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# Why Pay for it Twice? How to Access Federal Materials in the Public Domain

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# **LOOTING THE FEDERAL TREASURE-HOUSE: THE GEMS OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION**

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# LOOTING THE FEDERAL TREASURE-HOUSE: THE GEMS OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

## Table of Contents

<b>I. U.S. CONSTITUTION</b> .....	1
<i>A. GPO Access</i> .....	1
<i>B. FindLaw</i> .....	1
<i>C. Founders' Constitution</i> .....	1
<b>II. LEGISLATIVE MATERIALS</b> .....	2
<i>A. U.S. Code</i> .....	2
1. Cornell Law School's Legal Information Institute.....	2
2. Office of the Law Revision Counsel.....	2
3. GPO Access.....	2
<i>B. U.S. Public Laws</i> .....	3
1. Thomas - U.S. Public Laws.....	3
2. GPO Access - U.S. Public Laws.....	3
<i>C. Tracking Current Federal Legislation</i> .....	3
1. Thomas.....	3
2. GPO Access - United States Congress.....	3
3. U.S. House of Representatives.....	4
4. U.S. Senate.....	4
5. FedNet.....	4
6. C-Span.org.....	4
7. GovTrack.....	4
<i>D. Legislative History</i> .....	5
1. Legislative Histories - University of Michigan Documents Center.....	5
2. Federal Legislative History Research: A Practitioner's Guide to Compiling the Documents and Sifting for Legislative Intent.....	5
<b>III. EXECUTIVE MATERIALS</b> .....	6
<i>A. Presidential Documents</i> .....	6
1. Office of Management and Budget.....	6
2. Executive Order Disposition Table.....	6
3. American Presidency Project.....	6
<i>B. Code of Federal Regulations</i> .....	6
1. GPO Access.....	6
2. Cornell Law School's Legal Information Institute.....	7
<i>C. Federal Register</i> .....	7
<i>D. Federal Government Agencies</i> .....	7
1. FirstGov.....	7
2. The Federal Web Locator.....	8
3. FedWorld.....	8

4. Federal Citizen Information Center.....	8
<b>IV. JUDICIAL MATERIAL.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<i>A. Meta-Indexes for Federal Court Opinions.....</i>	<i>9</i>
1. Federal Court Locator.....	9
2. Federal Courts Finder.....	9
3. U.S. Courts - The Federal Judiciary.....	9
<i>B. U.S. Supreme Court.....</i>	<i>10</i>
1. U.S. Supreme Court Homepage.....	10
2. FindLaw - U.S. Supreme Court Decisions.....	10
3. Cornell Law School's Legal Information Institute.....	10
4. FedWorld - FLITE [Federal Legal Information Through Electronics].....	11
5. The OYEZ Project.....	11
<i>C. Federal Circuit Courts.....</i>	<i>11</i>
1. Findlaw - Federal Circuit Court Opinions.....	11
2. Cornell – Legal Information Institute.....	11
3. Individual Federal Circuit Courts:.....	12
<i>D. Federal District Courts.....</i>	<i>14</i>
1. Findlaw - Federal District Courts.....	14
<i>E. Judicial Miscellany.....</i>	<i>14</i>
1. LLRX – Court Rules, Forms & Dockets.....	14
2. Federal Rules of Civil Procedure - Cornell Law School's Legal Information Institute.....	14
3. Federal Rules of Evidence - Cornell Law School's Legal Information Institute.....	15
4. Court Forms.....	15
<i>F. In The News.....</i>	<i>15</i>
1. Washington Post – Courts.....	15
2. CourtTV Online.....	15
3. JURIST - Legal News.....	15
<b>V. HELPFUL PRINT PUBLICATIONS.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<i>A. Books.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>B. Newsletters.....</i>	<i>16</i>
The CyberSkeptic's Guide to Internet Research.....	16
Internet for Lawyers, Internet Legal Research Update.....	16
The Internet Connection.....	17
InSITE-L.....	17

# **LOOTING THE FEDERAL TREASURE-HOUSE: The Gems of Government Information**

## **I. U.S. Constitution**

You can find the text of the U.S. Constitution at many web sites. Some of these sites have better formatting and are much easier to read than others. However, the two sites listed below are the only two sites that also include U.S. Supreme Court case law annotations for the U.S. Constitution. Other sites that you visit may include historical documents or hypertext links between sections of the Constitution, but only these two sites include U.S. Supreme Court case law annotations.

### **A. GPO ACCESS**

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/constitution/browse.html#1992>

In addition to a literal print of the text of the Constitution, GPO Access includes an analysis and interpretation of the U.S. Constitution prepared by the Library of Congress' Congressional Research Service. This analysis and interpretation was published in 1992 as Senate Document 103-6. This site also includes 1996 (Senate Document No. 104-14), 1998 (Senate Document No. 106-8) and 2000 (Senate Document No. 106-27) supplements to the 1992 publication. The non-cumulative supplements include annotations of U.S. Supreme Court cases decided through June 2000. Plain text and PDF files are available for selection.

### **B. FINDLAW**

<http://findlaw.com/casecode/constitution/>

The FindLaw version of the Constitution is more easily navigated than the GPO Access site. FindLaw has incorporated the 1996, 1998 and 2000 Supplements into the 1992 Edition text. Findlaw has also added hyperlinks between the sections of the Constitution, as well as to Supreme Court cases cited in the annotations. The text is html only. The homepage provides links to other Constitution sites, such as those at Emory and Cornell Law Schools.

### **C. FOUNDERS' CONSTITUTION**

<http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/tocs/toc.html>

The *Founders Constitution* is a joint project of the University of Chicago Press and the Liberty Fund. While it does not provide access to current legal interpretation of the Constitution, it does offer internet access to the foundational documents of the Constitution, such as Blackstone's *Commentaries*, that are keyed to the relevant Article or Amendment.

## II. Legislative Materials

### A. U.S. CODE

Since 1926, a new edition of the text of the U.S. Code has been published every six years, with annual supplements between each edition. The best site for searching and viewing the *U.S. Code* is the Cornell web site listed below. None of the web sites listed below offer a full-text up-to-date version of the U.S. Code. The House of Representatives site contains citations for public laws that have updated any code section that you are interested in. Once you have a public law citation, you must then visit a site that has the full text of public laws such as Thomas or GPO Access in order to update your code section. Those wishing a brief overview of the Code's structure, and description of the available commercial print versions, can access *Guide to Using the United States Code*, a research guide from the University of Florida Law School Legal Information Center (<http://www.law.ufl.edu/lic/guides/federal/usc.shtml>).

#### 1. Cornell Law School's Legal Information Institute

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/>

This site contains the most recent version of the *U.S. Code* available from the U.S. House of Representatives. This site offers a well-formatted, easily searchable and navigable version of the *U.S. Code*. Cornell has added links within code sections. For example if a code section refers to Section 106 of the Copyright Act, Cornell has added a link to Section 106. It also provides a means to find any CFR parts authorized by the selected code section.

#### 2. Office of the Law Revision Counsel

<http://uscode.house.gov/search/criteria.php>

Each section of the *Code* database contains a date in the top-right corner indicating that laws enacted as of that date and affecting that section are included in the text of that section. When a search is made for a specific section of the *Code* (e.g., 17 USC 111), the hit list will include an "Update" item listing any public law amendments not already reflected in the text of that section. Note, however, that you still must go to another web site and search for any public laws that update your code section. The updating public laws are not hyperlinked from the House Internet Library.

#### 3. GPO Access

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/index.html>

In addition to the current 2000 edition of the US Code, the GPO Access site contains an archived 1994 version. This site can be useful for historical research

as it allows you to search individually the U.S. Code supplements. Text files only are available.

## **B. U.S. PUBLIC LAWS**

### **1. Thomas - U.S. Public Laws**

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

The full text of public laws can be accessed by public law number from the 101st Congress (1989) to present. Summaries of public laws are provided for the 93rd Congress (1973) to the present. Thomas provides access to additional legislative history about each public law such as *Congressional Record* page references, lists of sponsors, and legislative tracking information.

### **2. GPO Access - U.S. Public Laws**

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/plaws/index.html>

The GPO Access database of public laws can be accessed by public law number and is keyword searchable. This database contains the full text of public laws from the 104th Congress (1995) to present in PDF and text format. In fact, if you view the PDF format of a public law, it looks exactly like at page from *U.S. Statutes at Large*.

## **C. TRACKING CURRENT FEDERAL LEGISLATION**

There are many watchdog political sites devoted to providing public information about pending federal legislation. Thomas and GPO Access, however, are the most reliable and comprehensive site for obtaining information about current federal legislation. If you are interested in legislative information, Thomas and GPO Access should be your first Internet stops.

### **1. Thomas**

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

Named for Thomas Jefferson, this excellent web site from the Library of Congress contains bill summaries and status, the full-text of bills, roll call votes, House and Senate schedules and much more.

### **2. GPO Access - United States Congress**

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/legislative.html>

GPO Access provides the full text of congressional bills from the 103rd Congress

to present, documents from the 104th Congress to present, hearings and prints from the 105th Congress to present, reports, and the *Congressional Record* from 1994 to the present.

### 3. U.S. House of Representatives

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

The U.S. House of Representatives web site includes schedules such as a weekly list of items that the House intends to consider, matters currently on the House floor and up-to-date events on the House floor as they happen. Further links are available at <http://clerkweb.house.gov>, the homepage for the House Clerk.

### 4. U.S. Senate

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

Like the House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate web site includes detailed schedules of events and issues of the Senate. These pages are useful also when you wish to browse the hearings and agendas of a specific committee.

### 5. FedNet

<http://www.fednet.net/>

FedNet is an Internet news company that provides live or real-time audio and video coverage of floor debates, White House briefings, regulatory hearings, and press conferences via the Internet.

### 6. C-Span.org

<http://www3.capwiz.com/c-span/home/>

In addition to coverage of the House and Senate floor activities, C-Span tracks current major legislation. This site also allows you easily to find out how your congressional representatives voted on current legislation.

### 7. GovTrack

<http://www.govtrack.us/>

According to its developers, "GovTrack follows the status of legislation and the activities of your senators and representatives." An innovative feature is that, after free registration, the user can sign up for email alerts that notify about changes in legislation of interest. For these alerts it draws its information from THOMAS and other official sites, such as the Senate and House homepages.



## **D. LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**

There are very few noncommercial web sources that have *compiled* legislative histories. Occasionally when you are researching a topic that ignites a special interest group, you might stumble across the outlines of a comprehensive legislative history. For the most part, you will have to construct your own legislative history piece-by-piece using the web sites in the previous section (C). Other resources to consult include:

### **1. Legislative Histories - University of Michigan Documents Center**

<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/legishis.html>

Begun in 1993 as a teaching guide for University of Michigan students, this site not only includes a guide to researching legislative histories, but links to available web resources and describes print resources as well. Some links are restricted to members of the University of Michigan community, but these are plainly marked.

### **2. Federal Legislative History Research: A Practitioner's Guide to Compiling the Documents and Sifting for Legislative Intent**

<http://www.llsdc.org/sourcebook/fed-leg-hist.htm>

This page offers an excellent overview of the mechanics of compiling federal legislative history, written by experts with the Law Librarians' Society of Washington, D.C. In addition to providing instruction and guidance, links to resources are given, with the relative merits and disadvantages described.

## **III. Executive Materials**

### **A. PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS**

#### 1. Office of Management and Budget

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/>

Provides access to the President's budget, as well as OMB Circulars.

#### 2. Executive Order Disposition Table

[http://www.archives.gov/federal\\_register/executive\\_orders/disposition\\_tables.html](http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/executive_orders/disposition_tables.html)

In addition to indicating the disposition of presidential executive orders from 1937, the E.O. disposition table offers click-through viewing of the PDF version of the executive order as it appeared in the *Federal Register* for 1993-2005 (the Clinton/Bush years). E.O.'s from Bush are also available on the White House website at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/orders/>. The University of Michigan has a special collection of John F. Kennedy's executive orders at <http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/jfkeo.html>.

#### 3. American Presidency Project

<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/index.php>

The American Presidency Project, housed at the University of California, Santa Barbara, provides access to innumerable presidential documents, and "is the only online resource providing without charge, the Public Papers of the presidents: Hoover to Clinton (1993-June 2000) & G.W. Bush (January -June 2001)." This set is keyword searchable. In addition, this database contains over 52,000 documents related to the American presidency.

### **B. CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS**

Choosing whether to use GPO Access or Cornell to search the *CFR* is a mostly a matter of personal preference. While searching and screen formatting is different at each site, the text of the current *CFR* is that same at both sites. Note, however, that GPO Access has archived superseded volumes of the *CFR*. If you need to research a federal regulation as it was worded in at an earlier point in time, GPO Access is an excellent resource.

#### 1. GPO Access

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html>

The GPO Access's version of the *CFR* may be searched by keyword and is also

browsable by title. Note that the GPO Access site includes superseded volumes of the *CFR* from 1996, while the Cornell site mentioned below only contains the most recent version of the *CFR*. The GPO Access *CFR* provides both text and PDF formats. A version of the *CFR* that is updated daily is currently in beta testing at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/ecfr>. Although only a demonstration project at this point, it may be the wave of the future: most products described here offer only electronic versions of paper titles; the e-CFR takes advantage of the electronic medium to produce a wholly new product.

## 2. Cornell Law School's Legal Information Institute

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/>

This web site provides a well-formatted version of the *CFR*. Here you can search the *CFR* by citation, navigate a detailed table of contents, consult an index of all section headings or use the Government Printing Office search engine. Like all of the materials provided at the Cornell site, the *CFR* is easy to read, search and navigate.

## **C. FEDERAL REGISTER**

### Federal Register Online via GPO Access

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>

The GPO's database includes the 1994 to 2005 *Federal Register* (Volumes 60-70). The volumes are searchable by keyword or date. GPO Access provides the ability to browse the table of contents of the latest *Federal Register* without having to search for specific content. Through this page you can register for a email service that will deliver this table of contents daily to your inbox. Those with access to HeinOnline will wish to take advantage of their imaged [PDF] database of the Federal Register beginning with 1936; a subscription, however, is required.

## **D. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

The U.S. government is a major content provider for the web. You can find a wealth of resources by searching the following web sites that provide many links to federal government web servers. A searchable listing of federal agencies is sponsored by the Louisiana State University at <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/gov/fedgov.html>.

### 1. FirstGov

<http://firstgov.gov/>

FirstGov, an interagency initiative administered by the U.S. General Services Administration, is the award-winning official U.S. gateway to all government information. Customer feedback is the driving force for how information is organized. After going online in 2000, FirstGov allows you to search more than 51 million web pages from federal and state governments, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories. This source is also available in Spanish as well as English versions.

## **2. The Federal Web Locator**

<http://www.infoctr.edu/fwl/>

The Federal Web Locator is a service provided by the Center for Information Law and Policy and is intended to be the one stop shopping point for federal government information on the Internet. The structure of this web site matches the one found in *The United States Government Manual*, which is itself available at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/gmanual/index.html> for editions 1995 to present.

## **3. FedWorld**

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

FedWorld was established by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS). NTIS is the central source for scientific, technical, engineering, and related business information produced by or for the Federal government.

## **4. Federal Citizen Information Center**

<http://fic.info.gov/>

The Federal Citizen Information Center (FCIC) is now known as the National Contact Center (NCC). The page is maintained by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) as a single point of contact for people who have questions about federal agencies, programs, and services. The principal reference tool is the FIC's electronic database, which lists more than 100,000 points of contact (telephone numbers, addresses, web sites) by agency and subject.

## **5 Forms.gov**

<http://www.forms.gov/bgfPortal/citizen.portal>

The database of federal agency forms currently has about 2,000 forms that are searchable by agency, form number, and form name.

## **IV. Judicial Material**

### **A. META-INDEXES FOR FEDERAL COURT OPINIONS**

If you need an opinion from a specific court, it can often be most efficient to go directly to the homepage for that court (see below). When your problem requires information from more than one source, however, identifying the homepage for each court can be a time-consuming, tedious, and never-ending task. Some public-spirited entities have undertaken to lighten this burden by collecting in one place many of the most useful of these homepages. These aggregated listings are listed here.

#### **1. Federal Court Locator**

<http://www.law.villanova.edu/library/researchguides/fedcourtlocator.asp>

The Federal Court Locator is maintained by the Villanova University School of Law. It is intended to give citizens a means to access information related to the federal judiciary, including slip opinions. This site offers easy connection to the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals, U.S. District Courts, U.S. Bankruptcy Courts, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, U.S. Court of Federal Claims, U.S. Court of International Trade, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Federal Judicial Center, U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Sentencing Commission. The Federal Court Locator gives links to both the official homepages for these courts, as well as free alternatives that have been identified.

#### **2. Federal Courts Finder**

<http://www.law.emory.edu/FEDCTS/>

Emory's Macmillan Law Library provides links to the following courts: U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, U.S. Court of Federal Claims, Federal Circuit, D.C. Circuit, First Circuit, Second Circuit, Third Circuit, Fourth Circuit, Fifth Circuit, Sixth Circuit, Seventh Circuit, Eighth Circuit, Ninth Circuit, Tenth Circuit and Eleventh Circuit. Links are arranged by Circuit or accessed by a clickable map of the United States.

#### **3. U.S. Courts - The Federal Judiciary**

<http://www.uscourts.gov/index.html>

The U.S. Courts home page is maintained by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. It is intended to be a clearinghouse from and about the judicial branch of the U.S. government. This site links to U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals, U.S. District Courts, U.S. Bankruptcy Courts, U.S. Court of International Trade, Federal Judicial Center, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, U.S. Sentencing Commission, and other sites of interest. This site also provides other

judicial-related documents such as statistics, annual reports, forms, and other resources.

## **B. U.S. SUPREME COURT**

Because of its comprehensive coverage, FindLaw is the best source for searching the full-text of U.S. Supreme Court opinions since 1863. You can find selected pre-1863 historical decisions at the Cornell site. A useful site for information about the U.S. Supreme Court is Oyez, which has oral arguments from some U.S. Supreme Court cases.

### 1. U.S. Supreme Court Homepage

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

On April 17, 2000, the U.S. Supreme Court established its own web site for delivering court opinions and other judicial information. In addition to providing timely releases of bench opinions, the Supreme Court promises to make available via their web site, slip opinions on the day of release. PDF versions of final bound volumes of *United States Reports* are available from volume 502 (1991 Term). This site also offers transcripts of oral arguments, and merits briefs.

### 2. FindLaw - U.S. Supreme Court Decisions

<http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.html>

FindLaw's database of the Supreme Court decisions since 1893 (US Reports 150-) is browsable by year and U.S. Reports volume number. FindLaw is also searchable by citation, case title and full text. While the Cornell web site (see below) splits parts of U.S. Supreme Court opinions such as the syllabus, dissenting and concurring opinions into separate web documents, the FindLaw site displays all of the documents related to one case as a single web document. FindLaw includes bracketed U.S. Reports page breaks.

### 3. Cornell Law School's Legal Information Institute

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

Cornell's Legal Information Institute [LII] contains all opinions of the court issued since May of 1990 in addition to archiving a collection of over 300 of the court's most important historic decisions. This comprehensive site also includes the court calendar, current schedule of oral arguments, a gallery of the current and former justices, including pictures, biographies, and lists of decisions by the current members of the Court, the Supreme Court's rules and other information about the court's organization, authority, and jurisdiction. When you retrieve a U.S. Supreme Court case from Cornell, a pop-up dialog box appears with links

to related documents such as the syllabus, dissenting and concurring opinions, from which the user may choose HTML or PDF versions.

#### **4. FedWorld - FLITE [Federal Legal Information Through Electronics]**

<http://www.fedworld.gov/supcourt/index.htm>

FedWorld's FLITE database consists of over 7,400 Supreme Court opinions dating from 1937 through 1975, from volumes 300 through 422 of U.S. Reports. Opinions from the FLITE database are comprehensive yet sometimes difficult to read because text is displayed in all capital letters.

#### **5. The OYEZ Project**

<http://www.oyez.org/oyez/frontpage>

At the innovative OYEZ site you can listen to all oral arguments of the U.S. Supreme Court since 1995. Earlier years are included selectively. The OYEZ Project aims to include all leading constitutional law cases.

### **C. FEDERAL CIRCUIT COURTS**

#### **1. Findlaw - Federal Circuit Court Opinions**

<http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/courts/index.html>

Findlaw allows searching of its own database, the holdings of which vary by circuit. It also provides links to other sources that contain a database for that circuit.

#### **2. Cornell – Legal Information Institute**

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

Cornell's Legal Information Institute provides a search engine for searching all of the Circuit Court decisions available on the web.

### 3. Individual Federal Circuit Courts:

*1st U.S. Circuit, since 2000, official site*

Main: <http://www.ca1.uscourts.gov/main.htm>

Opinions: <http://www.ca1.uscourts.gov/opinions/main.php>

*1st U.S. Circuit, since November 1995 to July 2001, from Emory School of Law*

<http://www.law.emory.edu/1circuit>

*2nd U.S. Circuit, since February 2002, official site*

Main: <http://www.ca2.uscourts.gov/>

*2nd U.S. Circuit since January 1995-March 2003, from the Touro Law Center*

<http://www.tourolaw.edu/2ndCircuit/>

*3rd U.S. Circuit, official site*

Main: <http://www.ca3.uscourts.gov/>

Opinions: <http://www.ca3.uscourts.gov/indexsearch/archives.asp>

*3rd U.S. Circuit, since May 1994, from Villanova University School of Law*

<http://vls.law.vill.edu/Locator/3/index.htm>

*4th U.S. Circuit, opinions since January 1, 1996, official site*

Main: <http://www.ca4.uscourts.gov/>

Opinions: <http://pacer.ca4.uscourts.gov/opinions/opinion.php>

*4th U.S. Circuit, since January 1995 to 2001, from Emory School of Law*

<http://www.law.emory.edu/4circuit>

*5th U.S. Circuit, published opinions from 1993, and unpublished opinions from 2003, official site*

Main: <http://www.ca5.uscourts.gov/>

Opinions: <http://www.ca5.uscourts.gov/Opinions.aspx>

*6th U.S. Circuit, since 1994, official site*

Main: <http://www.ca6.uscourts.gov/>

Opinions: <http://pacer.ca6.uscourts.gov/opinions/main.php>

*6th U.S. Circuit, since January 1995 to June 1999, from Emory School of Law*

<http://www.law.emory.edu/6circuit>



*7th U.S. Circuit, since 1992, official site*

Main: <http://www.ca7.uscourts.gov/>

Opinions: <http://www.ca7.uscourts.gov/fdocs/docs.fwx>

*8th U.S. Circuit, since 2000, official site*

Main: <http://www.ca8.uscourts.gov/>

Opinions: <http://www.ca8.uscourts.gov/opns/opFrame.html>

*9th U.S. Circuit, since 1995, official site*

Main: <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/>

Opinions:

<http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/ca9/newopinions.nsf/Opinions+by+date?OpenView&Start=1&Count=100&Expand=1.1>

*10th Circuit, official site*

<http://www.ck10.uscourts.gov>

*10th U.S. Circuit, August 1995 to October 1997, from Emory School of Law*

<http://www.law.emory.edu/10circuit>

*10th U.S. Circuit, since October 1997, from Washburn University School of Law*

<http://www.kscourts.org/ca10/>

*11th Circuit since 1994, official site*

Main: <http://www.ca11.uscourts.gov/>

Opinions: <http://www.ca11.uscourts.gov/opinions/index.php>

*11th U.S. Circuit, since November 1994 to March 2003, from Emory School of Law*

<http://www.law.emory.edu/11circuit/index.html>

*Federal Circuit, decisions since 2004 (download only), official site*

Main: <http://www.fedcir.gov>

Opinions: <http://fedcir.gov/dailylog.html>

*Federal Circuit, since August 1995 to 2001, from Emory School of Law*

<http://www.law.emory.edu/fedcircuit>

*Federal Circuit, since August 1995, from Georgetown University School of Law*

<http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/federal/judicial/cafed.cfm>

*D.C. Circuit, since September 1997, official site*

Main: <http://www.cadc.uscourts.gov>

Opinions: <http://www.cadc.uscourts.gov/bin/opinions/allopinions.asp>

*D.C. Circuit, decisions since March 1995, from Georgetown University School of Law*

<http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/federal/judicial/cadc.cfm>

## **D. FEDERAL DISTRICT COURTS**

Most district court web sites primarily provide documents such as local court rules and court calendars. District courts are beginning to provide court opinions on their web sites.

### **1. Findlaw - Federal District Courts**

[http://www.findlaw.com/10fedgov/judicial/district\\_courts.html](http://www.findlaw.com/10fedgov/judicial/district_courts.html)

Findlaw maintains an annotated list of district courts, detailing contents of each web site. Unfortunately FindLaw doesn't provide a search engine for searching all District Court opinions. You must go to each District Court web site individually.

### **2. U.S. Courts - The Federal Judiciary**

<http://www.uscourts.gov/allinks.html>

The Federal Judiciary page maintained by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts is another excellent resource that lists each district court.

## **E. JUDICIAL MISCELLANY**

### **1. LLRX – Court Rules, Forms & Dockets**

<http://www.llrx.com/courtrules/>

A good resource that links to more than 1,400 sources for federal rules and federal local rules. Note state rules and state local rules are also included.

### **2. Federal Rules of Civil Procedure - Cornell Law School's Legal Information Institute**

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/rules/frcp/overview.htm>

At the Cornell site, you can keyword search the full-text of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or you can access the Rules by a table of contents. For \$5 you can

purchase a downloadable copy of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure from this site.

### 3. Federal Rules of Evidence - Cornell Law School's Legal Information Institute

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/rules/fre/overview.html>

At the Cornell site, you can keyword search of the full-text of the Federal Rules of Evidence or you can access the Rules by a table of contents. For \$5 you can purchase a downloadable copy of the Federal Rules of Evidence from this site.

### 4. Court Forms

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

This searchable database of about 60,000 forms has both free access and a premium level, paid access that allows greater flexibility (e.g., premium forms are interactive, free forms are not). Registration is required. Forms are available not only for federal and state jurisdictions, but also from many municipalities.

## **F. IN THE NEWS**

These sites cover high profile trials or provide links to news sources regarding judicial decisions.

### 1. Washington Post – Courts

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/nation/courts/>

The Washington Post maintains a page that archives stories about newsworthy judicial activities and actions. Registration is free.

### 2. CourtTV Online

<http://www.courtTV.com>

Many people overlook this web site, but it provides a vast amount of information about famous court cases, including upcoming, historical and ongoing trials. The homepage has links to other sites, including [www.thesmokinggun.com](http://www.thesmokinggun.com), which features image files of actual court documents in headline-grabbing cases, as well as other stories of general legal human interest.

### 3. JURIST - Legal News

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

JURIST provides coverage of legal news, as well as providing other tools. The

primary resource is its “Paper Chase,” which is JURIST's real-time legal news weblog, powered by a team of law students under the guidance of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law professor Bernard Hibbitts.

## **V. Helpful Print Publications**

The internet is replete with federal materials, and becoming more so each day. Although the use of Google can help to locate some of these sources, published guides are available to aid the searcher. Print sources can help the user to navigate this

### **A. BOOKS**

Ambrogi, Robert J. *THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO THE BEST (AND WORST) LEGAL SITES ON THE WEB* (2d ed., 2004).

Garvin, Peggy, *THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT INTERNET MANUAL* (Latest edition = 2004/2005).

Hernon, Peter, Robert E. Dugan, & John A. Shuler, *U.S. GOVERNMENT ON THE WEB: GETTING THE INFORMATION YOU NEED* (3d ed., 2003).

Maxwell, Bruce, *HOW TO ACCESS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ON THE INTERNET* (4th ed., 1999).

### **B. NEWSLETTERS**

Newsletters can be a highly effective means of keeping informed about new resources available on the internet. Three such sources are listed here.

#### **The CyberSkeptic’s Guide to Internet Research**

<http://www.infotoday.com/cyberskeptics.htm>

Personal subscriptions are currently \$159 for 10 issues. This newsletter “explores and evaluates free Web sites and search strategies to help you use the Internet and stay up-to-date. *The CyberSkeptic’s Guide* provides concise, practical information and expresses strong opinions. Geared toward business, news, technical, medical, legal, and international research as well as market research and competitive intelligence.”

#### **Internet for Lawyers, Internet Legal Research Update**

[http://www.netforlawyers.com/legal\\_research\\_news\\_archive.htm](http://www.netforlawyers.com/legal_research_news_archive.htm)

*Internet for Lawyers* is a free legal research e-newsletter. Past issues are archived on the organization's homepage. Each monthly or bimonthly issue provides articles on searching strategies, new sources, and training opportunities.

### **The Internet Connection**

<http://west.thomson.com/product/37005145/product.asp>

Considered by some "the leading newsletter on the vast and growing resources of government information available on the Internet," *The Internet Connection* [published by Glasser LegalWorks, now a subsidiary of West/Thomson] is a monthly newsletter that reviews new resources for government information. A paid subscription (currently \$114 for 10 issues) is required to view the newsletter online.

### **InSITE-L**

[http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/lawlibrary/Finding\\_the\\_Law/inSite.html](http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/lawlibrary/Finding_the_Law/inSite.html)

An annotated e-publication issued by the librarians of the Cornell Law school, who annotate announcements of new law-related internet resources. Subscription to this listserv is required.