

Legal Research Illustrated, 10th

By Steven M. Barkan, Barbara A. Bintliff, & Mary Whisner. (2015), 557 pages, ISBN 9781609300555. \$101

Subject: Legal research textbook

Useful for: Useful for those who teach legal research to first year law students and who like to include illustrations to supplement their lecture notes

Format: Chapters with index, with activities and illustrations at the end of each chapter

Reviewer's Comments:

When I taught legal research to first year law students, I oftentimes had to figure out ways to include illustrations that would reinforce my in-class lecture notes. At times, I would find it necessary to haul in print editions of items such as the Code of Federal Regulations and the United States Code. Other times, I would make scans of what the print versions looked like so I would not have to keep carrying so many books around. I would do all this because I found it beneficial to the law students to see legal research at work.

Had I used a textbook such as Legal Research Illustrated, I would have saved a lot of time and would not have had to constantly gather books to take into class. Legal Research Illustrated is a perfect combination of traditional explanatory information on the various resources for legal research with illustrations from those various resources. Illustrations include screen shots of various web sites, charts, scanned pages from print volumes, and much more.

Twenty-three chapters cover a wide range of topics from court reporters and digests to public international law. The authors also include chapters on legal citation styles with one particular chapter on how to communicate research results through writing. Within this chapter, students learn methods of communicating research results in documents such as legal memoranda, client letters, demand letters, and more. Examples of these documents are also included. While it is a legal research textbook, with the addition of these chapters, it could also be useful resource for students in their legal writing assignments.

Those responsible for selecting textbooks for legal research courses should consider adopting Legal Research Illustrated as a course textbook. With today's emphasis on visual learning and experiential learning, this textbook provides useful illustrations that can be beneficial for the student to see as he or she listens in class and as they work through the problems associated with those illustrations.

Reviewed by: Stephen Parks, State Law Library of Mississippi, in 2018.