California Legal Research
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LEGAL RESEARCH SERIES

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Third Edition

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Suzanne E. Rowe, Series Editor

CAROLINA ACADEMIC PRESS
Durham, North Carolina
Dedicated

to Joshua and Jeffrey
A.D.

to Stephen and Ellen
H.C.M.

and to Didi Alfred
S.E.R.
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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 for the Third Edition

This 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. Once again, as we updated the text, we avoided making non-essential changes, meaning this edition should feel familiar to readers of the prior editions.

This edition incorporates several important updates. Most obviously, Lexis and Westlaw have retired their “classic” versions, and WestlawNext has been replaced by Thomson Reuters Westlaw. In addition, Bloomberg Law has continued to grow, and while we still consider it most useful in researching business law topics and docket, we have included more explanations of how to use Bloomberg Law in general research. As in the second edition, we focus on Lexis and Westlaw products because they are the most widely used and the most relevant to California-specific research, and we attempt to present a 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 “Thomson Reuters Westlaw” and omitted the registered trademark symbol above those terms as well as “Lexis,” “Lexis Advance,” and “Shepard’s.” We are grateful to all of the publishers for permission to include small portions of their books and online products in this text.

In this third edition, Aimee Dudovitz has become the lead author, not solely due to alphabetical order but because of her increased role in unifying the voices of three authors and coordinating the production process. The book continues to be a collaborative effort, with each author contributing to each chapter. Professor Dudovitz took the lead in updating chapters on legislative history, administrative law, and secondary sources. Professor Macfarlane was responsible for updating the chapters on judicial opinions, researching judicial opinions, statutes, and constitutions. Professor 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* and are used with permission.¹

Aimee Dudovitz  
Hether C. Macfarlane  
Suzanne E. Rowe

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¹ Particularly, the opening of Chapter 1, 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.