

Survey on Identifying Skills and Knowledge for Legal Practice

Introductory and Demographic Questions

Thank you for taking this short survey on legal research in your practice. Your answers will help ensure that we prepare the most practice-ready new lawyers that we can. This survey consists of 4 sections; please hit the "next" button on the bottom of each page to advance to the next section.

1. In what state do you currently conduct the majority of your practice?

2. What is the size of the office in which you work?

- Solo practitioner
- 2-5 attorneys
- 6-10 attorneys
- 11-20 attorneys
- 21-50 attorneys
- 51-100 attorneys
- 101-150 attorneys
- 151-200 attorneys
- 201+ attorneys

3. Which setting best describes your working environment?

- Government – Federal
- Government – State
- In-house/Corporate Counsel
- Judiciary
- Law School
- Legal Services Corporation
- Military
- Non law-related
- Private practice – Litigation
- Private practice – Transactional
- Private practice – Transactional and Litigation
- Public Interest

Other (please specify)

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4. How many years have you been in legal practice?

- 0-4
- 5-9
- 10-19
- 20-29
- 30+

Research Process

5. In an average week in your practice, how much of your time do you spend doing legal research?

- none
- up to 15%
- at least 15% but not more than 25%
- at least 25% but not more than 50%
- at least 50% but not more than 75%
- more than 75%

6. When beginning research, how often do you:

	Very Frequently	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
Start by asking a fellow attorney for research advice?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Start with a Google search?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Start by looking in a statutory database?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Start by consulting work product documents from other attorneys in your law office?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Start by looking in a secondary source?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Start your research in a case law database?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Start by consulting a subject-specific practice guide?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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7. When you are researching an issue for your practice, how often do you:

	Very Frequently	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
Use a case digest or online equivalent to find a topic and key number for your research?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use the headnotes and key numbers in a case you are reading to locate other relevant cases?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Follow citations in a case you are reading to find relevant materials?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use an index or table of contents when researching statutes online?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Follow citations in a secondary source you are reading to find primary law and other relevant materials?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use terms and connectors searching?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Follow citations in an annotated code to find relevant materials?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Resource Usage

8. When performing legal research for your practice, how often do you:

	Very Frequently	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
Use print materials?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use free internet resources?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use fee-based databases?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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9. When performing legal research for your practice, how often do you utilize the following research tools?

	Very Frequently	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
Treatises	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Practice guides	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Legal encyclopedias	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Law Review/Law Journal articles	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
American Law Reports (ALR)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Case digests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Restatements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shepard's/Keycite for case validation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shepard's/Keycite for further research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Looseleaf services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sample legal forms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Litigation resources/discovery, jury instructions, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transactional resources/guides, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. In the course of your normal practice, how often do you use the following free internet sources for legal research?

	Very Frequently	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
Google	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Google Scholar	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Court web sites	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government legislative web sites	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government agency web sites	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Legal blogs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Law firm web sites	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Law school library web sites	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Non-profit organization's website	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

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11. Which of the following databases, if any, do you use when performing legal research?

Select all that apply.

- Bloomberg Law
- Lexis Advance
- WestlawNext
- None of these

Recent Law School Graduates

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13. Are there any further comments you would like to share regarding legal research in practice?

