

Cost Effective Legal Research

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Listed below are Internet sites that provide free access to numerous legal documents, ergo cost effective legal research. There are both primary and secondary sources of law listed. The list is divided into four categories: **Federal Information**, **Florida**, **State Information**, and **Secondary Information**.

Federal Information

Cornell's Legal Institute @ <http://www.law.cornell.edu/>

This web site provides access to:

- **United States Code (U.S.C.)**
You can search for code sections via keyword, citation, popular name, or via title through a table of contents. Full text of the code section is provided.
- **U.S. Constitution**
- **Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.)**
You can search for sections via a table of contents, citation, and keyword. Keyword searching is connected to the popular GPO search engine.
- * **Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure**
- **Federal Rules of Civil Procedure**
- **Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure**
- **Federal Rules of Evidence**
- **U.S. Supreme Court Opinions**
The full text of U.S. Supreme Court opinions from 1990 onwards is available at this site as is the Court's Calendar, Schedule of Oral Arguments, and biographies of the justices. Selected historical decisions can also be found here. Opinions can be searched via party name, date of decision, author of opinion, Cornell created topical index, and keyword. Links to Supreme Court briefs, audio recordings, and oral argument transcripts are also here.

Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals @ <http://www.ca11.uscourts.gov/index.php>

Maintained by the 11th Circuit, this site provides access to opinions from 1995 to the present. Opinions can be searched by party name, keyword or docket number.

Federal Courts Finder @ <http://www.law.emory.edu/FEDCTS/>

Maintained by Emory University's School of Law, this site maintains and provides links to decisions from all of the federal Circuit courts. All Circuit sites are not maintained by Emory. At sites maintained by Emory, the full text of decisions from 1995 onwards is available. After March 2003, the 11th Circuit information is available at its site at

<http://www.ca11.uscourts.gov/opinions/index.php>. They can be searched by date, party name, or keyword. You can access decisions from the following courts:

- Court of Appeals for Armed Forces
- Court of Federal Claims
- Federal Circuit
- D.C. Circuit
- 1st - 11th Circuits

Firstgov @ <http://www.firstgov.gov/>

This site is the gateway to U.S. federal government information. There are links to the federal agencies of the Executive Branch, GPO Access, the U.S. Congress, and U.S. Courts. The site can be searched by keyword.

GPO Access @ <http://www.access.gpo.gov/>

Maintained by the Government Printing Office, this site provides access to a wealth of government information. Links to federal executive agencies, including the Census Bureau, FDA, and NLRB, are provided as are links to the U.S. Congress and various other government publications, including:

- **Code of Federal Regulations**
- **Federal Register**

The full text of the Federal Register from 1994 onwards is available here. Updated daily, the current issue's Table of Contents is listed and provides hyper-text links to the text of the document. Archived issues can be searched by date or via keyword with the GPO Access Search Page. Updating of federal regulations with the *LSA (List of Sections Affected)* is also possible at this site.

- * **Public Papers of the Presidents**
- * **State of the Union Addresses**
- **United States Government Manual**
- **Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents**

Oyez, Oyez, Oyez @ <http://www.oyez.org/oyez/frontpage>

Developed and maintained by Northwestern University, this site is intended to provide access to leading constitutional cases in the United States. Consequently, coverage is selective rather than comprehensive. This site is known for its archival of oral arguments made to the U.S. Supreme Court. To listen to these arguments, you can choose either a Real Audio or an MP3 format. You can search for cases via keyword, party name, Northwestern created topical index, justice or advocate name. In addition to U.S. Supreme Court cases, this site also provides access to information about all Justices of the United States Supreme Court as well as a virtual tour of the United States Supreme Court.

Thomas @ <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

Maintained by the Library of Congress, Thomas provides a great deal of information about the U.S. House and Senate. While scope of coverage varies, most of the links provide information

from 1989 onwards. The site can be searched via keyword, date, committee, number, or sponsor. Access to the full text of following is available:

- pending bills, including text, status and summary;
- recently enacted Public Laws;
- ***Congressional Record***, including current and archived issues;
- House & Senate Committee Reports;
- Roll Call Votes;
- House & Senate Directories;
- Treaties.

Searching is via keyword. A recent innovation allows the researcher to search multiple congresses for bills and resolutions.

United States Supreme Court @ <http://www.supremecourtus.gov/>

This is the official site of the United States Supreme Court. The full text of opinions from 1999 onwards can be found here. Information about the Court, the justices, the Court's calendar, as well as photographs of the Court can be found here. Opinions are arranged in chronologically released ordered. Keyword searching is possible.

Villanova's Federal Courts Locator @

<http://www.law.vill.edu/library/researchandstudyguides/federalcourtlocator.asp/>

This site organizes the federal courts and provides links to the sites for the U.S. Supreme Court, the 11 Circuit Courts of Appeal, and the U.S. District Courts .

White House @ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

This site is maintained by the Whitehouse Web Team and provides the full text of Presidential:

- press briefings;
- radio addresses; &
- Executive Orders & Proclamations

Searching is via date or keyword.

Florida

Broward Bar Association @ <http://www.browardbar.org/>

This is the official site of the Broward County Bar Association. It provides a list of members as well as appropriate court calendars.

Broward County @ <http://www.co.broward.fl.us/>

This is the official Broward County site. It provides links to the various governmental agencies of Broward County.

Executive Office of the Governor/ My Florida @ <http://www.myflorida.com/>

This is the portal into the state government of Florida. Executive Orders promulgated by Florida's governors from 1996 onwards are archived at this site and can be searched via date or keyword. Links to the executive agencies, the Florida legislature, Florida's courts, and other government information is available at this site.

Florida Administrative Code @ <http://election.dos.state.fl.us/fac/index.shtml>

The regulations promulgated by Florida's administrative agencies are published in the *Florida Administrative Code*. These are published online and can be searched by browsing the table of contents. From the table of contents, there are hyper text links to the appropriate chapter.

Florida Bar @ <http://www.flabar.org/>

This is the official site of the Florida Bar organization. It provides access to the membership directory, ethics opinions, CLE events, and calendars. The entire site can be searched via keyword.

Florida Courts @ <http://www.flcourts.org/>

Maintained by the Florida Office of State Courts Administrator, this site provides access to Florida's judicial information. At this site, you can find:

- Florida Supreme Court opinions and rules, archived from December 1999 onwards and searchable by date;
- bar exam results;
- links to *Gavel to Gavel* which include live and archived broadcasts of oral arguments made before the Florida Supreme Court; &
- links to other Florida courts, including Florida District Courts of Appeal. Access the 4th DCA at <http://www.4dca.org/>.

Florida Department of State @ <http://www.dos.state.fl.us/>

This official site provides a wealth of information regarding corporations. Using Corporations Online, you can search by Name, Registered Agent, Officer, FEI, or Trademark to learn:

- status of a corporation, i.e. active, inactive, or in good standing;
- identity of Registered Agent & address; &
- identity of corporate officers & addresses.

Florida Information Resource Network at <http://www.firn.edu/supct/>

This is the mirror site to the Florida Courts site.

Florida Legislature On-Line Sunshine @ <http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Welcome/index.cfm>

This is the official site of the Florida Legislature and provides the full text of numerous legislative documents. Access to the following is provided:

- *Florida Statutes*, which can be searched via a table of contents with hyper-text links or by keyword;
- *Florida Session Laws*

- *Florida Constitution*;
- daily bill information;
- daily calendars and journals;
- committees;
- members;
- lobbyist information; &
- economic and demographic information

Florida State University College of Law Briefs and Opinions @

<http://www.law.fsu.edu/library/flsupct/index.html>

This site includes opinions published by the Florida Supreme Court since May 1994 and the briefs filed in these cases. Searching is via docket number or keyword.

Fort Lauderdale @ <http://www.sunny.org/>

This too is the official city of Fort Lauderdale site. It also provides links to the various Fort Lauderdale government agencies.

Palm Beach County Bar Association @ <http://www.palmbeachbar.org/>

Palm Beach County Government @ <http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/>

This is the official governmental site of Palm Beach County.

State Information

Findlaw @ <http://www.findlaw.com/11stategov/index.html>

Developed in association with the Northern California Law Librarians, this site provides extensive links to legal resources available on the Internet. The full text of documents can be retrieved, and boolean searching via keyword is available. At Findlaw's state sites, you will find an alphabetical arrangement of hyper-text links to all 50 states. Links are available for:

- primary materials, including codes, cases, and regulations;
- area law schools;
- state government information; &
- state bar associations.

Washlaw @ <http://www.washlaw.edu/>

Developed and maintained by Washburn University's Law School, this site provides links to legal resources from all 50 states. Searching is via keyword. States are arranged in alphabetical order. You can obtain the following information on each state:

- Legislative
- Courts
- Statutes
- Rules of Court
- State Agencies

- Local Government
- Congressional Districts

Municipal Code Corporation @ <http://www.municode.com/>

This site is a commercial site that currently provides free retrieval of full text documents. It provides keyword searching and retrieves a citation and an abstract to various city and county codes. States are organized alphabetically and codes/ordinances are then listed under the appropriate state. Hyper-text links then allow the user to access Folios and use keyword searching.

Secondary Materials

Hieros Gamos @ <http://www.hg.org/>

Created by Lex Mundi, this site allows keyword searching. It retrieves both full text and abstracts. It provides access to:

- legal guides for foreign countries, including the European Union;
- law journals;
- global bar directories; &
- directories of experts.

Findlaw @ <http://www.findlaw.com/>

In addition to providing primary source materials for the federal and state governments, this site also provides extensive access to secondary sources, including:

- CLE programs;
- directories of consultants & experts;
- electronic law journals;
- U.S. law schools; &
- U.S. law firms.

Firstgov @ <http://www.firstgov.gov/>

This is a U.S. government information portal with links to Congress, federal courts, and federal agencies as well as other federal information.

Jurist @ <http://www.jurist.law.pitt.edu/>

Law Librarians Resource Exchange @ <http://www.llrx.com/>

Martindale Hubbell @ <http://www.martindale.com/>

Virtual Chase @ <http://www.virtualchase.com/>

Subscription Internet Legal Resources

BNA @ <http://www.bna.com/>

CCH @ <http://www.cch.com/>

KeyCite @ <http://www.keycite.com/>

Lexis-Nexis @ <http://www.lexis-nexis.com/>

Lois Law @ <http://www.loislaw.com/>

Shepard's Online @ <http://www.shepards.com/>

Versus Law @ <http://www.versuslaw.com/>

Westlaw @ <http://www.westlaw.com/>

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