

Florida Legal Research

Fourth Edition

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Series Note

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

Preface and Acknowledgments

The fourth edition of *Florida Legal Research* continues to fill a niche between general legal research textbooks and bibliographies specific to Florida. Reflecting the many changes in legal research since the third edition was published in 2007, this new edition has been extensively revised. We expanded treatment of online research using Lexis Advance, WestlawNext, free or low-cost providers, and governmental websites. We reorganized the chapters to cover the process of legal research and methods for organizing research at the beginning of the book. And we replaced a chapter on looseleaf services (now called “practice area services”) with a new chapter including a variety of practice tools, including blogs. The last chapter provides an overview of current citation rules for Florida sources, reflecting recent changes in *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* and the *ALWD Citation Guide*.

As with prior editions, work on each chapter was collaborative, but we specifically recognize the contributions of our new co-author, Jennifer LaVia, in updating and modifying the current chapters on administrative law, secondary sources, practice aids, and court rules. We also acknowledge that portions of this book have appeared in prior editions (e.g., the research notebook explanation in Chapter 1 is drawn from Lisa Kuhlman Tietig’s explanation in the first edition) and in other books in the Legal Research Series (e.g., the discussion of citators in Chapter 9 mirrors the treatment of citators in *Oregon Legal Research*).

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