

Oregon Legal Research

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Preface and Acknowledgments

This fifth edition of *Oregon Legal Research* teaches law students, paralegals, and other newcomers the sources, processes, and strategies for conducting research in Oregon law. As with prior editions, librarians and other expert researchers should find the book a useful reference to Oregon legal resources and research techniques.

The changes to this edition are minor, responding to requests from faculty and needs of students. Three deserve note: First, the initial chapter of the fourth edition has been divided. The first portion of that chapter is now a very brief Introduction that presents types of authority, gives an overview of the research process, and explains how to prepare for efficient and effective research. The goal is for students to read about these foundational concepts before their first research class. The remainder of that initial chapter continues to appear in Chapter 1, which now addresses legal research fundamentals, principally online providers and search techniques.¹ A second notable change is that most figures have been moved to the end of each chapter and some have been labeled to help orient new researchers. Third, Chapter 6 begins with an introduction to administrative law, given that few first-year law courses address that area of primary authority.

Westlaw and Lexis continue to be the premier online research providers, and this edition continues to emphasize them. Because they frequently upgrade their products, we have chosen to use “Westlaw” for Westlaw Edge and “Lexis” for Lexis+. The book mentions other online sources, particularly in Chapter 1, and notes that techniques for searching Westlaw and Lexis are

1. Throughout the book, sample online searches are printed in italics to distinguish them from the rest of the text.

easily transferred to other online sources. As always, we acknowledge the permission of publishers that allow us to illustrate their products to readers. This edition provides less coverage of print materials, particularly eliminating use of print digests, as more research has moved online.

This edition still uses primarily Oregon citation format, relying principally on the *Oregon Appellate Courts Style Manual*. Researchers are most likely to encounter that format in Oregon resources, although the book explains national citation format in two places. Appendix A addresses federal resources, so those sources are cited in national format, with Oregon format mentioned in footnotes. Appendix B begins with Oregon citation format, then devotes attention to the national citation format of *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* and the *ALWD Guide to Legal Citation*. Oregon style differs only slightly from the national format, notably abbreviating Oregon's statutory code as "ORS" rather than the nationally used "Or. Rev. Stat." and omitting periods in reporter abbreviations (e.g., *Oregon Reports*, *Court of Appeals* is "Or App" in Oregon, not "Or. App.").

We are grateful to the many colleagues and students whose contributions continue to influence the book. For this fifth edition, we appreciate research assistants Haley Frank, Nate Richardson, and Mike Romano. We are grateful for the contributions of library colleagues to each edition, particularly Angus Nesbit, Stephanie Midkiff, Dennis Hyatt, Kelly Reynolds, and Jaye Barlous. Earlier editions also benefited from the contributions of Dan Barerra, Carl Bjerre, Nicole Mortemore Cartelli, Zach Conway, Jerry Curry, Elizabeth Ruiz Frost, Jessica Greathouse, Katie Green, Ryan Hall, Megan McCombs Hays, Tim Hering, Jeff Hinman, Jennifer Hisey, Jessica Hong, Sam Jacobson, Steve Johansen, Kyung Duk Ko, Alice LaViolette, Lindsay Massara, Elayna Zammarelli Matthews, Michael Moffitt, Deborah Neighbors, Greena Ng, David Olsson, Kyra Patterson, Caulin Price, Marcus Reed, Joan Malmud Rocklin, Harvey Rogers, Lauren Russell, Layne Sawyer, Michael Schneider, David Schuman, Amy Sloan, Zachary Sykes, Donna Williamson, Ashley Wong, and Kyu Ho Youm.

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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, 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.

