

Kentucky Legal Research

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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

Kentucky Legal Research has been written to assist readers in acquiring and perfecting legal research skills. Since there are a wide range of options for locating primary and secondary materials, we include both print and electronic sources. Throughout the chapters, we refer to commercial providers of computerized legal research, primarily Lexis and Westlaw but also Casemaker, which is now free to members of the Kentucky Bar Association. We are also careful to discuss all relevant Internet websites maintained by the Kentucky government.

The text begins with an overview of the research process and legal analysis. The objectives of each chapter include an explanation of research strategies and a discussion of print and electronic resources. To simplify the research process, we often include detailed description of various research tasks. We also provide a variety of examples and screen shots to illustrate the sources. Some chapters include appendixes that provide the researcher with more detailed information.

Each chapter gives a very brief explanation of appropriate federal materials that could be used with Kentucky materials. Since legal ethics research is very important, a separate chapter addresses that topic. At the end of the book, there is an appendix briefly discussing Kentucky citation rules and a selective bibliography of legal research materials.

As explained in Appendix A, attorneys in Kentucky use citations that vary somewhat from the national formats. The ones that readers will encounter most frequently in this book are using “KRS” for the Kentucky Revised Statutes, “KAR” for the *Kentucky Administrative Regulations Service*, and “Com.” to abbreviate the Commonwealth of Kentucky in case names.

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