



# *Legal Encyclopedias*

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Legal encyclopedias cover national and state jurisdictions and are good starting points for researching unfamiliar areas of law. These secondary sources are arranged alphabetically into many broad legal topics which are further subdivided into sections that provide researchers with useful commentary on the law and acquaint them with legal jargon. Footnotes give citations to primary sources (statutes, case law, regulations, etc.) and other secondary sources.

## **National Legal Encyclopedia Resources**

Corpus Juris Secundum (C.J.S.) and American Jurisprudence 2d. (Am.Jur.2d) are two national legal encyclopedias in our library published by Thomson West. **Annual pocket parts keep bound Am.Jur.2d volumes up-to-date. C.J.S. volumes were last updated in 2005.** When topics change substantially or pocket parts grow too large, publishers issue replacement volumes. Both sets have multi-volume general subject indexes.

**C.J.S. at Level 3 KF 154 .C46 (last updated in 2005)      AmJur2d at Level 3 KF 154 .A42.**

### **C.J.S.**

All topics are outlined in "List of Titles in Corpus Juris Secundum" located at the front of each bound volume. References to West Topic and Key Numbers are cited frequently and provide researchers access to West's digest system.

### **Am. Jur.2d**

Check "Table of Abbreviations" in the index volumes for all topics in the set. References to other Thomson West publications such as American Law Reports appear in each annotation. Examine Am. Jur. 2d New Topic Service for developing areas of law. If you have citations to primary sources, see Table of Laws and Rules conversion charts for Am.Jur.2d references. Check Am. Jur. 2d Deskbook for legal and historical documents plus tables, charts, and statistics.

Researchers without a specific encyclopedia topic and section usually begin with subject indexes. Narrow search terms lead to broad topic abbreviations. A list of all topic abbreviations is located at the front of the index volumes to assist researchers. Check the "Outline" (Am. Jur. 2d) or the "Analysis" (C.J.S.) at the beginning of each topic or the topic index to identify specific sections. Be sure to check Am. Jur. 2d pocket parts for current information.

## **Online Resource**

### **Westlaw (fee-based):**

<http://www.law.du.edu/forms/library/count2.cfm?LinkURL=http://lawschool.westlaw.com>.

Type one of the following database identifiers in "Search for a database" template:

AMJUR (for current American Jurisprudence, 2d);

CJS (for current Corpus Juris Secundum);