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A is for Attorney: An Alphabet of Websites for Lawyers

Wendy Moore

University of Georgia School of Law, wemoore@uga.edu

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**A is for Attorney:
An Alphabet of Websites for Lawyers**

Wendy E. Moore, M.S. in L.S.
Acquisitions Librarian
The University of Georgia School of Law
Law Library
Athens, GA

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Wendy E. Moore, M.S. in L.S.
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Introduction

While searching the Internet often yields useful results, when conducting legal research, it is helpful to be knowledgeable of a pool of websites, which one can draw upon for fast and authoritative information. This paper contains an alphabetical list of 26 websites, each of which contains worthwhile information for one's research or professional development. The list features topical legal blogs, Federal and state government websites, free legal information from both commercial and not-for-profit organizations, educational resources, and helpful non-legal research tools. This list of websites is not a definitive list of the best legal websites available, but rather these websites are a good starting place to familiarize oneself with the types of information available on the Internet that can help one stay informed about legal issues and make conducting legal research more effective.

The Sites

A to D



Attorney at Work

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

Knowing that information overload can be a problem, *Attorney at Work* is a blog that

promises “one really good idea every day” for practicing lawyers. Its writers draw upon their expertise in practice management for their original and insightful daily blog posts. The site covers practice management topics such as developing a client base, dealing with personnel issues, incorporating technology into legal practice, and achieving one’s goals while maintaining work-life balance. One can sign up to get their “Daily Dispatch” or “Weekly Wrap” sent directly to one’s email account, or one can follow the blog via RSS, Facebook, LinkedIn, or Twitter.



Big Law Business

<https://bol.bna.com/>

Bloomberg BNA launched *Big Law Business* in March 2015 to provide “news, analysis and information about the legal profession, with a focus on the business of law.” The site features journalists from Bloomberg BNA and Bloomberg News as well as contributors from large law firms, corporate in-house counsel, and at law schools. Focusing on the developments shaping the legal industry, Big Law Business shares insights into how large firm and in-house counsel leaders are adapting to the changing legal business landscape. In addition to articles, the site features many videos, in depth profiles, and a free daily newsletter.



Court Listener

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

Court Listener provides a free and timely way to get alerts of cases at Federal and state courts. After creating an account, one can create alerts based on search queries. Even without creating an account one can search the site for court opinions using their impressive search filters, advanced search options, and relevancy ranking. What sets *Court Listener* apart from other free law sites is its citator showing subsequent opinions that have been cited to the opinion one is viewing. The site strives for as close to real-time coverage as possible, with opinions appearing for the courts they cover within 30 minutes of them being posted on the court's website. There are also uploaded each day non-precedential opinions from all of the Federal Circuit Courts except for the D.C. Circuit. They boast that their coverage of the Supreme Court and the third series of the *Federal Reporter* is the best available on the open Internet. There are almost 3 million opinions from over 350 court jurisdictions are now represented in *Court Listener*. They have used data from *Public.Resource.org*, *LawBox, LLC* as well as from court websites to build this large back-file of opinions. One can access a detailed list of the court coverage at the URL <<https://www.courtlistener.com/api/jurisdictions/>>. The site is very forthcoming about privacy issues, clearly stating what site use they track and why, with their stated goal to making the site as secure and private as possible. *Court Listener* started in 2010 and is now a core project of the Free Law Project, a California Non-Profit corporation.



Digital Library of Georgia

<http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/>

Based at the University of Georgia Libraries, the *Digital Library of Georgia* is an initiative of *GALILEO*, the state's virtual library. The *Digital Library of Georgia* connects users to a million digital objects from 60 institutions and 100 government agencies of cultural and historical value in the state of Georgia. The various databases that make up the *Digital Library of Georgia* contain digitized books, manuscripts, photographs, government documents, newspapers, maps, audio, video, and other resources. One can search across the many databases that make up the *Digital Library of Georgia* or browse the databases by topic, time period, county, institution, or media type. There is also an A-Z list of all the databases one can browse. Under the topic 'Government & Politics,' one will find several databases that could be useful for legal research. Listed below is a sampling of these 'Government & Politics' databases.

- **Historic Georgia Codes Collection**

<http://www.archive.org/details/ugalaw>

Made available by the University of Georgia School of Law Alexander

Campbell King Law Library, this collection includes historical Georgia codes

beginning with the 1799 Watkins Digest of Statutes through the 1933 code.

- **Georgia Government Publications**

<http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/ggp/>

A collection of monographic public documents from state government departments and agencies, published from 1994 to the present.

- **Georgia Legislative Documents**

<http://www.galileo.usg.edu/express?link=zlgl>

This collection contains fully searchable versions of the Georgia General Assembly's Acts and Resolutions from 1799-1999. An excellent legal resource, when one wants to do a keyword or subject search of the Georgia Laws.

- **GeorgiaInfo**

<http://georgiainfo.galileo.usg.edu/>

GeorgiaInfo provides extensive information about political life and governance in Georgia.

- **New Georgia Encyclopedia**

<http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/topics/government-politics>

The New Georgia Encyclopedia provides an authoritative source of information about people, places, events, institutions, and many other topics relating to Georgia. This link will take you to its 'Government & Politics' section that features 11 subheadings such as 'Local Government,' 'Political Figures,' and 'Political Parties, Interest Groups & Movements.'

- **Trademark Registrations, 1894-1959**

<http://cdm.georgiaarchives.org:2011/cdm/landingpage/collection/trade>

Official trademarks and union labels of goods sold or distributed in Georgia

and represent their registration with the State of Georgia, 1894-1959.

E to H



Easel.ly

<http://www.easel.ly/>

Easel.ly is an easy to use site to create eye-catching, informative graphics on the web. The site makes it possible for users with no background in graphic design to produce professional looking custom infographics. *Easel.ly* offers thousands of free templates and design objects to choose from. Or one can upload a background image and start from scratch as well. They have an easy to find page explaining their terms of use. While use of *Easel.ly* is free, one must still register. There is also a Pro Account for \$3.00/month that expands available image, template, and font options.



FDsys

<http://fdsys.gov/>

A service of the Government Printing Office (GPO), *FDsys* (Federal Digital System) provides free online access to official publications from all three branches of the Federal Government. *FDsys* provides an advanced search engine to allow one to refine and

narrow searches for quick access to the documents and publications. One can also browse the over 50 collections, including 'Public and Private Laws,' 'Compilation of Presidential Documents,' and most notably 'United States Court Opinions.' *FDsys* not only provides current information, but it also serves as a repository that guarantees long-term preservation and access to digital Government content. Resources available on *FDsys* are authentic, digitally signed PDF documents, which makes it an exceptional source for legal information.



GuideStar

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

Sometimes one needs information on a non-profit organization rather than a commercial company. *GuideStar* is a directory of non-profit organizations. *GuideStar's* database includes information on all tax-exempt nonprofits registered with the IRS. Currently, there are more than 1.8 million organizations in the database. *GuideStar* itself is a non-profit, operating with the mission of providing information about the non-profit sector that advances transparency, enables users to make better decisions, and encourages charitable giving. *Guidestar* is not a charity evaluator or watchdog, but rather a neutral source whose goal is to collect, organize and present this information in an easy-to-understand, consistent format. It can be searched for free, but additional information can be accessed if one creates a free user account.



HathiTrust Digital Library

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

While *Google Books* has received a lot of attention, the academic and research institutions that make up the *HathiTrust* partnership have been creating a digital library of millions of titles from libraries around the world. *HathiTrust Digital Library* provides long-term preservation and access services for public domain and in copyright content from a variety of sources, including *Google*, the *Internet Archive*, *Microsoft*, and in-house partner institution initiatives. One can search the full-text or just the catalog of this digital library, making use of the advanced full-text search to pinpoint specific information. Browsing collections is another way of discovering information. These collections can be broad such as ‘Ancestry and Genealogy’ or narrow like ‘1920a Cocktails.’ One can even make one’s own collections of titles discovered on the site to share with other users. The *HathiTrust Digital Library* is also available on a mobile-friendly platform, making it easy to locate and read books on the go.

I to L



Internet Archive

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

Internet Archive is a non-profit library that includes texts, video, music, images, and software, including video games, as well as archived web pages. Its purposes include “offering permanent access for researchers, historians, scholars, people with disabilities, and the general public to historical collections that exist in digital format.” The *Internet Archive* is working to prevent the Internet and other "born-digital" materials from disappearing into the past leaving a digital dark age for future researchers. It is not uncommon to have an old URL that now goes nowhere or a need to see what information was displayed on a webpage in a previous version. The *Internet Archive* collection of webpage snapshots, sometimes going back to the 1990's, can help one identify and document key information that is no longer available on current webpages.



Justia

<http://www.justia.com>

Run by the original co-founders of *FindLaw*, *Justia* is a legal information portal committed to making “primary legal materials and community resources free and easy to find on the Internet.” They also partner with educational, public interest, and like-minded organizations to provide legal and consumer information to legal professionals and the public. The website has a simple directory style layout divided into the following sections: ‘Legal Practice Areas,’ ‘Legal Research & Law Practice,’ ‘Lawyers, Legal Aid & Pro Bono Services,’ ‘Latin America,’ and ‘Cases in the News – Documents.’ There is a link to primary law under ‘Laws & Regs,’ a list of U.S. law schools, and a free

daily opinion newsletter one can sign-up to receive via email. Under 'Find a Lawyer' *Justia* has an easy to use lawyer directory and under 'Ask a Lawyer' there is a Q&A section that also allows the public to ask lawyers questions for free. The website also maintains an excellent law blog directory called *BlawgSearch* <<http://blawgsearch.justia.com/>> which in addition to arranging legal blogs into categories and listing the most popular blogs it also has a directory of legal professionals on Twitter called *LegalBirds* <<http://legalbirds.justia.com/>>.



Kompass

<http://us.kompass.com/>

A global business database, *Kompass* covers 5 million companies in 66 countries. The free search provides access to key company information, allowing one to search for a company name, a product, or an executive name. The easy to use filters lets one refine a search further. The basic information displayed for free includes corporate address and website, along with a brief description, company size, owner/CEO name, and SIC description. Clicking on the 'Buy' button, will offer one the option to get phone numbers, more detailed company information, and the names of other executives at a low cost. In addition to their 'Finder' product, there is also a 'Target' that allows one to build a list of companies meeting certain criteria and then download that information for a fee.



Lexology

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

Lexology is a research platform providing a searchable archive of over 450,000 articles in more than 20 languages covering 50 legal work areas worldwide. The homepage features a section on 'Latest articles' but there is also a section on 'Popular articles' under their navigation bar. The 'Navigator Q&A' which one can direct access at <<http://www.lexology.com/navigator/>> allows one to build comparative reports based on 'Topic,' 'Jurisdiction,' and 'Section.' Many of the features of the site can be accessed without registering, but creating a free account does give one more tools, such as report downloading, and access to a free, tailored, daily legal news feed service. *Lexology* is produced by *Globe Business Media Group*, a business-to-business content and connections company, specializing in the legal and IP markets.

M to P



Municode

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

Municode provides access to over 3,100 local codes from all around the country. The coverage of Georgia county and municipal codes is particularly strong. One can browse

and search one code at a time for free under their 'Code Library' from the link in the navigation bar or from the button on the homepage. The codes are now also available in a mobile platform version in addition to the desktop browser version. The codes are only as current as the most recent update from the local government; however, the last updated date is clearly marked in the banner information for each code. *Municode* is the oldest and largest codifier in the country and has demonstrated a strong commitment to making these ordinances freely available on the Internet.



North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)

<http://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/>

The *North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) website* contains information about the NASIC standardized codes used to describe industries. Adopted in 1997 to replace the SIC system, the NAICS allows for a high level of comparability in business statistics among the North American countries. Codes identified on this website can be used for industry searching in other databases. The *NAICS website* offers the ability to search by keyword or 2-6 digit code the 2012, 2007, or the 2002 editions of the NAICS Manual. There is also the ability to browse by subdivision, which is helpful when one is not certain of the precise terminology to use. The *NAICS website* also provides the latest information on plans for NAICS revisions, as well as access to various NAICS reference files and tools, including a section on Federal Register Notices.



OpenSecrets.org

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

Produced by the Center for Responsive Politics, *OpenSecrets.org* is an independent website tracking the influence of money on U.S. Federal politics, public policy, and everyday citizens. Gathering data beyond the offerings from the Federal Election Commission, *OpenSecrets.org* looks at lobbying, the “revolving door” phenomenon, politician’s personal finances, and congressional travel. The navigation bar allows one to access information by ‘Politicians & Elections,’ ‘Influence & Lobbying,’ and ‘News & Analysis’ on this data rich website. There is a “Get Local!” subsection under ‘Politicians & Elections’ that breaks contribution data down by state, by zip code, and by earmarks on what they term “money maps.” *OpenSecrets.org* also makes it easy to track activity by PACs, organizations, and 527s. The ‘Resources’ and ‘Take Action’ sections offer FAQs, tools, apps, and social networking opportunities for those looking to become more engaged in advocating for government transparency. Its *OpenSecrets Blog* is an excellent source for news about money in politics and they offer a free weekly email newsletter one can sign up for on the homepage. To locate information related to state government and politics in Georgia, one should explore the resources available through the state run portal *OpenGeorgia* <<http://www.open.georgia.gov>>. The resources linked on this site are gathered from a variety of state agency websites, where they are sometimes difficult to locate, even if one knows of their existence. While much of the information is only updated annually, *OpenGeorgia* is an excellent, time-saving

resource for Georgia state financial-related information.



Public Library of Law - PLoL

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

Created by *Fastcase*, the *Public Library of Law – PLoL* is a resource for searching freely available law on the Internet. It provides a searchable interface to a large collection of primary law at both the state and Federal levels. *PLoL* features cases from the U.S. Supreme Court and Courts of Appeals, cases from all 50 states back to 1997, as well as codes from all 50 states, regulations, court rules, and constitutions. There are also helpful video tutorials and guides to learn more about searching for cases and statutes on the site. *PLoL* requires registration and login before materials can be accessed, however they note that they never give registration information to third-parties. It also offers links to information on *Fastcase* that can be accessed through the State Bar of Georgia agreement with *Fastcase*.

Q to T



QnAMarkup

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

QnAMarkup is a simple markup programming language for people with little to no experience computer coding. It was designed to be used by lawyers, so that blocks of text can be formatted into simple questions and answers. The idea is that then these could be used as a simple stand-alone expert system or as a tool to aid in document construction. The 'Syntax' link takes you to a page that explains the code in step-by-step detail as well as sharing live examples including the sample code and its output. There is also a 10 minute video that walks one through a basic introduction to *QnAMarkup* that is at <<https://youtu.be/RVhzQ1JVi3s>>. More examples are available on this *GitHub* Gallery page at <<https://github.com/colarusso/QnAMarkup/wiki/gallery>>.



Regulations.gov

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

Regulations.gov is a one-stop source to find and view Federal regulations and related materials. Through *Regulations.gov*, one may also comment on proposed regulations open for comment and view closed for comment regulations. The types of documents that can be found on this site include Proposed Rules, Rules, as well as Notices from the Federal Register. Public Submissions (e.g., comments, citizen petitions, early submissions) and Supporting Materials often associated with regulatory actions can also be found on *Regulations.gov*. The website offers three tabs in the upper right to help one explore regulatory information. The default tab is the "Search" tab, which provides a keyword search box to look for rules, comments, adjudications, and supporting

documents. The returned search results offer a variety of facets to simplify narrowing one's results. There is also a "Browse" tab which groups regulations into ten industry-related categories, which allows one to locate recent actions of interest by subject. Finally, there is a "Learn" tab which gives a step-by-step explanation of the rule-making process and helps to fulfill the website's mission of making it easier for the public to participate directly in the regulatory process. *Regulations.gov* is managed by the eRulemaking Program with assistance from partner agencies.



Stateline

<http://stateline.org/>

An excellent source for state government and political news, *Stateline* has an easy to navigate, feature-rich website that is updated daily. One can view recent news stories gathered from newspapers, wire services, and from *Stateline* staff writers by selecting a specific state, browsing all states, or in one of 19 tag areas. The "Special Features" section includes in-depth reporting on issues of state legislatures, budgets, and demographics. One can sign up for their daily or weekly email services. *Stateline* is a nonpartisan, nonprofit news service of the Pew Charitable Trusts.



ThomasNet

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

ThomasNet is the online version of the important longtime industry directory the *Thomas Register of American Manufacturers* (aka the “Big Green Books”). The website allows one to search for information by ‘Supplier Discovery,’ ‘Product Sourcing,’ CAD Models,’ ‘Custom Quotes,’ ‘Diversity & Quality,’ and ‘Industry News.’ The benefits of using *ThomasNet* over a general search engine like Google are the specific Browse features and the more than 67,000 industry categories assigned to the entries. One can also limit searches by zipcode, state, company type, ISO certifications, minority owned status, and information available, such as product catalogs or CAD drawings.

U to Z



USPTO.gov

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

USPTO.gov, the website for the United States Patent and Trademark Office, provides a wealth of practical information and resources for filing for patents and trademarks, as well as offering news, public notices, and press releases from the agency. The four primary sections of the website, ‘Patents,’ ‘Trademarks,’ ‘IP Policy,’ and ‘Learning and Resources’ can be accessed from the large dropdown menu at the top of every webpage. Under ‘Patents’ the variety of patent related databases one can search are laid out and described. The patent search allows one to search either issued patents or published patent applications. Under ‘Trademarks’ one can also access trademark application

databases and search the Trademark Electronic Search System (TESS), which contains the USPTO's pending and registered trademarks. There are step-by-step directions under "Patents Process" and "Trademarks Process" to help individuals and legal professionals with the process of obtaining a patent or a trademark. Under 'IP Policy' there is information that could be of interest to a practicing attorney such as trade secret, enforcement, legislative affairs, and the U.S. IP Attaché program. The subsection "Attorneys, Agents and Paralegals" under the 'Learning and Resources' section highlights the applications, contacts, services, and publications most frequently used by attorneys.



VirusTotal

<https://www.virustotal.com/>

A free online service, *VirusTotal* analyzes suspicious files and URLs to detect viruses, worms, and malware that one's own antivirus software might have missed. *VirusTotal* performs as an information aggregator. It compiles data in an unbiased way from many different antivirus engines, website scanners, file and URL analysis tools, and user contributions. There are browser extensions available for Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome and Internet Explorer that allow one easily to scan URLs or download files with the *VirusTotal* web application prior to storing them on one's computer. *VirusTotal* is not a substitute for installed antivirus/security software, since it only scans individual files/URLs on demand. *VirusTotal* has been a subsidiary of *Google* since 2012.



WeCite

<http://casetext.com/wecite/>

The practice of crowdsourcing on the Internet has been applied to many areas, for example, the development of *Wikipedia* was thanks to crowdsourcing. Now the resource *Casetext* is using crowdsourcing to add freely available annotations to primary legal sources. *Casetext* expands the free law mission to make law not only publicly available, but also understandable. There are over a million judicial opinions, statutes, and regulations with annotations of practicing attorneys, professors, and other experts alongside the text. Once one creates an account using the Login/Sign Up link in the top right, one can begin contributing annotations. *Casetext* users are encouraged to contribute under their real identities, so one can see the experience and background of a particular contributor. Users also can up-vote and down-vote contributions, which are then sorted according to these votes, so that one sees the most valued content first. *Casetext* has now added gamification of citation information with its *WeCite* platform. After logging in, one can help build the database by identifying case relationships for the citations displayed. To participate all one has to do is read the relevant section then decide if the reference was 'Positive,' 'Referencing,' 'Distinguishing,' or 'Negative.' While *WeCite* seems marketed to law school students, anyone can contribute.



XE.com

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

Launched in 1995, *XE* provides helpful foreign exchange tools and services for individuals and businesses. Their *Universal Currency Converter* is the most popular currency converter on the Internet. One can also access historical currency rate tables or download their free or professional mobile apps. *XE Currency Blog* keeps one up-to-date on foreign exchange and currency news. In the 'Learn' section one can read in depth currency profiles as part of their *Currency Encyclopedia* and get authoritative definitions of foreign exchange terminology in their *Currency Glossary*.



YouCanBook.me

<https://youcanbook.me/>

The tool YouCanBook.me provides booking software that integrates with the Google or iCloud Calendar. It lets one create a personalized scheduling page, which you can share with others, so they can set up meetings or reminders that will go directly onto one's calendar. The tool is free for individual users and non-profits, with monthly pricing with extra features for small to large businesses.



Zamzar

[http:// www.zamzar.com/](http://www.zamzar.com/)

Zamzar provides conversion of uploaded files into other file formats. For example, one can convert old WordPerfect files into MSWord documents. It includes a wide range of file formats to choose from, supporting over 1200 different conversions, including older image, music, and video formats which can be difficult to convert. They have a wide array of proprietary ebook formats that can be converted to open source formats, thus extending their compatibility with newer devices. One can also convert URLs into a file format, such as an image file or MSWord document. *Zamzar* is a free service with a maximum file size of 100MB. They do offer a couple of levels of paid accounts with larger file sizes and additional services. When the file has been converted, a link to the new file is sent to the user via email. *Zamzar* was established in 2006 and is considered a trusted website, which makes their Terms of Service and Privacy statements readily available to users.

Conclusion

These websites are just a sample of what is available on the Internet to assist one in staying informed on legal issues and conducting legal research. When one knows some 'go-to' websites that provide helpful and convenient information, then using the Internet for legal research becomes a straightforward and successful experience.