

Legal Resources on the Internet

There are many places on the Internet where **free** legal information can be found. As with using any Internet resources, it is critical to know that the sites you visit are well-researched and adhere to high standards of quality. The sites included in this research guide are among the best.

MAJOR COMPREHENSIVE SITES

FindLaw.com - www.findlaw.com

Owned by West, **Findlaw** is one of the most used, free legal resources on the Internet. Its logical breakdown of information and resources makes it easy to navigate. Links point to resources in more than 30 practice areas plus case law, codes, legal associations, law reviews and much more.

lexisONE - www.lexisone.com

From LexisNexis, this free online legal resource is aimed primarily at sole practitioners and smaller firms. It is loaded with free resources, including case law, forms, legal news and links to thousands of law-related web sites. Free registration is required to use this site. There are some pay services, but these are clearly identified and a credit card may be used to purchase access to them.

LEGAL PORTALS AND INDEX PAGES

Hieros Gamos - www.hg.org

Although it can be a bit overwhelming with its huge number of links, **Hieros Gamos** is considered to be the best free site when it comes to foreign and international resources. You will find a "Legal Employment Center" of national job postings as well links to many legal associations. The Law and Practice center contain material relating to 70 different legal topics.

Legal Information Institute (LII) - www.law.cornell.edu

First known for its coverage of the U.S. Supreme Court, this site offers an extensive collection of both federal and state legal materials. **LII's** current awareness section has a sign-up for email notification of U.S. Supreme Court and/or New York Court of Appeals decisions. Click on *liibulletin* to subscribe.

Washlaw WEB - www.washlaw.edu

An easy-to-use index with entry links for each state, the 11 Circuits and many countries. The subject index covers legal topics from Administrative Law to Women in Legal Education.

Guide to Law Online - Library of Congress

http://www.loc.gov/law/help/guide.html

Created by the Public Services Department at the Library of Congress, this site contains links to many federal and state legal resources- usually providing full-text access to primary materials.

LEGAL FORMS

Many legal portals and/or indexes provide links to free online forms. For example, **Findlaw** and **LexisONE** both have forms sections.

Internet Legal Resources Group Forms Archive-

http://www.ilrg.com/forms/index.html

Has a collection of free legal forms. The forms are separated into business and personal forms. You may purchase any form in Word format or simply copy and paste the text of any form into your word processing software and format it yourself for no charge.

Forms Room, 'Lectric Law Library -

www.lectlaw.com/form.html

Forms are divided into two broad categories: "**Business and General**" (e.g., contracts, employment, real estate, corporations, and trusts & wills) and "**Legal Practice**" (e.g., law practice management, litigation, and related matters). When using free forms from the Internet it is important to make sure they comply with the rules in your jurisdiction.

SEARCH ENGINES

Google - www.google.com

Google is among the best general search engines. To view articles on search engines and their performance, visit: <http://searchenginewatch.com>

Google's US Government search -

<http://www.google.com/ig/usgov>

Searches not only federal documents but also state and local ones.

FEDERAL DOCUMENTS

GPO Access - www.gpoaccess.gov

Among other things, this site provides access to the U.S. Code, the Federal Register, the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and the Congressional Record. You also will find links to federal resources available from each branch of the federal government.

Thomas - <http://thomas.loc.gov>

A service of the Library of Congress, **Thomas** provides access to the full text of Public Laws back to 1989. Under "Bill Summary and Status," access is available to bill summaries back to 1973.

USA.gov - www.usa.gov

Easy-to-search centralized place to find information from local, state and U.S. Government agency websites.

FEDERAL COURTS

Federal Judiciary Homepage - www.uscourts.gov

As the official website for the Federal Judiciary, here you can find easy access to each of the federal courts. Also available at this site are court statistics, official forms, employment information and news releases.

STATE RESOURCES

State and Local Government on the Net - www.statelocalgov.net/index.cfm

Organized by state, this frequently-updated directory contains links to official state and local government web sites. It is a very good resource for locating courts, government officials, administrative agencies (including boards and commissions), and even libraries.

Tip! State information often can be located by simply using **www.state.**.us** (insert the two letter postal abbreviation for the state in place of the two asterisks, i.e., www.state.de.us) or, in some instances, by searching **www.nameofstate.gov**, e.g. **www.delaware.gov**.

LEGAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Bar Association - www.abanet.org

This site is full of legal resources. Need to subscribe to a legal online discussion group? Find it here. Want tips on making your firm's website? They have them in their Legal Technology Resource Center under Lawyer

Resources. Want to find out what's new on the national legal front? Check out the ABA Newsroom. You also can find a CLE, subscribe to an ABA journal or find out what one of the ABA commissions has been working on.

RESEARCH GUIDES

Widener's *Legal Information Center* has several research guides containing both print and electronic resources in a particular topical or practice area. These can be found in pdf on the LIC homepage (**www.law.widener.edu/Law-Library**)

Zimmerman's Research Guide -

www.lexisnexis.com/infopro/zimmerman

A searchable, online encyclopedia for legal researchers.

Law and Policy Institutions Guide - www.lpig.org

Find annotations to some of the best law and political resources on the Web. This is a great place to start for government and legal research.

FIND LAWYERS

Martindale-Hubbell - www.martindale.com

Attorneys pay to be included, so tends to have the larger firms.

MISCELLANEOUS

Nolo Law For All - www.nolo.com

Comprehensive self-help site for non-lawyers.

University Law Review Project - lawreview.org

Free, full-text search of law journals on the Internet.

Wex- <http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/index.php>

A legal wiki from Cornell Law School contains articles on a variety of legal topics.

Blawg- www.blawg.com

List of legal blogs (bLAWgs), podcasts and rss feeds.

QUESTIONS?

For additional assistance, contact a reference librarian at 302-477-2114 (Delaware) or 717-541-3934 (Harrisburg) or via instant message at: WidenerLawLib..