

Online Legal Resources

GENERAL, MULTIPURPOSE SITES

American Law Sources On-Line <http://www.lawsource.com/also/>

Straightforward, easy to use website contains charts with links to U.S., Canadian, and Mexican primary legal materials- including constitutions, codes, court opinions, court rules, etc.

Cornell Legal Information Institute <http://www.law.cornell.edu/>

Comprehensive academic website with links to U.S. and state constitutions, codes, and court opinions. Also provides legal information by topic (<http://topics.law.cornell.edu/wex>).

FindLaw <http://www.findlaw.com/>

Wide collection of legal resources; includes legal information by topic; links to the U.S. Code, recent Supreme Court decisions, legal forms, links to state laws, legal guides from the American Bar Association.

Justia.com <http://www.justia.com/>

Web portal to legal information; includes legal information by topic, links to state and federal government information, courts, laws and forms. Also a list of law schools by state and a list of legal blogs by topic.

Nolo.com <http://www.nolo.com/>

Website to Nolo self-help publications– also provides a plain English legal dictionary and free information on a variety of legal topics.

Public Library of Law <http://www.plol.org>

Free access to case law, statutes, regulations, court rules, and constitutions for all 50 states and federal jurisdictions; must register to access case law. Forms are also available for a fee.

USA.gov <http://www.usa.gov/>

U.S. Government's Official Web Portal – search engine for U.S government information.

Southern California Association of Law Libraries (SCALL), Locating the Law: A Handbook for Non-Law Librarians <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/scall/locating.htm>

A free online publication that provides an introduction to conducting legal research

LEGAL DICTIONARIES & ENCYCLOPEDIAS

Dictionaries

California Courts Self Help Center, Self Help Glossary <http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-glossary.htm>

Findlaw's Legal Dictionary <http://dictionary.findlaw.com>

Your Partner in Legal Research Since 1891
301 W. 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
T: 213.785.2529 • F: 213.613.1329



Nolo's Plain English Law Dictionary <http://www.nolo.com/dictionary>

Encyclopedias

Nolo's Free Legal Encyclopedia <http://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia>

Nolo's legal encyclopedia is a list of articles written on selected areas of law. The articles can be browsed but not searched.

Wex, Cornell Law School's Online Legal Encyclopedia <http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex>

Wex is a community-built dictionary and legal encyclopedia. Legal experts approved by the law school create and edit the content. Many topics are also available in Spanish.

SELF-HELP

Self-Help Resource Centers Guide, L.A. Superior Court

<http://www.lasuperiorcourt.org/familylaw/ui/pdfs/SelfHelpCentersLocations.pdf>

This link is to a flyer that provides contact information and hours of operation for all self-help centers located in the LA Superior Courts. The centers provide assistance to people who are representing themselves in court on matters including: family law, domestic violence, landlord/tenant, small claims, etc.

California Courts Self-Help Center <http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp.htm>

This is a great place to start for self-help information. Website includes filing instructions and free legal information on a variety of topics including family law, small claims, protection from abuse, evictions, elder law, traffic court, etc. The "Problems with Money" section provides information about the process of a lawsuit.

Centro de Ayuda las Cortes de California <http://www.courts.ca.gov/13289.htm>

Spanish language version of California Courts Online Self-Help Center

LawHelpCalifornia <http://www.lawhelpca.org>

This is another great place to start for self-help information. The website provides information on a wide variety of topics and provides links to other online resources, court services, sliding scale legal aid and lawyer referral services. The website can be translated into many different languages; a list of languages is on the website.

Virtual Self Help Law Center <http://www.cc-courthelp.org/>

This Contra Costa County website provides information about court procedures and forms for family law, eviction, domestic violence, small claims, guardianship and traffic court. Information is also provided in Spanish.

California State Bar Consumer Information Pamphlets <http://www.calbar.ca.gov/Public/Pamphlets.aspx>

Information pamphlets on a variety of legal topics such as: What should I know if I am arrested? What should I know about divorce and custody? What should I do if I have an auto accident? Etc.

California Department of Consumer Affairs List of Consumer Publications

<http://www.dca.ca.gov/publications/consumer.shtml>

Publications on consumer legal issues, including *California Tenants Book*, *Small Claims Court Guide*, *A to Z Guide to Credit Cards*, *Identity Theft*, etc.

Federal Pro Se Self-Represented Litigant Clinic <http://court.cacd.uscourts.gov/cacd/ProSe.nsf>

The Federal Pro Se Clinic provides free assistance to people representing themselves in Federal Court.





Website provides links to court forms, FAQ's, and a legal glossary. For more federal court sample motions and guides, see the Public Counsel website: <http://www.publiccounsel.org/featured?id=0003>

Civil Appellate Practices and Procedures for the Self-Represented for the Second District
<http://www.courts.ca.gov/courtsofappeal.htm/4941.htm>

Appellate Manual for the CA Court of Appeal, Second District; describes the civil appellate process from filing the Notice of Appeal through what you can do after the Court makes its decisions; includes many sample forms.

California Public Law Libraries <http://www.publiclawlibrary.org>

Official website of the California Council of County Law Librarians; includes a statewide directory of California County Law Libraries; a link to AskNow, an online virtual reference program; a mini research class; and links to legal information and self-help centers.

The Los Angeles Law Library <http://www.lalawlibrary.org>

Searchable catalog; links to email and chat reference; reach the reference desk at (213) 785-2513.

General Topical Resource Guides:

- Sacramento County Public Law Library <http://www.saclaw.org/pages/legal-research-guides.aspx>
- Alameda County Public Law Library <http://acgov.org/law/refservices/researchguide.htm>
- University of Washington, Gallagher Law Library <http://lib.law.washington.edu/ref/guides.html>

These research guides provide a list of online and print resources on a specific topic to get a person started on their own legal research. All books listed in the guides should be available at the LA Law Library.

San Mateo County Superior Court downloadable PowerPoint Presentations and You Tube videos
http://www.sanmateocourt.org/self_help/

Two PowerPoint presentations: *So, You're Thinking of Filing a Lawsuit?* and *I have a Case in Court, Now What?* walk the viewer through the process and what to expect during the course of a lawsuit. The presentations can be opened with PowerPoint or watched via the You Tube link.

LOW COST LEGAL HELP

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles <http://www.lafla.org/>

Counsel, representation, advocacy and community education in the areas of housing, illegal lock-out, utility turn off, government benefits, family law, consumer issues, immigration and employment law.

Public Counsel Law Center <http://www.publiccounsel.org/>

Official website of the public interest law office of the Los Angeles County and Beverly Hills Bar Associations.

Links for Legal Aid/ProBono Organizations <http://www.ncsc.org/Topics/Legal-Services/Legal-Aid-Pro-Bono>

Website lists low cost legal service and volunteer attorney programs across the country

American Bar Association, findlegalhelp.org <http://www.findlegalhelp.org>

Links and contact information for low cost legal service and volunteer attorney programs for all 50 states.

FINDING AN ATTORNEY

Informational State Bar Pamphlet: How Can I Find and Hire the Right Lawyer?

Your Partner in Legal Research Since 1891
 301 W. 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
 T: 213.785.2529 • F: 213.613.1329



<http://www.calbar.ca.gov/Public/Pamphlets/HiringALawyer.aspx>

A State Bar of California pamphlet with information about the process of finding and hiring a lawyer

CA Courts Self Help Center

<http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-findlawyer.htm>

Information from the official CA Courts website about the process of finding and hiring a lawyer.

Lawyer Referral Services

With lawyer referral services, a representative from the agency will recommend a specific attorney based on the caller's circumstances. Many lawyer referral services are through state and local bar associations.

American Bar Association Lawyer Referral Services Directory

<http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/lris/directory/>

Links to lawyer referral services in each state via clickable map; also includes information on obtaining legal aid, hiring a lawyer, and self-representation

California State Bar Lawyer Referral Service

<http://www.calbar.ca.gov/Public/LawyerReferralServicesLRS.aspx>

Listing of State Bar approved Lawyer Referral Services throughout California.

Los Angeles County Bar Association Lawyer Referral & Information Service <https://www.smartlaw.org/>

Legal information and referrals to attorneys within LA County in all areas of law; free 30-min consultation with attorney based on income eligibility; detailed taped messages on various topics; phone number: (213) 243-1500.

Lawyer Directories

Private companies that provide attorney listings, much like a phone book. These are nationwide directories that can be searched by location and area of law. Lawyer profiles are provided.

Findlaw Lawyer Directory <http://lawyers.findlaw.com/>

Justia Lawyer Directory <http://lawyers.justia.com/>

Martindale.com Lawyer Directory <http://www.martindale.com>

Nolo's Lawyer Directory <http://www.nolo.com/lawyers/>

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

California Department of Consumer Affairs, Consumer Resource and Referral Guide

<http://www.dca.ca.gov/publications/guide/index.shtml>

100 plus page referral guide organized topically, covers a broad range of topics, including legal matters

Los Angeles Department of Consumer Affairs, Consumer Resource Directory

<http://dca.lacounty.gov/ResourceDirectory.html>

100 plus page directory of agencies, organized topically

COURTS AND GOVERNMENT

Your Partner in Legal Research Since 1891
301 W. 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
T: 213.785.2529 • F: 213.613.1329

Local County/City

California Local Codes and Charters <http://igs.berkeley.edu/library/cagovdocs/calcodes.html>

Links to the LA County and City Municipal Codes; this site provides links to all of California's city and county ordinances and charters, compiled by the UC Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies.

California Public Law Libraries <http://www.publiclawlibrary.org>

Official website of the California Council of County Law Librarians; includes link to AskNow, an online virtual reference program; a mini research class; links to self-help centers, legal links and a statewide directory of California County Law Libraries.

California: Constitution, Laws & Regulations, Agencies

California Codes and State Constitution <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codesTextSearch.xhtml>

Unannotated, searchable database of California's state laws and constitution; can search by key word or citation.

California Legislative Information <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html>

Full text of CA bills, resolutions, and constitutional amendments 1993 to present; searchable by bill number, keyword, or bill author.

Legislative Document Archive <http://192.234.213.35/clerkarchive/>

Clerk of the California State Assembly website; contains older legislative documents in full-text, PDF format.

California Code of Regulations <http://ccr.oal.ca.gov/>

Text of the regulations of California's state agencies; searchable by Title excluding Title 24, the Building Codes.

California Regulatory Notice Register http://www.oal.ca.gov/Notice_Register.htm

Contains notices of proposed actions by state regulatory agencies to adopt, amend, or repeal regulations.

California State Agencies Directory <http://www.ca.gov/CaSearch/Agencies.aspx>

Links to California State agencies, departments, boards, and commissions with contact information.

Legal Opinions of the Attorney General <http://ag.ca.gov/opinions.php>

Legal opinions of the California Attorney General issued since 1986.

Federal: Constitution, Laws & Regulations, Agencies

U.S. Constitution <http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/>

or <http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution.html> Both sites provide an online text version of the U.S. Constitution; the National Archives site provides an image of the constitution itself. For additional analysis and interpretation done by the Congressional Research Service, see the GPO/FDSys link below.

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

Legislative information from the Library of Congress; contains bill summaries from 1973 to the present and full text bills from 1989 to the present.

United States Code <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/> or <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/>

Laws of the United States; both websites allow you to search or browse the U.S. Code.

U.S. Government Printing Office, Federal Digital System (FDSys) <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/>

Government Print Office GPO web portal - provides links to a wide range of federal government information



such as the U.S. Constitution, the U.S. Code, U.S. Statutes at Large, the Federal Register, the Code of Federal Regulations, etc.

Code of Federal Regulations <http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr> or <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/>
Text of the regulations promulgated by federal agencies

Federal Register <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/> [removed additional link]
Updates the Code of Federal Regulations

A-Z Index of U.S. Government Departments & Agencies
http://www.usa.gov/Agencies/Federal/All_Agencies/index.shtml or www.lib.lsu.edu/gov/index.html
Federal agency directories. The USA.gov site allows you to browse agencies alphabetically; the Louisiana State University website allows you to browse federal departments, i.e. Dept. of Education, Dept. of Homeland Security, Dept. of Health and Human Services, for all agencies, offices and divisions within that department.

Federal Administrative Agency Opinions http://www.lib.virginia.edu/govdocs/fed_decisions_agency.html
Federal administrative decisions outside the scope of the Code of Federal Regulations and the Federal Register.

California: Courts

California Courts <http://www.courts.ca.gov>
Official website for all California state courts—links to the CA Supreme Court, CA Courts of Appeal, and Superior Courts in every county; links to Judicial Council Forms, Court Rules and opinions from the California Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal from 1850 to present.

Los Angeles County Superior Court <http://www.lasuperiorcourt.org>
Official website for LA Superior Court; divided into sections, including: civil, family, probate, small claims, traffic.

Case Information for California Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal
<http://appellatecases.courtinfo.ca.gov/>
Information about cases pending before the CA Supreme Court and CA Courts of Appeal

California State Court Rules <http://www.courts.ca.gov/rules>
California Rules of Court; rules that apply in all Superior Courts in California.

Local Rules <http://www.courts.ca.gov/3027.htm>
Links to the local rules for all superior courts in California (each county has rules that apply only in its county).

Federal Courts

Federal Court Locator <http://www.uscourts.gov/courtlinks/>
Interactive map for use in locating federal courts in the U.S.

Supreme Court of the United States <http://www.supremecourtus.gov/>
Official website of the U.S. Supreme Court; includes oral arguments and full text opinions from 1991 to present.

United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/>
Official website for the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.



United States District Court, Central District of California <http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/>
Official website for the United States District Court, Central District of California.

United States Bankruptcy Court, Central District of California <http://www.cacb.uscourts.gov/>
Official website of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California.

CASE LAW

California Case Law <http://www.courts.ca.gov/opinions.htm>
Searchable archive of published opinions 1850-present; unofficial, slip opinions from the past 120 days.

Federal Case Law <http://www.law.cornell.edu/co.html>
Links to court websites that provide case law.

Google Scholar <http://scholar.google.com/>
Not necessarily an authoritative site, but it does provide a free searchable case law database for all 50 states and federal jurisdictions. Be sure to select "Legal documents" below the search box. (Default search is to articles.)

FORMS – FREE

California State Court Forms

California Judicial Council Forms <http://www.courts.ca.gov/forms.htm>
Judicial Council forms can be used in any Superior Court in California; forms are fillable PDF format.

I-Can! Legal <http://www.icandocs.org/ca/>
Secure website (login required) asks for personal information, and then uses the information provided to populate judicial council court forms. Forms include divorce, name change, small claims court and more. Website was created by the Legal Aid Society of Orange County and is funded by the California Courts.

Los Angeles Superior Court Forms <http://www.lasuperiorcourt.org/forms/ui/popup.aspx?ddl=AL>
LA Superior Court forms can only be used in the LA County Superior Court; forms are fillable PDF format.

Civil Appellate Practices and Procedures for the Self-Represented for the Second District Court of Appeal <http://www.courts.ca.gov/courtsofappeal.htm/4941.htm>
Appellate Manual prepared for the CA Court of Appeal, Second District; describes the civil appellate process; includes many sample forms. (The Second District hears appeals from the LA Superior Court.)

Pleading Paper (fillable) <http://www.occourts.org/forms/local/1930.pdf>
Blank form for use in CA Superior Courts – for pleadings, motions, etc.

Federal Court Forms

CA Central District Court Forms <http://court.cacd.uscourts.gov/CACD/Forms.nsf/Forms>
Forms for use in the Federal District Court, Central District of California.

Your Partner in Legal Research Since 1891
301 W. 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
T: 213.785.2529 • F: 213.613.1329



9th Circuit Court Forms <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/forms/>
Forms for use in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Public Counsel <http://www.publiccounsel.org/featured?id=0003>

Public Counsel runs the Federal Pro Se Clinic which provides free legal assistance to people representing themselves in federal court. Their website provides sample motions, forms and guides.

FORMS – COMMERCIAL

Forms Work Flow <http://www.uscourtforms.com/>

Court, corporate, regulatory and legal forms for all 50 states. Many of these forms are available for free on the various court or agency websites, but this website provides a single source for searching for the forms. Searches can be performed without logging-in. The user can then either pay for the form, or determine the name/number of the form and search for a free copy on the court or agency's website.

Legal Zoom <http://www.legalzoom.com/>

Forms related to many different areas of law including starting/running a business, wills & trusts, and family law. Secure website (login required) asks for personal information, and then uses the information provided to populate forms created by Legal Zoom.

U.S. Legal Forms <http://www.uslegalforms.com/>

Forms related to many different areas of law. The user selects the topic and the state where they live. The user can preview the form before purchasing it and use the preview as a sample to draft the same document for free. Website provides the forms only, does not complete the forms for the user. Other websites with forms provided by US Legal Forms include: Findlaw <http://forms.findlaw.com/> and Lectric Law Library <http://www.lectlaw.com/>

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS & LEGAL LITERACY

California Legislative Process <http://senate.ca.gov/legislativeprocess>

Information on the California legislative process, also includes a glossary of legislative terms. Another helpful guide to the legislative process in California is: <http://capitolmuseum.ca.gov/Citizens.aspx?Content2=1090>

Federal Legislative Process <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/lawsmade.toc.html>

Information on the federal legislative process; how a bill becomes a law.

Federal Legislative Process for Kids <http://kids.clerk.house.gov/grade-school/>

Information on the federal legislative process for kids, with varying levels of difficulty for different age groups including young learners, grade school, middle school, and high school.

CA State Bar Guide to Legal Literacy

<http://www.calbar.ca.gov/Public/Pamphlets/GuidetoLegalLiteracy.aspx>

A guide to understanding the U.S. legal system, includes information on how laws are enacted and how cases, both civil and criminal, proceed through the courts. Also includes a legal glossary.

