

RIPS-SIS Legal Research Text Review

New York Legal Research, 4th Edition.

By Elizabeth Adelman, Courtney L. Selby, Brian T. Detweiler & Kathleen Darvil. (2020), 252 pages, ISBN: 9781531016661. \$34

Subject: State-specific legal research (New York)

Useful for: Useful for those who teach or perform New York legal research as an introductory text.

Format: Chapters with index.

Reviewer's Comments:

New York Legal Research is part of a series of state-specific legal research texts that aspires to concisely present state specific legal research sources while also guiding readers through the legal research process. The fourth edition of this book continues the more recent editions' efforts to focus on online resources as those become the more prevalent method for conducting legal research. Print resources are highlighted when they are superior to online resources or the only source available.

The text is structured in a fairly traditional way with the introductory chapters focusing on the legal research process, search methods, such as terms and connectors versus natural language searching, then moving into secondary and primary sources while highlighting the idiosyncrasies of New York law that differentiate it from federal law. There are two chapters that round out the text, one on researching legal ethics and another on research strategies and organization. The research strategy and organization chapter is a useful chapter for more inexperienced researchers and a nice addition to a legal research text.

Throughout the text there are figures and tables that are useful to the researcher as they provide quick access to information. The tables primarily provide lists of resources with information about cost and where to locate materials. They are easy to read and provide a succinct information that is easy to consult. The figures cover a range of materials from examples of materials online and in print to example documents researchers can use. The example documents, such as the Template for Research Notes, are particularly beneficial to new researchers and a highlight of the text.

While many state specific legal research texts discuss primarily state materials, as their names would imply, this text spends a chapter specifically discussing New York City

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legal research. New York City has a robust government structure that in many ways mirrors that of the state, but is also complex and unfamiliar for many researchers. The text concisely presents the various areas and means of researching New York City law.

Reviewed by: Kelly Leong, Fordham University School of Law, in 2020.