

Legal Reasoning, Research, and Writing for International Graduate Students, 5th Edition.

By Nadia E. Nedzel. (2021) 384 pages, ISBN: 978-1-5438-1084-4. \$150.00

Subject: Subject-Specific Legal Research (Research and Writing for International Students)

Useful for: Useful for international graduate students and law students who want to understand how to conduct legal research in the United States and draft documents for American legal professionals.

Format: Chapters with index, checklists and examples of legal documents.

Reviewer's Comments:

Legal research is inevitably intertwined with legal writing. Through *Legal Reasoning, Research, and Writing for International Graduate Students*, Nadia E. Nedzel provides crucial guidance to assist international students enrolled in American legal programs.

Legal Reasoning, Research, and Writing for International Graduate Students guides graduate law students through legal research and writing, as well as law school itself. The book starts by providing the reader with practical advice. Initially, Nedzel provides the reader, assumably an individual unfamiliar with American legal pedagogy and American law, a description of how to write a case brief and outline a law school course. The book then moves through a thorough analysis of American common law, research across United States jurisdictions, and how to draft an argument.

The strength of *Legal Reasoning, Research, and Writing for International Graduate Students* is that it mirrors the curriculum found in a first-year, juris doctor research and writing course. In addition to discussing the IRAC (issue, rule, application, conclusion) paradigm, Nedzel successfully teaches students the core concepts associated with the Rombauer Method. Students learn to find and assess secondary sources, to utilize Boolean operators and other tools to uncover primary resources, and how to revise their research strategies.

Additionally, Nedzel critically examines the impact computer-assisted legal research (CALR) has had on American law. Initially, Nedzel explores the various databases available to students, including pay-to-access and free resources. Ultimately, the

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conversation evolves to discuss how American law utilizes CALR in courtrooms, as self-help tools, and in the drafting of legal documents. For students who are unfamiliar with major databases like Westlaw or Lexis, the multi-chapter discussion of CALR provides insight into resources, strategies, and methodology.

Overall, *Legal Reasoning, Research, and Writing for International Graduate Students* is a useful tool for graduate students. In addition to the thorough discussions of legal research and writing, each chapter concludes with a checklist and discussion questions to help guide the reader through the material. The book itself concludes with an appendix, featuring an example of an advisory memorandum for attorneys. These tools, together with the substantive chapter information, make *Legal Reasoning, Research, and Writing for International Graduate Students* a useful resource.

Reviewed by: John Miller, UC Hastings College of Law, in 2022.