



# **ALTERNATIVES TO WESTLAW AND LEXIS**

**(OR FREE INTERNET SOURCES THAT CAN HELP  
YOU DO YOUR RESEARCH)**



- Unrestricted access to everything ends when you graduate
- Limitations on WestlawNext while in school
- Attorneys use free sites to supplement their WL/Lexis research
  - Clients don't want to pay for "research"
  - Lexis/WL may not have what you need

# What can you expect to find?



- Legislative: codes, legislative history
- Courts: caselaw, court rules, jury instructions, forms
- Legal portals and low-cost subscription services
- Agency materials
- Non-legal information: census, statistics, news

# Primary source materials: legislative



## Federal

- [Congress. Gov](#) / [THOMAS](#)

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All Legislation ▾

"defense of marriage act"



Advanced | Tips

## Most-Viewed Bills | [Top 10](#)

- [H.R. 240](#) [114th] Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015
- [S. 1982](#) [113th] Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014
- [H.R. 213](#) [114th] Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act of 2015

## Bill Searches and Lists

- [Introduced](#) (2015) | [Active Legislation](#) (Senate.gov)
- [Public Laws](#) | [U.S. Code](#)
- [Appropriations](#)

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## Current Legislative Activities

114th Congress (2015-2016)

### House of Representatives



**Next Meeting: March 13, 2015**  
Previous Meeting: March 10, 2015

- [House Calendars](#)
- [House Floor Activities](#)
- [Roll Call Votes](#)
- [Committee Hearings Video](#)
- [Committee Hearings Schedule](#)

### Senate

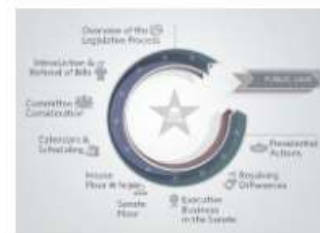


- [Senate Calendar of Business](#)
- [Executive Calendar](#) (PDF, 357KB)
- [On the Senate Floor](#)
- [Roll Call Votes](#)
- [Committee Hearings Schedule](#)
- [Nominations](#)

Read about the latest legislative activity in the [Congressional Record](#). Get the app for: [iPhone](#) or [iPad](#)

## The Legislative Process

[Nine videos explain each of the common legislative stages](#), and that the process by which a bill becomes law is rarely predictable.



[JPG \(179KB\)](#) | [PDF \(530KB\)](#)

## The U.S. Founding Documents

[A gallery of study resources](#) about significant primary source documents from American history.

## Treaties

[Search for treaties](#) on the THOMAS site.

## News and Programs

- [Congress.gov Now Offers Email Alerts](#)
- [The President's Budget for FY2016](#)
- [The President's State of the Union Address](#)

## About Congress.gov

Presented by the Library of Congress, Congress.gov is the official website for U.S. federal legislative information.


[More about Congress.gov](#) »

[Visiting the U.S. Capitol](#)

# Primary source materials: legislative



## Federal

- [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) / [THOMAS](https://www.thomas.loc.gov)
- [Fdsys](https://www.fdsys.gov) 
  - Provides information from all 3 branches of the federal government
  - USC, CFR, FR, select U.S. Courts Opinions (since 2004)
  - Legislative history: bills, hearings, reports, documents



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GPO's Federal Digital System

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- U.S. Government Bookstore
- Ben's Guide to U.S. Government for Kids
- Catalog of U.S. Government Publications

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Fiscal Year 2016  
Budget of the United States  
Government

- PDF >
- Browse All Volumes >
- Mobile App >

S. Doc. 114-2  
Veto--S. 1, Keystone XL Pipeline  
Approval Act

- PDF >
- Learn More >



Presidential Materials  
Economic Report of the President,  
2015

- PDF >
- Learn More >

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- Compilation of Presidential Documents
- Congressional Bills
- Congressional Documents
- Congressional Hearings
- Congressional Record
- Congressional Reports
- Constitution of the United States of America: Analysis and Interpretation
- Economic Indicators
- Federal Register
- Public and Private Laws
- United States Code
- United States Courts Opinions
- Browse All

Moments in History

- The Medicare Law of 1965
- Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Warren Commission Report
- Post JFK Assassination Audio Tape Recordings
- President Nixon's Watergate Grand Jury Testimony Transcripts
- The 9/11 Commission Report
- The Financial Crisis Inquiry Report
- President Obama's Public Papers



# Primary source materials: legislative



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## California

- [California Legislature](#) (go here for committee activity)
- [California Legislative Information](#) (new site)
- [California Legislative Counsel](#) (old site)
  - Current Cal. Code
  - Legislative histories (1993/1994 session to present on old site; 1999/2000 on new site)



# Primary source materials: local codes



## Municipal codes:

- San Diego Municipal Code: <http://www.sandiego.gov/city-clerk/officialdocs/legisdocs/muni.shtml>
- Municipal codes for other cities: <http://www.municode.com/Library>

## County Codes:

- [San Diego County Code](#)
- [Other counties in California](#)

# Primary source materials: courts



## State

- California Courts
  - Published opinions (1850-present)
  - Unpublished opinions (last 60 days)
  - Self-help

# CALIFORNIA COURTS

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF CALIFORNIA

Judicial Branch Home

Courts

Self-Help

Forms & Rules

Opinions

Programs

Policy & Administration

News & Reference

## Welcome to the California Judicial Branch

Committed to providing fair and equal access to justice for all Californians.

Tulare County Courthouse, 1876

GENERAL PUBLIC

LEGAL COMMUNITY



### Online Self-Help Center

Find information, tools, and resources to help resolve many common legal issues. Centro de ayuda en línea.



### Jury Service

Learn all about jury basics or find links to your local court. For employers, learn about how you can support jury service.



### Judicial Council of California

Chaired by the Chief Justice of California, the Judicial Council establishes policies and priorities for the statewide administration of justice in the California Courts.



### About California Courts

California has 58 superior courts to hear civil and criminal cases, as well as the Courts of Appeal and Supreme Court.

### QUICK LINKS

[Access to Judicial Administrative Records](#)

[Advisory Bodies](#)

[Bidders / Solicitations](#)

[Budget & Finance](#)

[Court-Related Legislation](#)

[Criminal Justice Realignment Resource Center](#)

[Invitations to Comment](#)

[Other Government Websites](#)

[Reduced Court Services](#)

### COURT LOCATIONS

Jury Info, Court Info, Court Websites

Enter city or zip

Find

### STAY CONNECTED



### OF CURRENT INTEREST

Mar 05, 2015

#### Language Access Task Force Members

Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye named 15 judicial officers and court administrators to the new task force. Membership will also include court interpreters, legal services providers, and community leaders. Deadline to submit nominations: Mar 18.

Feb 20, 2015

#### Judicial Council Met Feb 19

The policymaking body of the state judicial branch met on Thursday, Feb 19 in Sacramento. See the news release for a summary of the meeting.

### FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE

Mar 02, 2015

#### 2015 Civic Learning Awards



### JUDICIAL BRANCH ADMINISTRATION

Feb 20, 2015

#### Council's Administrative Director Announces Cost-Saving Cuts

Administrative Director Martin Hoshino reported to council on Feb 19 that beginning July 1, 2015, high-level council staff will be required to contribute to their retirement accounts and cease receiving a monthly parking stipend. These and

# CALIFORNIA COURTS

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF CALIFORNIA

## Judicial Branch Home

- Courts
- Self-Help**
- Forms & Rules
- Opinions
- Programs
- Policy & Administration
- News & Reference

Welcome  
Committed

### California Judicial Branch

Access to justice for all Californians.



Tulare County Courthouse, 1876

- Getting Started
- Small Claims
- Families & Children
- Divorce or Separation
- Abuse & Harassment
- Eviction & Housing**
- Name Change
- Traffic
- Seniors & Conservatorship
- Problems With Money
- Criminal Law
- Civil Appeals
- Self-Help Glossary
- Self-Help Feedback Form

### GENERAL PUBLIC INFORMATION



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The Judicial Council is responsible for improving the statewide administration of justice in the California courts.

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...es to help resolve many  
...ks to your local court. For  
... support jury service.

### QUICK LINKS

- Amnesty Program for Traffic Tickets
- Court-Related Legislation
- Invitations to Comment
- Criminal Justice Realignment Resource Center
- California Court Case Management System (CCMS)
- Bidders / Solicitations
- Limited Court Service Days
- Access to Judicial Administrative Records

### COURT LOCATIONS

Jury Info, Court Info, Court Websites

### STAY CONNECTED



### OF CURRENT INTEREST


Feb 09, 2012  
**Interim Director Appointed**  
At a special meeting today, the Judicial Council appointed Regional Administrative Director Jody Patel as Interim Administrative Director following the resignation of Ronald G. Overholt.

Jan 29, 2012  
**Budget Remains Top Priority**

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- San Diego Superior Court
  - Local Rules & Forms
- National Center for State Courts 
  - Link to other state court sites to access forms, rules, etc.

# Primary source materials: courts



## Federal Courts

- [U.S. Courts: Federal Rules & Forms](#)

# Primary source materials: courts



## Federal Courts

- [U.S. Courts page](#): Federal Rules & Forms
- [PACER](#): federal case and docket information from appellate, district & bankruptcy courts. Access through:
  - [www.pacer.gov](http://www.pacer.gov)
  - Court website—look for CM/ECF link
  - Also accessible through Bloomberg Law

# Low-Cost Subscription Services



# CasemakerX



- Federal & state caselaw, statutes, regulations, attorney general opinions, jury instructions, court rules, etc.
- CASEMAKERdigest
- CaseCheck: Casemaker's version of Keycite or Shepard's
- CITEcheck: upload your brief for cite-checking
- Legal Research Center (fee-based)

# CASEMAKER X

legal research tools for law students & faculty

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# Practical Law Company



- Free to law students (access through WL)
- Provides legal know-how for transactional matters (litigation will be added)
- Find overviews of different practice areas, including finance, corporate, employment, IP, real estate, tax, etc.
- Model documents with drafting and practice tips

Q- Enter search terms, citations, databases, anything ...

All State &amp; Federal ▾



## Browse

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Administrative Decisions &amp; Guidance

Trial Court Orders

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Proposed &amp; Adopted Regulations

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Public Records

Public Records (Classic)

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Judith's Research (0)

## PRACTICAL LAW

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## Favorites

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 Frequently Used Items

- West Key Number System: INFRINGEMENT, k51-k6
- Law Reviews & Journals
- California State & Federal
- Cases
- Briefs



## News and Insight from REUTERS



## Judge lets \$8 mln Blank Rome malpractice case go ahead



Custom Pages



# Google Scholar



- Quick and easy
- “How cited” feature allows you to find similar cases
  - **NOT** a substitute for Shepard’s or KeyCite
  - Does not work for unpublished cases
- Coverage
  - State appellate and supreme court decisions (since 1950)
  - Federal district, appellate, tax, and bankruptcy decision (since 1923)
  - U.S. Supreme court decisions (since 1791)
  - No codes, court rules, etc.

# General Legal



- [Cornell LII](#)
  - Federal & state cases & codes, regulations, rules
- [Public Library of Law](#)
  - State cases (1997 to present); also Supreme Court & U.S. Courts of Appeals cases
  - Federal and state codes, regulations, court rules, constitutions, legal forms (U.S. Legal Form)
- [Public Law Library Links page](#)
  - Maintained by the Cal. County & Court Libraries
  - Self-help materials, excellent links list

# Agency websites



- What they provide:
  - Administrative decisions
  - Legislation & regulations
  - Legal news
- [CA.gov](#) provides links to Cal. state agency websites
  - [Cal. Office of Administrative Law](#) provides free access to the California Code of Regulations (CCRs)
- [USA.gov](#) provides links to federal agency websites

# Non-legal information



- **Statistics**

- [Census.gov](http://Census.gov)

- Demographic information about the U.S. population—age, income, education, household makeup, etc.

- [FedStats](http://FedStats)

- Statistics collected from government agencies—agriculture, industry taxation, airfare, birth rates, etc.

- [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](http://U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

- [Bureau of Justice Statistics](http://Bureau of Justice Statistics)

- [SEC Edgar](http://SEC Edgar)

- Financial data on publicly-traded companies

- **Newspapers**

- [San Diego Public Library](http://San Diego Public Library) (need a library card to access): LA Times, NYTimes, SD UnionTrib, Newspaper Source Plus

- [Onlinenewspapers.com](http://Onlinenewspapers.com), [ipl.org](http://ipl.org)