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Legal Beagle Blog (February 2010)

Roger Williams University School of Law Library

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Legal Beagle's Blog

The Restatements

Posted by Library Blog on 02/04/2010 at 12:00 AM

During your study of courses your professors might mention or you might read references to the *Restatements*. The *Restatements* are a project of the [American Law Institute](#). Founded in 1923, the American Law Institute is comprised of leading lawyers, judges, and law professors who draft, discuss, revise, and publish the *Restatements*, model statutes and principles of law that are influential in the courts and legislatures.

The *Restatement* sets are an attempt to provide a “restatement” of the general principles of the common law on various subjects such as agency, conflict of laws, contracts, property, restitution, torts, and trusts. Each general principle or rule is followed by a hypothetical illustrating applications of the principle. Each rule is also accompanied by the Reporter’s Notes which provide background information on the development of the rule. Accompanying annotations cite court decisions, statutes, and secondary sources both in support and contrary to the rule.

The *Restatements* are shelved in the low shelves in front of the stacks located to the left as you enter the Law Library. The *Restatements* are available on LexisNexis and Westlaw.

Spotlight on CCH Intelliconnect

Posted by Library Blog on 02/10/2010 at 12:00 AM

A representative from CCH will be available in the Main Computer Lab on Wednesday, February 24 between 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. to offer quick demos of and answer questions about CCH Intelliconnect.

CCH (Commerce Clearing House) has been a leading legal publisher since 1913. CCH Intelliconnect provides numerous virtual “mini” research libraries on a range of law topics that are handled by solo and law firm practitioners. Under each topic, the researcher has access to the full text or summaries of pertinent statutes, case law and agency regulations and decisions as well as scholarly and expert analysis and relevant practice tools. Unlike free web resources, the information is updated and enhanced 24/7 with the latest primary source materials and analysis of developments in the law.

Follow Legal News and Developments from Around the Globe with the Global Legal Monitor!

Posted by Library Blog on 02/17/2010 at 12:00 AM

The Global Legal Monitor is an online publication of the [Law Library of Congress](#). It covers legal news and developments worldwide and is updated frequently. Information contained in the Global Legal Monitor is derived from official national legal publications, press sources and the [Library of Congress Global Legal Information Network](#). The Library of Congress Global Legal Information Network is a public database of official texts of laws, regulations, and judicial decisions.

Articles in the Global Legal Monitor date back to 2006 and are searchable searched by topic, jurisdiction, keyword, or author. There is the option to restrict searches by date. An RSS feed is available.

Researching State Courts' Rules!

Posted by Library Blog on 02/25/2010 at 12:00 AM

For law students and lawyers alike, many will have frequent need to research the rules for a particular court such as a district or superior court in the case of civil litigation or a criminal trial. Appellate work requires expert knowledge of the appellate court's rules.

Court rules may be published in the state's statutory code, in separate pamphlets, or in the state case reports. For example, the big green pamphlet *Rhode Island Court Rules Annotated* (Stacks and Reserve, KFR30 .1956 .A21 2009) contains rules for the Supreme, Superior, District, Family, Workers' Compensation, and Traffic Tribunal Courts. In addition to the text of the Rules, there may be Committee Notes/Reporter's Notes/Compiler's Notes (offering a "legislative history" of the Rule), notes to decisions and American Law Reports references where applicable. The "Notes" typically indicate an adoption of a federal rule or a variation to the federal rule (i.e. civil, criminal, and evidence) and might contain references to case law that prompted a revision to the Rule.

[LLRX.com](#) offers links to websites where [states' court rules](#) are posted. A state government, state bar association, or Court website may provide court rules. Court rules are also available on LexisNexis and Westlaw.

For help in interpreting the rules, materials on state civil and criminal practice are often good sources. They may be in the form of a continuing legal education publication, a scholarly treatise, or part of a state practice set. Ask a Reference Librarian for assistant in locating these publications.

