

Law Library and Internet Resources

Finding Books on Federal, State and Municipal Law

Suggested [Catalog](#) Search Tips:

Law Reports
US Constitution
US Supreme Court, or District Courts
North Carolina Statutes
Federal Law
Specific categories of legal practice: Trial /litigation, real estate, family law, etc.
Specific laws: capital punishment, firearms law, intellectual property, controlled substances, civil liberties, children's rights, etc.
Legal Forms
Jurisprudence
Municipal Code

Browse the shelves:

K General Law
KB Religious Law
KD-KDK Law in UK & Ireland
KDZ Law: North America
KE Law: Canada
KF Law: United States
KFN Law: North Carolina
KH Law: South America
KJ-KKZ Law: Europe
KL-KWX Law: Asia, Eurasia, African, Pacific Area & Antarctica
KZ Law of Nations

Periodicals:

North Carolina Law Review: a University of North Carolina School of Law student-operated journal serving judges, attorneys, scholars, and students by publishing outstanding legal scholarship. Through its collaboration with the legal community, the *Review* provides timely and thought-provoking commentary for the people of North Carolina and the nation (*currently received in the Cato Law Library*).

North Carolina State Bar Journal: a highly respected quarterly magazine which contains a wide range of articles covering everything from law office technology to professionalism and *pro bono* work. In addition, the *Journal* contains timely information of interest to North Carolina lawyers such as State Bar Ethics opinions, disciplinary actions, rule amendments, and State Bar Committee actions (*currently received in the Cato Law Library*).

National Paralegal Reporter: a bi-monthly, high quality, full-color magazine mailed to NFPA (National Federation of Paralegal Association) members. Circulation also includes paralegal educators, state and local bar associations, and other legal professionals. The *Reporter* offers in-depth feature articles on timely topics such as Paralegal Roles and Choosing Vendors, how-to articles providing readers with practical information that can be directly applied to their careers, and legal updates providing information that affects the paralegal profession such as case law, legislation, and technology education (*currently received in the Cato Law Library*).

Reference Books:

Each branch, or level, of the legal system has its own specific materials. Remember, there are the 3 branches of government—Judicial, Legislative and Executive, and then there are different levels and types of law attached to each one:

The Federal Government

What: Judicial Branch	What: Legislative Branch	What: Executive Branch
Who: US Supreme Court Legal Product: Opinions/Decisions – Case Law ¹	Who: Senate & House of Representatives Legal Product: United States Code United States Statutes	Who: President Legal Product: Code of Federal Regulations
Who: US Courts of Appeals Legal Product: Opinions/Decisions-Case Law		
Who: US District Courts* Legal Product: Opinions/Decisions-Case Law <i>*The 94 U. S. judicial districts are organized into 12 regional circuits, each of which has a U. S. court of appeals.</i>		

Remember, the whole configuration is repeated 50 more times at the state level; then you have municipal codes as well.

For example, Cato Law Library has the following reporters and digests for finding federal case law:

- **Supreme Court Reporter¹:** contains the opinions/decisions of the U.S Supreme Court – Case Law¹
- **West’s Federal Practice Digest:** Case law arranged alphabetically by topic for each volume in the set (for example, *Double Jeopardy to Drugs & Narcotics*), and provides case holdings and full case citations, so the researcher can find the case law in the Reporter¹.

These types of reporters and digests (case finders) are published for Federal, Regional, and State case law. **Law students must always locate the actual written opinion—never rely on what is published in the digests (or indexes or citators) for the text of the cases.**

The Cato Law Library also has legal encyclopedias, such as *American Jurisprudence* and *Corpus Juris Secundum*, and legal dictionaries. Those resources work just like any encyclopedia and/or dictionary.

Library Databases:

[Research Databases](#) > Browse databases by name with the **A – Z List**

Westlaw : Westlaw is the premier legal research database with access to thousands of statutes, case law materials, public records, and other resources. [Note: Westlaw requires a separate password. If you do not have a password, ask a library staff member to log you in.]

Websites:

For a list of CCCC Library recommended websites on a *variety of topics* visit our recommended websites [page](#).

[United States Code](#) (aka Code of Federal Regulations)

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/index.html>

The United States Code is the codification by subject matter of the general and permanent laws of the United States. It is divided by broad subjects into 50 titles (such as *Business Credit and Assistance* or *Conservation of Power and Water Resources* or *Postal Service*) and published by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the U.S. House of Representatives. Since 1926, the United States Code has been published every six years. In between editions, annual cumulative supplements are published in order to present the most current information. Documents are available only as ASCII text files.

[Library of Congress - Thomas](#)

http://thomas.loc.gov/home/abt_thom.html

THOMAS was launched in January of 1995, at the inception of the 104th Congress. The leadership of the 104th Congress directed the Library of Congress to make federal legislative information freely available to the public. Since that time THOMAS has expanded the scope of its offerings to include the features and content listed below:

- Bills, Resolutions
- Activity in Congress
- Congressional Record
- Schedules, Calendars
- Committee Information
- Presidential Nominations
- Treaties
- Government Resources

The link above opens an "About" page, which explains each content category and how it is organized for searching.

General Library Resources:

Help-

[Ask a CCCC Librarian](#) – call or email questions to a CCCC Librarian

[NCKnows](#) - 24/7 "online chat" research help from NC Librarians

Research Tools –

[Library Tutorials](#) - self-paced learning on doing library research

[How to write and cite in MLA and APA](#)

[Dr. Cite Right](#) – short and fun tutorial with plagiarism help