

U.S. LAW SOURCES

PRIMARY SOURCES

CASE LAW

I. FEDERAL COURT STRUCTURE

United States Supreme Court - highest appellate court in the U.S.

United States Court of Appeals - intermediate appellate court in 13 Circuits

United States District Court - trial level or court of original jurisdiction. Organized into 89 districts in the 50 states, one in the District of Columbia, one in Puerto Rico and three in the U.S. territories.

II. COURT REPORTS - collections of judicial opinions arranged chronologically

United States Supreme Court

United States Reports 1790- (Official edition) Fed Core US 006 A1

United States Supreme Court Reports, Lawyers Edition 1882- Fed Core US 006 A2
Includes annotations and summaries of briefs of counsel

Supreme Court Reporter 1883- (West Publishing Co.) Fed Core US 006 A3
Includes key number headnotes

U.S. Law Week 1933- (BNA) Fed Core US 006 A33 Current edition on Reserve

United States Court of Appeals No official reporter published.

Federal Cases 1789-1879 (West) Fed Core US 006.5 C14

Federal Reporter (1st - 3rd Series) 1879- (West) Fed Core US 006.5 C16

United States District Courts No official reporter published.

Federal Cases 1789-1879 (West) Fed Core US 006.5 C14

Federal Reporter 1879-1933 (West) Fed Core US 006.5 C16

Federal Supplement 1933- (West) Selected opinions Fed Core US 006.5 C2

III. CITATORS FOR CASE LAW

Shepard's United States Citations: Cases Fed Core US 006.2 A2
Shepard's Federal Citations Fed Core US 006.2 A28

STATUTORY LAW

- I. SESSION LAWS** - Chronological collection of laws passed by the U.S. Congress in each two year session and arranged by sequential numbers.

U.S. Statutes at Large 1789- (GPO) Public Laws published in numerical order (eg. P.L. 104-344). Pre-1958 laws are arranged by Chapter number. Fed Core US 002 A2

U.S. Code, Congressional and Administrative News 1945- (West)
Arranged by Public Law number. Includes legislative history. Fed Core US 002 U6

- II. CODIFICATIONS** - Current laws of the U.S. arranged by subject.

U.S. Code (U.S.C.) 1926-1994 ed.+ Official edition published every six years with cumulative supplement volumes issued during intervening years. Fed Core US 003 U5

U.S. Code Annotated (U.S.C.A.) 1927- (West) Fed Core US 003 U6

U.S. Code Service (U.S.C.S.) 1972- (Lexis) Fed Core US 003 U67

Include annotations of court decisions and citations to the Code of Federal Regulations.
Supplemented with pocket parts and quarterly pamphlets.

- III. CITATORS FOR STATUTORY LAW**

Shepard's Federal Statutes Citations Fed Core US 006.2 A22

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

- I. RULES AND REGULATIONS** - Promulgated by federal administrative agencies

Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) 1939- Codification of rules and regulations currently in force

Current volumes Fed Core US 005 A3
1939 - present Microform Koren AV 5th Floor US 005 A3

Federal Register (F.R.) 1936- Contains all finalized and proposed rules, notices issued by federal administrative agencies. Issued daily.

Current 2 years Fed Core US 005 A2
1936 - present Microfiche Koren AV 5th Floor US 005 A2

- II. AGENCY DECISIONS** - Clarification and opinions resulting from individual agency's administrative law judges, hearing officers, commissions, etc. Examples:

U.S. National Labor Relations Board, Decisions and Orders. 19~~96~~ Floor KF 3372 A552
U.S. Tax Court, Reports. 1942- 4th Floor KF 6280 A2 T37

- III. CITATORS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE LAW**

Fed Core Under Center Stairs

Shepard's Code of Federal Regulations Citations

Shepard's United States Administrative Citations

Shepard's Corporation Law Citations

Shepard's Federal Bankruptcy Citations

Shepard's Federal Law Citations in Selected Law Reviews

Shepard's Federal Tax Citations
Shepard's Immigration and Naturalization Citations
Shepard's Intellectual Property Citations
Shepard's Labor Law Citations
Shepard's Professional and Judicial Conduct Citations
Shepard's UCC Citations

SECONDARY SOURCES

I. DIGESTS - Summaries of cases arranged by subject.

U.S. Supreme Court

U.S. Supreme Court Digest 1943- (West) Fed Core US 006.55 U65

Digest of U.S. Supreme Court Reports, Lawyers Edition 1927+ Fed Core US 006.55 U66

U.S. Courts of Appeal and District Courts

West's Federal Practice Digest 4th 1989+ (West) Fed Core US 006.55 F42

Federal Practice Digest 3rd (1975-89)

West's Federal Practice Digest 2d (1961-75)

Modern Federal Practice Digest (1940-1961)

Federal Digest (pre-1940)

American Digest System 1658+ State Core US 006.15 A64 3rd Floor

II. ENCYCLOPEDIAS - STATUTES AND CASES

Corpus Juris Secundum 1936+ Ref KF 154 C56 1936

American Jurisprudence 2d 1962+ Ref KF 154 A42 1962

III. ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Index to the Code of Federal Regulations Current Ref Index Table US 005 A31
Older Koren AV 5th Floor

CIS Federal Register Index Current Fed Core US 005 A21
Older Koren AV 5th Floor

IV. ANNOTATED LAW REPORTS

American Law Reports 1st-5th, Federal Series, 1919+ Fed Core 006 A6
Selective reporter of appellate court decisions with
annotations on legal topics. Also on 3rd Floor

V. LOOSELEAF SERVICES

Looseleaf Room, 2d Floor

Looseleaves bring together statutes, cases and regulations on special topics. Examples include:

Environment Reporter (BNA)
Labor Law Reports (CCH)
Federal Tax Coordinator (RIA)

KF 3775 A6 E49
KF 315 L25
KF 6285 F43

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

Black's Law Dictionary
Ballentine's Law Dictionary

Ref KF 156 B53 1991
Ref KF 156 B3 1969

Legal Thesaurus 3d ed. (Burton)

Ref Desk KF 156 B856 1998

Words and Phrases

Ref KF 156 W6712

THE INTERNET

<http://law.lib.buffalo.edu/departments/info-services/research/jurisdiction/us-government.asp>

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