

RIPS-SIS Legal Research Text Review

California Administrative Law: A Legal Research Guide.

By Caitlin Hunter. (2019), 67 pages, ISBN: 978083774088. \$79. Part of the HeinOnline Legal Research Guide series, vol. 75.

Subject: State & subject-specific legal research (California & Administrative Law)

Useful for: Useful for those who want to learn about or teach California administrative research.

Format: Chapters with bibliography at the end.

Reviewer's Comments:

I want Caitlin Hunter to guest teach in any class, any research consultation, any interaction that involves researching California administrative law. In this short, easy-to-read, gem of a book, Hunter walks the reader through California's baffling and dizzying regulatory history (p. 1), explains how the process currently works, and provides short but comprehensive overviews of how to research current, proposed, and historical California regulations. She also provides a detailed review of other administrative materials in California, including administrative decisions and sources for many of materials for the different administrative agencies. The information is dense, but she organizes and presents it in a clear, precise manner, making it easy to apply the lessons she teaches. Hunter finishes the book with a short bibliography of California administrative law resources. If there's one thing I would wish changed in this book, it would be that the bibliography be annotated.

This guide, updated from Chapter 8 of Henke's California Law Guide, also provides readers with the ability to cherry pick the sections most useful to their research. Hunter says on the first page the guide is "best read in parts based on the reader's specific project," and for the most part that's true. I would suggest reading chapter 2 and the first part of chapter 4 (they're short!) on the history of California's administrative law and the rulemaking process in California to get a lay of the land, then skip to the most applicable chapter or section depending on what you're researching.

Hunter also provides some great charts and tables throughout the book, including a chart that traces the many names and publications California's administrative code and register took throughout the years; a chart that reviews the type and scope of California

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administrative materials available on Westlaw, Bloomberg, Lexis; and a chart of the major California regulatory publications and where to find them.

The best part of the book is the quirks about California administrative law that Hunter discusses, because not only are they quirks, they are quirks that *matter* when researching this area of law. For example, Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations is supposed to house Building Standards. But, because many of the building standards are copyrighted building codes, you can only find them on the Building Standards Commission website; they aren't included in any other source of California regulations (pp. 11, 13).

Overall, I would recommend this book to anyone who needs to do California administrative law research. And, because it's part of HeinOnline's Legal Research Guide series, the full text is available through HeinOnline, in Spinelli's Law Library Reference Shelf, so you can also access it electronically (a recently-realized important quality, as I write this in April 2020 while under a shelter-in-place order). Because the information is so dense, I would also recommend even experienced California administrative law researchers revisit this text—it's sure to provide a snippet of forgotten or unknown piece of information and does so in an easily accessible manner.

Reviewed by: Taryn Marks, Stanford University Law School, in 2020.