

Georgia Legal Research

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Nancy P. Johnson dedicates this book to the students of Georgia State University College of Law, who made her a better researcher.

*Elizabeth G. Adelman dedicates this book to her family:
Robert, Lily, and Jacob.*

*Nancy J. Adams dedicates this book to Mary Ann Neary,
who introduced her to the world of legal research.*

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Series Note

The Legal Research Series published by Carolina Academic Press includes an increasing number of titles from states around the country. The goal of each book is to provide law students, practitioners, paralegals, college students, and laypeople with the essential elements of legal research in each state. Unlike more bibliographic texts, the Legal Research Series books seek to explain concisely both the sources of state law research and the process for conducting legal research effectively.

Preface

Georgia Legal Research is designed to aid law students, attorneys, and law librarians in acquiring and perfecting legal research skills. In addition to explaining Georgia legal research sources, it focuses on research strategy. Since the researcher has a wide range of options for locating primary and secondary materials, we include both print and electronic sources. Throughout the chapters, we refer to commercial providers of computerized legal research, primarily Casemaker (free to members of the Georgia Bar), LexisNexis, Loislaw, and Westlaw. We also include online subscription services offered by private publishers and Internet websites maintained by the Georgia government.

The text begins with an overview of the research process and legal analysis. Each chapter states the learning objectives for the different resources. They include an explanation of research strategies and a discussion of print and electronic resources. To simplify the research process, we often include checklists of various research tasks. We also provide selective sample pages and screen shots to illustrate the sources. Some chapters include appendices that provide the researcher with more detailed information.

Each chapter gives a very brief explanation of appropriate federal materials that could be used with Georgia materials. Since legal ethics research is very important, a separate chapter addresses that topic. At the end of the book, there are three helpful appendices: Georgia and national citation rules, a bibliography, and a list of Georgia practice materials.

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