



Lawyering Process  
 Map of Federal  
 Research Resources  
 3rd Level of Library

**A. United States Code KF62 2000.A2**

The United States Code (USC) is the official compilation of federal statutes published by the Government Printing Office. It is arranged by subject into fifty chapters, or titles. The USC is republished every six years and includes yearly updates (separately bound supplements). It is the preferred resource for citing statutes in court documents and law review articles. Each statute entry is followed by its legislative history, including when it was enacted and amended. In addition to the tables of contents and chapters at the front of each volume, use the General Indexes and the Tables volumes that follow Title 50 to locate statutes on a particular topic.

- Relevant research guide: [Federal Statutes: A Publications Guide \(#20\)](#)

**B. United States Code Annotated KF62.5 .W45**

Like the USC, West's United States Code Annotated (USCA) is a compilation of federal statutes. It also includes indexes and table volumes at the end of the set to assist navigation. The USCA is updated more frequently than the USC, with smaller, integrated supplement volumes and, most importantly, pocket parts at the back of each book. *Always* check the pocket part for updates. The USCA is useful for research because the annotations include historical notes and cross-references to cases, regulations, law reviews and other secondary sources. LexisNexis has a similar set of annotated statutes titled "United States Code Service" (USCS), which Westminster Law Library does not own in print.

- Relevant research guide: [Federal Statutes: A Publications Guide \(#20\)](#)

**C. Supreme Court Reporter KF101 .A322**

West's Supreme Court Reporter covers the cases argued and determined by the Supreme Court of the United States, and includes court rules and revisions, parallel citation tables, tables of cases reported, memorandum decisions, orders, a key number digest at the end of a term's volumes, and a list of judges with a group photograph at the beginning of a term's volume set. The first volume includes a table of contents. The text of an opinion is preceded by the names of the petitioners, the dates of the case, a summary of the case written by West editors, and headnotes summarizing various points of the findings, organized with the West Key Number system. These summaries and annotations can provide a quick overview of the case in question.

- Relevant research guides: [Federal Case Resources \(#27\)](#) & [Common Case Reporters & Digests \(#24\)](#)

**D. United States Reports KF101 .A212**

United States Reports is the official version of the Supreme Court proceedings, published by the Government Printing Office. It also includes decisions, orders, rules of the court, a table of cases reported and a list of the justices and officers of the court. Text of opinions includes abbreviated names of the petitioners and the dates of the case. The Bluebook requires citation to this version, if the case cited is therein.

- Relevant research guides: [Federal Case Resources \(#27\)](#) & [Common Case Reporters & Digests \(#24\)](#)

**E. United States Supreme Court Reports, Lawyer's Edition KF101 .A313**

Like West's Supreme Court Reporter (above), LexisNexis's United States Supreme Court Reports, Lawyer's Edition, is an enhanced version of the material found in the United States Reports. It begins with a Table of Contents and a list of justices, parallel citations, cases reported, federal constitutional provisions, states court rules and regulations cited in the volume and a table of digest classifications. Each decision includes the names of the petitioners, dates, summaries of the decision, parallel citations to the case, headnotes and research references to other sources. Each volume is regularly updated with a pocket part that includes corrections and later decisions of the Supreme Court citing decisions within that volume. At the end of the set, there is a "Quick Case Table with Annotation References" volume, which can be used to check variant spellings and find relevant secondary sources without pulling the actual decision.

- Relevant research guides: [Federal Case Resources \(#27\)](#) & [Common Case Reporters & Digests \(#24\)](#)

**F. West's Supreme Court Digest KF101.1 .W45**

West's Supreme Court Digest is used to locate Supreme Court cases on a specific topic using West's Key Number System. Use the Descriptive Word Index at the beginning of the set to locate relevant key numbers, the Words and Phrases volume if the Index does not have a certain key term, or the table of cases and court rules to locate cases. Under the appropriate key number, this set provides a brief paragraph on the case and citations to the full opinion, CJS articles and other secondary sources that discuss the topic. Citations included are to the Reporters listed above. Make sure to check the pocket part for updates. Each volume begins with an outline of the subject arrangement of the law, a list of digest topics and their volume number, and the digest topics in that volume. Each major subject will have a table of contents breaking down the topics in that section.

- Relevant research guides: [Federal Case Resources \(#27\)](#) & [Common Case Reporters & Digests \(#24\)](#)

**G. Federal Reporter KF105 .F43 → KF105 .F433**

The Federal Reporter consists of cases argued and determined in the Courts of Appeals. There are three series of this set, so note if a citation is for F., F. 2d. or F. 3d. Each volume includes lists of cases reported and the judges of each circuit. Published by West, the format of the decisions is similar to the Supreme Court above, including the petitioners, court, headnotes and summary. In addition to opinions, this set includes the text of presentations and memorial celebrations.

- Relevant research guides: [Federal Case Resources \(#27\)](#) & [Common Case Reporters & Digests \(#24\)](#)

**H. Federal Supplement KF120 .F42 → KF120 .F422**

The Federal Supplement is a publication of the decisions by U.S. District Courts and other special courts, as well as the text of various ceremonies, memorials, awards and presentations. The organization resembles the Federal Reports, with a Table of Contents, list of judges, lists of cases reported, and concluding with a key number digest. There is also a list of cases arranged by circuit. This set is also in two series, so note the citations, F. Supp. or F. Supp 2d.

- Relevant research guides: [Federal Case Resources \(#27\)](#) & [Common Case Reporters & Digests \(#24\)](#)

**I. Federal Practice Digest KF127 .F424**

West's Federal Practice Digest is currently in its 4th edition. As with the Supreme Court Digest, this set provides citations to relevant cases organized under by Key Number. In this set, however, the descriptive word index is located at the end with the tables of cases and Words and Phrases volumes. Cases listed may be found in many of the above-described reporters, including the Supreme Court Reporter, and entries also include citations to reporters and secondary sources not discussed in this guide. This digest is updated with pocket parts and cumulative pamphlets interfiled with the volumes.

- Relevant research guides: [Federal Case Resources \(#27\)](#) & [Common Case Reporters & Digests \(#24\)](#)

**J. Code of Federal Regulations KF70 .A3**

The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) is similar to the USC – they are both subject compilations organized into fifty titles. The CFR is a compilation of the rules created by executive agencies to enforce statutes, and, except for Title 26, the titles in the CFR and the USC do not match. There is an “Index and Finding Aids” volume at the end of the set, which assists in locating regulations based on key terms (see the index), the set's subject arrangement (see the List of CFR Titles), a known statute or session law (see the Parallel Table of Authorities and Rules) or a relevant agency (see the Alphabetical List of Agencies). The CFR is revised quarterly in four sections: Titles 1-16 updated as of January 1st, 17-27 as of April 1st, 28-41 as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, and 42-50 as of October 1st. To update these regulations, check the latest issue of the LSA (see below). In addition to regulations, the CFR includes executive orders and proclamations.

- Relevant research guides: [Administrative Law: Federal \(#31\)](#) & [Presidential Documents \(#32\)](#)

**K. Federal Register KF70 .A2**

The Federal Register (FR) is a daily publication of the rules and regulations that are incorporated into the CFR, plus proposed rules that have not yet been approved and await commentary and notices of hearings, investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications, agency statements, etc. Each issue includes a table of contents organized by agency. The library has the last two years on the shelf, and annual subject indexes are located at the end of the set. While this is a daily publication, it may not arrive in the library until a month or more after the date listed on the issue.

- Relevant research guides: [Administrative Law: Federal \(#31\)](#) & [Presidential Documents \(#32\)](#)

#### **L. List of Sections Affected KF70 .A34 L55**

The List of Sections Affected (LSA) is a monthly publication used to update the CFR. Organized by title and section, the affected section is listed on the left and the FR page number for the amendment is listed on the right of each column. Additionally, each volume includes a “How to Use This Finding Aid” explanation on the second page.

- Relevant research guides: [Administrative Law: Federal \(#31\)](#) & [Presidential Documents \(#32\)](#)

#### **M. Congressional Record KF35 .U583**

The Congressional Record is the daily publication of the proceedings and debates of the house and senate. While it is a daily record, the library receives issues about a month after the proceedings. The main body of the publication is split into the proceedings of the two houses, with a daily digest of the actions of each house located at the back. This publication also includes “Extensions of Remarks,” material that members of Congress wished to add to the Congressional Record but was not actually spoken on the floor.

#### **N. U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News KF48 .W45**

West’s U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News (USCCAN) consists of the new legislation from each session of Congress (published prior to the official version, Statutes at Large), reports on some of the more important legislation, proclamations by the president and executive orders (also found in FR), and signing statements. Each volume has a table of contents. The first volume in the set for a session also includes the names of the president and his cabinet members, the members of the two houses listed alphabetically and by state, and the members of all the committees. At the end of final volume for a session, there are tables matching Public Laws to the appropriate USC section, tables of sections amended and repealed, legislative history tables for easy location of a law’s dates, bill number, committees and passage dates, tables of the major bills enacted, a table of popular names of acts and an index. When looking at a page within a bill, note the three citations on the page: the Public Law (P.L. or Pub. L.) number in the top outer corner, the expected Statutes at Large citation at the bottom of the page, and the USC citation in the outer margin. Each P.L. has a legislative history entry at the bottom of the last page, including the original bill number and the various related actions and items found in the House Reports, Senate Reports, Congressional Record, or Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents. Note that whatever reports on a bill are provided in USCCAN will not be found with the bill itself, but instead in the volumes labeled “Legislative History.”

- Relevant research guide: [Presidential Documents \(#32\)](#)

**O. Federal Practice & Procedure – Wright & Miller KF8840 .W68**

Federal Practice & Procedure is a multivolume treatise on federal rules of practice. This secondary source covers all aspects of civil, criminal and appellate procedure and makes it easier to locate and understand the complex rules of federal court procedure. Entries include the text of a rule, historical information, analysis with citations to statutes, regulations and cases, and official forms adopted with the rules. This treatise is updated with annual pocket parts and cumulative supplements interfiled with the volumes. There are general index and table volumes at the end of the set, and the set itself is divided into four broad sections: criminal, civil, jurisdiction and evidence.

- Relevant research guide: [Colorado Federal Court Rules of Procedure and Trial Practice \(#17b\)](#)

**P. Moore's Federal Practice KF8840 .M633**

Like Wright & Miller above, this is a multivolume treatise on federal rules of practice and court procedure. Moore's, however, is a loose-leaf service, updated by periodically replacing outdated pages with revised versions. It covers federal civil, criminal, appellate, and admiralty procedure. Chapters begin with a scope note and are followed by a Historical Appendix, discussing legislative history, historical analysis, amendments and revisions, etc. Each volume begins with a table of contents and concludes with a Current Developments chapter. Use the Index to find chapters by key term or the Tables volume to find chapters based on a known rule, statute or case. Both are located at the end of the set.

- Relevant research guide: [Colorado Federal Court Rules of Procedure and Trial Practice \(#17b\)](#)

**Q. West's Legal Forms KF170 .W442**

This collection of topically arranged forms is divided into thirteen sections: Business Organizations, Domestic Relations, Retirement Plans, Debtor & Creditor Relations, Commercial Transactions, Estate Planning, Elder Law, Real Estate Transactions, Agents/Independent Contractors, Employment, Intellectual Property, Alternative Dispute Resolution and Specialized Forms. It is updated with pocket parts and interfiled supplements. Each volume includes a table of contents and entries provide discussion along with the forms. Many forms include a brief tax analysis. There is an annual general index at the end of the set.

- Relevant research guide: [Selected Legal Forms \(#10\)](#)

**R. AmJur Legal Forms, 2nd Edition KF170 .A542**

AmJur Legal Forms is, like West's set above, a topical collection of forms. However, the AmJur set mainly focuses on the language of forms, without the discussion. Entries include a "Notes to Form" section, which provides references to other guides and secondary resources, such as AmJur 2d and ALR, as well as applicable key numbers. There is a checklist of guidelines for drafting forms at the beginning of each volume, titled "How to Use This Publication." It also has an annual general index at the end of the set.

- Relevant research guide: [Selected Legal Forms \(#10\)](#)