

# **California Legal Research**

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# California Legal Research

Fourth Edition

**Aimee Dudovitz**  
**Sarah Laubach**  
**Suzanne E. Rowe**

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



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*Dedicated*

*to Joshua and Jeffrey*

*A.D.*

*to Ilan*

*S.L.*

*and to Didi and Hether*

*S.E.R.*



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## Series Note

The Legal Research Series published by Carolina Academic Press includes titles from many states around the country as well as a separate text on federal legal research. 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 jurisdiction. Unlike more bibliographic texts, the Legal Research Series books seek to explain concisely both the sources of legal research and the process for conducting legal research effectively.



## Preface and Acknowledgments for the Fourth Edition

This fourth edition of *California Legal Research* continues the goal of prior editions: to explain clearly, but concisely, the sources and the process for researching California law. While much has changed in the three years since the third edition was published, we prioritized essential updates and tighter explanations to keep this edition familiar to readers of the prior editions. This edition increasingly emphasizes online research, while including guidance with print sources that remain relevant. The chapter on researching judicial opinions, for instance, has been substantially revised to embrace the shift to online case research.

As in prior editions, we emphasize Lexis and Westlaw products because they are the most widely used and the most relevant to California-specific research, and we attempt to present balanced coverage of Lexis and Westlaw. To make the book more readable, we have in the text used the abbreviated term “Westlaw” to refer to Westlaw Edge and omitted the registered trademark symbol above that term as well as “Lexis,” “Lexis Advance,” and “Shepard’s.” We are grateful to the publishers for permission to include small portions of their books and online products in this text. This edition reduces its coverage of Bloomberg Law, which is most useful in researching business law topics and dockets, rather than general research.

In this fourth edition, we express our deep appreciation to Hether Macfarlane. She was the lead author of the first two editions, and she continued as an author of the third edition. Her work is still reflected throughout this new edition, particularly the chapters on judicial opinions, statutes, and constitutions. Those chapters and the one on researching judicial opinions were updated by our new co-author Sarah Laubach, who brought new insights to the entire project. Aimee Dudovitz was responsible for updating the chapters on legislative history, administrative law, and secondary sources. Professor Dudovitz continues as our lead author, unifying the voices of three authors and coordinating

the production process. Suzanne Rowe updated the chapters on the research process, research techniques, citators, research strategies, and citation. Portions of this book are based on *Oregon Legal Research*<sup>1</sup> and are used with permission. The final product was again a collaborative effort.

Aimee Dudovitz  
Sarah Laubach  
Suzanne E. Rowe

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1. Particularly, the opening of Chapter 1, the guidance on reading cases in Chapter 3, general discussions of secondary sources in Chapter 10, and the explanation of case citations in Chapter 12 draw from that book, as do other books in the Legal Research Series.