

## **Legal Research on the Web**

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There are many reliable sources for online legal research. These web sites and Law Library databases offer an alternative to the fee-based services of Lexis and Westlaw.

For **federal** case law, statutes, administrative, and executive resources, see the following web sites.

### **Supreme Court Decisions**

The Legal Information Institute at Cornell Law School (LII)

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/>)

has a database of decisions from 1990 to the present and selected historic decisions. The opinions are searchable by topic, author and party.

Findlaw (<http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.html>) has decisions from 1893 to the present. This database is browsable by year and U.S. Reports volume and can be searched by citation, case title or full text.

### **Courts of Appeals Decisions**

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/federal/opinions.html#appeals>)

The database is searchable by opinion or case number, title and keyword. You may search for decisions from all the circuits or a selected circuit. See this page for decisions from district, bankruptcy courts and courts of special jurisdiction.

Findlaw (<http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/index.html#federal>) provides links to U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals opinions and web sites. Coverage varies from each court, but generally includes opinions from the mid-1990's.

### **United States Code**

The Office of Law Revision Counsel publishes the U.S. Code (<http://uscode.house.gov/>). This web site includes searchable versions of the current and some older versions of the Code. Click on "Classification Tables" to see recently enacted public laws, tables showing where they will appear in the Code and which sections of the Code have been amended by those laws. Present and historical versions of the U.S. Code (1994-2000 with supplements) are also available from GPO Access at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/index.html>).

### **Code of Federal Regulations**

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html> Coverage is from 1996 to the present. The CFR is searchable by citation and keyword. You may also browse CFR titles individually. The List of Sections Affected (LSA) (<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/lsa/index.html>) from 1997 to the present updates the CFR.

### **Federal Register**

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>) Coverage is from 1994 to the present. The database is searchable or you may browse the table of contents. For sample searches, select search tips (<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/tips.html>).

### **Administrative Decisions**

For federal agency decisions of the Executive Branch, see the link from GPO Access (<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/agencies.html>) to (<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/cgi-bin/search.cgi>).

For **Massachusetts** case law, statutes, administrative, and executive resources, see the following web sites.

### **Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court** (<http://www.malawyersweekly.com/masjc.cfm>)

Includes slip opinions from 1997 to the present. Search full text or browse by month/year. For the most recent 6 months slip opinions from the Social Law Library, see (<http://www.sociallaw.com/slips.htm?sid=120>).

### **Massachusetts Appeals Court**

(<http://www.masslaw.com/macoa.cfm>)

Includes slip opinions from 1999 to the present. Search full text or browse by month/year. For the most recent 6 months slip opinions from the Social Law Library, see (<http://www.sociallaw.com/slips.htm?sid=119>)

### **Massachusetts Superior Courts**

(<http://www.sociallaw.com/slips.htm?sid=121>)

Includes selected opinions from 2005 to the present.

### **Massachusetts General Laws**

(<http://www.mass.gov/legis/legis.htm>)

Includes links to the General Laws, the Massachusetts Constitution, current legislation, and other legislative information. A concise legislative history research guide is published by the State Library of Massachusetts at (<http://www.mass.gov/lib/guides/trace.htm>). For an in-depth legislative history research guide, see (<http://www.mass.gov/lib/guides/mlh.htm>).

### **Massachusetts Administrative Law**

The Social Law Library Massachusetts Administrative Law database

(<http://www.law.suffolk.edu/library/research/databases.cfm>)

includes the Code of Massachusetts Regulations and decisions of Massachusetts administrative agencies. On Site Access Only (for off site access, go to <http://library.law.suffolk.edu/screens/lawdb.html>).

For links to agencies of the Executive Branch, see

(<http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=mg2constituent&&L=2&sid=massgov2&L0=Home&L1=State+Government>). Selected Massachusetts municipal codes are available at (<http://www.law.suffolk.edu/library/research/a-z/webography/municodes.cfm#mass>).

### **Other States Resources**

For a list of states, linked to resources including cases, codes, statutes, libraries, courts, and research guides, see (<http://www.findlaw.com/11stategov/>).

## Free Online Databases

**LexisONE** (<http://www.lexisone.com/caselaw/freecaselaw>) provides access to state and federal cases for the past five years and the U.S. Supreme Court from 1790 to the present. Search by keyword, citation or party name. Requires free registration.

**Loislaw** (<http://www.loislawschool.com>) offers students free access to Loislaw. The database includes state and federal law, treatises in several subject areas, and public records information. Requires free registration. See a reference librarian for the access code.

**Massachusetts Trial Court Libraries** (<http://www.lawlib.state.ma.us/>) provide links to Massachusetts cases, regulations, Executive Orders, federal and laws of other states. Patrons have on site access to Lexis and Westlaw at a number of county law libraries (<http://www.lawlib.state.ma.us/lexiswestlaw.html>).

## Law Reviews Online

### Hein Online

(<http://0-heinonline.org.library.law.suffolk.edu/HOL/Index?collection=journals>). This database is accessible to Suffolk Law students, faculty and staff.

For other resources for online law journals, see the **Law Library of Congress** (<http://www.loc.gov/law/guide/lawreviews.html>), **Jurist** (<http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/lawreviews>).