cases on the Internet:

- [Cornell's Legal Information Institute \(LII\), Supreme Court Collection](#)
Includes U.S. Supreme Court decisions from 1990 forward and over 600 historic decisions. Finding aids include case name lists, topical lists, and authorship lists.
- [FindLaw's Supreme Court Opinions](#)
A searchable database of Supreme Court opinions since 1893. Browsable by year and U.S. Reports volume number and searchable by citation, case name and full text.
- [Lexis Communities Free Case Law](#)
Access U.S. Supreme Court cases from 1781 to present. LexisNexis headnotes are not included. May search by keywords or by citation. Must create an account (which is free) to view the full text of cases.

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- [OpenJurist](#)
A free legal research service which includes U.S. Supreme Court opinions from Volume 1 of the official *United State Reports*.
- [Oyez](#)
From 1792 forward. Oyez provides a summary of facts of the case, question(s) presented, and the Court's conclusion. Links to full text opinion provided by [Justia](#).
- [The Public Library of Law](#)
Powered by Fastcase. Free account registration required. U.S. Supreme Court cases from Volume 1 of the *United States Reports*. May search by case name or citation (no fields provided, just enter the citation/case name into the search box).

Other Supreme Court Internet Resources:

- [ABA's Preview of the United States Supreme Court Cases](#)
Provides links to the briefs filed in cases (both scheduled and unscheduled) from 2003-2004 forward. Supreme Court Preview includes articles that highlight cases from the current term. Following oral argument, the articles include links to commentary and to the Supreme Court's Argument Transcript.
- [Official U.S. Supreme Court Web Site](#)
Provides a wealth of information about the Court, its history, and its justices as well as information on pending cases and recent decisions. It includes a complete list of justices from 1789 to the present.
- [SCOTUS blog](#)
The law firm Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP publishes the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) blog. Read news, commentary and analysis as well as keep up to date on new filings, orders and opinions.
- [On the Docket](#)
On the Docket, part of the Oyez Project, is an online clearinghouse for news about decisions handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court and cases accepted for review. View summaries of upcoming cases and recently decided cases. There is also a Term Calendar and Timeline (where you can move forward or backward to see more content).

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The Oxford Guide to the United States Supreme Court Decisions, 2nd ed. Kermit Hall & James W. Ely. NY: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Each entry offers a full account of the case, the vote of the Justices, the legal and social background, the reasoning behind the Court's decision, and the case's impact on American society. Includes a glossary of terms, and the Supreme Court Justices' nominations, appointments and succession.

- ***U.S. Courts of Appeals Cases***

West's Federal Reporter. St. Paul: MN: West Group, 1993-.

Now in its third series (abbreviated F., F.2d, F.3d), this reporter contains selected decisions of the U.S. Courts of Appeals (from 1880) and is updated with advance sheets.

West's Federal Appendix. St. Paul, MN: West Group, 2001-.

This set (cited as F. App'x) includes Court of Appeals decisions not selected for publication in the *Federal Reporter*. Includes decisions from every circuit (except the 5th and 11th). Researchers need to determine for themselves whether these cases may be cited as precedent.

Courts of Appeals Cases on the Internet:

- [FindLaw's Federal Courts of Appeals Opinions](#)
Coverage varies by jurisdiction but earliest opinions are dated between 1994 and 1997. This page also includes a link to a page listing each court's official Web site.
- [Lexis Communities Free Case Law](#)
Users must create a free account to view cases from the U.S. Courts of Appeals. Limited to cases decided within the last 10 years.
- [OpenJurist](#)
Includes Courts of Appeals opinions published in the *Federal Reporter* from 1880 to present.
- [Public Library of Law](#)
Includes cases from the U.S. Courts of Appeals from 1950 to present (except for the 11th Circuit (from 1981) and the Federal Circuit (from 1982)). In advanced search, may search only one jurisdiction at a time.

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- ***U.S. District Court Cases***

West's Federal Supplement. St. Paul, MN: West Group, 1933-.

Now in its second series (cited as F. Supp., F. Supp. 2d), this reporter contains selected federal district court cases beginning in 1932. Like the other West reporters, it includes editorial summaries, headnotes with key numbers, and references to secondary sources.

West's Federal Rules Decisions. St. Paul, MN: West Group, 1940-.

Cited as F.R.D., this set contains U.S. District Court opinions dealing with procedural rules under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

District Court Internet Resources:

- [FindLaw's U.S. District Courts](#)
Provides links to official District Court Web sites which often contain recent opinions.
- [Justia's Federal District Court Filings & Dockets](#) and [Opinions & Orders](#)
May search by party name, by jurisdiction, lawsuit type, and limit by date case was filed. Browsable by state, nature of suit and case name. Cases available from 2004 to present.
- [PACER's County/District Locator](#)
Search for District and Circuit of federal courts by county name; search for all counties in a District; or search for details by county code.

- ***Other Federal Courts Resources***

[U.S. Courts' Court Locator](#)

An interactive federal court map which also allows searching for a court by zip code, city and state, area code, and type of court.

[Cornell's LII, Federal Law Materials - Judicial Opinions](#)

Scroll to the bottom of this page for links to the official Web sites of the lower federal courts—to statistical data and decisions by circuit and by state. Also provides links to U.S. Courts of Special Jurisdiction.

Digests

United States Supreme Court Digest, 1754 to Date. St. Paul, MN: West Group, 1943-.

This subject index to U.S. Supreme Court cases is a companion to West's *Supreme Court Reporter*. Includes a descriptive word index, a table of cases, and references to West's Key Number system. Updated by pocket parts.

United States Supreme Court Digest, Lawyers' Edition. Charlottesville, VA: LEXIS Law Publishing, 1948-.

This subject index to U.S. Supreme Court cases is a companion to *U.S. Supreme Court Reports, Lawyers' Edition*. Organized by digest topics and includes Table of Cases volumes. Updated by pocket parts.

West's Federal Practice Digest, 4th. St. Paul, MN: West Group, 1989-.

This digest, which began as the *Federal Digest*, serves as a subject index to all federal courts. It includes a descriptive word index, references to West's Key Number system, a Table of Cases, and Words & Phrases volumes. Updated by pocket parts and supplementary pamphlets.

Citators

Shepard's Citations

Includes *Shepard's United States Citations*, *Shepard's Federal Citations*, *Shepard's Code of Federal Regulations Citations*, *Shepard's Administrative Citations*, *Shepard's Pacific Reporter Citations*, *Shepard's California Citations*, and many more (for a full list of titles, search the [LexisNexis Bookstore](#))

[Shepard's Citations in Print, Product Literature and Manuals](#)

Links to PDF documents: Editorial Analysis definitions, features and organization, and How to *Shepardize* in Print.

Internet Resources (fee based)

Note: Many public law libraries have public access subscriptions to Westlaw or LexisNexis which allow users to search these databases at no cost. Contact your local law library for availability (for contact information, see Appendix C of this publication or [Your Public Law Library's Find Your Nearest California County Law Libraries](#) Web page).

- [Westlaw by Credit Card](#)

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“The price of retrieving a document or KeyCite result varies, depending on the type of document. You will always be asked to confirm charges before your credit card is billed, and this prompt lists the price. Charges are applied monthly to the credit card you provided at registration.”

- o Georgetown Law Library, Free and Low Cost Legal Research on the Web, [Low-Cost Legal Databases](#)

Provides a list of lower-cost subscription legal databases, all of which include a “citor” service. The guide cautions: “these citators typically only provide a list of cases in which the citation appears. They do not include qualitative information, such as an indication that a particular case has received negative treatment. Westlaw and Lexis both provide this information through their Shepard's and Keycite services, and those services are available through the lower cost lexisONE and Westlaw by Credit Card.”

Judges

Almanac of the Federal Judiciary. Chicago, IL: LawLetters, 1984-.

Currently published by Aspen Publishers in loose-leaf format. Provides profiles of every federal judge including academic and professional background, experience on the bench, noteworthy rulings and commentary by lawyers. Two volumes per year—volume 1 covers district court judges, magistrates and bankruptcy judges; volume 2 covers circuit court judges.

American Bench: Judges of the Nation. Sacramento, CA: Forster-Long, 1977-.

Provides information on each court—location, jurisdiction, method of selecting judges, and maps of judicial divisions. It is arranged alphabetically by state—federal district court judges are profiled in the state section in which the judge presides. There are separate sections for the U.S. Supreme Court and federal Courts of Appeals.

[Biographical Directory of Federal Judges](#) (from the Federal Judicial Center)

This comprehensive database provides information about all judges who have served since 1789 and is updated daily. Search by name or browse using the alphabetical index. This page also includes a link to *The Federal Judges Biographical Database*, which one may use to create customized lists of judges based by multiple criteria, including nominating president, type of court, dates of service, and demographic groups.

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BNA's Directory of State and Federal Courts, Judges, and Clerks. Washington, DC: Bureau of National Affairs, 1992-.

Lists names, addresses, and telephone numbers for judges, clerks, and administrators at the top three levels of the state and federal judiciary. Annual.

Daily Journal's Judicial Profiles. Los Angeles, CA: Daily Journal Corporation, 1995-.

Offers profiles which ran in the Daily Journal legal newspaper and covers all judges, state and federal, sitting in California. Includes alphabetical and jurisdictional indexes. Loose-leaf.

Judicial Staff Directory. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 1986-.

Includes names, addresses, and telephone numbers for all federal judges and court staff. There are biographies for a select number of judges and judicial staff. Includes maps showing the jurisdiction of the district courts for each state. Biennial.

Judicial Yellow Book. New York, NY: Leadership Directories, 1995-.

Consists of two sections—one for the federal courts and one for state courts. Includes contact information for judges and court staff. Semiannual.

History & Statistics

[*Creating the Federal Judicial System*](#), 2nd ed. Russell R. Wheeler and Cynthia Harrison. Washington, DC: Federal Judicial Center, 1994.
Available online via GPO Access (34 page PDF).

History of the Federal Courts, 2nd ed. Erwin C. Surrency. Dobbs Ferry, NY: Oceana Publications, 2002.

[*U.S. Courts' Statistics*](#)

Reports include the *Annual Report of the Director: Judicial Business of the United States*, *Federal Court Management Statistics*, *Federal Judicial Caseload Statistics*, *Judicial Facts and Figures*, *Statistical Tables for the Federal Judiciary*, *Wiretap Reports* and several reports on bankruptcy.

[*U.S. Courts' History of Authorized Judgeships*](#)

Includes historical information on authorized judgeships for all courts and judgeship appointments by presidents since 1933.

Executive Branch Resources

Administrative Law

- *Federal Regulations*

Regulations promulgated by federal agencies are first published chronologically in a daily publication called the *Federal Register*. They are then arranged by subject in the *Code of Federal Regulations*.

Federal Register. Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Service, 1936-.

Includes proposed and final rules and regulations of federal agencies, agency notices, presidential documents of general applicability, and Sunshine Act meetings. Also include extensive preambles that explain the agency rationale for promulgating the regulatory changes and summarize the public comments on proposed rules. There is a monthly index, which cumulates references since the beginning of the year.

[Federal Register on GPO's FDsys](#) provides online access from 1994 (Volume 59) to the present. Database is updated daily by 6 a.m. and is published Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Also available is the unofficial prototype edition of the [Federal Register](#), which is somewhat more user-friendly.

Code of Federal Regulations. Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Service, 1949-.

The *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) is the codification of the general and permanent rules published in the *Federal Register* by the executive departments and agencies of the federal government. It is divided into 50 titles that represent the broad areas subject to federal regulation. Each title is divided into chapters, which usually begin with the name of the issuing agency. Chapters are divided into parts that cover specific regulatory areas. Each volume of the CFR is updated once each calendar year and is issued on a quarterly basis.

[Code of Federal Regulations on GPO's FDsys](#)

All titles are available from 1996 to the current year. CFR volumes are added to GPO's FDsys concurrent with the release of the paper editions. A

list of agencies and where they appear in the CFR may be found in the Appendix of the [U.S. Government Manual](#).

[e-CFR](#)

e-CFR is a daily updated version of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR). It is an editorial compilation of CFR materials and *Federal Register* amendments.

[Code of Federal Regulation on Cornell's LII](#)

Links to the most recent version of the CFR placed on the Internet by the GPO. May retrieve sections by citation (title & section) or browse by title. There is also a link (on the right) to the LII index of all section headings, which is recommended as a first search.

- ***Administrative Decisions and Rulings***

Administrative agencies have quasi-judicial powers—they hold hearings and issue decisions involving specific parties. The publication pattern of agency decision varies by agency. In addition, there is no mandated and organized system for the publication of agency decisions. Some agencies publish all decisions, while others are more selective. Hence, commercial publishers are a major source of administrative decisions in their subject fields.

Loose-leaf services are available for heavily regulated areas such as tax (e.g., CCH's *Tax Court Reporter*), securities (e.g., CCH's *Federal Securities Law Reporter*), and labor (e.g., BNA's *Labor Relations Reporter*). Not only are loose-leaf publications usually very current (some are updated weekly), but they often contain relevant primary sources of law and some secondary materials in one publication. In addition to statutes, regulations, court cases and administrative agency decisions, they generally provide current awareness information such as news of proposed legislation and pending regulations. These services are often better indexed than the government publications and contain features to help you locate information.

To review a list of published agency decisions, see the following reference titles:

- *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*, 19th ed. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Law Review Association, 2010.

For a non-exclusive table of administrative agency and executive materials, see T1.2 at pages 218-228.

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- *Legal Looseleafs in Print*. New York, NY: InfoSources Pub., 1981-.
Check this publication to find out if there is a loose-leaf publication in a particular subject field.

[University of Virginia Library, Government Information Resources, Administrative Decisions & Other Actions—By Agency](#)

This page links to administrative actions that are outside the scope of the CFR or the FR. Alphabetical by agency and by subject.

Presidential Documents

The major legal documents issued by the President are executive orders and proclamations. Executive orders involve the exercise of presidential authority and do not have the force of law until they are printed in the [Federal Register](#). Proclamations usually involve announcements of policy and are often ceremonial. Nonetheless, proclamations have important legal significance such as when used to grant presidential pardons. Proclamations are also published in the [Federal Register](#).

Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States. Washington, DC: Federal Register Division, National Archives and Records Service, 1957-.

This series covers the administrations of Presidents Hoover, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Clinton, and George W. Bush. Currently, volumes are published approximately twice a year, and each volume covers approximately a 6-month period. Each Public Papers volume contains the papers and speeches of the President of the United States that were issued by the Office of the Press Secretary during the specified time period. The material is presented in chronological order, and the dates shown in the headings are the dates of the documents or events. Each Public Papers volume features a foreword signed by the President, and a portfolio of photographs selected from White House Photo Office files, as well as subject and name indexes, and a document categories list.

Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents. Washington, DC: Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, 1965-.

A companion to the *Public Papers* series, the *Weekly Compilation* was begun in 1965 to provide a broader range of Presidential materials on a timely basis to meet the needs of the contemporary reader. The appendices in each Public Papers volume provide listings of:

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- A digest of the President's daily schedule and meetings and other items of general interest issued by the Office of the Press Secretary;
- The President's nominations submitted to the Senate;
- A checklist of materials released by the Office of the Press Secretary; and
- A table of Proclamations, Executive Orders, and other Presidential documents released by the Office of the Press Secretary and published in the *Federal Register*.

Presidential Materials on the Internet:

- [White House Briefing Room's Presidential Actions](#)
Official proclamations, presidential memoranda, and executive orders that President Obama has issued since his inauguration.
- [FDsys' Compilation of Presidential Documents](#)
The Compilation of Presidential Documents collection consists of the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents and the Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents, which are the official publications of materials released by the White House Press Secretary. From 1993 to present.
- [FDsys' Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States](#)
Includes the papers of George H.W. Bush, William J. Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack H. Obama.
- [The American Presidency Project](#)
Established in 1999, this project is the result of a collaboration between John Woolley and Gerhard Peters at the University of California, Santa Barbara. The Document Archive contains over 86,000 documents related to the study of the presidency and includes the Messages and Papers of the Presidents (Washington to Taft, 1789-1913), The Public Papers of the President (Hoover to Bush, 1929-1993), as well as thousands of other documents such as party platforms, candidates' remarks, formal farewell addresses, and much more.
- [Codification of Presidential Proclamations and Executive Orders](#)
Via NARA. Provides access to the edited and re-arranged text of Presidential Proclamations and Executive Orders from April 13, 1945 to January 20, 1989. This page also includes a link to the [Executive Orders Disposition Tables](#), which begins with E.O. 7532, January 8, 1937 to present, and includes title, signature date, *Federal Register* citation, and

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detailed history of amendments and revocations.

Other Executive Branch Resources

[Federal Agency Directory](#) (via Louisiana State University Libraries)

Lists current/active/existing U.S. federal government agencies as represented in the *U.S. Government Manual*. No annotation provided. The index is searchable by agency keyword only. Note that this index is for people who already know what agency they are looking for, but do not know the URL.

Federal Regulatory Directory. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly, 1979/80-.

Now in its 14th edition, this directory includes profiles of more than 100 federal agencies and departments, including contact information, structure, and current issues.

Federal Staff Directory. Mount Vernon, VA: Congressional Staff Directory, Ltd., 1982-.

Contains listings from the White House offices, offices of the Vice President, agencies of the executive office of the President, presidential advisory organizations, executive departments, independent agencies, quasi-official international and non-governmental organizations and federal executive biographies. Published three times a year.

Federal Yellow Book. Washington, DC: Washington Monitor, 1976-.

Contact information for over 45,000 U.S. federal positions located within the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Quarterly publication.

[United States Government Manual](#). Washington, DC: Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Service, 1973/74-.

Provides comprehensive information on the agencies of the federal government. Also includes information on quasi-official agencies, international organizations in which the U.S. participates, boards, commissions, and committees. Includes citations to statutes under which the agencies operate and organizational charts. The *Manual* includes the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. GPO's FDsys includes editions of the *Manual* from 1995-96 forward.

[USA.gov's A-Z Index of U.S. Government Departments and Agencies](#)

Alphabetical (and hyperlinked) list of federal agencies.

Washington Information Directory. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 1975/76-.

Includes information on groups (e.g., lobbyists and nonprofits), contact information for Congress and federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, policy groups, foundations, and institutions, governors and other state officials, and U.S. and foreign diplomats. Annual.

Reference Sources

General Reference

Publications.U.S.A.gov

Formerly called the Federal Citizen Information Center (FCIC), this site provides a one-stop source for answers to questions about consumer problems and government services.

Washington Information Directory. Washington D.C.: CQ Press, 1975/76-.

Annual publication which includes information on groups (e.g., lobbyists and nonprofits), contact information for Congress and federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, policy groups, foundations, and institutions, governors and other state officials, and U.S. and foreign diplomats.

Research Guides

- *Print*

Basic Legal Research: Tools and Strategies, 4th ed. Amy E. Sloan (Aspen, 2009)

Finding the Law, 13th ed. Robert C. Berring & Elizabeth A. Edinger (Thomson West, 2009)

Fundamentals of Legal Research, 9th ed. Steven M. Barken, Roy M. Mersky, & Donald J. Dunn (Foundation Press, 2009)

Legal Research in a Nutshell, 10th ed. Morris L. Cohen and Kent C. Olsen (West, 2010).

The Process of Legal Research, 7th ed. Christina L. Kunz et al. (Aspen Pub., 2008).

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Specialized Legal Research. Penny A. Hazelton, ed. (Aspen Law & Business, 1987-). This one volume loose-leaf publication includes chapters on securities regulation, the uniform commercial code, federal income taxation, copyright law, federal labor and employment law, environmental law and land use planning, admiralty and maritime law, immigration law, military and veterans law, banking law, federal patent and trademark law, federal government contracts, and customs law.

- *Legal Research Guides on the Internet*

[Cornell University Law Library's Legal Research Engine](#)

Offers a specialized search engine to help researchers find authoritative legal research guides. In 2008, the InSITE search was added, which allows users to search over 1,000 law-related Web sites that have been vetted by law librarians. Users can also limit their search to academic blawgs.

GlobalLex's [A Guide to the U.S. Federal Legal System: Web-Based Publicly Accessible Sources](#) (updated October 2010)

Written by Gretchen Feltes, Faculty Services/Reference Librarian at New York University School of Law Library.

[Law Library of Congress' Guide to Law Online, U.S. Federal Research Help](#)

Includes several guides related to federal law, including guides to the United States Constitution, the United States Executive, the United States Judiciary, United States Legislative, Criminal Justice System, Elections, and the United States Legal System.

Marion Gould Gallagher Law Library, University of Washington School of Law, [U.S. \(Federal\) Law Legal Research Guides](#)

Includes guides to U.S. Administrative Law, Constitutional Clauses & Their Nicknames, Court Briefs and Oral Arguments, Federal Legislative History, Judicial Branch Publications, Reporters and Digests, and Statutory Research Checklist.

UCLA Law Library's list of [Federal Law Research Guides](#)

Includes the following guides: Federal Administrative Law, Federal Case Materials Checklist, Federal Legislative History, Federal Tax Research, Finding Federal Statutes, and Online Legal Research: Beyond LexisNexis and Westlaw.

[U.S. Senate's Reference page, "How to" guides](#)

This page links to several guides that help explain how to find materials related to the Senate and the legislative process. The short essays are clearly written and provide links to online sources. Guides include how to research the collections of former Senators, how to find the U.S. Code, how to find committee hearings, how to find books, and much more.

- *Guides highlighting free & low-cost legal resources on the Internet*

[Georgetown's Free & Low-Cost Legal Research Guide](#)

This guide provides links to free online legal materials (federal as well as state). At the end of the guide, there is a summary of the features and costs of lower cost databases, including Caselex, Casemaker, Fastcase, lexisOne, Loislaw, VersusLaw, and Westlaw).

[Pace Law School Library's Fee & Low-Cost Resources for Legal Information](#)

Located in New York State, Pace Law Library's guide includes many links to New York resources as well as the federal law materials.

[UCLA Law Library's Online Legal Research: Beyond LexisNexis & Westlaw](#)

This guide links to a wide variety of free (and low cost) online legal research sources: federal law, California law, local government law, research guides, dictionaries and directories, free legal forms, and legal news and blogs.



List of Internet Sites Cited in this Chapter

United States Constitution:

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/anncon/>

<http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution.html>

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/continental/>

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/constpap.asp

Legislative Branch Materials:

- *Finding Aids*

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Act by Popular Name Tables:

<http://uscode.house.gov/popularnames/popularnames.htm>

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/topn/>

Catalog of U.S. Government Publications:

<http://catalog.gpo.gov/F>

Federal Depository Library Directory:

<http://catalog.gpo.gov/fdlpdir/FDLPdir.jsp>

<http://www.gpo.gov/libraries/>

- *Statutes & Codes*

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collectionUSCode.action?collectionCode=USCODE>

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/>

<http://uscode.house.gov/search/criteria.shtml>

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=STATUTE>

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=PLAW>

- *Bills & Resolutions*

<http://thomas.loc.gov>

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=BILLS>

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwhbsb.html>

- *Legislative History Resources*

Compiled Legislative Histories:

<http://www.heinonline.org> (subscription required)

<http://www.llsdc.org/sourcebook/>

<http://www.llsdc.org/elec-leg-hist-docs/>

GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys): <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/home.action>

Congressional Calendars:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=CCAL>

U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1789-1875, American Memory, Library of Congress: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lawhome.html>

Thomas (<http://thomas.loc.gov>):

Congressional Record: <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/LegislativeData.php?&n=Record>

Committee Reports: <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/LegislativeData.php?n=Reports>

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Committee Prints:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=CPRT>

Committee Documents:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=CDOC>

Serial Set:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/home.action> (links to Documents & Reports)

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwsp.html> (American State Papers)

<http://www.conferencereport.gpoaccess.gov/>

Hearings:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=CHRG>

<http://lawlibrary.rutgers.edu/gdoc/search.shtml>

- ***Federal Government News Sources***

http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Reference_Shelf/News.shtml

<http://pueblo.gsa.gov/>

<http://www.senate.gov/galleries/>

<http://www.house.gov/house/mediagallery.shtml>

<http://www.govtrack.us/>

<http://www.capitolhearings.org>

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

- ***Directories***

<http://bioguide.congress.gov/biosearch/biosearch.asp>

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=CDIR>

Judicial Branch Materials:

- ***Court Decisions***

U.S. Supreme Court:

<http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/opinions.aspx>

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/>

<http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.html>

<http://www.oyez.org/cases>

<http://supreme.justia.com>

<http://www.lexisone.com/caselaw/freecaselaw>

<http://www.plol.org/Pages/Search.aspx>

http://www.americanbar.org/publications/preview_home.html

<http://www.oyez.org/aggregator/sources/1>

<http://www.scotusblog.com/wp/>

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Courts of Appeals & District Courts:

<http://www.uscourts.gov/courtlinks/>

<http://dockets.justia.com/>

<http://www.pacer.gov/>

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/federal/opinions.html>

http://www.findlaw.com/10fedgov/judicial/district_courts.html

<http://www.lexisone.com/lx1/caselaw/freecaselaw?action=FCLDisplayCaseSearchForm&l1loc=L1ED&tcode=PORTAL>

<http://www.plol.org/Pages/Search.aspx>

- *Citators*

<http://bookstore.lexis.com/bookstore/catalog>

<http://www.publiclawlibrary.org/find.html>

<http://creditcard.westlaw.com/>

<http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/freelowcost.cfm#lowcost>

- *Judges*

<http://www.fjc.gov/public/home.nsf/hisj>

- *History & Statistics*

<http://purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS53770>

<http://www.uscourts.gov/Statistics.aspx>

<http://www.uscourts.gov/JudgesAndJudgeships/AuthorizedJudgeships.aspx>

Executive Branch Materials:

- Federal Register:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=FR>

<http://www.federalregister.gov>

- Code of Federal Regulations:

<http://www.gpo.gov/searchwebapp/browse/collectionCfr.action?collectionCode=CFR>

<http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov>

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/>

- Presidential Materials:

<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/>

<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/disposition.html>

http://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing_room/PresidentialActions/

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=CPD>

<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/index.php>

<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/>

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- Other Resources:

<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/gov/index.html>

http://www.usa.gov/Agencies/Federal/All_Agencies/index.shtml

http://www2.lib.virginia.edu/govtinfo/fed_decisions_agency.html

Reference Sources:

- *General Reference*

<http://publications.usa.gov/USAPubs.php>

- *Research Guides*

General Guides:

<http://library.lawschool.cornell.edu/WhatWeDo/ResearchGuides/CLL-Legal-Research-Engine.cfm>

http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/United_States1.htm

<http://www.loc.gov/law/help/guide/federal.php>

http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/reference/b_three_sections_with_teasers/howto.htm

Guides Highlighting Free & Low-Cost Legal Resources:

<http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/freelowcost.cfm>

<http://libraryguides.law.pace.edu/free>

<http://libguides.law.ucla.edu/onlinelegalresearch>

Chapter 9

ASSISTING SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS IN CALIFORNIA

The number of *pro se* litigants has risen dramatically in recent years.¹ The primary reason, fairly obvious and well understood by the legal community, is the scarcity of affordable legal services. People simply cannot afford to hire an attorney. Hence, librarians can expect to encounter a rising number of questions from users with law-related problems. In providing assistance to these users, librarians should understand the obstacles *pro se* litigants face in navigating the legal system on their own. First, the legal system is far from “user-friendly”—complex procedures and rules vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, from court to court, and even from judge to judge.² Second, legal information can be found in multiple sources and formats and is not often written in plain English. Another obstacle is the characteristics of the litigants themselves, who often have a lack of knowledge of the law and court procedures, unrealistic expectations, and, at times, harbor disdain for attorneys and the justice system.

In the state of California, over 4.3 million of California’s court users are self-represented. *Pro se* litigants submit two-thirds of family law court filings. In addition, judges and court staff report that the defendant in unlawful detainer cases is self-represented over 90% of the time.³ Fortunately, the Judicial Council of California, the policymaking body of the California courts, established the Task Force on Self-Represented Litigants in 2001 “to coordinate the statewide response to the needs of litigants who represent themselves in court.”⁴

This chapter will describe the state’s programs as well as others offered to Californians at county law libraries and through legal clinics, providing links to Internet resources throughout. At the end of this chapter, there is a list of selected Internet sources.

¹ Paula Hannaford-Agor, “Executive Summary,” *Access to Justice: Meeting the Needs of Self-Represented Litigants*, at 2. Available in PDF at http://www.ncsconline.org/D_Research/publications.html (publications listed in alphabetical order by title).

² *Id.* at 9.

³ Judicial Council of California, [Report of the Task Force on Self-Represented Litigants and Statewide Action Plan for Serving Self-Represented Litigants](#) (February 2004), at 2.

⁴ Judicial Council of California, [Fact Sheet: Programs for Self-Represented Litigants](#) (February 2009).

Contents:

- [California Courts' Programs for Self-Represented Litigants](#)
- [County Law Libraries](#)
- [Self-Help Legal Publishers](#)
- [Pro Bono Legal Providers](#)
- [Other Useful Sources](#)
- [List of Internet Sites Cited in this Chapter](#)

California Courts' Programs for Self-Represented Litigants

In furtherance of its mission to ensure meaningful court access for all Californians, the California Judicial Council launched the [California Courts Self-Help Center](#) in 2001. The [California Courts Self-Help Center](#) is designed to provide the types of legal information needed by the majority of self-represented litigants. The Web site's more than 1200 pages of information include instructions on how to navigate the court system, offer step-by-step guidance in filling out court forms, and provide information on specific legal topics such as family law, restraining orders, landlord-tenant issues, and small claims court. A Spanish language version was launched in 2003 and information is now also available in Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese. The [California Courts Self-Help Center](#) also provides contact information for free and low-cost legal help and a legal glossary. Links to other governmental bodies and organizations offering legal assistance are also included.

In 2008, the Judicial Council established a network of court-based self-help centers. These self-help centers, held in or near superior courts, are staffed by attorneys and other legal personnel to provide information and education to self-represented litigants. Some courts also offer [Family Law Facilitator](#) programs in which attorneys help self-represented litigants with forms and court procedures relating to child and spousal support. Family law facilitators do not meet individually with litigants. Rather, they offer group sessions or walk-in clinics for anyone who does not have their own lawyer. There is no income-level requirement.⁵

The oldest of California's self-help programs is the [Small Claims Legal Advisors](#), which provides free assistance to litigants in small claims proceedings. Assistance varies by county and may be provided by telephone, in person, or through information booklets. Advisors "may be volunteers, and shall be members of the State Bar, law students,

⁵ To find the family law facilitator in your county, use this link: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/9497.htm>.

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paralegals, or persons experienced in resolving minor disputes, and shall be familiar with small claims court rules and procedures. Advisors may not appear in court as an advocate for any party.”⁶ A 2002 study commissioned by the Judicial Council exposed significant problems with this approach, including the use of law students and non-attorney volunteers who are not permitted to give legal advice, but are limited to answering questions on the process.⁷

Family Law Facilitators, Small Claims Legal Advisors, and Self-Help Centers by county can be found at the [Help From Your Court](#) page on the [California Courts Self-Help Center](#). For a list of self-help centers in all 50 states, see the National Center for State Courts’ Self-Representation [State Links](#) Web page.

The [Administrative Office of the Courts](#) (AOC), the Judicial Council’s staff agency, offers [instructional materials](#) to assist the self-represented litigant, which is arranged by subject area (e.g., adoption, domestic violence, fraud, probate etc.). There are also [video guides](#) to court proceedings in delinquency court and alternative dispute resolution. A separate page on [Alternative Dispute Resolution \(ADR\) in Civil Cases](#) links to short definitions and video demonstrations of mediation, arbitration, neutral evaluation, and settlement. [Videos](#) are also online through I-CAN!™ Legal, described at the end of this chapter. Self-represented litigants should inquire at their local self-help center and county law library for availability.

In addition to videos, the AOC offers informational publications for self-represented litigants. The following are a sample list of publications:

- [Summary Dissolution Information](#): A 23-page booklet that provides instructions on how to obtain a divorce, including an explanation of important terms and time periods, worksheets, and a sample property settlement agreement.
- [Handbook for Conservators](#) (2002 revised edition): This handbook (in PDF) is not a do-it-yourself guide, but aims to assist the individual in his or her role as a conservator by providing useful information. Throughout the book there are “L” symbols to emphasize the situations where the individual may need the advice of a lawyer.

⁶ California Code of Civil Procedure § 116.940(e). To read full-text, please go to the Legislative Counsel’s *California Law* page at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html>, select *Code of Civil Procedure*, enter 116.940 into the search box and open the link to Code of Civil Procedure section 116.920-116.950 (which was result #6 when searched on Nov. 2, 2011).

⁷ Steven Weller et al. [Report on the California Three Track Civil Litigation Study](#) (July 31, 2002) at 34-35.

- [Caregivers and the Courts](#): An eight-page primer on juvenile dependency proceedings for California foster parents and relative caregivers.
- [Guardianship Pamphlet](#): A six-page pamphlet that gives basic information to individuals who may become the legal guardian of a child who has been declared a dependent of the juvenile court. Also available in [Spanish](#), [Korean](#), [Chinese](#) and [Vietnamese](#).
- [Juvenile Court Information for Parents](#): A six-page pamphlet that provides information to parents of children charged with minor crimes.

The [California Courts](#) Web site was given a new look and a new URL in March of 2011. It is now much easier to find information by topic by going to the [Online Self-Help Center](#) and then browsing by subject area. The publications listed above were found either in the forms section or within a subtopic, embedded within the text. Lastly, consult the [Self-Help Glossary](#) for definitions of various legal terms and phrases.

California State Bar

The California State Bar publishes a number of [consumer pamphlets](#) intended to help members of the public with their legal questions. Current titles include the following:

- *Kids & the Law: An A-Z Guide for Parents*
- *Seniors & the Law: A Guide for Maturing Californians*
- *How Can I Find and Hire the Right Lawyer?*
- *Guide to Legal Literacy*
- *What Should I Know About Divorce and Custody?*
- *Statutory Will Form*
- *Problem with a Lawyer?*

Most are available in English and in Spanish in PDF format for free. Pamphlets can also be ordered directly from the State Bar.

County Law Libraries

The California county law libraries serve as resources for legal information for all Californians. Their user base includes not only attorneys and other legal professionals but also lay people handling their own legal concerns.

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The Council of California County Law Libraries (CCCLL), composed of representatives from the county law libraries across the state, offers [Your Public Law Library](#), a Web site designed to bring together and highlight self-help resources available to members of the public. [Your Public Law Library](#) includes five sections:

- [Self-Help](#) which provides links to Web sites offering content specifically designed for pro se litigants (including forms)
- [Mini-Research Class](#) which offers guidance on the legal research process including where to start and what resources to check
- [Find Your . . . Nearest California County Law Library](#) which offers a listing of all 58 county law libraries including contact information and Web site addresses
- [Legal Links](#) which provides links to Web sites offering both federal and California-specific legal information
- [AskNow](#), a real-time reference service provided by county law librarians

[Your Public Law Library](#) provides an excellent starting place for library users embarking on self-representation.

Individual county law libraries have responded to the demand for self-help legal services in a variety of ways: in-person reference assistance, email reference, and participation in [AskNow's Law Librarian Service](#). They also maintain extensive lists of local legal aid providers and often make them available on their Web pages.

Additionally, larger county law libraries put on a variety of workshops geared to address commonly encountered legal situations. A sampling of workshops follows. Visit your local county law library's Web site to see what workshops they offer. A complete list of county law libraries can be found on the [Your Public Law Library](#) Web site and in [Appendix C](#) of this publication.

EXAMPLES OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY LAW LIBRARY WORKSHOPS

El Dorado County Law Library:

http://www.eldoradocourt.org/self_help/workshops.aspx or
http://eldoradocountylawlibrary.org/lib_classes.html

Legal Services of Northern California provides free legal assistance to consumers representing themselves in some civil cases. The Family Law Information Center Workshops cover divorce, custody, establishing parentage and much more. See the Web site for specific details.

Kern County Law Library: <http://kclawlib.org>

Look for Upcoming Events (which included *How to Probate a Small Estate* on the second Tuesday of each month of 2011) and the information provided in the section under the Kern County Superior Court's Self Help Center, which listed workshops and clinics at set scheduled times during the week.

LA Law Library: <http://www.lalawlibrary.org>

Hands-on, interactive classes held monthly on topics such as introduction to legal research, Westlaw and LexisNexis searching, free legal information, and finding forms (see [Training and Events](#) link).

Riverside County Law Library: <http://www.lawlibrary.co.riverside.ca.us/>

Public Education Forums on topics such as family law (e.g., how to file a petition/response, how to file a default judgment on the petition), medical malpractice, identity theft, and mobile home evictions. Tax preparation assistance is also offered.

Sacramento County Public Law Library: <http://www.saclaw.org/>

[Self help videos and audios](#) include *Expunging Your Conviction*, *See You in Court* (Parts 1 and 2), and *the Court System – Who are the Players & What Do They Do?* The Sacramento County Public Law Library also hosts the [Civil Self-Help Center](#) operated by the Voluntary Legal Services Program of Northern California.

San Diego Public Law Library: <http://www.sdcll.org/index.html>

Regularly scheduled classes include *Focus on Forms*, *Law Made Public: Legal Research Class for the Public*, *Legal Research Using Free Websites*, and *Practical Legal Research*. Special lectures are also offered. The library Web site also includes an extensive listing of free legal clinics in the area.

San Mateo County Law Library: <http://www.smcll.org/>

Hosts a self-represented litigant class and guide to small claims court workshop, presented by the San Mateo County Superior Court Self-Help Center (in Spanish and English).

Self-Help Publishers

Established in 1971 by Ralph Warner, then a legal aid lawyer, [Nolo Press](#) is the premiere self-help legal publisher in California. Nolo offers titles on a wide range of legal issues, including wills, divorce, child custody, elder care, and taxes (to name a few). Their books are written by attorneys using easily understandable language and include forms and software to assist users in completing legal documentation. Updates to their titles are posted on their Web site. Of particular note to libraries is Nolo's [policy](#) of replacing stolen library Nolo Press titles for free (naturally some restrictions apply).

Oxford University Press publishes over 88 titles in its Legal Almanac Series⁸ which “serves to educate the general public on a variety of legal issues pertinent to everyday life and to keep readers informed of their rights and remedies under the law.” Included in the Series are such titles as *How to Deal with Your Lawyer*, *Health Care Directives*, *Transportation Law: Passenger Rights and Responsibilities*, and *Pet Law*. Written by attorneys (many by Margaret Jasper, a New York attorney) each title provides an overview of the area of law as well as state-by-state coverage of issues within that area. The Series can be purchased as one loose-leaf set or by individual title.

[Sphinx Publishing](#), a division of Sourcebooks, Inc., also publishes self-help legal titles authored by attorneys. California-specific titles include [File for Divorce in California Without Children](#) by John J. Talamo and Edward J. Haman and [Probate and Settle an Estate in California](#) by Douglas E. Godbe and John J. Talamo. Sphinx has fewer [California-specific titles](#) than Nolo Press but does offer quality books on national and general topics such as immigration law, patent law, and sexual harassment.

For a comprehensive listing of self-help titles, please refer to Chapter 10: [Bibliography of California Self-Help Resources](#).

Pro Bono Legal Providers

Pro bono⁹ providers are organizations which provide free or low-cost legal advice and representation to individuals who are unable to afford the services of a lawyer. Staffed by licensed attorneys and paralegals as well as attorney volunteers, pro bono providers vary in the types of cases they handle. Typically, providers will handle common legal problems such as landlord-tenant, child custody, child support, employment, and

⁸Also called Oceana's Law for the Layperson Series. Selected titles are included in Chapter 10: [Bibliography of Self-Help Resources](#).

⁹ *Pro bono* is Latin for “for the public good.”

government benefits. Unfortunately, many providers are underfunded and understaffed to meet the demands made on them.

The [Legal Services Corporation \(LSC\)](#) was established by Congress in 1974 as a private, nonprofit corporation to promote equal access to justice to low-income Americans. It is now the single largest provider of civil legal aid in the United States. LSC functions by providing grants, training, and oversight to legal service providers.

In 2008, LSC provided over \$43 million to California legal service providers. LSC Programs in California include [Legal Services of Northern California, Inc.](#), the [Legal Aid Society of Orange County](#), [Central California Legal Services](#), and the [Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles](#). A complete list of LSC supported legal service providers can be found on their [Web site](#) along with a list of counties served by the various providers.

[LawHelpCalifornia.org](#) provides an extensive listing of California legal aid providers alphabetically and by counties served. Listings include both LSC and non-LSC funded providers and indicate whether an organization provides legal representation in court. In addition to providers that provide general assistance, [LawHelpCalifornia.org](#) lists those providers devoted to particular populations such as the homeless, persons with AIDS, seniors, etc. Because of its comprehensive nature, [LawHelpCalifornia.org](#) should be the first resource librarians suggest to users looking for pro bono legal services.

The [American Bar Association](#) also provides a list of pro bono providers by state in its [Public Resources](#) section. The California portion of the [Consumer's Guide to Legal Help Pro Bono](#) lists pro bono providers by county and includes basic contact information, including a link to each Web site, along with information such as types of cases handled and income and other restrictions.

In addition to Bar Associations, some law schools provide clinics tailored to specific legal issues or populations. For instance, the [USC Small Business Clinic](#) provides basic corporate legal assistance to small businesses, entrepreneurs, and non-profit organizations. The [Cancer Legal Resource Center](#) at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles provides legal information and support to cancer survivors and their families. U.C. Berkeley Law School's [East Bay Community Law Center](#) provides legal services to low-income individuals in the surrounding community. Legal services at clinics are typically provided by second and third year law students under the supervision of licensed attorneys. Local law school Web sites should be consulted for a list of clinics.

Other Useful Internet Sources

I-CAN!TM Legal: <http://www.icandocs.org/ca/>

[Funded](#) by the LSC, the California Administrative Office of the Courts, several California superior courts, non-profit legal services organizations, and the State Bar of California, this free online service fills out forms for you by asking simple questions and placing the answers in the correct place. There are tutorials and written [instructions](#) available as well as educational [videos](#). Users must create an account, which allows the person to make changes to information, reprint forms, or use another module. In English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Nolo Press: <http://www.nolo.com>

The self-help publisher's Web site offers a variety of free resources, including a [Legal Encyclopedia](#), [Lawyer Directory](#), [Law Blogs](#), and [Nolo's Plain-English Law Dictionary](#). iPhone (and iPod Touch) users can download a free copy of *Nolo's Plain-English Law Dictionary* (search iTunes under Free Apps).

FindLaw's Learn About the Law: <http://public.findlaw.com>

Use this online legal resource to find information on popular topics such as will preparation, divorce and child custody, personal injury, and employee rights. Also see the [FindLaw Law Library](#) for links to *Introduction to the U.S. Legal System*, *Guide to Hiring a Lawyer*, and other links helpful to legal researchers.

Online Legal Research Guides:

Most law school libraries (e.g., [UCLA Law Library's LibGuides](#)) and county law libraries (e.g., [San Diego County Public Law Library](#)) post research guides on their Web sites. Use [Cornell University Law Library's Legal Research Engine](#) to find authoritative legal research guides on every subject, search the legal Internet, and search academic blawgs (for commentary from law professors).

Online legal dictionaries:

[Law.com Dictionary](#), [U.S. Court's Glossary](#), [Lawyers.com Legal Dictionary](#), [Jurist's Legal Dictionaries](#) and [FindLaw's Practice Area Definitions](#).

The Pro Se Law Center: <http://www.pro-selaw.org/>

Although not a site for use by pro se litigants, this resource center on self-representation in civil legal matters is mentioned here primarily because of its searchable [Pro-Se Organization Database](#). Researchers may also find the [White Papers and Research](#) page which includes links to articles, books, cases and opinions, court rules, ethics opinions, and reports to be useful. Lastly, there is a page that provides links to [court-based pro se programs and services](#), organized by state.



List of Internet Sources Cited in this Chapter

Judicial Council of California, *Report of the Task Force on Self-Represented Litigants and Statewide Action Plan for Serving Self-Represented Litigants* (February 2004):

<http://www.courts.ca.gov/xbcr/cc/selfreplitsrept.pdf>

Judicial Council of California, *Fact Sheet: Programs for Self-Represented Litigants* (February 2009):

<http://www.courts.ca.gov/xbcr/cc/proper.pdf>

Steven Weller et al. *Report on the California Three Track Civil Litigation Study* (July 31, 2002):

<http://www.clrc.ca.gov/pub/BKST/BKST-3TrackCivJur.pdf>

California Courts

Self-Help Center: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp.htm>

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in Civil Cases:

<http://www.courts.ca.gov/programs-adr.htm>

Help from Your Court: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/1083.htm>

Your Public Law Library: <http://www.publiclawlibrary.org/>

Ask Now's Law Librarian Service: http://www.247ref.org/portal/access_law3.cfm

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National Center for State Courts' Self-Representation Resource Guide:

<http://www.ncsc.org/Topics/Access-and-Fairness/Self-Representation/Resource-Guide.aspx>

The State Bar of California's Consumer Information Pamphlets:

<http://www.calbar.ca.gov/Public/Pamphlets.aspx>

American Bar Association: <http://www.americanbar.org/aba.html>

Public Resources: http://www.americanbar.org/portals/public_resources.html

Consumers' Guide to Legal Help Pro Bono:

<http://apps.americanbar.org/legalservices/findlegalhelp/home.cfm>

Publishers:

Nolo Press: <http://www.nolo.com/>

Library: <http://www.nolo.com/library/>

Sphinx Publishing: <http://www.sphinxlegal.com/>

Legal Services Corporation (LSC): <http://www.lsc.gov/index.php>

LSC Programs: http://www.lsc.gov/map/state_T32_R6.php

Legal Services of Northern California: <http://www.lsncl.org>

Legal Aid Society of Orange County: <http://www.legal-aid.com/>

Central California Legal Services: <http://www.centralcallegal.org/>

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles: <http://www.lafla.org/index.php>

LawHelpCalifornia.org: <http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org/CA/index.cfm>

I-CAN!TM Legal California Videos: <http://www.icandocs.org/ca/videos.html>

Law School Clinics:

USC Small Business Clinic: <http://mylaw2.usc.edu/why/academics/clinics/sbc/>

Loyola Law School Los Angeles Caner Legal Resource Center:

<http://www.lls.edu/academics/candp/clrc.html>

UC Berkeley Boalt Hall's East Bay Community Law Center:

<http://www.law.berkeley.edu/4348.htm>

Dictionaries:

Law.com: <http://dictionary.law.com/>

Lawyers.com Legal Dictionary: <http://research.lawyers.com/glossary/>

Jurist's Legal Dictionaries: <http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/dictionary.htm>

FindLaw's Practice Area Definitions:

<http://public.findlaw.com/library/padefinitions.html>

U.S. Court's Glossary: <http://www.uscourts.gov/Common/Glossary.aspx>

Research Guides:

UCLA Law Library's LibGuides: <http://libguides.law.ucla.edu/>

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San Diego County Public Law Library's Research Guides:

<http://www.sdcll.org/resources/guides.htm>

Cornell University Law Library's Legal Research Engine:

<http://library.lawschool.cornell.edu/WhatWeDo/ResearchGuides/Legal-Research-Engine.cfm>

Chapter 10

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SELF-HELP RESOURCES

There has been a virtual explosion of legal information resources geared toward the non-lawyer since the previous edition of this book was published in 2001. At that time, [Nolo Press](#) was the primary source for books that might help the novice legal researcher interpret the legalese of primary law materials (i.e., statutes, cases and regulations) or learn how to proceed in handling a legal matter (e.g., filing a lawsuit, responding to a summons, establishing copyright protection, changing your name, etc.). Indeed, although Nolo Press continues to dominate the self-help arena, more publishers have entered this field and, thanks to the Internet, what is available online not only supplements, but often replaces, what is available in print.

This chapter consists of an annotated, selective bibliography of legal self-help books and Web sites aimed at providing guidance to the non-attorney and non-law librarian in California. For California resources outside the self-help arena, please see Chapter 5: *California Law* and Chapter 6: [Bibliography of California Resources](#) of this publication.¹

The books and Web sites listed below were selected because they have proven their reliability over the years. The book titles and Web sites are arranged under the following subject headings:

[Art Law](#)

[Bankruptcy](#)

[Business Law](#)

Includes corporations, limited liability companies and partnerships, small businesses and nonprofits

[Civil Procedure & Litigation](#)

Includes enforcing judgments, superior & appellate court practice, personal injury, traffic and small claims procedure, troublesome neighbors and their pets

[Consumer & Individual Rights](#)

Includes right of patients, privacy, and identity theft

¹ See also Patricia Gima and Lisa Guerin, [Nolo's Guide to California Law](#), 11th ed. (Nolo, July 2011).

[Contract Law](#)

Includes independent contractors and forms for personal use

[Copyright, Trademarks & Patent Law](#)

[Criminal Law](#)

[Employment Law](#)

Includes workers' compensation, family and medical leave, and discrimination

[Estate Planning](#)

Includes wills and trusts, probate

[Family Law](#)

Includes marriage, divorce, unmarried couples, children, adoption, guardianship, conservatorship, elder law, gay rights

[Financial Planning](#)

Includes credit and debt collection

[Free Forms](#)

[Immigration Law](#)

[Landlord-Tenant Law](#)

[Lawyers](#)

Includes attorney-client relationship, directories, bar associations, lawyer referral

[Legal Research](#)

[Public Record Data](#)

Includes trial verdicts, dockets, registrar records

[Real Property Law](#)

Includes mortgages and foreclosures

[Social Security](#)

Includes Medicare

[Tax Law](#)

[Veterans' Rights & Benefits](#)

Proceed with caution: Remember that laws are continually changing. Publishers attempt to keep their resources current, but it is sometimes beyond their control. The books and Web sites listed are current as of early November 2011. Because many public libraries have [Nolo Press](#) books in their collections, please consult your local library catalog or call the reference desk. In any case, the books included in this bibliography should be available in any large county law library (see Appendix C for locations) or through your local bookstores.

Art Law

Aharonian, Gregory & Richard Stim. [Patenting Art & Entertainment: New Strategies for Protecting Creative Ideas](#), 1st ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2004.

Gives instructions for how to document the creation of art, apply for a design or utility patent, and do a patent search.

California Lawyers for the Arts. 1641 18th St., Santa Monica, CA 90404, (310) 998-5590, Fax: (310) 998-5594, Web site: <http://www.calawyersforthearts.org>.

For a small fee, attorneys will provide a 30-minute consultation with clients on topics of interest to artists (i.e., copyright, contract drafting and negotiation, independent contractors, and mediation and arbitration). If appropriate, a client may apply for assistance in CLA's pro bono program.

Crawford, Tad. [Legal Guide for the Visual Artist](#), 5th ed. New York, NY: Allworth Press, 2010.

Provides a comprehensive overview of the legal issues faced by visual artists. The book covers: copyright, contracts, censorship, moral rights, sales taxes, estate planning, museums, collecting, grants, graffiti art, privacy and the visual artists and online copyright issues.

DuBoff, Leonard D. [The Law \(in Plain English\) for Photographers](#), 3rd ed. New York, NY: Allworth Press, 2010.

Intended to answer the professional photographer's business and legal questions. Topics include: copyright, contracts and remedies, defamation and libel, censorship, taxes, estate planning, leases and insurance. There is also information on right of publicity laws protecting images of deceased celebrities, post-9/11 restrictions on photographing in "sensitive" environments and online registration procedures at the Copyright Office.

CHAPTER 10: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SELF-HELP RESOURCES

Fishman, Stephen. [*The Public Domain: How to Find Copyright-Free Writings, Music, Art & More*](#), 5th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Helps find and identify creative works that are not protected by copyright. Includes information on the “copyright commons.”

Stim, Richard. [*Getting Permission: How to License & Clear Copyrighted Materials Online & Off*](#), 4th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Discusses how to use copyrighted materials, including information on public domain, fair use, academic permission, and the use of trademarks. Includes agreements for acquiring authorization to use copyrighted materials.

Stim, Richard. [*Music Law: How to Run Your Band's Business*](#), 6th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2009.

How to book performances, copyright song lyrics, sign contracts, write a band partnership agreement, and trademark a band name, sell music, find a manager, and much more.

Bankruptcy

American Bar Association. [*The American Bar Association Guide to Credit & Bankruptcy*](#), 2nd ed. New York, NY: Random House Reference, 2009.

The first part of the book provides an overview of consumer credit, explains important federal laws governing consumer credit, credit cards, credit reports, credit scoring and discusses other important terms and conditions of common credit extensions. In the second part of the book, the authors discuss the different types of bankruptcy and what the process of filing for bankruptcy entails.

Elias, Stephen R. Albin Renauer, & Robin Leonard. [*How to File for Chapter 7 Bankruptcy*](#), 17th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Information on when and how to file your own bankruptcy. Gives details on what are exempt assets and non-dischargeable debts, what you get to keep and what you have to give back, how bankruptcy will affect your credit rating in the future, and whether or not bankruptcy is the proper course for you to take. All forms and instructions necessary for filing are included.

Elias, Stephen R. [*The New Bankruptcy: Will It Work for You?*](#) 4th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Discusses the different types of bankruptcy, eligibility issues, and what types of

debts can be discharged. Includes forms, charts, worksheets and procedures.

Leonard, Robin. [*Chapter 13 Bankruptcy: Keep Your Property & Repay Debts Over Time*](#), 10th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Learn how to determine if you qualify for Chapter 13 bankruptcy, stop a foreclosure, and construct a repayment plan.

U.S. Courts, Official Bankruptcy Forms.

Available at <http://www.uscourts.gov/FormsAndFees/Forms/BankruptcyForms.aspx>

The Official Bankruptcy Forms may be used by the public. The forms are fillable and may be downloaded in Adobe Acrobat. Many forms include instructions and committee notes.

Business Law

American Bar Association. [*The American Bar Association Legal Guide for Small Business*](#), 2nd ed. New York, NY: Random House Reference, 2010.

Guide to starting a small business, including initial set up and financing, employment laws, safety issues and insurance, extending credit, franchising, copyrights and trademarks, business taxes, retirement and selling the business.

Better Business Bureau (<http://www.bbb.org>)

Locate your local better business bureau, get information about a company, file a complaint about a company, etc.

Bray, Ilona. [*Effective Fundraising for Nonprofits: Real-World Strategies That Work*](#), 3rd ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Explains how to work with individual donors, plan events, solicit grants, start a side business, and more.

California Secretary of State (<http://www.sos.ca.gov/>)

California Secretary of State Web site provides step-by-step instructions for starting a business in California through the "California Business Portal."

Fishman, Stephen. [*Nonprofit Fundraising Registration: The 50-State Guide*](#), 1st ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

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Discusses how to solicit funds from out-of-state donors. Includes information on exceptions, how to register in different states, filing requirements, a tutorial for the Unified Registration Statement, and contact information for each state.

Mancuso, Anthony. [*The California Nonprofit Corporation Kit*](#), 7th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2009.

Step-by-step instructions on how to choose a name, draft articles and bylaws, and attain favorable tax status to get your non-profit corporation started. Comes complete with all necessary forms and ten membership certificates.

Mancuso, Anthony. [*The Corporate Records Handbook: Meetings, Minutes & Resolutions*](#), 5th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Contains forms and instructions including calling a meeting, participation list, notice and cancellation of meeting, shareholder proxy, annual meetings, approval of corporate meetings, and much more.

Mancuso, Anthony. [*Form Your Own Limited Liability Company*](#), 7th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

How to set up a limited liability company in any state, including how to choose a valid name, prepare and file articles of organization, and manage an LLC.

Mancuso, Anthony. [*How to Form a Nonprofit Corporation*](#), 10th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Includes complete instructions for obtaining federal 501(c) (3) tax exemption and for qualifying for public charity status.

Mancuso, Anthony. [*How to Form a Nonprofit Corporation in California*](#), 14th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Includes complete instructions for obtaining federal 501(c) (3) tax exemption and for qualifying for public charity status. Discusses California's specific legal and tax requirements.

Mancuso, Anthony. [*How to Form Your Own California Corporation*](#), 14th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Contains information on how to form your corporation and how to issue and sell stock, tax issues, and post-incorporation paperwork.

Mancuso, Anthony. [*LLC or Corporation? How to Choose the Right Form for Your Business*](#), 4th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Provides easy-to-understand explanations of the basics of business entities, how

each entity protects you from liability, differing tax treatments, how to convert a business from one entity to another, and how to conduct business out of state.

Mancuso, Anthony. [*Nolo's Quick LLC: All You Need to Know About Limited Liability Companies*](#), 6th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Essential information for business owners in any state: how LLCs are formed by filing articles of organization with the state, the required ongoing legal and tax paperwork, choosing between a member run and manager run LLC. Includes URLs and phone numbers for where to get required LLC forms.

Mancuso, Anthony. [*Your Limited Liability Company: An Operating Manual*](#), 6th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Advises business owners on how to maintain the legal validity of their LLC including tips on preparation of management minutes and how to fill out an LLC records book. State LLC statutes and state filing office locations are included. Forms are reprinted in the book and on accompanying CD-Rom.

McKeever, Mike. [*How to Write a Business Plan*](#), 10th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Learn how to estimate operating expenses, prepare cash flow, create profit and loss forecasts, determine assets and liabilities, and present your plan to lenders and investors.

Pakroo, Peri H. [*The Small Business Start-Up Kit for California*](#), 8th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Explains how to choose a business structure, write a business plan, file the right forms, draft contracts, manage finances, and file taxes. Includes CD-ROM.

Pakroo, Peri H. [*Starting & Building a Nonprofit: A Practical Guide*](#), 4th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Includes step-by-step instructions on how to structure a nonprofit, choose a federal tax-exempt status, create a mission statement, and develop a strategic plan and initial budget, and much more.

Sargent, Dennis & Martha Sargent. [*Retire - & Start Your Own Business: Five Steps to Success*](#), 1st ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2008.

Discusses how to generate business ideas and understand important legal, financial and tax matters. Includes exercises designed to help you understand what you want from your business.

CHAPTER 10: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SELF-HELP RESOURCES

Steingold, Fred S. [*Legal Forms for Starting & Running a Small Business*](#), 6th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Contains 70 forms covering topics including business contracts, hiring employees, trade secrets, non-compete agreements, borrowing and lending money, leasing space, and bylaws.

Steingold, Fred S. [*Legal Guide for Starting and Running a Small Business*](#), 12th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Includes information on how to get licenses and permits, how to buy or sell a business, how to insure your business, how to hire independent contractors, how to understand small business tax law, and many other day-to-day issues.

Warner, Ralph & Denis Clifford. [*Form a Partnership: The Complete Legal Guide*](#), 8th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2008.

Provides an overview of partnership agreements, buy-outs, partnership disputes, and taxes. CD-ROM includes partnership agreement forms.

Civil Procedure & Litigation

American Arbitration Association (<http://www.adr.org>)

A non-profit provider of dispute resolution services. The Web site has news, rules for commercial and civil arbitration and links to additional resources on mediation.

Bergman, Paul and Albert Moore. [*Nolo's Deposition Handbook*](#), 5th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Explains how to prepare for a deposition, respond to questions, and ask the right questions.

Bergman, Paul & Sara J. Bergman-Barrett. [*Represent Yourself in Court: How to Prepare & Try a Winning Case*](#), 7th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

How to handle a civil court case from start to finish. Includes analyzing whether you have a good case, lining up witnesses, how to present testimony, how to cross-examine opponents, and many other aspects of litigation.

Brown, David. [*Fight Your Ticket and Win in California*](#), 14th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

This book helps readers prepare and present evidence, argue before a judge, cross-examine a police officer's testimony. Includes legal information relevant to California drivers. This author has a similar book, [*Beat Your Ticket*](#), also published by Nolo Press.

California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District. [*Civil Appellate Practices and Procedures for the Self-Represented*](#). Los Angeles, CA: California Court of Appeal, 2008.

Step-by-step manual to appealing a civil case in the California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District. The appendices include a timeline and glossary. The final section of the book contains sample forms and instructions for filling them out. The self-help manual (linked above) may be downloaded for free in its entirety or individual chapters viewed on the [California Courts](#) Web site.

California Department of Consumer Affairs. [*Small Claims Court: A Guide to Its Practical Uses*](#).

This guide is available at the Small Claims Court Clerk's Office, by calling the Consumer Affairs' Publications Hotline at (800) 952-5210, in PDF at http://www.dca.ca.gov/publications/small_claims/index.shtml, or by sending an order form to Department of Consumer Affairs, Policy & Publications Development Office, 1625 N. Market Blvd. Ste. N-112, Sacramento, CA 95834. The Department of Consumer Affairs has publications on a variety of concerns to consumers (i.e., contracts, credit, hiring contractors, smog, etc.).

Duncan, Roderic. [*Win Your Lawsuit: Sue in California Superior Court Without a Lawyer*](#), 4th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Step-by-step guide through the entire process of a limited jurisdiction case in California Superior Court. Includes information on common civil court issues, such as contract disputes, personal injuries, property damage, and business disputes.

Goren, Julie A. [*California Civil Litigation and Discovery*](#), 4th ed. (Litigation by the Numbers Substantive Companion). Los Angeles, CA: Lawdable Press, 2011.

According to the publisher description, this book "takes a substantive approach to litigation (e.g., what the pleadings should say, rather than what they look like) referring to "Litigation by the Numbers" for up-to-date information on format and filing and service deadlines. It's for anyone wanting more in-depth information about litigation."

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- Goren, Julie A. *Litigation by the Numbers*, 4th ed. Los Angeles, CA: Lawdable Press, 2003-. Updated every January and July, this loose-leaf is designed to walk the reader through the entire lifecycle of a California state court civil lawsuit. It provides step-by-step instructions on how to take a case from filing all the way to enforcement of a judgment.
- Jasper, Margaret C. *Pet Law*. New York: Oceana Publications, 2007. From Oceana's Law for the Layperson Series. Contents include "no pet" lease clauses, pet licensing and leash laws, nuisance pets and dangerous dog laws, traveling with your pet, wrongful death or injury to a pet, estate planning for your pet, importing a pet to the United States, and animal welfare.
- Jordan, Cora and Emily Doskow. *Neighbor Law: Fences, Trees, Boundaries & Noise*, 7th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011. This book answers the basic questions that often trouble neighbors: fences, trees, boundaries and noise.
- Judicial Council of California, Self-Help Center (<http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp.htm>) The site is "intended to help a person find legal assistance, learn about California law, work better with an attorney, and represent yourself in some legal matters." The site does not provide legal advice.
- Luten, Susan Burnett. *California Civil Litigation*, 5th ed. Clifton Park, NY: Delmar Cengage Learning, 2009. This book covers civil litigation in California state courts and California federal district courts. It follows the litigation process chronologically from initial client questions and contracts, to ethical issues, through the pleading and discovery phases, to trial, post-trial and appeal. The book is intended to be used on its own, or with the companion study guide.
- Matthews, Joseph. *How to Win Your Personal Injury Claim*, 7th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2009. How to protect your rights after an accident, how to evaluate what the claim is worth, how to negotiate a fair settlement and more.
- Randolph, Mary. *Every Dog's Legal Guide: A Must-Have Book for Your Owner*, 6th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2007. Discusses dog owner liability, animal cruelty, estate planning, and licensing issues.

U. S. Courts, Post Judgment Interest Rates.

Available at <http://www.utd.uscourts.gov/documents/judgpage.html>

Access rates from the most recent auction of 52-week Treasury bills.

Warner, Ralph. [*Everybody's Guide to Small Claims Court in California*](#), 13th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

This book guides you step-by-step through small claims procedure, providing practical information on how to evaluate your case, file and serve the papers, prepare and present the case, and then collect when you win. Several types of cases are discussed, including landlord-tenant and vehicle accident.

Consumer & Individual Rights

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) (<http://www.aclu.org>). Wye Mills, Maryland; ACLU Publications, 800-775-ACLU.

The ACLU Web site identifies resources on a multitude of legal based consumer concerns; i.e., rights of the poor, families, Indians and tribes, public employees, the right to privacy, and the rights of women, lesbians and gay men.

Annas, George J. *The Rights of Patients: The Authoritative ACLU Guide to the Rights of Patients*, 3rd ed. New York: New York University Press, 2004.

Discusses such topics as informed consent, emergency treatment, refusing treatment, confidentiality and malpractice.

California Department of Justice. [*Legal Rights of Persons with Disabilities*](#). Sacramento, CA: California Department of Justice, 2003 (with 2006 updates).

Discusses both California and federal laws that protect the rights of individuals with disabilities. The above link will open a PDF 842 kb/85 pgs.

California Department of Justice. [*Unlawful Discrimination: Your Rights and Remedies: Civil Rights Handbook*](#), 3rd ed. Sacramento, CA: California Department of Justice, 2001.

Provides a practical guide for the public on California and federal civil rights law.

[*Consumer Action Handbook*](#). Pueblo, CO: Federal Consumer Information Center, 2011.

A free copy of the *Consumer Action Handbook* can be ordered at <http://www.usa.gov/consumer-action-handbook/order-form.shtml> and viewed online at <http://www.usa.gov/topics/consumer/consumer-action-handbook.pdf>.

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The Consumer Protection page (<http://www.consumeraction.gov/index.shtml>) includes links to information on a variety of consumer topics, instructions on how (and where) to file a complaint, and lists of other publications dealing with corporations, automobiles, utilities, securities, banking and insurance and includes materials in Spanish. Note that as of July 2011, Consumer Action.gov merged with USA.gov.

Federal Trade Commission (<http://www.ftc.gov>)

The FTC “is the only federal agency with both consumer protection and competition jurisdiction in broad sectors of the economy.” Its work is performed by the Bureaus of Consumer Protection, Competition and Economics and aided by the Office of General Counsel and seven regional offices. For consumer complaints contact the Consumer Response Center at 877-FTC-HELP (382-4357); 9:00am to 5:00pm Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday. The Web site includes a tabbed page called “Consumer Protection,” also available in Spanish, which includes consumer and business information, information on how to file a complaint, and, under “Resources,” regulatory guidance documents by topic, featured articles, a catalog of all cases brought by the agency since June 1996, and a list of all Commission actions organized by date.

Jasper, Margaret C. *Consumer Rights Law*, 2nd ed. New York: Oceana, 2008.

From Oceana’s Law for the Layperson Series. Contents include consumer product safety, the Consumer Credit Protection Act, consumer banking, automobiles, and health care rights.

Jasper, Margaret C. *Privacy and the Internet: Your Expectations and Rights Under the Law*, 2nd ed. New York: Oceana, 2009.

From Oceana’s Law for the Layperson Series. Contents include information on securing your computer, email and Internet scams, online financial services, protecting children’s privacy online, socializing on the Internet, and Internet identity theft.

Jasper, Margaret C. *Transportation Law: Passenger Rights and Responsibilities*. New York: Oceana, 2009.

From Oceana’s Law for the Layperson Series. Contents cover common carriers, airlines, the rights of travelers with disabilities, railroads, buses, and cruise ships.

Mitic, Scott. [*Stopping Identity Theft: 10 Easy Steps to Security*](#), 1st ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2009.

Discusses why shopping in stores can be riskier than shopping online, how to spot scammers in any situation, how to build a social networking profile without being the victim of fake “friends,” how to secure your bank accounts, keep your personal and public records safe, limit your risk to medical identity theft, and keep your children and elders’ identities secure.

National Consumer Law Center (<http://www.nclc.org/>)

Non-profit corporation offers technical assistance, publications and training to lawyers. According to the agency’s Web site, attorneys from all over the world view the center’s books as authority for consumer law.

Contract Law

Fishman, Stephen. [*Consultant and Independent Contractor Agreements*](#), 7th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

For those contracting their services to others or hiring independent contractors. Instructions on how to put your agreement in writing, define a project’s scope, components and duration, satisfy IRS requirements, and avoid disputes. Includes forms and electronic agreements in the book and on CD-ROM.

Fishman, Stephen. [*Working for Yourself: Law & Taxes for Independent Contractors, Freelancers & Consultants*](#), 8th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Includes sample agreements, forms, lists of state sales tax agencies and state offices that provide small business help. Also covers insuring your business, record keeping and pricing your services.

Stim, Richard. [*Contracts*](#), 1st ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Defines common contract terms, discusses the importance of contractual clauses and how to change them, and focuses on the legal rules for electronic contracts. Also includes sample contracts and clauses.

Warner, Ralph & Robin Leonard. [*101 Forms for Personal Use*](#), 8th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Available as tear-outs and on CD-ROM, the forms include bills of sale for buying and selling personal property, promissory notes for lending and borrowing, a basic will form and general power of attorney form, contracts for in-home child care, releases for settlement disputes, notices for dealing with telemarketers, and contracts for home repair and remodeling.

Copyright, Trademarks & Patent Law

Elias, Stephen R. [*Trademark: Legal Care for Your Business and Product Name*](#), 9th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

This book is designed for the small business and shows how to trademark the name of a service or product. The procedures for conducting a trademark search and registering a trademark are also covered, as well as the necessary forms and instructions.

Fishman, Stephen. [*The Copyright Handbook: What Every Writer Needs to Know*](#), 11th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Provides step-by-step instructions and forms for protecting all types of written works under both U.S. and international copyright law. It also covers fair use and copyright infringement.

Hitchcock, David. [*Patent Searching Made Easy: How to Do Patent Searches on the Internet and in the Library*](#), 5th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2009.

Includes information on how to verify the patent status of an idea, search Patent and Depository Libraries, and use online patent search services.

Pressman, David. [*Patent It Yourself*](#), 15th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Step-by-step procedures for protecting, patenting and selling an invention. Covers use, licensing and marketing advice. Contains forms and a bibliography of related materials.

Pressman, David & Richard Stim. [*Nolo's Patents for Beginners*](#), 6th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2009.

Step-by-step explanations of how to use basic patent principles, document an invention, acquire patent rights, determine patent ownership, and find patent information. Provides sample forms and letters and a glossary of terms.

Stim, Richard. [*Getting Permission: How to License & Clear Copyrighted Materials Online & Off*](#), 4th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

This book includes agreements as tear-outs and on CD-Rom for the authorized use of text, photographs, artwork and music.

Stim, Richard. [*Patents, Copyright & Trademark: An Intellectual Property Desk Reference*](#), 11th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Discusses issues such as who owns creative works and how to protect ownership

rights, resolve intellectual property disputes and transfer rights to others.

Tancs, Linda A. *Understanding Trademark Law: A Beginner's Guide*. New York: Oceana, 2009.

From Oceana's Law for the Layperson Series. Contents include types of applications and registrations, the PTO trademark application process, international applications, monetizing trademarks, infringement issues, and Internet issues regarding trademarks.

U.S. Copyright Office (<http://www.copyright.gov>)

The Copyright Office Web site provides copyright laws, regulations, copyright forms, copyright legislation, and copyright links to GPO Access, WIPO and URAA agreements. U.S. Copyright Office records are available for searching at this web site from 1978 to date. This includes COHM (all materials except serials and documents), COHD (documents) and COHS (serials). For the period 1891 to 1978, check the *Catalog of Copyright Entries* available at many larger public libraries. The Copyright Office Web site cautions users about the inconclusiveness and exceptions in conducting copyright investigations. Many public libraries are equipped to assist users in searching copyright records and the office will provide searches and other records for a fee set by statute.

U. S. Patent & Trademark Office (<http://www.uspto.gov>)

The USPTO's official site provides instructions on how to search for trademarks and patents and apply for patent and trademark rights. Patent grants are searchable in full text since 1976; patent applications are searchable from March 15, 2001. The trademark electronic application system (TEAS) allows online application filing through e-TEAS or PRINTEAS if the form cannot be filed electronically. To discover if a trademark is previously registered electronically, select TESS (U.S. Trademark Electronic Search System) from the home page of the Patent and Trademark Office. TESS contains more than 3 million pending, registered and dead federal trademarks.

Criminal Law

Belanger, L. Powell. [*The Prisoner's Guide to Survival: a Comprehensive Legal Assistance Manual for Post-Conviction Relief and Prisoners' Civil Rights Actions*](#). Lynden, WA: PSI Publishing, Inc., 2001.

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This guide is intended for federal pro se litigants and attorneys involved in federal criminal appeals and prison civil rights actions. It covers post-conviction remedies and prisoner civil rights complaints.

Bergman, Paul & Sara J. Berman-Barrett. [*The Criminal Law Handbook: Know Your Rights, Survive the System*](#), 12th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Explains how the system works, including arrests, booking, preliminary hearings, bail, arraignment, plea bargains, and sentencing.

Boston, John and Daniel E. Manville. *Prisoners' Self-Help Litigation Manual*, 4th ed. New York, NY: Oceana, 2010.

The focus of this comprehensive prisoner's rights manual is on civil litigation. It does not deal with criminal law-related matters, such as post-conviction remedies and detainers. Includes information on all aspects of prison life as well as material on legal research, legal writing, types of legal remedies and how to effectively use those remedies.

Jasper, Margaret C. *The Law of Violence Against Women*, 2nd ed. New York: Oceana, 2007.

From Oceana's Law for the Layperson Series. Contents include domestic violence, sexual assault, the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA), stalking, teenage dating violence, battered immigrant women and children, and human trafficking and the sex trade.

Judicial Council of California. California Courts Self-Help Center for Criminal Law. (<http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-criminallaw.htm>).

Contains a section on how to clean up your criminal record, as well as links to relevant Web sites and forms.

MacKay, Heather and the Prison Law Office. [*The California State Prisoners Handbook: Everything You Need to Know about Prison and Parole Law*](#), 4th ed. San Quentin, CA: The Prison Law Office, 2008.

Discusses in detail the laws governing prisoner rights and the policies and practices of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Also includes sample forms and model pleadings. Updated by supplement.

Prison Law Office. [*State Habeas Corpus Procedure: A Manual for California Prisoners*](#). San Quentin, CA: the Prison Law Office, 2008.

Step-by-step guide to California state habeas corpus process, including court forms and sample court pleadings. Links to 29-page PDF.

Employment Law

Ball, Christopher A. [*California Workers' Comp: How to Take Charge When You're Injured on the Job*](#), 8th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Outlines steps in filing a claim, dealing with insurance companies and presenting a case at a hearing and instructions on how to rate a disability using the new workers' comp rating manual.

DelPo, Amy & Lisa Guerin. [*Dealing with Problem Employees: A Legal Guide*](#), 6th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Find out how to recognize a problem employee, investigate complaints, and suspend or fire employees.

Guerin, Lisa. [*The Essential Guide to Workplace Investigations: How to Handle Employee Complaints & Problems*](#), 2nd ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Includes a 10-step plan that can be used to resolve workplace complaints, such as harassment, discrimination, violence, and employee theft. Also includes forms, checklists and sample policies for all 50 states.

Guerin, Lisa & Amy DelPo. [*Create Your Own Employee Handbook: A Legal & Practical Guide*](#), 5th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Topics covered include at-will employment, hiring, payroll, performance evaluations, discrimination, complaints, leave, and discipline.

Guerin, Lisa & Deborah C. England. [*The Essential Guide to Family & Medical Leave*](#), 2nd ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2009.

Discusses the Family Medical Leave Act, including who qualifies for leave, how much leave is allowed, and what notice obligations are present. Includes a CD-Rom with checklists, forms and worksheets.

Guerin, Lisa & Amy DelPo. [*The Essential Guide to Federal Employment Laws*](#), 3rd ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Legal topics covered include the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Equal Pay Act, and the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Jasper, Margaret C. *Employment Discrimination Law Under Title VII*, 2nd ed. New York: Oceana, 2008.

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From Oceana's Law for the Layperson Series. Contents include filing a discrimination charge, the EEOC mediation program, discrimination on the basis of race or color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability and additional bases of discrimination.

Jasper, Margaret C. *Workers' Compensation Law*, 2nd ed. New York: Oceana, 2008.

From Oceana's Law for the Layperson Series. Contents include an overview of workers' compensation, filing the workers' compensation claim, workers' compensation benefits, the federal employees' compensation program, the black lung benefits program, the energy employee's occupational compensation program and additional federal disability programs.

Mader-Clark, Margie. [*Job Description Handbook*](#), 2nd ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2008.

This book will help you create good job descriptions, evaluate employees' job performance, and hire qualified employees.

Repa, Barbara Kate. [*Your Rights in the Workplace*](#), 9th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Discusses illegal firings, how to challenge job loss, privacy, safety, testing, harassment, discrimination, and worker's compensation.

Rosenfeld, David A., Miles E. Locker, and Nina G. Fendel. *California Workers' Rights: A Manual of Job Rights, Protections, and Remedies*, 4th ed. Berkeley, CA: UC Berkeley Labor Center, 2010.

Provides a basic overview of the legal protections for workers under California and federal law. The focus is on selected areas: rights during the hiring process, investigations and police records, wages and hours, benefits, discrimination, health and safety, workers' compensation, union organizing, whistleblower protections, discharge and disciplinary actions and medical leave.

Steingold, Fred S. [*The Employer's Legal Handbook*](#), 10th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

This handbook includes information related to hiring, personnel, wages, employee benefits, OSHA requirements, discrimination, termination, and relevant laws.

Steingold, Fred S. [*Hiring Your First Employee*](#), 1st ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2008.

Discusses how to determine salary and benefits, write a job description, find and screen applicants, maintain employee files, deposit payroll taxes, and troubleshoot employee problems.

Estate Planning

American Bar Association. [*The American Bar Association Guide to Wills and Estates*](#), 3rd ed. New York, NY: Random House Reference, 2009.

Comprehensive guide to planning an estate, preparing a will or trust and minimizing inheritance taxes.

Barnes, Richard. [*Estate Planning for Blended Families: Providing for Your Spouse & Children in a Second Marriage*](#), 1st ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2009.

Provides information on estate and gift taxes in a second marriage, choosing executors, trustees, and guardians, and working with lawyers, financial planners and other experts. Includes sample estate plans, current tax information for your state, and the latest information about which federal and state laws apply to you.

Clifford, Denis. [*Estate Planning Basics*](#), 6th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Learn how to choose a beneficiary, and create a will or living trust. The book also discusses probate-avoidance and estate tax reduction methods.

Clifford, Denis. [*Make Your Own Living Trust*](#), 10th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

How to avoid probate through the use of living trusts. Explains how living trusts work, how to create the trust and transfer property to it. Includes instructions and forms needed to create a basic living trust, a marital life estate trust and a back-up will. Not applicable in Louisiana.

Clifford, Denis. [*Quick & Legal Will Book*](#), 6th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Provides forms and step-by-step instructions to make a basic will. Topics include naming beneficiaries, choosing a guardian, setting up a trust, naming an executor, finalizing a will, and changing or revoking a will.

Clifford, Denis. [*Plan Your Estate*](#), 10th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Detailed information about the many aspects of estate planning. Includes information on estate and gift taxes, trusts, durable powers of attorney, living wills, funerals and burials. Not applicable to the state of Louisiana.

Cullen, Melanie & Shae Irving. [*Get It Together: Organize Your Records So Your Family Won't Have To*](#), 4th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Shows you how to keep track of instructions for survivors, passwords, final arrangements, estate planning documents, employment records, insurance policies, tax records, retirement accounts, government benefits, and real estate

records.

Elias, Stephen R. [*Special Needs Trusts: Protect Your Child's Financial Future*](#), 4th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Learn how to leave money for a disabled loved one without jeopardizing government benefits. Special trusts can pay for things like annual checkups, transportation, insurance, and rehabilitation.

Irving, Shae. [*Living Wills and Powers of Attorney for California*](#), 3rd ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2009.

With CD-ROM. Provides step-by-step instructions for the creation of a living will, a durable power of attorney, and a do-not-resuscitate order.

Nissley, Julia P. [*How to Probate an Estate in California*](#), 21th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Written for the layperson that is responsible for guiding an estate through the probate process. Explains how to read a will, handle probate paperwork, collect benefits owed to the estate, pay bills and taxes and distribute property.

Randolph, Mary. [*8 Ways to Avoid Probate*](#), 8th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

This book discusses payable-on-death accounts, naming beneficiaries, small estates, joint ownership of property, living trusts, and making gifts.

Randolph, Mary. [*The Executor's Guide: Settling a Loved One's Estate or Trust*](#), 4th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

This guide helps you understand legal procedures and terminology, including claiming benefits, making sense of a will, taxes, probate court, trusts, and how to look up state laws.

Family Law

American Bar Association. [*You and Your Aging Parents: The American Bar Association Guide to Legal, Financial, and Health Care Issues*](#). New York, NY: Random House Reference, 2009.

Covers the social issues faced by family caregivers in an easy to follow question-and-answer format. Topics covered include housing options, the basics of elder abuse, and mental health concerns. There is also a chapter on taking care of the caregiver.

Brown, David & Emily Doskow. [*The Guardianship Book for California: How to Become a Child's Legal Guardian*](#), 8th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Learn how to obtain legal guardianship, enroll a minor in school, make medical decisions, prepare and file paperwork, obtain temporary guardianship, and end guardianship.

California Department of Child Support Services. [*Child Support Handbook*](#). Sacramento, CA: California Department of Child Support Services, 2011.

This booklet provides general information about California's child support services program and child support laws. Click on the link above to download the 36-page PDF (3.83MB).

[Center for Families, Children & the Courts \(CFCC\)](#). Contains links to many publications, covering areas such as child support, delinquency, domestic violence, and self-represented litigants. The primary purpose of the CFCC is to maximize the effectiveness of court services for children and families. Contact information: 455 Golden Gate Ave., 6th floor, San Francisco, CA 94102-3660; phone number 415-865-7739; and e-mail at cfcc@jud.ca.gov.

Clifford, Denis et al. [*A Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples*](#), 15th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

This practical book covers all the important legal aspects of living and working together as a gay/lesbian couple. Straightforward information explains the legal options and alternatives of child custody and visitation rights; relating to former spouses; foster children and adoption; buying and selling houses; transferring deeds; dividing property; living-together arrangements; and planning for death. Included are sample letters, forms and agreements.

Doskow, Emily. [*Nolo's Essential Guide to Divorce*](#), 3rd ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Helps you understand the divorce process, work with mediators or lawyers, avoid expensive court battles, figure out alimony, establish child custody and visitation, determine child support, divide money and property, and draft a marital settlement agreement.

Doshow, Emily and Marcia Stewart. [*The Legal Answer Book for Families*](#), 1st ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

A reference book that includes an overview of the laws that affect families, answers to everyday legal questions, and a collection of family law rules and resources, with details for all 50 states.

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Duncan, Roderic. *[A Judge's Guide to Divorce: Uncommon Advice from the Bench](#)*, 1st ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2007.

Alternatives to divorce court, courtroom etiquette, dividing property, determining alimony and child support, settling custody and visitation issues, and enforcing court orders.

ElderWeb (<http://www.elderweb.com>)

ElderWeb includes over 6,000 reviewed links to topics such as long term care, finance and technology.

Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law. *California Family Law Basics*. Los Angeles, CA: Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law, 2010.

Manual to the current forms in California dissolution and paternity cases.

Hegland, Kenney F. and Robert B. Fleming. *[New Times, New Challenges: Law and Advice for Savvy Seniors and their Families](#)*. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2010.

Written by a law professor, the first part of the book deals with living wills and the aging process. The second part of the book is divided into six sections. Topics include: retirement, family matters, elder abuse, estate planning, disability and death in the family, and getting help.

Hertz, Frederick and Emily Doskow. *[Making It Legal: A Guide to Same-Sex Marriage, Domestic Partnerships & Civil Unions](#)*, 2nd ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

A guide to same-sex relationship laws in the United States. Reviews the issues that influence the decision to marry and breaks down the complex and ever-changing rules of same-sex relationship laws.

Hunter, Nan D. et al, *The Rights of Lesbians, Gay Men, Bisexuals, and Transgender People: The Authoritative ACLU Guide*, 4th ed. New York: New York University Press, 2004.

Discusses such topics as government employees, criminal law, the military, immigration, relationships, parenting, housing, employment in the private sector, and people with HIV/AIDS.

Jacobs, Thomas A. *What are my Rights?: 95 Questions and Answers about Teens and the Law*. Minneapolis, MN: Free Spirit Pub., 2006.

The questions and answers in this book are divided into categories including parental authority, school, employment, health, violence against youth and emancipation. The final chapter discusses the consequences of breaking the law and provides basic legal information on the legal system.

Jasper, Margaret C. *Guardianship, Conservatorship and the Law*. New York: Oceana, 2008.
From Oceana's Law for the Layperson Series. Contents include guardianship of a minor and incapacitated adult, mental health guardianship and civil commitment, standby guardianship, conservatorship, and alternatives to guardianship and conservatorship.

Jasper, Margaret C. *The Law of Adoption*. New York: Oceana, 2008.
From Oceana's Law for the Layperson Series. Contents include types of adoption, the adoption process, the costs of adoption and the available resources, consent and termination of parental rights, post-adoption considerations, and international adoption.

Jasper, Margaret C. *Marriage and Divorce*, 3rd ed. New York: Oceana, 2008.
From Oceana's Law for the Layperson Series. Contents include the prenuptial agreement, separation and divorce, property distribution and financial issues, child support, child custody and cohabitation and same-sex relationships.

Judicial Council of California. Center for Families, Children & the Courts. [*Going to Court without a Lawyer: Handbook for Litigants: a Guide for Handling Uncontested Divorce and Legal Separation*](#). San Francisco, CA: Judicial Council of California, 2007.
Explains the court process and legal forms needed for an uncontested divorce, legal separation or annulment. [40-page PDF]

Lyster, Mimi E. [*Building a Parenting Agreement that Works: How to Put Your Kids First When Your Marriage Doesn't Last*](#), 7th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.
Presents different parenting issues as well as options for solving them. Some of the issues discussed include medical care, education, religion, living arrangements, holidays, and money.

Matthews, Joseph L. [*Long-Term Care: How to Plan & Pay for It*](#), 8th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.
Learn how to evaluate long-term care insurance, arrange home care, chose a nursing facility, explore options beyond nursing homes, use Medicare and Medicaid, protect your assets, and prevent elder fraud.

O'Reilly, James T. *How to Protect Elders from Harm*. New York: Oceana, 2009.
From Oceana's Law for the Layperson Series. Contents cover understanding the risks to the safety of elders, how the government protects elders against risk, remedies for injury at home, traffic-related risks of harm, hospital-related harms, nursing home risks of harm, remedies for home and assisted-living health care

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risks, medication issues for elders, protecting elders from financial harms and thefts, abuse and assault, and managing interaction with government officials.

Sedano, Lisa & Emily Doshow. [*How to Change Your Name in California*](#), 13th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

This book is aimed at women who wish to retain their maiden names at marriage, regain maiden names after divorce, or alter children's names, or those who wish to adopt a name more fitting to their life-styles. Includes the tear-out forms and instructions necessary for the court petition and change of name.

Sherman, Charles E. [*How to Do Your Own Divorce in California: A Complete Kit for the Out-of-Court Divorce*](#), 34th ed. Santa Cruz, CA: Nolo Press Occidental, 2011.

Contains all the necessary court forms and instructions for an uncontested dissolution, a divorce that can be settled out of court. Coverage extends to how to start a divorce proceeding, differences between nullity, dissolution, summary dissolution, legal separation and the grounds for each. How to divide property is also discussed.

Sherman, Ed. [*How to Solve Divorce Problems in California: How to Manage a Contested Divorce - In or Out of Court*](#), 9th ed. Santa Cruz, CA: Nolo Press Occidental, 2011.

Covers cases that are gently contested to flat out wars (with or without an attorney), explains how to understand and plan your case, how to get information from the other side, how to respond to legal action, and how to select and supervise an attorney if you need or want one. Includes a companion CD-Rom with forms, pleading, codes and more.

Siegel, Lawrence M. [*The Complete IEP Guide: How to Advocate for Your Special Ed Child*](#), 7th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Discusses how to understand your child's rights, eligibility rules and assessments; collect school records; develop a blueprint of programs and services; research alternatives; prepare for IEP meetings; and resolve disputes with your school district.

Siegel, Lawrence M. [*Nolo's IEP Guide: Learning Disabilities*](#), 5th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Learn how to understand your child's rights, prepare to make your case, develop IEP goals, resolve disputes, and do legal research on learning-disability issues.

Stoner, Katherine E. & Shae Irving. [*Prenuptial Agreements: How to Write a Fair & Lasting Contract*](#), 3rd ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2008.

Explains how to create a valid contract, whether a prenup is right for your relationship, how to decide what a prenup should include, how to assemble a draft agreement, how to turn your draft into a contract, and tips on negotiating and communicating. Includes worksheets as tear-outs and on a CD-ROM, as well as clauses for preparing an agreement.

Stoner, Katherine E. [*Divorce Without Court: A Guide to Mediation & Collaborative Divorce*](#), 2nd ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2009.

This book explains how mediation works, how collaborative divorce works, how to maximize opportunities for settlement, and how to get an agreement in writing.

Warner, Ralph, Toni Ihara & Frederick Hertz. [*Living Together: A Legal Guide for Unmarried Couples*](#), 14th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2008.

This book includes topics such as the legality of living together, having and raising children, ownership agreements, and getting authorization to make medical decisions for a partner.

Woodhouse, Violet & Dale Fetherling. [*Divorce & Money: How to Make the Best Financial Decisions During Divorce*](#), 10th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Discusses how to decide whether to keep or sell a house, protect yourself against misuse of joint accounts, avoid tax problems, handle alimony and child support, divide debts, reduce investment risk, and understand how a court evaluates assets.

Financial Planning

Block, Sandra, Kathy Chu, & John Waggoner. [*The Busy Family's Guide to Money*](#), 1st ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2008.

Learn how to create a budget, get a favorable mortgage, control debt, and plan for college and retirement.

Jasper, Margaret C. *Credit Cards and the Law*, 3rd ed. New York: Oceana, 2007.

From Oceana's Law for the Layperson Series. Contents include an overview of the credit card system, credit card legislation, debit cards, ATM cards and gift cards, credit card terms and conditions, credit card losses, theft and unauthorized use, equal credit opportunity, establishing, maintaining and rehabilitating credit, and the management and collection of credit card debt.

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Jasper, Margaret C. *Dealing with Debt*. New York: Oceana, 2007.

From Oceana's Law for the Layperson Series. Contents include debt management, tax debts, the debt collection process, debt collection harassment, judgment enforcement, consumer bankruptcy, and rehabilitating your credit.

Lamb, John & Robin Leonard. [*Credit Repair*](#), 10th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Discusses how to read and understand a credit report, how to correct mistakes on a credit report, how to protect your Social Security number, and how to negotiate with creditors.

Leonard, Robin & Margaret Reiter. [*Solve Your Money Troubles: Debt, Credit & Bankruptcy*](#), 13th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Discusses different types of debt, negotiating with creditors, dealing with debt collectors, bankruptcy, and credit discrimination.

Free Forms

California Franchise Tax Board Forms (<http://www.ftb.ca.gov/forms/index.shtml>)

Includes forms for the current and previous years. Browse by name, number and topic. Forms are available in Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Russian and Vietnamese.

California Judicial Council Forms (<http://www.courts.ca.gov/forms.htm>)

Users can access the Judicial Council forms by category, by number, or by name. All forms are provided in PDF, may be downloaded, and some can be filled out electronically.

California Secretary of State, Business Programs Division, Forms, Samples & Fees (http://www.sos.ca.gov/business/bpd_forms.htm)

Samples and forms are in PDF format and have been drafted to meet the minimum statutory filing requirements. Includes forms related to business entities, notary public, special filings, trademarks and service marks, and the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC).

FindLaw's Forms & Contracts (<http://forms.lp.findlaw.com/>)

FindLaw's free collection of sample legal forms and business contracts is designed for legal professionals. Browse by type of form, by industry, or by company name. Scroll down the page for Federal Court Forms & State Court Forms.

FindLaw's Sample Business Contracts (<http://contracts.corporate.findlaw.com/>)

Browse by industry, type of contract, and alphabetically by company name.

Forms Catalog (<http://search.usa.gov/forms>)

The U.S. government's official hub for federal forms which provides citizens and businesses with a common access point to federal agency forms. Search by keyword, by agency list, or by form name. Not all agencies are included (see agency list) and not all forms issued by federal agencies are included (contact the agency directly).

I-CAN!TM Legal California (<http://www.icandocs.org/ca/>)

A free online application that will fill out court forms for you by asking you simple questions and putting the answers on the forms in the correct place. Developed by the Legal Aid Society of Orange County and sponsored by a number of organizations, such as the Legal Services Corporation, several Superior Courts of California, and the State Bar of California. The service is free, although you must register for a password. Available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Internal Revenue Service (<http://www.irs.gov/>)

Click on "Forms & Publications" link. May download forms and publications by form and instruction number, by publication number, view the topical index, and search by year (back to 1980).

LexisNexis Communities Portal:

(<http://www.lexisone.com/lx1/store/catalog?action=main&tcode=PORTAL>)

This site is designed for individual attorneys and includes both free and fee-based resources. Click on the Forms tab and then on the "Free Forms" link (under the Advanced Search box). Includes over 6,000 free forms from the Matthew Bender collection. Note that users must register (which is free) to access the forms.

Los Angeles Superior Court of California Forms

(<http://www.lasuperiorcourt.org/forms/ui/popup.aspx?ddl=AL>)

Categories include civil, family law, probate, small claims, unlawful detainer, mental health, juvenile, and miscellaneous. Forms are available in PDF and are fillable unless otherwise noted.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (<http://www.uscis.gov/forms>)

Includes the general categories of employment based forms, family based forms,

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green card based forms, humanitarian based forms, and citizenship and naturalization based forms. Be sure to read the directions carefully.

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit Forms

(<http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/forms/>)

Alphabetical list of forms including attorney admission forms and instructions, mediation forms, and student practice forms.

U.S. District Court for the Central District of California Forms

(<http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/CACD/Forms.nsf/Forms>)

Includes appeals forms, civil & criminal forms, general forms, and pro se packets.

WashLaw's Legal Forms (<http://www.washlaw.edu/legalforms/>)

This resource page provides links to a variety of forms, including business registration forms, tax forms, real estate forms, trademark forms, UCC forms, and state and federal court forms.

Immigration Law

[Asian Pacific American Legal Center](#). *Citizenship 101 Your Guide to Citizenship*. Los Angeles, CA: Asian Pacific American Legal Center, 2010.

DVD and companion workbook cover the basics of U.S. citizenship. The video is available in several languages (English, Cantonese, Korean, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Hindi, and Tagalog). For more information, go to the [APALC](#) Web site, click on *Resources*, then click on the link next to *Citizenship Application Assistance*. The video may be [ordered](#) by mail, email or fax. The companion workbook (64-pages) may be downloaded for free at <http://www.apalc.org/citizenship/CitizenshipWorkshop2009.pdf>.

Bray, Ilona. [Becoming a U.S. Citizen: A Guide to the Law, Exam & Interview](#), 5th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Includes information regarding eligibility, deportation, application forms, citizenship exam, and the interview.

Bray, Ilona. [Fiancé & Marriage Visas: A Couple's Guide to U.S. Immigration](#), 6th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Learn how to understand the immigration process, make your way through the bureaucracy, meet with U.S. officials, prove your marriage is real, and deal with the two-year testing period.

Bray, Ilona. [*How to Get a Green Card*](#), 9th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Discusses how to determine eligibility, get through the bureaucratic maze, work with U.S. officials, and how to get a green card through parents, siblings, spouses, lotteries, political asylum, and refugee status.

Bray, Ilona. [*U.S. Immigration Made Easy*](#), 15th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Learn how to qualify for work visas, student visas, refugee status, green cards, and citizenship. Includes step-by-step instructions for completing and filing immigration forms.

Scaperlanda, Michael A. [*Immigration Law: A Primer*](#). Federal Judicial Center: Washington, D.C.: 2009.

Provides an introduction to and overview of immigration law. 186-page PDF.

Jasper, Margaret C. *The Law of Immigration*, 3rd ed. New York: Oceana, 2008.

From Oceana's Law for the Layperson Series. Contents cover the U.S. citizenship and immigration services (USCIS), applying for a nonimmigrant visa, applying for an immigrant visa, humanitarian benefits, deportation, employment issues, becoming a U.S. citizen, intercountry adoption, and U.S. customs and border protection.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis>)

Web site includes forms, descriptions of immigration services and benefits, the complete text of immigration laws and federal regulations.

Wernick, Allan. *U.S. Immigration & Citizenship Your Complete Guide*, 4th ed. Cincinnati, OH: Emmis Books, 2004.

The five sections in this popular guide to U.S. immigration law cover getting a green card, naturalization and citizenship, nonimmigrant visas, asylees and refugees and employer sanctions.

Landlord-Tenant Law

Brown, David Wayne et al. [*The California Landlord's Law Book: Rights and Responsibilities*](#), 14th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

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This concise legal guide for California landlords tells you how to avoid legal pitfalls by understanding leases and rental agreements. Basic rent rules, rent control, repairing property, and abandoned property are among the chapter topics. Includes tear-out forms and agreements including lease and rental agreements.

Brown, David W. [*The California Landlord's Law Book: Evictions*](#), 14th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

This manual for California landlords details the landlord's role in evictions, including the reasons for eviction. How to file and conduct an uncontested eviction lawsuit (residential tenants only) and how to collect a money judgment are both covered. It is advisable to use this in conjunction with [*The California Landlord's Law Book: Rights and Responsibilities*](#).

California Department of Consumer Affairs, [*California Tenants: A Guide to Residential Tenants' and Landlords' Rights and Responsibilities*](#), 2010.

Also available in Spanish.

Fishman, Stephen. [*Every Landlord's Tax Deduction Guide*](#), 6th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

This book explains how to maximize deductions, fill out IRS Schedule E, utilize real estate tax credits, maximize depreciation deductions, deduct losses, and keep proper tax records.

Leshnower, Ron. [*Every Landlord's Property Protection Guide: 10 Ways to Cut Your Risk Now*](#), 1st ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2008.

Learn how to get the right insurance for your property, understand fair housing rules, and remove environmental hazards.

National Housing Law Project, *HUD housing programs: Tenants' Rights*, 3rd ed. Oakland, CA: National Housing Law Project, 2004.

Comprehensive manual on many of the issues arising in the representation of tenants and applicants under HUD's major low-income housing programs, including admissions, rents, utilities, maintenance, leases, and evictions and terminations.

Portman, Janet & David Brown. [*California Tenants' Rights*](#), 18th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Written for the tenant, this book discusses deposit returns, breaking a lease, getting repairs made, using Small Claims Court and dealing with an

unscrupulous landlord. Contains sample letters, rental agreements and rent control charts.

Portman, Janet et al. *[First-Time Landlord: Renting Out a Single-Family Home](#)*, 2nd ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Includes information on how to determine whether or not the property will turn a profit, landlord business basics, finding the right tenants, preparing and signing the lease, handling repairs, complying with your state's rental laws, dealing with problem tenants, and preparing for the sale of the property.

Portman, Janet & Marcia Stewart. *[Every Tenant's Legal Guide](#)*, 6th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2009.

Learn how to inspect a rental property, negotiate a lease, understand rent control, get needed repairs, protect your privacy, break a lease, and prepare for eviction proceedings.

Portman, Janet & Marcia Stewart. *[Renters' Rights: The Basics](#)*, 6th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2009.

Includes leases and rental agreements, discrimination, rent, security deposits, privacy, roommates, and repairs and maintenance.

Stewart, Marcia, et al. *[Every Landlord's Legal Guide](#)*, 10th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Learn how to choose tenants, prepare a lease, collect and return deposits, hire a property manager, keep up with maintenance, limit liability, and deal with problem tenants.

Stewart, Marcia, et al. *[Leases & Rental Agreements](#)*, 9th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Discusses how to prepare a rental agreement or lease, make required disclosures, comply with state laws, check tenant references and credits, and conduct a final inspection.

U.S Department of Housing & Urban Development, *Tenant Rights, Laws and Protections: California* (<http://www.hud.gov/local/ca/renting/tenantrights.cfm>)

Includes information on California landlord-tenant law, a renter's guide, and links to relevant agency Web sites.

Lawyers

The American Bar Association, *Consumers' Guide to Legal Help*

(<http://apps.americanbar.org/legalservices/findlegalhelp/home.cfm>)

This site guides the user to a list of resources by state. Provides links to lawyer referrals, commercial directories, legal aid for low-income people, self-help and court information. Also includes a *Consumers' Guide to Legal Help: Legal Terms Glossary*: http://apps.americanbar.org/legalservices/findlegalhelp/faq_legalterms.cfm.

Attorney Locate (<http://www.attorneylocate.com/>)

Endorsed by the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, this free national attorney referral service available only through the Internet allows a user to search for an attorney by location and practice area.

Bar Associations

Most local county bar associations throughout the United States can assist in locating attorneys. For example, the Los Angeles County Bar Association (<http://www.lacba.org/>) has a lawyer referral and information service called SmartLaw (<http://www.smartlaw.org/>) where one can find a lawyer by area of law, location, and by language spoken (or call (213) 243-1525). Go to Hieros Gamos *Bar Associations* page (<http://www.hg.org/bar.html>) for a comprehensive list of associations worldwide. Scroll down to the bottom of the page for links to local and state associations in the U.S. Another resource is FindLaw's *State Bar Associations* page (<http://public.findlaw.com/library/state-bar-associations.html>).

FindLaw's Lawyer Directory (<http://lawyers.findlaw.com/>)

Features profiles of lawyers from across the U.S. May search or browse by legal issue and location. Also note the links to FindLaw's *Guide to Hiring a Lawyer* (<http://public.findlaw.com/library/hiring-lawyer/>) and *Introduction to the U.S. Legal System* (<http://public.findlaw.com/library/legal-system>).

Fox, Lawrence J. & Susan R. Martyn. *How to Deal With Your Lawyer: Answers to Commonly Asked Questions*. New York: Oceana, 2008.

From Oceana's Law for the Layperson Series. Contents include five sections: (1) the client-lawyer relationship; (2) what to expect from your lawyer; (3) what not to expect from your lawyer; (4) other people's lawyers; and (5) gaining even when you lose.

LawHelpCalifornia.org (<http://lawhelpcalifornia.org>)

Provides low-income Californians with easy online access to basic legal resources and attorney information. Does not provide direct legal services. Provides referrals by topic or one may browse the Referral Directory (link at the top right, next to the Help button), which lists organizations alphabetically and by counties served. Note that resources are available in 28 other languages, including Cambodian, Punjabi, Russian and Polish.

Martindale-Hubbell's Lawyer Locator (<http://www.martindale.com>)

This database of over 1 million lawyer profiles allows users to search for lawyers or law firms—by name, practice area, city, and state. The Advanced Search allows users to limit results by years in practice, languages spoken, law school attended, and major memberships.

Nolo's Lawyer Directory (<http://www.nolo.com/lawyers/>)

Each attorney provides the same information for his or her profile. Nolo has confirmed that every listed attorney has a valid license and is in good standing with the applicable bar associations at the time they are listed in the directory. Lawyers are required to notify Nolo within three business days if they become subject to any disciplinary action by a bar association.

Public Counsel (<http://www.publiccounsel.org/>)

Largest pro bono office in the nation. In California, the organization assists low-income children, youth, adults and families in the areas of child care law, children's rights, community development, consumer law, homeless assistance and immigration. Public Counsel, in association with Centro Maravilla, offers free legal help on all consumer-related matters. For location, dates and times, see <http://www.publiccounsel.org/services>.

The State Bar of California, Attorney Search

(<http://members.calbar.ca.gov/search/member.aspx>)

The public can check an attorney's bar membership record by name or by bar number. Users can search names that "sound like" the search term, which comes in handy if you are not certain of the spelling of a person's name. Profiles contain contact information, law school attended, date of admission to the bar, as well as whether there is a record of discipline against the attorney.

Legal Research

Cohen, Morris L. & Kent Olsen. *Legal Research in a Nutshell*, 10th ed. St. Paul, MN: Thomson West, 2010.

This succinct guide covers major primary and secondary sources, including Web resources such as Thomas and PACER (Public Access to Electronic Court Records) as well as online databases and library materials. It covers legislative history, administrative law, practice and specialized resources, and research in comparative and international law.

Elias, Stephen, & Susan Levinkind Elias. [Legal Research: How to Find and Understand the Law](#), 15th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2009.

Well-illustrated procedures covering legal research strategy. It includes an overview of the law, an explanation of statutes, case law and Shepard's citators, and examples relating to specific cases and legal questions. There are also chapters on how to obtain information under the Freedom of Information Act and how to use computer-assisted legal research.

FindLaw's [Introduction to the U.S. Legal System](#).

FindLaw's introduction to the U.S. legal system explains the difference between a civil and criminal case, the types of cases heard in federal court and state court, and what to expect if you are involved in a lawsuit.

Jasper, Margaret C. *Dictionary of Selected Legal Terms*, 3rd ed. New York: Oceana, 2009. From Oceana's Law for the Layperson series.

Law Libraries Web sites

County and University law libraries have developed Web sites with links to primary (statutes, regulations, cases) and secondary (explanatory and analytical) information:

The following are a few examples:

- LA Law Library (<http://www.lalawlibrary.org/default.aspx>)
- Orange County Public Law Library (<http://www.oc.ca.gov/lawlib>)
- San Diego County Public Law Library (<http://www.sdcpll.org>)
- Cornell Law School's Legal Information Institute (LII) (<http://www.law.cornell.edu>)
- Washburn Law School (<http://www.washlaw.edu>)

Law Libraries Resource Exchange (<http://www.llrx.com>)

Law librarians have developed this Web site for law librarians and others. It contains legal news, court rules, opinions and forms, and links to tested and proven Web sites.

Martin, Daniel W. *Henke's California Law Guide*, 8th ed. Lexis Law Publishing, 2006.

Dan Martin, Law Professor and Library Director at Loyola Law School, continues to edit this excellent explanation of all facets of California research sources: constitutional, statutory, administrative, etc.

Nolo Press (<http://www.nolo.com>)

Legal how-to publisher's Web site contains a legal encyclopedia, frequently asked questions, and their product catalog.

Tucker, Virginia and Marc Lampson. *Finding the Answers to Legal Questions: A How-to-Do-It Manual*. New York, NY: Neal Schuman Publishers, 2010.

The author's focus is on public libraries that are of small to medium size. There are four basic parts: (1) "Foundation: Legal Information Overview," (2) "Preparation: Understanding Legal Information Needs," (3) "Information: Specific Legal Questions" and (4) "Finding State and Local Law". There are three appendices which include a glossary and bibliography of online legal sources.

Your Public Law Library's Mini Research Class

(<http://www.publiclawlibrary.org/research.html>)

Provided by the Council of California County Law Librarians, this mini research guide is intended to help users learn the legal research process, with guidance on where to start and what resources to check. The sections are linked so that one may skip to relevant sections.

Public Record Data

Adair, Kristin and Catherine Nielsen. *Effective FOIA Requesting for Everyone: a National Security Archive Guide*. Washington D.C.: National Security Archive, 2009.

Provides a comprehensive overview of how to obtain documents from federal executive branch agencies. Although the focus is on the Freedom of Information Act process, other means of accessing government records are addressed.

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BRB Publications, Inc. (<http://www.brbspub.com/>)

A publisher of sourcebooks used for locating public records, this site includes a Free Resource Center.

California Bar Journal (<http://www.calbarjournal.com/>)

This monthly publication includes a section called "Trials Digest," that summarizes the important trials in California provided by Trials Digest, a Thomson West business. Archived issues (from 1996) are freely available online. Not a very comprehensive source, but it is free. All other online services are fee-based, including *O'Brien's Evaluator*, *Verdictum Juris*, *Tri-Service*, and the *Los Angeles Daily Journal's* Verdicts and Settlements.

California Secretary of State (<http://www.sos.ca.gov/admin/public-records.htm>)

Produces a 6-page publication on [Guidelines for Access to Public Records](#) the counter services and research facilities accessible to the public at the California State Archives and regional offices. A formal request pursuant to the California Public Records Act is not necessary for inspection and copying of public records that are routinely available at the public counters and the research facility. There are public counters at the regional offices in Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco (see [Guidelines](#) for location).

Justia: Federal District Court Filings & Dockets (<http://dockets.justia.com>)

This is a free searchable database of recently filed U.S. federal district court civil cases. It includes over 1 million civil cases filed since Jan. 1, 2004 and is updated multiple times each day. Selected high profile cases dated earlier than 2004 are included. Searchable by party name, jurisdiction, lawsuit type and date. Users may also browse by state, nature of suit, and cases most recently filed.

LA eCourt Online, Superior Court of California County of Los Angeles (<https://www.lasuperiorcourt.org/online-services/LAECourtOnlineIndex.htm>)

Some Superior Courts will allow the public online access (for a fee) to court documents. In this case, the documents only include legal documents filed in general jurisdiction civil cases from the Stanley Mosk Courthouse (111 N. Hill St. Los Angeles), as well as a criminal defendant index.

PACER (<http://www.pacer.gov/>)

Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) is an electronic public access service that allows registered users to obtain case and docket information from the U.S. Courts of Appeal, District, and Bankruptcy courts, and the U.S. Party/Case Index via the Internet. One must register, which is free, in order to

access PACER, which charges \$.08 per page. The charge applies to the number of pages that result from any search, including a search that yields no matches (one page for no matches). The charge applies whether or not pages are printed, viewed, or downloaded. There is a cap of \$2.40 charged for any single document.

Registrar Records

Your local county is the official source for retaining public records related to fictitious business names, marriage licenses and death certificates and assessor records. For a [list of California counties and their Web sites](#), see the California State Web page (<http://www.ca.gov>).

VerdictSearch California Reporter. San Diego, CA: VerdictSearch California Reporter, 2003- . (continues *California Jury Verdicts Weekly*)

This is a print resource that you will find in most large law libraries. It includes an index for each year.

Real Property Law

Bray, Ilona, et al. [Nolo's Essential Guide to Buying Your First Home](#), 3rd ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Learn how to get financing, find inspectors and insurance, negotiate with sellers, and close the deal.

Devine, George. [For Sale by Owner in California](#), 10th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Practical tips on how to sell a home without a broker.

Elias, Stephen R. [Foreclosure Survival Guide: Keep Your House or Walk Away with Money in Your Pocket](#), 3rd ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Provides information on mortgages, including adjustable rate mortgages, short sales, deeds in lieu of foreclosure, judicial and non-judicial foreclosure, credit counseling, liens and using bankruptcy to deal with foreclosure.

Jasper, Margaret C. *Home Mortgage Law Primer*, 3rd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

From Oceana's Law for the Layperson Series. Covers the mortgage loan process, home equity financing, real estate closing, mortgage loan discrimination, the Truth-in-Lending Act, the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA), and foreclosure.

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Jordan, Cora and Emily Doshow. [*Neighbor Law: Fences, Trees, Boundaries & Noise*](#), 7th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Discusses laws covering fences, trees, boundaries, blocked views, noise, water, dangers to children, and more.

Randolph, Mary. [*Deeds for California Real Estate*](#), 8th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

A new deed is needed every time real estate is transferred, for whatever reason. This book helps you choose the right deed, and includes all tear-out deed forms with line-by-line instructions.

Warner, Ralph at al. [*How to Buy a House in California*](#), 13th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Strategies for buying a house plus all necessary real estate forms and worksheets.

Social Security

Bernan Press, *Social Security Handbook Overview of Social Security Programs*. Lanham, Md.: Bernan Press, 2010.

Organized by section number, the Handbook is a comprehensive and easy-to-read guide to many of the benefit programs that are covered under the Social Security Act and related laws, including retirement, survivors, medical and disability insurance, supplemental security income, veterans' benefits, unemployment insurance, and public assistance and welfare services.

Matthews, Joseph L. & Dorothy Matthews Berman. [*Social Security, Medicare & Government Pensions: Get the Most Out of Your Retirement & Medical Benefits*](#), 16th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2011.

Includes information and instructions on how to get retirement and disability benefits; dependent and survivor benefits; and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Covers the nuts and bolts of Medicare and Medicaid and how to claim government pensions and veterans' benefits.

Morton, David A. III. [*Nolo's Guide to Social Security Disability*](#), 5th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Explains what Social Security disability is, what benefits are available to disabled children, how to prove a disability, how age, benefits and work experience affect benefits, how to appeal a denial of benefits, and how to respond to a Continuing Disability Review.

Scully-Hayes, Kathleen. *A Practical Guide to Medicare Appeals*. Chicago, IL: ABA Publications, 2007.

Contents include an overview of the Medicare program, beneficiary appeals, provider appeals, coverage and payment appeals, and miscellaneous appeals.

U.S. Social Security Administration (<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/>)

Use the official Web site to estimate your retirement benefits, check the status of your application, and find a local Social Security office. The public also has access to online forms and publications (e.g., *How You Earn Credits, Disability Benefits, Benefits for Children with Disabilities, Medicare, and The Appeals Process*. See <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/>).

Tax Law

Block, Sandra & Stephen Fishman. *Easy Ways to Lower Your Taxes: Simple Strategies Every Taxpayer Should Know*, 1st ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2008.

Provides “legitimate tactics and insights that will lower your tax bill without running afoul of the IRS.”

California Franchise Tax Board (<http://www.ftb.ca.gov/>)

Responsible for administering two of California’s major tax programs: Personal Income Tax and the Corporation Tax. The public will find forms, bills & notices, tax return basics and assistance and answers for individuals, and tax resources for businesses.

Daily, Frederick W. *Stand Up to the I.R.S.*, 10th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2009.

Learn how to file a late return, work out a payment plan, get a Taxpayer-Assistance Order, stop collection efforts, avoid property seizures, protect assets, and appeal the auditor’s decision.

Daily, Frederick W. *Tax Savvy for Small Business*, 14th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Includes information on deductible business expenses, bookkeeping, and payroll taxes, as well as a discussion of the different types of corporations, partnerships, and limited liability companies. Also includes how to buy or sell a business and how to deal with the IRS.

CHAPTER 10: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SELF-HELP RESOURCES

Fishman, Stephen. *[Deduct It: Lower Your Small Business Taxes](#)*, 7th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Discusses common deductions, including start-up and operating expenses, health deductions, vehicles, travel, inventory and equipment.

Fishman, Stephen. *[Home Business Tax Deductions: Keep What You Earn](#)*, 7th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Discusses how to write off start-up and operating expenses, travel, health insurance, inventory and equipment.

Fishman, Stephen. *[Tax Deductions for Professionals](#)*, 6th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2010.

Discusses common tax deductions and how to choose the best legal structure for your business. Other topics covered include retirement accounts, continuing education, and professional fees.

Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Department of the Treasury, Publications Online (<http://www.irs.gov/publications/index.html>)

Examples of publications available online (in both html and PDF) are "Employer's Tax Guide," "Armed Forces' Tax Guide," and "Tax Guide for U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad."

Veterans' Rights & Benefits

Jasper, Margaret C. *Veterans' Rights and Benefits*. New York: Oceana, 2009.

From Oceana's Law for the Layperson Series. Contents cover the Department of Veterans Affairs, disability compensation and pension benefits, health care benefits, veterans' group life insurance, education and vocational rehabilitation benefits, home financing benefits, dependent and survivor benefits, Board of Veterans appeals, and the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

National Veteran Legal Services Program (<http://www.nvlsp.org>)

The NVLSP is an independent, non-profit, charitable organization that advocates for veterans' rights. Their Web site offers information for veterans requiring assistance on many matters and provides links to their publications, correspondence courses and affiliations.

Roche, John D. *The Veteran's Survival Guide: How To File and Collect on VA Claims*, 2nd ed. Washington, DC: Potomac Books, 2006.

Contents include information on compensation claims, claims based on treatment by the VA, claims based on secondary disabilities, and filing your claim.

U.S. Department of Defense. *Compensation & Benefits Handbook: For Seriously Ill and Injured Members of the Armed Forces* (2008).

The DoD announced on Oct. 6, 2008 (see [News Release](#)) the development of a comprehensive handbook describing compensation and other benefits service members and their families would be entitled to upon separation or retirement as a result of serious injury or illness. The handbook describes the disability eligibility process, various program qualifications, application procedures, and numerous resources with associated contact information. The electronic version of the handbook will be updated frequently and the hard copy will be updated annually. The electronic version of the handbook can be found on these sites:

- <http://www.turbotap.org/register.tpp>
- <http://www.npc.navy.mil>
- [http://www.aw2.army.mil/assets/documents/Compensation and Benefits Handbook.pdf](http://www.aw2.army.mil/assets/documents/Compensation_and_Benefits_Handbook.pdf)

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, Board of Veterans' Appeals

(http://www.va.gov/landing_bva.htm)

The purpose and composition of the Board, a part of the Department of Veterans Affairs, is presented on this Web site. The Web page indicates it is designed primarily to assist citizens and veterans in understanding the appeals process, and to provide copies (in PDF) of the application forms. Decisions of the Board are included from 1994 to the present.

Chapter 11

AVAILABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND MAINTENANCE OF LEGAL COLLECTIONS

Librarians remain committed to providing the best collections possible for the communities they serve. Library users expect to be able to find the information they need to conduct their personal and business affairs. This expectation includes finding legal information when they need it. In addition, during the last decade, courts have seen an increasing number of self-represented litigants—lay people who are choosing to litigate a variety of legal issues without being represented by an attorney. This group often turns to their local public libraries as a first step in seeking legal information.

Contents:

- [*When Legal Information in Print Is Preferred*](#)
- [*Five Factors to Consider When Building & Maintaining a Collection of Legal Materials*](#)
- [*Legal Information Vendors*](#)
- [*Maintaining a Traditional Print Legal Collection*](#)
- [*Other Considerations for Print Legal Materials*](#)
- [*Additional Information to Assist Public Libraries*](#)
- [*Internet Sources Cited in this Chapter*](#)

When Legal Information in Print is Preferred

As mentioned in Chapter 1: [*Introduction*](#), legal materials may be divided into three types of sources: primary authority, secondary authority, and indexing/finding tools (e.g., citators and digests), all of which are now available in a variety of formats. As discussed previously, the good news is that much of the primary material (i.e., cases, statutes, and administrative materials) is now available on government Web sites, which is helpful for researchers seeking current legal information. There are also a number of reputable legal Web sites, such as [*Cornell's Legal Information Institute*](#), [*FindLaw*](#), and [*WashLaw*](#).

With the wealth of legal resources that are available online today, the challenge for the

librarian is being able to effectively and efficiently access the information library users need. Even with all the “free” legal information available through the Internet, there is still a significant percentage of the population that is not computer-literate. Additionally for those with limited education or for whom reading English is difficult trying to use and understand legal materials in any format can be very challenging. The reality is that few researchers are able to answer their legal questions by just accessing the primary sources. Most need the in-depth explanations of the law contained in secondary resources, such as legal treatises, periodicals, practice guides and formbooks.

Five Factors to Consider When Building and Maintaining a Legal Reference Collection in a Public Library

The general principles of building and maintaining a library collection are also applicable to legal publications. However, there are a number of factors public librarians may need to take into account when making acquisitions decisions about a legal reference collection for their community. The following is intended to serve as a general guideline for public librarians developing and maintaining legal reference collections.

One: Locate Area Law Libraries

- Know your proximity to a county law library, law school, academic or other public library that may provide legal materials and reference services to the public.¹
- Learn the hours and types of services and resources of the law libraries open to the public in your area and distribute this information to your users. These law librarians are committed to the goal of providing and improving public access to legal information. It is important to note that they are serving the same people being served by public libraries in their communities.

¹ The California Council of County Law Libraries' [Public Law Library](#) Web site is a great place to start. There is a list of county law libraries under [Find Your . . .](#) that includes links to those county law libraries that have Web sites. These sites offer an increasing amount of online legal information to the public, including links to fillable forms, courts and other local government agencies, as well as to local legal referral services and clinics. Some county law libraries also offer classes for the public that provide an introduction to legal research and law library resources.

Two: Network with a Law Librarian

- There are three major regional law librarian groups in California:
[Southern California Associations of Law Libraries \(SCALL\)](#)
[San Diego Area Law Libraries \(SANDALL\)](#)
[Northern California Association of Law Libraries \(NOCALL\)](#)
- Public librarians should contact their local [American Association of Law Libraries \(AALL\)](#) chapter, as the members are often willing to provide assistance by evaluating public library legal reference collections. The chapters also occasionally offer legal information programs and workshops for both professionals and the public we all serve. (For public librarians in states other than California, go to the [Chapters](#) page on the [AALL](#) Web site.)

Three: Identify the Information Needs of Your Users

- This may seem obvious, but it is important to keep a record of the number of legal reference questions and use of the legal reference collection.
- Can you identify separate user groups of the collection, such as small business owners, government employees, students, or self-represented litigants? Is there a high proportion of a particular user group whose population might have many do-it-yourself individuals?
- Many public libraries provide some [Nolo Press](#) self-help law books for their users; however, these sources may not provide the depth of legal information some researchers need. For example, in a community where there are many small business owners, the public library may need to build its legal reference collection as part of its mission to serve this section of the community. These library users may need information on a variety of legal issues, such as federal and state employment law, consumer issues, insurance and related liability information, and debt collection law.

Four: Consider Costs of Legal Materials, Including Updating

- Once the decision is made to build and maintain a legal reference collection, there are several factors that must be considered in budgeting for legal materials. It is imperative to keep law materials up-to-date, and the upkeep expense can be considerable, as legal materials in all formats continue to increase in price. Never assume that an order for a legal title includes its supplementation. Publishers

will not automatically send supplementation unless a standing order is established. This can be done when placing the order by including on the order form a phrase such as *“including standing order for supplementation until forbidden”* or similar wording.

- Almost all law publishers offer the option of automatic standing order plans for individual titles. On a title by title basis, verify with the publisher that a standing order exists for items you already have in the collection. A few legal publishers will notify customers of new supplementary materials and request instructions without automatically sending the materials. If a library’s budget process does not permit standing orders, an “update expected” note should be placed in the check-in record for each legal title as a reminder to the acquisitions staff to check for and order updates.

Five: Consider Level of Staff Commitment Necessary to Keep Legal Materials Current

- Updating print law materials is labor intensive and will require staff time to be done correctly.
- It is imperative that the library staff receives adequate training, or updates may be incorrectly filed or discarded. Part of this training includes understanding the necessity of keeping all shipping material such as filing instructions together with the book through its processing until it is finally shelved, so that superseded volumes are pulled according to the instructions.

Legal Information Vendors

In recent years, smaller legal publishers have been absorbed by the two main legal publishing conglomerates: Reed Elsevier PLC, owner of LexisNexis, and Thomson West. One problem that has resulted from this change is that responsibility for publishing a specific legal title may have been shifted from the original publisher to another publisher within the larger conglomerate. While many of the formerly independent legal publishers continue to exist as divisions and publish under their traditional names, determining the current publisher of a law book can often be challenging. Please see Chapter 12: [*Major Legal Publishers*](#) for a complete list.

The upside of this consolidation of smaller publishers is that legal information vendors have become more aware of the potential for enlarging their customer base beyond the

traditional law school, court, and law firm libraries. They have become increasingly willing to market their materials not only to public law libraries, but also to university libraries that do not support a law school, and even to public libraries. Some legal vendors have even begun to offer consortium pricing for some of their products. Several examples of this trend, of which county law libraries have been able to take advantage for their users, are discussed in the section on “Accessing Online Legal Information” below.

Maintaining a Traditional Print Legal Collection

A unique characteristic of law book publishing is the need for constant revision. New laws and amendments to existing laws are passed almost daily when Congress or the state legislature is in session. New court decisions interpreting the law are issued daily. It is very important that law books in the collection are current. It is better to send a user to another library, rather than to offer an out-of-date publication, because offering out-dated law could be detrimental to the user.

To keep their books up-to-date, legal publishers issue supplements in one or more formats:

- *Separate Hard-Bound Volumes*

These separate volumes may be added to sets such as case reporters that are published in chronological order, as an additional volume supplementing the information in the earlier volume, or a replacement volume that incorporates current information from the same earlier volume into a new revised volume. The instructions accompanying the new volume should explain whether or not the earlier volume is out-of-date and should be discarded.

- *Pocket Parts*

Pocket parts may be issued annually or on some other regular schedule. They are used to supplement both single volume texts and multi-volume sets. Occasionally, a volume in a set will have no revisions, so a pocket part will not be issued for that volume. This is most likely to occur if the main volume is new, if the volume is scheduled to be revised fairly soon, or if there is a separate supplementary pamphlet as described below. In these instances, the publishers will often provide a card to be slipped into the main volume, which will read: *This volume has no pocket part.* Care should be taken that the cards are filed with the proper volumes in order to inform researchers that they have the most recent

volume or to direct them to a separate supplement to update the information in the main volume.

- ***Paper-Bound Pamphlets***

These are usually issued annually or on a similarly regular schedule, and are designed to stand on the shelf next to the main hardbound volume. The pamphlet for the prior year is usually, although not always, discarded when the new pamphlet arrives. Be sure to read the directions carefully. Occasionally, when the pocket part grows too big to be placed in the back of the main volume, the next supplement will become a pamphlet. Again, in this instance, the publishers will often provide a card to be slipped into the main volume, which will read: *This volume contains no pocket part. Refer to the separate softbound supplement to this volume for the latest updating material.*

One traditional example of paperbound pamphlets is the advance sheets to the case reporters, which are produced as the appellate courts issue their written opinions. Prior to computer access and the availability of court opinions online, legal publishers created the advance sheet as a means of publishing new case law in a timely manner. Rather than waiting until there were enough opinions to fill a hardbound reporter volume, the publisher compiled these decisions as they were issued by the courts, and printed them out in the paperbound advance sheets. After several advance sheets were published, the publisher would then combine all the cases published in the separate pamphlets and produce the hardbound case reporter volume. After the library processed the reporter, the advance sheets containing the same cases would then be pulled from the shelf and discarded. The legislative pamphlets to *West's* and *Deering's Annotated Codes* are another example of this type of advance pamphlet.

- ***Loose-Leaf Pages***

Loose-leaf supplementation for legal materials is usually the most current and the most labor intensive of the print materials, since packets of supplementary pages may be issued as frequently as weekly. Packets are usually numbered and dated. Each packet should be checked in separately to insure that all supplements are received and filed in order. Proper training of staff who will be responsible for filing the loose-leaf pages is essential.

Printed instructions accompany the packet and must be followed carefully. If a packet is missing or was never received, contact the publisher for a replacement. Never file a packet if an earlier packet has not been filed.

Usually filing involves replacing obsolete pages with new pages; however, old pages are not always replaced with new pages. Some publishers send transfer binders to hold older, but still relevant materials. The instructions should alert you to shifts of pages from one volume to another.

After filing a packet, date and place the filing instructions in the volume with previous instructions. If a contents checklist is included with the packet, the volume may be checked against this. Place the most recent checklist in the front of the book. These information sheets may help resolve future questions about the volume's contents.

Other Considerations for Print Legal Collections

Once supplemental materials are received, updating must be completed in a timely fashion. Superseded materials must be promptly discarded. Supplements almost always include filing instructions. If supplements or loose-leaf pages are missing, claim them from the publisher's customer representative immediately. For questions concerning how to file pages, local law libraries can be very helpful. There are also several private loose-leaf filing companies that provide trained employees to do this work at an hourly rate.

It is recommended that public libraries do not attempt to keep outdated legal materials for historical purposes; that is within the province of major law libraries. A public library should focus its attention on keeping its legal materials current, if it determines that maintaining a legal reference collection is within its mission.

New editions of titles in the legal reference collection should be acquired promptly. If a decision is made not to purchase a new edition or not to update a specific legal title, remove the old edition from the shelves. Out of date legal material is worse than no material at all in law publications. If your library is slow at receiving superseding materials, it is important that you alert users about out-dated legal material by affixing a notice in a prominent place (such as the title page and the spine) to indicate that it is not current.

Weeding

For the reasons mentioned above, weeding is more vital in legal collections than in most other subjects. Last year's law may well be bad law. Legal information is sometimes

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out-of-date as quickly as it is printed. A schedule should be established for reviewing the legal collection on a regular basis, and for discarding or replacing outdated materials. If a particular legal title has not been supplemented in some form for several years, a local law librarian can suggest how soon the particular title should be discarded.

West's Annotated California Code & Deering's California Codes Annotated

Many public libraries subscribe to one or both of these California annotated code sets, and they present a special maintenance problem, as they are supplemented in a couple of different ways. These sets are updated with annual pocket parts, as well as with advance legislative service pamphlets, which allow the researcher to identify changes in the law. In other words, the advance legislative pamphlets update the annual pocket parts and supplements to the code print volumes. These advance legislative service pamphlets should be retained for only the current year's legislative session, until the annual pocket parts are received covering that legislative year, usually during the following January.

The pamphlets for the prior year can be discarded, along with the out-dated pocket parts, when the new pocket parts arrive. Both *West's* and *Deering's* list the coverage of the pocket part on the cover for example: *2008 Cumulative Pocket Part replacing 2007 Pocket Part supplementing the 1982 main volume. Pocket Part will be supplemented by Interim Annotation Service Pamphlets in 2008.* Compare the coverage note on the pocket part with the coverage of the advance legislative session pamphlets and discard all pamphlets that have been incorporated into the pocket part.

Accessing Online Legal Information

The two largest commercial legal information vendors, LexisNexis and Thomson West (Westlaw), now offer "public access" subscription packages to county law libraries in California. These contracts offer online access to a specific list of databases, most of which are state and federal primary materials, with additional access to some related secondary sources and citators. In 2006, [California Continuing Education of the Bar \(CEB\)](#), one of the foremost publishers of California legal practice materials began offering [OnLaw](#), its database of practice materials and forms, to county law libraries at consortium prices. These three legal vendors, along with a number of others, are increasingly willing to negotiate subscriptions with libraries that permit researchers to access the databases through their public access computers.

There is a key difference, however, between legal vendors and other vendors who

market their databases to the library community. The legal vendors continue to be reluctant to allow remote access for users of libraries who serve the public. Use of their databases tends to be restricted to in-library use only. These subscriptions are still costly and can consume a significant portion of an acquisitions budget. Public librarians will need to do a cost-benefit analysis before subscribing to any of these legal databases, in order to determine whether they have staff with sufficient training in legal terminology and legal research methodology to provide assistance to users of commercial electronic legal information. However, many county law libraries now offer access to these databases for in-house users. Become familiar with the resources available at your closest county law library.

Additional Information to Assist Public Libraries

The American Association of Law Libraries' [Committee on Relations with Information Vendors \(CRIV\)](#) provides a terrific resource that can assist public librarians with acquisitions information for legal materials. [CRIV's Tools](#) includes a checklist, sample letters, and vendor contact information. One may also [Request Assistance](#) with working with a vendor by contacting the CRIV chair directly.

[IndexMaster](#) is another online resource to which some law libraries subscribe and which can be used as an acquisitions tool. [IndexMaster](#) has contracted with many legal publishers to provide online access to the table of contents and indexes of many of their secondary publications and created a searchable database of this information. It has the added benefit of being relatively inexpensive compared to other acquisitions tools.



Internet Sources Cited in this Chapter

Legal Web sites:

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/>

<http://www.findlaw.com/>

<http://www.washlaw.edu/>

California Council of County Law Libraries: <http://www.publiclawlibrary.org>

<http://www.publiclawlibrary.org/find.html>

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American Association of Law Libraries (AALL): <http://aallnet.org/>

List of Chapter Websites: <http://aallnet.org/main-menu/Member-Communities/chapters/chapter-websites>

Regional Law Library Associations:

<http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/scall/>

<http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/sandall/>

<http://www.nocall.org>

<http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/>

Additional Information:

FAQs: OnLaw: <http://www.ceb.com/support/FAQOnLAW.asp>

AALL's Committee on Relations with Information Vendors (CRIV):

<http://www.aallnet.org/main-menu/Leadership-Governance/committee/activecmtes/criv-dup.html>

IndexMaster: <http://www.indexmaster.com/index.php>

Chapter 12

MAJOR LEGAL PUBLISHERS

The legal publishing landscape has changed dramatically in the past decade. As mentioned in [Chapter 11](#), many of the smaller, independent publishers of legal information have been subsumed by larger publishing conglomerates. To date, the top major legal publishers are Reed Elsevier (LexisNexis, Matthew Bender, and Martindale Hubbell), Thomson Reuters (West, RIA, and Sweet & Maxwell) and Wolters Kluwer (CCH, Aspen, and Loislaw). These three publishers currently dominate the legal information market.¹

This chapter contains the contact information for major publishers of legal information. Included are publishers of primary legal materials (statutes, cases, and regulations) and secondary sources (treatises, practice guides, encyclopedias, directories, periodicals and citators). Most of the publishers listed here offer materials that are national in scope, although a few are California-specific.

Contents:

- [*ALI-ABA \(American Law Institute-American Bar Association\)*](#)
- [*American Bar Association*](#)
- [*Bureau of National Affairs \(BNA\)*](#)
- [*California Continuing Education of the Bar \(CEB\)*](#)
- [*Commerce Clearing House \(CCH\)*](#)
- [*Daily Journal Corporation*](#)
- [*LexisNexis*](#)
- [*Martindale Hubbell*](#)
- [*Matthew Bender*](#)
- [*Nolo Press*](#)
- [*The Rutter Group*](#)
- [*U.S. Government Printing Office \(GPO\)*](#)

¹ Please see the Association of American Law Libraries (AALL) Committee on Relations with Information Vendors (CRIV) Vendor Contact Information Web page for publishers not listed in this chapter: <http://aallnet.org/main-menu/Advocacy/vendorrelations/CRIV-Tools/vendors.html>.

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- [West](#)
- [Legal Bookstores in California](#)

ALI-ABA (American Law Institute - American Bar Association)

4025 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
(800) 253-6397
<http://www.ali-aba.org/>

ALI-ABA is a major publisher of legal materials on specific practitioner-oriented subjects. Included among its major publications are the Restatements of the Law. The Restatements are a scholarly work, used mostly by judges and for instruction in law schools. ALI-ABA is also a major publisher of continuing legal education (CLE) materials for attorneys.

American Bar Association

321 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60654-7598
(312) 988-5000; (800) 285-2221
<http://www.americanbar.org/aba.html>

The American Bar Association is the largest bar association in the United States. In addition to publishing the *ABA Journal*, a news magazine for attorneys, it also publishes studies and statistics on the legal profession, research articles, and scholarly publications. The target audience for most ABA publications is the practicing bar and legal scholars.

Bureau of National Affairs (BNA)

1231 25th St. NW
Washington, DC 20037
(800) 372-1033
<http://www.bna.com/>

(Description on next page.)

BNA produces many current awareness loose-leaves, such as *U.S. Law Week*, (which contains the full text of current U.S. Supreme Court opinions as well as updated reports on current state and federal case law), and in-depth, subject-specific treatises such as the *Environmental Reporter* and the *Labor Law Reports*. Many of these treatises also contain weekly current awareness reports. The target audience is practicing attorneys who specialize in a particular area of law as these publications are both detailed and comprehensive. Many of BNA's publications are also offered in electronic format through their website.

California Continuing Education of the Bar (CEB)

300 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Ste. 410

Oakland, CA 94612-2047

(800) 232-3444; 510-302-2000 (outside CA)

<http://ceb.com>

CEB publishes treatises and practice guides on specific areas of California law. Online access to these publications is offered through a database entitled OnLAW. CEB publications are relied on by California attorneys for their step-by-step guidance and detailed analysis.

Commerce Clearing House (CCH)

4025 W. Peterson Avenue

Chicago, IL 60646

(800) 835-5224; (312) 866-6000

<http://www.cch.com/>

CCH, a division of Wolters Kluwer, publishes loose-leaf sets in topical areas such as tax, labor, securities, etc. CCH loose-leaf sets have both in-depth coverage of a topic and a current awareness volume, which usually includes new case and statutory developments that are updated weekly. Like the BNA materials, CCH sets will be used mostly by practicing attorneys who specialize in a particular area of law. Many of CCH's legal and tax publications are now offered in electronic format through CCH's online database Intelliconnect.

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Daily Journal Corporation

915 E. First Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

(213) 229-5300

<http://www.dailyjournal.com>

Its major publication is the legal newspaper the *Daily Journal*, with local editions for Los Angeles and San Francisco. Each issue includes a biographical profile of a judge or prominent California attorney, legal news affecting California, and current opinions from the California Supreme Court, the Courts of Appeal, the U.S. Supreme Court, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the Federal District Courts in California. The Daily Journal Corporation also publishes the *California Lawyer* magazine.

LexisNexis

1275 Broadway

Albany, NY 12204-2694

(800) 223-1940

<http://www.lexisnexis.com/store/us/>

LexisNexis' major publications include the *Deering's California Codes Annotated* and many specialty treatises, practice sets, casebooks and formbooks. Lexis also publishes *Shepard's Citations*, the citation system relied on by attorneys to verify their research.

Martindale Hubbell

121 Chanlon Road

New Providence, NJ 07974

(800) 526-4902

http://www.martindale.com/Products_and_Services/index.aspx

Publishes the *Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory*, a multi-volume directory of attorneys available in print, on CD-ROM, and on the Web. This publication is a staple in academic, court, and firm libraries. Martindale-Hubbell is now a division of Lexis Publishing.

Matthew Bender

P.O. Box 22030
Albany, NY 12201-2030
(212) 967-7707; (800) 833-9844
<http://www.bender.com/bender/open/>

Matthew Bender, now part of LexisNexis, publishes major scholarly treatises and practitioner aids for attorneys. Examples include *California Pretrial Civil Procedure and Discovery*, *California Forms of Pleading and Practice, Annotated* and *California Probate Practice*. Most of the Matthew Bender treatises are available on CD-ROM, on the Web, and on Lexis.com.

Nolo Press

950 Parker Street
Berkeley, CA 94710
(800) 992-6656
<http://www.nolo.com/>

Nolo is one of the leading publishers of legal “self-help” books, many of which can be found in general bookstores. These books explain in layman’s terms the basics of several common legal procedures, such as writing a will, fighting a traffic ticket, and solving neighbor or landlord-tenant disputes. Some books come with sample forms suitable for copying. The target audience is the lay person. Many Nolo books are also available as e-books through EBSCO’s Legal Information Reference Center database. See Chapter 10: [Bibliography of Self-Help Resources](#) for a detailed list of self-help books.

The Rutter Group

15760 Ventura Blvd., Suite 630
Encino, CA 91436
(800) 747-3161
<http://www.ruttergroup.com/>

The Rutter Group is a division of West Publishing. The Rutter Group publishes practice guides in loose-leaf format. These guides are used almost exclusively by practicing attorneys as they are well-indexed and provide many references to primary sources. Most Rutter Group publications are available on Westlaw.com.

U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO)

732 North Capitol Street, NW

Washington, DC 20401-0001

(202) 512-1800

<http://www.gpo.gov/>

The GPO is the official publisher for the US Government. The GPO publishes statutes, congressional documents and agency rules and regulations. Items published by the GPO are usually inexpensive but the publishing schedule may not be very timely. Federal depository libraries get items from the GPO free of charge in exchange for making them available to the public.

West

610 Opperman Drive

Eagan, MN 55123

1-800-344-5008

<http://store.westlaw.com/default.aspx>

West is the largest publisher of statutory and case law in the United States. In addition to state case reporters, it publishes state codes (for example, *West's Annotated California Code*), federal statutes, treatises, hornbooks, casebooks and digests. West also publishes California's only legal encyclopedia, *Cal Jur*, as well as numerous California formbooks, loose-leafs and practice guides.

Legal Bookstores in California:

Legal Bookstore

316 W. 2nd, Ste. 112

Los Angeles, CA 90012

(213) 626-2139

American Legal Books

725 J Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

(800) 359-8010

Appendix A

GLOSSARY OF LEGAL TERMS¹

Jump to terms beginning with the letter: [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) I J K [L](#) [M](#) N [O](#)
[P](#) Q [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) U V [W](#) XYZ

Action: A judicial proceeding for the enforcement or protection of a right. Often used as another term for a lawsuit.

Advance sheet: A pamphlet containing the full-text of recent court opinions. Advance sheets are printed before a bound volume appears.

Administrative law: The branch of law dealing with the regulations and administrative decisions of government agencies.

Amicus curiae: Literally, “friend of the court.” An amicus curiae brief is an appellate brief prepared and submitted by a non-party with the court’s permission.

Annotation: Editorial commentary, critical notes and references to relevant legal sources (such as cases) often found following the text of the code sections in sets such as *Deering’s California Codes Annotated* and *West’s United States Code Annotated*.

Answer: The formal written statement by a defendant in a civil case that responds to a complaint, articulating the grounds for defense.

Appeal: A request made after trial (or adjudication) by a party that has lost on one or more issues to a higher court for review of the decision of a lower or inferior court or administrative agency. The one who appeals is called the “appellant,” while the other party is the “appellee.”

Bench trial: A trial in which there is no jury and the judge decides the case.

Bill: A proposed law submitted to a state or federal legislature. If a bill passes, it becomes a statute.

Breach: A violation of or failure in the performance of an obligation created by a promise, duty or law without excuse or justification.

Brief: A party’s written argument which cites legal authorities and is designed to persuade the court. Examples include appellate briefs and trial briefs.

¹ For definitions of terms not included in this Glossary, see [Plain-English Law Dictionary](#) (from Nolo Press), [Law.com Dictionary](#), [Lawyers.com Legal Dictionary](#), and U.S. Court’s [Glossary](#).

APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY OF LEGAL TERMS

Case law: The law established by previous decisions of appellate courts. A synonym for legal precedent.

Cause of action: The fact or facts that give a person a right to relief in court.

Certified copy: A copy of a document issued by a court or government agency guaranteed to be a true and exact copy of the original.

Charter: The fundamental law of a municipality or other local unit of government; analogous to a constitution.

Citation or Cite: The written reference to legal authorities such as statutes, reported cases, regulations, and law review articles. Legal citation manuals include *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* and the *California Style Manual*.

Citator: Traditionally, a set of books that provides the subsequent history of reported cases using abbreviations and arranged in a tabular form. The most well known citator is *Shepard's Citations*. Today, most citators are online services, whereby users simply enter the citation of the case (or regulation, statute, or law review) in order to view the newer documents that cite the original document.

Civil procedure: The rules and processes by which a civil case is tried and appealed, including the preparations for trial, the rules of evidence and trial conduct, and the procedure for pursuing appeals.

Clerk of court: The court officer who oversees administrative functions, especially managing the flow of cases through the court.

Code: The statutory laws of a state or nation, generally arranged by subject.

Common law: Originating from England, common law relies on the articulation of legal principles in a historical succession of judicial decisions. Common law principles can be changed by legislation. Also called "case law."

Complaint: A written statement that, when filed with a court, begins a civil lawsuit, in which the plaintiff details the claims against the defendant.

Conservator/Conservatorship: The legal right given to a person to manage the property and financial affairs of a person deemed incapable of doing so for him or herself. See also guardianship.

Constitution: The fundamental law of a state or a nation; creates the branches of government and identifies basic rights and obligations.

Contract: An agreement between two or more people, which creates an obligation to do or not to do a particular thing. A legally enforceable agreement between two or more competent parties made either orally or in writing.

Court rules: Regulations governing practice and procedure in the various courts.

Decision: A judgment, decree, or order pronounced by a court in settlement of a controversy submitted to it.

Defendant: In a civil case, the person or organization against whom the plaintiff brings suit; in a criminal case, the person accused of the crime.

Digest: A compilation of paragraphs summarizing court opinions, organized by subject matter and jurisdiction.

Discovery: Procedures used to obtain disclosure of evidence before trial. Depositions are oral statements by a party or witness under oath in response to questions. Interrogatories are written answers by a party or witness.

Docket: A log containing the complete history of each case in the form of brief chronological entries summarizing the court proceedings.

Docket number: A unique number assigned to a case when it is filed with the court.

Due process: In criminal law, the constitutional guarantee that a defendant will receive a fair and impartial trial. In civil law, the procedural rights of someone who confronts an adverse action threatening liberty or property.

Enabling statute: A statute that confers (as to an administrative agency) the power or authority to engage in conduct not otherwise allowed.

En banc: French, meaning "on the bench." Indicates that all judges of an appellate court sit together to hear a case, as opposed to the routine disposition by panels of three judges. In the Ninth Circuit, an *en banc* panel consists of 11 randomly selected judges.

Encyclopedia (legal): A complete compendium of the law indexed by subject and supplemented annually. *American Jurisprudence 2nd* and *Corpus Juris Secundum* include case law from all the states. *California Jurisprudence 3rd* includes case and statutory law from California.

Estate planning: The arranging for the disposition and management of one's estate at death through the use of wills, trusts, insurance policies, and other devices.

Et al.: Latin, meaning "and others."

Et seq.: Latin, meaning "and the following." Often seen following code citations (e.g. Vehicle Code ' ' 22100 et seq.)

Family law: An area of law dealing with family relations, including divorce, adoption, paternity, custody and support.

Federalism: A political system in which power is divided and shared between the national/central government and the states/regional units, in order to limit the power of government.

FOIA: Freedom of Information Act

Fundamental right: A right that is considered by a court (as the U.S. Supreme Court) to be explicitly or implicitly expressed in a constitution (as the U.S. Constitution).

Gravamen: The essential element of a lawsuit.

Guardian ad litem: A guardian appointed by a court to represent the interests of a minor, a person not yet born, or a person judged incompetent in a particular legal action.

APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY OF LEGAL TERMS

Guardianship: A legal arrangement under which one person (a guardian) has the legal right and duty to care for another (the ward) and his or her property. A guardianship is established because the ward is unable to legally act in his or her own behalf.

Headnote: A paragraph printed preceding the text of an opinion, which summarizes an important legal issue of a case and which is often assigned a topic and number by editors.

Hearing: A proceeding of relative formality at which evidence and arguments may be presented on the matter at issue to be decided by a person or body having decision-making authority. The purpose of a hearing is to provide the opportunity for each side of a dispute, and especially a person who may be deprived of his or her rights, to present its position. A hearing, along with notice, is a fundamental part of procedural due process. Hearings are also held, as for example by a legislature or an administrative agency, for the purpose of gathering information and hearing the testimony of witnesses.

Hornbook: Basic legal textbook, usually written by an authority in a field of law. An example is *Prosser & Keaton on the Law of Torts*.

J.D.: Juris Doctor or doctor of jurisprudence, the degree commonly conferred by law schools.

Judgment: The official decision of a court resolving the dispute between the parties to the lawsuit.

Jurisdiction: The power of a court over the subject matter or over the property to decide a matter in controversy. Also, the geographic area over which a particular court has authority.

Jurisprudence: The study of law and the structure of the legal system.

Law review: A legal journal published and edited by law school students to which legal scholars and students contribute articles.

Lawsuit: A legal action started by a plaintiff against a defendant based on a complaint that the defendant failed to perform a legal duty, which resulted in harm to the plaintiff.

Legal aid: Assistance provided by an organization established to serve the legal needs of low income individuals.

Legislation: The making or giving of laws, especially the exercise of power and function of making rules that have the force of authority by virtue of their promulgation by a legislature.

Legislative history: The background documents generated during the passage of a bill through the legislative process. Examples are committee hearings and reports.

Legislative intent: The ends sought to be achieved by a legislature in an enactment. Courts often look to legislative intent for guidance in interpreting and applying a

statute. The legislative history, the language of a law, and the wrong to be corrected may provide indications of legislative intent.

LexisNexis (or Lexis): A subscription online legal research service, owned by Reed Elsevier.

Lien: A charge or encumbrance upon property for the satisfaction of a debt or other duty that is created by agreement of the parties or by operation of law.

Litigation: A case, controversy, or lawsuit. Participants (plaintiffs and defendants) in lawsuits are called litigants.

Loose-leaf: A publishing format in which legal materials are kept up-to-date by interfiling new pages periodically (inserting new pages and discarding old ones).

Malpractice: Negligence, misconduct, lack of ordinary skill or a breach of duty in the performance of a professional service (as in law or medicine) resulting in injury or loss.

Mechanic's lien: A lien against a building and its site to assure priority of payment for labor or services (such as construction or design) or material.

Memorandum opinion: A brief opinion of a court that announces the result of a case without extensive discussion. Memorandum opinions are usually unpublished and cannot be cited as precedent.

Opinion: The judge's written statement explaining how and why a decision was reached in a case. Because a case may be heard by three or more judges in the courts of appeals, the opinion in appellate decisions can take several forms. If all the judges completely agree on the result, one judge will write the opinion for all. If all the judges do not agree, the formal decision will be based upon the view of the majority, and one member of the majority will write the opinion. The judges who did not agree with the majority may write separately in dissenting or concurring opinions to present their views. A dissenting opinion disagrees with the majority opinion because of the reasoning and/or the principles of law the majority used to decide the case. A concurring opinion agrees with the decision of the majority opinion, but offers further comment or clarification or even an entirely different reason for reaching the same result. Only the majority opinion can serve as binding precedent in future cases.

Order: A mandate from a superior authority (e.g. executive orders); a ruling or command made by a competent administrative authority, especially one resulting from administrative adjudication and subject to judicial review and enforcement; or an authoritative command issued by the court (e.g. court order).

Ordinance: Law passed by the local legislative branch of government (city council, county commission); analogous to a state or federal statute.

APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY OF LEGAL TERMS

Parallel citation: A citation indicating other sources for the same judicial opinion or statute. (See Chapter 2: *How to Read a Legal Citation* for further explanation and examples)

Per curiam: Latin, meaning “for the court.” In appellate courts, often refers to an unsigned opinion.

Plaintiff: A person or business that files a formal complaint with the court.

Pleadings: Written documents filed with the court, which describe a party’s legal or factual assertions about the case.

Pocket part: A paper supplement inserted into a bound volume to update the information found in the main volume. Pocket parts are a common way to update sets of codes.

Power of attorney: An instrument containing an authorization for one to act as the agent of the principal and which terminates upon revocation by the principal or death of the principal or agent.

Precedent: A court decision in an earlier case with facts and legal issues similar to a dispute currently before a court. Judges will generally “follow precedent” - meaning that they use the principles established in earlier cases to decide new cases that have similar facts and raise similar legal issues. A judge will disregard precedent if a party can show that the earlier case was wrongly decided, or that it differed in some significant way from the current case.

Primary authority: Rules of law promulgated by the three branches of government as well as the texts of constitutions:

- Constitution-Organic laws of our nation and of our states
- Legislative-Statutes
- Executive/Administrative-Regulations, Executive Orders
- Judicial-Case opinions

Private law: A branch of law concerned with private persons, property, and relationships (compare with “public law”).

Procedure: The rules for conducting a lawsuit. There are rules of civil procedure, criminal procedure, evidence, bankruptcy, and appellate procedure.

Pro per: A slang expression sometimes used to refer to a *pro se* litigant. It is a shortened version of the Latin phrase “in propria persona.”

Pro se: Representing oneself; serving as one’s own lawyer.

Public law: An enactment of a legislature that affects the public at large throughout the entire territory (as in a state or nation) which is subject to the jurisdiction of the legislature or within a particular subdivision of its jurisdiction; the area of law that deals with the relations of individuals with the state and regulates the organization and conduct of the government (compare with “private law”).

Re or In re: “With regard to” or “in the matter of.” Often used in the title or name of a case where the proceedings involve a probate or bankruptcy estate, or a guardianship.

Real property: Land, buildings, crops and other resources attached to or within the land or improvements or fixtures permanently attached to the land or a structure on it.

Record: A written account of the proceedings in a case, including all pleadings, evidence, and exhibits submitted in the course of the case.

Regulation: A rule issued by an administrative agency under authority granted to the agency by the legislature.

Reply: A plaintiff’s or complainant’s response to a plea, allegation, or counterclaim in the defendant’s answer.

Reporter/Reports: Compilations of judicial opinions arranged chronologically.

Restatement: Multivolume publications by the American Law Institute and authored by legal scholars and experts that set forth statements of major areas of law (such as contracts, torts, trusts, and property) and are widely referred to in jurisprudence but are not binding on courts.

Ruling: An official or authoritative determination, decree, or interpretation (as by a judge on a question of law).

Secondary authority: Sources which explain or describe the law; examples include treatises, legal encyclopedias, hornbooks, and law review articles.

Shepardize: To use a Shepard’s citator to trace the history of a case or statute in order to verify its validity or find later legal authorities.

Slip law: The earliest separate publication of a new statute, made prior to its inclusion in the general laws.

Slip opinion: The earliest printed copy of a single judicial opinion. Slip opinions are compiled into advance sheets. Advance sheets are then compiled into bound volumes.

Source of law: The authority such as a constitution, treaty, or statute that provides the legal basis for judicial decisions and for legislation.

Statute: A law or act passed by a legislature.

Stare decisis: The doctrine of precedent, under which it is necessary for courts to follow earlier judicial decisions when the same points arise again in litigation.

Substantive law: Law that creates or defines rights, duties, obligations and causes of action that can be enforced by law.

Supersede: To subject to postponement or suspension; to take the place of in authority; to take the place of and render null or ineffective.

Supplement: An update usually issued annually, either paper or hardbound. May be inserted into a bound volume as a pocket part or may be shelved next to the main volume.

Testate: Having made a valid will; disposed of or governed by a will.

APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY OF LEGAL TERMS

Tort: A wrongful act or violation of a duty (other than a breach of contract) that injures another and for which the law imposes civil liability.

Treatise: A type of secondary legal material which analyzes a particular aspect of law, often providing information intended to assist attorneys in their practice.

Treaty: An international agreement between two or more countries.

Triable: Subject to judicial or quasi-judicial examination or trial.

Westlaw: Subscription online legal research service, owned by Thomson Reuters.

WestlawNext: Launched in early 2010 by West, WestlawNext is a legal research service that allows users to conduct a federated search across multiple content types, without having to select a database first. Documents are sorted by relevance and may be filtered by selecting options provided on the left part of the screen.

Writ: A written court order directing a person to take, or refrain from taking, a certain action.

Writ of certiorari: An order issued by the U.S. Supreme Court directing the lower court to transmit records for a case which it will hear on appeal.



Internet Sources:

Nolo's Plain-English Law Dictionary: <http://www.nolo.com/glossary.cfm>

Law.com Dictionary: <http://dictionary.law.com/>

Lawyers.com Legal Dictionary: <http://research.lawyers.com/glossary/>

U.S. Court's Glossary: <http://www.uscourts.gov/library/glossary.html>

Appendix B

LIST OF COMMON ABBREVIATIONS IN THE LAW

<p>A. - <i>Atlantic Reporter</i> A.2d - <i>Atlantic Reporter, Second Series</i> A.B.A. - <i>American Bar Association</i> A.G. - <i>Attorney General's Opinions</i> A.L.R. - <i>American Law Reports</i> A.L.R. 2d - <i>American Law Reports, Second Series</i> A.L.R. 3d - <i>American Law Reports, Third Series</i> A.L.R. 4th - <i>American Law Reports, Fourth Series</i> A.L.R. 5th - <i>American Law Reports, Fifth Series</i> A.L.R. 6th - <i>American Law Reports, Sixth Series</i> A.L.R. Fed. - <i>American Law Reports, Federal</i> A.L.R. Fed. 2d - <i>American Law Reports, Federal, Second Series</i> Am.Jur. - <i>American Jurisprudence</i> Am.Jur. 2d - <i>American Jurisprudence Second Series</i> BNA - <i>Bureau of National Affairs</i> C. - <i>California Reports</i> C.2d - <i>California Reports, Second Series</i> C.3d - <i>California Reports, Third Series</i> C.4th - <i>California Reports, Fourth Series</i> C.C.A. - <i>Circuit Court of Appeal, U.S.</i> C.C.H. - <i>Commerce Clearing House</i> C.C.R. - <i>California Code of Regulations</i> CEB - <i>Continuing Education of the Bar (California)</i> C.F.R. - <i>Code of Federal Regulation</i></p>	<p>C.J. - <i>Corpus Juris</i> C.J.S. - <i>Corpus Juris Secundum</i> C.L.I. - <i>Current Law Index (Information Access)</i> Cal. - <i>California Reports</i> Cal. 2d - <i>California Reports, Second Series</i> Cal. 3d - <i>California Reports, Third Series</i> Cal. 4th - <i>California Reports, Fourth Series</i> Cal. Admin. Code - <i>California Administrative Code</i> Cal. App. - <i>California Appellate Reports</i> Cal. App. 2d - <i>California Appellate Reports, Second Series</i> Cal. App. 3d - <i>California Appellate Reports, Third Series</i> Cal. App. 4th - <i>California Appellate Reports., Fourth Series</i> Cal. Code. Regs. - <i>California Code of Regulations</i> Cal. Jur. - <i>California Jurisprudence</i> Cal. Jur. 2d - <i>California Jurisprudence, Second Series</i> Cal. Jur. 3d - <i>California Jurisprudence, Third Series</i> Cal. Rptr. - <i>California Reporter (West)</i> Cal. Rptr. 2d - <i>California Reporter, Second Series (West)</i> Cal. Rptr. 3d - <i>California Reporter, Third Series (West)</i> Cal. S.B.J. - <i>California State Bar Journal</i> cert. - <i>certiorari</i> Cong. Rec. - <i>Congressional Record</i></p>
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<p>Cir.Ct. - Circuit Court Cl.Ct. - Claims Court or <i>United States Claims Court Reporter</i> Ct.Cl. - Court of Claims or <i>Court of Claims Reports</i> Cum. Bull. - <i>Cumulative Bulletin (IRS)</i> D.A.R. - <i>Daily Appellate Report</i> (published with the <i>Los Angeles Daily Journal</i>) D.C. - District Court; District of Columbia Dec. Dig. - <i>Decennial Digest</i> eff. - effective et al. - and others et seq. - and the following ones F. - <i>Federal Reporter</i> F.2d - <i>Federal Reporter, Second Series</i> F.3d - <i>Federal Reporter, Third Series</i> F. App'x - <i>Federal Appendix</i> F. R. - <i>Federal Register</i> F.R.D. - <i>Federal Rules Decisions</i> F. Supp. - <i>Federal Supplement</i> F. Supp. 2d - <i>Federal Supplement, Second Series</i> Fed. Cl. - Court of Federal Claims or <i>Federal Claims Reporter</i> Fed. Reg. - <i>Federal Register</i> Gen. Dig. - <i>General Digest (West)</i> I.L.P. - <i>Index to Legal Periodicals (H.W. Wilson)</i> I.R.C. - <i>Internal Revenue Code, United States</i> Juv. Ct. - Juvenile Court L.A.D.J. - <i>Los Angeles Daily Journal</i> L.Ed. - <i>Lawyers' Edition, U.S. Supreme Court Reports</i> L.Ed. 2d - <i>Lawyers' Edition, U.S. Supreme Court Reports, Second Series</i></p>	<p>L.R.I. - <i>Legal Resource Index (Information Access)</i> L.S.A. - <i>List of Sections Affected</i> Mun. Ct. - Municipal Court N.E. - <i>North Eastern Reporter</i> N.E. 2d - <i>North Eastern Reporter, Second Series</i> N.W. - <i>North Western Reporter</i> N.W. 2d - <i>North Western Reporter, Second Series</i> P. - <i>Pacific Reporter</i> P. 2d - <i>Pacific Reporter, Second Series</i> P. 3d - <i>Pacific Reporter, Third Series</i> P-H - Prentice-Hall P.L. - <i>Public Law</i> R.I.A. - <i>Research Institute of America</i> Rev. Proc. - <i>Revenue Procedure (IRS)</i> Rev. Rul. - <i>Revenue Ruling (IRS)</i> S. - <i>Southern Reporter</i> S.2d. - <i>Southern Reporter, Second Series</i> So. - <i>Southern Reporter</i> So. 2d - <i>Southern Reporter, Second Series</i> S. E. - <i>South Eastern Reporter</i> S. E. 2d - <i>South Eastern Reporter, Second Series</i> S. Ct. - <i>Supreme Court Reporter (West)</i> Stat. - Statute, or <i>U.S. Statutes at Large</i> Sup. Ct. - Supreme Court Super. Ct. - Superior Court S.W. - <i>South Western Reporter</i> S.W.2d - <i>South Western Reporter, Second Series</i> S.W.3d - <i>South Western Reporter, Third Series</i> T.C. - <i>Reports of the United States Tax Court</i> T.C. Memo - <i>Tax Court Memorandum Decisions</i></p>
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U.S. - *United States Reports*

U.S.C. - *United States Code*

U.S.C.A. - *United States Code Annotated* (West)

U.S.C.C.A.N. - *U.S. Code Congressional & Administrative News* (West)

U.S.C.S. - *United States Code Service* (LexisNexis)

U.S.L.W. - *United States Law Week* (BNA)

USTC - *United States Tax Cases* (CCH)

Appendix C

CALIFORNIA'S COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

California's county law libraries were organized in 1891 to serve all county residents, the judiciary, state and county officials, and members of the state bar (1891 Cal. Stat. 430). The operation and governance of county law libraries was later codified in [California Business and Professions Code §§ 6300 et seq.](#)¹ Each library is governed by a board of trustees, which is comprised of one to five superior court judges (depending upon the size of the county) and two attorneys appointed annually by a county's board of supervisors.

Collections:

A typical county law library collection will include current and historic California primary (statutes, cases and regulations) and secondary (treatises, practice guides and form books) resources in print, microfiche and/or digital formats. The collections of larger county law libraries (those located in or adjacent to larger municipalities) will also include primary and secondary resources from other states and foreign countries as well as special collections of California appellate briefs, self help legal materials, legislative history documents, historic voter pamphlets and archival county/municipal codes. Several county law libraries have also been designated as official depositories of state and federal government publications which guarantees the availability of selective government publications at the library (in print or a digital equivalent) for a minimum of five years.

Services:

Reference and research assistance (but not advice) is available in person, by phone and through live chat/remote access. At the library, a user will find free access to the Internet, free access to the legal databases (Westlaw, LexisNexis, Loislaw, Fastcase) subscribed to by the Library, and software that will allow them to create legal pleadings or calculate family support (Word, Dissomaster, XSpouse). Many libraries offer MCLE

¹ See the Legislative Counsel of California's Web site (www.leginfo.ca.gov). Click on the "California Law" button, check the box next to "Business and Professions Code," and enter 6300 in the search box. The first result should be Business and Professions Code Section 6300-6307.

classes for attorneys as well as classes on how to find legal information in print or online for paralegals and pro se litigants. Almost all the libraries have wi-fi, offer fee based document delivery and interlibrary loans service with other libraries. This appendix contains a list of California's county law libraries and a summary of the services offered by each library. The information is based upon a mixture of contact with the libraries (when possible), the annual survey of county law libraries done by the [Council of California law librarians](#), the law library's Web site, and a library's listing in [Your Public Law Library](#).

The list is divided into two parts: *Southern California* and *Northern California*. The counties of Southern California traditionally include the ten counties located south of the 35° 47' 28" north latitude, which form the southern boundaries of Monterey, Kings, Tulare, and Inyo counties.² Northern California includes the remaining forty-eight counties of the state. This section of the appendix is further divided into three parts that coincide with the following regions: (1) the Central Coast, Northern Coast, and the San Francisco Bay Area; (2) the Shasta Cascade; and (3) the combined areas of the Central Valley, Gold Country and High Sierra.³ To locate the county your city resides within, the Web site of the League of California Cities provides an [alphabetized list of California's 481 cities](#), which also includes the county and population data of each city.⁴

If you have not all ready done so, please consider visiting your county's law library to see what it can do for you. The mission of county law libraries remains the same: to provide free access to legal materials.

Contents:

- [*Southern California*](#)
- [*Northern California*](#)
 - [*Central Coast, Northern Coast & San Francisco Bay Area*](#)
 - [*Shasta Cascade*](#)
 - [*Central Valley, Gold Country & High Sierra*](#)

² See California State Association of Counties' [County Map](#).

³ See the [Explore California Map](#) provided by the California Travel & Tourism Commission.

⁴ The link is on the [Helpful Facts About Cities](#) page.

APPENDIX C: CALIFORNIA'S COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

Southern California

This section contains an alphabetical list of the county law libraries located in the following ten counties: Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura.

Imperial County Law Library

Imperial County Courthouse
939 Main Street
El Centro, CA92243

Tel: (760) 482-4739

Fax: (760) 352-3184

Email: accesscenter@imperial.courts.ca.gov or Maribel.Martinez@imperial.courts.ca.gov.

COLLECTION: 4,000 volumes + electronic titles

SERVICES: The Law Library's collection is listed on the library's Web site. The library maintains subscriptions to several legal databases that are available on the library's public computer. THE SUPERIOR Court's [Access Center's](#) self-help legal services are also described on the library's Web site.

Kern County Law Library

1415 Truxtun Avenue, Room 301
Bakersfield, CA93301

Tel: (661) 868-5320

Fax: (661) 868-5368

COLLECTION: 23,000 volume, + electronic titles

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available in person & by phone, the library maintains subscriptions to legal databases which are accessible within the library. The library's holdings can be searched on the library's Web site under the tab "Collection," the Court's self-help center operates as a collaborative project within the law library, sharing its resources and holding workshops for the public on matters such as guardianship, custody visitation and divorce defaults. A virtual Kern County law library is now available at the Cerro Coso and Taft college libraries in Ridgecrest and Taft, California.

[LA Law Library](#)

Main Branch

Mildred L. Lillie Building
301 West First Street
Los Angeles, CA90012

Tel: (213) 785-2529
Fax: (213) 613-1329

COLLECTION: 850,000 volumes + electronic titles + federal and state
[Court briefs](#)

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available in person, by phone, email, and through the library's participation in the AskNow/Questionpoint live chat service. The library's legal database subscriptions are available for searching at the Main Library and the library's partnership libraries. At the Main Library, the collection includes the laws and secondary resources of all states and most foreign countries, self-help legal titles, legislative history resources, current and archival state and local codes for Southern California cities and counties and appellate briefs. The library offers educational classes for the pro se, attorneys and paralegals, library tours, interlibrary loans, and document delivery. The library's Web site links to legal research sites, the complete text of scanned state court briefs from the library's collection, legal research guides and the library's online public access catalog. The library is both a selective federal and state depository of official California documents. In 2012, it will be a participant in the Pacer: Access and Education Program.

LA Law Library Branches:

Long Beach Branch

County Building
415 West Ocean Boulevard, Room 505
Long Beach, CA 90802
(562) 983-7088

(Continued on next page.)

APPENDIX C: CALIFORNIA'S COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

Norwalk Branch

Southeast Superior Court Building
12720 Norwalk Boulevard, Room 714
Norwalk, CA 90650
(562) 807-7310

Pomona Branch

East District Superior Court Building
400 Civic Center Plaza, Room 102
Pomona, CA 91766
(909) 620-3091

Santa Monica Branch

County Building
1725 Main Street, Room 219
Santa Monica, CA 90401
(310) 260-3644

Torrance Branch

South Bay County Building
825 Maple Avenue, Room 110
Torrance, CA 90503
(310) 222-8816

The following locations are [LA Law Library Partnerships](#) with the Los Angeles City or Los Angeles County public library systems:

[Compton Library](#)

240 West Compton Boulevard
Compton, CA 90220
(310) 637-0202

[Pasadena Public Library](#)

285 East Walnut Street
Pasadena, CA 91101
(626) 744-4066

[Los Angeles Public Library](#), Van Nuys Branch

6250 Sylmar Avenue
Van Nuys, CA 91401
(818) 756-8453

[Lancaster Regional Library*](#)

601 West Lancaster Blvd.
Lancaster, CA 93534
(661) 948-5029

*The LA Law Library shares its Lexis database subscription with the Lancaster Regional Library.

[Orange County Public Law Library](#)

Santa Ana Civic Center Plaza Building
515 North Flower Street
Santa Ana, CA 92703

Tel: (714) 834-3397

Fax: (714) 834-4375

COLLECTION: 346,965 volumes + electronic titles

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available in person, by phone, email, and on the Web through the library's participation in the live chat AskNow/Questionpoint service; public access computers provide access to the Internet, and the library's legal database subscriptions. Other library services include library tours, legal research guides, document delivery, and interlibrary loans from other law libraries. Complete descriptions of these services and the library's online public access catalog are available on the library's Web site. The library is also a selective federal and state depository of government publications which ensures the availability of these documents.

[Riverside County Law Library](#)

Victor Miceli Law Library
3989 Lemon Street
Riverside, CA 92501

Tel: (951) 955-6390

Fax: (951) 955-6394

[Desert Branch](#)

Larson Justice Center
46-200 Oasis St.
Indio, CA 92201

Tel: (760) 863-8316

Fax: (760)342-2581

(Collection and service information are listed on next page.)

APPENDIX C: CALIFORNIA'S COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

COLLECTION: 66,000 volumes at the Main Library and 24,000 at the Desert Branch + electronic titles

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available in person, by phone, email, and through the internet using [AskNow's law librarian live chat interface](#). Other services offered by the Library include document delivery, "how to" classes, public education forums, and daily tours of the Law Library. Computers are available for the public to access the library's legal database subscriptions. Pleading paper formatted to Riverside Superior Court's rules, research guides written by the professional staff, the library's catalog, and general operational information about the library will be found on the library's Web site. A virtual tour of the library is also available on the library's Web site. The library is also a partial depository of state government publications and in a partnership with the Riverside City library to provide some federal depository titles.

[Law Library for San Bernardino County](#)

402 North "D" Street
San Bernardino, CA 92401

Tel: (909)885-3020
Fax: (909) 381-0957

West End Branch
8401 North Haven Avenue
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730
(909) 944-5106

Victorville High-Desert Branch
15455 Seneca Road
Victorville, CA 92392
(760) 243-2044

COLLECTION: 141,970 volumes + electronic titles

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available in person, by phone, email, and on the Web through the library's participation in the [AskNow/Questionpoint live chat service](#). At the library a user will be able to access the library's legal database subscriptions for free on a number of public computers. The library's Web site provides legal research guides, samples of legal forms, blank pleading paper, a virtual tour of the library, useful legal links and the library's online public access catalog. (*cont'd on next page*)

SERVICES (CONT'D): The law library is a selective depository of federal and state publications. In 2008, the Library was named the Depository Library of the Year by the U.S. Government Printing Office, in July 2011, it was named one of two libraries selected to offer free trials of the U. S. Administrative Office of the Court's Pacer program, and in 2012, it will be a provider in the Pacer Access and Education Program.

[San Diego County Public Law Library](#)

1105 Front Street
San Diego, CA 92101

Tel: (619) 531- 3900
Fax: (619) 238-7716

[Temporary downtown location](#)

1168 Union Street
San Diego, CA 92101
Limited hours and services (see link above).

North County Branch

325 S. Melrose, Suite 300
Vista, CA 92081

Tel: (760) 940-4386
Fax: (760) 724-7694

East County Branch

Courthouse
250 East Main Street
El Cajon, CA 92020-3941

Tel: (619) 441-4451
Fax: (619) 441-0235

South Bay Branch

Courthouse
500 Third Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91910-5617

Tel: (619) 691-4929
Fax: (619) 427-7521

COLLECTION: 221,154 volumes + electronic titles

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available in person, by phone, email, meebo chat, and on the Web through the library's participation in the real time AskNow/Questionpoint service. Other services include classes for the pro se, paralegals and attorneys, document delivery, interlibrary loans, tours of the library, free access to its legal database subscriptions and the internet on its public computers. (*cont'd on next page*)

APPENDIX C: CALIFORNIA'S COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

SERVICES (CONT'D): The Library's Web site provides access to the library's online catalog, research guides in English and Spanish, research links, a library newsletter and operational information about the Library.

[San Luis Obispo County Law Library](#)

County Government Annex
1050 Monterey Street, Room 125
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Tel: (805) 781-5855
Fax: (805) 781-4172
Email: lawlibrarian@slccll.org

COLLECTION: 14,000 volumes + electronic titles

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available in person, by phone, and email. The Library's Web site contains the library's online catalog, a link to the [San Luis Obispo County Legal Resource Center](#), details about its document delivery, interlibrary loan services and operational information. At the library a user will also have free access to the library's legal database subscriptions and word processing software on the library's computers.

[Santa Barbara County Law Library](#)

County Courthouse
The McMahon Law Library
1100 Anacapa St., 2nd floor
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Tel: (805) 568-2296
Fax: (805) 568-2299
Email: info@countylawlibrary.org

[Santa Maria Law Library Branch](#)

312 East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454

Tel: (805) 346-7548
Fax: (805) 346-7692

COLLECTION: 37,000 volumes at the main library and 14,000 volumes at the Santa Maria Branch + electronic titles.

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available in person, by phone and email. The library's Web site contains the library's online catalog, links to legal research Web sites and the ability to fill in California Judicial Council forms online through the library's connection to AccessLaw.com. Other services at the library include interlibrary loans for Santa Barbara attorneys, free access to legal research databases on CD-ROM public stations and MCLE materials.

[Ventura County Law Library](#)

Hall of Justice

Ventura County Government Center

800 S. Victoria Avenue

Ventura, CA 93009-2020

Tel: (805) 642-8982

Fax: (805) 642-7177

Email: vccl@rain.org

COLLECTION: 72,507 volumes + electronic titles

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available in person, by phone or email. On the library's computers, there is free access to the library's legal database subscriptions as well as word processing software for completing legal documents. The Ventura County Courts provide a computer for using Dissomaster. The library's Web site provides legal and general research links, a link to the [Ventura County Legal Resource Center](#), a reservation form to use the library's meeting room and the library catalog.

Northern California

Central Coast, North Coast & San Francisco Bay Area

This section covers the following fifteen counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Sonoma.

[Bernard E. Witkin](#)

[Alameda County Law Library](#)

125 Twelfth Street

Oakland, CA 94607

[Email](#) (links to online form)

Tel: (510) 208-4800

Fax: (510) 208-3907

[South County Branch](#)

224 W. Winton Avenue, Room 162

Hayward, CA 94544-1215

Tel: (510) 670-5230

Fax: (510) 670-5292

(Collection and service information are listed on next page.)

APPENDIX C: CALIFORNIA'S COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

COLLECTION: 100,267 volumes + electronic titles + state court briefs
SERVICES: Reference assistance is available in person, by phone, email, on the internet through the library's participation in the real time AskNow/Questionpoint service, and the library's Language Line reference service subscription. The library offers classes for the pro se and attorney, hosts the Bernard E. Witkin Memorial Symposium, a monthly lawyer in the library event, document delivery and interlibrary loan services. Public computers are available for accessing the library's legal database subscriptions which includes one to create legal pleadings. A conference room is available for rent by attorneys and the self represented litigant. The library's Web site provides access to a virtual tour of the library, the library's newsletter, staff prepared research guides, the library's online public access catalog, and more.

Contra Costa County Public Law Library

A. F. Bray Courts Building
1020 Ward Street, 1st Floor
Martinez, CA 94553-1276

Tel: (925) 646-2783
Fax: (925) 646-2438

Richmond Branch

Superior Court Building
100 37th Street, Room 237
Richmond, CA 94805

Tel: (510) 374-3019
Fax: (510) 374-3607

Pittsburgh Branch

Superior Court Building
1000 Center Drive, Rm. 1045
Pittsburg, CA 94565

Tel: (925) 252-2800
Fax: (925) 252-2801

COLLECTION: 44,777 volumes + electronic titles

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available in person, by phone and email. Other services include research guides, a lawyer in the library event, tours of the library, interlibrary loans with other libraries, and document delivery. Public computers are available for accessing the legal databases subscribed to by the Library, the internet, the library's online catalog, and word processing software.

[Del Norte County Law
Library & Self-Help Center](#)

Del Norte Courthouse
450 H Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

Tel: (707) 464-8115
x126 (Clerk's Office)

NOTE: The library is only open to the public when the Courthouse is open.

COLLECTION: 7,809 volumes

SERVICES: THE Online Resource Directory of Del Norte County Superior Court provides links to the Del Norte County Superior Court rules and case information, legal research links, legal aid information, forms, and more.

[Humboldt County Law Library](#)

812 4th Street, Room G04
Eureka, CA 95501
Email: lawlibrary@co.humboldt.ca.us

Tel: (707) 476-2356
Fax: (707) 268-0690

COLLECTION: 20,344 volumes

SERVICES: The library's Web site provides links to state and federal legal self-help resources, legal aid groups, free legal forms, a pro se handbook for the U. S. Northern District, primary resources and much more.

[Marin County Law Library](#)

20 North San Pedro Road, Suite 2015
San Rafael, CA 94903

Tel: (415) 499-6355
Fax: (415) 499-6837

COLLECTION: 28,000 volumes

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available in person and by phone. The library's [Web site](#) has links to Marin County legal service resources and forms as well as a search mechanism for finding information about County services. The Web site indicates that the library is not affiliated with the Superior Court.

APPENDIX C: CALIFORNIA'S COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

[Mendocino County Law Library](#)

County Courthouse
100 North State Street, Room 307
Ukiah, CA 95482

Tel: (707) 463-4201
Fax: (707) 468-3459
Email: lawlib@pacific.net

COLLECTION: 6,000 volumes

SERVICES: Reference service is available in person and by phone. The library's Web site links to cases, statutes, codes, forms, legal self-help, "homework help," county information and more.

[Monterey County Law Library](#)

Federal Office Building
100 West Alisal Street, Suite 144
Salinas, CA 93901

Tel: (831) 755-5046
Fax: (831) 422-9593
Email: christophercobb11@gmail.com

Monterey Branch
Monterey Courthouse
1200 Aguajito Road, Room 202
Monterey, CA 93940

Tel: (831) 647-7746
Fax: (831) 372-6036

COLLECTION: 29,546 volumes + electronic titles

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available in person, by phone and email. Patrons may access legal databases subscribed to by the library on the library's computers. Other services include limited faxing of known citations, and interlibrary loans. The library's collection is described under "holdings summary" on the library's Web site. The library's Web site also contains links to other important legal Web sites.

[Napa County Law Library](#)

Historic Courthouse
825 Brown Street
Napa, CA 94559

Tel: (707) 299-1201
Email: Michael.Blend@napacourt.com

COLLECTION: 318 print titles, 274 online/digital titles

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available limited hours M-F. The library's print and digital collections are listed on the library's Web site in excel spreadsheets.

SERVICES CONT'D: Three computers are available for searching the library's digital products or accessing approved legal Web sites. Consumer legal education pamphlets from the California State Bar are also available. The library is not a lending library.

[San Benito County Law Library](#)

San Benito County Courthouse

Tel: (831) 636-4057

440 Fifth Street, Room 205

Hollister, CA 95023-3833

Email: selfhelp.information@santacruzcourt.org

COLLECTION: A small collection of legal books is available for public use during the court's hours, 8:30AM – 4:00PM.

SERVICES: The small claims, civil, family and probate offices are at 440 Fifth Street; family law services and facilitator are at 390 Fifth street. The County Web site provides descriptions of these services and useful legal links to primary and secondary resources.

[San Francisco Law Library](#)

Civic Center Main Law Library

Tel: (415) 554-6821

Veterans War Memorial Building*

Fax: (415) 554-6820

401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 400

San Francisco, CA 94102-4552

Branch Library in the Financial District

Monadnock Building

685 Market Street, Ste 420

Tel: (415) 882-9310

San Francisco, CA 94105

Fax: (415) 882-9594

Courthouse Reference Room

Civic Center Courthouse

Tel: (415) 551-3647

400 McAllister Street, Room 512

Fax: (415) 551-3787

San Francisco, CA 94102

*The Main Law Library is facing eviction in December 2012 and awaiting the City's decision on where to relocate it.

(Collection and service information are listed on next page.)

APPENDIX C: CALIFORNIA'S COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

COLLECTION: 325,000 volumes + electronic titles

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available in person, by phone and email. Computers are available for searching the library's legal database subscriptions. Special collections within the main library include MCLE self study programs for attorneys from Versatape, an archive of historic San Francisco Municipal Codes, and a law practice management collection at the Financial District branch. Other services include document delivery, interlibrary loans, tours of the library, and training classes. On the library's Web site, legal research and service Web site are listed under the headings of library services, attorney resources, and self-help. Tips from the Library Cat can be found in the left frame of the Web site. The library's Web site indicates that the "San Francisco Law Library is California's First County Law Library."

[San Mateo County Law Library](#)

Cohn-Sorenson Building
710 Hamilton Street
Redwood City, CA 94063

Tel: (650) 363-4913
Fax: (650) 367-8040

COLLECTION: 29,764 volumes + electronic titles

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available in person and by phone. The public has access to legal databases subscribed to by the Library as well as the internet on library computers. The library's Web site contains legal research guides on many subjects; i.e, criminal law, disability law, legal research tutorials, self help legal resources, research links and the library's online catalog. There is a conference room available to rent for a fee, and the Library has a complete collection of print CEB titles and MCLE audio materials. Frequently, there is a noontime lecture series by legal experts.

[Santa Clara County Law Library](#)

360 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Tel: (408) 299-3568
Fax: (408) 286-9283

COLLECTION: 70,000 volumes plus + electronic titles

(Description of services is on the next page.)

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available in person and by phone on a limited basis. The library's 2 public computers may be used to access the library's legal database subscriptions and the internet for free for 30 minutes, and longer, for a fee, if space is available. The library's catalog of titles is currently only available within the library, not on its Web site though the Web site links to legal research sources and self-help legal materials.

[Santa Cruz County Law Library](#)

County Government Center
701 Ocean Street, Room 070
Santa Cruz, CA 95060-4027

Tel: (831) 420-2205
Fax: (831) 457-2255
Email: scclawlib@yahoo.com

COLLECTION: 16,000 volumes + electronic titles

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available in person, by phone and email. There are 7 computers on which the public may search, at no cost, the library's subscriptions to fee based legal databases, word processing software and the internet. Document delivery services and interlibrary loans of materials from other libraries are also available. The library's Web site links to self-help resources. The library's catalog is cataloged as part of the [Santa Cruz City County Public Library](#) catalog.

[Solano County Law Library](#)

Hall of Justice
600 Union Avenue
Fairfield, CA 94533

Tel: (707) 421-6520
Tel: (866) 572-7587
Fax: (707) 421-6516

COLLECTION: 18,783 volumes + electronic titles

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available as is access to computers for searching the library's legal database subscriptions and the internet on 3 public computers. Meeting rooms are available to rent. The library's online catalog is searchable through the [Solano County Public Library](#) catalog.

APPENDIX C: CALIFORNIA'S COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

[Sonoma County Public Law Library](#)

2604 Ventura Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Tel: (707) 565-2668
Fax: (707)565-1126

COLLECTION: 29,000 volumes + electronic titles

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available in person, by phone and through email (there is a link to a librarian on the library Web site under "Contact a Sonoma County law librarian.) Computers are available for searching the library's legal database subscriptions, legislative history sources can be retrieved from the Secretary of State's office (such as committee analyses) and bill files can be obtained from the Governor's Office, for a fee. Other services include a conference room, interlibrary loans and document delivery. The library's Web site includes useful links to legal research and self help Web sites.

Shasta Cascade

The Shasta Cascade is located in the northeastern part of the state and shares borders with both Oregon and Nevada. This section of the appendix covers the following eight counties: Butte, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity.

[Butte County Public Law Library](#)

1675 Montgomery Avenue
Oroville, CA 95965

Tel: (530) 538-7122
Fax: (530) 534-1499

Email: jzorbas@sbcglobal.net

COLLECTION: 5,700 volumes + electronic titles

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available in person, by email, by phone and through the library's participation in the AskNow/Questionpoint service. Public computers allow the public to access the library's legal research subscription databases. For a modest fee, legislative history information can be obtained from the Secretary of State's office and the chaptered bills' files can be obtained from the Governor's Office. Other services include interlibrary loans with other libraries, and document delivery. The library's Web site includes links to self help resources.

[Lassen County Law Library](#)

Lassen Superior Court
Access to Justice Center
145 S. Lassen Street
Susanville, CA 96130

Tel: (530) 251-8353

COLLECTION: Electronic only

SERVICES: A small legal reference collection is available in the [Access to Justice Self Help Center](#) on Lassen Street in addition to legal databases, legal forms, legal clinics, the small claims advisor and the family law facilitator. A new courthouse is under construction at 2610 Riverside Drive in Susanville.

Modoc County Law Library

Modoc County Courthouse
205 South East Street
Alturas, CA 96101

Tel: (530) 233-6515

There is no longer a traditional law library, but electronic access to legal information and Web sites is available on the [Modoc County Superior Court](#) Web site. There is also an online [Self Help Center](#).

[Plumas County Law Library](#)

Plumas County Courthouse
520 Main Street, Room 414
Quincy, CA 95971
Email: lawlibrary@countyofplumas.com

Tel: (530) 283-6325

COLLECTION: 6,190 volumes + electronic titles

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available in person, by phone and email. Computers are available for accessing legal databases subscribed to by the Library. The library's Web site provides a "collection of legal links," Plumas County information and a description of the library's collection.

APPENDIX C: CALIFORNIA'S COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

[Shasta County Public Law Library](#)

Shasta County Courts
1500 Court Street, B-7
Redding, CA 96001

Tel: (530) 245-6243

Fax: (530) 245-6966

COLLECTION: 9,200 volumes + electronic titles.

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available during regular library hours. There are six computers for accessing the library's digital legal database subscriptions and the internet; the library's catalog is available on the Shasta College Web site. Self help and other legal assistance is available at the library's [Family Law Facilitator/Self Help Center](#).

[Siskiyou County Law Library](#)

311 Fourth Street, Room 206
Yreka, CA 96097
Email: gderose@siskiyou.courts.ca.gov

Tel: (530) 842-8390

Fax: (530) 842-8339

COLLECTION: 5,000 volumes + electronic titles

SERVICES: Reference Service is available. The library is operated by the Superior Court of Siskiyou County. Legal research and self help legal information is available on the Superior Court's [Self-Help Links](#).

[Tehama County Law Library](#)

Courthouse, Room 38
633 Washington Street
Red Bluff, CA 96080

Tel: (530) 527-9252

Tel: (530) 529-5033

COLLECTION: 10,070 volumes + electronic titles

SERVICES: [The Superior Court's Web site](#) provides links to self help resources. The Library is open Monday – Friday mornings.

Trinity County Law Library

Courthouse

101 Court Street

Weaverville, CA 96093

Tel: (530) 623-5641

NOTE: The county no longer has a traditional law library, but patrons may use the legal resources available at the Court's Access to Justice Center. The [Superior Court's Web site](#) includes links to the Ask Now online law librarian service, California and County legal resource links, legal aid information, forms and more.

Central Valley, Gold Country & High Sierra

This section covers the following 25 counties, plus the Bernard E. Witkin State Law Library in Sacramento: Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Inyo, Kings, Lake, Mariposa, Madera, Merced, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Sierra, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo, and Yuba.

Alpine County Law Library

Superior Court

14777 State Route 89, P.O. Box 518

Markleeville, CA 96120

Tel: (530) 694-2113

There is no longer a traditional law library; LexisNexis is available through the Superior Court Executive Office. The [Alpine County Superior Court](#) Web site has links to self-help legal resources, legal aid clinics and legal forms. Email: Alpineselfhelp@lsnc.net.

Amador County Law Library

Amador County Library

530 Sutter Street

Jackson, CA 95642

Tel: (209) 223-6400

The county law library is part of [Amador County Library](#).

COLLECTION: 1,950 volumes + electronic titles

(Description of services is on the next page.)

APPENDIX C: CALIFORNIA'S COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

SERVICES: Reference service is available as are print and online legal resources. Self help legal assistance is available from the [Amador County Superior Court](#).

Bernard E. Witkin State Law Library

Mosk Library and Courts Building
900 N Street, Room 100
Sacramento, CA 95814
P. O. Box 942837
Sacramento, CA 94237

Tel: (916) 654-0185
Fax: (916) 654-2039

COLLECTION: 35,000 volumes + electronic titles + California Appellate briefs since 1863. The law library is part of the California state library which is the only full regional depository of U.S. government publications in California and a complete depository of California government publications.

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available in person, by phone, email, and on the Web using the [AskNow/Questionpoint live chat service](#). There are public access computers to use the library's digital subscriptions. The library's Web site provides access to the library catalog, interlibrary loans with other libraries, document delivery information and the services and features of other libraries within the California State Library (i.e., Sutro and Braille).

Calaveras County Law Library

Government Center, Legal Building
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249

Tel: (209) 754-6314
(County Counsel)

COLLECTION: 8,250 volumes

SERVICES: This is a self-service library; the [Superior Courts of Calaveras County](#) and Amador County provide a self-help legal center which provides legal assistance in certain types of cases, computers with access to online form Web sites and classes on issues such as wills, divorce and bankruptcy.

[Colusa County Law Library/](#)

Tel (530) 458-5149

Superior Court
547 Market Street, Courthouse Annex
Colusa, CA 95932

There is no longer a separate law library. The [Colusa County Superior Court](#) provides services through a [self help center](#) and family law facilitator office. The office can be reached by email at self-help@colusa.courts.ca.gov.

[El Dorado County Law Library](#)

550 Main Street, Suite A
Placerville, CA 95667-5699

Tel: (530) 621-6423

Email: edlawlibrary@gmail.com

South Lake Tahoe Branch

South Lake Tahoe County Library
1000 Rufus Allen Boulevard
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
(530) 621-6423 (same as main)

COLLECTION: 9,000 volumes (combined branches) + electronic titles
SERVICES: Reference assistance is available in person, by phone and email. Patrons may search the library's electronic resources on computers at both libraries. Classes and legal clinics are offered by County Court officials on various legal procedures.

[Fresno County Public Law Library](#)

1100 Van Ness Avenue, Rm. 600
Fresno, CA 93721
Email: lawlibrary@co.fresno.ca.us

Tel: (559) 237-2227

Fax: (559) 442-4960

COLLECTION: 44,000 volumes/3300 titles + electronic titles
SERVICES: Reference assistance is available in person, by phone, email, and on the Web using [AskNow's law librarian live chat service](#). The library's Web site provides a link to blank pleading paper formatted for use in Fresno Superior Court, the Nolo Press legal database of self help titles, legal research Web sites, the library's online public access catalog and Fresno Superior Court's "representing yourself" information.

APPENDIX C: CALIFORNIA'S COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

Glenn County Law Library

525 W. Sycamore Street
Willows, CA 95988
Fax: (530) 934-6406

Tel: (530) 934-6455
Tel: (530) 934-6461

COLLECTION: The library has no print collection. LexisNexis is available at the following two *Glenn County Public Libraries*:

[Orland Free Library](#)

333 Mill Street
Orland, CA 95963
(530) 865-1640

[Willows Public Library](#)

201 N. Lassen
Willows, CA 95988
(530) 934-5156

SERVICES: [Glenn County Superior Court](#) provides links on its Web site to self-help legal and general Web site resources.

Inyo County Law Library

Inyo County Library

Independence County Courthouse
168 N. Edwards Street, Basement
(P. O. Box Drawer K)
Independence, CA 93526

Tel: (760) 878-0260

COLLECTION: 3,775 volumes

SERVICES: The Law Library is operated by the Independence Public Library; the print collection is in a closed room, accessible only through librarians at the public library. The library maintains subscriptions to legal databases. Self help legal assistance is available through Inyo Superior County Superior Court's Self Help Legal Center.

[Kings County Law Library](#)

Kings County Government Center
1400 West Lacey Boulevard, Building 4
Hanford, CA 93230

Tel: (559) 582-3211

COLLECTION: 12,700 volumes + electronic titles

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available. The library's legal database subscriptions, word processing and the internet for limited legal research may be accessed on the library's public computer. Interlibrary loans are available. The Library's Web site includes a complete description of the library's print and digital collection, the library's policies, research links, and information about other County services.

[Lake County Law Library](#)

255 N. Forbes Street (mail)
175 3rd Street (physical)
Lakeport, CA 95453

Tel: (707) 263-2205

Fax: (707) 263-2207

Email: kathleen.Oconnor@lakecountyca.gov

COLLECTION: 7,000 volumes + electronic titles. The EBSCO Legal reference center collection of the full text of Nolo self help legal publications is available from the library's Web site.

SERVICES: The library's Web site provides a description of Lake County's print collection, a list of the electronic resources available on its two public access computers, and legal research links. The Library will do interlibrary loans with other libraries. There is an extensive collection of self help/Nolo Press legal publications.

[Mariposa County Law Library](#)

Mariposa County Self Help Center
5092 Jones Street
Mariposa, CA 95338

Tel: (209) 742-5322

Fax: (209) 966-2079

COLLECTION: 2,742 volumes

SERVICES: The [Mariposa Self Help Center](#) Web site lists self help resources and services available at the Mariposa Superior Court & Self Help Center. There are a number of self help legal books at the Center.

APPENDIX C: CALIFORNIA'S COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

[Madera County Law Library](#)

209 West Yosemite Avenue
Madera, CA 93637

Tel: (559) 673-0378
Email: maderalawlibrary@sbcglobal.net

COLLECTION: 13,500 volumes

SERVICES: The library's online catalog is linked to [ValleyCat](#), the San Joaquin Valley library system catalog. Legal self help is available at the [Madera County Superior Court](#). The Library is open Monday-Friday mornings.

[Merced County Law Library](#)

670 West 22nd Street
Merced, CA 95340

Tel: (209) 385-7332
Fax: (209) 385-7448

COLLECTION: 17,295 volumes + CD-ROM titles

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available in person and by phone on a limited basis. The library will do interlibrary loans with the California state law library. The Library's collection is described on the library's Web site. Self help legal assistance is available at the [Merced County Superior Court](#).

[Mono County Law Library](#)

[Mono County Public Libraries](#)

P.O. Box 1120
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Tel: (760) 934-8670
Fax: (760) 934-6268

Bridgeport Branch

94 N. School Street
Bridgeport, CA 93517

Tel: (760) 932-7482
Fax: (760) 932-7539

Mammoth Lakes Branch

400 Sierra Park Road
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Tel: (760) 934-4777
Fax: (760) 934-6268

COLLECTION: The Mono County Law Library is now part of the Bridgeport and Mammoth Lakes Public Libraries.

(Description of services is on next page.)

SERVICES: Reference assistance, interlibrary loans with other libraries, and other public library services are listed on the libraries' Web site. Self-help legal assistance is available at the [Mono County Superior Court](#) .

[Nevada County Law Library](#)

Nevada County Courthouse

Tel: (530) 265-2918

201 Church Street, Suite 9

Tel: (530) 470-2594

Nevada City, CA 95959

Email: Law.Library@nevadacountycourts.com

COLLECTION: 6,000 volumes + electronic titles

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available as are computers for using the library's legal database subscriptions, word processing and creating legal pleadings. The library Web site provides access to its online public access catalog. The [County's Public Law \(self help\)](#) Center and County Small Claims Advisor are located within the law library.

[Placer County Law Library](#)

[Sparks Law Library of Placer County](#)

Tel: (530) 823-2573

1523 Lincoln Way

Auburn, CA 95603

COLLECTION: 8,751 volumes + electronic titles + digital access to the full text of EBSCO's legal reference center of Nolo Press titles.

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available. Public computers provide access to the legal database subscriptions maintained by the Law Library and word processing software. The law library's catalog is included within the online catalog of the [Placer County Library](#).

APPENDIX C: CALIFORNIA'S COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

[Sacramento County Public Law Library](#)

813 Sixth Street, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Tel: (916) 874-6011
Fax: (916) 874-7050

COLLECTION: 67,000 volumes + electronic titles

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available in person, by phone, email, and on the Web using [AskNow's law librarian live chat service](#). To access the library's digital subscriptions and the internet, public computers are available. Other services at the library include classes and workshops, a regular Lawyer in the library event, tours of the library, the [Sacramento County civil self help center](#), MCLE resources for attorneys and federal and state depository publications (the library is both a selective federal and state depository). Using the library's Web site, users can arrange for interlibrary loans with other libraries, document delivery, search the library's online public access catalog, read or view tutorial guides under the tab for "library services," watch a video on Conservatorships, or take a virtual tour of the library.

[Stockton-San Joaquin County Law Library](#)

Kress Legal Center
20 N. Sutter Street
Stockton, CA 95202

Tel: (209) 468-3920
Fax: (209) 468-9968

COLLECTION: 27,759 volumes + electronic titles

SERVICES: Legal resources are listed and linked to on the Stockton-San Joaquin County Public library Web site. The public library's Web site includes online access to the library's catalog of resources. The library is a selective depository of U.S. government publications which are housed in the [Cesar Chavez Central Library](#).

[Sierra County Law Library](#)

Sierra County Courthouse
100 Courthouse Square
Downieville, CA 95936

Tel: (530) 289-3269

(Collection and service information are listed on next page.)

COLLECTION: 1,000 volumes

SERVICES: The Sierra County law library has a small collection of California legal resources which are available to the public, and maintained by the Sierra County District Attorney's Office. The Sierra County Superior Court houses the office of the Family Law Facilitator; the Court's Web site, under the tab for self-help provides legal resource links to services available on the internet, legal forms, court rules and much more.

Stanislaus County Law Library

1101 13th Street

Modesto, CA 95354-0907

Email: lawlibrary@arrival.net

Tel: (209) 558-7759

Fax: (209) 558-8284

COLLECTION: 22,172 volumes + electronic titles

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available in person and by phone. Legal databases and word processing are available on the library's computers. The main page of the library's Web site provides what they consider the most useful tools for finding information for attorneys and the self represented litigant under two separate "Quick links." Other services include the availability of a conference room to rent and interlibrary loans with other libraries.

Sutter County Law Library

Sutter County Superior Court

430 Center Street

Yuba City, CA 95991

COLLECTION: There is no longer a traditional law library.

SERVICES: Resources are available at the Sutter County Superior Court and on the Court's Web site. The [Self Help Legal Center](#) at the Court has its services listed under the Web site menu listing for "family" services. FAQ's are arranged under the menu tabs of civil, criminal, traffic and small claims.

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[Tulare County Public Law Library](#)

221 South Mooney Boulevard, Room 1
County Courthouse
Visalia, CA 93291-9543

Tel: (559) 636-4600
Fax: (559) 730-2613
Email: lawlibrary@co.tulare.ca.us

COLLECTION: 18,000 volumes + electronic titles

SERVICES: Reference service is available in person, by phone on a limited basis and email. 5 public computers provide access to electronic products subscribed to by the library and Wi-Fi. Library tours are available. The Library's catalog is available on the library Web site, as is the full text of Nolo Press legal titles under the tab for "links."

[Tuolumne County Law Library](#)

Legal Resource and Self-Help Center
41 West Yaney Avenue
Sonora, CA 95370

Tel: (209) 533-6565
Fax: (209) 536-0718

COLLECTION: 8,575 volumes

SERVICES: The law library is within the County's self help center. The Center provides reference assistance; legal databases and word processing are on the center's computers. The Tuolumne County Superior Court's Web site offers extensive information on legal matters by subject.

[Yolo County Law Library](#)

204 Fourth Street, Suite A
Woodland, CA 95695
Email: law.library@yolocounty.org

Tel: (530) 666-8918
Fax: (530) 666-8618

COLLECTION: 17,500 volumes + electronic titles

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available in person, by phone and email. Four public computers are available to access legal databases subscribed to by the library and the internet. Legal resource links to state, county and general resources are available on the library's Web site.

Yuba County Law Library

303 Second Street
Marysville, CA 95901

Tel: (530) 749-7380

Email: gzurakowski@co.yuba.ca.us

COLLECTION: There is no longer a traditional law library.

SERVICES: Reference assistance is available from the Yuba County Public Library. The Yuba County Library provides electronic access to law library materials. There is an online catalog of print and electronic resources.

Appendix D

CALIFORNIA LAW SCHOOLS

This appendix includes the California law schools accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA), and, hence, deemed accredited by the California Committee of Bar Examiners, as well as those accredited by the California Committee of Bar Examiners (and not the ABA).¹ Please note that following the lists of law schools there is a [selected list of Internet resources](#) that may be helpful to prospective law students and other interested researchers.

Part I: California Law Schools Accredited by the ABA	
California Western School of Law 225 Cedar Street San Diego, CA 92101-3046 (619) 239-0391 www.cwsl.edu	Chapman University School of Law Donald P. Kennedy Hall One University Dr. Orange, CA 92866 (714) 628-2500 http://www.chapman.edu/law/
Golden Gate University School of Law 536 Mission Street San Francisco, CA 94105-2968 (415) 442-6600 www.ggu.edu/schools/law	Loyola Law School 919 S. Albany Street Los Angeles, CA 90015-1211 (213) 736-1000 www.lls.edu

¹ These schools are also listed on the State Bar of California Web site at <http://admissions.calbar.ca.gov/Education/LegalEducation/LawSchools.aspx>. In addition, this Web page includes a list of unaccredited law schools in California. Students who attend an unaccredited law school are required to take the First-Year Law Students Examination and must pass it within three administrations after becoming eligible to take the examination, which is upon completion of the first year of law study, in order to receive credit for law study undertaken up to the point of passage.

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<p>Pepperdine University School of Law 24255 Pacific Coast Highway Malibu, CA 90263-4655 (310) 506-4611 http://law.pepperdine.edu/</p>	<p>Santa Clara University School of Law 500 El Camino Real Santa Clara, CA 95053-0001 (408) 554-4767 www.scu.edu/law</p>
<p>Southwestern Law School 3050 Wilshire Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90010-1106 (213) 738-6700 www.swlaw.edu</p>	<p>Stanford Law School Crown Quadrangle 559 Nathan Abbott Way Stanford, CA 94305-8610 (650) 723-2465 www.law.stanford.edu</p>
<p>Thomas Jefferson School of Law 2121 San Diego Avenue San Diego, CA 92110 (619) 297-9700 www.tjssl.edu</p>	<p>University of California at Berkeley School of Law 215 Boalt Hall Berkeley, CA 94720-7200 (510) 642-1741 www.law.berkeley.edu</p>
<p>University of California at Davis School of Law (King Hall) 400 Mrak Hall Drive Davis, CA 95616-5201 (530) 752-0243 www.law.ucdavis.edu</p>	<p>University of California at Los Angeles School of Law P.O. Box 951476 Los Angeles, CA 90095-1476 (310) 825-4841 www.law.ucla.edu</p>
<p>University of California Hastings College of the Law 200 McAllister Street San Francisco, CA 94102-4707 (415) 565-4600 www.uchastings.edu</p>	<p>University of San Diego School of Law 5998 Alcalá Park San Diego, CA 92110-2492 (619) 260-4600 www.sandiego.edu/usdlaw</p>

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<p>University of San Francisco School of Law 2199 Fulton Street San Francisco, CA 94117 (415) 422-6586 www.usfca.edu/law</p>	<p>University of Southern California Gould School of Law 699 Exposition Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90089-0071 (213) 740-2523 http://law.usc.edu/</p>
<p>University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law 3200 Fifth Avenue Sacramento, CA 95817-2705 (916) 739-7191 www.mcgeorge.edu</p>	<p>Western State University College of Law 1111 North State College Blvd. Fullerton, CA 92831-3014 (714) 738-1000 www.wsulaw.edu</p>
<p>Whittier Law School 3333 Harbor Blvd. Costa Mesa, CA 92626-1501 (714) 444-4141 www.law.whittier.edu</p>	

<p>Part II: California Law Schools Accredited by the Committee of Bar Examiners</p>	
<p>Cal Northern School of Law 1395 Ridgewood Drive, Suite 100 Chico, CA 95973-7802 (530) 891-6900 www.calnorthern.edu</p>	<p>Empire College School of Law 3035 Cleveland Avenue Santa Rosa, CA 95403-2122 (707) 546-4000 www.empcol.edu</p>

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<p>Glendale University College of Law 220 North Glendale Avenue Glendale, CA 91206-4454 (818) 247-0770 www.glendalelaw.edu</p>	<p>Humphreys College Laurence Drivon School of Law 6650 Inglewood Avenue Stockton, CA 95207-3861 (209) 478-0800 http://web.humphreys.edu/divisions/lw/</p>
<p>John F. Kennedy University School of Law 100 Ellinwood Way Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-4817 (925) 969-3550 http://www.jfku.edu/schools/law</p>	<p>Lincoln Law School of Sacramento 3140 "J" Street Sacramento, CA 95816-4403 (916) 446-1275 www.lincolnlaw.edu</p>
<p>Lincoln Law School of San Jose One North First Street San Jose, CA 95113-1227 (408) 977-7227 www.lincolnlawsj.edu</p>	<p>Monterey College of Law 100 Col. Durham Street Seaside, CA 93955-7300 (831) 582-4000 www.montereylaw.edu</p>
<p>San Francisco Law School 20 Haight Street San Francisco, CA 94102-5802 (415) 626-5550 www.sfls.edu</p>	<p>San Joaquin College of Law 901 5th Street Clovis, CA 93612-1312 (559) 323-2100 or (800) 522-0994 www.sjcl.edu</p>
<p>Santa Barbara and Ventura Colleges of Law 20 E. Victoria Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101-2606 (805) 966-0010 www.santabarbaralaw.edu</p>	<p>Southern California Institute of Law Santa Barbara campus: 1525 State Street, Suite 200 Santa Barbara, CA 93101-2500 (805) 963-4654 www.lawdegree.com</p>

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<p>Southern California Institute of Law Ventura campus: 877 South Victoria Ave., Suite 111 Ventura, CA 93003-5377 (805) 644-2367 www.lawdegree.com</p>	<p>Trinity Law School 2200 North Grand Avenue Santa Ana, CA 92705-7016 (714) 836-7500 or (800) 922-4748 www.tls.edu</p>
<p>University of La Verne College of Law² 320 East "D" Street Ontario, CA 91764-4128 (909) 460-2000 http://law.laverne.edu/</p>	<p>University of West Los Angeles School of Law San Fernando Valley Campus 9201 Oakdale Avenue, #201 Chatsworth, CA 91311 (818) 775-4500 www.uwla.edu</p>
<p>University of West Los Angeles School of Law West Los Angeles Campus 9920 S. La Cienega Blvd., Suite 404 Inglewood, CA 90301-4423 (310) 342-5250 www.uwla.edu</p>	



Selected Internet Resources

The ABA's Section of Legal Education & Admissions to the Bar

- Web site: http://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education.html
- There are links to ABA-Approved Law Schools, Accreditation, and Bar Admissions.

² The University of La Verne College of Law's provisional ABA approval expired in July 2011. The school applied for and regained California Bar accreditation in August 2011.

- One may search for law schools alphabetically, by private school, by public school, and by geographic region on the ABA-Approved Law Schools page, http://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/aba_approved_law_schools.html

The Association of American Law Schools (AALS)

- Web site: <http://www.aals.org/index.php>
- AALS is a nonprofit association of 171 law schools. Its purpose is “the improvement of the legal profession through legal education.”
- Publishes the *Directory of Law Teachers*, which lists, by school, the full-time faculty and professional staff of all member and fee-paid law schools. This annual publication contains biographical sketches of over 10,000 full-time teachers and lists full-time teachers by subjects taught.

The Law School Admission Council (LSAC)

- Web site: <http://www.lsac.org/>
- The LSAC is a nonprofit corporation “whose goal is to provide the highest quality admission-related services for legal education institutions and their applicants throughout the world.” Those services include the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT), research and statistical reports, videos, and LSAT preparation tools.
- The most recent edition of the *Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools* is posted online at https://officialguide.lsac.org/release/OfficialGuide_Default.aspx. One may search in a variety of ways: keyword, geography, or by alphabet.
- The *Research* page (under [LSAC Resources](#)) includes a wealth of information, such as statistical reports, data on matriculants by ethnicity, and information on grants.

The State Bar of California

- <http://www.calbar.ca.gov/>
- There are several useful pages for prospective law students on the California Bar’s website. Click on the “Bar Exam” link on the right-side of the screen. The main screen includes information on the California Bar Exam. On the left, there are links to “Pre Legal and Legal Education,” “Law Schools,” “Other Attorney Admission/Law Student Programs,” and “Law Student Resources.”