

2015 National Legal Research Teach-In Kit

Research Instruction & Patron Services Special Interest Section
American Association of Law Libraries

Index v. Keyword v. Table of Contents

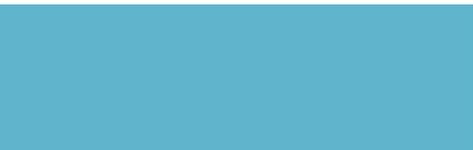
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Nothing gets law students excited about legal research like a friendly competition and the opportunity to win a prize! The Team Index v. Team TOC v. Team Keyword exercise was developed to better introduce students to the various strengths and weaknesses of each method of searching and when they are best employed. The class is divided into three teams, assigned a search method, and asked to answer the research question on the slide. The first team to find the answer to the question wins that round, and the team who wins the competition gets a prize. There is also a tiebreaker question at the end, in case of a tie. The answer to each question has a short explanation of which search method is best suited to the type of question, which I review after every question. While this particular set of questions is targeted towards IP research, we have successfully used it in other classes, mostly recently looking at Immigration Law, and it can be redone for any specialized research subject for which there is a treatise (preferable available online, for the keyword search team).

TEAM INDEX

V. TEAM KEYWORD

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1. Your client wants to claim trade secret protection in an invention where the components are all known, but he is keeping their combination a secret. Is this sufficiently secret to be a trade secret? In addition to answering the question, provide the relevant section, and footnote number at the end of the relevant sentence.

2. The managing partner tells you to use the Georgia-Pacific factors to determine the reasonable royalty. How many factors are there? Also tell me the section where you found this information.

3. In the trade secret context, is the relationship between the CFO and the corporation a confidential relationship?

Answer the question, and give the relevant section and subsection.

4. Can the FTC be required to release trade secret information under FOIA? Provide the section where you found it, and the footnote number at the end of the relevant sentence.

5. Can an oral contract regarding trade secrets ever be valid? Answer the question and provide the section where you found the answer.

6. You've heard reverse engineering is a defense to a misappropriation of trade secret claim. You want to learn more about the law in this area. Tell me the section you'd want to read.

7. Are lists of customers likely to be protected as trade secrets in Massachusetts? Give the answer and the section where you found it.

8. What are some of the different ways someone might enforce his/her trade secret protection? List them and tell me the appropriate section.

9. Your client is seeking injunctive relief against the defendant. You want to know whether this determination will be made by a judge or jury. Answer the question, and tell me the section and subsection where you found the answer.

TIEBREAKER: You are practicing in Rhode Island and want to know if the Uniform Trade Secrets Act has been adopted by your state, and if it has, where it is in the code.

