

Schenectady County Community College Begley Library and Instructional Technology Center

How to Find Information on Law

I. BOOKS

To find information on different legal topics, look in **BLISS**, the library's online catalog. BLISS may be accessed from the library's homepage, <http://www.sunysccc.edu/library>, by selecting **Find Books**, and then **Find Books in This Library**. The following subject headings may be used:

Administrative law	Domestic relations	Law and Literature
Annotations and citations (Law)	Environmental law	Law careers
Business law	Evidence (Law)	Law reports, digests, etc.-New York (State)
Commercial law	Food law and legislation	Legal assistants
Constitutional law	International law	Paralegals
Corporation law	Law-Dictionaries	Probate law and practice
Correctional law	Law-United States	
Criminal law	Law-Vocational guidance-United States	

You can use the Advanced Search feature to combine key search terms. For instance,

- the subheading "Law and legislation" after topical subject headings, i.e., "Child abuse - Law and legislation," or "Discrimination in employment-Law and legislation" can be used.
- For individual laws, use the name of the governing body, followed by the name of the law enacted, i.e., "United States. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990."
- Media materials may be selected by accessing BLISS, select **Find Books, Find Books in this Library, Advanced Search** and choosing **Limit by Collection**. Use the drop down list to select your media type. The same subject headings may be used as listed above. All media materials can be found in the **ITC** (Instructional Technology Center) on the second floor.
- Full text electronic books (e-books) may be accessed through **NetLibrary** and Reference E-books may be accessed through tools called **Xrefer Plus** and **Reference Universe**. To get to these options select **Find Books, Find E-Books with NetLibrary** or **Find both Reference and E-Reference Books with Reference Universe** or **Find Reference E-Books with Xrefer Plus**. The same subject headings as listed above may be used. .

REFERENCE BOOKS pertaining to Law are found in the K section of the Reference Area (first floor). Some useful reference sets are:

REF KF101 .A322	The Supreme Court Reporter
REF KF190 .M322 1999	Martindale-Hubbell International Law Digest
REF KF190 .M324 1999	Martindale-Hubbell Law Digest
REF KF366 .UN4	United States Code Annotated
REF KF8816.A19 M82 2006	Moore's Federal Rules Pamphlet
REF KFN5025 .N42x 2005	McKinney's Session Laws of New York
REF KFN5030 .M347	McKinney's New York Rules of Court: State and Federal

REF KFN5030 .M34	McKinney's Consolidated Laws of New York, Annotated
REF KFN5047.9 .N7	New York Supplement. First and Second Series.
REF KFN5057 .A231	West's New York Digest, 4 th .
REF KFN5065 .N48	New York Jurisprudence, 2d.
REF KFN5068 .B4	Bender's Forms for the Consolidated Laws of the State of New York, Annotated
REF KFN5059.2 .S47 2005	Shepard's New York Supplement Citations

Old versions of Martindale-Hubbell directories can be found in the Reference Section of the library, but most recent information is online in Lexis-Nexis. (See II. Journals and Magazines)

LEGAL DICTIONARIES & ENCYCLOPEDIAS:

REF KF154 .E53 1987	Encyclopedia of the American Judicial System
REF KF154 .W47 1997	West's Encyclopedia of American Law
REF KF154.096 2002	The Oxford Companion to American Law
REF KF156.A113 2003	1001 Legal Words You Need to Know
REF KF156 .B53 2004	Black's Law Dictionary
REF KF156 .O7 1991	Law Dictionary for Non-lawyers
REF KF156 .R42 1993	Modern Dictionary for the Legal Profession
REF KF3319.3 .D47 1996	Deskbook Encyclopedia of Employment Law
REF KF3455.S55 2004	The Complete Guide to Human Resources and the Law
REF KF4548.E53 2000 v1-v6	Encyclopedia of the American Constitution
REF KF9217 .F47 1992	Criminal Law and Justice Dictionary

LEGAL RESEARCH GUIDES:

REF KF240 .B45 1999	Finding the Law
REF KF240 .E35 2002	Legal Research: How to Find and Understand the Law
REF KF240 .O365 1999	Legal Information: How to Find It, How to Use It
REF KF240 .W454 2005	West's Analysis of American Law
REF KF242.A1 C48 1998	Neal-Schuman Guide to Finding Legal & Regulatory Information on the Internet
REF KF245 .B58 1996	The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation
REF KFN5074 .G53 1998	New York Legal Research Guide

CAREER COLLECTION BOOKS:

KF297.Z9 C37 2001	Ferguson's Careers in Focus: Law
KF297.S36 2005	Should You Really Be a Lawyer?
KF297.M86 2004	Careers in Law
KF297.M8619 2002	The Legal Career Guide: From Law Student to Lawyer

KF297.E245 2002	Law and the Legal Industry
KF320.L4 W34 2005	How to Land Your First Paralegal Job
KF230.L4 F56 2005	Opportunities in Paralegal Careers
KF320.L4 E77 2002	Paralegal Career Guide

II. ELECTRONIC DATABASES, JOURNALS and MAGAZINES

There are only a few legal journals and magazines that the library subscribes to **in print**. These may be found on the periodical shelves next to the Reference desk. At the Reference desk is a complete list of these journals, including microfilm and microfiche resources. You may also review an online version of the list by going to the library website, select **Find Articles** and then **Print Journals List**.

Facts and Findings
 Legal Assistant Toda
 National Paralegal Reporter

To access our online Law & Government resources, from the library home page, select **Find Articles, Databases by Subject, Law and Government** and choose the resource you are interested in. Your choices of online resources are:

[GPO - US Government Documents \(OCLC\)](#)

[Lexis Nexis Academic](#)

[Military & Government Collection \(EBSCO\)](#)

[Virtual Reference Library \(Gale\)](#)

Many journals, including those listed below may be found on Lexis-Nexis. Select **Lexis Nexis Academic** from the database list and from the upper right hand corner, select **Sources**. Then click on the **letter of the alphabet** that you are interested in or enter a full or partial **journal name**.

ABA Journal	Hofstra Law Review
Albany Law Review	Journal of Paralegal Education & Practice
Brooklyn Law Review	National Law Journal
Buffalo Law Review	New York Law Journal
Columbia Law Review	New York Law School Law Review
Cornell Law Review	New York University Law School Review
Fordham Law Review	Syracuse Law Review

The most recent information in the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory may be found on Lexis-Nexis under **Legal Research**.

III. INTERNET

Much information is available on the Internet, but not all of it is accurate. For help in determining if a website is credible, consult the library's Guide to Evaluating Web Sites at: <http://www.sunysccc.edu/library/services/webeval.html> or select from the library home page **Research Guides, A Student's Guide: How to Use the Library, Evaluating Web Sites**.

The following web resources are good starting points for legal research online:

Findlaw - Provides a wealth of legal information, arranged by category.
<http://www.findlaw.com>

Legal Information Institute, Cornell Law School - Provides searchable access to federal and state court decisions, as well as the text of the U.S. Constitution and latest version of the U.S. Code.
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/>

Introduction to Basic Legal Citation - Provides example citations for cases, statutes, and regulations.
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/citation/>

National Federation of Paralegal Associations - Provides links to professional organizations, publications, research tools, and career information.
<http://www.paralegals.org>

IV. ESPECIALLY FOR PARALEGAL STUDENTS ENROLLED AT SCCC

Begley Library subscribes to Lexis Nexis which is an online database for legal research. The full version of Lexis Nexis requires a special password which the Reference Librarian will enter for you, if necessary. This can only be used on Workstation #10 in the Reference area. Full text access to all of the state and federal court reporters, codes and much more are supplied.

V. LIBRARIANS

Reference Librarians are happy to help you find whatever resources you might need. Please do not hesitate to ask!

Updated Tina Kiernan, August 2006