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L is for Lawyer: An Alphabet of Handy Web Pages

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I. Introduction

This paper contains an alphabetical list of 26 websites that you may find helpful when conducting legal research. These websites are just a sample of what is available on the Internet to assist your legal research every day. The list below includes government, educational, and commercial websites, most of which focus on the law and legal related topics. In addition to those, there are also a few non-legal websites included because of their usefulness to legal professionals. This list of websites does not pretend to be the definitive list of legal websites available, but rather a good jumping off point to familiarize you with the types of information available on the Internet to assist you in conducting legal research. All of the links covered in this paper are also available online at: http://www.law.uga.edu/library/research/internet/resource_list2006.htm

II. The Sites

A to D



AnyWho

<http://www.anywho.com/>

AnyWho is an online phone directory maintained by AT&T. It offers searching for contact information for both individuals and businesses. The searches are divided into

three sections: White Pages, Yellow Pages, and Reverse Lookup. The Reverse Lookup section covers both businesses and individuals, but excludes cell phone numbers. The White Pages section is made up of publicly available published local telephone directory listings and is updated every 3-6 months. The Yellow Pages section pulls its information from another online directory called InfoSpace <<http://www.infospace.com>>. It is very common for online phone directories to pull information from the same source records. This makes the major difference between online phone directories the look of the website itself and the ease of using the search mechanism, rather than the content.



BeSpacific

<http://www.bespacific.com/>

Started in September 2002 and hosted by Sabrina Pacifici, *BeSpacific* provides daily law and technology news with links to reliable primary and secondary sources on e-government, copyright, privacy, cybercrime, freedom of information, and other related technology issues. Sabrina Pacifici also started and still edits the well-known web newsletter LLRX.com.



Copyright – United States Copyright Office

<http://www.copyright.gov/>

Copyright.gov, the homepage for the United States Copyright Office serves the

copyright community of creators, users, legal professionals, as well as the general public.

One of the core features of the website is the ability to search all copyright ownership and registration documents since 1978. Under 'Search' you are given 3 databases to choose from depending on the type of material. There is a lag of several months before recent registrations appear in the database. *Copyright.gov* has links to all key publications produced by the United States Copyright Office, including information circulars, application forms for copyright registration, links to copyright law and policy, links to copyright-related organizations, and the latest regulations. There are also sections on 'Hot Topics' and 'What's New' which can also be accessed through a RSS feed. and a link to the copyright records cataloged since 1978. The site is easy to read, navigate, and is rich in information – it should be a model for other government websites.



DiscoveryResources.org

<http://www.discoveryresources.org/>

DiscoveryResources.org provides up-to-date information, resources, and news concerning electronic discovery. There are sections offering access to case law, white papers, news summaries, event calendars, and analysis. The site is designed for legal professionals who seek to understand the many new technological and legal challenges associated with electronic discovery. It is sponsored by Fios, a tier-one electronic discovery services provider.

E to H



EDGAR

<http://www.sec.gov/edgar.shtml>

EDGAR is a federal government database providing free access to SEC filings, including registration statements, periodic reports, and other forms. From the website listed above one should click on the 'Search for Company Filings' link to go to the several search options for accessing *EDGAR* information. All companies, foreign and domestic, are required to file registration statements, periodic reports, and certain other forms electronically through *EDGAR*, making it an excellent source for company information. The *EDGAR* homepage provides a link to the current SIC Code List and a tutorial for using the database. The website also provides links to written and oral statements made by members of the SEC's staff on various accounting and legal matters and links to related regulatory actions.



FindLaw

<http://www.findlaw.com/>

FindLaw remains the most popular legal site on the Internet. The website has divided

itself into two separate homepages, one 'For the Public' and one 'For Legal Professionals'. The page 'For Legal Professionals' has made it easier to quickly access information that is of interest to a practicing attorney. There is a section 'Research the Law' that provides a directory of links arranged by topic. The 'In the News' section focuses on news of legal interest, rather than popular culture. The 'Legal Market Center' contains links to services and the 'Practice Tools' ensures access to a wide variety of additional features that *FindLaw* offers, such as e-newsletters, email, and a career center. The feature that makes *FindLaw* especially useful is the 'Search' section at the top of the page. It allows one to search subsections of the entire *FindLaw* website or to expand one's search to other parts of the Internet. Because *FindLaw* is a commercial site operated by Thomson West, it also offers access to some Thomson West proprietary sources, such as West's Legal Directory.



Georgia Family Law Blog

[http://www. skfamilylaw.com/blog/](http://www.skfamilylaw.com/blog/)

Georgia Family Law Blog focuses on providing information on the law of divorce and related family law matters in Georgia. It also will occasionally comment on the process of family law litigation in Georgia. The blog is frequently updated and past entries can be searched by date and by category. There are links to a few relevant divorce resources and to blogs focusing on family law in other jurisdictions. The *Georgia Family Law Blog* is maintained by the Atlanta firm Senterfitt & Knight, LLC. The Internet contains

many such practice area specific blogs, which you can find links to at websites that maintain directory lists of law related blogs, such as Blawg <<http://www.blawg.org>> or Blawg Republic <<http://www.blawgrepublic.com>>.



HowAppealing

<http://legalaaffairs.org/howappealing/>

Another practice area centered blog, *HowAppealing* focuses on all aspects of appellate practice. There are frequent daily postings highlighting articles and news blurbs concerning a wide variety of cases. It began in 2002 and is maintained by Howard J. Bashman, a Pennsylvania appellate attorney, and sponsored by LegalAffairs.org. In addition to the blog itself, there are links to other favorite blogs of the host and links to the current issue of Legal Affairs.

I to L



IRS Forms and Publications

<http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/>

The *IRS Forms and Publications* site serves as the official source of Internal Revenue Service tax products. There are many links, divided into sub-sections, which provide

different methods to access and acquire both electronic and print forms and documentation, including both current forms as well as those from past years. Additionally there is a 'Search' box at the top of the page that provides basic and advance search capabilities for retrieving published materials available on IRS.gov. On the left sidebar there is a handy section on 'IRS Resources' that covers contact information, Frequently Asked Questions, news, and compliance & enforcement issues. There is also a link to the 'What's Hot in forms and publications' that is an excellent way to keep up-to-date with recent form changes, newly-enacted tax law changes, and changes from prior tax law that will be reflected in future versions of the tax products.



JURIST

<http://jurist.law.pitt.edu>

JURIST is the single best place to access current legal news on the Internet. It is hosted by the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and staffed by legally-trained law professors and students reporting and researching law in real time, as a public service. The mission of its reporters and editors is to focus on the legal importance of news stories rather than on their mass-market appeal. In practice, this means that *JURIST* tends to have less about sensational news about crimes, trials and celebrities, and instead concentrates on substantive legal and political issues with significant social and jurisprudential implications. *JURIST* provides on its webpage and through RSS feeds access to current legal news, live webcasts of law related news events, a video archive,

links to legal documents in the news, discussion forums, a hotline section, in depth coverage of a current news topic, and this day in legal history section.



Kangaroo Court – from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

[http:// en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kangaroo_court](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kangaroo_court)

Handy websites that start with the letter K are more difficult to identify than one would think. The link listed under "K" takes you to the entry for 'Kangaroo Court' from *Wikipedia*. *Wikipedia* is a free encyclopedia that is created and maintained by volunteer contributors and experts from around the world. It gives one quick desktop access to a wealth of information in brief, easy-to-read article format. Each entry has links to other articles in *Wikipedia* and to outside sources. Anyone is able to edit an entry, which can lead to errors and misinformation, but the website is working towards establishing more quality controls. Recently the scientific journal 'Nature' did a comparison of science articles in *Wikipedia* versus the Encyclopedia Britannica and demonstrated that *Wikipedia* is a relatively dependable source of information, with only a slightly high error rate than the traditional Encyclopedia Britannica. *Wikipedia* is a non-commercial site that operates from donations to its foundation.



LII - Legal Information Institute

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

LII is an exceptional directory of legal information maintained by the Legal Information Institute at the Cornell Law School. The Institute has pioneered the use of digital information technology in the distribution of legal information, the delivery of legal education, and the practice of law since 1992. The mission of the website is to make the law more accessible not only to U.S. legal professionals, but also to students, teachers, and the general public in the U.S. and abroad. The website first gained notoriety as the source for recent U.S. Supreme Court cases, but now offers links to a wide variety of resources, including, the entire Uniform Commercial Code, opinions of the U.S. Court of Appeals, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Criminal Procedure, and Evidence, the American Legal Ethics Library, and the constitutions and codes for all 50 states. *LII* is always adding new content to the site, which one can review in the 'New from LII' section. For example *LII* now provides access online the Congressional Research Service's Annotated U.S. Constitution. The Institute is a non-profit and dedicated to the concept of free legal content on the web.

M to P



Municode

<http://www.municode.com/>

Municode.com provides access to codes for over 1,500 local governments. While searching multiple codes at once requires a \$200.00 annual subscription,

Municode.com allows for the searching and browsing of one code at a time in its free 'Online Library' section. A substantial list of Georgia local government codes are available in the 'Online Library' including: Alpharetta, Athens-Clarke County, Atlanta, Cobb County, and DeKalb County. This is a helpful tool that can save a lot of research time.



National Labor Relations Board

<http://www.nlr.gov/>

The *National Labor Relations Board* website contains a large collection of searchable legal-related documents produced by the agency. The left sidebar is grouped into four sections to make it easier to navigate. Under 'NLRB Documents' are decisions, weekly summaries, manuals, and various memos that are available and searchable. There is also access to Rules & Regulations and Federal Register notices pertaining to the NLRB. The 'Publications' link allows for searching of NLRB documents and can retrieve them in a variety of formats and the 'Forms' link allows you to download NLRB forms in editable .pdf format. The 'Hot Docs' section contains the most frequently requested documents and the 'Public Notices' are clearly laid out. The website also contains links to press releases, a question/answer section, e-filing information, and directions for Freedom of Information Act requests. Finally, through a search box at the top of the page there is the capability to do a basic or advance search of the entire *NLRB.gov* website.



OneLook.com

<http://www.onelook.com/>

OneLook.com is a meta-search engine for dictionaries. It indexes over 1000 dictionaries available on the web, both general dictionaries and subject specific dictionaries, including several legal dictionaries. In addition to English language dictionaries, there are dictionaries in Chinese, French, German, Italian, and Spanish. It can make use of wildcard characters at the end of words and in the middle of words. When one is unsure of a spelling, just put "?" in place of the letters one is unsure about or use an "*" when one doesn't even know how many letters there are. *OneLook.com* features a "Reverse Dictionary" that allows you to describe a concept or a term and get a results list of words and phrases that are related to what you described. For example, typing in "being tried twice for the same crime" yields "double jeopardy" as the first result. There is also a word of the day feature that is more interesting than most, because it shows you the definition from several different dictionaries.



PACER

<http://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov/>

A service of the United States Judiciary and run by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, *PACER* is an electronic public access service that allows users to

obtain case and docket information from Federal Appellate, District, and Bankruptcy courts, and from the U.S. Party/Case Index. Updated each night, the U.S. Party/Case Index allows for nation-wide index searches to determine if a party has been involved in federal litigation. Then one can go to the link for the particular jurisdiction to locate more detailed information, since *PACER* access is through links to specific courts. Searching on *PACER* does require registration with the *PACER* Service Center and, while registration is free, there are charges for searching *PACER*. However, the charges are limited to \$.08 per page retrieved in a search with no extra charges to view, print, or download pages. *PACER* bills quarterly for cumulated charges over \$10.00 and allows for tracking of expenditures by client code. Best of all, if one has less than \$10.00 worth of charges during a calendar, there is no charge at all!

Q to T



Quotations at Bartleby.com

<http://www.bartleby.com/quotations/>

Quotations at Bartleby.com provides searching through over 87,000 famous quotations. The quotations can be searched all at once, or one can choose a specific source to search in or to browse its available categories, such as author or subject.

Quotations at Bartleby.com is made up of Bartlett's Familiar Quotations (10th ed., 1919), The Columbia World of Quotations (1996), Simpson's Contemporary Quotations (1988),

and Respectfully Quoted : A Dictionary of Quotations (1989). These sources provide quotations from variety of authors and time periods, which makes it a handy desktop reference tool.



Recalls.gov

<http://www.recalls.gov/>

Pulling information from six different federal government agencies, *Recalls.gov* provides a single website to access information concerning product recalls. The recalls are divided into topic and agency groups, but one can also search the multiple agency websites from one screen and read news notices from each agency as well. The agencies participating in *Recalls.gov* include: the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the U.S. Coast Guard, the FDA, the USDA, and the EPA.



Supreme Court of the United States

<http://www.supremecourtus.gov/>

The official website for the *Supreme Court of the United States* contains many useful resources for anyone following current Supreme Court cases. At the top of the website there is a search box that allows for searching of either 'Supreme Court Files' or 'Supreme Court Docket Files.' There is also a section on the right of the webpage that

allows access to the docket files, which are updated daily. Under 'Oral Arguments' are calendars, hearing lists, transcripts to previous oral arguments, and user guides. The 'Merits Briefs' section has a guide to locating briefs and a link to the ABA's merit briefs. There is also practical information concerning Supreme Court Bar admission, case handling guidelines, and court rules. Under the 'Opinions' section in addition to there being links to opinions for completed sessions, there are links to recent slip opinions, opinions relating to orders, and in-chambers opinions, all issued in .pdf format. There are counsel listings, guides to locating opinions, the searchable Case Citation Finder, and full-image access to the bound volumes of the United States Reports going back to 1991 (v.502). The 'Orders and Journal' section provides access to recent orders and opinions related to orders, as well as containing the full-image to the Journal of the Supreme Court of the United States from October Term 1993 to the present. Under the section 'About the Supreme Court' there is a wealth of information about the Court as an institution and its history, including biographies of current and previous members, procedures and traditions of the Court, and discussion of the Supreme Court Building.



Thomas

<http://thomas.loc.gov/>

A free service of the Library of Congress, *Thomas* provides legislative materials in a timely manner, making it easy to access the texts of bills and resolutions, bill summaries, and tracking bill status and actions in Congress, with bill texts being

updated several times daily. *Thomas* also provides a searchable version of the *Congressional Record* and its index. The 'Current Activity' section is especially helpful for keeping abreast of current actions and upcoming schedules. In addition to legislation, there are also searchable databases on *Thomas* containing information on 'Presidential Nominations' back to the 100th Congress (1987), 'Treaties' back to the 90th Congress (1967), and 'Committee Reports' back to the 104th Congress (1995). The 'Government Resources' section provides many additional links to procedural, biographical, and historical documents. *Thomas* launched in January 1995 and over the past 11 years has become the most important source for Congressional information. The website includes legislative documents from the 93rd Congress (1973) through the current legislative session, with full-text bills and the *Congressional Record* available from the 101st Congress (1989) to present.

U to Z



United States Patent and Trademark Office

<http://www.uspto.gov/>

The *United States Patent and Trademark Office* website provides a great deal of practical information about filing for patents and trademarks, as well as offering news, public notices, and press releases from the agency. On the left sidebar are separate sections for 'Patents' and 'Trademarks' with links to filing, checking the status, and

searching existing items under each category. The patent search allows one to search either issued patents or published patent applications. The trademark search puts you into the trademark database, TESS, which contains over 3 million pending, registered, and dead federal trademarks. At the very top right of the *United States Patent and Trademark Office* webpage, there is a link to 'How to Search,' which lays out all of the possible places to look when patent or trademark searching.



The Virtual Chase

<http://www.virtualchase.com/>

Designed with experienced researchers, lawyers, and other legal professionals in mind, the purpose of *The Virtual Chase* is to inform about websites and research strategies for finding the law. The website offers 'Internet Research' guides, tips on evaluating Internet sources, current research news with a RSS feed alert service, and a section with the most popular links. The free weekday newsletter, TVC Alert, discusses law and technology-related news and offers research tips and information about new web sites. Started in 1996, *The Virtual Chase* is a free service from the law firm Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP.



WorldLII - World Legal Information Institute

<http://www.worldlii.org/>

WorldLII website was developed collaboratively by various Legal Information Institutes and similar organizations from several countries. The core purpose of *WorldLII* is to provide a consistent and comprehensive approach to accessing the vast amount of legal information in databases around the world and to ensure free access to that information, as demonstrated by its affiliation with the Free Access to Law Movement. Over 545 databases from 55 countries, including 21 international databases, are featured currently on the *WorldLII* website. The databases provide access to case law, legislation, treaties, law reform reports, law journals, and other materials. In addition to the databases, *WorldLII* contains a Catalog of links law-related web sites in every country in the world. This Catalog has several levels of searching and can be browsed in several ways including directories of countries and legal subjects. To make *WorldLII* easier to use, the website offers a quick training guide, a news listserv, and a toolbar you can install on your browser.



XE.com

<http://www.xe.com/>

Founded in 1993, *XE.com* provides helpful foreign exchange tools and services for individuals and corporations. Their Universal Currency Converter is the most popular currency converter on the Internet and provides up to the minute currency rates for every world currency. For ease of use, the top ten currencies sorted by popularity are listed first, and then next come the top 85 currencies sorted by country name. Special

units and precious metals are listed both alphabetically as well as in their own sections at the end of this list.



Yahoo - Law

<http://dir.yahoo.com/Government/Law>

Sometimes helpful websites are right in front of us. *Yahoo – Law* is a handy directory of useful law related websites, maintained by editors who actually visit and evaluate the websites, rather than being a computer generated list like you might find in Google.

There are categories for areas of practice, topics of interest to lawyers, as well as some fun categories like "Lawyer Jokes." Plus all the other features that *Yahoo* offers, such as email, creating your own blog, rss feed readers, and web searching, make *Yahoo – Law* handy one-stop access to internet information.



Zimmerman's Research Guide

<http://www.lexisnexis.com/infopro/zimmerman/default.aspx>

Zimmerman's Research Guide contains helpful legal research tips and links. It is arranged alphabetically by topic, including legal subjects, jurisdictions, and quick facts.

Some samples from the "T" section include topics on Taiwan, Tax Liens, Telephone Numbers, Themis : the Lady of Justice, Three Strikes Law, and Trusts. Created and maintained by Andrew Zimmerman, the Director of Library Services at Gordon,

Feinblatt, Rothman, Hoffberger & Hollander LLC in Baltimore, Maryland, this free resource is currently hosted by LexisNexis.

BONUS LETTER



Google Earth

<http://earth.google.com/>

Google Earth takes satellite imagery to the next level, allowing the user to virtually move through the space. In order to utilize Google Earth you must download free software from Google's site. It is helpful for getting directions and familiarizing oneself with an area. The ability to tilt and rotate the 3D views enables one to navigate the virtual space in the same way one would in real life. There is also a feature to save and share favorite searches and to include annotations. *Google Earth* has received criticism from various countries, including India and South Korea, that it provides access to satellite images that are locally prohibited, such as government buildings and bridges. However, *Google Earth* uses images that are already available from other sources and can be up to 3 years old, so they do not pose an added security threat in the view of U.S. officials and security experts.