

First Year Law Student Resources and Materials Guide



ALVIN E. EVANS LAW LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF LAW

<http://www.uky.edu/Law/library/>

“A lawyer without books would be like a workman without tools.”
Abraham Lincoln

The first year of law school can be a stressful time, particularly for those who expect to use the same study habits and research skills used during their undergraduate years. Most quickly find the study of law to be very different from previous academic work, and often become stressed and overwhelmed when faced with the barrage of unfamiliar legal jargon, substantial reading assignments, and professors using the Socratic method. However, all is not lost. The faculty and staff of the Alvin E. Evans Law Library have prepared this pathfinder of useful resources to help acclimate students to the law school environment. If you need assistance in the library, feel free to ask any member of the library faculty or staff.

Legal Writing and Research

First year students are required to take courses on Legal Research & Writing, but time constraints often prohibit instructors from teaching every aspect of the field. With the following tools, students can reach their full potential in skills that are essential in the legal world.

- Amy E. Sloan, *Basic Legal Research* – the Sloan book will be used in the Legal Research Class in the fall of 2007.
- Robert C. Berring and Elizabeth A. Edinger, *Finding the Law*, KF240.B45 1999 (shelved in Reserves) – contains eleven chapters detailing how to do research on everything from case law to legislative history.
- Kurt X. Metzmeier, et. al, *Kentucky Legal Research Manual*, KFK 1275 .M48 2000 (shelved in Reserves) – co-written by UK librarian Ms. Amy Osborne, this book details various sources of the law in Kentucky, and how to search them.
- Charles C. Soule, *Abbreviations Used in Law Books*, KF246.S68 1989 (shelved in Reserves) – although this book uses material reprinted from a reference manual published in 1883, it is still useful when confronted with unfamiliar abbreviations.
- Bryan A. Garner, *The Elements of Legal Style*, KF250 .G37 2002 (shelved in Reserves) – discusses elements of legal writing.
- C. Edward Good, *Citing & Typing the Law*, KF245 .G6 1997 (shelved in Reserves) – acting as a companion to *The Bluebook*, this work provides more examples and longer explanations of the rules.
- Mary Miles Prince, *Bieber's Dictionary of Legal Abbreviations*, KF245 .B46 1993 (shelved in Reference) – a modern book of abbreviations commonly found in case law and law reviews.
- Mary Miles Prince, *Prince's Bieber Dictionary of Legal Citations*, KF245 .B45 2001 (shelved in Reference) – another companion to *The Bluebook*.

Assistance with Classes

Listening to a lecture and reading the assigned cases for class won't always provide a thorough understanding of the subject. These works can help you understand concepts found in your class books by providing easy to read summations and typical examples one is likely to encounter in law.

- Carol J. Nygen, the *Starting Off Right in (Legal Subject)* series – this series of short books is designed to provide a foundation for new learners. Averaging seventy-five pages in length, the library has editions on Torts, Civil Procedure, Contracts, and Property. There is also a general guide to law school as a whole. All editions are shelved in Reserves.
- Joseph W. Glannon, *The Glannon Guide to Civil Procedure*, KF8841 .G59 2003 (shelved in Reserves) – using multiple choice questions, this guide is designed to provide short and efficient reviews of topics in Civil Procedure.
- The *(Legal Subject) in a Nut Shell* series – each volume in this series of books contains a succinct summary of the law written by an expert in the field. The library has hundreds of these books ranging in topics from “Accounting and Finance for Lawyers” to “Workers’ Compensation and Employee Protection Laws.” Students can use the Library's catalog, InfoKat (explained below), to search for works on a particular subject (many are shelved in Reserves; others are shelved in the general collection).
- Hornbooks – these are similar to the *Nut Shell* series, but generally provide a more in depth and scholarly look at legal topics. Using InfoKat, students can locate hornbooks appropriate for almost every class.

Electronic Resources

On the homepage for the University of Kentucky’s Law Library (www.uky.edu/law/library), students will find links to several electronic resources and databases. Some of the most commonly used include:

- InfoKat (<http://infokat.uky.edu>) – the online catalog of the University of Kentucky Library system. Using InfoKat, you can search for works based on title, subject, author, and keyword. By setting limits, users can reduce the number of hits to just those works housed in the Law Library.
- Hein Online (<http://heinonline.org>) – Hein Online contains law reviews and journals from around the world, as well other primary legal sources (e.g., *Code of Federal Regulations*, *Federal Register*, *U.S. Reports*, and *Statutes at Large*) and select historical treatises and legal classics. Journal articles on Hein are digitized versions of print pages, so users retrieve pages exactly as they appear in physical copies of the publications.
- CALI Online Lessons (www2.cali.org) – after obtaining a password and establishing an account, students can test their knowledge of particular areas of the law.
- The Law Library homepage has links to several research guides, including guides on Internet Legal Research (www.ilrg.com), Law and Politics (www.lpig.org), and Foreign & International Law (via the Master Legal Index available at www.washlaw.edu/forint/forintmain.html).

The faculty and staff of the Law Library welcome all first year students, and are here to help as you begin your studies. Feel free to stop by the Reference Desk if you have any questions. Your comments are always welcome in the suggestion box at the Circulation Desk so that we may improve our service to you.