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# The State of the States : Online Resources for State Legal Research

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**The State of the States:  
Online Resources for State Legal Research**

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## **I. State Resources**

**American Law Sources Online, State Resources** - [www.lawsource.com/also/#\[United%20States\]](http://www.lawsource.com/also/#[United%20States])

Slightly different content for each state although all have court decisions, statutes, and court rules. Some states include links to administrative material, court structures, and even statistical information.

**FindLaw** - [www.findlaw.com/11stategov](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** - [www.lexisone.com/legalresearch/legalguide/states/states\\_resources\\_index.htm](http://www.lexisone.com/legalresearch/legalguide/states/states_resources_index.htm)

Convenient lists of state agencies, all levels of courts, and counties. Use the lexisOne service to search recent state and federal case law.

**National Association of Secretaries of States (NASS)** - [www.nass.org](http://www.nass.org)

Official Web Site for the National Association of Secretaries of State which maintains an administrative codes and registers section, [www.administrativerules.org/](http://www.administrativerules.org/).

**State and Local Bar Associations** - [www.abanet.org/barserv/stlobar.html](http://www.abanet.org/barserv/stlobar.html)

You never know when you might need to contact an attorney in another state. Many of the state bar web sites have links to the states' case law, statutes, and administrative materials.

**State Blue Books** - [wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/State\\_Blue\\_Books](http://wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/State_Blue_Books)

State blue books may or may not have blue covers. They are called Blue Books in response to the Red Books of England. *Bartlett's Dictionary of Americanisms* defines the term Blue Book as "a printed book containing the names of all persons holding office

under the Government of the United States." Individual states have taken this concept and expanded it to include a wealth of information about state officials and resources as well as statistical and historical profiles.

**State Court Web Sites -**

[www.ncsconline.org/D\\_KIS/info\\_court\\_web\\_sites.html#State](http://www.ncsconline.org/D_KIS/info_court_web_sites.html#State)

Hosted by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), this site includes links to all available state courts and other resources. The NCSC began in 1971 after Chief Justice Warren Burger called for the creation of a central resource for the state courts—a "national center for state courts." Its original purpose was to serve as an information clearinghouse so that innovations in one court can benefit all courts.

**State Reference Desk -** [www.law.sc.edu/library/research\\_aids/state.shtml](http://www.law.sc.edu/library/research_aids/state.shtml)

Maintained by the Coleman Karesh Law Library at the University of South Carolina. Organized first by the type of resource, statutes, court opinions, legislatures, then divided by state.

**Statute of Limitations by State -**

[www.edgarsnyder.com/statute-limitations/index.html](http://www.edgarsnyder.com/statute-limitations/index.html)

A web site developed by a Pennsylvania personal injury lawyer, this site attempts to provide limitation periods for each state for particular causes of action. The limitations represented on this site pertain to personal injury, medical malpractice, and products liability.

**Washlaw -** [www.washlaw.edu](http://www.washlaw.edu)

From Washburn University, one of the most convenient and complete directories. This must be in your Bookmarks or Favorites list.

## **II. Important Georgia Resources**

**Georgia.gov** - [www.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<sup>1</sup>, 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.

**Georgia General Assembly** - [www.legis.state.ga.us](http://www.legis.state.ga.us)

**Legislative Search** - [www.legis.state.ga.us/htdig/search.htm](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.

**Administrative Office of the Courts** - [www.georgiacourts.org](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 Courts Automation Commission** - [www.gcacommission.org](http://www.gcacommission.org)

The GCAC carries out its mission by administering a state-wide courts

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

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 Courts** - [www.gaprobate.org](http://www.gaprobate.org)

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

**Georgia Superior Court Clerk's Cooperative Authority (GSCCCA)** - [www.gsccca.org](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.

**Administrative Rules & Regulations** - [www.sos.state.ga.us/rules\\_regs.htm](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 will 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** - [www.state.ga.us/ago](http://www.state.ga.us/ago)

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

**Georgia Casemaker Library** - [www.gabar.org/casemaker](http://www.gabar.org/casemaker)

A service for state bar members with a case law database back to 1939 and materials from a number of other states that are part of the Casemaker Consortium.

### **III. Local Resources**

**GovEngine, Local Government** - [www.govengine.com/localgov/index.html](http://www.govengine.com/localgov/index.html)

Includes links for all counties within a state and municipalities with web sites (sometimes just an email address).

**Municipal Codes Online, Seattle Public Library** - [www.spl.org/default.asp?pageID=collection\\_municodes](http://www.spl.org/default.asp?pageID=collection_municodes)

One of the original collections of municipal codes although it does not include links for all states. They do link to some other code collections not listed here.

**E-Codes, Municipal Codes Online** - [www.generalcode.com/webcode2.html](http://www.generalcode.com/webcode2.html)

Not all states (Georgia being one) are included.

**MuniCode** - [www.municode.com](http://www.municode.com)

Limited number of municipalities available. Multiple code search capability is available with a subscription and they sell printed codes and ordinances.

**State and Local Government on the Net** - [www.statelocalgov.net/index.cfm](http://www.statelocalgov.net/index.cfm)

Provides links to every governmental site at every level (federal, state, city, county) it is able to locate.