

# Chinese Legal Research

## 中国法律研究

Paul Kossof



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# 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.

Prof. Mark E. Wojcik  
The John Marshall Law School  
Chicago, Illinois



# 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  
April 2014

# Administrative Map of China



Source: The World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency,  
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ch.html>