General Legal and Self-Help Titles for the Public and Self-Represented Litigants: A Supplement to the AALL County Public Law Library Standards

This list of “General Legal and Self-Help Titles for the Public and Self-Represented Litigants,” was created by the AALL GLL Best Practices for Access to Justice Committee as a supplement to the AALL County Public Law Library Standards. Specifically, section VII., County Public Law Library Collection, C. General U.S. Publications, 14. A collection of general legal and self-help titles on subjects of interest to the public and self-represented litigants, including print or online resources for people with limited English proficiency and materials in languages other than English to reflect the needs of users.

The list includes suggested titles on legal research, legal writing, encyclopedias, dictionaries, and directories. There are resources for referrals and substantive legal topics in both digital and print formats. Contact information for publishers of the resources is included in an appendix.

Please note that this list is intended to be a general guide for creating a collection designed for the public and self-represented litigants, and as such, it does not include state-specific materials. However, there may be local or state-oriented publications in your area. Feel free to edit and add to this list any titles that are appropriate for your jurisdiction.

A. Legal Research and Citation
   3. *Legal Citation in a Nutshell* (West Academic)
   4. *Legal Research* (Nolo)
   5. *Legal Research in a Nutshell* (West Academic)
      https://www.aallnet.org/knwlcrt_publegal/how-to-research-a-legal-problem-a-guide-for-non-lawyers/
   8. *Learn About the Law* (FindLaw) Learn About The Law - FindLaw

B. Legal Writing
   1. *Legal Drafting in a Nutshell* (West Academic)

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C. Encyclopedias and Dictionaries
1. *Nolo’s Encyclopedia of Everyday Law* (Nolo)
2. *Your Little Legal Companion* (Nolo)
5. *Glossary* (American Bar Association) Glossary (americanbar.org)
11. *Wex, LII’s community-built, freely available legal dictionary and legal encyclopedia* https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex

D. Directories
1. State and Local bar directories
2. Findlaw.com

E. Referrals (local legal service providers and bar associations)
1. FindLegalHelp.org (American Bar Association)
2. LawHelp.org

F. Forms (general)
1. Local access at courts/clerks’ offices
2. *101 Forms for Personal Use* (Nolo)
4. LawHelp.org (check individual states for forms)

G. Research Material (by subject area)
1. Business Law
   a. *Contracts: The Essential Business Desk Reference* (Nolo)
   c. *Legal Forms for Starting & Running a Small Business* (Nolo)
   d. *Small Business Start-Up Kit* (Nolo)
2. Civil Procedure
   a. *Electronic Discovery and Digital Evidence in a Nutshell* (West Academic)
   b. *Everybody’s Guide to Small Claims Court* (Nolo)
   c. *Federal Courts in a Nutshell* (West Academic)
   d. *How to Win Your Personal Injury Claim* (Nolo)
   e. *Nolo’s Deposition Handbook* (Nolo)
   f. *Nolo’s Represent Yourself in Court: How to Prepare & Try a Winning Case* (Nolo)

3. Civil Rights
   a. *First Amendment Law in a Nutshell* (West Academic)
   b. *Legal Guide for Lesbian & Gay Couples* (Nolo)
   c. *Section 1983 Litigation in a Nutshell* (West Academic)
   d. *Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and the Law in a Nutshell* (West Academic)

4. Consumer/Bankruptcy/Foreclosure/Tax
   a. *Consumer Protection Law in a Nutshell* (West Academic)
   b. *Credit Repair: Improve and Protect Your Credit* (Nolo)
   c. *National Consumer Law Center Digital Library*
      i) Access to Utility Service
      ii) Automobile Fraud
      iii) Collection Actions
      iv) Consumer Arbitration Agreements
      v) Consumer Banking and Payments Law
      vi) Consumer Bankruptcy Law and Practice
      vii) Consumer Class Actions
      viii) Consumer Credit Regulation
      ix) Consumer Warranty Law
x) The Cost of Credit
 xi) Credit Discrimination
xii) Fair Credit Reporting
xiii) Fair Debt Collection
xiv) Federal Deception Law
xv) Home Foreclosures
xvi) Mortgage Lending
xvii) Mortgage Servicing and Loan Modifications
xviii) Repossessions
xix) Student Loan Law
xx) Truth in Lending
xxi) Unfair and Deceptive Acts and Practices

d. Payments Law in a Nutshell (West Academic)
e. Chapter 13 Bankruptcy: Keep Your Property and Repay Debts Over Time (Nolo)
f. How to File for Chapter 7 Bankruptcy (Nolo)
g. The New Bankruptcy: Will It Work for You? (Nolo)
h. The Foreclosure Survival Guide: Learn How to Navigate Foreclosure & Potentially Stay in Your Home (Nolo)
i. Every Airbnb Host’s Tax Guide (Nolo)
j. Stand Up to the IRS (Nolo)

5. Construction Law
a. Construction Law in a Nutshell (West Academic)

6. Criminal Law
a. Beat You Ticket: Go to Court & Win (Nolo)
b. Criminal Law: A Desk Reference (Nolo)
d. Criminal Law Handbook: Know Your Rights, Survive the System (Nolo)
e. Prisoner’s Self-Help Litigation Manual (Oxford University Press)
f. Understanding Criminal Procedure (Matthew Bender)

7. Elder Law
a. Elder Law in a Nutshell (West Academic)
c. IRAs, 401(k)s & Other Retirement Plans (Nolo)
d. Long-Term Care (Nolo)

8. Employment Law
a. Create Your Own Employee Handbook (Nolo)
b. Dealing With Problem Employees (Nolo)
c. Employer’s Legal Handbook (Nolo)
d. The Essential Guide to Family & Medical Leave (Nolo)
e. Working for Yourself: Law & Taxes for Independent Contractors, Freelancers & Gig Workers of All Types (Nolo)
f. Your Rights in the Workplace: An Employee’s Guide to Fair Treatment (Nolo)

9. Family Law
a. Children and the Law in a Nutshell (Nolo)
b. Divorce After 50 (Nolo)
c. Divorce and Money (Nolo)
d. Divorce Without Court: A Guide to Mediation & Collaborative Divorce (Nolo)
e. Family Law in a Nutshell (West Academic)
f. A Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples (Nolo)
g. Making It Legal: A Guide to Same-Sex Marriage, Domestic Partnerships & Civil Unions (Nolo)
h. Nolo’s Essential Guide to Child Custody & Support (Nolo)
i. Nolo’s Essential Guide to Divorce (Nolo)

10. Health Law
a. Mental Health Law in a Nutshell (West Academic)
b. Public Health Law in a Nutshell (West Academic)

11. Immigration Law
a. Becoming a U.S. Citizen (Nolo)
b. Essentials of Immigration Law (American Immigration Lawyers Association)
c. How to Get a Green Card (Nolo)
d. U.S. Immigration Made Easy (Nolo)

12. Intellectual Property
a. Copyright Law in a Nutshell (West Academic)
b. Getting Permission (Nolo)
c. Patent, Copyright & Trademark: An Intellectual Property Desk Reference (Nolo)
e. The Public Domain (Nolo)

13. Landlord/Tenant
a. Every Landlord’s Legal Guide (Nolo)
b. Every Landlord’s Tax Deduction Guide (Nolo)
c. Every Tenant’s Legal Guide (Nolo)
d. Lease and Rental Agreements (Nolo)
e. Nolo’s Legal Encyclopedia – Landlords & Tenants
f. Renter’s Rights (Nolo)

14. Malpractice
a. Legal Malpractice Law in a Nutshell (West Academic)

15. Property Law

16. Social Security
17. Special Needs
   a. *The Complete IEP Guide* (Nolo)
   b. *Nolo's IEP Guide* (Nolo)
   c. *Special Needs Trusts: Protect Your Child's Financial Future* (Nolo)

18. Wills and Estates
   a. *Estate Planning Basics* (Nolo)
   b. *The Executor's Guide* (Nolo)
   c. *Get It Together - Organize Your Records So Your Family Won't Have To* (Nolo)
   d. *Getting Started with Advance Directives* (American Bar Association)
   e. *Long-Term Care: How to Plan and Pay for It* (Nolo)
   f. *Make Your Own Living Trust* (Nolo)
   g. *Nolo's Quicken Willmaker* (Nolo)
   h. *Plan Your Estate* (Nolo)
   i. *The Quick & Legal Will Book* (Nolo)
   j. *Special Needs Trusts: Protect Your Child's Financial Future* (Nolo)
   k. *The Trustee's Legal Companion* (Nolo)

H. Publications in other languages
   1. *The ABA Spanish Legal Phrasebook* (American Bar Association ebook)
APPENDIX - Publisher Contact List

Allworth Press
https://www.skyhorsepublishing.com/allworth-press

American Immigration Lawyers Association
https://agora.aila.org/store/products

American Bar Association
https://www.americanbar.org/products

LexisNexis (Matthew Bender)
https://store.lexisnexis.com

New England Law Press
https://www.nelawpress.com

Nolo
https://store.nolo.com/products

Oxford University Press
https://global.oup.com/

West Academic
https://www.westacademic.com

William S. Hein & Co., Inc
https://www.wshein.com