

**Basic Legal Reference for a Non-law Library
Quiz
Answers**

Each question is worth 20 points.

1. A legal citation contains:
- a. The state where the bill was passed
 - b. The color of the volume for easy access
 - c. The date
 - d. All of the above
 - e. None of the above

Answer: c

Comment for incorrect answers a, b, d, or e: Of these options, only the date is part of the citation. Occasionally the name of the state appears, but only because it is part of the title of the work being cited. This makes tracking the source of some citations very tricky since they all look similar and the one you see may not necessarily be from California.

Comment for correct answer c: that's right, though wouldn't it be nice if they'd color code things, too?

2. Library staff should help users figure out which laws apply to their situations.
True False

Answer: False

Comment for incorrect answer True: Although our jobs are to help people, figuring out which laws apply to them constitutes interpretation of the law, which we should definitely **not** be doing. Even if it seems fairly clear, it would be wisest to point library users to legal material and have them make that determination, or let them know there could have been changes and it's best to check with a legal professional to be sure.

Comment for correct answer False: Yes! Stay away from interpretation of the law.

3. Agencies of both the United States and the State of California have codes of regulations, which have the force of law.
True False

Answer: True

Comment for incorrect answer False: Wrong, regulations of governmental agencies have the force of law.

4. The judicial branch of the government...
- a. makes laws
 - b. enforces laws
 - c. interprets laws
 - d. All of the above

Answer: c

Comment for incorrect answers a, b, and d: The judicial branch (court system) *interprets* the law. The legislative branch (Congress, CA State Legislature) makes the laws. There are separate agencies for law enforcement, depending on what laws or regulations are not being followed: police, CHP, FBI, etc.

5. Nolo Press is a legal publishing firm, which puts out books with lots of forms in them.
- True False

Answer: True

Comment: These are a great place to look for forms. Make sure the edition is current. Check to see if your library has access to these as e-books if you don't have a paper copy.