

Legal Research Guide: Patterns and Practice, 8th ed.

By Linda L. Schlueter and Zoe E. Niesel. (2019), 250 pages, ISBN: 9781531016234. \$58.00

Subject: General Legal Research

Useful for: Useful for those learning the legal research process.

Format: Chapters with checklists and index. Also includes an appendix with practice problems.

Reviewer's Comments:

Legal Research Guide: Patterns and Practice explains how research works and why particular resources are used. Written in plain language with an easy to read format, it is easy to imagine Legal Research Guide: Patterns and Practice providing a welcome explanation of the American legal system to the overwhelmed first year law student or LL.M student.

There is a wealth of information in this guide to help new researchers learn about research and to begin to lay the foundation to develop their research skills. In addition to the information mentioned above, the guide also includes examples of research questions throughout each chapter with explanations of how to approach the question using the specific resource being discussed in the chapter (*e.g.* A.L.R., statutes, etc.). There is also checklist included at the end of each chapter, which explains what steps the researcher should take if they are accessing the resource in print or electronically. However, the directions for the electronic resources were often much more general than those for the corresponding print directions. This is really the one area that newer researchers may struggle with using this guide because it presumes that the researcher will either be able to make the leap from the step by step print directions to the general electronic version without additional explanation or that the researcher does not need additional explanation because they already have a high level of familiarity with Westlaw and Lexis, which they may still be learning to use. This is unfortunate because many new researchers are not able to make those connections without step by step explanations, which is something that the rest of the guide does so well.

Despite this, Legal Research Guide: Patterns and Practice is still an excellent book to recommend to new legal researchers to help them get a better understanding of the research process and research sources. It is also beneficial as a resource for sample practice questions. The appendix includes sample questions with an outline of the suggested research process, which researchers can follow to answer the question.

Reviewed by: Shannon Kemen, University of Cincinnati, in 2019.