

Law Made Public Highlights

Primary Materials

Primary materials are online resources or books that contain the actual law, itself. Examples of primary materials include: statutes, regulations, ordinances, legislative documents, court rules and case opinions which are all primary resources that tell you what the law is.

As a rule of thumb, you usually would cite to a primary resource to support your legal argument or position on a legal issue.

Secondary Materials

Secondary materials are resources that explain, interpret and analyze primary resources. Secondary materials help us understand the law. Examples of secondary resources include: legal encyclopedias, digests, practice treatises and hornbooks.

Federal Primary Materials

- Congressional Record: Official record of the floor proceedings and debates in Congress. A resource used for conducting legislative history research
[\[Print Version temporarily unavailable\]](#).
[\[Electronic version available on HeinOnline\]](#).
- USCCAN (United States Code Congressional and Administrative News): unofficial version of the laws enacted by Congress and presidential messages published by West. Arranged in congressional session and public law number order.
[\[Print version available at North County Branch\]](#).
- U.S. Code: Official version of the laws of the United States divided into 50 titles and arranged in subject matter order. Used for federal statutory research.
[\[Electronic version available on HeinOnline\]](#).
- U.S.C.A (U.S. Code Annotated): Unofficial version of the laws of the United States cross-referenced to other relevant statutes and secondary resources. Used as a research tool.
[\[Print Version available at North County, East County and South Bay Branches\]](#).
- FR – Federal Register: Location for the published rules and regulations issued by the Federal Administrative Agencies.
[\[Electronic version available on HeinOnline\]](#).

- CFR- Code of Federal Regulations: Codification of the general and permanent rules and regulations published in the Federal Register.
[Electronic version available on HeinOnline].
- United States Reporter: Official publication of the United States Supreme Court's decisions.
[Electronic version available on HeinOnline, Westlaw and Lexis].
- Federal Reporter: Publication of the United States Court of Appeals' decisions.
[Print version available at North County and East County Branches].
[Electronic version available on Westlaw and Lexis].
- Federal Supplement: Publication of decisions from the United States District Courts, the United States Court of International Trade and the Special Court.
[Print version available at North County and East County Branches].
[Electronic version available on Westlaw and Lexis].
- Regional Reporters: There are 7 regional reporters that publish the decisions of the federal courts in all 50 states.
[Print version of the Pacific Reporter, second series up to v. 933 available at North County Branch].
[Electronic version of all 7 regional reporters available on Westlaw and Lexis].

Federal Secondary Materials

- U.S. Supreme Court Digest and Federal Digest: Provides summaries of nearly all published state and federal case law. West created a classification system for every legal issue analyzed by case law. This classification system is known as the West key number system because each legal issue receives a key number (as depicted by the famous key symbol). Digests are invaluable tools for case law research; you can peruse summaries of cases discussing your issue to quickly find a case on point.
[Print version of the U.S. Supreme Court Digest available at North County and East County Branches].
[Print version of Federal Digest, 3d series available at North County Branch].
[Electronic version available on Westlaw].
- Words and Phrases: Defines legal terms and phrases cited in case opinions. The case opinions cited are indexed in the Federal Digests and may be used as a cross-reference tool.
[Print version available at North County, East County and South Bay Branches].
- A.L.R. (American Law Reports): ALR publishes a selection of federal and state cases. Each selected case receives a thorough and exhaustive detailed analysis and commentary from the publishers.
[Print version available at North and East County Branches].
- C.J.S. (Corpus Juris Secundum): Legal encyclopedia that provides a concise description of virtually every area of law. A good starting point to any legal research.
[Print version temporarily unavailable].
[Selected electronic version available on Westlaw: CJS – Internal Revenue and CJS – Insurance].

- Federal Procedural Forms and West’s Federal Forms: Provides sample federal forms for every stage in civil and criminal litigation to use as a guide for creating complaints, answers, demurrers, motions, etc. [Print version of Federal Procedural Forms available at North County, East County and South Bay Branches].
[Print version of West’s Federal Forms temporarily unavailable].
[Electronic version of West’s Federal Forms available on Westlaw].
- Federal Civil Procedure Before Trial (The Rutter Group): Discusses the practical application of pre-trial practice in federal courts.
[Print version available at Main, North County, East County and South Bay Branches].
[Electronic version available on Westlaw].

California Primary Materials

- California Codes: Annotated version of the laws of California divided into 29 titles, each title covers a broad topic, each topic is further subdivided into divisions, chapters and articles.
[Full Print version available at North County, East County and South Bay Branches. Desktop version available at Main].
[Electronic version available on Westlaw and Lexis].
- CCR (California Code of Regulations): 28 titles covering the rules and regulations of state agencies in California.
[Print version available at North County and South Bay branches].
[Electronic version available on Westlaw].
- California Reports: Official publication of the California Supreme Court’s decisions.
[Print version available at North County, East County and South Bay Branches].
[Electronic version available on Westlaw and Lexis].
- California Reporter: Unofficial publication of the case decisions from the California Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals and the Appellate Division of the Superior Court from 1959-1991.
[Print version available at North County and East County Branches].
[Electronic version available on Westlaw and Lexis].
- California Appellate Reports: Official publication of the California Courts of Appeals’ decisions.
[Print version available at North County, East County and South Bay Branches].
[Electronic version available on Westlaw and Lexis].

California Secondary Materials

- Cal. Jur. (California Jurisprudence): California specific legal encyclopedia.
[Print version available at North County, East County and South Bay Branches].
[Electronic version available on Westlaw].
- Witkin's: Expert analysis, summary and annotation of California specific substantive civil and criminal law, California procedure and California evidence.
[California Procedure: print version available at North County, East County and South Bay Branches].
[Summary of Law: print version available at Main, North County, East County and South Bay Branches].
[Evidence: print version available at North County, East County and South Bay Branches].
[Criminal Law: print version available at Main, North County, East County and South Bay Branches].
[Electronic version available on Westlaw].
- California Legal Forms: A transactional guide providing template forms for legal transactions, i.e. sample wills, sample shareholder agreements, sample pre-nuptial agreements, etc.
[Print version available at Main, North County, East County and South Bay Branches].
[Electronic version available on Lexis].
- California Causes of Action: One volume binder provides legal definitions, causes of action and elements for California Torts.
[Print version available at Main, North County, East County and South Bay Branches].
- California Forms of Pleading and Practice: Covers substantive and procedural legal civil matters with sample forms at the end of each chapter.
[Print version available at Main, North County, East County and South Bay Branches].
[Electronic version available on Lexis].

Online Resources

Library Resource	Online Availability	Date Range Availability
Congressional Record	http://thomas.loc.gov/home/r111query.html .	1989-2010
U.S. Code	http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/	Current version
Federal Register	http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=FR	1994-2010
Code of Federal Regulations	http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collectionCfr.action?collectionCode=CFR	1996-2010
U.S. Supreme Court Cases	http://supreme.nolo.com/	1791-2010
Federal Case Law	http://scholar.google.com/	Range varies.
California Codes	http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html	Current year as of January 1
California Code of Regulations	http://www.calregs.com/linkedslice/default.asp?SP=CCR-1000&Action=Welcome	2010
California Reports (California Supreme Court Cases)	http://www.courts.ca.gov/supremecourt.htm	1850-Present
California Court of Appeals Cases	http://www.courts.ca.gov/opinions.htm	1905-Present