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Recommended Citation

Roger Williams University School of Law Library, "Law Library Briefs" (2005). *Law Library Newsletters/Blog*. 28.

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Law Library Briefs

Roger Williams University School of Law Library



No. 22, August, 2005

Law Library Academic Support

The Law Library staff welcomes all new and returning students. We wish you much success in your academic endeavors while you are attending the law school. In order to help you with your law school studies, the Law Library provides various materials and services which serve as academic support for our students. Here are a few examples:

☞ The Collection Services staff works to purchase, catalog, and process a variety of study aids on substantive areas of law such as the hornbooks and nutshells published by Thomson/West, the *Examples and Explanations* series published by Aspen Law & Business, and the Matthew Bender “*Understanding ...*” series. There generally are multiple copies of the more popular items with the current editions located on Reserve and the previous editions shelved in the stacks.

☞ The Course Reserves contain past exams (sometimes accompanied by answers!) given by regular and adjunct faculty. It is at the discretion of the individual professor whether to put past exams on Reserve. To determine which exams are on Reserve, check the Law Library’s WebCatalog by

course or by professor or inquire at the Circulation Desk.

☞ Thelma Dzialo processes inter-library loan requests for items not located in the Law Library’s collection nor available electronically. Request forms are available at the Circulation Desk.

☞ A useful study aid given to entering first year students is a CALICD-ROM. CALI (Computerized Assisted Legal Instruction) tutorials are designed to test your knowledge of legal concepts in nearly thirty areas of the law. CALI’s more than 270 tutorials are also accessible to law school students via the web at <http://www2.cali.org>. You must register at the CALI web site for individual access to these lessons. Ask the Librarian on duty at the Reference Desk for the law school’s authorization code.

☞ During the academic year, librarians are available to provide you with reference/research assistance. We offer explanations of the process of legal research, show you how to use a particular tool or database, make suggestions about research strategy, and assist you in tracking down items which are not on the shelf.

☞ Our *TimeSavers* research guide series and the *Law Library Briefs* newsletters contain articles highlighting print and electronic resources of the Law Library and tips on legal research. They are available from the Law Library’s web site under the heading “Research Guides.” If you have a topic that you would like to read more about in *Law Library Briefs* or be the subject of a *TimeSavers* research guide, please contact Nan Balliot in the Law Library.

☞ We try to maintain the Law Library as a quiet, clean place for you to do your work and conduct legal research. Most folks need quiet in order to concentrate on the task at hand and the Law Library strives to maintain a reasonable level of quiet. We appreciate your efforts in helping us to accomplish this goal!. For those students who like to discuss with their colleagues the concepts learned in class or prepare for their moot court presentation or mock trial, there are a number of study rooms with chalkboards. In addition to the Law Library as a place to study, we maintain computers, printers, and photocopiers for your use. Staff are available to troubleshoot PC problems.

Resources for Researching Substantive Areas of Law

In addition to the generic legal research texts available in the Law Library's collection, there are a variety of texts for researching a particular subject or jurisdiction. These specialized research texts are located in Reference, in Reserve or in the stacks. These research guides are generally authored by academic or firm law librarians. Items may include pertinent primary and secondary authorities, references to LexisNexis and Westlaw databases, subscription services, internet web sites, and contact information for organizations.

Specialized Legal Research edited by Penny Hazelton (Reference, KF240 .S69 1987 -) is a detailed research guide to thirteen subject areas: securities regulation, 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, government contracts, and customs law.

For those of you who need some guidance on how to research federal tax, rejoice as the Law Library's collection has several publications to assist you! Among them are *Federal Tax Research: Guide to Materials and Techniques*, 6th edition by Gail Levin Richmond (Reserve, KF241 .T38 R5 2002); *Tax Research*, 2d

edition by Barbara H. Karlin (Stacks, KF241 .T38 K37 2003); and *West's Federal Tax Research*, 6th edition by William A. Raabe et al. (Stacks, KF241 .T38 R33 2003). These guides offer guidance on researching the code and regulations, finding agency rulings, updating your research, and locating specialized publications of the I.R.S. They also incorporate the use of electronic and print resources.

If you are lucky, even when your topic is not listed above, a search of the Law Library's WebCatalog could yield a research guide devoted exclusively to your subject. Available in the Law Library's Reference collection are research guides covering various topics. One source of these guides is the *Legal Research Guides* series published by William S. Hein and Company. Volumes 11 through Volumes 47 are shelved by their call number in Reference. To view the individual titles in this series, search the Law Library's WebCatalog by title "**Legal Research Guides.**"



Microforms: Presidential Materials

For those who need to research historical presidential materials, the Law Library's Microforms collection contains two major sets of note.

A Compilation of the Messages and Papers of the Presidents by James D. Richardson includes in-

augural addresses, proclamations, annual and special messages, and executive orders, as well as other general publications of Presidents George Washington through Woodrow Wilson (1789 - 1918). It is filed by volume number in the Micrographics Room under the heading "Messages and Papers of the Presidents" and is located in Cabinet 5, Drawer 4 (against the left wall). The public papers of Presidents Herbert Hoover through George Bush, Jr. are shelved in the J82 call number range.

The CIS (Congressional Information Service) *Presidential Executive Orders & Proclamations on Microfiche* set is filed in Cabinet 6, Drawer 2 (against the left wall). This set contains the full text of Proclamations and Presidential Orders of Presidents George Washington through Ronald Reagan (1789 - 1983). The Presidential Orders and Proclamations are filed chronologically by year and numerically by CIS accession number. The Law Library has the multi-volume *CIS Index to Presidential Executive Orders and Proclamations* to enable the researcher to search the microfiche set by subject, organizations, and personal names. This index is located on the low shelving in front of the legal periodicals stacks. The *Federal Register Index* provides access to Executive Orders and Proclamations issued after 1983.

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