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# **Michigan Legal Research**

Second Edition

**Pamela Lysaght**  
**Cristina D. Lockwood**

Suzanne E. Rowe, Series Editor

CAROLINA ACADEMIC PRESS

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Durham, North Carolina

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**Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data**

Lysaght, Pamela.

Michigan legal research / Pamela Lysaght and Cristina D. Lockwood. -- 2nd ed.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-61163-049-7 (alk. paper)

1. Legal research--Michigan. I. Lockwood, Cristina D. II. Title.

KFM4275.L97 2011

340.072'0774--dc22

2011013632

CAROLINA ACADEMIC PRESS  
700 Kent Street  
Durham, North Carolina 27701  
Telephone (919) 489-7486  
Fax (919) 493-5668  
[www.cap-press.com](http://www.cap-press.com)

Printed in the United States of America.

*Dedication*

*Stevan, Nolan, Soren, Cielo, and Vuko*  
*PL*

*Anna, William, Scott, and Aiden*  
*CDL*



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## **Series Note**

The Legal Research Series published by Carolina Academic Press includes titles from many 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

The primary audience for this book includes first-year law students enrolled in a course that integrates hands-on legal research with legal analysis and writing. Other audiences include practitioners who need to become familiar with researching Michigan resources as well as paralegals, college students, and anyone else seeking an understanding of Michigan authorities.

Our interest in writing this book stemmed in large part from students' frequent requests for a text devoted primarily to Michigan resources. In writing the text, there are five goals. First, create a short, readable text that introduces the process of researching problems in Michigan, as well as provide basic information regarding the federal system. Second, provide guidance on how to determine the authoritative value of various types of legal sources. Third, include brief discussions of legal analysis to demonstrate the intersection between the process of research and writing. Fourth, provide a method for systematically keeping track of the research process. Fifth, emphasize the importance of effective and efficient research.

This last goal led to an appreciation that, in some situations, the most effective and efficient research begins with online resources. In explaining online sources, we have chosen to provide fewer in-depth details about how to create searches for various sites. This decision was a result of feedback from students who used the manuscript in class and confirmed our view that students need to know the site, what to look for, and how to analyze what they find, not detailed information on how to search each site.

Pamela Lysaght  
Cristina D. Lockwood  
May 2011

## Acknowledgments from the Second Edition

There are several people who have helped create this second edition. When the file containing the electronic copy of the first edition of this book was corrupted, Alana O'Rourke retyped the entire first edition and she did so without error! Further, in completing this task, she went beyond what was asked of her and also provided helpful edits and suggestions. I am also grateful to Kristin Martin for her research assistance in verifying information and providing helpful edits. Katy Cooper, a research librarian at University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, took time to work with me, answer questions, and track down sources for examples. Additionally, Suzanne E. Rowe, a professor at the University of Oregon and Series Editor provided valuable edits as did her research assistants, Harvey Rogers and Mason Whitcomb.

I had the support of our Dean, Lloyd Semple, who provided a summer stipend and paid Ms. O'Rourke for her work, and I must thank my 2010–2011 Applied Legal Theory and Analysis students who used the drafts of this book to learn research and provided helpful feedback. I received additional help from Barbara White and James Williams who copied material and created needed PDF files.

Lastly, but most importantly, I must acknowledge my family. My wonderful husband whose sense of humor and unending support for my work allowed me to complete this project and my children of whom I am so proud, provided needed distractions with their activities and achievements so that I could come back to the work rejuvenated and with a fresh eye.

Cristina D. Lockwood  
May 2011

## Acknowledgments from the First Edition

Many people contributed to this book and I am deeply indebted to each of them. Professor Suzanne E. Rowe, the Series Editor, made substantive and stylistic changes that improved the book's quality. Moreover, as the author of previous books in this series, Professor

Rowe shared freely from her own body of work, offered helpful advice based on her experiences, and spent hours with me talking through my plans for this book.

Several colleagues at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law provided invaluable assistance. Katy Cooper, reference librarian, and Kevin Toll, research assistant, tracked down sources, reviewed drafts, and made helpful suggestions. Professor Tracy Weissman read through each chapter and offered important insights, suggestions, and edits. Dean Mark C. Gordon provided funding, encouragement, and support. Most important, he graciously understood when I was unable to attend some law school events because I needed to work on the manuscript. The students of my Applied Legal Theory and Analysis course during the Fall 2005 semester gave me very useful feedback about all aspects of the book. Equally important, they reaffirmed my belief that teaching research can be fun. I am grateful to the research assistants from the University of Oregon who provided editorial work, including Harvey Rogers, Quinn Harrington, Ty Manieri, Derek Marshall, and Ryan Orr. Finally, my husband and colleague, Professor Leon J. Lysaght, Jr. offered excellent advice, personal and emotional support, and lots of in-house catering. With him, I know that all things are possible.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge Professor Amy E. Sloan and Professor Robert C. Berring, each of whom have written well-respected and widely adopted legal research books. I have used their books at various times when teaching legal research and learned a great deal from each of them. I am sure that they have influenced my own thinking and writing about research.

Finally, I want to acknowledge and dedicate this book to Professor Byron Cooper and the library staff at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. They guided me as a student, have assisted me as a teacher, and encouraged me as an author.

Pamela Lysaght  
January 2006