

Chapter 8

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF FEDERAL LAW RESOURCES

As discussed in Chapter 7: [Federal Law](#), the three branches of government—the U.S. Congress, the federal judiciary, and the executive branch—create federal law. This annotated bibliography consists of primary and secondary sources of federal law and will assist those conducting federal legal research in identifying sources to consult. Included are print sources, Internet sites, reference titles, research guides, and finding aids.

Contents:

- [United States Constitution](#)
 - [U.S. Constitution, with Commentary & Analysis](#)
 - [U.S. Constitution as Historical Document](#)
- [Legislative Branch Resources](#)
 - [Finding Aids](#)
 - [Statutes & Codes](#)
 - [Bills & Resolutions](#)
 - [Legislative History Sources](#)
 - [Compiled Legislative History Sources](#)
 - [Congressional Publications](#)
 - [Federal Government News Sources](#)
 - [Directories](#)
- [Judicial Branch Resources](#)
 - [Court Decisions \(i.e., Cases or Case Law\)](#)
 - [U.S. Supreme Court Cases](#)
 - [U.S. Courts of Appeals Cases](#)
 - [U.S. District Court Cases](#)
 - [Other Federal Courts Resources](#)
 - [Digests](#)
 - [Citators](#)
 - [Judges](#)
 - [History and Statistics](#)
- [Executive Branch Resources](#)
 - [Administrative Law](#)
 - [Federal Regulations](#)

- [Administrative Decisions & Rulings](#)
 - [Presidential Documents](#)
 - [Other Executive Branch Resources](#)
- [Reference Sources](#)
 - [General Reference Sources](#)
 - [Research Guides](#)
- [List of Internet Sites Cited in this Chapter](#)

United States Constitution

U.S. Constitution, with Commentary & Analysis

The Constitution of the United States of America: Analysis and Interpretation: Annotations of Cases Decided by the Supreme Court of the United States to June 28, 2002. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 2004.

Prepared by the Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, the bound volume is over 2600 pages and is supplemented by pocket parts.

Online Access:

- [Constitution of the United States: Analysis and Interpretation](#) (GPO's FDsys): Scroll down the page of "Additional Government Publications" to browse the 2002 edition and supplements (2004, 2006, 2008 and 2010). Also may browse the 1992 edition and supplements (1996, 1998, and 2000).
- [CRS Annotated Constitution](#): Hyper-texted interpretation provided by Cornell University Law School's Legal Information Institute (LII) which includes links to U.S. Supreme Court opinions, the *U.S. Code*, and the *Code of Federal Regulations*.

Encyclopedia of the American Constitution, 2nd ed. Leonard W. Levy, Kenneth L. Karst & Adam Winkler, eds. NY: Macmillan Reference USA, 2000.

This six-volume set, supplemented by bound volumes, covers all aspects of constitutional law, including important cases with brief outlines of the constitutional issues involved. It is available online via Gale's Virtual Reference Library (subscription required).

Encyclopedia of Constitutional Amendments, Proposed Amendments, and Amending Issues, 1789-2002, 2nd ed. John R. Vile. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2003.

CHAPTER 8: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF FEDERAL LAW RESOURCES

This encyclopedia includes more than 500 short explanatory essays, which cover specific cases, individuals, organizations, legal concepts and topics. Each entry is followed by suggestions for further reading. It includes a bibliography, list of cases, and an index. Available online via NetLibrary (subscription required).

U.S. Constitution as Historical Document

[National Archives and Records Administration \(NARA\), Charters of Freedom, Constitution of the United States](#)

Download high-resolution images of the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and the Bill of Rights. Other resources include articles, exhibits, and links to questions and answers.

[The Library of Congress, American Memory, Documents from the Continental Congress and Constitutional Convention, 1774-1789](#)

Includes the Continental Congress Broadside Collection, the Constitutional Convention Broadside Collection, and early printed versions of the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. Access full color scanned images as well as text versions of documents. Full text searchable.

[Yale Law Library, The Avalon Project, The American Constitution – A Documentary Record](#)

Provides the full text (in html) of several pre-Constitutional legal documents, as well as numerous historical documents in the categories of "Revolution and Independence," "Credentials of the Members of the Federal Convention," "the Constitutional Convention," and "Ratification and Formation of the Government."

Legislative Branch Resources

Finding Aids

CIS/Index. Washington, DC: Congressional Information Service, 1970-.

This multi-volume set indexes nearly every Congressional document and is published monthly, with quarterly cumulations and annual bound volumes. Online access through LexisNexis Congressional Universe (subscription required).

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Congressional Masterfile. Washington, DC: Congressional Information Service, I—1789-1969, 1993; II—1970-present, 1989-.

The CD-ROM version of the *CIS/Index*. Part I indexes pre-1970 documents. Part II is updated quarterly.

Congressional Index. Chicago, IL: Commerce Clearing House, 1937/38-.

This two-volume set (one for each house of Congress) includes the status of legislation, committees, members of Congress, voting records, etc. for each Congress from the 75th Congress (1937-39) to the current Congress.

Shepard's Acts and Cases by Popular Names: Federal and State, 5th ed. Colorado Springs, CO: Shepards, 1999.

Indexes federal and state statutes and landmark cases by common names. This two-volume set is updated by a cumulative supplement.

U.S. Code Table of Acts Cited By Popular Name

This table, included in the indexes to the *U.S. Code*, *U.S.C.A.* and *U.S.C.S.*, lists laws alphabetically under either the short titles assigned by Congress or names by which they are commonly known, and provides citations to the *Statutes at Large* and *U.S. Code*.

Online Access:

- o [Popular Name Tool](#), U.S. House of Representatives, Office of Law Revision Counsel
- o [Popular Names of Acts in the U.S. Code](#), Cornell Law School's Legal Information Institute

[Catalog of U.S. Government Publications](#)

This online catalog is the finding tool for current and historical publications from the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the U.S. government (from July 1976 to present) in both electronic and print format. Updated daily, it provides direct links to publications available online. The monthly (with semiannual and annual indexes) print version ceased with no. 1345 (Dec. 2004). Consult the print *Monthly Catalog* for publications issued prior to July 1976.

Statutes & Codes

United States Statutes at Large. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1789-.

CHAPTER 8: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF FEDERAL LAW RESOURCES

This official, multivolume set includes the acts (both public and private) passed during each Congress, published chronologically. The bound volumes are kept up to date by slip laws (i.e., individual pamphlets designated by public law number, containing the text of newly passed legislation).

Available online via [FDsys](#) from volume 117 (108th Congress, 1st Session (2003)) through volume 121 (110th Congress, 1st Session (2007)), as of November 3, 2011). For current slip laws, see the FDsys' [Public and Private Laws](#) page (104th Congress to current Congressional session).

U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News. St. Paul, MN: West Group, 1952-.

This set (abbreviated as *USCCAN*) is an unofficial publication of the acts of Congress in chronological order. Beginning with the 76th Congress, 1st Session (1939), this set is far more current than either the official slip laws or the *United States Statutes at Large*. Non-cumulative pamphlets keep the bound volumes up to date. *USCCAN* is also a valuable source for legislative histories and includes presidential proclamations and executive orders.

United States Code. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1926-.

This official publication is the codification by subject matter of the general and permanent laws of the United States. Published by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Code is divided by broad subjects into 50 titles. New editions are published approximately every 6 years and are updated by annual cumulative supplements.

Online Access:

- o [The U.S. House of Representatives, Office of Law Revision Counsel, United States Code](#): Search and download titles and chapters of the *U.S. Code*. Links to classification tables, a popular name tool, and Thomas. Click on the "About" link for information on currency of the Code. Note that a [beta site](#) was released (accessed Nov. 3, 2011).
- o [GPO's FDsys, United States Code](#): Search the most recent official edition of the *U.S. Code*. Also available are prior editions (from 1994), plus supplements.

[Cornell Law School's Legal Information Institute \(LII\), U.S. Code Collection](#)

Generated from the most recent official version made available by the U.S. House of Representatives; includes an update service that integrates the services of the House server with the Library of Congress' Thomas service.

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United States Code Annotated. St. Paul, MN: West Group, 1927-.

This unofficial publication follows the same title and section arrangement as the official *U.S. Code*, but includes annotations to judicial decisions, law review articles, and references to other West publications. The bound volumes are supplemented by pocket parts and monthly statutory supplements.

United States Code Service. Charlotte, VA: LEXIS Law Publishing, 1997-.

This unofficial publication follows the same title and section arrangement as the official *U.S. Code*, but includes annotations to judicial decisions, relevant administrative regulations, law review articles and other secondary sources. It includes a cross-reference table to the *Code of Federal Regulations* and is supplemented by pocket parts and monthly advance sheets.

Bills & Resolutions

Congressional Bills and Resolutions. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1789-.

This set (paper or microfiche) includes the full-text of Senate and House bills and resolutions.

[Thomas](#) (Library of Congress)

93rd Congress to current Congress; in Advanced Search, may search multiple Congresses, limit by Congressional sponsor, by committee, by date of introduction, and by type of legislation.

[GPO's FDsys Congressional Bills](#) (Government Printing Office)

103rd Congress to current Congress; the database is updated daily by 6 a.m. (EST). May browse by type of bill and by Congress; provides links to table of years and session dates of Congress and to a Congressional Bills Glossary.

[American Memory's Bills and Resolutions](#), *A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation* (Library of Congress)

Provides the text of bills and resolutions from the 6th Congress to 42nd Congress in the House of Representatives; the 16th Congress to the 42nd Congress in the Senate; and the 18th Congress to the 42nd Congress for Senate Joint Resolutions.

Legislative History Sources

Included below are compiled legislative history sources as well as numerous individual Congressional publications. Please use the [Catalog of U.S. Government Publications](#) to

CHAPTER 8: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF FEDERAL LAW RESOURCES

locate specific congressional publications (for those issued before July 1976, consult the print *Monthly Catalog*, which are retained by many [federal depository libraries](#)). Researchers should also consult the sources listed under [Legislative Finding Aids](#) for indexes and other resources that will aid in identifying documents produced in Congress during the enactment of a law (debates, hearings, reports, etc.).

- ***Compiled Legislative History Sources***

Hein's Federal Legislative Histories Collection. Buffalo, NY: W. S. Hein, 1997?-.

This collection contains full-text legislative histories on a select number of historically significant legislation, such as the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. It is available in microfiche and online through [HeinOnline](#) (subscription required). Accompanied by *Federal Legislative Histories: An Annotated Bibliography and Index to Officially Published Sources*, compiled by Bernard D. Reams, Jr. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1994.

[Legislative Source Book](#). Law Librarians Society of Washington, D.C. (LLSDC).

This online resource includes research guides, directories, and links to other sources for federal legislative histories, including [Electronic Sources for Federal Legislative History Documents with Years/Congresses Available](#), by Richard J. McKinney.

Sources of Compiled Legislative Histories: A Bibliography of Government Documents, Periodical Articles, and Books, 1st Congress—94th Congress. Nancy P. Johnson. Littleton, CO: Published for the American Association of Law Libraries by F. B. Rothman, 1979-. This one-volume loose-leaf publication contains citations to published legislative histories. It is arranged by public law number and includes an author-title index and public law index. Available online through [HeinOnline](#) (subscription required).

U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News. St. Paul, MN: West Group, 1952-. This set includes select legislative histories materials. Includes citations to other reports and Congressional Record dates.

- ***Congressional Publications***

Calendars of the United States House of Representatives and History of Legislation. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1900s?-.

This publication is issued daily, with weekly cumulations. The Monday issue

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includes a subject index to all House and Senate legislation. Available on [FDsys](#) (104th Congress to current Congress).

Congressional Record. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1873-. The official record of the proceedings and debates of the U.S. Congress. Published daily when Congress is in session, the *Congressional Record* (CR) consists of 4 sections—Daily Digest, House, Senate, and Extension of Remarks. Following each session of Congress, the daily CR is revised, printed, repaginated, and permanently bound.

Note: The debates for sessions prior to 1873 are recorded in *The Debates and Proceedings in the Congress of the United States* (1789-1824), *The Register of Debates in Congress* (1824-1837), and *The Congressional Globe* (1833-1873), which are available online at the Library of Congress' American Memory, [A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates \(1774-1875\)](#)

[Thomas' Congressional Record](#)

Search multiple Congresses from the 101st Congress (1989-1990) to the present. May also view the latest *Daily Digest* or browse the *Daily Issues*. There is also a keyword index. Limit searches by member of Congress, section of the Congressional Record and by date.

[GPO's FDsys Government Publications](#) page includes the following:

- *Daily Congressional Record* (Volume 140 (1994) to present)
- Bound *Congressional Record* (Volumes 145 - 147 (1999 to 2001))
- *Congressional Record Index*, an index to the daily issues of the *Congressional Record* from 1983 to the present in two parts: a listing of individuals, organizations, and topics and the History of Bills, which lists legislative actions reported in the *Congressional Record*.

[Congressional Committee Prints](#)

Committee prints are publications issued by Congressional committees on topics related to their legislative or research activities and are good sources for statistical and historical information as well as legislative analysis. Unfortunately, the procedures for printing and publication of these prints differ with each committee and, hence, are inconsistent. The Senate has a numbering system for its committee prints (based on the Congress and order in which the print was released; e.g., S. Prt. 108-3), but the House does not. They are not

CHAPTER 8: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF FEDERAL LAW RESOURCES

normally included in the *U.S. Congressional Serial Set*. However, sometimes committee prints are ordered printed as [Congressional Documents](#), if the information they contain is in demand. Documents have a larger distribution than committee prints.

[FDsys](#) provide online access to prints, from the 102th Congress (1991-92) forward. [FDsys](#) also provides access to Congressional Documents from 99th Congress (1985-86) to current Congress.

U.S. Congressional Serial Set. Washington, DC: U.S. GPO, 1817 -.

Commonly referred to as the *Serial Set*. Contains House and Senate Reports and House and Senate Documents, which are arranged by session of Congress and numbered report/document. Documents before 1817 may be found in the [American State Papers](#), which is available online at the Library of Congress' [American Memory](#).

[FDsys](#) provide online access to Congressional Documents and Congressional Reports. GPO's page also includes numerical lists of documents and reports and the [schedule of Serial Set volumes](#).

[Thomas' Committee Reports](#), 104th Congress (1995-1996) forward.

Browse committee reports by type: House, Senate, Conference or Joint, or search the full-text. Limit by committee or by date.

[U.S. Congress Conference Reports](#)

For current and previous Congress only.

Congressional Hearings.

A hearing is a meeting or session of a Senate, House, joint, or special committee of Congress, usually open to the public, to obtain information and opinions on proposed legislation, conduct an investigation, or evaluate/oversee the activities of a government department or the implementation of a federal law. In addition, hearings may also be purely exploratory in nature, providing testimony and data about topics of current interest.

[GPO's FDsys](#) contains selected House and Senate hearings for the 99th Congress (1985-86) forward. Whether or not a hearing is disseminated on FDsys depends on the committee.

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[Rutgers – Camden School of Law, U.S. Congressional Documents Archive](#)

Full-text archive of selected Congressional hearings and committee prints, dated from the 1970s to 1998. As of November 3, 2011, there were 13,213 documents available, with plans to add new materials over the next several years. May browse listings or search full-text.

Federal Government News Sources

CQ Weekly. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 1998-.

The Hill. Washington, DC: Capitol Hill Publishing Company, 1994-.

National Journal's Congress Daily. Washington, DC: National Journal, 1991-.

Roll Call. Washington, DC: Roll Call Group, 1955-.

Free online resources include:

- [Government News](#) (via USA.gov)
- [GovTrack](#) (follow the status of federal legislation, subscribe to RSS feeds & email updates)
- [CapitolHearings.org](#) (a service from C-SPAN)
- [C-SPAN Alert](#) (an email alert service; receive the latest on C-SPAN scheduling, Capitol Spotlight, trivia, special guests and programming announcements, and unique C-SPAN programming).
- [United States Senate Media Galleries](#)
- [United States House of Representatives' Media Resources](#)
- Publications.USA.gov: Formerly known as the Federal Citizen Information Center (FCIC), a one-stop source for answers to questions about consumer problems and government services. May download or order a number of publications on a variety of topics (e.g. Medicare, consumer information, cars etc.).

Directories

[Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774-present](#)

Biographies of all members of Congress from 1774 to the present. Searchable by name, position (e.g., Representative, Senator, Delegate), state, party (e.g., Democrat, Federalist, Republican), and year or congress. Biographies include years of service, place and date of birth, education, and political career and link

CHAPTER 8: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF FEDERAL LAW RESOURCES

to bibliography, research collections, and House and Senate history pages.

Congressional Staff Directory. Washington, DC: C.Q. Press, 1959-.

Annual directory of members of Congress which includes addresses, telephone and fax numbers, email and Web addresses; biographies and photographs; state map with district highlighted; staff members with titles and legislative responsibilities; all district offices with address, phone, fax, and staff; and leadership positions, committees, subcommittees and caucuses. In addition, detailed information on committees and members' congressional districts.

Congressional Yellow Book. Washington, DC: Washington Monitor, 1976-.

Brief biographies of members of Congress and specific details on legislative staff assignments in Washington and in their home districts. Directories of committees and subcommittees, including detailed information on legislative staff. Quarterly.

[Congressional Directory](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1888-.

Index to members of Congress, committees, staff and agencies. Searchable by keyword and browsable by state or section. Includes Congressional District maps, biographies, and committee assignments. Available online via GPO Access (from 105th Congress (1997-98) forward).

Judicial Branch Resources

Reported court decisions are an important source of law in the Anglo-American legal system. Court decisions are published in books called reporters. Different reporters are published for different courts. Digests serve as subject indexes to reporters, enabling researchers to find specific cases by legal issue. Citators such as *Shepard's* give up-to-date information on the status of cases. These three types of sources (case reporters, digests, and citators) must be used together to conduct thorough case law research. Public libraries often have neither the space nor the budget to maintain these services. Therefore, it is recommended that users with case law research be referred to local law libraries.

Court Decisions (i.e., Cases or Case Law)

- *U.S. Supreme Court Cases*

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United States Law Week. Washington, DC: Bureau of National Affairs, 1933-.

This publication (cited as U.S.L.W.) is a comprehensive source for current information on the Court's activities. Volume 1 includes the full-text of Supreme Court opinions. Volume 2 includes current cases and statutes from federal and state court and legislatures.

United States Reports. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1790-.

The official reporter for U.S. Supreme Court decisions (cited as U.S.). Cases are published first as bench opinions, then as slip opinions, then in advance sheets, and finally in bound volumes. The official Web site for the [U.S. Supreme Court](#) includes slip opinions and the full text bound volumes from volume 502 (1991) to the most current bound volume (which is volume 550 (2006) as of March 23, 2011).

United States Supreme Court Reports, Lawyers' Edition. Charlottesville, VA: LEXIS Law Publishing, 1997-.

This unofficial reporter (cited as L.Ed., L.Ed.2d) contains editorial summaries, headnotes, and annotations. It is kept up to date by advance reports, Later Case Service volumes, pocket parts and Interim Edition volumes.

West's Supreme Court Reporter. St. Paul, MN: West Group, 1988-.

Like the *Lawyers' Edition*, this unofficial reporter (cited as S.Ct.) contains editorial summaries and headnotes. It is kept up to date by advance sheets.

Supreme Court Cases on the Internet:

- [Cornell's Legal Information Institute \(LII\), Supreme Court Collection](#)
Includes U.S. Supreme Court decisions from 1990 forward and over 600 historic decisions. Finding aids include case name lists, topical lists, and authorship lists.
- [FindLaw's Supreme Court Opinions](#)
A searchable database of Supreme Court opinions since 1893. Browsable by year and U.S. Reports volume number and searchable by citation, case name and full text.
- [Lexis Communities Free Case Law](#)
Access U.S. Supreme Court cases from 1781 to present. LexisNexis headnotes are not included. May search by keywords or by citation. Must create an account (which is free) to view the full text of cases.

CHAPTER 8: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF FEDERAL LAW RESOURCES

- [OpenJurist](#)
A free legal research service which includes U.S. Supreme Court opinions from Volume 1 of the official *United State Reports*.
- [Oyez](#)
From 1792 forward. Oyez provides a summary of facts of the case, question(s) presented, and the Court's conclusion. Links to full text opinion provided by [Justia](#).
- [The Public Library of Law](#)
Powered by Fastcase. Free account registration required. U.S. Supreme Court cases from Volume 1 of the *United States Reports*. May search by case name or citation (no fields provided, just enter the citation/case name into the search box).

Other Supreme Court Internet Resources:

- [ABA's Preview of the United States Supreme Court Cases](#)
Provides links to the briefs filed in cases (both scheduled and unscheduled) from 2003-2004 forward. Supreme Court Preview includes articles that highlight cases from the current term. Following oral argument, the articles include links to commentary and to the Supreme Court's Argument Transcript.
- [Official U.S. Supreme Court Web Site](#)
Provides a wealth of information about the Court, its history, and its justices as well as information on pending cases and recent decisions. It includes a complete list of justices from 1789 to the present.
- [SCOTUS blog](#)
The law firm Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP publishes the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) blog. Read news, commentary and analysis as well as keep up to date on new filings, orders and opinions.
- [On the Docket](#)
On the Docket, part of the Oyez Project, is an online clearinghouse for news about decisions handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court and cases accepted for review. View summaries of upcoming cases and recently decided cases. There is also a Term Calendar and Timeline (where you can move forward or backward to see more content).

LOCATING THE LAW, FIFTH EDITION, 2011

The Oxford Guide to the United States Supreme Court Decisions, 2nd ed. Kermit Hall & James W. Ely. NY: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Each entry offers a full account of the case, the vote of the Justices, the legal and social background, the reasoning behind the Court's decision, and the case's impact on American society. Includes a glossary of terms, and the Supreme Court Justices' nominations, appointments and succession.

- ***U.S. Courts of Appeals Cases***

West's Federal Reporter. St. Paul: MN: West Group, 1993-.

Now in its third series (abbreviated F., F.2d, F.3d), this reporter contains selected decisions of the U.S. Courts of Appeals (from 1880) and is updated with advance sheets.

West's Federal Appendix. St. Paul, MN: West Group, 2001-.

This set (cited as F. App'x) includes Court of Appeals decisions not selected for publication in the *Federal Reporter*. Includes decisions from every circuit (except the 5th and 11th). Researchers need to determine for themselves whether these cases may be cited as precedent.

Courts of Appeals Cases on the Internet:

- [FindLaw's Federal Courts of Appeals Opinions](#)
Coverage varies by jurisdiction but earliest opinions are dated between 1994 and 1997. This page also includes a link to a page listing each court's official Web site.
- [Lexis Communities Free Case Law](#)
Users must create a free account to view cases from the U.S. Courts of Appeals. Limited to cases decided within the last 10 years.
- [OpenJurist](#)
Includes Courts of Appeals opinions published in the *Federal Reporter* from 1880 to present.
- [Public Library of Law](#)
Includes cases from the U.S. Courts of Appeals from 1950 to present (except for the 11th Circuit (from 1981) and the Federal Circuit (from 1982)). In advanced search, may search only one jurisdiction at a time.

CHAPTER 8: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF FEDERAL LAW RESOURCES

- ***U.S. District Court Cases***

West's Federal Supplement. St. Paul, MN: West Group, 1933-.

Now in its second series (cited as F. Supp., F. Supp. 2d), this reporter contains selected federal district court cases beginning in 1932. Like the other West reporters, it includes editorial summaries, headnotes with key numbers, and references to secondary sources.

West's Federal Rules Decisions. St. Paul, MN: West Group, 1940-.

Cited as F.R.D., this set contains U.S. District Court opinions dealing with procedural rules under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

District Court Internet Resources:

- [FindLaw's U.S. District Courts](#)
Provides links to official District Court Web sites which often contain recent opinions.
- [Justia's Federal District Court Filings & Dockets](#) and [Opinions & Orders](#)
May search by party name, by jurisdiction, lawsuit type, and limit by date case was filed. Browsable by state, nature of suit and case name. Cases available from 2004 to present.
- [PACER's County/District Locator](#)
Search for District and Circuit of federal courts by county name; search for all counties in a District; or search for details by county code.

- ***Other Federal Courts Resources***

[U.S. Courts' Court Locator](#)

An interactive federal court map which also allows searching for a court by zip code, city and state, area code, and type of court.

[Cornell's LII, Federal Law Materials - Judicial Opinions](#)

Scroll to the bottom of this page for links to the official Web sites of the lower federal courts—to statistical data and decisions by circuit and by state. Also provides links to U.S. Courts of Special Jurisdiction.

LOCATING THE LAW, FIFTH EDITION, 2011

Digests

United States Supreme Court Digest, 1754 to Date. St. Paul, MN: West Group, 1943-.

This subject index to U.S. Supreme Court cases is a companion to West's *Supreme Court Reporter*. Includes a descriptive word index, a table of cases, and references to West's Key Number system. Updated by pocket parts.

United States Supreme Court Digest, Lawyers' Edition. Charlottesville, VA: LEXIS Law Publishing, 1948-.

This subject index to U.S. Supreme Court cases is a companion to *U.S. Supreme Court Reports, Lawyers' Edition*. Organized by digest topics and includes Table of Cases volumes. Updated by pocket parts.

West's Federal Practice Digest, 4th. St. Paul, MN: West Group, 1989-.

This digest, which began as the *Federal Digest*, serves as a subject index to all federal courts. It includes a descriptive word index, references to West's Key Number system, a Table of Cases, and Words & Phrases volumes. Updated by pocket parts and supplementary pamphlets.

Citators

Shepard's Citations

Includes *Shepard's United States Citations*, *Shepard's Federal Citations*, *Shepard's Code of Federal Regulations Citations*, *Shepard's Administrative Citations*, *Shepard's Pacific Reporter Citations*, *Shepard's California Citations*, and many more (for a full list of titles, search the [LexisNexis Bookstore](#))

[Shepard's Citations in Print, Product Literature and Manuals](#)

Links to PDF documents: Editorial Analysis definitions, features and organization, and How to *Shepardize* in Print.

Internet Resources (fee based)

Note: Many public law libraries have public access subscriptions to Westlaw or LexisNexis which allow users to search these databases at no cost. Contact your local law library for availability (for contact information, see Appendix C of this publication or [Your Public Law Library's Find Your Nearest California County Law Libraries](#) Web page).

- [Westlaw by Credit Card](#)

CHAPTER 8: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF FEDERAL LAW RESOURCES

“The price of retrieving a document or KeyCite result varies, depending on the type of document. You will always be asked to confirm charges before your credit card is billed, and this prompt lists the price. Charges are applied monthly to the credit card you provided at registration.”

- o Georgetown Law Library, Free and Low Cost Legal Research on the Web, [Low-Cost Legal Databases](#)

Provides a list of lower-cost subscription legal databases, all of which include a “citor” service. The guide cautions: “these citators typically only provide a list of cases in which the citation appears. They do not include qualitative information, such as an indication that a particular case has received negative treatment. Westlaw and Lexis both provide this information through their Shepard's and Keycite services, and those services are available through the lower cost lexisONE and Westlaw by Credit Card.”

Judges

Almanac of the Federal Judiciary. Chicago, IL: LawLetters, 1984-.

Currently published by Aspen Publishers in loose-leaf format. Provides profiles of every federal judge including academic and professional background, experience on the bench, noteworthy rulings and commentary by lawyers. Two volumes per year—volume 1 covers district court judges, magistrates and bankruptcy judges; volume 2 covers circuit court judges.

American Bench: Judges of the Nation. Sacramento, CA: Forster-Long, 1977-.

Provides information on each court—location, jurisdiction, method of selecting judges, and maps of judicial divisions. It is arranged alphabetically by state—federal district court judges are profiled in the state section in which the judge presides. There are separate sections for the U.S. Supreme Court and federal Courts of Appeals.

[Biographical Directory of Federal Judges](#) (from the Federal Judicial Center)

This comprehensive database provides information about all judges who have served since 1789 and is updated daily. Search by name or browse using the alphabetical index. This page also includes a link to *The Federal Judges Biographical Database*, which one may use to create customized lists of judges based by multiple criteria, including nominating president, type of court, dates of service, and demographic groups.

LOCATING THE LAW, FIFTH EDITION, 2011

BNA's Directory of State and Federal Courts, Judges, and Clerks. Washington, DC: Bureau of National Affairs, 1992-.

Lists names, addresses, and telephone numbers for judges, clerks, and administrators at the top three levels of the state and federal judiciary. Annual.

Daily Journal's Judicial Profiles. Los Angeles, CA: Daily Journal Corporation, 1995-.

Offers profiles which ran in the Daily Journal legal newspaper and covers all judges, state and federal, sitting in California. Includes alphabetical and jurisdictional indexes. Loose-leaf.

Judicial Staff Directory. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 1986-.

Includes names, addresses, and telephone numbers for all federal judges and court staff. There are biographies for a select number of judges and judicial staff. Includes maps showing the jurisdiction of the district courts for each state. Biennial.

Judicial Yellow Book. New York, NY: Leadership Directories, 1995-.

Consists of two sections—one for the federal courts and one for state courts. Includes contact information for judges and court staff. Semiannual.

History & Statistics

[*Creating the Federal Judicial System*](#), 2nd ed. Russell R. Wheeler and Cynthia Harrison. Washington, DC: Federal Judicial Center, 1994.
Available online via GPO Access (34 page PDF).

History of the Federal Courts, 2nd ed. Erwin C. Surrency. Dobbs Ferry, NY: Oceana Publications, 2002.

[*U.S. Courts' Statistics*](#)

Reports include the *Annual Report of the Director: Judicial Business of the United States*, *Federal Court Management Statistics*, *Federal Judicial Caseload Statistics*, *Judicial Facts and Figures*, *Statistical Tables for the Federal Judiciary*, *Wiretap Reports* and several reports on bankruptcy.

[*U.S. Courts' History of Authorized Judgeships*](#)

Includes historical information on authorized judgeships for all courts and judgeship appointments by presidents since 1933.

Executive Branch Resources

Administrative Law

- *Federal Regulations*

Regulations promulgated by federal agencies are first published chronologically in a daily publication called the *Federal Register*. They are then arranged by subject in the *Code of Federal Regulations*.

Federal Register. Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Service, 1936-.

Includes proposed and final rules and regulations of federal agencies, agency notices, presidential documents of general applicability, and Sunshine Act meetings. Also include extensive preambles that explain the agency rationale for promulgating the regulatory changes and summarize the public comments on proposed rules. There is a monthly index, which cumulates references since the beginning of the year.

[Federal Register on GPO's FDsys](#) provides online access from 1994 (Volume 59) to the present. Database is updated daily by 6 a.m. and is published Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Also available is the unofficial prototype edition of the [Federal Register](#), which is somewhat more user-friendly.

Code of Federal Regulations. Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Service, 1949-.

The *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) is the codification of the general and permanent rules published in the *Federal Register* by the executive departments and agencies of the federal government. It is divided into 50 titles that represent the broad areas subject to federal regulation. Each title is divided into chapters, which usually begin with the name of the issuing agency. Chapters are divided into parts that cover specific regulatory areas. Each volume of the CFR is updated once each calendar year and is issued on a quarterly basis.

[Code of Federal Regulations on GPO's FDsys](#)

All titles are available from 1996 to the current year. CFR volumes are added to GPO's FDsys concurrent with the release of the paper editions. A

LOCATING THE LAW, FIFTH EDITION, 2011

list of agencies and where they appear in the CFR may be found in the Appendix of the [U.S. Government Manual](#).

[e-CFR](#)

e-CFR is a daily updated version of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR). It is an editorial compilation of CFR materials and *Federal Register* amendments.

[Code of Federal Regulation on Cornell's LII](#)

Links to the most recent version of the CFR placed on the Internet by the GPO. May retrieve sections by citation (title & section) or browse by title. There is also a link (on the right) to the LII index of all section headings, which is recommended as a first search.

- ***Administrative Decisions and Rulings***

Administrative agencies have quasi-judicial powers—they hold hearings and issue decisions involving specific parties. The publication pattern of agency decision varies by agency. In addition, there is no mandated and organized system for the publication of agency decisions. Some agencies publish all decisions, while others are more selective. Hence, commercial publishers are a major source of administrative decisions in their subject fields.

Loose-leaf services are available for heavily regulated areas such as tax (e.g., CCH's *Tax Court Reporter*), securities (e.g., CCH's *Federal Securities Law Reporter*), and labor (e.g., BNA's *Labor Relations Reporter*). Not only are loose-leaf publications usually very current (some are updated weekly), but they often contain relevant primary sources of law and some secondary materials in one publication. In addition to statutes, regulations, court cases and administrative agency decisions, they generally provide current awareness information such as news of proposed legislation and pending regulations. These services are often better indexed than the government publications and contain features to help you locate information.

To review a list of published agency decisions, see the following reference titles:

- *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*, 19th ed. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Law Review Association, 2010.

For a non-exclusive table of administrative agency and executive materials, see T1.2 at pages 218-228.

CHAPTER 8: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF FEDERAL LAW RESOURCES

- *Legal Looseleafs in Print*. New York, NY: InfoSources Pub., 1981-.
Check this publication to find out if there is a loose-leaf publication in a particular subject field.

[University of Virginia Library, Government Information Resources, Administrative Decisions & Other Actions—By Agency](#)

This page links to administrative actions that are outside the scope of the CFR or the FR. Alphabetical by agency and by subject.

Presidential Documents

The major legal documents issued by the President are executive orders and proclamations. Executive orders involve the exercise of presidential authority and do not have the force of law until they are printed in the [Federal Register](#). Proclamations usually involve announcements of policy and are often ceremonial. Nonetheless, proclamations have important legal significance such as when used to grant presidential pardons. Proclamations are also published in the [Federal Register](#).

Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States. Washington, DC: Federal Register Division, National Archives and Records Service, 1957-.

This series covers the administrations of Presidents Hoover, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Clinton, and George W. Bush. Currently, volumes are published approximately twice a year, and each volume covers approximately a 6-month period. Each Public Papers volume contains the papers and speeches of the President of the United States that were issued by the Office of the Press Secretary during the specified time period. The material is presented in chronological order, and the dates shown in the headings are the dates of the documents or events. Each Public Papers volume features a foreword signed by the President, and a portfolio of photographs selected from White House Photo Office files, as well as subject and name indexes, and a document categories list.

Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents. Washington, DC: Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, 1965-.

A companion to the *Public Papers* series, the *Weekly Compilation* was begun in 1965 to provide a broader range of Presidential materials on a timely basis to meet the needs of the contemporary reader. The appendices in each Public Papers volume provide listings of:

LOCATING THE LAW, FIFTH EDITION, 2011

- A digest of the President's daily schedule and meetings and other items of general interest issued by the Office of the Press Secretary;
- The President's nominations submitted to the Senate;
- A checklist of materials released by the Office of the Press Secretary; and
- A table of Proclamations, Executive Orders, and other Presidential documents released by the Office of the Press Secretary and published in the *Federal Register*.

Presidential Materials on the Internet:

- [White House Briefing Room's Presidential Actions](#)
Official proclamations, presidential memoranda, and executive orders that President Obama has issued since his inauguration.
- [FDsys' Compilation of Presidential Documents](#)
The Compilation of Presidential Documents collection consists of the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents and the Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents, which are the official publications of materials released by the White House Press Secretary. From 1993 to present.
- [FDsys' Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States](#)
Includes the papers of George H.W. Bush, William J. Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack H. Obama.
- [The American Presidency Project](#)
Established in 1999, this project is the result of a collaboration between John Woolley and Gerhard Peters at the University of California, Santa Barbara. The Document Archive contains over 86,000 documents related to the study of the presidency and includes the Messages and Papers of the Presidents (Washington to Taft, 1789-1913), The Public Papers of the President (Hoover to Bush, 1929-1993), as well as thousands of other documents such as party platforms, candidates' remarks, formal farewell addresses, and much more.
- [Codification of Presidential Proclamations and Executive Orders](#)
Via NARA. Provides access to the edited and re-arranged text of Presidential Proclamations and Executive Orders from April 13, 1945 to January 20, 1989. This page also includes a link to the [Executive Orders Disposition Tables](#), which begins with E.O. 7532, January 8, 1937 to present, and includes title, signature date, *Federal Register* citation, and

CHAPTER 8: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF FEDERAL LAW RESOURCES

detailed history of amendments and revocations.

Other Executive Branch Resources

[Federal Agency Directory](#) (via Louisiana State University Libraries)

Lists current/active/existing U.S. federal government agencies as represented in the *U.S. Government Manual*. No annotation provided. The index is searchable by agency keyword only. Note that this index is for people who already know what agency they are looking for, but do not know the URL.

Federal Regulatory Directory. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly, 1979/80-.

Now in its 14th edition, this directory includes profiles of more than 100 federal agencies and departments, including contact information, structure, and current issues.

Federal Staff Directory. Mount Vernon, VA: Congressional Staff Directory, Ltd., 1982-.

Contains listings from the White House offices, offices of the Vice President, agencies of the executive office of the President, presidential advisory organizations, executive departments, independent agencies, quasi-official international and non-governmental organizations and federal executive biographies. Published three times a year.

Federal Yellow Book. Washington, DC: Washington Monitor, 1976-.

Contact information for over 45,000 U.S. federal positions located within the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Quarterly publication.

[United States Government Manual](#). Washington, DC: Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Service, 1973/74-.

Provides comprehensive information on the agencies of the federal government. Also includes information on quasi-official agencies, international organizations in which the U.S. participates, boards, commissions, and committees. Includes citations to statutes under which the agencies operate and organizational charts. The *Manual* includes the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. GPO's FDsys includes editions of the *Manual* from 1995-96 forward.

[USA.gov's A-Z Index of U.S. Government Departments and Agencies](#)

Alphabetical (and hyperlinked) list of federal agencies.

Washington Information Directory. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 1975/76-.

Includes information on groups (e.g., lobbyists and nonprofits), contact information for Congress and federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, policy groups, foundations, and institutions, governors and other state officials, and U.S. and foreign diplomats. Annual.

Reference Sources

General Reference

Publications.U.S.A.gov

Formerly called the Federal Citizen Information Center (FCIC), this site provides a one-stop source for answers to questions about consumer problems and government services.

Washington Information Directory. Washington D.C.: CQ Press, 1975/76-.

Annual publication which includes information on groups (e.g., lobbyists and nonprofits), contact information for Congress and federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, policy groups, foundations, and institutions, governors and other state officials, and U.S. and foreign diplomats.

Research Guides

- *Print*

Basic Legal Research: Tools and Strategies, 4th ed. Amy E. Sloan (Aspen, 2009)

Finding the Law, 13th ed. Robert C. Berring & Elizabeth A. Edinger (Thomson West, 2009)

Fundamentals of Legal Research, 9th ed. Steven M. Barken, Roy M. Mersky, & Donald J. Dunn (Foundation Press, 2009)

Legal Research in a Nutshell, 10th ed. Morris L. Cohen and Kent C. Olsen (West, 2010).

The Process of Legal Research, 7th ed. Christina L. Kunz et al. (Aspen Pub., 2008).

CHAPTER 8: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF FEDERAL LAW RESOURCES

Specialized Legal Research. Penny A. Hazelton, ed. (Aspen Law & Business, 1987-). This one volume loose-leaf publication includes chapters on securities regulation, the uniform commercial code, federal income taxation, copyright law, federal labor and employment law, environmental law and land use planning, admiralty and maritime law, immigration law, military and veterans law, banking law, federal patent and trademark law, federal government contracts, and customs law.

- *Legal Research Guides on the Internet*

[Cornell University Law Library's Legal Research Engine](#)

Offers a specialized search engine to help researchers find authoritative legal research guides. In 2008, the InSITE search was added, which allows users to search over 1,000 law-related Web sites that have been vetted by law librarians. Users can also limit their search to academic blawgs.

GlobalLex's [A Guide to the U.S. Federal Legal System: Web-Based Publicly Accessible Sources](#) (updated October 2010)

Written by Gretchen Feltes, Faculty Services/Reference Librarian at New York University School of Law Library.

[Law Library of Congress' Guide to Law Online, U.S. Federal Research Help](#)

Includes several guides related to federal law, including guides to the United States Constitution, the United States Executive, the United States Judiciary, United States Legislative, Criminal Justice System, Elections, and the United States Legal System.

Marion Gould Gallagher Law Library, University of Washington School of Law, [U.S. \(Federal\) Law Legal Research Guides](#)

Includes guides to U.S. Administrative Law, Constitutional Clauses & Their Nicknames, Court Briefs and Oral Arguments, Federal Legislative History, Judicial Branch Publications, Reporters and Digests, and Statutory Research Checklist.

UCLA Law Library's list of [Federal Law Research Guides](#)

Includes the following guides: Federal Administrative Law, Federal Case Materials Checklist, Federal Legislative History, Federal Tax Research, Finding Federal Statutes, and Online Legal Research: Beyond LexisNexis and Westlaw.

[U.S. Senate's Reference page, "How to" guides](#)

This page links to several guides that help explain how to find materials related to the Senate and the legislative process. The short essays are clearly written and provide links to online sources. Guides include how to research the collections of former Senators, how to find the U.S. Code, how to find committee hearings, how to find books, and much more.

- *Guides highlighting free & low-cost legal resources on the Internet*

[Georgetown's Free & Low-Cost Legal Research Guide](#)

This guide provides links to free online legal materials (federal as well as state). At the end of the guide, there is a summary of the features and costs of lower cost databases, including Caselex, Casemaker, Fastcase, lexisOne, Loislaw, VersusLaw, and Westlaw).

[Pace Law School Library's Fee & Low-Cost Resources for Legal Information](#)

Located in New York State, Pace Law Library's guide includes many links to New York resources as well as the federal law materials.

[UCLA Law Library's Online Legal Research: Beyond LexisNexis & Westlaw](#)

This guide links to a wide variety of free (and low cost) online legal research sources: federal law, California law, local government law, research guides, dictionaries and directories, free legal forms, and legal news and blogs.



List of Internet Sites Cited in this Chapter

United States Constitution:

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/anncon/>

<http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution.html>

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/continental/>

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/constpap.asp

Legislative Branch Materials:

- *Finding Aids*

CHAPTER 8: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF FEDERAL LAW RESOURCES

Act by Popular Name Tables:

<http://uscode.house.gov/popularnames/popularnames.htm>

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/topn/>

Catalog of U.S. Government Publications:

<http://catalog.gpo.gov/F>

Federal Depository Library Directory:

<http://catalog.gpo.gov/fdlpdir/FDLPdir.jsp>

<http://www.gpo.gov/libraries/>

- *Statutes & Codes*

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collectionUSCode.action?collectionCode=USCODE>

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/>

<http://uscode.house.gov/search/criteria.shtml>

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=STATUTE>

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=PLAW>

- *Bills & Resolutions*

<http://thomas.loc.gov>

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=BILLS>

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwhbsb.html>

- *Legislative History Resources*

Compiled Legislative Histories:

<http://www.heinonline.org> (subscription required)

<http://www.llsdc.org/sourcebook/>

<http://www.llsdc.org/elec-leg-hist-docs/>

GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys): <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/home.action>

Congressional Calendars:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=CCAL>

U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1789-1875, American Memory, Library of Congress: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lawhome.html>

Thomas (<http://thomas.loc.gov>):

Congressional Record: <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/LegislativeData.php?&n=Record>

Committee Reports: <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/LegislativeData.php?n=Reports>

LOCATING THE LAW, FIFTH EDITION, 2011

Committee Prints:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=CPRT>

Committee Documents:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=CDOC>

Serial Set:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/home.action> (links to Documents & Reports)

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwsp.html> (American State Papers)

<http://www.conferencereport.gpoaccess.gov/>

Hearings:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=CHRG>

<http://lawlibrary.rutgers.edu/gdoc/search.shtml>

- ***Federal Government News Sources***

http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Reference_Shelf/News.shtml

<http://pueblo.gsa.gov/>

<http://www.senate.gov/galleries/>

<http://www.house.gov/house/mediagallery.shtml>

<http://www.govtrack.us/>

<http://www.capitolhearings.org>

<http://www.capitolspotlight.org/>

- ***Directories***

<http://bioguide.congress.gov/biosearch/biosearch.asp>

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=CDIR>

Judicial Branch Materials:

- ***Court Decisions***

U.S. Supreme Court:

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

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/>

<http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.html>

<http://www.oyez.org/cases>

<http://supreme.justia.com>

<http://www.lexisone.com/caselaw/freecaselaw>

<http://www.plol.org/Pages/Search.aspx>

http://www.americanbar.org/publications/preview_home.html

<http://www.oyez.org/aggregator/sources/1>

<http://www.scotusblog.com/wp/>

CHAPTER 8: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF FEDERAL LAW RESOURCES

Courts of Appeals & District Courts:

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

<http://dockets.justia.com/>

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

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/federal/opinions.html>

http://www.findlaw.com/10fedgov/judicial/district_courts.html

<http://www.lexisone.com/lx1/caselaw/freecaselaw?action=FCLDisplayCaseSearchForm&l1loc=L1ED&tcode=PORTAL>

<http://www.plol.org/Pages/Search.aspx>

- *Citators*

<http://bookstore.lexis.com/bookstore/catalog>

<http://www.publiclawlibrary.org/find.html>

<http://creditcard.westlaw.com/>

<http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/freelowcost.cfm#lowcost>

- *Judges*

<http://www.fjc.gov/public/home.nsf/hisj>

- *History & Statistics*

<http://purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS53770>

<http://www.uscourts.gov/Statistics.aspx>

<http://www.uscourts.gov/JudgesAndJudgeships/AuthorizedJudgeships.aspx>

Executive Branch Materials:

- Federal Register:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=FR>

<http://www.federalregister.gov>

- Code of Federal Regulations:

<http://www.gpo.gov/searchwebapp/browse/collectionCfr.action?collectionCode=CFR>

<http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov>

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/>

- Presidential Materials:

<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/>

<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/disposition.html>

http://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing_room/PresidentialActions/

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=CPD>

<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/index.php>

<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/>

LOCATING THE LAW, FIFTH EDITION, 2011

- Other Resources:

<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/gov/index.html>

http://www.usa.gov/Agencies/Federal/All_Agencies/index.shtml

http://www2.lib.virginia.edu/govtinfo/fed_decisions_agency.html

Reference Sources:

- *General Reference*

<http://publications.usa.gov/USAPubs.php>

- *Research Guides*

General Guides:

<http://library.lawschool.cornell.edu/WhatWeDo/ResearchGuides/CLL-Legal-Research-Engine.cfm>

http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/United_States1.htm

<http://www.loc.gov/law/help/guide/federal.php>

http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/reference/b_three_sections_with_teasers/howto.htm

Guides Highlighting Free & Low-Cost Legal Resources:

<http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/freelowcost.cfm>

<http://libraryguides.law.pace.edu/free>

<http://libguides.law.ucla.edu/onlinelegalresearch>