



ALEX A. HANNA LAW LIBRARY

FIRST YEAR STUDY AIDS

Introduction

The first year of law school presents many challenges; not the least of which is finding enough time to read and understand assigned case readings. This case based learning methodology involves reading, extracting important facts, analyzing legal precedents, and applying these concepts to a larger legal framework. If you find yourself struggling with a case or applying a case to the larger legal framework, try using some of the library's resources. The Law Library's Study Aids Collection has several legal resources that help attorneys and students learn legal concepts and understand how they fit into an area of the law. Study aids include Hornbooks, Treatises, Nutshells, Restatements, Black Letter books and Computer Assisted Programs. This handout identifies select books and resources that will assist you in your first year of law school, and will organized by subject and by general resources.

Location: the St. Thomas University, Alex A Hanna Law Library Study Aids collection is located on the first floor in the South Reading Room; books in this collection will have "(Study Aids)" following the call number. Several study aids are also in the Law Library Reserve section, located at circulation. These books will have "(Reserves)" following the call number. Others are in the reference or general collection and will be labeled accordingly (i.e., "(Reference)" or "(General Collection)").

<u>Civil Procedure</u>	<u>Call Number (Location)</u>	<u>Resource Type</u>
Civil Procedure in a Nutshell (4th ed.)	KF 8841 .K36 1996 (General Collection)	Nutshell
Understanding Civil Procedure (4th ed.)	KF8840 .S484 2009 (Study Aids)	Hornbook
Civil Procedure: Examples & Explanations (6th ed.)	KF8839 .G58 2008 (Study Aids)	Hornbook
Civil Procedure, by Jack Friedenthal et al. (4th ed.)	KF8840 .F72 (Reserves)	Hornbook

<u>Contracts</u>	<u>Call Number (Location)</u>	<u>Resource Type</u>
Contracts in a Nutshell (7th ed.)	KF801.Z9 R62 2010 (Study Aids)	Nutshell
Understanding Contracts (2d ed.)	KF801.Z9 F46 2009 (Study Aids)	Hornbook
Contracts: Examples & Explanations (5th ed.)	KF801 .B68 2011 (Study Aids)	Hornbook
Contracts (Black Letter Series, 5th ed.)	KF801.Z9 C27 2010 (Reserves)	Hornbook
Restatement of Law, Second—Contracts	KF801 .R47 1981 (Study Aids)	Restatement
Corbin on Contracts, One Volume Edition	KF 801.C651 1952 (Reserve)	Hornbook
Corbin on Contracts; a Comprehensive Treatise on the Rules of Contract Law.	KF 801 .C65 (General Collection)	Treatise

<u>Property</u>	<u>Call Number (Location)</u>	<u>Resource Type</u>
Estates, Future Interests, and Powers of Appointment in a Nutshell (4th ed.)	KF605 .W33 2010 (Study Aids)	Nutshell
Real Property in a Nutshell (6th ed.)	KF570.Z9 B47 2010 (Study Aids)	Nutshell
Understanding Property Law	KF561 .S67 2007 (Study Aids)	Hornbook
Property: Examples & Explanations (3rd ed.)	KF560 .B87 2008 (Study Aids)	Hornbook
Restatement of Property, Second	KF613 .R47 1983 (Reference)	Restatement
Wills, Trusts, and Future Interests (Black Letter Law Series)	KF753.Z9 A93 2005 (Study Aids)	Hornbook Hornbook
Principles of the Law of Property (3rd ed.)	KF 570 .C7 1989 (Reserves)	Hornbook
Wills, Trusts, and Estates : Including Taxation and Future Interests (4th ed.)	KF755 .M34 2010 (Reserves)	

<u>Torts</u>	<u>Call Number (Location)</u>	<u>Resource Type</u>
Torts in a Nutshell (5th ed.)	KF1250.Z9 K53 2010 (Study Aids)	Nutshell
Understanding Torts (4th ed.)	KF1250 .D5 2010 (Study Aids)	Hornbook
Law of Torts (4th ed.)	KF1250.Z9 G58 2010 (Study Aids)	Hornbook
Torts (Black Letter Series, 4th ed.)	KF1250.Z9 K527 2006 (Study Aids)	Hornbook
Restatement of the Law, Second, Torts	KF 1249.A4 R47 (Reference)	Restatement
Morris on Torts (2d ed.)	KF 1250 .M67 1980 (Reserves)	Hornbook
Prosser and Keeton on the Law of Torts (5th ed.)	KF1250 .P73 1984 (Reserves)	Hornbook

<u>Legal Writing and Research</u>	<u>Call Number (Location)</u>	<u>Resource Type</u>
Legal Writing in a Nutshell (4th ed.)	KF250 .S68 2009 (Study Aids)	Nutshell
Legal Research in a Nutshell (10th ed.)	KF240 .C54 2010 (Study Aids)	Nutshell
Legal Writing: Examples and Explanations	KF250 .L398 2011 (Study Aids)	Hornbook
Garner on Language and Writing: Selected Essays and Speeches of Bryan A. Garner	KF250 .G376 2008 (Reference)	Book
The Winning Brief : 100 Tips for Persuasive Briefing in Trial and Appellate Courts (2d ed.)	KF251 .G37 (Reference)	Book
Legal Writing in Plain English: a Text with Exercises	KF250 .G373 2001 (General Collection)	Book
Fundamentals of legal research (9th ed.)	KF240 .J32 2002 (Reference)	Hornbook

<u>General Study/Law School Material</u>	<u>Call Number (Location)</u>	<u>Resource Type</u>
Succeeding in Law School	KF283 .R36 2006 (General Collection)	Book
Getting to Maybe: How to Excel on Law School Exams	KF283 .F47 1999 (General Collection)	Book
Law School Confidential: A Complete Guide to the Law School Experience	KF283 .M553 2004 (General Collection)	Book

<u>Computer Assisted Programs</u>	<u>:Links/Access</u>
Computer Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI)	STU law students have access to CALI lessons, but need to first obtain the lessons on CD and/or a CALI access code that is used to set up the student's online CALI account (http://www.cali.org/). To obtain the CD and/or Access code, see Circulation and/or Reference.

Georgetown Legal Research Tutorials	Tutorials on legal research and areas of the law are available at http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/tutorials/ .
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Glossary of Legal Research Study Aids

Books: legal books typically provide commentary on the trends in the law, often recommending changes in the law. The library also has books that help with legal research, writing, and law school life.

Computer Assisted Programs: computer assisted programs are tools students can use that provide instruction and exercises on a given area of law. Programs can be through software or web based. One of the most used computer assisted program for legal education is CALI, which has multiple lessons that are supplemental to 1L courses.

Hornbooks: Hornbooks are simply broad subject specific books on a given legal topic. These books are more comprehensive than legal encyclopedias and often focus on specific legal topic. These resources are good ready reference materials because they provide the general state of the law, explain select cases and laws, and cite to other useful secondary legal resources. Note: West publishes hornbook series, characterized by its green cover. This series is selective and well known; however, other subject specific books will also help students learn the law.

Nutshells: Nutshells is a specific type of hornbook that is typically more general than other hornbooks. Nutshell series summarize the major topics within an area of law, citing to major cases and statutes. Why use a nutshell? You will get an overview of major

education law issues, you can learn education law legal terminology, and can build a good foundation to better understand case law and statutes.

Restatements: Restatements are an excellent resource to learn more about general black letter law for a specific area. Most restatements summarize the majority position, provide the black letter law, and also provide some commentary. However, do not rely on the restatement as the source of authority- restatements only summarize the law. Also, some rules are not summaries of the black letter law, but are instead recommendations for changes in the law. Restatements help frame a legal area, but a researcher should still use primary sources to verify the legal standards for a particular legal issue.

Treatise: legal treatises are multivolume editions that provide extensive coverage of law. A good treatise will have extensive summaries of the law, citing to applicable state and federal primary sources. When would a treatise be helpful? You might want to know almost everything there is to know about a given area of law. Treatises are also useful for comparing state and federal law; for example, a treatise may have a survey of the corresponding state statutes for a particular legal topic

Searching for additional resources: check out the Law Library's online catalog (www.stu.worldcat.org) to find more study aids or ask a reference librarian.