

RIPS-SIS Legal Research Text Review

Researching Texas Law, 4th Edition.

By Brandon D. Quarles & Matthew C. Cordon. (2019), 278 pages, ISBN: 9780837741079. \$90

Subject: State-specific legal research (Texas)

Useful for: Useful for law students, attorneys, and others studying, practicing, or engaging in Texas law and legal research

Format: Chapters with index

Reviewer's Comments:

Researching Texas Law, 4th edition is a practice manual that covers not only traditional areas of legal research but also research instruction for more practitioner-oriented items. It contains an introductory chapter on Texas legal research that discusses legal research more generally but also notes the unique legal system in Texas. It makes clear how the resources and nature of legal authority in Texas differ from what is typically covered by major legal research textbooks. The authors provide several state-specific examples before delving into the "general rules" of legal research.

In addition to discussing traditional areas of legal research (such as cases, court rules, statutes, and administrative regulations), the practice manual includes chapters discussing practical legal items like jury instructions; briefs, records and oral arguments; civil jury verdicts and settlements; tracking bills and compiling legislative histories; and attorneys general opinions. Additional chapters discussing professional responsibility and the value and types of secondary authority in legal research are also included.

Chapter 13, on Texas practice materials, provides a bibliography of state- and subject-specific secondary sources commonly used by Texas practitioners and is based on a chapter entitled *Texas Practice Materials*, appearing in *State Practice Materials: Annotated Bibliographies* (William S. Hein & Co., Inc.). The final chapter, a guide to legal citation, provides an overview of proper citation formats for federal and Texas legal resources and instructs readers how to provide proper citations to legal materials according to the Bluebook (20th ed. 2015) and/or the Greenbook (14th ed. 2018).

Though references to print and online sources in previous editions are updated, the fourth edition of *Researching Texas Law* does not include new or additional chapters discussing previously unaddressed areas of Texas legal research. Thus, given its cost,

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some readers may choose to forgo the fourth edition and instead substitute with the third edition published in 2012.

Reviewed by: Ashley Arrington, University of Houston Law Center, in 2020.