

Connecticut Legal Research

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Jessica G. Hynes

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Dedication

*To Patrick, who cheered me on the entire way, and to Kate and Emma,
for always making me smile.*

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Series Note

The Legal Research Series published by Carolina Academic Press includes an increasing number of titles from states around the country. The goal of each book is to provide law students, practitioners, paralegals, college students, laypeople, and librarians with the essential elements of legal research in each state. Unlike more bibliographic texts, the Legal Research Series books seek to explain concisely both the sources of state law research and the process for conducting legal research effectively.

Preface and Acknowledgments

Connecticut Legal Research was written for legal researchers at various levels, including law students, paralegals, and Connecticut practitioners. The book provides an alternative to other lengthy research texts by teaching readers the processes of legal research using Connecticut materials as the foundation for understanding each skill. For those just learning the basics of legal research, the book explains basic research skills and strategies and introduces Connecticut sources both in print and online. The book also explains briefly how to research analogous federal materials and the law of other states, allowing a student to use the book as the sole text in a legal research course. More experienced researchers will also benefit from having a text that brings together all of the print and online sources in Connecticut, and provides a step-by-step manual for researching each Connecticut source. Researchers can use the book to find specific websites that contain Connecticut legal materials and follow the steps outlined to access those materials.

The book integrates the discussions of print-based and online legal research, recognizing that effective legal research often requires a combination of both formats. For each legal source introduced, the book explains how to access that source both in print and online, where applicable using both fee-based and free Internet options, and considers the pros and cons of each format. The goal of the book is to provide researchers with the tools needed to access each authority both in print and online, and to provide researchers with the background information needed to develop a research plan that integrates effectively all of the research formats available.

Connecticut Legal Research is written using the model developed by earlier books in the Legal Research Series, a model developed by

the Series Editor, Professor Suzanne Rowe. Professor Rowe contributed significantly to this book by reviewing and editing each chapter, offering advice on form and substance, and sharing generously from her own work on other books in the series. This book borrows from the body of Professor Rowe's work; in particular Chapters 1, 2, and 3 were based on Professor Rowe's book *Oregon Legal Research*. Moreover, Professor Rowe was a patient and supportive editor who saw this book through my new job, new house, and the birth of my twin daughters. She kept me focused and on track while many distractions loomed. For this I thank her. I would also like to acknowledge Professor Rowe's research assistants, Kelly Fahl and Laura Koths, and Professor Kim Baker, the writing specialist at Roger Williams University School of Law and my personal source for all questions of grammar.