



# RESEARCH GUIDE

## Legal Reference Material: United States

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- For access to the Web-based guide *Resources for Law* connect to:  
<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/online/research/bysubject/LawMenu.htm>

### Primary Online Library Database

*LexisNexis Academic*

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/> → UConn Libraries homepage → Most Used Databases → LexisNexis Academic

### Guides to Legal Research

*Legal Research in a Nutshell*

Ref. KF 240 C54 2000

### Legal Dictionaries and Encyclopedias

*Black's Law Dictionary* 7th ed., 1999 [West Publishing Co.]

Ref. KF 156 B53 1999

Terms and phrases common in American law.

Copy of abridged version at Ref. KF 156 B53 2000.

*Oxford Companion to American Law*

Ref. KF 154 O96 2002

Authoritative reference on all aspects of American law.

*West's Encyclopedia of American Law* vol. 1-12 [West]

Index Table 2 / Ref. KF 154 W47 1998

A basic legal encyclopedia for the general public.

Updated by an annual volume, *American Law Yearbook* / Index Table 2 / Ref. KF 154 W472.

*Encyclopedia of the American Constitution*

Ref. KF 4548 E53 2000

A multi-volume encyclopedia detailing the historical, legal, political, and economic aspects of the U.S. Constitution and its interpretation.

*Historic U.S. Court Cases: An Encyclopedia* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.

Index Table 2 / Ref. KF 385 A4 J64 2001

Provides analysis and historical perspective on the more important American court cases, 1690-1990.

*Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court of the United States*

Ref. KF 8742 A35 O93 2005

*Supreme Court Justices: A Biographical Dictionary*

Ref. KF 8744 H35 2001

Provides biographies of all Supreme Court justices as well as a brief summary of important Supreme Court cases.

## Statutory Law

*United States Statutes at Large* [United States Government Printing Office – U. S. G. P. O.]

**Ref. KF 50 U5**

The laws passed in each session of Congress in numerical order. Includes a subject and personal name index.

Online (1<sup>st</sup> to 43<sup>rd</sup> Congresses) 1789- 1875: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw>  
(43<sup>rd</sup> to 105<sup>th</sup> Congresses) 1973-1998: <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/bdquery.html>  
(104<sup>th</sup> to 108<sup>th</sup> Congresses) 1995-2003-2004: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/plaws/index.html>

*United States Code* [United States Government Printing Office – U.S.G.P.O.]

**Ref. KF 62 1994 A2**

The current law arranged into 55 subject titles. Includes tables providing references from Public law numbers and *Statutes at Large* citations to *U.S. Code* sections; a table of acts by popular name; and a detailed multi-volume index.

Online • <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/index.html>  
• <http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/>  
• *LexisNexis Academic*  
<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/> → UConn Libraries homepage → Most Used Databases → LexisNexis Academic  
Select: **Legal Research**  
Under **Codes & Regulations**, select **Federal Code**  
Source: **U.S. Code**

*United States Code Annotated* [West]

**Ref. KF 62 1927 W45**

The unofficial edition of the *Code* with annotations concerning history, court decisions and legal citations. Includes an extensive multivolume index, parallel conversion tables, and a table of acts by popular name.

*United States Code Congressional and Administrative News* [West]

**Ref. KF 48 W45**

Published in two parts, the first contains a list of Public Acts arranged in numerical order by Congress and Session. The second part contains Legislative Histories. Also included are Proclamations, Executive Orders, parallel conversion tables, a list of major bills enacted, a list of acts by popular name, and a subject index.

## Administrative Law

*Federal Register* [United States Government Printing Office – U.S.G.P.O.]

**Microfiche (1936-1982): Level B/Microfiche cabinets, filed alphabetically by collection title**

**Microfiche (1983+) Babbidge Federal Documents Collection, Level B/ U.S. SuDocs AE2.106**

A daily publication of the regulations of all executive agencies. Contains a List of Sections Affected, noting which sections of the *Code of Federal Regulations* are affected by new regulations.

Online • <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>  
• **Federal Register** (via *Community of Science*)  
<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/> → UConn Libraries homepage → All Databases → Federal Register

*Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)* [United States Government Printing Office – U.S.G.P.O.]

**Ref. KF 70 A3**

The administrative regulations arranged into subject titles. Title 3 contains Presidential Documents, including Proclamations and Executive Orders. A *CFR Index and Finding Aids* volume provides access by agency name and subject.

Online: • <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html>  
• *LexisNexis Academic*  
<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/> → UConn Libraries homepage → Most Used Databases → LexisNexis Academic  
Select: **Legal Research**  
Under **Codes & Regulations**, select **Federal Regulations**  
Source: **Code of Federal Regulations**

## Judicial Law (Case Law)

### Federal Court Decisions

*United States Reports* [United States Government Printing Office – U.S.G.P.O]

Ref. KF 101 A212

The official source of U.S. Supreme Court opinions. Each volume includes a table of cases reported and an index.

Online: • 1790-current year (citations only): <http://www.supremecourtus.gov/> Select: **Opinions**  
• 1937-1975 decisions: [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/supcrt/index.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/supcrt/index.html)

See also the following commercially reported decisions online:

• *LexisNexis Academic*

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/> → UConn Libraries homepage → Most Used Databases → LexisNexis Academic

Select: **Legal Research**

Under **Case Law**, select either **Get a Case**  
**Federal Case Law, Court: Supreme Court Cases**

### *West's Federal Reporter*

Online access only:

• *LexisNexis Academic*

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/> → UConn Libraries homepage → Most Used Databases → LexisNexis Academic

Select: **Legal Research**

Under **Case Law**, select either **Get a Case**  
**Federal Case Law, Court: Court of Appeals**

### *West's Federal Supplement*

Online access only:

• *LexisNexis Academic*

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/> → UConn Libraries homepage → Most Used Databases → LexisNexis Academic

Select: **Legal Research**

Under **Case Law**, select either **Get a Case**  
**Federal Case Law, Court: District Courts**

### Federal Digest (Index to Court Decisions)

*Digest of United States Supreme Court Reports, Lawyers' Edition* [Lawyers Co-op]

Ref. KF 101 .1 D5

Indexes U.S. Supreme Court case decisions, including an alphabetical general index and a multi-volume table of cases.

## Citators

### *Shepard's United States Citations*

Ref. KF 101 .2

Consists of two parts: *Case Edition* and *Statute Edition*. The former contains citations from the *U.S. Supreme Court Reports*; the latter contains citations from the Constitution, *United States Code*, treaties and Court Rules.

Online access to Supreme Court updates only:

• *LexisNexis Academic*

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/> → UConn Libraries homepage → Most Used Databases → LexisNexis Academic

Select: **Legal Research**

Under **Case Law**, select *Shepard's*® for U.S. Supreme Court Cases

### *Shepard's Federal Citations*

Ref. KF 105 .2 S42

Contains cited cases in the U.S. lower courts represented in the *Federal Reporter*, *Federal Supplement*, *Federal Rules Decisions*, *Court of Claims Reports* and *Claims Court Reporter*.

## Popular Name Indexes

### *Shepard's Acts and Cases By Popular Name*

Ref. Desk KF 90 S52 1999

Finding aid for locating public acts and court decisions when only popular names are known.

*United States Code Annotated* [West]

*Popular Name Table*

**Ref. KF 62 1927 W45 INDEX**

The popular name index is located in the last volume of the *General Index*.

## Periodical Articles

*Academic Search Premier*

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/> → UConn Libraries homepage → Most Used Databases → Academic Search Premier

Provides coverage of legal issues in academic journals. Many are full-text.

*LexisNexis Academic*

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/> → UConn Libraries homepage → Most Used Databases → LexisNexis Academic

Select: **Legal Research**

Under **Secondary Literature**, select **Legal News** or **Law Reviews**

Primary source for current articles.

*Index to Periodical Articles Related to Law*

**Level 2S /KF 8 I53** (1958-1988)

Indexes law articles not published in law journals. Most of the journals indexed are available in the Babbidge Library.

*Index to Legal Periodicals* [H. W. Wilson Co.]

**Level A Annex /KF 8 I525** (1926-1997)

## Legal Citations: Print

*Bieber's Dictionary of Legal Abbreviations*

**Ref. KF 246 B46 1988**

Contains abbreviations and acronyms of legal authority.

*A Uniform System of Citation*

**Ref. KF 245 B58 2005**

"*The Bluebook*." The standard source for style and authoritative citation formats in U.S. legal journals.

## Legal Citations: Online

*Basic Legal Citation* <http://www2.law.cornell.edu/citation/>

## Current Awareness

*The United States Law Week* [Bureau of National Affairs]

**Index Table 2 / Ref. KF 101 U55 and Level 2, KF 101 U55**

2 volumes per year. Vol. 1: General Law; Vol. 2: Supreme Court. One of the most promptly published sources for Supreme Court opinions, this source also contains a summary of important weekly developments in the legal world.

*Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report (CQ Weekly Report)*

**Level 2S/JK 1 C15** (1964-2003)

A weekly summary of congressional action and developments.

Online: <http://www.lib.uconn.edu/> → UConn Libraries homepage → All Databases → CQ Library