

# **Washington Legal Research**

Second Edition

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**Julie Heintz-Cho**  
**Tom Cobb**  
**Mary A. Hotchkiss**

Suzanne E. Rowe, Series Editor

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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 to the First Edition

This book is part of a series of research books published by Carolina Academic Press. Each book in the series explains how to conduct legal research in a particular state. Although this book is specific to Washington, some of the material draws from earlier books in the series. This is most evident in the ordering of the chapters and in the explanations of federal materials. I am sure I speak for all of the series' authors when I say "thank you" to Professor Suzanne Rowe for her contribution. Professor Rowe is the author of one of the first books in the series, *Oregon Legal Research*, and a co-author of *Florida Legal Research*. She deserves much credit for developing this content and for providing a template for other authors to follow.

As with all of the books in Carolina's series, the primary audience for *Washington Legal Research* is first-year law students. However, the information in the book would be no less valuable for paralegal students, new associates, and even more experienced practitioners new to Washington.

One major difference between this book and earlier books in the series is that this book incorporates online research into each chapter. Although members of the legal research and writing community disagree about when and how to teach electronic research, computer research is becoming the norm in both law schools and law firms. In our program at Seattle University School of Law, we incorporate online research into our teaching as soon as possible, and the book follows this format.

In writing the book, I tried to make the explanations understandable for those new to legal research. Too many times, research books and legal research teachers "forget" that most students are starting from a point of virtually no knowledge of legal resources and the legal

research process. Experienced attorneys and students familiar with research fundamentals may find some of the book's information very basic; nevertheless, I erred on the side of reinforcing what some may already know rather than alienating those who are just beginning their venture into legal research. For those who would just like to read selected chapters, Appendix C provides a quick reference to some commonly used Washington legal research abbreviations that may not be explained in the chapters you select to read. In addition, for researchers who may want more detailed information than this book provides, Appendix B contains a list of recommended texts.

Julie A. Heintz  
January 2005

## Preface to the Second Edition

We thank Suzanne Rowe for developing this useful series of legal research books and for giving us the opportunity to participate. We would also like to thank Julie Heintz-Cho for writing an exceptionally readable first edition, which we have used successfully in our classes.

*Washington Legal Research* was first published in 2005 and was innovative in its focus on online research. Since then, however, aspects of the book have become dated due in part to the rapid increase in the availability of legal research materials online and in part to changes in how commercial websites deliver content. We have tried to bring the book up to date and to generalize some of the descriptions so that it can remain up to date for as long as possible.

In addition to updating the book, we took the opportunity to reorder some of the chapters so that they matched more closely the steps most law teachers now recommend to budding legal researchers. Accordingly, the book now begins by explaining how to research secondary sources, then statutes, then case law and other materials.

Finally, we have sought to continue the tradition of concision and ease of use, hallmarks of this legal research series and the first edition of this book.

Tom Cobb  
Mary A. Hotchkiss  
December 2008





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