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).

An unofficial 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. (Some topics, such as the Executive and Judicial Departments, are further divided into subtopics.) 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 at https://web.sos.ky.gov/execjournal/enactedlegislation.aspx.

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; the LRC to 1998 – and both allow requests for years that do not yet appear.
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. An unofficial 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. Opinions back to 1992 are also available on the Attorney General’s site at https://ag.ky.gov/Resources/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://codelibrary.amlegal.com/regions/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/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.

Updated January 2024
 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/](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](https://case.law) (click on the outline of Kentucky) or [https://cite.case.law](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


Regional AALL Chapters

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

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Kentucky Law Libraries (Continued)

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

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

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://lib.murraystate.edu/legalstudies

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
Kentucky Law Libraries (Continued)

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/

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://ask.gpo.gov/s/FDLD and either click on Kentucky in the map for a list of libraries or search for a specific library or location.

Links to Law School Library Research Guides
- Northern Kentucky University Law Library: https://chaselaw-nku.libguides.com/
- 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://nkybar.com/