

A Short & Happy Guide to Advanced Legal Research.

By Ann Walsh Long. (2020), 235 pages, ISBN: 978-1640207486. \$22

Subject: Teaching legal research

Useful for: Useful for those who teach a civil litigation-focused class or classes to those without a J.D.

Format: Chapters with a table of cases and resource comparison charts.

Reviewer Comments:

This text revolves around the research process for civil litigation matters with a smattering of discussions related to scholarly research. The text has a very conversational tone and avoids legal jargon. Throughout the text, there are screenshots and well-organized comparison charts of various resources. The comparison charts focus on three criteria, good, cheap, and fast, and notes that it is rare to find a single resource that meets all three criteria.

Chapter 1 focuses on preliminary analysis of legal research problems providing five questions with some additional sub-questions, where warranted, that should be answered before beginning research, including jurisdiction, deadlines, available resources, relevant law, and knowing when to stop researching. It also notes common distinctions between free and paid resources, including annotations.

Chapters 2 through 5 break down research into stages of civil litigation, starting with assessing the claim and its merits, then moving through discovery and ending with pleading motions and briefs. These chapters cover introductory legal resources such as treatises, legal encyclopedia and statutes, then progress into litigation focus resources. Litigation resources mentioned include practical guidance, litigation analytics, jury verdicts and settlements, public records, locating expert witnesses, and dockets. These chapters also discuss AI in legal research, specifically, resources where a user can upload a brief and analyze it. These chapters are the core of the text and it is important to note that they give minimal treatment to primary sources.

Chapters 6 discusses research ethics, including competency, cloud-based services, disclosure of client information and reasonable fees. Chapter 7 focuses on academic topics, including circuit splits, 50-state surveys, preemption searches, and plagiarism.

RIPS-SIS Legal Research Text Review

Reviewed by: Kelly Leong, Fordham University School of Law, in 2021.