

## LRC Week 3 Training: Secondary Sources

### I. TYPES OF SECONDARY SOURCES

#### Legal Encyclopedias

- Legal encyclopedias contain brief summaries on a variety of topics.
- Multi-state: American Jurisprudence (Am. Jur.) and Corpus Juris Secundum (C.J.S.).
- California: California Jurisprudence (Cal. Jur.) and Witkin's Summary of California Law.

#### Treatises

- Treatises cover a single subject, e.g. Torts, as opposed to covering multiple subject areas like a legal encyclopedia.
- Treatise examples: Corbin on Contracts, Witkin California Criminal Law.

#### Practice Guides

- Practice guides are similar to treatises but they also include things that practitioners need like checklists and forms.
- The main practice guide publishers in California are Rutter (Westlaw), Bancroft-Whitney (Westlaw), Matthew Bender (Lexis), and CEB (CEB OnLaw).

#### American Law Reports (A.L.R.)

- A.L.R. contains articles called annotations.
- Annotations collect summaries of cases from a variety of jurisdictions to provide an overview of the law on a topic and are more detailed than encyclopedias.
- There is not an A.L.R. annotation for every topic, but if you can find one on point, A.L.R. annotations can be very useful.

#### Legal Periodicals

- Legal periodicals are law journals or law reviews (e.g. the Harvard Law Review).
- They contain detailed articles on very specific topics.

### II. SEARCHING FOR SECONDARY SOURCES

In Westlaw and Lexis Advance you have two options for accessing secondary sources.

**Option 1:** Type in the name of the item you are looking for (e.g. California Jurisprudence, American Law Reports, etc.) and select that item. Then search within that item using the search bar at the top of the screen.

**Option 2:** Search by natural language and filter by clicking on secondary sources, publication type, and possibly jurisdiction.