

Louisiana Legal Research

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Mary Garvey Algero

Suzanne E. Rowe, Series Editor

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Dedication

*This book is dedicated to Chris, Elizabeth, Maggie, and Christopher Algero
and Joan and Walter Garvey.*

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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

This book is written to assist attorneys, law students, paralegals, librarians, and others in researching legal materials effectively and efficiently. While focused on Louisiana law, the book also provides the reader with information necessary to research federal law as well as the law of other jurisdictions.

In addition to discussing research techniques, sources, and strategies, the book highlights the unique characteristics of the Louisiana legal system, including the State's reliance on the Civil Code and statutory law and the value of precedent. The book also provides specific information on both print and electronic sources for locating law and provides legal citation information.

Most citations in the book conform to the citation format for practitioners set out in the eighteenth edition of *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*. Any variations from *The Bluebook*, such as to conform to Louisiana custom or rule, are noted within the text. Additionally, Appendix A compares the citation formats set out in *The Bluebook*, the *ALWD Citation Manual: A Professional System of Citation*, and Louisiana rules and customs.

Louisiana has a rich legal history, with its private law rooted primarily in French and Spanish traditions, many of which stem from ancient Roman law. In 1803, the United States purchased the territory of Louisiana, which included the land that is now the State of Louisiana. In that one year, this territory was governed successively by Spain, France, and the United States. The legal system that exists today has grown and has been most influenced by the traditions of these three nations.

Throughout this book, the reader will find text boxes that include historical notes of interest and quotes about Louisiana law and the

Louisiana legal system. These additions are referred to herein as *Louisiana Lagniappe* (lanyap). *Lagniappe* derives from the Spanish *la ñapa*, which means *the gift*. *Lagniappe* was given its French spelling in southern Louisiana where the word is frequently used and refers to *something extra* or *a bonus* or *unexpected gift*. Enjoy this lagniappe while you learn!

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