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Selected Legal Resources

This guide is divided into the following sections: Reference Resources; General Collection Resources; Electronic Databases; and Web Resources. The resources discussed below represent just a small portion of materials commonly used for legal research.

Reference Resources

The following items are located in the Reference Collection and are not available for checkout.

Black's Law Dictionary / Bryan A. Garner, editor-in-chief.

[Ref KF156.B53 2004]

Black's Law Dictionary provides definitions of common legal terms and jargon. Each entry is highlighted for ease of use. A legal abbreviations table detailing legal periodicals contained in American law books or cases is included.

The Complete Book of Wills, Estates & Trusts / Alexander A. Bove, Jr.

[Ref KF755.Z9 B68 2000]

What is a will and when is one needed? How are wills contested? Are there specific features of wills? How are trusts different than wills and can they be taxed? These are just some of the many issues addressed by this book.

Historic U.S. Cases: An Encyclopedia / John W. Johnson, editor.

[Ref KF385.A4 J64 2001]

Landmark cases in U.S. Court history are presented in this two-volume work. Examples include *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966) that established the list of rights a person had to be informed about when arrested or *Brown v. Board of Education of the City of Topeka* (1954), which called for desegregated schools. Each case mentioned in this resource includes the date, location of the case, and the names of the key individuals involved.

The Justices of the United States Supreme Court: Their Lives and Major Opinions / edited by Leon Friedman & Fred L. Israel.

[Ref KF8744.F75 1995]

This five-volume work provides biographical information on all of the justices who have served in the United States Supreme Court up to Stephen Breyer who was appointed by Bill Clinton in 1994 and the major cases that occupied their terms (e.g., Earl Warren and *Brown v. Board of Education of the City of Topeka*, 1954). Each volume contains a narrative on the judges along with a selected bibliography. Indexed by justice and case name.

Law in the Schools / William D. Valente with Christina M. Valente.
[Ref KF4119.V28 2001]

Covers torts (“personal wrong”) issues that are related to education. Important examples include corporal punishment, libel versus slander, separation of church and state (specifically, the ongoing debate over the use of prayer in schools). Legal issues affecting teachers such as employment discrimination and equal protection under the law are discussed.

Magill’s Legal Guide / editor, Timothy L. Hall; project editor, R. Kent Rasmussen.
[Ref KF385.M35 2000]

This three-volume work introduces users to legal concepts. Terms such as acquittal and adoption are defined and applicable legal cases are outlined. For instance, the section on abortion includes the Supreme Court case *Roe v. Wade* (1973), which overturned state laws that had outlawed the practice and upheld a woman’s right to choose. In the back of each volume, legal topics are grouped by category. For example, the terms “collective bargaining” and “pensions” can be located under “employment.”

The Oxford Companion to American Law / editor in chief, Kermit L. Hall; editors, David S. Clark...[et al.].
[Ref KF154.O96 2002]

This book offers information pertaining to legal subjects such as torts or “wrongful acts” committed against individuals. Fraud, negligence, or assault and battery, are considered to be legal torts. Other topics presented in the resource include habeas corpus, children’s rights, and living wills. The book also discusses important individuals in legal history, such as Chief Justice John Marshall and Chief Justice Thurgood Marshall.

U.S. Supreme Court Education Cases / United States Supreme Court.
[Ref KF4110.3.U15 2003]

Presents several cases dealing with educational issues that have come before the U.S. Supreme Court. Some of the relevant areas that are discussed include desegregation, student rights, student discipline, and tenure.

West’s Encyclopedia of American Law
[Ref KF154.W47 2004]

West’s Encyclopedia of American Law (a thirteen-volume work) includes a “milestones in the law” section that describes key cases, which have become a permanent fixture in our nation’s legal tradition. Each legal entry is in bold print for easy reference and identification. Some notable cases to be included in the book include *Brown v. Board of Education of the City of Topeka* (1954), *Roe v. Wade* (1973), and *Miranda v. State of Arizona* (1966).

General Collection Resources

The following items are located in the General Collection and are available for checkout. Students will need to verify availability by using the Library's online catalog, BraveCat.

American Law in the 20th Century / Lawrence M. Friedman.
[KF385.A4 F7 2002]

This resource traces the development of and influence of law in American life. The author illustrates how law has affected areas such as liability, property rights, and families.

An Appealing Act: Why People Appeal in Civil Cases / Scott Barclay.
[KF9050.B37 1999]

Includes information such as the names of the major parties in an appeal process, reasons why appeals are made in civil cases, costs incurred by the clients in the appeal process, etc.

Constitutional Law and Politics / David M. O'Brien.
[KF4541.A7 O27 2003]

This two-volume resource provides an introduction to the process of "judicial review" (the power of courts to examine laws or acts on constitutional grounds or to check for rights violations). The author also discusses topics such as court jurisdiction, the Fourth Amendment (protection against "unreasonable search and seizure), and the impact of Supreme Court decisions on American culture.

Families and Law / Lisa J. McIntyre, Marvin B. Sussman, editors.
[KF505.A2 F35 1995]

This book covers the legal rights of the American family. The editors discuss topics like children's rights, divorce laws, and the ways welfare laws can impact the family.

The Fifth Amendment: A Comprehensive Approach / Alfredo Garcia.
[KF4558 5th .G37 2002]

Garcia discusses the amendment as well as some of its key components, including the protection against self-incrimination, double jeopardy (a person can't be tried for the same crime twice), and the right to a grand jury indictment for capital crimes.

Getting Comfortable With Special Education Law: a Framework for Working With Children With Disabilities / Dixie Snow Huefner.
[KF4210.H84 2000]

Covers procedures used to evaluate students with disabilities as well as the type of disabilities that they might have. Huefner also details the Americans with Disabilities Act and provides a list of acronyms used in relation to special education.

Going to Law School?: Everything You Need to Know to Choose and Pursue a Degree in Law / Harry Castleman and Christopher Niewoehner.
[KF285.C37 1997]

The authors present information that every law school applicant should have. Examples of topics mentioned in the resource include how grades are determined, types of courses offered in the first year (e.g., civil procedure, constitutional law, and contract law), the different areas of law practice (corporate law, private practice, etc.), and how to go about applying to law school.

Order in the Court: A Writer's Guide to the Legal System / David S. Mullally.
[KF385.M85 2000]

David S. Mullally discusses the key participants in the legal process: lawyers, law firms, "expert witnesses," and juries. He also defines legal terminology, including accomplices, accessories, search warrants, and confessions. Some explanation concerning the procedures for criminal trials is mentioned.

Electronic Databases

Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe

[http://www.uncp.edu/library/electronic/criminal_justice.html]

This database provides access to case law, specific codes/regulations, etc. If searching for a particular case, users can locate information on the plaintiff or defendant names and retrieve results. More information about the use of Lexis-Nexis is available at the following address: <http://www.uncp.edu/library/instructional/guides.html>.

National Criminal Justice Reference Center

[<http://www.ncjrs.org/>]

This database discusses topics such as the role of DNA analysis on the solution of certain crimes, capital punishment, ways to reduce violence against women, and school safety. A "what's new" feature will enable students to view recent topics of interest that are discussed on the site.

Northwestern University Oyez Project

[<http://www.oyez.com/oyez/frontpage>]

This "U.S. Supreme Court multimedia database" contains oral arguments that have come before the Supreme Court. Specific features include recent news headlines concerning the Court, a "pending docket" section, and an "on this day" feature.

Web Resources

Bureau of Justice Statistics

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>

The Bureau of Justice Statistics collects, analyzes, publishes and disseminates information on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operation of justice systems at all levels of government and is the primary source for the United States' criminal justice statistics.

Findlaw

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

This website can be used to locate specific legal cases or information written by attorneys as well as articles on important topics like estate planning, trusts, personal injury, and other topics. Users will have to enter a zip code to be able to access actual information.

Legal Information Institute at Cornell Law School

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

The primary focus of this website is to introduce federal rules governing trials and evidence. Some of the topics along these lines include how expert testimony is introduced in trials, how to determine "relevant" evidence, etc.

United States Courts

<http://www.uscourts.gov/>

The United States Courts site offers users access to the Supreme Court website <http://www.supremecourtus.gov>, the United States Courts of Appeals http://www.uscourts.gov/courts_of_appeals.html, and United States Bankruptcy Courts http://www.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy_courts.html. Visitors to the Supreme Court site will gather vital information on such topics as Court history, how to visit the Court, etc.

United States Department of Justice

<http://www.usdoj.gov/>

The Department of Justice website includes an organizational chart to enable readers to understand the structure of the department. Also, this site includes the FBI's "10 Most Wanted" list and information concerning how to get a job at the Department of Justice.

updated dwy 12/04