Practical Starting Points for Legal Research

by Brenda Jones,
Reference Librarian
bljones@samford.edu

Often, law students and lawyers alike need a fast, efficient introduction to unfamiliar areas of law. Rather than sorting through the vast range of resources on Westlaw or Lexis, researchers may benefit from the laser focus of services like Practical Law or Practice Advisor. Offering pragmatic overviews, expert advice, and straightforward tools, these services may be particularly helpful for law students working on class assignments, and recent alumni beginning their legal careers.

Practical Law on Westlaw

Compiled by editors with hands-on experience in legal practice, Westlaw’s Practical Law offers notes, forms, checklists, and toolkits for selected areas of law. The service includes selected federal, state, and foreign content. To access the product, log onto Westlaw. Browse the content headings, or look to the right of the screen for the link to Practical Law. Right now, Practical Law covers the following fourteen areas:

- Antitrust
- Bankruptcy
- Capital Markets & Corporate Governance
- Commercial Transactions
- Corporate and M&A
- Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation
- Estate Planning
- Finance
- Intellectual Property & Technology
- International Arbitration
- Labor & Employment
- Litigation
- Real Estate
- Tax

Practice Advisor on Lexis

Geared to a transactional practice, Lexis Practice Advisor provides annotated forms, guidance from leading attorneys, tools for negotiating and drafting agreements, and references to relevant cases, codes, and

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To access the product, log onto Lexis and go to Lexis Advance. Look to the top left of the screen for a tab labeled Lexis Advance Research. Use the drop-down menu to choose Lexis Practice Advisor. Another drop-down menu for Practice Areas toggles between the following twelve modules presently available:

- Banking & Finance
- Business & Commercial
- Corporate Counsel
- Financial Restructuring & Bankruptcy
- Intellectual Property & Technology
- Labor & Employment
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Real Estate
- Securities & Capital Markets
- California Business & Commercial
- New York Business & Commercial
- Texas Business & Commercial

**Legal MegaPublishers Sell Off Academic Units**

By Ed Craig, Reference Librarian
elcraig@samford.edu

In 2012, the leader in legal publishing, Thomson Reuters (parent company of West Publishing), sold off their legal academic publishing titles to a private equity firm called Eureka Growth Capital. A Wall Street Journal article described it as Thomson Reuters “getting out of the dead trees end of the legal education business.” In the process, the new company, West Academic Publishing, set up in downtown Saint Paul, where the original West Publishing Co. was headquartered before its merger. Some of the student supplement series that were transferred to the new publisher include the Hornbook series, Blackletter Outlines, Sum & Substance Series, Nutshells, Legalines, Gilbert Law Summaries and Acing Series. Also, West Academic took a Thomson Reuters’ casebook publishing concern named Foundation Press. In the time right after the merger, West Academic products were still available through Thomson Reuters’ Westlaw, but those titles now have moved to the newer company’s website, westacademic.com.

This January, Carolina Academic Press and LexisNexis announced a similar move. Carolina Academic Press, which was a minor player in the legal publishing arena, has now become a much bigger participant in the market by purchasing the law school publishing titles of LexisNexis and Matthew Bender (a Lexis subsidiary/imprint). With respect to student supplements, this purchase will involve the much-used Questions and Answers series as well as the Understanding series that Lexis has developed. A January 4th press release states, “As a LexisNexis alliance publishing partner, Carolina Academic Press will provide links to Lexis Advance from their ebooks. LexisNexis will continue to offer CAP digital products for sale on the LexisNexis website and through it LexisNexis Digital Lending solution.”
A law professor blogger stated the following, in response to the previous Thomson Reuters’ move:

I suspect that part of the motivation to dump casebook publishing is the near certainty that the market for casebooks is about to become smaller.

Casebook sales are a function of the number of law students, and that number is likely to shrink...Could it be that Thomson Reuters sees that fewer law students mean few casebooks sold?

It remains to be seen whether these new publishers will serve the law school market as well or better than the old ones did.

Honor Code

The Law Library has an up-to-date copy of The Honor Code of Cumberland School of Law & the Honor Court Procedure Guide (KF287.5/H55/2012) shelved on reserve. It is also available under Policies on the Law library web page.

A Little Bit of History...

Taken from the 1847-48 Catalogue of Cumberland University, page 17: “Law Department, Hon. AB Caruthers, late judge of the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Tennessee, Professor. This department was opened on the first day of October, 1847, being the first attempt in Tennessee to establish a law school. It commenced with six students. The number increased during the year to twenty-five. Of these the degree of Bachelor of Laws was conferred on Messrs. Owen, Pollock and Prim at the annual commencement on the 28th of July, 1848.”

View the Cumberland Catalogue for additional information.

Do You Have a Favorite Movie?

Need a break? Check out a list of ten film recommendations for law students and aspiring attorneys.

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West Study Aids

by Grace Simms,
Information Technology Librarian
gsimms@samford.edu

West Study Aids has a new link:

This link can also be accessed from the Law Library website, on the Databases page: http://lawlib.samford.edu/?page_id=25.

The login process is much smoother now – a much needed change.

Hopefully, by Fall 2016, access via IP on campus will be in place and access to this link should be easier.

Please remember that you can only print 150 pages per month within West Study Aids. I recommend printing 20 pages at a time, as more than that can often cause it to crash.

If you have any questions about the West Study Aids or trouble using them – please contact me - Grace Simms, Information Technology Librarian at gsimms@samford.edu.

Recent Acquisitions

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE. 4th ed.
KF9619/.L34/2015/v.1-v.7.

Dobbs, Dan B. HORNBOOK ON TORTS. 2nd ed.
KF1250/.D55 2016/Reserve.

FEDERAL SENTENCING LAW AND PRACTICE. 2016 ed.
(Coauthored by: Deborah Young, Professor and Director, Center for Advocacy and Clinical Education, Cumberland School of Law)

LEGAL MALPRACTICE.
KF313/.M295/2016/v.1-v.5.

Roberts, Michael L. ALABAMA TORT LAW. 5th ed.

Schlueter, David A. MILITARY CRIMINAL JUSTICE : PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE. 9th ed.
KF7620/ .S34/2015/v.1-v.2.

FREE BOOKS ... YES, FREE BOOKS!!

The book truck on the Lower Level, next to the drink machine, is filled with a variety of books, all free! Look at the selection and help yourself to something for your home library.

Law Library Easter, Spring break, and exam hours will be posted on the kiosk and also available on the Law Library Hours web page.

The CHECK IT OUT is published three times a semester. Your opinion is important to us! Send your ideas and/or comments to: Becky Hutto at rmhutto@samford.edu.