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# Georgia Legal Resources on the Internet

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# **Georgia Legal Resources on the Internet**

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## **I. Introduction**

With the establishment of the GeorgiaNet Authority in 1990, the Georgia Legislature laid the groundwork for an impressive Georgia presence on the Internet. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 50-25-1 et seq., GeorgiaNet and its successor agency, the Georgia Technology Authority (GTA), have increased public access online to a wealth of public state information, including items valuable in legal research. For example, the states official portal at <http://www.georgia.gov> provides links to important primary sources at no cost, such as the *Official Code of Georgia* linked from <http://www.legis.state.ga.us/htdig/search.htm>

Other entities are also providing access to Georgia legal information via the Internet. This chapter discusses several of these resources. The material is arranged by information type.

## **II. Statutes & Legislative Information**

*Georgia General Assembly* <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.

*Georgia.gov* (<http://www.georgia.gov>)

In 1990, the legislature established GeorgiaNet to administer the state's home page. Subsequent revisions created the Georgia Technology Authority, which maintains Georgia's new Web portal, Georgia.gov. In addition to providing an access point to numerous free resources,

Georgia.gov offers a fee-based legislative tracking service called GeorgiaTrack (formerly Lobbyist-in-a-Box) which allows the user to create custom lists of bills to monitor and receive updated bill status reports automatically. <http://www.gatrack.com>

***Georgia Legislative Documents Project***

[http://www.solinet.net/preservation/preservation\\_templ.cfm?doc\\_id=455](http://www.solinet.net/preservation/preservation_templ.cfm?doc_id=455)

This database includes digitized versions of Georgia Laws for the years 1799-1999, with a few gaps. Currently, the project is working to add the Journals of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the State of Georgia. The documents are available on GALILEO.<sup>1</sup> Participants in this project, which is coordinated by SOLINET (Southeastern Library Network, Inc.), are the Georgia Department of Archives and History, University of Georgia, Emory University, and Georgia State University.

***FindLaw*** <http://www.findlaw.com/11stategov/ga/laws.html>

Provides links to other sites containing the text of the Georgia Constitution and the Official Code of Georgia (not annotated).

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<sup>1</sup> GALILEO (or Georgia Library Learning Online) is a collection of Web databases procured by a consortium of Georgia libraries. Some databases are accessible only from computers housed at specific Georgia libraries, while others can be accessed from all member libraries or from the researcher's private computer. To obtain off-site access, obtain the GALILEO password from your public library.

### **III. Case Law & Court Information**

**Georgia Supreme Court** <http://www2.state.ga.us/Courts/Supreme/>

Includes the Court's calendar, the text of published opinions from September 2001 through present, summaries of published opinions from February 2000 through present, synopses of pending cases, Court Rules & Procedures, information about the Court and Justices, and numerous links to Supreme Court committees and commissions.

**Georgia Appellate Court Opinions** <http://www.appeals.courts.state.ga.us/opinions/>

In addition to providing access to the Court of Appeals Rules, the court's calendar and a history of the court, this site includes the full text of Georgia Supreme Court decisions from the late 1990s through October 2002 and Court of Appeals decisions from the late 1990s through September 2002. The cases are searchable by keyword. Use LexisOne at <http://www.lexisone.com> to search for Georgia Court of Appeals and Supreme Court cases from 1998 to present.

**Georgia Superior Court Clerk's Cooperative Authority (GSCCCA)** <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. Currently underway is the Georgia Consolidated Lien Index. Another pilot project provides online access to plat images from several counties.

***Uniform Rules by Court [www.georgiacourts.org/aoc/uniformrules.htm](http://www.georgiacourts.org/aoc/uniformrules.htm)***

The Administrative Office of the Courts provides the rules of the Supreme Court, State Court, Superior Court, Juvenile Court, Magistrate Court, and Probate Court, all in PDF.

***Law.com/Georgia <http://www.law.com/ga/> (formerly *Daily Report Online*)***

This subscription service provides an online version of the Daily Report, the official legal organ of Fulton County. Features include daily briefings on the latest decisions from the Georgia Supreme Court and the Georgia Court of Appeals, daily news briefs and a searchable archive; verdict reports from Georgia's state and federal courtrooms; official courtroom calendars for Fulton County State Court and Fulton County Superior Court; and searchable legal notices, including the official list of Fulton County real estate facing foreclosure sale, property subject to sheriff's sale, and listings of newly formed Georgia corporations. Online subscribers may receive e-mail alerts for newly issued Georgia appellate opinions.

The online version costs \$60/year for subscribers to the paper *Daily Report* and \$325/year for non-paper subscribers. Researchers may subscribe for a free 30-day trial period at <http://www.dailyreportonline.com/reg2.asp>.

***Georgia Courts Automation Commission <http://www.gcacsite.com/>***

Pursuant to SB 176 (signed by the Governor on April 27, 2000), the GCAC is authorized to define, implement, and administer a state-wide courts 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.

#### **IV. Administrative Rules & Regulations**

*Administrative Rules & Regulations* <http://www.ganet.org/rules/>

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. *Please note*, however, that the updating of the Web-published rules is the responsibility of the filing agency; therefore, the researcher should ascertain the currency of the Web-published rules from the filing agency.

#### **V. Probate Forms and Filing**

*Georgia Probate Court On-Line System* <http://www.gaprobate.org/main.html/>

This site allows residents of Georgia, attorneys, and Probate Court personnel to file Probate Court forms online via the Web. The forms can be downloaded in Corel WordPerfect, Word 97, and PDF or viewed on the Web if the searcher has the appropriate browser plug-in. In addition, the forms can be completed and submitted online.



## **VI. Corporation Information**

*Secretary of State* <http://www.sos.state.ga.us/corporations/>

The site provides access to Georgia Business Entity Information (corporations, limited partnerships and limited liability companies). Available information includes the name of the entity, filing date, registered agent, any officers provided and the entity's status. Search by business entity name or registered agent name. The site also provides a list of business entity status codes. In addition, the site provides information on filing procedures for Georgia business entities, frequently asked questions, and other information about business entities in Georgia.

*GeorgiaNet's Corporation Document Orders* <https://www.ganet.org/sosdocs>

Use the online form to order certified corporation documents from the Secretary of State's Office (using a major credit card or as a GeorgiaNet customer).

Corporation records can be retrieved using various sort categories (jurisdiction, type, date range, city, zip code, and status) at <https://www.ganet.org/corprec> and imported into a database (again, using a major credit card for payment).

## **VII. Bar Information**

*State Bar of Georgia* <http://www.gabar.org/>

The Bar's online handbook (<http://www.gabar.org/pdf/Handbook.pdf>) contains State Bar Rules and Regulations, along with advisory opinions of the State Disciplinary Board and the Supreme Court of Georgia. The Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct are available at <http://www.gabar.org/ogcrules.asp?Header=ogc>). The site also provides bill tracking for Bar-

endorsed legislation and other bills of interest. Members of the Bar can check their continuing legal education credits for the current and previous years at

<http://www.gabar.org/barcleinput.asp?Header=>.

## **VIII. Miscellaneous Agency Sites**

*Attorney General* <http://www.state.ga.us/ago/>

The Attorney General's site provides AG Opinions, press releases, consumer information, and Open Government information.

*State Ethics Commission* <http://www.ethics.state.ga.us/>

Includes the commission's draft rules, opinions, printable forms and lobbyist information.

## **IX. Links to Georgia Legal Resources**

*University of Georgia School of Law - Georgia Listing*  
<http://www.law.uga.edu/library/research/internet/georgia.html>

*Georgia State University College of Law - Georgia Legal Online Resources*  
<http://law.gsu.edu/lawlibrary/research/GAOnline.htm>

*Mercer University School of Law - Georgia Legal Research Links*  
<http://library.law.mercer.edu/galaw.htm>