

# **Ohio Legal Research**

CAROLINA ACADEMIC PRESS  
LEGAL RESEARCH SERIES

Tenielle Fordyce-Ruff, Series Editor  
Suzanne E. Rowe, Series Editor Emerita



- Arizona, Fourth Edition — Tamara S. Herrera  
Arkansas, Second Edition — Coleen M. Barger, Cheryl L. Reinhart &  
Cathy L. Underwood  
California, Fourth Edition — Aimee Dudovitz, Sarah Laubach & Suzanne E. Rowe  
Colorado, Second Edition — Robert Michael Linz  
Connecticut, Second Edition — Anne Rajotte & Jessica Rubin  
Federal, Second Edition — Mary Garvey Algero, Spencer L. Simons,  
Suzanne E. Rowe, Scott Childs & Sarah E. Ricks  
Florida, Fifth Edition — Barbara J. Busharis, Anne E. Mullins & Suzanne E. Rowe  
Georgia, Second Edition — Margaret Butler & Thomas Striepe  
Hawai'i — Victoria Szymczak, Cory Lenz & Roberta Woods  
Idaho, Third Edition — Tenielle Fordyce-Ruff  
Illinois, Second Edition — Mark E. Wojcik  
Indiana — Ashley Ames Ahlbrand & Michelle Trumbo  
Iowa, Third Edition — John D. Edwards, Karen L. Wallace & Melissa H. Weresh  
Kansas — Joseph A. Custer & Christopher L. Steadham  
Kentucky, Second Edition — William A. Hilyerd, Kurt X. Metzmeier & David J. Ensign  
Louisiana, Fourth Edition — Mary Garvey Algero  
Massachusetts, Second Edition — E. Joan Blum & Shaun B. Spencer  
Michigan, Fourth Edition — Cristina D. Lockwood  
Minnesota — Suzanne Thorpe  
Mississippi — Kristy L. Gilliland  
Missouri, Fourth Edition — Wanda M. Temm & Julie M. Cheslik  
New York, Fourth Edition — Elizabeth G. Adelman, Courtney L. Selby,  
Brian Detweiler & Kathleen Darvil  
North Carolina, Third Edition — Brenda D. Gibson, Julie L. Kimbrough,  
Laura P. Graham & Nichelle J. Perry  
North Dakota — Anne E. Mullins & Tammy Pettinato Oltz  
Ohio, Third Edition — Sara Sampson, Katherine L. Hall & Carolyn Broering-Jacobs  
Oklahoma — Darin K. Fox, Darla W. Jackson & Courtney L. Selby  
Oregon, Sixth Edition — Megan Austin & Kelly Reynolds  
Pennsylvania, Second Edition — Barbara J. Busharis, Catherine M. Dunn,  
Bonny L. Tavares & Carla P. Wale  
Tennessee, Third Edition — Scott Childs & Sibyl Marshall  
Texas, Second Edition — Spencer L. Simons  
Washington, Second Edition — Julie A. Heintz-Cho, Tom Cobb & Mary A. Hotchkiss  
West Virginia, Second Edition — Hollee Schwartz Temple  
Wisconsin — Patricia Cervenka & Leslie Behrooz  
Wyoming, Third Edition — Debora A. Person & Tawnya K. Plumb



# Ohio Legal Research

Third Edition

**Sara Sampson**  
**Katherine L. Hall**  
**Carolyn Broering-Jacobs**

Tenielle Fordyce-Ruff, Series Editor  
Suzanne E. Rowe, Series Editor Emerita



CAROLINA ACADEMIC PRESS

---

Durham, North Carolina

Copyright © 2025  
Carolina Academic Press, LLC  
All Rights Reserved.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Sampson, Sara, author. | Hall, Katherine L., author. |  
Broering-Jacobs, Carolyn, author.  
Title: Ohio legal research / Sara Sampson, Katherine L. Hall, Carolyn  
Broering-Jacobs.  
Description: Third edition. | Durham : Carolina Academic Press, 2025. |  
Series: Legal research series | Includes bibliographical references and  
index.  
Identifiers: LCCN 2025025352 | ISBN 9781531015039 (paperback) | ISBN  
9781531015046 (ebook)  
Subjects: LCSH: Legal research—Ohio.  
Classification: LCC KFO75 .S26 2025 | DDC 340.072/0771—dc23/  
eng/20250523  
LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2025025352>

Carolina Academic Press  
700 Kent Street  
Durham, North Carolina 27701  
(919) 489-7486  
[www.cap-press.com](http://www.cap-press.com)

Printed in the United States of America.

# Summary of Contents

List of Tables and Figures	xv
Preface and Acknowledgments	xix
Series Note	xxi
Chapter 1 • The Research Process and Legal Analysis	3
Chapter 2 • Researching Constitutions	15
Chapter 3 • Researching Statutes	25
Chapter 4 • Understanding Cases	37
Chapter 5 • Finding and Updating Cases	53
Chapter 6 • Researching Court Rules and Documents	67
Chapter 7 • Researching Administrative Law	77
Chapter 8 • Researching Local Law	91
Chapter 9 • Researching Secondary Sources	95
Chapter 10 • Researching Legislative History & Bill Tracking	111
Chapter 11 • Research Strategies	129

Chapter 12 • Legal Citation	137
Appendix A • Ohio Research Guides	167
Appendix B • Important Legal Research Terminology and Abbreviations	169
Appendix C • Selected County and Law School Libraries in Ohio	175
Appendix D • Selected Legal Writing and Research Texts	181
About the Authors	183
Index	185

# Contents

<b>List of Tables and Figures</b>	xv
<b>Preface and Acknowledgments</b>	xix
<b>Series Note</b>	xxi
<b>Chapter 1 • The Research Process and Legal Analysis</b>	3
I. Legal Research Generally	3
II. The Intersection of Legal Research and Legal Analysis	3
III. Types of Legal Authority	4
IV. Court Systems	5
A. Ohio Courts	5
B. Federal Courts	7
C. Courts of Other States	8
V. Overview of the Research Process	9
A. Generating Research Terms	10
B. Researching the Law—Organization of This Text	11
VI. Selecting Online Sources for Legal Research	12
<b>Chapter 2 • Researching Constitutions</b>	15
I. Constitutions Generally	15
II. The Ohio and U.S. Constitutions	15
A. Constitutional Rights	15
B. Unconstitutional Legislation	16
C. Other Constitutional Provisions	17
III. Constitutional Amendments	17
IV. Researching the Ohio and U.S. Constitutions	18
A. Find a Secondary Source for an Overview	18
B. Find the Relevant Text of the Ohio or U.S. Constitution	19

C. Find Cases That Construe or Apply the Constitution	20
D. Update the Constitutional Provision	21
E. Research the History of a Constitutional Provision or Constitutional Amendment	21
V. Citing Constitutions	22
VI. Additional Resources	22
<b>Chapter 3 • Researching Statutes</b>	<b>25</b>
I. Statutes Generally	25
II. Ohio Statutes	25
A. Session Laws	26
B. Statutory Codes	26
C. Annotated Statutory Codes	28
III. Federal Statutes	28
A. Session Laws	28
B. Statutory Codes	29
C. Annotated Statutory Codes	29
IV. Statutory Research Process	30
A. Generate a List of Research Terms	30
B. Consult Secondary Sources for an Overview and Citations to Primary Authority	30
C. Find and Read the Statutory Language	31
D. Find Cases that Interpret or Apply the Statute	32
E. Updating Statutes	32
V. Other Research Tools	33
A. Uniform Laws and Model Acts	33
B. Statutory Surveys	34
C. Archived Codes	34
VI. Citing Statutes	34
<b>Chapter 4 • Understanding Cases</b>	<b>37</b>
I. Cases and Court Reporters Generally	37
II. Publication of Ohio Cases	38
A. Official Publication	38
B. Print Published and Non-Print Published Distinction	39
C. Unofficial Print Publication	40



III. Reporters for Federal Cases	42
IV. Topical Reporters	43
V. Online Commercial Sources for Cases	43
VI. Features of a Case	44
VII. Reading and Analyzing Cases	47
A. Brief Overview of Civil Procedure	47
B. Analyzing the Substance of the Case	49
C. Strategies for Reading Cases	50
<b>Chapter 5 • Finding and Updating Cases</b>	<b>53</b>
I. Researching Cases Generally	53
II. Full-Text Searching	54
A. Types of Searches	54
B. Narrowing Results with Limits or Filters	56
C. Choosing What to Read	57
III. Online Subject Searching	57
A. Topical Searching on Westlaw	57
1. West's Key Number Digest	57
2. Practice Areas	58
B. Headnote Searching on Lexis	59
IV. Starting with a Relevant Case	59
V. Finding Cases with Generative AI	59
VI. Updating Cases with Citators	60
VII. Citing Cases	64
<b>Chapter 6 • Researching Court Rules and Documents</b>	<b>67</b>
I. Court Rules and Court Documents Generally	67
II. Ohio and Federal Court Rules	67
III. Researching Court Rules	68
A. Develop a List of Research Terms	69
B. Find and Read the Rule	70
C. Find Cases that Interpret or Apply the Rule	70
D. Update the Rule	71
IV. Citing Court Rules	72
V. Rules of Professional Conduct	72
VI. Finding Court Documents	73

<b>Chapter 7 • Researching Administrative Law</b>	<b>77</b>
I. Administrative Law Generally	77
II. Researching Administrative Rules and Regulations	78
A. General Approaches to Researching Administrative Rules	79
B. Researching Ohio Rules	80
1. Ohio Administrative Code	80
2. <i>Ohio Monthly Record</i> and the <i>Register of Ohio</i>	82
3. Updating Ohio Rules	83
C. Researching Federal Regulations	83
1. Code of Federal Regulations	83
2. Federal Register	85
3. Updating Federal Regulations	87
III. Researching Administrative Decisions	87
A. Accessing Agency Decisions	87
B. Updating Agency Decisions	88
IV. Citing Administrative Rules and Decisions	88
A. Rules and Regulations	88
B. Agency Decisions	89
 <b>Chapter 8 • Researching Local Law</b>	 <b>91</b>
I. Local Law Generally	91
II. Finding Municipal Codes	92
III. Updating Municipal Codes	93
IV. Citing Municipal Codes	94
 <b>Chapter 9 • Researching Secondary Sources</b>	 <b>95</b>
I. Secondary Sources Generally	95
II. Legal Encyclopedias	95
III. Practice Treatises	97
IV. Forms	99
A. Ohio Forms	99
B. Federal Forms	100
C. General Forms	100
D. Free Forms Online	100

V.	Law Journals, Legal Newsletters, and Blogs	101
A.	Law Journals	101
B.	Legal Newsletters	102
C.	Legal Blogs	102
VI.	Jury Instructions	103
VII.	General Secondary Sources	104
A.	<i>American Law Reports</i>	104
B.	Restatements and Principles—American Law Institute	105
C.	Uniform Laws and Model Acts	107
VIII.	Citing Secondary Sources	108
 <b>Chapter 10 • Researching Legislative History</b>		
	<b>&amp; Bill Tracking</b>	111
I.	Legislative History Generally	111
II.	Overview of the Legislative Process	112
A.	Bill Introduced	113
B.	Committee Activity	113
C.	Floor Activity	113
D.	Executive Activity	113
III.	Federal Legislative History	114
A.	Types of Federal Legislative History Documents	114
B.	Sources for Federal Legislative History Documents	115
1.	Fee-Based Sources Online	116
2.	Free Sources Online	116
3.	Print Sources	117
C.	Finding Federal Legislative History Documents	117
D.	Tracking Current Federal Legislation	119
1.	Using Congress.gov to Track Federal Legislation	119
2.	Other Online Sources for Tracking Federal Legislation	120
a.	Govtrack.us	120
b.	Westlaw	120
c.	Lexis	120
d.	Bloomberg Law	120
IV.	Ohio Legislative History	120
A.	Types of Ohio Legislative History Documents	121

B. Sources of Ohio Legislative History Documents	122
1. Fee-Based and Free Sources Online	122
2. Print Sources	123
C. Finding Ohio Legislative History Documents	123
D. Tracking Ohio Legislation	124
1. Ohio Legislature	125
2. Westlaw	125
3. Lexis	125
4. Hannah News Service	125
5. Gongwer	125
6. The Ohio Channel	126
V. Citing Legislative History Documents	126
<b>Chapter 11 • Research Strategies</b>	<b>129</b>
I. Legal Research Process	129
II. Research Example	130
A. Generating Research Terms	130
B. Consulting Secondary Sources	131
C. Finding Statutes and Regulations	133
D. Finding Cases	134
E. Updating Authorities	135
F. Concluding Your Research	136
<b>Chapter 12 • Legal Citation</b>	<b>137</b>
I. Introduction to Legal Citation	137
A. The Purpose of Legal Citation	137
B. Sources of Citation Rules	139
C. Incorporating Citations into a Document	140
D. Citations to Print and Online Versions	141
II. Ohio Manual of Citations	142
A. General Instructions for Citing Cases Under the <i>Ohio Manual of Citations</i>	142
1. Party Names	143
2. Reporters	143
3. Parentheticals	143
4. Pinpoint Citations	144

5. Introductory Signals	144
6. Prior and Subsequent History	145
B. Special Rules for Citing Particular Types of Ohio Cases	146
1. Citing Ohio Cases Without a WebCite	146
a. Print Published (Reported) Cases	146
b. Cases Not Appearing in a Print Reporter	147
2. Citing Ohio Cases that have a WebCite	147
C. Citing Cases from Other State Jurisdictions	149
D. Citing Cases from Federal Courts	150
E. Citing Statutes and Regulations	151
F. Secondary Sources	152
G. Short-Form Citations	153
III. The <i>Bluebook</i> and <i>ALWD</i> Guide	153
A. Citations for Practice Documents	154
1. Bluebook Quick Reference Guides	155
2. Index	155
B. Cases	155
1. Essential Components of Case Citations	156
2. Full and Short Citations to Cases	157
3. Prior and Subsequent History	159
C. Codes	159
D. Constitutions	161
E. Secondary Sources	161
F. Signals	161
G. Quotations	162
H. Citation Details	163
I. Citations for Law Review Articles	164
IV. Editing Citations	165
V. Deciphering Legal Abbreviations	166
<b>Appendix A • Ohio Research Guides</b>	167
I. Online Ohio Research Guides	167
II. Print Research Guides	168
<b>Appendix B • Important Legal Research Terminology and Abbreviations</b>	169

<b>Appendix C • Selected County and Law School Libraries in Ohio</b>	175
<b>Appendix D • Selected Legal Writing and Research Texts</b>	181
<b>About the Authors</b>	183
<b>Index</b>	185

## List of Tables and Figures

Table 1-1.	Examples of Authority in Ohio Research	5
Table 1-2.	Ohio Court Structure	7
Table 1-3.	Overview of the Research Process	9
Table 1-4.	Generating Research Terms	11
Table 2-1.	Outline of Constitutional Law Research	18
Table 2-2.	Ohio Constitution Citation Example	22
Table 3-1.	Chapters in Title 43, Liquors	27
Table 3-2.	Overview of the Ohio Statutory Research Process	30
Table 3-3.	Sections of Chapter 1101, Banks—Offenses	31
Table 3-4.	Ohio Statute Citation Example	35
Table 3-5.	Federal Statute Citation Example	35
Table 4-1.	Official Publication of Ohio Court Opinions	39
Table 4-2.	State Cases Included in Regional Reporters	41
Table 4-3.	Reporters for Federal Court Cases	42
Table 5-1.	Connectors and Commands for Online Searching	55
Table 5-2.	Outline for Updating Cases	61
Table 5-3.	Selected Signals of Online Citators	62
Table 5-4.	Selected Types of Treatment in Online Citators	63
Table 5-5.	Ohio Case Citation Examples	65
Table 6-1.	Selected Court Rules Applicable to Ohio Courts	68
Table 6-2.	Overview of Court Rules Research Process	69
Table 6-3.	Examples of Court Rule Citation	72
Table 7-1.	Example of the Relationship Between a Statute and Rules	79
Table 7-2.	Regulation Citation Example	89
Table 8-1.	Commercial Publishers of Municipal Codes	93
Table 8-2.	Municipal Code Citation	94
Table 9-1.	List of <i>Baldwin's Ohio Practice</i> Treatises	97

Table 9-2.	List of Lexis Ohio Practice Treatises	98
Table 9-3.	Examples of <i>American Law Reports</i> Annotations	104
Table 9-4.	Restatement Topics	106
Table 9-5.	Principles Topics	106
Table 9-6.	Treatise Citation Example	108
Table 9-7.	Legal Encyclopedia Citation Example	108
Table 9-8.	Restatement Citation Example	109
Table 9-9.	Law Review Article Citation Example	109
Table 10-1.	Ohio Bill Citation Example	126
Table 10-2.	Federal House Report Citation Example	127
Table 11-1.	Overview of the Research Process	129
Table 11-2.	Generating Research Terms	130
Table 12-1.	Citation Example	138
Table 12-2.	Citation Information Important to Legal Researchers	139
Table 12-3.	Examples of Citation Sentences and Citation Clauses	141
Table 12-4.	Structure of the <i>Ohio Manual of Citations</i>	142
Table 12-5.	Signals in the <i>Ohio Manual</i>	145
Table 12-6.	Example Ohio Reported Cases Without a WebCite	146
Table 12-7.	Example Ohio Unreported Cases Without a WebCite	147
Table 12-8.	Example Ohio Cases With a WebCite	149
Table 12-9.	Example Federal Case Citations	151
Table 12-10.	Example Code Citations	152
Table 12-11.	Citations to Secondary Sources	152
Table 12-12.	Structure of the <i>Bluebook</i> and the <i>ALWD Guide</i>	154
Table 12-13.	Examples of Reported Cases in <i>Bluebook</i> / <i>ALWD</i> Citation	157
Table 12-14.	Examples of Full Citations	158
Table 12-15.	Examples of Statutory and Regulatory Code Citations	160
Table 12-16.	Examples of Constitutional Citations	161
Table 12-17.	Secondary Source Citations in <i>Bluebook</i> / <i>ALWD</i> Form	161
Table 12-18.	Common <i>Bluebook</i> / <i>ALWD</i> Signals	162
Table 12-19.	<i>Bluebook</i> / <i>ALWD</i> Typeface for Law Review Footnotes	164
Figure 2-1.	Excerpt from the Constitution of the State of Ohio from Westlaw	20
Figure 4-1.	Excerpt of Ohio Case from <i>Ohio State Reports</i>	45
Figure 6-1.	Simulated Court Docket	73



Figure 7-1. Branches of Government	77
Figure 7-2. Example of an Ohio Rule in the Ohio Administrative Code	81
Figure 7-3. Sample Federal Regulation in the CFR	84
Figure 7-4. Excerpt from the Federal Register Table of Contents	86
Figure 8-1. Sample Municipal Ordinance	92
Figure 9-1. Excerpt from <i>Ohio Jurisprudence 3d</i>	96
Figure 10-1. Legislative Process	111
Figure 10-2. History Note in the <i>United States Code</i>	118
Figure 10-3. Bill Summary on Congress.gov	119
Figure 10-4. History Note for Ohio Statute	124
Figure 11-1. <i>Ohio Jurisprudence 3d</i> , Family Law	132
Figure 12-1. Excerpt from a Supreme Court of Ohio Opinion	148



## Preface and Acknowledgments

*Ohio Legal Research* provides a concise introduction to Ohio-specific primary authorities and research tools for readers new to legal research or new to researching Ohio law. *Ohio Legal Research* introduces federal resources alongside their Ohio counterparts, which makes the text useful for an introductory research course that covers both state and federal research. Written with the understanding that research is best learned by practice, *Ohio Legal Research* offers succinct explanation to guide the novice without including so much as to overwhelm.

*Ohio Legal Research* follows a pragmatic process-based approach by introducing the sources of law and a process for researching those sources in Chapter 1. Subsequent chapters then employ that research process to explain how to research constitutions, statutes, cases, court rules, administrative law, and legislative history (Chapters 2 through 8, and 10). Chapter 9 covers secondary sources. Chapter 11 pulls process and substance together by walking the reader through researching a legal issue following the research process used throughout the text.

This updated third edition incorporates recent changes to the major electronic research platforms including the newest generative AI systems, while maintaining a process focus that will help the reader no matter which platform is available. Updated web addresses also point the researcher to many materials available for free online. Finally, *Ohio Legal Research* includes a fully updated chapter on citation that teaches basic citation form using the major citation manuals and, perhaps most significant to the Ohio practitioner, the newest edition of the *Ohio Manual of Citation*.

The third edition of this book is long overdue and was waylaid by COVID-19, both the worldwide pandemic's effects on our institutions and the

personal impact of long COVID. We are grateful to Spencer Kluth, Ohio State Law class of 2023, who brought a student's perspective to her editing work, and Gavin Maziarz, Ohio State Law class of 2026, who helped get this edition across the finish line.

We are indebted to Suzanne Rowe for her editorial guidance in writing the first two editions of this book. Chapters 1, 4, 12 are based in part upon her book *Oregon Legal Research*.

We remain grateful to those who helped with the first edition of the book, authored by Katherine Hall and Sara Sampson. The staffs of the Moritz Law Library at The Ohio State University and of the Georgetown University Law Library provided invaluable assistance. Special thanks to Matt Steinke, now at University of Texas, for his expert advice and to Intaba Shauri, former Georgetown Law research assistant, for his exceptional help on this project.

We also wish to thank our families, friends, and cats for their support.

## 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, and laypeople 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.

