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Legal Research Explained, Second Edition



Synopsis

A great book on legal research explained.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A great book on legal research explained.

I have been completely satisfied with my purchase and this book met the need I had in law school for the purchase.

I did not use this book too much since the teacher is an expert researcher for the state of Louisiana.

A+

Good

Wasn't too impressed with this book whatsoever. It was my professors choice so I had to go with it. Surely there are better resources on the market.

Had read many reviews on this book before starting my class. Not as happy with it as other reviewers. The information is well-organized and helpful, but the graphic style makes everything run together, so if you are quickly trying to return to it for information, it just takes a while to find what

you are searching. I supplemented it with other intro to legal research studies that I found within the school library. - as well as - some of the law school library sites.

Or maybe you are a consumer looking for answers to legal questions, and you don't know where to begin. "Legal Research Explained" a guide written for legal professionals and consumers, is an excellent resource to guide you to solutions. If you were to walk into any law library, you quickly see that the old "card catalogue" system is not enough to find the resources that you need. You must start with questions that you have about your topic. Then, it's important to learn whether your subject is one of criminal or civil law. Then, you must consider:

1. Is this a state or federal issue?
2. What is the one compelling question that would guide your research?
3. Where are the cases that have gone to the Supreme Court regarding this one question?
4. What would the opposition say?
5. What would solve this problem for you?
6. What has court cases dealing with your topic done to solve this problem?

Once you have the answers to the above questions, it's important to step back and remind yourself that you are on a journey, traveling through legal history toward your solution to the problem that you are determined to solve. To do this, "Legal Research Explained" advises that you create a chart that allows you to stay on track, save time, and to cover all of your basis: The chart would have column heads as:

1. Law Category (Civil, Criminal, Administrative, International, Municipal, Other)
2. Jurisdiction (State, Federal)
3. Descriptive Word
4. Synonyms
5. Antonyms
6. Plaintiff's Action
7. Defenses
8. Remedies (Money Damages, Compensatory, Punitive, Equitable Relief, Injunction, Other)

While the legal profession has many electronic resources, and this book also discusses these, the legal field has a foundation of the past, and counts upon documents that were created long before computers were so accessible. So, it's important to use the hard copy volumes of resources, and the electronically available ones. This book guides you through both hard copy and electronic resources. What I would have liked to have seen in this book was clarity on identifying which citation or statute is the best one, within a source. For example once I've found say a source in U.S.C.A, I wanted to identify the most recent A.L.R. annotation to better understand the statute. Perhaps that's what I will find as I read more in other resources, or spend more time at the law libraries.

This text gives good explanations of the procedures for doing either library or computer research. What I like best about it, is that as a beginner in legal research, I can usually use it instead of, or to get started with, the much more complicated and difficult "Blue Book". It also serves as a guide to the indispensable "Blue Book" and helps me to use it.

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