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3-5-2004

### Web in a Whirlwind: 30 Sites in 30 Minutes

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#### Repository Citation

Burnett, Anne E., "Web in a Whirlwind: 30 Sites in 30 Minutes" (2004). *Presentations*. 18.  
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**Web in a Whirlwind:  
30 Sites in 30 Minutes**

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

I. Introduction.....1  
II. The Sites.....2

## **I. Introduction**

Most of the sites listed below are law-related; however, the usefulness for legal professionals of a few non-legal sites warrants their inclusion. In addition, a couple of the list sites address hot topics and are included for that reason. Finally, since everybody deserves a little relaxation and humor, the list contains a couple of fun sites.

## **II. The Sites**

### **10 Hour Law School <http://members.aol.com/ronin48th/hope.htm>**

This tutorial is designed to introduce the law to “anyone new to lawyers and the law.” Although geared for employees of legal publisher Thomson (which includes West Publishing), the tutorial is useful for other legal neophytes such as law firm interns. It includes sections on topics ranging from “what is the Bluebook?” to “what are rules and regulations and how are they different from laws?” to “what is a pinpoint cite?” and provides a virtual exam to be taken upon completion of the tutorial.

### **American Society of International Law Electronic Resource Guide**

<http://www.asil.org/resource/home.htm>

This electronic guide contains detailed chapters discussing electronic resources in several areas of international law. The guide focuses on electronic resources freely

available to international legal researchers around the globe. The chapters, which are revised and updated twice yearly, cover the following subjects: human rights, international commercial arbitration, international criminal law, international economic law, international environmental law, international organizations, private international law, treaties, and the United Nations. A chapter on intellectual property is forthcoming.

**Babel Fish Translation** <http://world.altavista.com/>

Use Babel Fish's automated translation service to translate an entire web page or just a block of text. The translator covers the following languages: Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, and Spanish.

**Detod** <http://www.detod.com/>

This legal portal includes a blawg search engine, legal research tools, a legal career center and news. The legal research section also has a case law database that is not yet live.

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

The Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis and Retrieval system, or EDGAR, is a database providing free access to SEC filings, including registration statements, periodic reports, and other forms.

**Eur-Lex** <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/index.html>

Eur-Lex is an official site serving as a single entry point to the complete collections of

European Union legal texts in all the official EU languages. Look here for EU legislation, case law, treaties, reports, and other documents.

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

This popular legal site provides articles about a large number of legal topics. The site also links to internet legal resources for legal professionals, businesses, students and individuals. In addition, Findlaw provides Web search utilities, cases and codes, legal news, an online career center, mailing lists, message boards and free e-mail.

**FirstGov** <http://www.firstgov.gov/>

FirstGov is the federal government's official portal to government information on the web. The FirstGov search engine searches millions of web pages from federal and state governments, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories. The service actively seeks feedback from its users and has been responsive to suggestions for improvement. The site recently added a Spanish-language portal called *FirstGov en Español*.

**IRS Forms and Publications** <http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/index.html>

The Internal Revenue Service supplies many of its forms and publications on the web. The site is searchable and includes current forms as well as those from past years. The What's Hot pages highlight changes to previously published forms and explanations of recent changes in tax laws.

***Introduction to Basic Legal Citation by Peter Martin***

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

This manual discusses the principles of legal citation as well as providing a how-to-cite guide and many examples. A useful state-by-state table gives examples of the citation formats for cases, statutes, and regulations.

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

Hosted by the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and edited by a team of law professors, JURIST describes itself as an “academic gateway to authoritative legal instruction, information and scholarship online” with a target audience of legal scholars, law students, law librarians, lawyers and judges, journalists, and interested citizens. JURIST provides current legal news, career information for those seeking academic legal jobs, reviews of recently-published law books, legal conference information, tips on surviving law school, and much more.

**LawDepot Automated Legal Forms** <http://www.lawdepot.com/>

LawDepot provides access to automated interactive legal contracts. The site provides fill-in-the-blank templates and then generates a document. The user can view the prepared document in a web browser but printing or saving requires purchase of a license (single-use licenses are \$9.50). The site includes disclaimers (“LawDepot is not a law firm”) but also states that they “have researched legislation throughout the United States to bring our contracts into full compliance.” They offer \$100 to the first person to find a mistake in their contracts: are Georgia lawyers up to the challenge?

**Law Lists** <http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/cgi-bin/law-lists>

A lawyer's best resource may be another legal professional, and electronic discussion groups (internet listservs and newsgroups) are a handy way to interact via the internet with others interested in a particular topic. Law Lists is a keyword searchable database compiling electronic discussion groups, newsletters, and journals related to law. Search results provide a brief description of the mailing group and directions on how to subscribe and post to the group.

**Lawtoons** <http://www.lawtoons.com/>

Visit this site for legal cartoons created by Suzan Charlton, a lawyer and professional cartoonist.

**LegalBeetle** <http://www.legalbeetle.com/>

This site contains over 20,000 links to legal web sites. The task of searching such a large number of sites is made a bit easier by several different functions. The sites can be searched via a search screen, a list in the order of "most popular" or "highest rated" (as determined by searcher voting), or by following the links in a hierarchical directory. Researchers can customize the site by collecting links in a Favorites category. In addition, the Editor Pick designation identifies sites deemed by the LegalBeetle staff to be outstanding. Researchers are invited to read reviews about a site and also to provide a review themselves.



**Legal Information Institute** <http://www.law.cornell.edu/>

One of the first, and most thorough, law portals, the Legal Information Institute (LII) at Cornell Law School is an excellent source of the text of legislation, case law, constitutions, and other legal documents and information.

**LLRX** <http://www.llrx.com/>

This legal web journal provides legal columns, feature articles, topical research guides, and legal-tech and library related news resources. The research guides on a number of legal topics and jurisdictions are particularly helpful.

**LexisOne** <http://www.lexisone.com/>

Self-billed as “the resource for small law firms,” LexisOne provides free access to a number of legal resources, including case law, legislation, and legal forms . The site requires registration, and many services and documents are available only for a **fee**. For example, obtain access to Shepards for \$30 a day or retrieve legal documents for \$9 per document. Please note that Westlaw at <http://www.westlaw.com> also provides document retrieval services for a fee.

**Martindale-Hubbell** <http://www.martindale.com>

The Lawyer Locator serves as a directory of attorneys. The database includes over one million attorneys and law firms in over 160 countries. In addition to the electronic version of the venerable directory, the martindale.com site contains legal articles, an Alternative Dispute Resolution Services Locator, a non-lawyer Legal Personnel Locator,

legal employment resources, and other resources of interest to legal professionals.

**The Smoking Gun** <http://www.thesmokinggun.com/>

Using material obtained from government and law enforcement sources via Freedom of Information requests and from court files nationwide, The Smoking Gun posts a variety of legal and scandal-related documents. Recently posted documents (as of February 12, 2004) include the 1973 dental records of 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant George W. Bush, the death certificate of diet guru Robert Atkins, and search warrants in the Rush Limbaugh oxycontin case. A popular feature of the site is the “mug shot art” collection featuring mug shots of a number of celebrities and high-profile defendants.

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

A service of the Library of Congress, Thomas makes available bill texts, summaries, and status; the *Congressional Record* and index; and the Constitution and other historical documents. Thomas launched in January 1995 and includes legislative documents from the 93rd Congress through the current legislative session, with full-text bills available from the 101<sup>st</sup> Congress to present. The bill texts are updated several times daily.

**United States Supreme Court** <http://www.supremecourtus.gov/>

The official site for the Court posts recent slip opinions of the Court in PDF, a searchable docket, oral argument calendars, biographies of the justices, a history of the court, the Supreme Court Bar Admission form, and other information and documents.

**University Law Review Project** <http://www.lawreview.org/>

This site's search engine searches the full text of law review articles on the web. It allows boolean searching. The site also provides a subscription form to sign up for emails containing updated listings of new law review and law journal article abstracts.

**University of Georgia Law Library Legal Research Links**

<http://www.law.uga.edu/library/research/internet/index.html>

The UGA Law Library site provides links to federal and state legal resources, legal materials by topic, legal reference materials, law schools, general reference materials, attorney directories, legal periodicals and internet search tools.

**The Virtual Chase** <http://www.virtualchase.com>

Designed with experienced researchers, lawyers, and other legal professionals in mind, The Virtual Chase offers articles, guides, teaching materials, an alert service and more on Internet research strategies and resources. The free weekday newsletter, TVC Alert, discusses law and technology-related news and offers research tips and information about new web sites.

**WatchThatPage** <http://www.watchthatpage.com/>

The WatchThatPage service automatically collects new information from specified web pages and sends the researcher an email containing the new content. The service is free.

**Weird Legal News** <http://www.lawhaha.com/weird.asp>

These Weird Legal News items are housed on the Lawhaha site, which also provides Strange Judicial Opinions, the Funniest Law School Moment, the heavily footnoted World's Best Law Review Article, and links to serious legal web sites.

**WhoIs Source** <http://www.whois.sc/>

Want to know who owns a web site? Tools like WhoIs Source collect information retained by web domain registrars. Elements of a WhoIs Source record include the name of the person or entity registering a domain name; contact information, including mailing and email address; the type of server housing the site, and the site's IP address.

**World Legal Information Institute** <http://www.worldlii.org/>

This non-profit global legal research facility is developed collaboratively by a group of organizations. Its initial release includes over 270 databases from 48 jurisdictions in 20 countries. The databases provide access to case law, legislation, treaties, law reform reports, law journals, and other materials. The WorldLII Catalog links to over 15,000 law-related web sites in every country in the world.

**Zeno's Forensic Science Site** <http://forensic.to/forensic.html>

Created by a forensic scientist at the Netherlands Ministry of Justice, this site provides links to other sites containing information on forensic science, forensic psychiatry and other aspects of forensic evidence.