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Peaches 'N Cream: The Best of Georgia Electronic Resources

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**PEACHES 'N CREAM:
THE BEST OF GEORGIA
ELECTRONIC LEGAL RESOURCES**

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PEACHES 'N CREAM: THE BEST OF GEORGIA ELECTRONIC LEGAL RESOURCES

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PEACHES 'N CREAM: THE BEST OF GEORGIA ELECTRONIC LEGAL RESOURCES

A good place to begin: www.georgia.gov: A catch-all, omnibus portal to all things Georgia.

LEGISLATIVE RESOURCES

1. House of Representatives

http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/house/index.htm

Among the interesting resources this homepage makes available are an assortment of mailing addresses—home, capital, and chamber seat—and are prepared for printing on Avery 5162 labels in Word, Access, and Excel formats (http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/house/downloads/downloads.htm), an assortment of “fun facts” about state history (http://www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2005_06/house/kids/elemen/funfactsindex.htm), and various budget-related documents and explanatory aids (http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/house/budget/budgetIndex.htm).

2. Senate

http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/senate/index.htm

Useful materials found on the homepage for the state senate include: committee reports (http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/senate/committeereports.htm), links to access the radio broadcasts of senate proceedings (http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/senate/senateradio.htm), and preformatted mailing labels for sending items to senators (http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/senate/mailinglabels.htm).

3. Code (Unannotated)

<http://w3.lexis-nexis.com/hottopics/gacode/>

In just the past few months responsibility for the Code, which had been made freely available on the web by the General Assembly, has transferred to LexisNexis (who also publishes the print version of the O.C.G.A.). The link given here is likely to change very soon (i.e., when it is no longer a “hot topic”), but you should always be able to navigate to the free code via “Georgia Code” link on the General Assembly homepage (http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/).

4. Bills

http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/

Bills for the current session (2007-2008) can be found at the homepage of the General Assembly. Earlier legislation from 1995 can be accessed by clicking on the "Previous Sessions" link. A commercial service is available for those who wish to track current Georgia legislation on an ongoing and immediate basis (<http://www.gatrack.com/>).

An historical collection of session laws can be accessed via GALILEO's Digital Initiative (<http://www.galileo.usg.edu/express?link=zlg&rkey=leg>). Coverage spans the 18th Century through 1999.

5. Floor Debates

<http://tinyurl.com/55f5b>

Georgia Technology Authority (GTA) offers live gavel-to-gavel coverage of the Georgia General Assembly Legislative Session. Sessions usually convene at 10:00 AM each day. Broadcasts from each day of the session can be replayed and will be available on the 4th business day following the session. The live and archived Internet audio/video broadcasts are delivered by Georgia Public Broadcasting.

6. Legislative History

<http://law.gsu.edu/lawreview/peachsheets.htm>

A useful directory of each state's resources for compiling legislative histories has been made available by the Indiana University School of Law Library (http://www.law.indiana.edu/library/services/sta_leg.shtml). Like many states, Georgia does not have particularly rich material for legislative histories. The primary resource remains the *Peach Pages* published as part of the Georgia State University Law Review, which are freely available for the years 2000-2004. [And yes: these pages of the law review are really printed on peach-colored paper!] Casemaker, available to Georgia Bar members (www.gabar.org/casemaker), indicates that the GSU Law Review, including its *Peach Pages*, will soon be added to its collection of materials.

7. Local Ordinances

http://www.municode.com/Resources/code_list.asp?stateID=10

Municipal ordinances for over 100 Georgia communities (including Athens-Clarke County and Fulton County) can be accessed through Municode.com. An aggregator of counties and towns with a web presence can be found at <http://www.govengine.com/localgov/georgia.html>.

EXECUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATERIALS

8. Governor's Office

<http://www.gov.state.ga.us/>

Governor Perdue's official webpage makes available Executive Orders and Proclamations from 2003 to the present. EOs from 1994 to present can be found on GALILEO at <http://tinyurl.com/yqxj7j>.

9. Attorney General

<http://www.state.ga.us/ago/>

The official site offers AG Opinions from 1994-present, searchable by keyword or number (<http://www.state.ga.us/ago/opinions.html>).

10. Regulations

<http://rules.sos.state.ga.us>

This page, hosted by the Georgia Department of State, offers over 14788 links to state regulations!

11. State Agencies

A complete list of Georgia state agencies can be found at Georgia.gov (<http://tinyurl.com/gwg2x>), which allows searching by acronym as well as by agency title. Representative offerings include:

The site for the **Secretary of State** is particularly rich in resources, from a database that allows you to verify an individual's professional license (<https://secure.sos.state.ga.us/myverification/>) while <http://corp.sos.state.ga.us/corp/soskb/CSearch.asp> offers a searchable list of all individuals and corporations licensed for business in Georgia.

The **Department of Corrections** permits the user to search for information about incarcerated inmates (<http://www.dcor.state.ga.us/GDC/OffenderQuery/jsp/OffQryForm.jsp>).

The salaries of public employees can be found at the **Department of Audit's** <https://www.audits.state.ga.us/esa/confirm.aud>.

12. Forms

<http://Forms.georgia.gov>

Securities and Business Regulation Forms:

<http://www.sos.state.ga.us/securities/forms.htm>

Professional Licensure Application Forms:

<http://www.sos.state.ga.us/plb/forms.htm>

Voter Registration Forms:

http://www.sos.state.ga.us/elections/voter_registration/voter_reg_app.htm

Articles of Incorporation Online Filing Forms:

<http://corp.sos.state.ga.us/business/>

Business Taxation Forms: <http://www.etax.dor.ga.gov/forms.shtml>

Individual Taxation Forms: <http://www.etax.dor.ga.gov/forms.shtml>

Request Pardon or Restoration of Civil/Political Rights:

<http://www.pap.state.ga.us/PardonApplication1006.PDF>

State Ethics Forms:

<http://www.ethics.ga.gov/EthicsWeb/references/publications.aspx>

JUDICIAL MATERIALS

The central website for the Georgia judiciary is <http://www.georgiacourts.org/>, where annual reports, court newsletters, and caseload statistical analysis are available.

13. Georgia Supreme Court

<http://www.gasupreme.us>

The Georgia Supreme Court site offers its own access to only the most recent of its decisions (currently 2006 and 2007) (http://www.gasupreme.us/sc_op_index.php); The last five years of decisions can be searched for free through LexisOne (<http://www.lexisone.com/lx1/caselaw/freecaselaw>). The GASC homepage also offers the user a means to search dockets and view the list of granted petitions. Earlier decisions from 1939 are available to Georgia Bar members through Casemaker (www.gabar.org/casemaker).

14. Court of Appeals

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

The last five years of state appeal court decisions can be searched for free through LexisOne (<http://www.lexisone.com/lx1/caselaw/freecaselaw>). The *Docket/Case Database* (<http://www.gaappeals.us/docket/>) contains information about cases from 2003. Earlier decisions from 1939 are available to Georgia Bar members through Casemaker (www.gabar.org/casemaker). The court offers *Standards of Review* (http://www.gaappeals.us/rules2/standards_of_review.php) offers a ready resource to state the required standard of review for each appealable issue, “a threshold question as to how much deference will be accorded to the decision of the trial court.”

15. Superior Courts

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

Not all circuits of the superior court are equally accessible via the web. Information about those that are, however, can be accessed through this aggregator. The Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority (<http://www.gsccca.org/>) offers a surprisingly rich assortment of related forms and data, including searchable databases for notaries, liens, real estate, and UCC documents (<http://www.gsccca.org/Search/>).

16. State Courts

<http://www.georgiacourts.org/councils/state/index.html>

“The state court was established by a 1970 legislative act that designated certain existing countywide courts of limited jurisdiction as state courts. State courts may exercise jurisdiction over all misdemeanor violations, including traffic cases, and

all civil actions, regardless of the amount claimed, unless the superior court has exclusive jurisdiction.

“State courts are authorized to hold hearings on applications for an issuance of search and arrest warrants and to hold preliminary hearings. The Georgia Constitution grants state courts authority to review lower court decisions as provided by statute.”

17. Juvenile Courts

<http://www.georgiacourts.org/councils/cjcj/index.htm>

Available publications include the Juvenile Court Benchbook (http://www.georgiacourts.org/councils/cjcj/benchbook_toc.htm) and Model Deprivation Orders (http://www.georgiacourts.org/councils/cjcj/deprivation_forms.htm).

18. Probate Courts

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

In addition to some standard forms, this site offers a variety of guides intended to help a lay audience navigate the complex legal issues dealt with in this court (guardianship, wills, estate-planning, marriage and firearm licenses).

19. Magistrate Courts

<http://www.georgiacourts.org/magistrate.html>

“Magistrate court jurisdiction includes: civil claims of \$15,000 or less; certain minor criminal offenses; distress warrants and dispossessory writs; county ordinance violations; deposit account fraud (bad checks); preliminary hearings; and summonses, arrest and search warrants. A chief magistrate, who may be assisted by one or more magistrates, presides over each of Georgia’s 159 magistrate courts.

“Magistrates may grant bail in cases where the setting of bail is not exclusively reserved to a judge of another court. No jury trials are held in magistrate court. If a defendant submits a written request for a jury trial, cases may be removed to superior or state court.”

20. Court Rules

<http://www.georgiacourts.org/rules.html>

American Sources Online offers links to a wide variety of Georgia materials, including court rules (<http://www.lawsources.com/also/usa.cgi?ga>). See also:

Court of Appeals Rules: <http://www.gaappeals.us/rules2/index.php>

Uniform Rules of the Superior Courts:

http://www.georgiacourts.org/courts/superior/uniform_rules.html

Supreme Court Rules: <http://www.gasupreme.us/scrules01.php>

21. Court Forms

<http://uscourtforms.com>

Uscourtforms.com allows access to many Georgia forms without cost after registration (<http://tinyurl.com/yu5wdn>); premium services are also available. Those which are offered by the various court sites themselves include:

Probate: <http://www.gaprobate.org/forms.php>

Juvenile:

<http://www.georgiacourts.org/councils/cjcj/publications.htm#forms>

Inmate: <http://www.georgiacourts.org/forms.html#inmate>

Protective Order: <http://www.georgiacourts.org/forms.html#pof>

Application for Sentence Review:

<http://www.cscj.org/services/SentRvw.pdf>

UCC: <http://www.gscca.org/filesandforms/uccforms.asp>

SCHOLARSHIP

22. SSRN Journals from Georgia Law Schools

University of Georgia School of Law Legal Studies Research Paper Series

<http://www.ssrn.com/link/U-Georgia-Leg.html>

Emory University School of Law, Law & Economics

<http://www.ssrn.com/link/emory-law-econ.html>

Emory University School of Law, Public Law & Legal Theory

<http://www.ssrn.com/link/emory-university-public-law.html>

SSRN (Social Science Research Network) allows for rapid dissemination of new scholarship. These emails are free after registration with the service. Some of the subject matter journals are fee-based, but those published by the law schools are all free. Currently two law schools put out three general topic alerts containing new research from their faculties.

23. Law Review Abstracts

<http://www.findlaw.com/info/write/forms/subscribe.html>

Although the option to limit results to items with specific Georgia content is not offered, users may find it helpful to subscribe to this abstracting service from Findlaw.com, which allows the option to select from a broad range of topical specialties.

NEWS ARTICLES

24. Atlanta Journal-Constitution

<http://tinyurl.com/2l58dn>

A variety of newsletters are available free (with registration) from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, which are delivered directly to your inbox. Most attorneys would find the “AM News and Breaking News” edition particularly useful for keeping abreast of local events.

25. JURIST

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

JURIST “is a Web-based legal news and real-time legal research service powered by a mostly-volunteer team of law students led by law professor Bernard Hibbitts at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The *Paper Chase*, containing all legal news, is available for subscription by email. More targeted versions (e.g., U.S. Legal News) can be subscribed as RSS feeds.