



PREPARE TO PRACTICE

Free Online Legal Resources and Research Tips
for New Associates, Summer Associates, Interns, Clerks,
Law and Paralegal Students

Presented By Maggie Adams and Mary Alice Peeling from Widener's
Legal Information Center

April 14, 2011

State and Local Government Information

Mary Alice Peeling

April 2011

Delaware Resources

Most of these sites can also be accessed from the Library's home page Library's home page - law.widener.edu/LawLibrary
Click on Delaware Research under the Research By Jurisdiction header

State of Delaware home page

www.delaware.gov

Delaware General Assembly

<http://legis.delaware.gov/>

Delaware Bill Tracking

<http://legis.delaware.gov/LIS/LIS145.nsf/home?openform>

Delaware Code

<http://delcode.delaware.gov/>

Note: Official version of the code. There is history and statutory notes but no annotations.

Delaware Administrative Code (regulations)

<http://regulations.delaware.gov/default.shtml>

Note: Not all Delaware agencies have regulations posted on this page.

Delaware Register (updates regulations)

<http://regulations.delaware.gov/services/register.shtml>

Delaware Courts

<http://courts.delaware.gov/>

Court web page provides access to all Delaware courts, opinions from all courts except Family Court as well as court rules, forms and a wealth of additional information.

Delaware Legislative History

<http://law.widener.edu/LawLibrary/Research/OnlineResources/DelawareResources/CompilingaDelawareLegislativeHistory.aspx>

Guide to compiling a Delaware legislative history by Janet Lindenmuth

Pennsylvania Resources

Most of these sites can also be accessed from the Library's home page law.widener.edu/LawLibrary
Click on Pennsylvania Research under the Research By Jurisdiction header

State of Pennsylvania home page

www.pa.gov/

Pennsylvania General Assembly

www.legis.state.pa.us/

Pennsylvania Electronic Bill Information

www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/session.cfm

Unofficial Purdon's Pennsylvania Statutes (from West)

<http://government.westlaw.com/linkedslice/default.asp?SP=pac-1000>

Note: There is history and statutory notes but no annotations

Pennsylvania Code (regulations)

www.pacode.com

Pennsylvania Bulletin (updates regulations)

www.pabulletin.com

Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts

www.aopc.org/

PA Legislative Histories

Widener University School of Law Library

Guide to compiling a Pennsylvania legislative history

<http://law.widener.edu/LawLibrary/Research/OnlineResources/PennsylvaniaResources//CompilingaPennsylvaniaLegislativeHistory.aspx>

Jenkins Law Library

www.jenkinslaw.org/collection/pa-leghist.php

Jenkins compiles Pennsylvania legislative histories of most PA legislation.

Note: Non members must pay for Legislative Histories

General State Research

www.state.**.us (where ** is the abbreviation for the state), some states changing to:

www.nameofstate.gov (where "nameofstate" is the name of the state)

Local Government Research

There are links to Delaware and Pennsylvania local government resources listed on both the Delaware and Pennsylvania Resources links on the Library's homepage.

Library's home page - law.widener.edu/LawLibrary

Click on Delaware Research under the Research By Jurisdiction header

Delaware Local Government Resources

<http://portal.delaware.gov/locations/>

Links you to Delaware local municipalities. You must link to each local government and look for charter or the official website to find the code.

Pennsylvania Local Government Resources

www.sites.state.pa.us/govlocal.html

Links to Pennsylvania government resources including local governments and codes.

General Code

www.generalcode.com/

Publisher of many local and municipal government codes around the United States. Click Online Code Library. Click on the state and then on the local municipality to access codes published by General Code Publishers

Municipal Code Corporation

www.municode.com/

Publisher of many local and municipal government codes around the United States. Click on Online Library and access a map of the United States. Choose your state and available codes are listed.

Maggie Adams

April 2011

Advanced Google Features

- Google Scholar – <http://scholar.google.com>
 - Search for legal opinions and law review articles
 - See other cases and articles that cite to each case
- Google Advanced Search -- www.google.com/advanced_search
 - Limit search by file type (pdf, xls, doc, etc.)
 - Limit search to one domain (epa.gov, youtube.com. etc.)

Federal Resources

- Government Printing Office website <http://www.fdsys.gov>
 - Congressional Bills, Reports and Hearings and Committee Prints
 - Congressional Record
 - Statutes at Large and United States Code

THOMAS <http://thomas.loc.gov>

THOMAS was launched in January of 1995, at the inception of the 104th Congress. The leadership of the 104th Congress directed the Library of Congress to make federal legislative information freely available to the public. Find Bills, resolutions, floor votes, and committee reports.

Federal Judiciary Website <http://www.uscourts.gov>

A federal Court locator, information on federal court rulemaking and links to all the federal rules in effect (Evidence, Bankruptcy, etc.)

Regulations

www.regulations.gov

Search for proposed and final regulations. Submit and view public comments and background material on proposed regulations.

Meta- Legal Sites

Findlaw

www.findlaw.com

Free legal research site owned by Thomson Reuters (owners of Westlaw). There are two major sections to the website: the legal professional's site for cases, codes and forms and the consumer's website for basic guides to legal subjects.

LexisOne

www.lexisone.com

Free and low-cost legal research site owned by LexisNexis a division of Reed Elsevier. There are free resources such as 10 years of free case law that allows citation searching

Legal Information Institute

www.law.cornell.edu/

Cornell's Legal Information Institute contains free access to the U.S. Code with CFR references, Wex (a legal wiki), a Basic Legal Citation Guide and links to legal ethics opinions.

Washlaw

www.washlaw.edu/

Washburn's comprehensive legal directory provides links to state and federal legal resources and legal resources by subject.

Justia

www.justia.com

State and federal codes and cases in full text as well as narratives on popular areas of law. Created by the original creator of Findlaw.

Other Places to go for free information

Here at Widener

Print: Reporters, Statutes, Citators, Secondary Sources (treatises, formbooks)

Lexis Public Access (cases, statutes, citators)

On Campus database access not Westlaw and not Full Lexis (HeinOnline, BNA, Proquest)

Bar Associations (investigate discounted subscriptions)

Public Libraries (New Castle County- Ebscohost, Wall Street Journal, Health Journals)