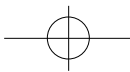
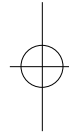
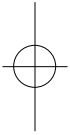
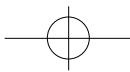
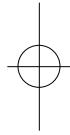
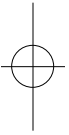


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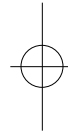
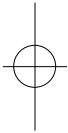


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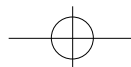
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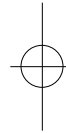
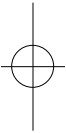




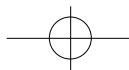
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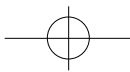
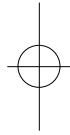
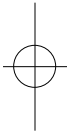


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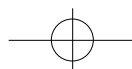


Preface and Acknowledgments

Purpose. This book is intended primarily for law students and other beginning legal researchers. Advanced researchers and practitioners will find this book a helpful review of Florida legal research and a useful guide through areas of research that may not have been used since law school.

The book explains in basic terms how to use the fundamental sources of legal research and how to develop a research process to use those sources effectively. Unlike bibliographic texts, this book also introduces the essential elements of legal analysis, enabling the researcher to evaluate the authority located in the research process. Although the text includes instruction in federal research materials, the emphasis is on Florida research. In the first-year law classroom, *Florida Legal Research* is a useful complement to texts that focus on legal analysis, legal writing, or federal research.

We have intentionally omitted “sample” pages from the research sources covered in the book. Our goal has been to keep this book small enough that students and lawyers can take it with them into the library where they are researching actual problems. As explained in the Teacher’s Manual, we follow recursive teaching methods that include reading assignments, lectures, hands-on library workshops, class discussions, and library worksheets in which students locate sources that form the basis for writing and analysis assignments. For those who find sample pages helpful, please refer to the “additional reading” section at the end of each chapter.





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Organization. Even though most novices should begin their research with secondary sources, this book begins with primary sources. We chose this order for two reasons. First, beginning with these sources emphasizes the primacy of cases, statutes and constitutions, and administrative regulations. Second, this order of information makes sense in an academic setting where instruction in research is integrated with instruction in writing and analysis, because legal studies generally focus on primary law at the outset. The chapters can be used in any order, however, whether the book is used as an aid to academic instruction or as a reference for practitioners who need a quick guide to Florida legal sources.

Computerized research is a necessary and helpful component of thorough legal research. Throughout the book, references will be made to commercial providers of computerized legal research, primarily Lexis and Westlaw, and to CD-ROM and web-based services. Computer-assisted legal research is the focus of Chapter 10. This book begins with print sources because they are the basis for almost every computerized search you will perform. Understanding the fundamentals of print research is critical to successful research in computerized formats.

Similarly, proper citation to legal authority is important. In most chapters, the basic citation forms are introduced. Detailed instruction in citation, however, is reserved for Chapter 11.

Changes in the Second Edition. In addition to the updating required of any research text, some of the changes in this edition are organizational. All primary sources are now grouped together after a new introduction focusing on the research process. Materials on legislative history have been updated and moved to the chapter on Statutes and Constitutions, reflecting the close relationship between statutory and legislative history research. The chapter on organizing research and taking notes has been expanded. Finally, the chapter on citation has been revised to incorporate both *The ALWD Manual: A Professional System of Citation* and the Seventeenth Edition of *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*.

Web Site Updates. Legal research is a constantly and rapidly changing field. To provide current information, one of the authors, Barbara

Preface and Acknowledgments • xvii

Busharis, will maintain updates on the home page of Florida State University College of Law at www.law.fsu.edu/library/research.

Acknowledgments. As we revised the book for this edition, we took a collaborative approach to some chapters. This approach reflects the fact that Suzanne Rowe no longer teaches in Florida and that Lisa Kuhlman Tietig has returned to practice. We gratefully acknowledge the materials that Lisa Kuhlman Tietig drafted for the first edition, which we continue to draw on in this edition: legal research method and organization, court rules, form books, and administrative law. In addition, the authors thank Florida State University Reference Librarians Mary M. McCormick, J.D., M.L.I.S., Patricia K. Simonds, M.L.S., and Margaret Clark, M.L.S., for their knowledge and constant willingness to answer research questions. We are grateful, too, for the administrative and research assistance of Donna Williamson, Greena Ng, Travis Elder, Jennifer Hisey, and Iaysha Smith. We have benefitted from the observations of too many colleagues and former students to attempt to name them all, but we appreciate their willingness to share their insights as well.

Barbara J. Busharis
Suzanne E. Rowe
April 2002

