Law & Reference: Answering Legal Reference Questions

Wendy E. Moore, M.S. L.S. Maureen Cahill, J.D., M.L.I.S COMO 2011 Thursday, October 6, 2011, 1:30-2:20 pm

Conducting the Reference Interview

Remember to think about: Why are they asking, Jurisdiction, Area of Law, Criminal or Civil Law

Interpreting Legal Citations

University of South Carolina Law Library's Circuit Riders Outreach Program Manual "What the heck is that?: Deciphering Legal Citations" http://www.law.sc.edu/library/circuit_riders/what_the_heck.pdf

Commonly Used Legal Abbreviations http://www.alwd.org/publications/pdf/CM2 Appendix5.pdf

How to avoid giving legal advice while still providing reference service

Connecticut State Library - Law and Legislative Reference (LLR) Unit "Legal Reference Policy"

http://www.cslib.org/legalref.htm

University of South Carolina Law Library's Circuit Riders Outreach Program Manual "Librarians and the Unauthorized Practice of Law" http://www.law.sc.edu/library/circuit_riders/unauthorized_practice_of_law.pdf

ALA Reference and User Services Association "RUSA Reference Guidelines: Guidelines for Medical, Legal, and Business Responses" http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/rusa/resources/guidelines/guidelinesmedical.cfm

Referring Patrons Beyond the Library

Georgia Bar Association http://www.gabar.org/

Georgia Public Defender Standards Council – Office Locations http://www.gpdsc.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Circuit-List-7-11-11.pdf

Georgia Legal Services http://www.glsp.org/

LegalAid-GA.org http://www.legalaid-ga.org/

Georgia Courts http://www.georgiacourts.org

Georgia Court System Diagram

http://www.georgiacourts.org/aoc/selfhelp/court_diagram.html

US Courts http://www.uscourts.gov

Research Resources for answering Legal Reference Questions

Georgia.gov http://www.georgia.gov

- Legal, Public & Consumer Affairs
- Government Laws & Regulations

Georgia code online http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/gacode/Default.asp

Municode http://www.municode.com

Justia http://www.justia.com/

Public Library of Law http://www.plol.org/

LII http://www.law.cornell.edu/

• Wex Encyclopedia & Dictionary http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/

GovEngine http://www.govengine.com/

Google Scholar http://scholar.google.com/

Findlaw http://www.findlaw.com

LexisOne http://www.lexisone.com/

Nolo http://www.nolo.com

GALILEO: Legal Collections (EBSCO) & LexisNexis Academic

Digital Library of Georgia: Georgia Legislative Documents & Georgia Government Publications

Print Collection Development Ideas

Black's Law Dictionary 9th ed. (West - ThomsonReuters, 2009)

Georgia Legal Research (Carolina Academic Press, 2007)

Nolo publications http://www.nolo.com/products/

- Legal Research: How to Find and Understand the Law 15th ed. (2009)
- Represent Yourself in Court: How to Prepare & Try a Winning Case 7th ed. (2010)
- Beat Your Ticket: Go to Court and Win 6th ed. (2010)
- Criminal Law Handbook: Know Your Rights, Survive the System 11th ed. (2011)
- Plan Your Estate 10th ed. (2010)

Nolo Books Online – Free http://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/free-books/

West- ThomsonReuters publications http://store.westlaw.com/

- Georgia landlord and tenant : breach and remedies : with forms 4th ed. (2007 + annual updates)
- Kurtz criminal offenses and defenses in Georgia (2011 ed., annual)
- Daniel's Georgia Criminal Trial Practice (2010-2011 ed., annual)
- Georgia Divorce, Alimony & Child Custody (2011-2012 ed., annual)

LexisNexis publications http://www.lexisnexis.com/store/

- Official Code of Georgia Annotated (annual updates)
- Georgia DUI law: a resource for lawyers and judges (2003 + annual supplement)
- Georgia Criminal and Traffic Law Manual (2011-12 ed.)

Learn More with these Helpful Resources

James M. Donovan, "Peaches 'n Cream: The Best of Georgia Electronic Resources" (2007) http://digitalcommons.law.uga.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1034&context=speeches

University of South Carolina Law Library's Circuit Riders Outreach Program Manual "Legal Research for Non-Law Librarians"

http://www.law.sc.edu/library/circuit_riders/manual.shtml

If All Else Fails, Bookmark This Link!

UGA Law Library Legal Research Links - LibGuides http://libquides.law.uga.edu/content.php?pid=51866&sid=1046192