

## Subject Guide to Legal Sources

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### Browsing the Legal Collection

The call numbers for law are below. In the event that you do not find what you are looking for by simply browsing, please consult the online catalog.

K	Law in General
KF 1-9827	Law of the United States
KF 3775-3816	Public Health/Environmental Law
KF 4101-4257	Education Law
KF 4501-5130	Constitutional Law
KF 9201-9461	Criminal Law
KFM	Law of Mississippi

### Selected Reference Books

- 📖 **1001 Legal Words You Need to Know** [KF 156 .A113 2003 Ref] – defines important legal terms and provides explanatory essays such as, “What to do if you’re being sued,” and “What is a power of attorney.”
- 📖 **American Law Reports** [KF 132 .A5 Ref, multiple vols] – cross between a legal encyclopedia, law review articles and a subject index to court cases. Offers in-depth analysis of cases on a particular legal issue. The Library holds volumes from the original set up through the 4<sup>th</sup> series.
- 📖 **Black’s Law Dictionary** [KF 156 .B53 1999 Ready Ref] – legal definitions of terms, accompanied occasionally with explanatory quotations.
- 📖 **Corpus Juris Secundum** [KF 154 .C6 Ref, 100+ vols] – encyclopedia aimed at lawyers, with analysis of legal issues and citations to relevant court cases on the issue.
- 📖 **Gale Encyclopedia of Everyday Law** [KF 387 .G27 2003 Ref, 2 vols] – provides a general overview of the American legal system by describing common legal terms and concepts.
- 📖 **Legal Information: How to Find it, How to Use it** [KF 240 .0365 1999 Ref] – provides guidance on how to utilize print and non-print sources.
- 📖 **Legal Systems of the World** [HV7921 .E53 2005 Ref, 4 vols] – provides detailed explanations for countries and states in America. Typical entries contain sections about the history, current structure, staffing, and court system.
- 📖 **West’s Encyclopedia of American Law** [KF 154 .W47 2005 Ref, 13 vols] – layperson’s guide to the American legal system; articles on important court cases and legal issues, ranging from a paragraph to several pages in length.

### Laws and Regulations

#### *Federal*

- 📖 **Code of Federal Regulations** [Gov Docs AE 2.106/3 or <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html>] – administrative laws, or the rules and regulations of federal agencies, arranged by subject. The Subject Index is the last volume in the set. Recent and proposed administrative laws are published in the **Federal Register** [Gov Docs AE 2.106 or <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/index.html>] and changes to the *Code of Federal Regulations* are compiled monthly in the **List of Sections Affected** [Gov Docs AE 2.106/2 or <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/lsa/index.html>]
- 📖 **United States Code** [KF 44 .C4 Ref] – official version of the federal laws arranged by subject. May search via the subject index or by the popular name of the law. Print set is fully revised every 6 years, so check the supplements for recent changes. Unofficial versions also available on the Web courtesy of the U.S. House of Representatives at <http://uscode.house.gov/search/criteria.shtml>

- 📖 **United States Statutes at Large** [Gov Docs AE 2.111, 1974-present] – federal laws arranged chronologically. Useful if you want to see an individual Public Law, rather than all the laws on a particular subject. The latest Public Laws can be found in Gov Docs AE 2.110 or <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/laws/current.html>

### *State of Mississippi*

- 📖 **General Laws of Mississippi** [KFM 6625 .A2 Ref] – annual compilation of state laws arranged by House and Senate bill number. Recent bills considered by the Mississippi Legislature, those that were signed into law as well as those that were not, are available online, at <http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/default.htm>
- 📖 **Mississippi Code** [KFM 6630 1972 Ref.] – official version of the laws of Mississippi, arranged by subject. The general subject indexes are in two volumes at the end of the set. Be sure to consult the pocket parts in the back of each volume to access information regarding changes to the law, such as new laws, the repeal of laws, etc. The unannotated Mississippi Code is also available online, at [http://www.sos.state.ms.us/ed\\_pubs/mscode/](http://www.sos.state.ms.us/ed_pubs/mscode/)

## Court Cases

### *Federal*

- 📖 **United States Reports** [KF101.1 .D5 Ref, 1952-present] – official version of the U.S. Supreme Court cases. Those for the years 1973 to the present are located in Reference. Those from 1952 to 1972 are in microfiche format. There is no subject access; you need to know the citation of the particular case. The Library also has an unofficial set, **U.S. Supreme Court Reports, Lawyers Edition** [KF132 .A5 Ref, 1789-1953].
- 📖 **West's Education Law Reporter** [KF 4110.A2 W47 Ref, 1981-present] – contains important cases on education issues from federal and state jurisdictions. To find a case on a particular subject, consult the **West's Education Law Digest** [KF 4110.3 .W47 Ref].

### *State of Mississippi*

- 📖 **Mississippi Reports** [KFM 6645 .A2 Ref, 1818-1966] and **Southern Reporter, Mississippi Cases** [KFM 6633 .A34 Ref, 1966-present] - all Mississippi Supreme Court cases, as well as important lower state and federal court cases from Mississippi. To find a case on a particular subject, consult the **Mississippi Digest** [KFM6657 .M58 Ref, 1818-present]. Under each subject heading are citations and brief summaries of cases that discuss a particular legal issue.
- 📖 **Shepard's Mississippi Cases** [KFM6659 .S497 Ref] – useful for finding other cases that cite a particular case or law, and more importantly, whether the particular case is still “good law,” that is, whether it has been overturned by another case or law.

## Selected Databases

- 📖 **GPO's Federal Digital System** [ <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/> ] – provides free electronic access to 80+ databases on law, legislation and other government information produced by the Federal Government.
- 📖 **Legal Collection** [EBSCOhost] <sup>Off-Campus Full-Text</sup> – contains articles from nearly 250 scholarly law journals and covers all legal and law-related topics.
- 📖 **Westlaw** <sup>Off-Campus Full-Text</sup> – federal and state laws, court cases and law journal articles.

## Selected Web Sites

- 🔗 **FindLaw: Internet Legal Resources** [ <http://www.findlaw.com> ] – provides an index to useful legal information on the Web, including unofficial versions of Supreme Court decisions back to the late 19th century and other court cases.
- 🔗 **Thomas** [ <http://thomas.loc.gov> ] – U.S. House of Representative's Web site for recent legislative information, including bills and laws enacted.