

Legal Research & Writing Outline 2017

1. Understanding the Basics of the Law

- What Is the Law?
- Sources of Law
- State Versus Federal Law
- The Court System

2. Finding Legal Resources

- Where Legal Information Is Located
- Primary Sources and Secondary Sources
- Looking for Legal Resources on the Internet
- Legal Research Websites

3. Identifying Your Legal Issue

- How to Approach Your Research
- Step 1: Is the Issue Civil or Criminal?
- Step 2: Figuring Out the Area of Law You're Researching
- Step 3: What Are the Resources That Will Help You Find What You Need?
- Step 4: Figure Out Your Legal Research Question

4. Finding and Using Secondary Sources

- Online Resources
- Self-Help Legal Books
- Legal Encyclopedias
- Form Books
- Practice Manuals
- Continuing Legal Education Publications
- Law Reviews and Other Legal Periodicals
- Specialized Loose-Leaf Materials
- Treatises and Monographs
- Restatements of the Law

5. Finding and Using Constitutions, Statutes, Regulations, and Ordinances

- Finding and Using Constitutions
- Finding Federal Statutes
- Finding State Statutes
- Understanding and Using Federal and State Statutes
- Finding and Using Regulations
- Finding and Using Procedural Statutes and Rules
- Finding and Using Local Laws or Ordinances

6. Finding Cases

- Using Citations to Find Cases
- Finding Cases on the Internet
- Finding Cases in the Law Library
- The Next Step

7. Using Case Law

- What Is a Case?
- How Cases Are Published
- How Cases Affect Later Disputes

8. Validating Your Research

- Making Sure It's "Good Law"
- How to Shepardize a Case
- Shepardizing Statutes
- Using Shepard's for Research

9. Organizing and Putting Your Legal Research to Use

- Organizing Your Research
- How to Write a Legal Memorandum
- Going to Court
- Finding and Working With a Lawyer

* **Book: Legal Research, Stephen Elias, Attorney | 2015, 17th Edition, at www.nolo.com.**