



The University of the District of Columbia
David A. Clarke School of Law
The Charles N. and Hilda H. M. Mason Law Library

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Resources for Learning the Law

I. Secondary Resources – definitions, explanations, legal analysis

Legal Terms and Phrases: *Black's Law Dictionary*
Bieber's Dictionary of Legal Abbreviations
Words and Phrases
All located in the Reference Room.

Legal Encyclopedias: *American Jurisprudence (AmJur)* – in the Reference Room
Corpus Juris Secundum (CJS) – in the Clinic Library, 2d floor

Nutshells: Brief overviews of areas of law, e.g., *Criminal Law in a Nutshell*
– on Reserve

Hornbooks: Concise, one volume, scholarly explanation of legal topics,
e.g., *Prosser & Keeton on Torts* – on Reserve.

Other Single Volume Treatises: Similar to hornbooks, e.g., *Civil Procedure by Friedenthal, Kane & Miller* – may be on Reserve, in Reference, or in Main Classified.

Multi-volume Treatises: Very detailed, comprehensive treatment of an area of law,
e.g., *Federal Practice and Procedure, Moore's Federal Practice* – in Main Classified.

Legal Periodicals: Scholarly articles by academics, judges, practitioners and law students ; most law reviews are published and edited by second and third year law students. Current issues are on Reserve; bound volumes are in compact shelving.

II. Primary Sources of the Law – common law, statutes and administrative law

Case Reporters: Publications of opinions written by judges, mainly appellate judges, e.g., the *Atlantic Reporter*, the *Federal Reporter*, the *Supreme Court Reporter* – in the Reading Room, lower level near the windows.

Statutes and Codes: Publications of law enacted by legislatures, e.g., the *United States Code* – in the Reading Room, lower level near steps; the *District of Columbia Official Code* – in the Reading Room, to the right as you enter.

Administrative Law

Rulings & Regulations: Executive agency law, local law, e.g., *The Code of Federal Regulations* – in the Reading Room, lower level, near U.S. Code; *The Code of D.C. Municipal Regulations* – in the Reading Room, following D.C. statutes.

III. Miscellaneous Aids

Form Books: Models for drafting pleadings and other legal papers, e.g., *American Jurisprudence Legal Forms*, *Bender's Federal Practice Forms* – in Main Classified and Clinic Library.

Style and Citation Manuals: *The Bluebook*, *ALWD*, *Chicago Manual of Style* – on Reserve.