Ohio Legal Research
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Legal Research Series

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Series Note

The Legal Research Series published by Carolina Academic Press includes titles from 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

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 second edition incorporates recent changes to the major electronic research platforms, 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, including the recently adopted, official electronic reporting system for Ohio case law. Finally, Ohio Legal Research includes a fully revised chapter on citation that teaches basic citation form using the major citation manuals and, perhaps most significant to the Ohio practitioner, the recently overhauled Ohio Manual of Citations (Chapter 12).

We are indebted to Suzanne Rowe for her editorial guidance in writing this book. Her editorial assistance was as valuable in the second edition as it was in the first. Chapters 1, 4, 12, and the appendix to Chapter 5 are based in part upon her book Oregon Legal Research. Many thanks to her team for its help in editing the book, especially Sarah Garrott, Ariana Denley, and Corina Ubario.
In this second edition, we welcome a new co-author, Carolyn Broering-Jacobs, who has added her expertise in Ohio legal research and writing to this edition.

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.

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