

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 Statutes

Official printed versions are *Baldwin's Kentucky Revised Statutes* (published by Thomson Reuters) and *Michie's Kentucky Revised Statutes* (published by LexisNexis).

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

State Constitution

The Kentucky Constitution can be found in either of the official versions of the Kentucky Revised Statutes. Michie's (LexisNexis) has the constitution contained within Volume 1, while Baldwin's (Thomson Reuters) spreads it out over Volumes 1, 2, and 2A.

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 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.

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. Although the print is the official version, the Legislative Research Commission also produces an online edition available at <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).

You can also find a list linking to the codes (and/or websites) of many of the more populous municipalities on Justia: <https://law.justia.com/kentucky/cities>.

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.

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 also find the official 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/>.

The Caselaw Access Project at Harvard Law Library has unofficial full text of cases from the *Kentucky Reports*, *Kentucky Opinions*, and the *South Western Reporter 2d* and *3d* available for public use at <https://case.law> (click on the outline of Kentucky) or <https://cite.case.law> (either click on Kentucky in the left-hand menu or scroll down to Kentucky).

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/Legal-Forms/Pages/default.aspx>.

The Legal Aid Network of Kentucky also has forms available for a number of legal topics: <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).
- *Kentucky Instructions to Juries, 6th ed. Criminal.* William S. Cooper and Donald P. Cetrulo (Matthew Bender/LexisNexis, 2016).

Additional Resources

Kentucky Legal Research Manual

- *Kentucky Legal Research, 2nd ed.* William A. Hilyerd, Kurt X. Metzmeier, and David J. Ensign (Carolina Academic Press, 2017).

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://libguides.eku.edu/legalresearch>

Jefferson County Public Law Library

514 W. Liberty Street, Suite 240
Louisville, KY 40202
(502) 574-5943
<https://www.jcppl.net/>

Kentucky Law Libraries (Continued)

Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives

300 Coffee Tree Road

Frankfort, KY 40601

(502) 564-8300

<https://kdla.ky.gov/>

Kentucky State Law Library

State Capitol, Suite 200

Frankfort, KY 40601

(502) 564-4848

<https://kycourts.gov/Courts/Pages/State-Law-Library.aspx>

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>

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>

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>

University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law Library

Bosworth Hall

631 S. Limestone St.

Lexington, KY 40506

(859) 257-8131

<https://library.law.uky.edu/>

Kentucky Law Libraries (Continued)

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>

Western Kentucky University Law Collection

Helms-Craven Library

1906 College Heights Blvd.

Bowling Green, KY 42101

(270) 745-6125

<https://libguides.wku.edu/law>

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.

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>

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/>