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State Research on the Internet: Particular Focus on Georgia Resources

Sharon Bradley
University of Georgia School of Law Library, bradleys@uga.edu

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State Research on the Internet

Sharon Bradley, J.D., M.L.S.
Reference/Faculty Services Librarian
University of Georgia School of Law
Law Library
Athens, Georgia
http://www.law.uga.edu/library/

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I. Introduction

Georgia.gov - http://www.georgia.gov

This site is the state's Web portal. A portal is a Web site or service that offers a broad array of resources and services[1], which is exactly what this site does. It brings together the web sites for all three branches of government including city and county sites. There is also a handy alphabetical list of state agencies.

Maintained by the Georgia Technology Authority as authorized by O.C.G.A. 50-25-1 et seq. Put this one in your Bookmarks or Favorites list.

II. Legislative Branch Information

Georgia General Assembly - http://www.legis.state.ga.us/

Legislative Search - http://www.legis.state.ga.us/htdig/search.htm

The General Assembly site provides links to materials of the Georgia House and the Georgia Senate. Timely and comprehensive, this site is an excellent source for bill status information, the full text of bills, information about legislators, legislative committees, the budget, the Official Code of Georgia, and much more.

Georgia Legislative Documents Project - http://www.solinet.net/preservation/preservation_templ.cfm?doc_id=455

This project is digitizing Georgia's Acts and Resolutions and the Journals of the House of Representatives and Senate from 1751 through today. The Acts and Resolutions from 1799 -1999 are available on GALILEO.[2] Participants in this project,

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[1]See Webopedia, http://www.webopedia.com/ for definitions and explanations of technology terms.

[2] GALILEO (or Georgia Library Learning Online), http://www.galileo.usg.edu is a collection of Web databases procured by a consortium of Georgia libraries. Some databases are

which is coordinated by SOLINET (Southeastern Library Network, Inc.), are the Georgia Department of Archives and History, University of Georgia, Emory University, and Georgia State University.

Georgia Track - . http://www.gatrack.com

A fee-based legislative tracking service which allows the user to create custom lists of bills to monitor and receive updated bill status reports automatically.

III. Judicial Branch Information

Administrative Office of the Courts - http://www.georgiacourts.org/

The AOC site brings together the links to all of the various courts; district, circuit, magistrate, probate, juvenile, etc. Additionally the AOC monitors relevant legislation with daily updates while the General Assembly is in session. There are also Court forms and links to judges' councils and court related agencies.

Georgia Supreme Court - http://www.gasupreme.us

There have been a number of changes to the Court's web site in the past year. The most useful information includes the Court's calendar, summaries and full text of the published opinions for 2004 and 2005, court rules & procedures, and information about the Court and Justices.

Court of Appeals of Georgia - http://www.gaappeals.us/

The site provides the usual access to the court's rules, calendar, history, and judge biographies. What the site does not provide are the court's opinions. Those are provided

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accessible only from computers housed at specific Georgia libraries, while others can be accessed from all member libraries or from the researcher's private computer. To obtain off-site access, obtain the GALILEO password from your public library.

through lexisOne at ***http://www.lexisone.com*** (But only the previous five years). There is a nice discussion of the standards of review with case authority.

Georgia Appellate Courts Opinions - http://www.ganet.org/appeals/opinions/

This site includes the full text of Georgia Supreme Court decisions through November 2003 and Court of Appeals decisions through September 2003 (both beginning 1998-99). The cases are searchable by keyword and the courts can be searched separately or together.

Georgia Courts Automation Commission - http://www.gcacsite.com/

"Legislation (Senate Bill 176) passed by the Georgia General Assembly in the 2000 session calls for a system to provide for transmission, compilation, and analysis of information relating to civil cases to be effective July 1, 2000."

The GCAC carries out this mission by administering a state-wide courts automation system including data collection, networking, data storage, retrieval, processing, and distribution. The GCAC site provides the appropriate case reporting forms in PDF format; the forms can be filled out online and printed. The information contained in the filed civil case reporting forms provides the Georgia courts with a database of civil actions for case profiles, workload distribution, case counts, and tort data. The site also includes information about systems for criminal case information, jury management, magistrate court fees & fines, and traffic court management.

Georgia Probate Court Information System - http://www.gaprobate.org/main.html

This site allows residents of Georgia, attorneys, and Probate Court personnel to file Probate Court forms online via the Web. The forms can be downloaded in

WordPerfect and PDF. In addition, the forms can be completed and submitted online.

Georgia Superior Court Clerk's Cooperative Authority (GSCCCA) - http://www.gsccca.org

The GSCCCA administers a statewide index for UCC, real estate and personal property filings. Their Web site provides numerous applications, UCC forms, checklists, county clerk information, a central database of notaries public, and a statewide database on civil case filings. The Lien Index is now operational and counties can submit lien index data and images.

IV. Executive Branch Information

Administrative Rules & Regulations - http://www.sos.state.ga.us/rules_regs.htm

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 50-13-7, the Georgia Secretary of State shall compile, index, and publish all rules adopted by each agency and remaining in effect. The compiled rules are available in electronic format and published on the Web. Keep in mind that the updating of the Web-published rules is the responsibility of the filing agency. You'll need to verify the currency of the Web-published rules from the agency. As a rule the individual agencies do not have the relevant regulations on their web sites.

Attorney General - http://www.state.ga.us/ago/

The Attorney General's site provides AG Opinions (1994-present), press releases, consumer information, and Open Government information.

State Ethics Commission - http://ethics.georgia.gov/02/ethics/home/0,2459,26886019,00.html

Includes the commission's draft rules, opinions, printable forms and lobbyist information.

Office of State Administrative Hearings -

http://osah.georgia.gov/02/osah/home/0,2465,28804277,00.html

The site provides contact information and forms but currently does not provide calendars or decisions.

Secretary of State, Corporations Division - http://www.sos.state.ga.us/corporations/

The site provides access to Georgia Business Entity Information (corporations, limited partnerships and limited liability companies). Available information includes the name of the entity, filing date, registered agent, any officers provided and the entity's status. Search by business entity name or registered agent name. The site also provides a list of business entity status codes. In addition, the site provides information on filing procedures for Georgia business entities, frequently asked questions, and other information about business entities in Georgia.

Avoid starting at the SOS home page, www.sos.state.ga.us, which may require download of a plug-in. You can easily get to the other areas, licensure, elections, etc. from the corporations page.

Certificates and Orders - https://www.ganet.org/sosdocs
Use the online form to order certified corporation documents from the Secretary of State's Office (using a major credit card or as a GeorgiaNet customer).
Corporation Records - https://www.ganet.org/corprecs
Records can be retrieved using various sort categories (jurisdiction, type, date range, city, zip code, and status) and imported into a database (again, using a major credit card for payment).

V. Information for Attorneys

State Bar of Georgia http://www.gabar.org/

The newest service of the Bar is Casemaker, http://www.gabar.org/casemaker/, a database containing federal and state case, rules, and statutes (including materials from 15 other states).

Handbook - http://www.gabar.org/handbook
Contains State Bar Rules and Regulations, along with advisory opinions of the State Disciplinary Board and the Supreme Court of Georgia.
CLE Status- http://www.gabar.org/check_cle/
Bill Tracking - http://www.gabar.org/programs/legislative_program/
For Bar-endorsed legislation and other bills of interest.

Daily Report Online - http://www.dailyreportonline.com/

This subscription service provides an online version of the Daily Report, the official legal organ of Fulton County. Features include daily briefings on the latest decisions from the Georgia Supreme Court and the Georgia Court of Appeals, daily news briefs and a searchable archive; verdict reports from Georgia's state and federal courtrooms; official courtroom calendars for Fulton County State Court and Fulton County Superior Court; and searchable legal notices, including the official list of Fulton County real estate facing foreclosure sale, property subject to sheriff's sale, and listings of newly formed Georgia corporations. Online subscribers may receive e-mail alerts for newly issued Georgia appellate opinions.

The online version costs $30/year for subscribers to the paper *Daily Report* and $275/year for non-paper subscribers.

VI. Law School Research Resources

University of Georgia School of Law - Georgia Listing
http://www.law.uga.edu/library/research/internet/georgia.html

Georgia State University College of Law - Georgia Legal Online Resources
http://law.gsu.edu/library/research/legalresources.php

Mercer University School of Law - Georgia Legal Research Links
http://www.law.mercer.edu/library/GeorgiaResources/GeorgiaResources.cfm

VII. Other State Information

FindLaw - http://www.findlaw.com/11stategov/

Individual states may contain a mix of official sites and Findlaw content. Within the case areas the Findlaw databases sometimes go back further than the official sites.

lexisOne State Resources -
http://lexisone.com/legalresearch/legalguide/states/states_resources_index.htm

Washlaw - http://www.washlaw.edu/