

CHECK IT OUT

Lucille Stewart Beeson Law Library Newsletter
Cumberland School of Law of Samford University



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Refresh Your Legal Research Skills with These Resources

Leigh A. Jones,
Evening/Weekend
Reference Librarian
Ljones17@samford.edu

Sometimes, as legal researchers, we get stuck in our same old patterns. We will return to the same resources, use the same keywords, and use the same amount of patience when searching for the answers to various legal questions. This is an okay path to follow when we, quickly, find the information that we need. However, sometimes we may run into research questions that require us to look beyond the resources and techniques to which we have become accustomed. When this happens, it is a good idea to revisit some of the texts that are available to guide with legal research.

There is a wide selection of guides out there that offer information on resources and techniques needed to find legal information. Some of those books are readily available from the law library. If you need a refresher on the art of

legal research, don't hesitate to explore the following books:

Fundamentals of Legal Research
(Steven M. Barkan, Barbara A. Bintliff, and Mary Whisner)
ISBN: 9781609300562
Call Number:
KF240 .J3 2015
-Textbook that serves as an introduction to all aspects of legal research.

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**WELCOME BACK FOR
THE
SPRING SEMESTER!!**

Legal Research: Examples and Explanations
(Terrill Pollman, Jeanne Frazier Price, and Linda L. Berger)
ISBN: 9781454867890
Call Number:
KF240 .P65 2017
-Uses real-world problems in an effort to help readers understand how to identify and use legal resources.

Legal Research in a Nutshell
(Morris L. Cohen)
ISBN: 9781634604628
Call Number:
KF240 .C55 2018
-A succinct guide to legal research that includes a companion website that is updated on a regular basis.

See *Legal Research*, Page 2



LAW LIBRARY SCHEDULE**MONDAY-THURSDAY****7:00 A.M.-12 MIDNIGHT****FRIDAY****7:00 A.M.-10:00 P.M.****SATURDAY****9:00 A.M.-10:00 P.M.****SUNDAY****1:00 P.M.-12 MIDNIGHT***Legal Research* from Page 1

Principles of Legal Research
(Kent C. Olson)

ISBN: 9780314286642

Call Number:

KF240 .O378 2015

-Includes information about legal resources that can be found on free websites, in commercial databases, and in print.

There are even materials that are specific to certain subject areas of law. For example, take a look at the following:

Admiralty and Maritime Law:
A Legal Research Guide
(Kris Anne Tobin)

ISBN: 9780837740454

Call Number:

KF1096 .T63 2017

-Designed to help the novice and the expert understand the resources that can be used to interpret admiralty legal issues.

Do English-Only Rules Have a Place in the Workplace: A Legal Research Guide
(Amy R. Stein)

ISBN: 9780837740461

Call Number:

KF3466 .S84 2017

-Provides research strategies for the researcher who wishes to explore issues of discrimination based on national origin.

Prisoners' Rights: A Legal Research Guide

(Carol A. Fichtelman)

ISBN: 9780837740478

Call Number:

KF9731 .A1 F53 2017

-Includes information about legal resources that discuss prisoners' rights in both state and federal facilities.

Veterans Benefits: A Legal Research Guide

(Lauren M. Collins)

ISBN: 9780837740485

Call Number:

KF7709 .C65 2017

-Provides guidance to legal resources covering topics such as education, health, and disability compensation.

If you have questions about how to research the law within specific jurisdictions, there are guides available. For example, the following can be found in our collection:

Gibson's New York Legal Research Guide

(William H. Manz)

ISBN: 9780837739755

Call Number:

KFN5074 .G53 2014

-A guide to the legal resources of both New York State and New York City.

The Mexican Legal System: A Comprehensive Research Guide

(Francisco A. Avalos)

ISBN: 9780837739519

Call Number:

KGF150 .A95 2013

-Provides guidance concerning Mexico's laws, regulations, and legal literature. Designed for the non-expert and non-Spanish speaker.

Prestatehood Legal Materials: A Fifty-State Research Guide, Including New York City and the District of Columbia
(Edited by Michael Chiorazzi and Marguerite Most)

ISBN: 9780789020567

Call Number:

KF240 .P688 2005

-Lists a wide range of sources that explore the history of the development of law in the United States.

In order to find additional guides to legal research, please take time to explore the [law library's catalog](#).

Back Up Your Data!

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

If you care about something, you should have it stored in at least two places. Here's an interesting article about storage methods and how they may fail in the future:

<https://www.today.com/money/why-your-digital-photos-might-%20die-your-grandkids-see-them-1D80395921>.

You should also backup your data to protect yourself from hard drive crashes, viruses/malware, theft, and damage to your computer (liquid, etc.).

There are so many ways to store data – USB drives, backup hard drives and cloud services. Remember that physical drives have a life span. I don't like to keep any backup hard drives for longer than four or five years. I recommend putting a "birthday" sticky note on the back of the hard drive so you'll know when to start thinking about purchasing a new one.

Backup hard drives come in a variety of size options. Some are wireless while others need to be physically connected to the computer. I prefer the Western Digital brand of backup hard drives.

If you choose to use an external drive for data backup, do not leave it plugged into your computer all the time. In the event of a ransomware attack, your data will be safe if not connected to a device that is connected to the Internet. Leaving it plugged into a device connected to the Internet will allow the ransomware to attack the backed up data as well.

Apple makes it easy for you to back up your computer with Time Machine:

<https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201250>.

As does Windows 10:

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/17143/windows-10-back-up-your-files>.

For Windows 7 and 8 users, look here for the steps:

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/17127/windows-back-up-restore>.

CDs and DVDs also fail over time. I don't recommend them as a solution for long-term storage.

With the cloud there are numerous choices. This website goes over many of them:

<https://www.lifewire.com/online-backup-services-reviewed-2624712>.

Most of these services will have a free option with a restricted amount of GB. After that, there will be monthly or yearly fees. I have used Mozy, Carbonite, and iCloud. All work well and are easy to access. With cloud services you may need to be concerned about security and lifespan of the company where your data is stored. My advice is to keep your data in at least two places and stay on top of the integrity of the data. Even if you have printed your photos, you need to select the correct photo paper and the best method to preserve them.

Whether you use a physical drive or the cloud, check on the backups every so often to be sure they are running. You can do this by logging into the service or looking at the physical backup drive's content.

If you need help with any of the above – including choosing and using a backup drive, etc., please email me at glsimms@samford.edu, Grace Simms, Information Technology Librarian.

New Books!

An [updated bibliography](#) of the treatises we received during the last three months can be found on our web page.

Suggested Articles for the Job Hunt

By Ed Craig,
Reference Librarian
elcraig@samford.edu

It is incumbent upon law students to prepare for finding clerkships and that first attorney position. Below are some articles that may help in that preparation:

Allison, John. The Practice Setting You Choose Will Affect Your Long-Term Job Satisfaction, *National Jurist*, Back to School 2018, at 38. Article discusses advantages and disadvantages of choosing various practice environments of legal practice and the steps involved in deciding which environment will most likely make you happy.

Mantis, Hillary. An Improved Job Market Means More Options for Law Grads, *National Jurist*, Back to School 2018, at 38. Legal job market is improving, particularly in the area of corporate law.

Mantis, Hillary. How to Answer Really Tough Interview Questions, *National Jurist*, Spring 2018, at 8. Author lists three typical, tough interview questions and provides advice on what the interviewer is really looking for in asking the question and a strategy in answering each.

Mantis, Hillary. No Job Yet? Here's How to Expand Your Search, *National Jurist*, Winter 2019, at 38. Author gives advice on how to gear up for the spring semester job search, including signing up for opportunities to

meet with alumni, signing up for mock interviews, creating specialized resumes and cover letters. At the end of the article, there are tips on how to prepare for a job interview.

Stanley, Jill. How to Succeed (and Have Fun) at Informational Interviews, *Student Lawyer*, Jan./Feb. 2018, at 8. Author describes the value and goals of informational interviews, including the possibility that they can become a stepping stone to a traditional interviews leading to a job. The article provides a list of do's and don'ts that are very similar to a regular job interview—the point being that even an informational interview is important in the career search.

Walker, Holly. Young Lawyers: How My Post Law School Clerkships Shaped Me Into the Lawyer I Am Today, *Nevada Lawyer*, Sep. 2018, at 30. Article discusses the advantages of taking a judicial clerkship after law school. Author advises law graduates who are interested in a particular area of law to look for courts that are heavily involved in that area, particularly speciality courts. If you are interested in getting intense experience in the procedural aspects of the law, she advises that federal district court is a valuable goal.



**Don't miss the
February issue
of
Check It Out!**

Updates to the National Survey of State Laws



HeinOnline recently added new chapters to the National Survey of State Laws database: Domestic Violence and Restrictive Covenants in Employment. Also, five chapters were updated, including: Civil Rights; Computer Crimes; Gambling; Child Custody; and Deceptive Trade Practices.

The National Survey of State Laws provides an overall view of some of the most sought-after and controversial legal topics in the United States and allows for basic state-by-state comparisons of current state laws. The database includes the 5th, 6th, and 7th editions if the researcher wants to compare laws since 2005.



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

Director's Briefs*From Greg Laughlin*laughlin@samford.edu

It is that time of year when we survey our law students to determine their level of satisfaction with the services and resources available in the Law Library and seek input as to the direction of the Law Library in the coming year. To read and respond to the survey, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LawLibrary2019>. The survey will close at noon on Friday, February 8, 2019. Thanks for your anticipated participation.

Lucille S. Beeson Law Library
Student Survey
Winter 2019

1. When you visit the Law Library, are you able to find what you're looking for?

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Frequently
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Seldom
- ☐ Never
- ☐ No Opinion

2. How satisfied are you with the overall services of the Law Library?

- ☐ Extremely
- ☐ Very
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ Not very
- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ No opinion

3. How helpful is the Law Library staff?

- ☐ Extremely
- ☐ Very
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ Not very
- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ No opinion

4. How satisfied are you with the information resources (books, periodicals, online databases, etc.) available through the Law Library?

- ☐ Extremely
- ☐ Very
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ Not very
- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ No opinion

5. How satisfied are you with Law Library's reference services?

- ☐ Extremely
- ☐ Very
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ Not very
- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ No opinion

6. How satisfied are you with Law Library's information technology services (computer labs, support, etc.)?

- ☐ Extremely
- ☐ Very
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ Not very
- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ No opinion

7. How satisfied are you with Law Library's hours of operation?

- ☐ Extremely
- ☐ Very
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ Not very
- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ No opinion

8. How satisfied are you with the resources available through the Law Library to locate information which you need (the online catalog, digests, indexes, etc.)?

- ☐ Extremely
- ☐ Very
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ Not very
- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ No opinion

9. How easily can you find the books and journals you need in the library catalog?

- ☐ Extremely
- ☐ Very
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ Not Very
- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ No opinion

10. How do you typically access the library catalog?

☐ I use the link provided on the Law Library web site

Other (please specify)

11. Have you used a subject Research Guide on the Law Library web site?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please suggest subjects you would like included on the Law Library Research Guide:

12. How satisfied are you with the Law Library's physical space and furnishings?

☐ Extremely

☐ Very

☐ Somewhat

☐ Not very

☐ Not at all

☐ No opinion

13. The Law Library has relaxed our enforcement of noise restrictions in an effort to accommodate law students who want to work more collaboratively. Please give us your feedback on this change in enforcement.

☐ I favor the more relaxed enforcement of noise restrictions

☐ I favor a return to a more strict enforcement of noise restrictions

☐ No opinion

☐ Other

14. As a follow-up to Question 13, in the past, the Law Library has considered creating a learning commons space where those who wish to collaborate may do so without disturbing others. The only space suitable for this is the Lower Level. In the past, students have opposed such a proposal as the Lower Level is the most quiet space to study (because it is acoustically isolated from the other floors, which is why it is the only suitable space for a learning commons). Please give your views on the establishment of a learning commons on the Lower Level combined with more strict enforcement of noise restrictions in the remainder of the Law Library.

☐ I support a learning commons on the Lower Level

☐ I oppose a learning commons on the Lower Level

☐ No opinion

15. As follow-up to Question 14, another alternative would be to designate the lower level as a quiet space and allow more collaborative work (and, as a result, more noise) on the first floor (which, of course, is not acoustically isolated from the second and third floors.) Please give your opinion regarding this proposal.

- ☐ I support this proposal.
- ☐ I oppose this proposal because I support the lower level being turned into a collaborative space.
- ☐ I oppose this proposal because I support more strict enforcement of noise restrictions on all floors.
- ☐ Other (please specify)

16. Please provide any comments you would like to share concerning the Law Library, its staff, services and/or programs, including, but not limited to, changes you would like to see made.

Librarian Update

Grace L. Simms, Information Technology Librarian, spoke at **CLE By the Bundle** on December 20, 2018, held at Cumberland School of Law. Her topic was Free And Low Cost Online Legal Research: Alternatives To Lexis And Westlaw.

Ed Craig, Reference Librarian, spent time in Singapore and New Zealand during December and January. Ed found time to tour several libraries while he was there. Shown below are one of the libraries he toured in New Zealand, along with the Parliament building.



Parliament Library, Wellington, New Zealand



Parliament building, Wellington, New Zealand
