

# WebJD? Tips & Tricks for Cost-Effective, Reliable Online Legal Research

INDIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION: 2021 PARALEGAL SYMPOSIUM APRIL 29, 2021

# Roadmap

### **Primary Sources**

- Statutes
- Cases
- Regulations & administrative materials

### **Secondary Sources**

- Law reviews & journals
- Blogs
- Legal definitions and explanations

Additional Resources & Tips



# Primary Sources

STATUTES& CONSTITUTIONS | CASES | ADMINISTRATIVE MATERIALS

# Federal Statutes & Legislation

### United States Code

- uscode.house.gov
- Search or browse current U.S.C.
- Features:
  - Popular Names Table
  - Advanced search
  - Archived versions
- Note: U.S. Code can be browsed back to 1994 on GovInfo – authenticated version

### Statutes at Large

- govinfo.gov/app/ collection/statute
- Search or browse,1951-2011
  - Post-2011, see Congress.gov
- Features:
  - Lists by popular name, bill number, etc.
  - Authenticated

### Legislation

- congress.gov
- Search or browse current legislation and legislative materials
- Features:
  - Easy bill tracking
  - Committee reports
  - Authenticated



Popular Name Tool

Other Tables and Tools

Understanding the Code

Positive Law Codification

Editorial Reclassification

Downloads

govinfo

CONGRESS.GOV

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Search & Browse	The United States Code is a consolidation and codification by subject matter				
Currency and Updating	Counsel of the United States House of Representatives. Fo	16	[Print]	[Print selection]	
Classification Tables	Search the United States Code		( <u>- 1111</u> )	( <u>- 11112 00100110111</u> )	

J	Current		~	
	<< Previous	TITLE 17 / CHAPTER 2 / § 201	Next >>	_

Current or archived versions

Print]	[Print selection]	[Close

### 17 USC 201: Ownership of copyright

Text contains those laws in effect on April 25, 2021

#### From Title 17-COPYRIGHTS

CHAPTER 2-COPYRIGHT OWNERSHIP AND TRANSFER

#### Jump To:

Go

Source Credit Miscellaneous Amendments Effective Date

Statutory history information

### Browse the United States Code [ Current change ... ]

Section

Front Matter

Jump To:

- ★ Title 1—General Provisions
- ★ Title 3—The President

- ⊞ Title 6—Domestic Security
- ★ Title 7—Agriculture

- ★ Title 10—Armed Forces
- ★Title 11—Bankruptcy; and Appendix
- ∃ Title 12—Banks And Banking
- \*Title 14—Coast Guard
- ⊞ Title 15—Commerce And Trade

- ⊕ \*Title 18—Crimes And Criminal Procedure; and Appendix
- ∏ Title 20—Education
- ∏ Title 21—Food And Drugs

### §201. Ownership of copyright

- (a) INITIAL OWNERSHIP.-Copyright in a work protected under this title vests initially in the author or authors of the \*Title 5—Government Organization And Employees; and Appendix work. The authors of a joint work are coowners of copyright in the work.
  - (b) Works Made for Hire. In the case of a work made for hire, the employer or other person for whom the work was prepared is considered the author for purposes of this title, and, unless the parties have expressly agreed otherwise in a written instrument signed by them, owns all of the rights comprised in the copyright.
  - (c) CONTRIBUTIONS TO COLLECTIVE WORKS.-Copyright in each separate contribution to a collective work is distinct from copyright in the collective work as a whole, and vests initially in the author of the contribution. In the absence of an express transfer of the copyright or of any rights under it, the owner of copyright in the collective work is presumed to have acquired only the privilege of reproducing and distributing the contribution as part of that particular collective work, any revision of that collective work, and any later collective work in the same series.
  - (d) TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP.-
  - (1) The ownership of a copyright may be transferred in whole or in part by any means of conveyance or by operation of law, and may be bequeathed by will or pass as personal property by the applicable laws of intestate succession.
  - (2) Any of the exclusive rights comprised in a copyright, including any subdivision of any of the rights specified by section 106, may be transferred as provided by clause (1) and owned separately. The owner of any particular exclusive right is entitled, to the extent of that right, to all of the protection and remedies accorded to the copyright



About

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### **United States Statutes at Large**





About

The Ur enacte

Under

Note that appendix volumes a

### Browse the United States Statutes at Large

Year 2011, 112th Congress, 1st Session, (Volume 125)

proclamations by the Preside View Entire Volume PDF

USLM

DETAILS

SHARE

### **Browse the United States**

O Year 2013, 113th Congres

O Year 2012, 112th Congres

O Year 2011, 112th Congres

O Year 2010, 111th Congres

O Year 2009, 111th Congres

- O Bills Enacted into Laws
- Concurrent Resolutions
- O Popular Names
- O Presidential Proclamations

O Public Laws



125 STAT, 284

PUBLIC LAW 112-29-SEPT. 16, 2011

### Public Law 112–29 112th Congress

Sept. 16, 2011 [H.R. 1249]

Leahy-Smith America Invents Act. 35 USC 1 note.

### An Act

To amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

- (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Leahy-Sn America Invents Act".
- (b) Table of Contents.—The table of contents for this is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

Sec. 3. First inventor to file.

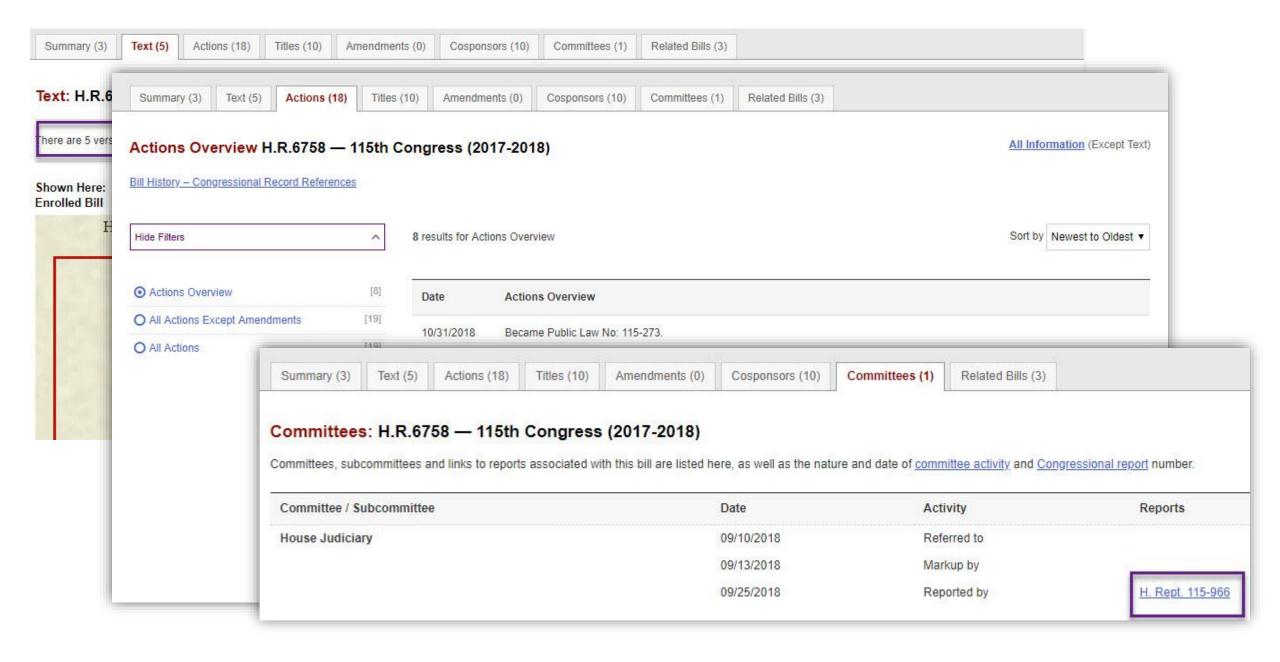
Sec. 4. Inventor's oath or declaration.

### Last page of public law

#### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY-H.R. 1249:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 112-98, Pt. 1 (Comm. on the Judiciary).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 157 (2011):
June 22, 23, considered and passed House.
Sept. 7, 8, considered and passed Senate.
DAILY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS (2011):
Sept. 16, Presidential remarks.





# State Statutes & Legislation



# Indiana

- Indiana Code, versions from 2009 to current
- Legislation from 2000\* to present



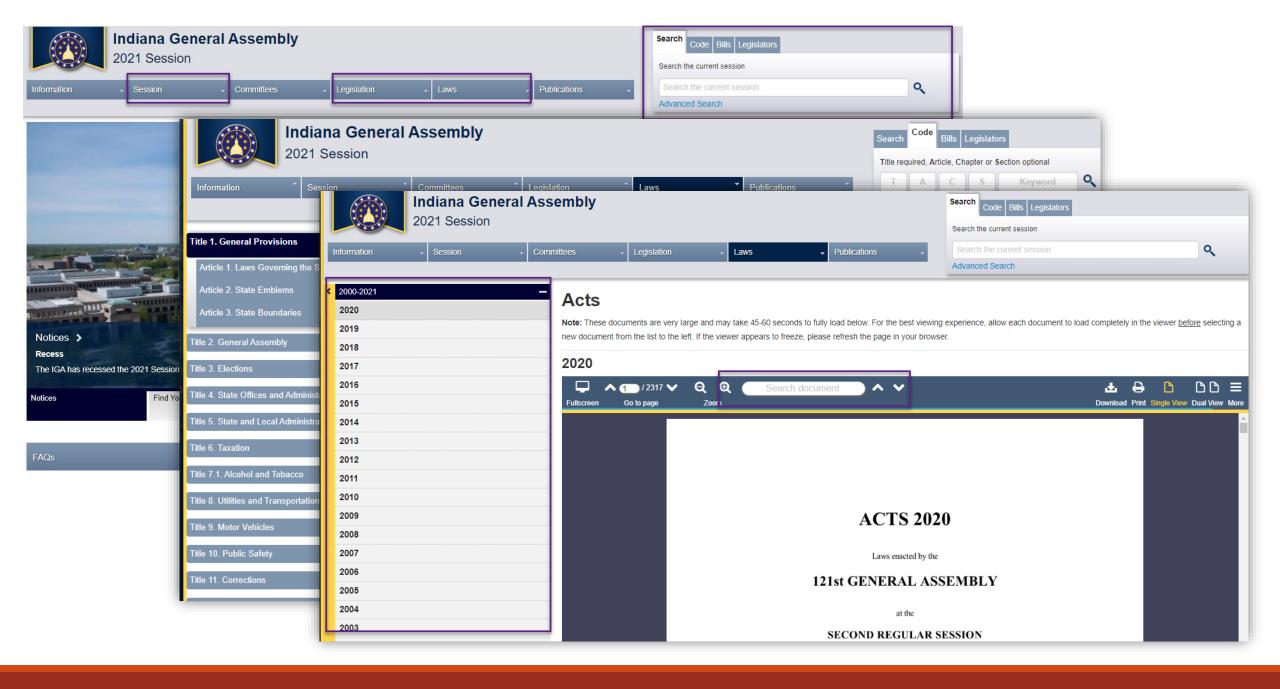
# Other States

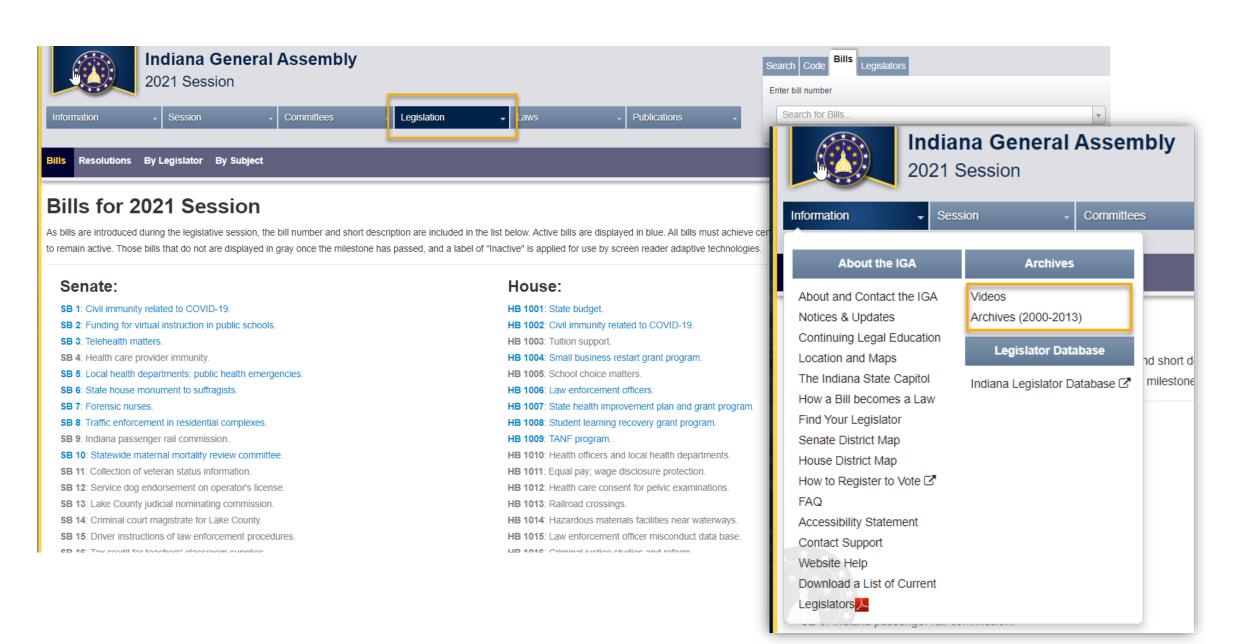
- Directory of links to statutory and administrative codes of all 50 states
- <u>Ilsdc.org/state-</u> legislation



# Topica

- Some websites and organizations offer access to laws by topic.
- Ex: Child Welfare state statutes search
  - childwelfare.gov/ topics/systemwide/ laws-policies/state





# Case Law – Google Scholar

### Coverage:

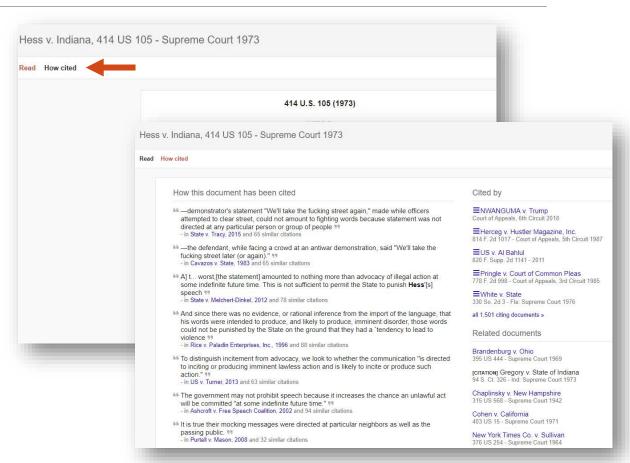
- Supreme Court back to 1791
- Other federal back to 1923.
- State cases generally back to 1950

### Features:

 How cited – snippets of citing decisions to give a feel for the nature of the citation







### Case Law — Casetext

### Coverage:

- Supreme Court comprehensive
- Circuit & District Courts 1925-present
- States generally 1950-present

### Features:

- Attorney Analyses legal analysis of the case
- SmartCite Casetext's citator
- CARA A.I. method of searching Casetext by uploading a brief and having CARA analyze it.







## Case Law - Casemaker

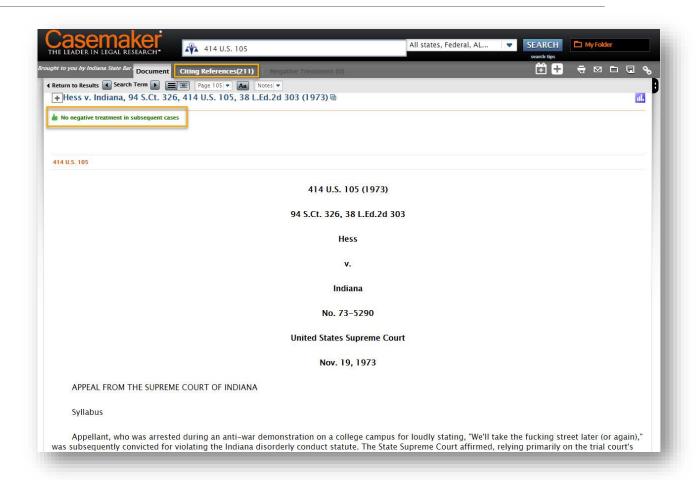
### Coverage:

- US Supreme Court, 1754-present
- Federal District Courts, 1932-present
- Federal Circuit Courts, 1792-present
- Indiana Case Law, 1848-present

### **Features:**

Citator: Casecheck+

Cost: Free with your ISBA membership!



# Case Law – Court/Gov't Websites

Today, a great deal of case law is provided by courts on their websites. This can include both recent opinions as well as oral arguments. Some examples:

- Indiana Supreme Court
  - Opinions back to 2005
  - Oral arguments back to 2001
- United States Supreme Court
  - Opinions back to 1991
  - Oral arguments back to 1968!
  - Another handy tool: SCOTUSblog(.com)
    - Transcripts of oral arguments, some filings, and commentary on cases back to the 2007 Term



# Federal Administrative Materials



Federal Register - <a href="https://www.federalregister.gov/">https://www.federalregister.gov/</a>
User-Friendly | Research-Oriented

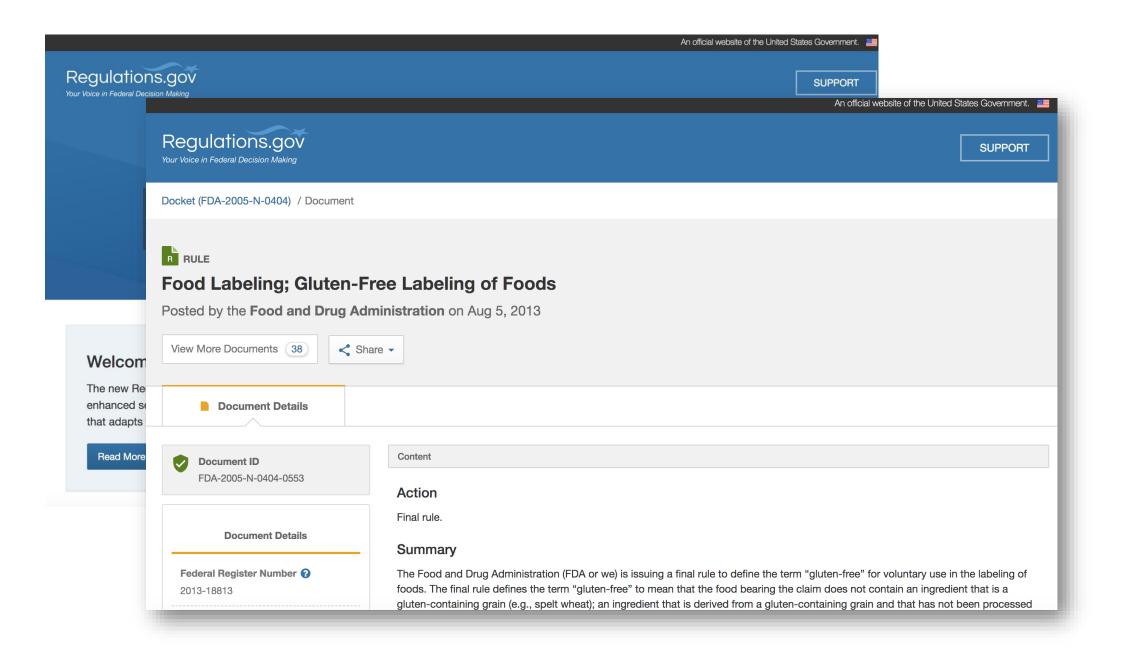


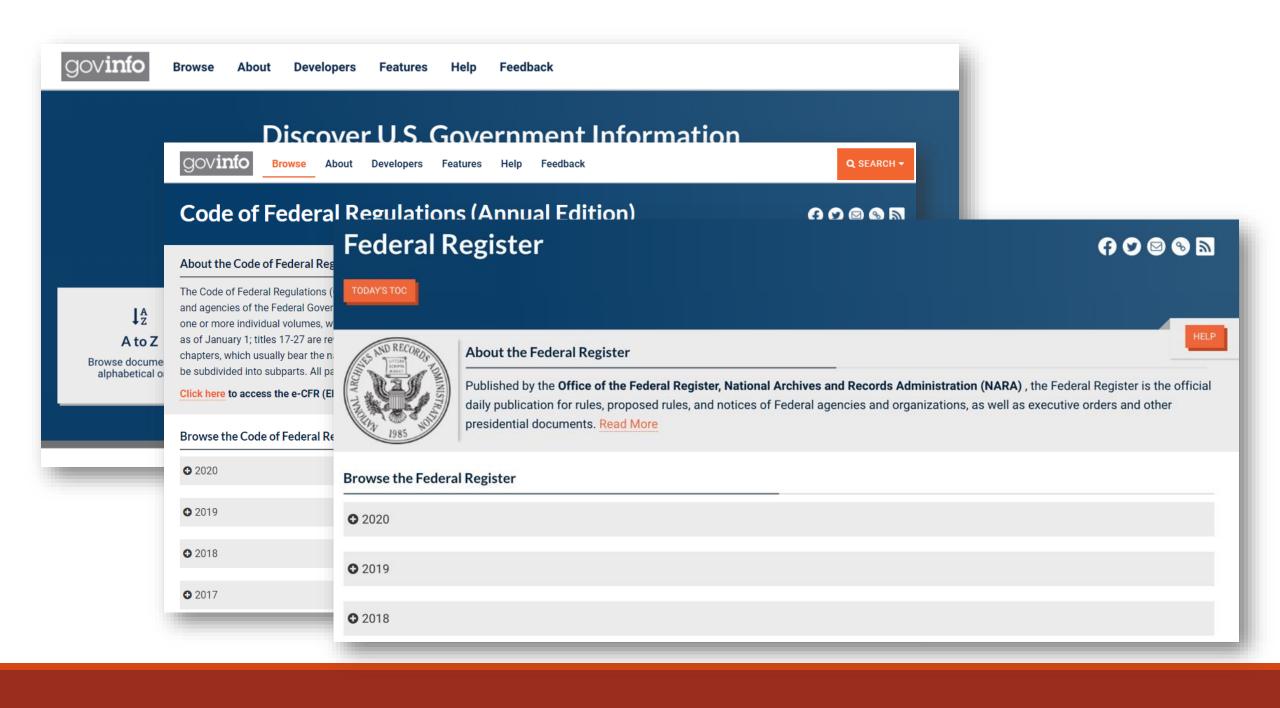
Comments & Dockets - <a href="https://www.regulations.gov/">https://www.regulations.gov/</a>
Public Commenting | Reg. Dockets



Official - <a href="https://www.govinfo.gov/">https://www.govinfo.gov/</a>
Federal Register, CFR | Authenticated









Home gpo.gov govinfo.gov

#### **Browse / Search Previous**

e-CFR Navigation Aids Browse Simple Search

#### **Advanced Search**

- Boolean
- Proximity

Search History
Search Tips
Corrections
Latest Updates
User Info
FAQs
Agency List
Incorporation By Reference

Electronic Code of Federal Regulations

e-CFR

### **Electronic Code of Federal Regulations**

We invite you to try out our new beta eCFR site at https://ecfr.federalregister.gov. We have made big changes to make the eCFR easier to use. Be sure to leave feedback using the Feedback button on the bottom right of each page!

e-CFR data is current as of April 22, 2021

### **USER NOTICE**

The Electronic Code of Federal Regulations (e-CFR) is a currently updated version of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). It is not an official legal edition of the CFR. The e-CFR is an editorial compilation of CFR material and *Federal Register* amendments produced by the National Archives and Records Administration's Office of the Federal Register (OFR) and the Government Publishing Office. The OFR updates the material in the e-CFR on a daily basis. The current update status appears at the top of all e-CFR web pages More.

**Browse:** Select a title from the list below, then press "Go".

Title 1 - General Provisions

**✓** Go

Need assistance?

# State Administrative Materials



Indiana General Assembly Site

IR Database

http://www.in.gov/legislative/register/irtoc.htn

Administrative Rules Drafting Manual



State Legislatures, State Laws, and State Regulations

Links and Contact Information

https://www.llsdc.org/state-legislation

# Secondary Materials

JOURNALS | ENCYCLOPEDIAS | BLOGS | RELATED TOOLS

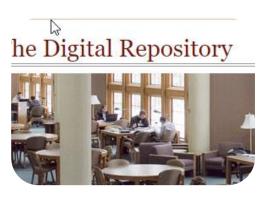
# Law Reviews & Journals



SSRN's Legal Scholarship Network



Law Journal Websites



Law Library Digital Repositories



Google Scholar

# Legal Blogs

While not an extremely high source of authority, law blogs (blawgs) can be excellent sources to start your research, particularly in newer areas of law (where traditional publishing methods haven't quite caught up).

For help tracking down law blogs, there are two prominent blawg directories:

- ABA Journal Blawg Directory <a href="http://www.abajournal.com/blawgs/">http://www.abajournal.com/blawgs/</a>
  - Blogs by topic
  - Blogs by author type (firm, courts, schools, etc.)
  - Blogs by region
  - They also publish an annual ABA Blawg 100 the top 100 law blogs of the year
- Justia BlawgSearch <a href="https://blawgsearch.justia.com/">https://blawgsearch.justia.com/</a>
  - Blogs by popularity
  - Blogs by category

# Basic Explanatory/Definitional Resources

### **Legal Dictionaries Online** (a sampling)

- Law.com <a href="https://dictionary.law.com/">https://dictionary.law.com/</a>
- The Law Dictionary https://thelawdictionary.org/
  - Note: This uses the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of *Black's Law Dictionary*, published in 1910 and now in the public domain.
- Merriam-Webster's Law Dictionary <a href="https://www.merriam-webster.com/legal">https://www.merriam-webster.com/legal</a>

### **Legal Encyclopedias Online**

- Wex <a href="https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex">https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex</a>
  - Compiled by Cornell's Legal Information Institute, Wex is touted as both a legal dictionary and a legal encyclopedia

# Additional Resources

A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING...

# Filings

### **PACER Tools**

- For federal dockets, we're all familiar with PACER and its associated fees. But there are some tools that have been created recently to augment PACER research.
- RECAP https://free.law/recap/
  - Browser extension that adds cases you access from PACER to a RECAP database, so no one has to pay to access them again.
- PacerPRO https://app.pacerpro.com/
  - Enhances PACER searching, and also builds a free PACER database, based on already-accessed PACER content.
  - Note: the free account is extremely limited on number of downloads per month.

### Court Listener - https://www.courtlistener.com/

- Legal opinions
- Oral arguments (audio) search by docket, case name, date, or judge
- Judges search by position, political affiliation, education history, authored opinion, and more

# Practitioner Tools

### **Casetext Revisited: CARA**

- Case Analysis Research Assistant
- Upload a brief or other document to CARA, and it scans for keywords and suggests cases relevant to the topics discussed

### **Casemaker Revisited: Legal Forms**

• Through Casemaker, you have access to a large online database of Legal Forms. You can search them for free, and receive a 10% discount if you choose to download one.

### **Business Resources**

### **Publicly Traded Companies**

- BigCharts (MarketWatch)
  - <a href="http://bigcharts.marketwatch.com/default.asp">http://bigcharts.marketwatch.com/default.asp</a>
  - Free
- Industry Information Resources
  - https://valuationresources.com/
  - Free
  - Guide to resources on industry data
- D&B Hoovers (\$\$)
  - http://www.hoovers.com/
- Dun & Bradstreet (\$\$)
  - https://businesscredit.dnb.com/
  - Public & Private Companies

### **Privately Traded Companies**

- PrivCo (\$\$)
  - https://www.privco.com/dashboard
  - Pay per report or monthly

### Non-Profit & Miscellaneous Resources

### Non-Profits

- Guidestar
  - guidestar.org/ Home.aspx
  - Nonprofits, religious organizations
  - Free content includes program, financial, and operations information
  - Upgrade for premium content

### Miscellaneous

- US Economic Census & Economic Indicators
  - census.gov/topics/businesseconomy/information
  - Conducted every 5 years
  - Businesses are mandated by law to respond

# Good Government Sites to Know

Some have been mentioned previously, but here are some of my top recommended government websites to be aware of.

### **Government Data** - <a href="https://www.data.gov/">https://www.data.gov/</a>

- Gateway to federal government data across branches, departments, and agencies
- See also: StatsIndiana <a href="http://www.stats.indiana.edu/">http://www.stats.indiana.edu/</a> for aggregated state economic and demographic data

### FOIA - https://www.foia.gov/

- Information on filing FOIA requests
- Quick access to FOIA data by agency

**US Government Websites Index & Directory** - <a href="https://www.usa.gov/federal-agencies">https://www.usa.gov/federal-agencies</a>

# Social Media Research

### Google Social Search - <a href="https://www.social-searcher.com/google-social-search/">https://www.social-searcher.com/google-social-search/</a>

Aggregates searches across popular social networking sites, including Facebook, Twitter, Google+ (r.i.p.),
 Instagram, LinkedIn, and Pinterest

### Social Searcher - <a href="https://www.social-searcher.com/">https://www.social-searcher.com/</a>

- Takes this a step further, searching not only Facebook and Twitter, but also online forums, blogs, and more
- Free plan is limited to 100 real-time searches per day; there are also Basic, Standard, and Professional plans available

# Internet Search Alerts

### Google Search Alerts - <a href="https://www.google.com/alerts">https://www.google.com/alerts</a>

- Search everything, or limit to blogs, news, web, video, books, discussions, or finance
- Other customization options include language and region

### Mention.com (\$\$) – <a href="https://mention.com/en/">https://mention.com/en/</a>

- Offers more sophisticated search refinements, such as excluding certain words in results and looking for word variations
- Searches similar content to Google Search Alerts
- Solo, Starter, and Custom plans available

# "Advanced" Googling

Operator	What it does	Example
~	Includes related words	~college (incl. university)
un	Search as a phrase	"Indiana University"
+	Include the term	cat +dog
-	Exclude the term	cat –dog
	Time range	20152016
*	Looks for more than one word in a common phrase	* security – might bring back results with cyber security, social security, national security, etc.
and	Search results contain all terms (default in Google)	cat and dog
or	Search results contain any terms	cat or dog
~ or +	If added to end of word, acts as root expander	prohibit+ or prohibit~ should both bring back prohibit, prohibited, prohibiting, prohibitive, prohibition, etc.

# "Advanced" Googling

Field	What it does	Example
site:	Searches only that site	site:law.indiana.edu, also site:gov
-site:	Exclude a particular site from search results	Google –site:google.com (will help you search articles about Google)
filetype:	Searches only that type of document	filetype:pdf
intitle:	Keyword in the title of the doc	intitle:cybersecurity
inurl:	Keyword in the URL of the site	inurl:help
intext:	Keyword in the body of the site	intext:"national security"
link:	Search for pages that link to a specific URL	link:law.indiana.edu
cache:	Find an archived web page (helpful if you encounter broken links)	cache:law.indiana.edu
author:	Field for Google Scholar to find articles by a particular person	author:posner

# Still in search? Ask a law librarian!

### **Print Resources**

- Come in and read/scan materials
- Such as Indiana forms
- Check out materials
  - Get an Indiana borrower's card
  - For general circulation items only
- Call/e-mail and request a scan
  - Nominal fees may be associated

### **Electronic Resources**

- Many legal databases available from our public access computers in the law library, including:
  - NexisUni (Shepardize cases, access AmJur, etc.)
  - HeinOnline
  - ProQuest Congressional

### Contact a Law Librarian

- Jerome Hall Law Library
  - (812) 855-2938
  - Chat:

law.indiana.libanswers.com/ask

- Ask-a-Librarian web form:
   <u>law.indiana.edu/assets/ask-a-librarian</u>
- Or contact me directly:
- aaahlbra@indiana.edu
- (812) 855-6613



### Thanks!

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