

New York Law Guide

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General Sources

- nylawz.com (excellent source for free information)
- [Learning Page: Primary Sources by State: New York](#) (*Library of Congress*)
- [Library of Congress > Search: New York](#)
- [New York State Guide](#) (*Library of Congress*)
- [New York](#) - official site
- [New York Libraries](#) (*LIBCAT*)
- [New York State and Local Government](#) (*Library of Congress*)
- [New York State Archives](#)
- [New York State Library](#)
- [State and Local Government on the Net: New York](#) (*State Local Gov*)

N.Y. Constitution

- [New York Constitution](#) (*New York State Dept. of State*)
- [Colonial Charters, Grants and Related Documents: New York](#) (*Yale Avalon Project*) includes the [Constitution of New York, 1777](#)

N.Y. Statutes, Bills, & Legislative History

- [New York Consolidated Laws](#) (*New York State Legislature*)
- [New York Consolidated Laws](#) (*FindLaw*)
- [Laws of New York](#) (*Browse or search New York laws courtesy of the State Legislature*)
- [New York Bills](#) (*New York State Legislature*)
- [New York Bills](#) (*New York State Assembly*)
- [New York Legislature](#) - composed of the [Assembly](#) and the [Senate](#)
- [Senate Rules](#)
- [Legislative Reports](#) (*New York State Assembly*)
- [Bill Jackets](#) (Information on New York State government holdings of bill and veto jackets. Access to the Digital Collections site containing bill and veto jackets from 1995-2010)
- [New York Legislative History Tutorial](#) (A tutorial prepared by librarians at the State Library as a guide for anyone seeking to compile a legislative history of New York State law.)
- [GovTrack.us / States](#) (Currently in beta form, GovTrack allows the tracking of state legislative activities. Receive updates on the major activity of all bills in a state or track the progress of a specific bill.)

N.Y. Case Law & Court Proceedings

- [New York State Unified Court System](#) (Includes access to selected New York court decisions, a court locator, statewide forms, location specific forms, information on filing fees, access to the Administrative Rules of the Unified Court System & Uniform Rules of the Trial Courts, an attorney directory, and information on Continuing Legal Education.)
- [Structure of the NYS Courts](#)
- [New York State Judicial Departments: Appellate Divisions](#)
- [New York State Law Reporting Bureau](#) (Comprehensive and [searchable](#) collection of [state court decisions](#) and motions dating from 2000. New York case law can also be found on Google Scholar, Justia, Findlaw.com for Legal Professionals, and Public Library of Law.)
- [Recent Decisions from the Court of Appeals](#) (Court of Appeals decisions are available the day of their release to the general public. The Decision List for each date lists all appeals and motions decided that day.)
- [New York Court of Appeals Opinions](#) (*Cornell Legal Information Institute*) 1992-
- [New York Court of Appeals Opinions](#) (*FindLaw*) 1992-
- [U.S. Court of Appeals, 2d Circuit Opinions](#) (*U.S. Courts*)
- [U.S. Court of Appeals, 2d Circuit Opinions](#) (*FindLaw*) 1995-
- [U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York](#)
- [U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York](#)
- [New York Rules](#) and [Forms](#) (*New York State Unified Court System*)
- [NY State Court of Claims](#) (Cases against the State of New York)
- [Office of Court Administration](#) (Court information, rules and publications, featuring [E-Courts](#) case searching and tracking.)
- [Library and Information Network](#) (Catalogs of court libraries, records & briefs, trial transcripts)
- [Criminal Jury Instructions](#) (Criminal charges to New York State juries)

- [Historical Society of the Courts of the State of New York](#) (Large library of NY Judiciary historical documents, [biographies of Judges](#), and [profiles of state courts](#))
- [Forms](#) (Forms for various state actions and proceedings)
- [New York e-Courts](#) (A free case information service allowing you to find future appearance dates for cases in Criminal, Family and Housing Court. You may also view information on both active and disposed cases in Civil Supreme and Local Civil Courts. Also, if you sign up for the eTrack case tracking service, you can receive email updates and appearance reminders for Civil Supreme and Local Civil Court cases.)
- [New York State Court – PASS](#) (The Court of Appeals Public Access and Search System (Court-PASS) provides free access to Court of Appeals materials for cases pending on or filed after January 1, 2013.)

N.Y. Court Rules

- [Official New York Rules](#)
- [Unofficial Website of local New York Court Rules \(provided by LLRX\)](#)
- [U.S. District Court Rules for the Eastern and Southern Districts ... \[E.D.N.Y.\]](#) — Alternative source for the combined local admiralty, civil, and criminal rules for the Eastern District and Southern District of New York, in a [PDF file](#).

N.Y. Ethics Codes & Ethics Opinions

- [NY State Bar Association Ethics Opinions](#) (Advisory opinions issued by NYSBA Committee on Professional Ethics)
- [New York State Ethics Commission](#) (Advisory Opinions from 1988 to date)
- [NYC Bar Association Committee on Professional and Judicial Ethics](#) (Opinions from 1986 to date)
- [Advisory Committees on Judicial Ethics](#) (Browse or search the committee's ethical opinions)
- [AMA Code of Medical Ethics](#) (Policy positions of the American Medical Association)

N.Y. Executive Branch

- [New York Governor](#)
- [New York Attorney General](#)
- [New York Board of Elections](#)
- [New York Secretary of State](#)
- [New York State Office of the State Comptroller: Legal Opinions](#)
- [Rule Making Frequently Asked Questions](#) (*New York Secretary of State, Division of Administrative Rules*); see also general [publications](#) and [New York Codes, Rules & Regulations](#) information
- [New York State Register](#) - from June 25, 2003 to the current week

N.Y. Regulations

- [Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York](#)
Compilation of the Rules and Regulations of the State of New York. This online version is an unofficial and unannotated version of the NYCRR powered by West.
- [New York State Register](#)
- [Administrative Rules of the Unified Court System & Uniform Rules of the Trial Courts](#)
- [List of State Agencies](#)
A list of New York State agencies with links to each agency's respective website.

N.Y. Agency Resources

- [New York Codes, Rules and Regulations](#)
- [NY State Government Information Locator Service](#)
- [Access to State Government](#)
- [NY State Library](#)
- [New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code](#)
- [NY State Register](#)
- NYC Agencies (and top personnel) are listed in [The Green Book Online](#). Otherwise, try to get contact info from the agency's Web site (discussed below) or call Information (212-555-1212).
- Links to NYC Government Web sites are posted by the Columbia University Library's [New York City Documents](#) page.
- *Finance Quarterly Bulletin*, published by the NYC Dept of Finance, discusses NY City tax issues.
- The **final regulations** of New York agencies are published officially, with annotations in *The Official Rules of the City of New York* (RCNY) by the [New York Legal Publishing Corporation](#). They are available free online through the [Public Access Portal to the Laws of the City of New York](#).
- A bi-weekly news service called [CityRegs](#), published by the Center for New York City Law, publishes summaries of **proposed rules & regulations**.
- The Mayor's Executive Orders are published in the New York Legislative Service's *New York City Report* (since 1977) and the *New York City Legislative Annual* (since 1991). Executive Orders are included in the Center For New York City Law's [CityAdmin Online Library](#). Executive Orders from 1974-2013 are also posted on the website of the [Department of Records](#).
- Administrative agency decisions from the Conflicts of Interest Board, the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings, the Office of Collective Bargaining, the Loft Board, and many others are posted by the [Center for New York City Law](#). Decisions from the Conflicts of Interest Board are also on Lexis (NY;NYCCIB) and Westlaw (NYC-ETH).

Westlaw has materials from the Commission on Human Rights (NYCCIV-ADMIN since 1970) and the Department of Finance and Division of Tax Appeals (NYCTX-ADMIN).

N.Y. Administrative Decisions

- Administrative agency decisions from the Conflicts of Interest Board, the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings, the Office of Collective Bargaining, the Loft Board, and many others are posted by the [Center for New York City Law](#).
- *CITYLAW* is a bi-monthly journal that "reports in synopsis format the most significant legislative, administrative and judicial decisions that, collectively, comprise New York City Law." Articles are searchable on [Lexis](#) (NY;CITYL) and [Westlaw](#) (CITYL).
- Advisory opinions of the [Conflicts of Interest Board](#), the ethics board for New York City Government, are posted by the [Center for New York City Law](#). Opinions are searchable on Lexis (NY; NYCCIB) and Westlaw (NYC-ETH) back to 1990.
- Opinions of the CIB's predecessor, the New York City Board of Ethics, were published in a series called *Board of Ethics Opinions*. Formal opinions of the New York City Bar's Committee on Professional and Judicial Ethics are available on the [committee's website](#) and also on [Lexis](#) (NY;NYCBAR).

N.Y. Attorney General Opinions

- [New York Attorney General Opinions](#)
- [New York State Office of the State Comptroller: Legal Opinions](#)
- [New York Governor Website](#)
- [New York Attorney General Website](#)

N.Y. Ordinances and Home-Rule Charters

- *Ordinances* are local laws, commonly organized into codes, that have been enacted by municipalities — cities, towns, etc. — and counties. *Charters* are organic laws (similar in function to a constitution) of those local government entities for which “home rule” is authorized by state law. For local laws not found through the links given here, try the [county web sites](#) and [municipality web sites](#) or a publisher’s web site:
- [American Legal Publishing Corp.](#)
- [General Code, LLC](#)
- [Municipal Code Corp.](#)
- [Charter of the City of New York](#)
- [Administrative Code of the City of New York](#)
- [Legislation](#) ... This web site covers city council sessions from 1998 forward.

Additional Resources:

[New York City Charter, Administrative Code, and Rules](#) ... [New York Legal Publishing Corp.]

[New York City Building Code](#) ... [New York City Department of Buildings] — Links to related materials including information on the electrical code (with the code text) and links to the department's policy and procedure notices (back to 1987) are provided on the same page.

[New York City Zoning Resolution](#) ... [New York City Department of City Planning] — Access to the text of the resolution (which is the city's zoning ordinance) and access to zoning maps. [New York City False Claims Act — Questions and Answers](#) ... [Perry & Campanelli, LLP (N.Y.)]

NYC Source Materials

General Sources for NYC Materials:

- [New York County Lawyers' Association \(NYCLA\) Library](#) - 212-267-6646 x206 or x207
- [Association of the Bar of the City of New York \(ABCNY\) Library](#) - 212-382-6711
- [City Hall Library](#) - 212-788-8590
- [New York State Library \(in Albany\)](#) - 518-474-5355
- New York State Legislative Library - 518-455-4000
- [New York Legislative Service](#) - 212-962-2826
- The Columbia University Library's [New York City Documents](#) page posts links to useful New York City **Web sites**. The Documents Page also provides information on how to get official NYC documents, plus excellent information about New York City **newspapers** and information on NYC schools.

NYC Legislative Branch Information:

- **Bills:** NYC bills are called "Intros," short for "Introductory Bills." Intros back to 1998 are posted by the [City Council](#). Otherwise, get copies from the [New York Legislative Service](#).
- **Local Laws:** NYC session laws are called the "Local Laws of New York City." They are published first in [The City Record](#) and later in the bound volumes of the *New York City Legislative Annual* and the *Local Laws of New York City*. However, I generally get Local Laws online, where they are posted from 1998 by the [City Council](#). I generally get copies of older Laws from the [New York Legislative Service](#). Current local laws are also available on [Westlaw](#) (NYC-AMEND).
- **Charter & Code:** Annotated editions of the *New York City Charter and Administrative Code* are published by Command Information Services (formerly Lenz & Riecker, Inc.) and the [New York Legal Publishing Corporation](#). Neither version is especially current. Annotations to the blue & black Command looseleaf are printed under a separate tab at

the end of each volume. The Charter is available on the website of the [New York City Charter Revision Commission](#) and the Code is available at the end of the New York Legislature's [Laws of New York](#). They are searchable through [Westlaw](#) (NYC-C and NYC-CODE) and [Lexis](#) (NY;NYCCHT and NY;NYCCDE) and [Loislaw](#). The Administrative Code was recodified in 1985, and all the section numbers were changed. The published Code editions have derivation and distribution tables that allow you to correlate pre- and post-codification section numbers. If you don't have a Code available, the [New York Legislative Service](#) (212-962-2826) will trace sections for you.

- To **update** the *Code*:
 - (a) Search Intros and Local Laws posted by the [City Council](#) and/or call the [New York Legislative Service](#) and have them check for you; and
 - (b) Call the agency that administers the legislation in question and ask them if there have been any recent changes or if any are proposed. Agency phone numbers are published in [The Green Book Online](#). If that doesn't work, try to find the agency's Web site (discussed below) or call information.

NYC Legislative History:

- There generally is no published NYC legislative history. To determine legislative intent (a) Call the agency or legislators and find out what they can tell you, (b) search NY newspapers and (c) get a bill jacket.
- Bill jackets are informal compilations of bill-related materials. In NYC, bill jackets are compiled by the Mayor's Office and the [City Council](#), and both versions usually have the same materials. The Mayor's versions are kept in the NYC Archives, and the Council's are kept in warehouse storage. To get copies, your best bet is to call the [New York Legislative Service](#) (212-962-2826); they keep some NYC bill jackets on file, and they know how to retrieve others from the NYC Archives and the Council's warehouse.
- Alternatively, you can ask the [New York Legislative Service](#) (212-962-2826) to compile a legislative history for you. They will pull together anything available from the mayor' and council's offices, public hearing transcripts, and any other relevant material that they can find.
- **NYC Legislature:** The [New York City Council](#) posts information about Council operations and Council members.
- **Zoning Resolution:** New York City zoning rules, known as the Zoning Resolution, are posted by the [Department of City Planning](#).

Miscellaneous NYC Information

- The most comprehensive directory of New York City government is *The Green Book*, which is available free as of 2012 as [The Green Book Online](#). If you don't have a copy available, try the online [New York City Government Guide](#).

- Residential **tax rates** are published in the "factual highlights" section of the *Green Book*.
- The Columbia University Library posts a page of **Internet** links to Web sites with [New York City Documents](#).
- NYC-related materials are **indexed** in the NYC subset of the [Index to Current Urban Documents](#).
- Vital Records: NYC **birth and death certificates** are available from the New York City Department of Health, Division of Vital Records. Forms and instructions are posted by the [Office of Vital Records](#). Forms to get older records are posted by the [Municipal Archives](#) (212-NEW-YORK). NYC **marriage** records (back to 1930 are available from the [City's Clerk's Office](#). Prior to 1930, check with the [Municipal Archives](#) . See also [Where to Write for Vital Records: New York City](#) and the separate entry for "Vital Records."
- **CITYLAW** is a bi-monthly journal that "reports in synopsis format the most significant legislative, administrative and judicial decisions that, collectively, comprise New York City Law." Articles are searchable on [Lexis](#) (NY;CITYL) and [Westlaw](#) (CITYL). Copies of the primary materials referenced in CITYLAW can be purchased from the library of the [Center for New York City Law](#).
- Advisory opinions of the [Conflicts of Interest Board](#), the ethics board for New York City Government, are posted by the [Center for New York City Law](#). Opinions are searchable on Lexis (NY; NYCCIB) and Westlaw (NYC-ETH) back to 1990.
- Opinions of the CIB's predecessor, the New York City Board of Ethics, were published in a series called *Board of Ethics Opinions*. Formal opinions of the New York City Bar's Committee on Professional and Judicial Ethics are available on the [committee's website](#) and also on [Lexis](#) (NY;NYCBAR).

N.Y. Law-Related Periodicals

Periodicals providing on-line articles are linked here. See also links to [all New York law-review web sites](#) as well as links to web sites of [all U.S.-published law reviews](#) and periodicals.

1. [Cardozo Arts and Entertainment Law Journal](#) (Cardozo Arts & Ent. L.J.)
2. [Cardozo Journal of Conflict Resolution](#) (Cardozo J. Conflict Res.)
3. [Cardozo Journal of Law & Gender](#) (Cardozo J. L. & Gender)
4. [Cardozo Law Review](#) (Cardozo L. Rev.)
5. [Columbia Law Review](#) (Colum. L. Rev.)
6. [East European Constitutional Review](#) (E. Eur. Const. Rev.) ... [New York Univ. Sch. of Law] — The constitution-making process in the post-Communist nations of Eastern and Central Europe, from the perspectives of political science, legal theory, and the sociology of law.
7. [Fordham Intellectual Property, Media and Entertainment Law Journal](#) (Fordham Intell. Prop. Media & Ent. L.J.)
8. [Hofstra Law Review](#) (Hofstra L. Rev.)

9. [Journal of Catholic Legal Studies](#) (J. Catholic Legal Stud.) ... [St. John's Univ. Sch. of Law] — Formerly titled *The Catholic Lawyer*.
10. [Journal of Civil Rights and Economic Development](#) (J. Civ. Rts. & Econ. Dev.) ... [St. John's Univ. Sch. of Law] — Formerly titled *Journal of Legal Commentary*.
11. [Journal of Race, Gender, and Ethnicity](#) (J. Race, Gender & Ethnicity) ... [Touro College, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center]
12. [National Tax Journal](#) (Nat'l Tax J.) ... [National Tax Association]
13. [New York Law School Law Review](#) (N.Y. L. Sch. L. Rev.)
14. [New York State Bar Journal](#) (N.Y. St. B.J.)
15. [New York State Bar News](#) (N.Y. St. B. News)
16. [New York University Annual Survey of American Law](#) (N.Y.U. Ann. Surv. Am. L.) ... [New York Univ. Sch. of Law] — This journal “is dedicated to exploring contemporary legal developments in the United States. *Annual Survey* articles analyze emerging legal trends, interpret significant recent court decisions and legislation, and explain leading legal scholars’ and judges’ perspectives on current legal topics.”
17. [New York University Environmental Law Journal](#) (N.Y.U. Envtl. L.J.)
18. [New York University Journal of International Law & Politics](#) (N.Y.U. J. Int'l L. & Pol.)
19. [New York University Journal of Law & Business](#) (N.Y.U. J. L. & Bus.)
20. [New York University Journal of Law & Liberty](#) (N.Y.U. J. L. & Liberty)
21. [New York University Law Review](#) (N.Y.U. L. Rev.)
22. [St. John's Law Review](#) (St. John's L. Rev.)
23. [Touro Law Review](#) (Touro L. Rev.)

Other New York Commentary

1. [Center for New York City Law](#) ... [New York Law Sch.] — “The Center for New York City Law was founded in 1993 by New York Law School Professor Ross Sandler. The academic and public mission of the Center is to provide information about, and analysis of, the laws and legal processes that govern New York City. The Center’s ultimate goal is to make the City’s government and decisions more fair, comprehensible and open to the public. . . . The Center writes and edits publications; sponsors events, courses and symposia; develops urban government courses and curricula; maintains a research-based Web site [which is linked here]; and owns a specialized New York City Charter and government library.”
2. [Collateral Consequences of Criminal Charges](#) ... [Columbia Univ. Sch. of Law] — “The collateral consequences of criminal prosecutions are growing in number, scope and duration. These consequences are frequently hidden, making it extremely difficult for judges, practitioners and the public they serve to fully appreciate what lies ahead. [¶] Our mission is to create an online collaborative forum where judges, lawyers and scholars can learn more about collateral consequences. Here, you will find high-quality content managed by experts in the major areas of New York law where collateral consequences occur.”
3. [Doing Business in New York State: A Legal Guide for Foreign Companies](#) ... [Pitegoff Law Office PLLC (N.Y.)]

4. [*Legal Handbook for Early Stage Business*](#) ... [Albany Law Sch.] — This publication provides resources and educational tools to address legal issues that may arise during early-stage business formation.
5. [*Practice Handbook on Certification of State Law Questions by the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit to the New York State Court of Appeals*](#) (2nd ed. 2006) ... [Advisory Group to the New York State and Federal Judicial Council] — “This is a revised edition of the Practice Handbook, which was developed by the Advisory Group to the New York State and Federal Judicial Council and originally published in 2000, to provide readily accessible guidance to attorneys litigating within the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit faced with the possibility that their clients may wish, or other parties may ask, the federal court to refer state law issues to the New York Court of Appeals for determination, or that the Second Circuit may certify state law questions *sua sponte*.”

N.Y. Law-Related Organizations

- [New York Bar Associations \(state-wide and local\)](#)

N.Y. Legal Research and Assistance

- [LawHelp.org](#) and the web site for [SelfHelpSupport.org](#).
- [New York Legal Help for the Poor](#) ... [Am. Bar Ass’n] — Contact information for statewide and local legal-aid programs, from the ABA’s [Directory of Pro Bono Programs](#). The ABA also provides a page of links to [pro bono programs’ web sites](#).
- WomensLaw.org — [Sources of Legal Help](#) ... [WomensLaw.org (N.Y.)] — Sources of legal help (not limited to legal help for women) include statewide domestic-violence resources, local domestic-violence resources listed by city or town, free or low-cost legal services, and lawyer referral services.
- [New York Lawz](#): Our mission is to provide ease of use to New York State and New York City legal information and documents at no cost to users.

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