Public Libraries Legal Research Toolkit for Kentucky
Presented by the American Association of Law Libraries Legal Information Services to the Public Special Interest Section (AALL LISP-SIS)
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Legislative Branch

State Constitution
The Kentucky Constitution can be found in Volume 1 of either of the official versions of the Kentucky Revised Statutes: Baldwin’s (published by Thomson Reuters) or Michie’s (published by LexisNexis).

An online version can be found at the Legislative Research Commission website: https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/constitution. The page is divided into topics. Click on a topic for a summary for each constitutional article. Click the summary to read the full text of the article as a PDF.

State Statutes
Official printed versions are *Michie’s Kentucky Revised Statutes* (LexisNexis) and *Baldwin’s Kentucky Revised Statutes* (Thomson Reuters).

The online version is available at the Legislative Research Commission website: https://legislature.ky.gov/Law/Statutes/Pages/default.aspx.

State Session Laws
If you are seeking acts passed within a current session, the Secretary of State maintains a database of enacted legislation that is updated almost immediately after approval. Go to https://www.sos.ky.gov/admin/Executive/legislation/Pages/default.aspx, and click the database link.

At the end of each session, the Legislative Research Commission produces bound volumes of the *Kentucky Acts* with the legislation arranged in chronological order. An online version is available at https://legislature.ky.gov/Law/Pages/KyActs.aspx.

Both sites also maintain legislation from previous sessions: the Secretary of State back to 2004, and the LRC to 2000.

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Executive Branch

State Administrative Code

The Administrative Register of Kentucky is published monthly and consists of all regulations submitted by state governmental agencies before the deadline the previous month, as well as the text of regulations that became effective since the first of the past month. The print is the official version, however the Legislative Research Council also produces an online edition: https://legislature.ky.gov/Law/kar/Pages/Registers.aspx.

The Kentucky Administrative Regulations are published yearly around September and includes all the regulations in effect as of June 15 of that year. Print is again the only official source, but an online version can be found at https://legislature.ky.gov/Law/kar/Pages/default.aspx.

Attorney General’s Opinions

The print compilation of Attorney General’s opinions, originally published by Banks-Baldwin, is now after a number of acquisitions under the imprint of Thomson Reuters. The opinions are also published on the Attorney General’s site at https://ag.ky.gov/Priorities/Government-Transparency/opinions/Pages/Opinions.aspx.

Municipal Codes

The City Hall (or Town Hall, etc.) of the municipality will have the print codes on file. If the area in question does not have a law library, you may be able to find the codes at the local public library.

Many, though not all, municipal codes are available online. The great majority of those available for Kentucky are published on American Legal Publishing Corporation’s site at https://www.amlegal.com/codes/ky/. A handful of others can be found with Municode at https://library.municode.com/ky or on General Code/eCode 360 at https://www.generalcode.com/resources/ecode360-library/ (click on the outline of Kentucky).

Judicial Branch

State Legal Encyclopedia

The Kentucky Practice Series (West/Thomson Reuters) is a multi-volume set that covers a variety of specific areas of law.

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State Case Reporters

There are a number of overlapping case reporters, especially in the latter part of the 19th Century. From the recent to most historic ending coverage dates, they are:

- *South Western Reporter* (West/Thomson Reuters), 1886—Current
  - This also includes cases from Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee, and Texas.
- *Kentucky Decisions* (West/Thomson Reuters), 1886—Current
  - This is a Kentucky-specific reprint of cases from the *South Western Reporter*.
- *Kentucky Reports*, 1785—1951
- *Kentucky Law Reporter*, 1880—1908
- *Kentucky Opinions*, 1864—1885

Further, you can find the opinions of the Kentucky Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals from 1996 forward on the Kentucky Court of Justice site at [http://apps.courts.ky.gov/supreme/sc_opinions.shtm](http://apps.courts.ky.gov/supreme/sc_opinions.shtm).

State Digests

Use these as an index to find cases in the above reporters.

- *Kentucky Digest 2d* (West/Thomson Reuters) – for cases from 1930 to current
- *Kentucky Digest* (West) – for cases before 1930

State Forms

Online forms are available from the Kentucky Court of Justice at [https://kycourts.gov/resources/legalforms/Pages/default.aspx](https://kycourts.gov/resources/legalforms/Pages/default.aspx).

The Legal Aid Network of Kentucky also has forms available for a number of legal topics: [http://www.kyjustice.org/](http://www.kyjustice.org/).

Print form templates can be obtained either in *Caldwell’s Kentucky Form Book* (Kevin P. Bucknam, ed., Matthew Bender/LexisNexis) or *Kentucky Forms & Transactions* (Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs, West/Thomson Reuters).

State Jury Instructions

- *Kentucky Instructions to Juries, 6th ed. Civil*. John S. Palmore and Donald P. Cetrulo (Matthew Bender/LexisNexis, 2016).
Additional Resources

Kentucky Legal Research Manual


Regional AALL Chapters

- **SEAALL** – Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries: https://seaall.wildapricot.org/
- **ORALL** – Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries: http://orall.org/

Kentucky Law Libraries

- **Eastern Kentucky University George T. Ross Law Library**
  103 Libraries Complex
  Third Floor, Crabbe Library
  521 Lancaster Avenue
  Richmond, KY 40475
  (859) 622-1793
  https://library.eku.edu/law

- **Fayette County Law Library**
  120 N. Limestone Street
  Suite C-357, Third Floor
  Lexington, KY 40507
  (859) 246-2141
  https://kycourts.gov/courts/Fayette/Pages/lawlibrary.aspx

- **Jefferson County Public Law Library**
  514 W. Liberty Street, Suite 240
  Louisville, KY 40202
  (502) 574-5943
  https://www.jcpll.net/

- **Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives**
  300 Coffee Tree Road
  Frankfort, KY 40601
  (502) 564-8300
  https://kdla.ky.gov/
Kentucky Law Libraries (Continued)

**Kentucky State Law Library**
State Capitol, Suite 200  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 564-4848  
[https://kycourts.gov/aoc/statelawlibrary/](https://kycourts.gov/aoc/statelawlibrary/)

**Peggy King Legislative Reference Library**
Capitol Annex, Room 27  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 564-8100  
[https://legislature.ky.gov/Public%20Services/Pages/Legislative-Reference-Library.aspx](https://legislature.ky.gov/Public%20Services/Pages/Legislative-Reference-Library.aspx)

**Murray State University James O. Overby Law Library**
Watterson Library  
1400 N. 15th St.  
Murray, KY 42071  
(270) 809-6152  
[https://libguides.murraystate.edu/law](https://libguides.murraystate.edu/law)

**Northern Kentucky University Salmon O. Chase College of Law Library**
Nunn Hall  
Highland Heights, KY 41099  
(859) 572-6030  
[https://chaselaw.nku.edu/current-students/library.html](https://chaselaw.nku.edu/current-students/library.html)

**University of Kentucky College of Law Library**
Bosworth Hall  
631 S. Limestone St.  
Lexington, KY 40506  
(859) 257-8131  
[https://library.law.uky.edu/](https://library.law.uky.edu/)

**University of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School of Law Library**
Wyatt Hall  
2301 S. 3rd St.  
Louisville, KY 40292  
(502) 852-0729  
[https://louisville.edu/law/library](https://louisville.edu/law/library)

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Kentucky Law Libraries (Continued)

Western Kentucky University Law Collection
Helms-Craven Library
1906 College Heights Blvd.
Bowling Green, KY 42101
(270) 745-6125

Federal Depository Libraries in Kentucky

Go to https://catalog.gpo.gov/, click on the Federal Depository Library link in the center of the page, and either click on Kentucky in the map for a list of libraries or scroll down to search for a specific library or location.

Bar Associations

- Kentucky Bar Association: https://www.kybar.org/
- Bowling Green-Warren County Bar Association: http://www.bg-bar.com/
- Fayette County Bar Association: http://www.fcba.com/
- Louisville Bar Association: https://www.loubar.org/
- Northern Kentucky Bar Association: https://www.nkybar.com/

Links to Research Guides

- Northern Kentucky University Law Library: https://chaselaw.nku.edu/current-students/library/research/researchguides.html
- University of Kentucky Law Library: https://library.law.uky.edu/home/researchguides
- University of Louisville Law Library: https://library.louisville.edu/law/library/guides