Introduction

This guide is a list of selected resources available within the library’s collection that address legal research, drafting and editing. Use the library’s online catalog to locate additional resources on any topic. The majority of the library’s collection of resources on legal research, drafting and editing are located on the second floor in and around the KF240 call numbers. Call numbers for the resources detailed below are provided in brackets following the title of each resource.

Please contact the reference librarians for additional help.

Legal Research


*Comprehensive resource on legal research*


*General overview of legal materials, analysis techniques, and legal research strategies*


*Authority, case analysis, statutory analysis, synthesis and preparing a legal argument*


*Widely used text offering coverage of legal research in a succinct and student-friendly manner.*

Drafting Judicial Opinions


*Crafting judicial opinions (trial and appellate)*

Crafting opinions, the format of an appellate opinion, citation format and writing style


Writing judicial opinions, trial and appellate, ethics, process, writing technique, word usage, the role of the law clerk, criticism of judges and their opinions


Excellent resource for issues of statutory construction

**Legal Drafting (General)**


Word choice, framing your thoughts, phrasing, editing, typeface, constructive criticism


General work on drafting with specific emphasis on contracts rather than briefs


Comprehensive work on legal writing


Includes concrete examples and descriptions with a goal to make the reader think differently about legal writing


Emphasizes the fundamental structure and methods of legal drafting

**Grammar**


Grammar review and exercises located in appendix


Patterned after Strunk and White’s *Elements of Style* - punctuation, word choice, grammar syntax and matters of form

*Commas, semicolons, other punctuation marks, capitalization, type face, citation format, memos, motions, briefs*


*Detailed resource on writing memoranda and briefs with chapters on grammar*


*Comprehensive reference text for legal writers who want to refresh or refine their knowledge of mechanics and style*

**Corporate Drafting**


*Process and conventions employed in the drafting of contracts*

**Form Books**

A variety of form books useful in drafting legal documents are located in KF170 call number range on the second floor of the library. The form books located there address a wide variety of legal topics from corporate and business forms, real property, commercial issues and bankruptcy. The following all offer a comprehensive selection of forms.

*American Jurisprudence Legal Forms* (2d ed.). [KF170 .A542].


Jacob Rabkin & Mark H. Johnson, *Current Legal Forms with Tax Analysis*. [KF170. R3-].

*West’s Legal Forms* (2d ed.). [KF170 .B4].


**Legal Citation**


*Generally accepted reference work for legal citation*

*Alternative to the Bluebook created by the Association of Legal Writing Directors*


*Additional citation formats for common materials*


*Expansive listing of abbreviation for legal resources*

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