



Research Guide: Law, U.S.

This research guide is a bibliography listing some of the many reference sources for federal legal information available at FLITE. These materials are designed to give students and researchers a starting point for a particular topic and will usually point the way toward other, more in-depth sources relating to that topic.

Statutes, Laws and Codes

United States Code Annotated: The entire body of federal law organized into 50 titles or subjects. Includes references to court decisions interpreting the law.

Located in Legal Reference: KF62 .U54

United States Code: The same as United States Code Annotated without the references to court decisions. Also available on the web at <http://uscode.house.gov/usc.htm>

Located in Legal Reference: KF 62 2000 .U545

United States Code Congressional and Administrative News: This publication includes the Public Laws enacted during a congressional session. These laws are printed in the order they were passed. It also includes Legislative History, Proclamations and Executive Orders.

Located in Legal Reference: KF 48 .U54

Federal Digests

Digests are subject indexes to court decisions. Decisions are printed in order decided, so you need a digest to access a case by topic. West uses a “key number” system to make it easy to find related cases on a topic.

Modern Federal Practice Digest: Indexes federal court cases from 1939-1961

Located in Legal Reference: KF 127 M62

Unites States Supreme Court Digest: The digest of Supreme Court decisions. Covers every decision of the Supreme Court from earliest times to date.

Located in Legal Reference: KF 101.1 U55

West’s Federal Practice Digest 2d: Indexes federal court cases from 1961-1975.

Located in Legal Reference: KF 127 W48

West’s Federal Practice Digest 3d: Indexes federal court cases from 1975-1989

Located in Legal Reference: KF 127 W481

West’s Federal Practice Digest 4d: Indexes federal court cases from 1989 – present.

Updated with pocket parts.

Located in Legal Reference KF 127W482

Court Decisions

Federal Reporter Second Series: Contains complete decisions of cases decided from the U.S. Courts of Appeal and Temporary Emergency Court of Appeals. Coverage in the second series is 1924 – 1992

Located in Legal Reference KF 105.2 F42 ser. 2

Federal Reporter Third Series: Contains decisions from 1993 – present.

Located in Legal Reference KF 105.2 F42 ser. 3

Federal Supplement: Contains complete decisions of selected cases decided in U.S. District Courts. Covers years 1932 - 1998

Located in Legal Reference KF 105.2 F43

Federal Supplement 2d: Contains complete decisions of selected cases decided in U.S. District Courts. Covers years 1998 – present

Located in Legal Reference KF 105.2 F43 2d

Supreme Court Reporter: Text of cases decided by the Supreme Court of the United States. Additional information includes orders and rules of the court. Updated with interim issues before bound volumes arrive.

Located in Legal Reference KF 101 A322

Citators

Citators provide access to the judicial history of reported court cases. They also verify the current status of each case and located previous cases that have been cited in later decisions. They provide a way to determine the relevance of your court case.

Shepard's Federal Citations: Covers cases reported in the Federal Reporter and Federal Supplement.

Located in Legal Reference: KF 105.2 S42

Shepard's United States Citations: Supreme Court Reporter: Covers cases decided by the United States Supreme Court.

Located in Legal Reference: KF 101.2 S54

Administrative Rulings

Code of Federal Regulations: An accumulation of the Federal Register arranged in 50 topics called titles. Volume 1 is the general index. The CFR can also be found on the web from 1997 - present. (<http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/cfr-table-search.html>)

Located in Legal Reference KF 70 A3

Federal Register: The daily compilation of executive and administrative rules and regulations, which have the force of law. Indexed monthly. The Register is also available online from 1994 - present. (http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html)