

## **Legal Research Explained, 4th**

By Deborah E. Bouchoux. (2016) 448 pages, ISBN-10:1454882336. Price, varies

**Subject:** Legal research textbook

**Useful for:** Useful for those who teach legal research to paralegals, undergraduates, or non-American law students

**Format:** print and digital

### **Reviewer's Comments:**

LEGAL RESEARCH EXPLAINED, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, is pricey, but indispensable if we teach legal research to paralegals, and for those strengths, useful for teaching undergraduates or foreign law students, unaccustomed to the United States legal realm and its sometimes arcane system of authority. Deborah Bouchoux has published other research books for paralegals, LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING FOR PARALEGALS, but I believe LEGAL RESEARCH EXPLAINED, can successfully be used as a research aid for teaching legal research to LLM students. The benefit of this book and especially this new edition, resides in the new research assignments in each chapter, the helpful charts, diagrams, and sample pages from research resources which help students visualize and thus better understand complex research assignments.

Like in the earlier edition, the text is divided into five separate sections, as follows: 1) conducting legal research using primary authorities; 2) conducting legal research using secondary authorities and other research aids; 3) electronic and computer resources; 4) legal citation form and validating authorities; and 5) "putting it all together," providing a final overview of the legal research process. However, the new edition has been updated and heavily edited. For instance, the chapters on digital research are updated and given prominence over more obscure issues, such as updating cases using Shepards in print (Fortunately, this discussion has been moved from the previous edition's Chapter 11 to an Appendix). Bouchoux is at her best when she complements basic principles with tips for efficient legal research. For example, fluency in the structure of the UNITED STATES CODE can be achieved by using the Code in print, but, it becomes more efficient to use a portal (GOVINFO) which offers access to free, official, authenticated documents from all three branches of the government, not only the UNITED STATES CODE. And Bouchoux does a great job explaining the new website GOVINFO. In the same vein of free access to information she covers new sources for conducting research, such as the Law Review Commons (Chapter 6), which provides free access to thousands of law review articles. In addition, she also explains new tools such as Lexis for Microsoft Office and Thomson Reuters's Drafting Assistant. For all these reasons, I believe Bouchoux's text is useful beyond the paralegal audience; the academic LLM audience would benefit from accessing it, as well.

**Reviewed by:** Dana Neacsu, Columbia University, in 2018.

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