

Foreword

Lawyers are the only persons in whom ignorance of the law is not punished.

--Jeremy Bentham

The Southern California Association of Law Libraries (SCALL) Public Access to Legal Information (PALI) Committee is charged with providing consulting services and related educational programs to public and other non-law libraries offering open access to legal information.

Public access to legal information is extremely important in today's rapidly changing legal environment. In recognition of the public's need to know their legal rights and how statutes, administrative regulations, and judicial cases affect their lives, SCALL is pleased to present the sixth edition of *Locating the Law: A Handbook for Non-Law Librarians*, 2018. This publication is not a substitute for a detailed legal research guide or for the advice of a licensed attorney. Instead, *Locating the Law* is intended to provide basic information about California and federal legal materials: what they are, how they are organized, and how to find and use them.

The sixth edition of *Locating the Law* is available free-of-charge on the SCALL Web site. For economic and environmental reasons, the publication is no longer produced in print format. Links are included throughout the publication, and Web site addresses are provided for most of the materials in a sources-cited section at the end of each chapter. Thus, an online version of the guide facilitates accessing the materials referenced because they are linked. As used in this handbook, Internet access generally means publicly, electronically available. When commercially available Internet services are described, they are identified as fee-based services.

As a law librarian for over ten years, I have trained attorneys in the use of legal databases such as Westlaw and Lexis. In addition, I have taught legal research and writing to paralegal students for approximately fifteen years. I know the importance that basic information plays in enabling researchers to find the law. *Locating the Law* will continue to serve paralegals, law students, legal administrators, law firm support staff, attorneys and others as that foundational first stepping stone into what can be a confusing maze of materials. The editor and authors hope the sixth edition will continue to be an important resource for locating legal information.

Readers with questions, comments, or suggestions for revisions may contact the PALI

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