

Roger Williams University

DOCS@RWU

Law Library Newsletters/Blog

Law Library

3-2020

Law Library Blog (March 2020): Legal Beagle's Blog Archive

Roger Williams University School of Law

Follow this and additional works at: https://docs.rwu.edu/law_lib_newsblog



Part of the [Law Librarianship Commons](#), [Legal Education Commons](#), [Legal Writing and Research Commons](#), [Other Legal Studies Commons](#), [Other Political Science Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

March 2020 Library Blogs

Legal Beagle's Post

March 13, 2020

Can't Come to the Library? Library Resources Can Come to You!

March 13, 2020



Students have been given an additional spring break week this year (YAY!) and will move to online classes starting the week of March 23. Since you're not on campus, you might be wondering – how will I get information I need from the library?

- [Digital Resources!](#)
- [Study Aids Guides and eBook Study Resources](#)
- [Ask a Librarian!](#)
- Expanded Document Delivery!

The [Digital Resources](#) page provides easy access to all of the library's vast array of research options available in digital format. From materials supporting maritime research ([American Maritime Cases](#)), to Immigration research ([ailalink](#)), to legislative history ([ProQuest Congressional](#) and [HeinOnline](#)), the resources are there to for you wherever you are.

As you are studying, you have access to eBook resources from the [Lexis Study Aids](#) (the Mastering series, the Q&A series, the Understanding series), the [West Academic Online Study Aids Library](#) (the Nutshells, the Short & Happy series, the Exam Pro series, the Acing series), and the [Wolters Kluwer Online Study Aids Library](#) (the Examples & Explanations series, Glannon Guides, Inside series). Not certain what titles might be helpful? The library's [Study Aids Guides](#) page, provides guides by class with information on the resources available by preferred learning style.

If you need assistance using these resources or have any research question, the staff of the library is here to help RWU Law students, faculty, and staff. All of the contact information is on the [Ask a Librarian](#) page. We're happy to take your questions by chat, email, or phone call. The hope is to continue staffing the library Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00, until the situation returns to normal.

We also know that not everything is available in digital format. If it is available in the law library, the library is temporarily expanding document delivery to include providing necessary copies from the collection.

March 20, 2020

What is a US Territory?

March 20, 2020



According to the US Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, an [insular area](#) is a "jurisdiction that is neither a part of one of the several States nor a Federal district. This is the current generic term to refer to any commonwealth, freely associated state, possession or territory or Territory."

This generic term encompasses:

1. Any commonwealth
2. Any freely associated state
3. Any possession
4. Any territory
5. Any Territory

Well, that didn't exactly clear things up much.

To dig deeper, a [commonwealth](#) is an insular area “which has established with the Federal Government, a more highly developed relationship, usually embodied in a written mutual agreement. Currently, two United States insular areas are *commonwealths*: the Northern Mariana Islands and Puerto Rico. A United States insular area from April 11, 1899, the Philippine Islands achieved *commonwealth* status on March 24, 1934 (Public Law 73-127), and remained as such until the United States recognized the Philippine Islands' independence and sovereignty as of July 4, 1946.”

A [freely associated state](#) is an insular area with a status which “recognizes an island government as a sovereign, self-governing state with the capacity to conduct foreign affairs consistent with the terms of [the Compact](#). The Compact places full responsibility for military defense with the United States. The basic relationship of free association continues indefinitely; the economic provisions of the Compact are subject to renegotiation at the end of 15 years.” Examples of freely associated states are the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

A [possession](#) is a term for an insular area which has gone out of style. The Office of Insular Affairs website describes it as equivalent to a territory.

A [territory](#) (notice the little t) is an insular area which is unincorporated area. “There are currently thirteen, three in the Caribbean (Navassa Island, Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands) and ten in the Pacific (American Samoa, Baker Island, Guam, Howland Island, Jarvis Island, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Midway Atoll, the Northern Mariana Islands and Wake Atoll).”

A [Territory \(big T\)](#) is an insular area which is incorporated. At this time “only one exists currently, Palmyra Atoll. With an area of 1.56 square miles, Palmyra consists of about fifty small islands and lies approximately one thousand miles south of Honolulu.”

While those definitions are helpful, it can also be helpful to read the text of the laws, executive orders, and compacts which discuss the terms of these relationships. Fortunately, the [text of these can be found online](#). For more information about the individual insular areas, [see this page](#).

