Chinese Legal Research

中国法律研究

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Contents

Series Note xi
Preface and Acknowledgments xiii
Administrative Map of China xv

Chapter One · Introduction to Legal Research in China 3
   I. Difficulties Facing Foreign Researchers 3
   II. Welcome to Chinese Legal Research 4

Chapter Two · The Chinese Legal System 5
   I. History of Chinese Law 5
      A. Ancient China 5
      B. 1912–1949 6
      C. 1949–Present 7
   II. China’s “Chinese Style” Civil Law System 7
   III. Additional Resources 8

Chapter Three · Overview of China’s Constitution 11
   I. Previous Constitutions 11
      A. The Common Program 11
      B. 1954 Constitution 12
      C. 1975 Constitution 13
      D. 1978 Constitution 13
   II. The Current Constitution 14
      A. 1982 Constitution 14
      B. Amendments 15
         1. 1988 Amendments 15
         2. 1993 Amendments 15
         3. 1999 Amendments 16
         4. 2004 Amendments 16
      C. Enforcement Issues 17
         1. Lack of Judicial Review 18
         2. Limited Government Enforcement 18
### CONTENTS

3. Property Acquisition Gone Wrong: The Nail House 18

III. Additional Resources 20

Chapter Four · The Chinese Government 21

I. National Government 21
   A. Presidency and Premiership 21
   B. National People’s Congress 22
   C. Standing Committee 23
   D. State Council 23
   E. Central Military Commission 23
   F. Other Committees 23

II. Local Governments 24
   A. Provincial Governments 25
   B. Municipal Governments 26
   C. County Governments 26
   D. Autonomous Regions 26
   E. Special Administrative Regions 27

III. Additional Resources 27

Chapter Five · Legislation 29

I. National Legislation 29
   A. Primary Regulations 29
   B. Implementation Regulations 30

II. Local Legislation 30
   A. Relationship with National Legislation 31
   B. Structure of Local Governments 31

III. Researching Legislation 32

IV. Additional Resources 32

Chapter Six · Administrative Law and Regulations 33

I. National Administrations 33

II. Local Administrative Branches 34

III. Administrations for Industry and Commerce 34

IV. Additional Resources 35

Chapter Seven · The Chinese Judiciary 37

I. People’s Courts 37
   A. Hierarchy of the Chinese Court System 37
   B. Relationship with AICs 38
   C. Court Opinions 39

II. People’s Procuratorates 39
Series Note

This book will introduce Chinese Legal Research to lawyers, scholars, businesspersons, and others who have practical needs and interests in learning about law and lawmaking in the People’s Republic of China. This book is the second to appear in the new *International Legal Research Series*, started by Carolina Academic Press to provide clear, practical advice and direction on research topics not normally taught in any law school. This book is particularly valuable because it also focuses on the most accessible, trustworthy, and cost-effective research sources for researchers who cannot read Chinese. This book is meant to assist researchers who need to find answers and direction for their work.

This book is also a companion to Paul Kossof’s book on the new Chinese Trademark Law, a book published by Carolina Academic in its *International Legal Practice Series*. The two volumes together on Chinese Trademark Law and Chinese Legal Research are a valuable contribution to understanding law and lawmaking in China.

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Preface and Acknowledgements

Having conducted extensive research on Chinese law over the past several years, I came to the realization that foreign (non-Chinese) researchers would greatly benefit from a condensed guide to performing research on Chinese law. When I first began researching Chinese laws and regulations, I was at a distinct disadvantage because I did not have a background in Chinese legal studies. This forced me to rely heavily on Chinese colleagues. Although I had access to English translations of Chinese regulations, it was difficult to grasp the larger picture of how to conduct research on Chinese law.

During my first “tour” in China, I was only proficient in reading Chinese legal text. Fellow Chinese researchers encountered mixed levels of success in explaining the background of legal issues because I had difficulties reading secondary sources.

I have written *Chinese Legal Research* to be a thorough tool for foreigners researching Chinese law. As foreign researchers possess varying levels of Mandarin fluency, this book is written to be fully accessible to researchers that do not read Mandarin. *Chinese Legal Research* is an introduction to performing legal research on Chinese law. Although it guides the reader through the essentials of Chinese legal research, it is my firm belief that a highly effective legal researcher must be able to read Chinese regulations and secondary sources.

I thank Laney Zhang, Senior Foreign Law Specialist at the United States Law Library of Congress, for her invaluable review of my manuscript and Professor Mark E. Wojcik from The John Marshall Law School for his advice on how to create this book on Chinese legal research.

I dedicate this book to my wife, Xiaoyun Cao.

Paul Kossof
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