

THE LAW IN 7 MINUTES

THE LAW

1. CONSTITUTIONS

2. STATUTES/CODES

3. REGULATIONS

4. CASE LAW

US CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1 CONGRESS

ARTICLE 2 EXECUTIVE

ARTICLE 3 COURTS

ARTICLE 4 STATES

ARTICLE 1 CONGRESS

PUBLIC LAWS available in two forms:

1. Chronological in *STATUTES AT LARGE*

2. Codified, updated, organized in USC, USCA, USCS

ARTICLE 2 EXECUTIVE

REGULATIONS available in two forms:

- 1. Chronological in *FEDERAL REGISTER***
- 2. Codified, updated, organized in CFR**

ARTICLE 3 COURTS

CASE LAW (kinda) available in two forms:

1. Chronological in *REPORTERS*

2. Organized in *FEDERAL DIGEST*, but . . .

ARTICLE 4 STATES

NY CONSTITUTION

NY LEGISLATURE

NY EXECUTIVE BRANCH

NY COURTS

NEW YORK LEGISLATURE

CHAPTER LAWS available in two forms:

1. Chronological in *LAWS OF NEW YORK* or *MCKINNEY'S OR CLS SESSION LAWS*

2. Codified, updated, organized in *MCKINNEY'S OR CONSOLIDATED LAW SERVICE (CLS)*

NEW YORK EXECUTIVE

REGULATIONS available in two forms:

1. Chronological in *STATE REGISTER*

**2. Codified, updated, organized in NYCRR or
OFFICIAL COMPILATION RULES & REGULATIONS OF
THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

NEW YORK COURTS

CASE LAW (kinda) available in two forms:

1. Chronological in *REPORTERS*

2. Organized in *NEW YORK DIGEST*, but . . .

LEGAL RESEARCH MINI-PLAYBOOK



*I have a legal issue to research, what do I do?
The answer depends on what, if anything, you have to start with?*

I HAVE NOTHING



SECONDARY SOURCES

1. Don't remake wheel, read for background, context, and to find relevant **STATUTES & CASES**.
2. Treatises/Practitioner materials best, Legal Encyclopedia good.
3. Remember Westlaw and Lexis have *different* sources, try both.
4. Remember some are only in print, go to the library. Ask.



I HAVE A STATUTE SECTION



GO TO ANNOTATED CODE

1. Check statutory scheme (table of contents) for bigger picture, related "definitions" sections, etc.
2. In McKinney's (NY) read Practice Commentaries immediately after statute for background, context, & related statutes, cases, etc.
3. Look for selected cases in Notes of Decisions.
4. Possible secondary sources in Context & Analysis.
5. Use Citing References (or Shepard's) to locate and search (a) pool of all cases and (b) secondary sources citing the statute.



READ SECONDARY SOURCES



I HAVE A CASE



READ & FIND MORE

1. Cases cited in your case
2. Subsequent cases that cite your case (Shepard's or Citing References)
3. Headnotes / Topic & Key numbers.
4. Use Citing References (or Shepard's) to locate and search (a) pool of all other cases and (b) secondary sources citing your case.



READ SECONDARY SOURCES



FINALLY, WHEN AM I DONE?

When you start running into the same cases in all the different places.