

Quick and Easy Legal Resources: LA Law Library Is Much Closer Than You Think

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Do you ever need help finding the right legal resource? Does your law firm ever need materials that aren't in your office library or are outside the scope of your online research plan? Are you ever asked to help find appellate or Supreme Court briefs from the California courts? How about a sample complaint for that new case that just came in the door? Do you ever need to find space in downtown Los Angeles for a settlement conference or deposition? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, LA Law Library can help.

Apart from the Law Library of Congress, LA Law Library is the largest public law library in the United States and it serves legal professionals all over the world, not just in Los Angeles County. The million plus volume collection is both current and historical covering all areas of law, including an extensive foreign and international law collection, with materials from more than 200 countries.

Delivery and E-Delivery: How do I get access to this collection?

Since most patrons cannot come to the Law Library in person, you can access this unique collection in several other ways as well. Most of the materials in the collection can be checked out and delivered to borrowers via the library's messenger service or overnight delivery for a small delivery fee. Library cardholders can also designate a messenger to come to the Library and check out books on their behalf.

For maximum efficiency, research material can also be scanned or downloaded and emailed for a nominal fee (starting at \$15 for 25 pages). In today's market, personal and law firm libraries are no longer comprehensive. Affordable e-delivery is a 'just in time' service from the library that effectively expands your personal collection without the prohibitive cost.

Collection Overview: What's in this collection?

The *California* materials include everything a California practitioner could want, ranging from the ever-popular standard materials (Rutter Guides, Witkin treatises, Matthew Bender's Forms of Pleading and Practice, CEB Practice Materials, Miller & Starr Real Estate, etc) to the obscure (NEED EXAMPLES). The Law Library also provides easy access to judicial profiles for California state and federal judges.

The comprehensive collection of *domestic and federal* materials includes case reporters, annotated codes, regulations, rules of court, jury instructions, etc. for every jurisdiction, as well as practice materials, treatises, legal encyclopedias and resource guides for every state. Practitioners also make frequent use of the Library's multi-state practice materials (e.g., American Bar Association publications, Corbin on Contracts, Lindey on Entertainment Law, etc.).

The *global* collection is one of the most comprehensive in the country and includes 400,000+ volumes of foreign and international materials, covering primary law from over 200 countries and practice materials for over 100 countries. For those with tax questions, the global collection provides tax law for an astounding 130 different countries.

The *historical* collection is an unparalleled resource used by attorneys around the world, providing early California and state colonial materials and an archive of superseded versions of codes, regulations, court rules and practice materials. You will find a trove of federal and California appellate and Supreme Court briefs dating back to the 1800's. LA Law Library has been an official repository for these briefs for nearly two centuries. Lawyers often need to know what the law was at a moment in time; LA Law Library preserves those moments.

Reference: How do I find what I need?

With a million plus volumes to sift through, most people need some assistance finding what they want. For those who need research materials, but aren't sure what the Library has or how to find it, the Law Library's reference librarians are a wonderful, *free* resource and are reachable in person at the Library (301 West 1st Street), by mail, by phone (213 785-2514) or by email (express@lalawlibrary.org). They can suggest relevant materials, provide assistance in locating and using library materials (hard copy and electronic) and pull selected titles from the shelf for delivery or e-delivery.

Online: What resources are available from home?

Visit the library's website to access the largest repository of California Supreme Court and Appellate courts of appeal starting in 2008 to the present. The library has digitized up to 75,000 briefs and continues to add more daily. Download a legislative history checklist or retrieve Ca. ballot propositions since 1980. Also available is full text access to the all publications and forms contained in the nuts and bolts suite of Nolo publications published by EBSCO.

Facilities: Does LA Law Library have facilities and work spaces for visiting attorneys?

Library conference rooms double as "war rooms" for trials or as a place to hold a deposition or mediation. Centrally located near all downtown courthouses and public transportation, the conference rooms are also used for lunches, settlement conferences and other small events, particularly for those who do not have local offices.

Enhanced Value and Service Via the Members Program.

The Members Program is an enhanced, fee based, participation program that offers additional benefits to members of the bar and their affiliates. Representative benefits include remote access to selected additional databases, on-site parking downtown, discounts on library services, MCLE classes and conference rooms. Members also benefit from the availability of a dedicated phone line which provides convenient access to administrative assistance and professional reference librarian help.

To learn more about us, find out about our events, classes and programs, get on the Law Library mailing list, or order a day pass and try out the Members Program, please visit www.lalawlibrary.org or contact Malinda directly at mmuller@lalawlibrary.org.