

Edward G. Schumacher Memorial Library

Legal Research Guide

General Legal Resources

Suggested Starting Points

Legal Encyclopedias
Hornbook Series
Nutshell Series



Legal Encyclopedias

Legal Encyclopedias provide entries on a variety of legal topics, with a brief description of the subject matter and citations to related cases.

Print

Corpus Juris Secundum (CJS)

Entries can be located by a general index, table of cases, or table of laws and rules.

Legal Reference, 340.0772 Corpus

Databases

American Jurisprudence 2nd (AmJur)

This resource is available in *Westlaw*.

After signing in to Westlaw, search for the database on the lower left side of “Westlaw” tab by

entering: AMJUR. Enter your search terms in the box or click on “Table of Contents” to browse.

Hornbooks

Hornbooks provide general overviews of legal topics, and are easily identifiable by their dark green color. Schumacher Library owns the following:

Civil Procedure

The Law of Property

The Law of Torts

Prosser and Keaton on the Law of Torts

Real Estate Finance Law

347.73 Friedenthal

346.7304 Cunningham

346.7303 Dobbs

346.7303 Prosser

346.7304 Nelson

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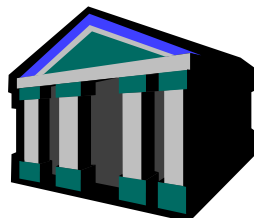
Books in the Nutshell Series provide simple, concise explanations of legal terms and topics. The Schumacher Library owns:

<i>Civil Procedure</i>	347.73 Kane
<i>Family Law</i>	346.7301 Krause
<i>Federal Income Taxation of Corporations and Stockholders</i>	343.7305 Burke
<i>Insurance Law</i>	346.73 Dobbyn
<i>The Law and Policy of Sentencing and Corrections</i>	345.73 Branham
<i>The Law of Corporations</i>	346.73066 Hamilton
<i>Legal Research</i>	340.073 Cohen
<i>Personal Property</i>	346.047 Burke
<i>Real Estate Finance</i>	346.043 Bruce
<i>Real Property</i>	346.7304 Bernhardt
<i>Torts</i>	346.7303 Kionka
<i>Uniform Commercial Code</i>	346.73 Stone
<i>Uniform Probate Code</i>	346.052 Averill
<i>Wills and Trusts</i>	346.054 Mennell
<i>Constitutional Law</i>	342.73 Barron

Law Collection

The Schumacher Library owns several law related books that are available for checkout. To browse our collection, look for the following call numbers:

340	Law	344	Labor, Social, Education & Cultural Law
341	Law of Nations (European Union)	345	Criminal Law
342	Constitutional & Administrative Law	346	Private Law (Business, Torts, etc.)
343	Military, Tax, Trade & Industrial Law	347	Civil Procedure & Courts



Legal Research Guide

Constitutions

Suggested Starting Point

The Words We Live By: Your Annotated Guide to the Constitution
Reference, 342.73 Monk

This resource provides annotations that explain terms and principles contained in the U.S. Constitution.

U.S. and Illinois Constitutions

There are several print and online resources that contain the text of the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions.

Print

The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States of America
342.73 Declaration

The U.S. Constitution and Fascinating Facts About It
342.73 Constitution

Illinois Compiled Statutes Annotated, Volume 1 (U.S. and Illinois Constitutions)
Legal Reference, 348.773 Illinois

Websites

U.S. Constitution (Cornell Legal Information Institute)
<http://topics.law.cornell.edu/constitution>

Illinois Constitution (Illinois General Assembly Website)
<http://www.ilga.gov/commission/lrb/conmain.htm>



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Statutes & Regulations

United States Code

The United States Code is available in our legal databases and on the web.

Westlaw

Sign into Westlaw One Pass, and from the Westlaw tab search the databases from the left side menu for: USCA. Type in terms to search, or “Table of Contents” to browse.

Website

U.S. House of Representatives, Office of the Law Revision Counsel: <http://uscode.house.gov/>

Code of Federal Regulations

The Code of Federal Regulations is available in our legal databases and on the web.

Westlaw

Sign into Westlaw One Pass, and from the Westlaw tab search the databases from the left side menu for: CFR. Type in terms to search, or “Table of Contents” to browse.

Website

GPO Access

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html>

Finding Illinois Statutes

The Illinois Compiled Statutes contain an index which allows for searching by topic. Look for the alphabetical topic index in the final volumes.

Away from campus? Illinois Statutes are also available to browse and search for free on the Illinois General Assembly website at:

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

Just click on “Illinois Compiled Statutes”

Illinois Statutes

Print

The Schumacher Library has up to date volumes of the Illinois Compiled Statutes Annotated and Criminal Law and Family Law statutes in separate volumes.

Illinois Compiled Statutes, Annotated
Criminal Law and Procedure
Family Law and Court Rules

Legal Reference, 348.773 Illinois
Legal Reference, 347.7305 West's
Legal Reference, 347.773 West's

Databases

Westlaw

Sign into Westlaw One Pass, and from the Westlaw tab search the databases from the left side menu for: ILLINOIS STATUTES. Select year or annotated/un annotated. Type in terms to search, or “Table of Contents” to browse.

Websites:

Illinois General Assembly
<http://www.ilga.gov/>

Chicago Municipal Code

Print

Legal Reference, 342.09 Chicago

Website

American Legal Publishing Library
<http://www.amlegal.com/library/il/chicago.shtml>

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Cases

Federal Cases

Federal Cases are available in our **databases**.

Westlaw

Sign into Westlaw One Pass, and from the Westlaw tab search the databases from the left side menu for—ALLFEDS. Type in terms to search, or “Table of Contents” to browse.

Websites

Recent opinions are available for browsing at the following websites:

U.S. Supreme Court

<http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/opinions.aspx>

Supreme Court opinions and transcripts of oral arguments are available on the Supreme Court website.

U.S. Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit

<http://www.ca7.uscourts.gov/>

Seventh Circuit opinions and recordings of oral arguments are available on its website.

Illinois Cases

Print

The Schumacher Library carries the Illinois Reports through 2006.
Legal Reference, 348.773, Illinois

Databases

Westlaw

Sign into Westlaw One Pass, and from the Westlaw tab search the databases from the left side menu for: IL-CS– ALL to search all cases, Federal and State. Type in terms to search, or “Search by Party Name.”

Website

Opinions dating from 1996 can be viewed on The *Illinois Courts* website.

<http://www.state.il.us/court/Opinions/archive.asp>

Finding Cases

One can locate cases on particular topics by searching or browsing American Jurisprudence 2d (available in *Westlaw*) and consulting the footnotes. In addition, the American Law Reports are searchable in *Westlaw*, and resulting articles provide a link to a table of cases by jurisdiction.

Law Review and Journal articles can also be helpful in finding related cases. These articles are available by searching for LAW-REV-PRO in *Westlaw* database search.

Digests are a good starting point to find Illinois cases on a particular topic.

The Schumacher Library owns *West's Illinois Digests, 2nd*, Legal Reference, 348.773 Illinois

Case History and Related Cases

One can easily view a case's subsequent history and find other cases addressing the same issue.

Westlaw

Enter the citation for your case and review the information contained in the links next to “KeyCite” in the left hand column.

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Legal Research Guide

Forms and Practice Guides

Forms

Print

Paralegal Litigation: Forms and Procedures

This resource provides several sample forms, letters, and pleadings. Legal Reference, 347.73 Fawcett-Del
West's Legal Forms

This multi-volume resource provides an overview of various legal topics and accompanying sample forms. Legal Reference, 347.7355 West's

Nichols Illinois Civil Practice with Forms

This resource provides an overview of civil practice and procedure with forms and practice tips. Legal Reference, 347.773 Nichols

Databases

The United States Code Annotated contains an appendix of forms.

Westlaw

Sign into Westlaw One Pass, and from the Westlaw tab search the databases from the left side menu for—USCA, then select “Table of Contents,” “Federal Rules of Civil Procedure” and “Appendix of Forms” to browse available forms.

Websites

Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County: www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org
Select “Court Forms” to search or browse by title.

United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois: <http://www.ilnd.uscourts.gov>

Practice Guides

The Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education guides provide practical tips and information including a table of related cases and some sample pleadings. The Schumacher Library owns:

Contract Law
Illinois Business Law: Choice of Entity Issues and Corporations
Illinois Causes of Action-Elements, Forms & Winning Tips
Illinois Civil Practice
Illinois Family Law
Illinois Juvenile Law and Practice
Proving Fault in Auto Accident Cases

Handbooks

Westlaw contains handbooks that explain selected trial processes. The *Illinois Trial Law Handbook* (Criminal, Criminal Sentencing, and Homicide), and the *Illinois Criminal Trial Handbook-DUI* can be viewed by selecting the “Law” tab, then “Content List,” and “Other Reference Materials.”