



Thomas M. Cooley Law Libraries' Research Guide Series

LEGAL ENCYCLOPEDIAS

Legal Encyclopedias are secondary sources of the law. Secondary sources are statements about the law that are used to explain, interpret, develop, locate or update primary sources. Secondary sources, particularly legal encyclopedias are a good point at which to begin a research project. A legal encyclopedia can provide background and overview of a subject as well as define terminology unique to an area of the law.

Like most encyclopedias, legal encyclopedias are arranged alphabetically by subject with footnote references to cases on point. The footnotes will also reference statutes, regulations, formbooks and treatises as applicable. The narrative generally attempts to state the propositions of law, frequently presenting the majority and minority views.

I. MICHIGAN ENCYCLOPEDIAS

Michigan Civil Jurisprudence

Location: KFM4280 .C3 1957

The burgundy colored set published by West focuses on Michigan civil law. It is alphabetically arranged and topics may be found by using either the topic, index, table of cases and statutory table method. The sections include extensive footnotes and annotations to primary and other secondary sources.

Michigan Criminal Law and Procedure with Forms

Location: KFM4761 .G5 1978

Commonly referred to as Gillespie's in recognition of the original author, Carlton Gillespie, the green colored set comprehensively covers substantive and procedural criminal law topics in the state of Michigan.

Michigan Law and Practice

Location: KFM4265 .M523

The green colored set published by LexisNexis undertakes to offer short primary law summaries followed by in-depth discussion. Annotations to primary and secondary legal sources are presented on each topic. It is alphabetically arranged and topics may be found by using either the topic, index and table of cases method.

Michigan Pleading and Practice

Location: KFM4730 .M52

The blue colored set is arranged by sections. It focuses on the issues pertaining to Michigan's civil process. This includes civil pleadings, practice and procedures in conjunction with Michigan court rules, rules of evidence and professional conduct. The set also includes



example forms. An index to the text and forms facilitates access to the sections. There is also a table of laws and rules and table of cases with which to access the sections.

II. NATIONAL ENCYCLOPEDIAS

American Jurisprudence

Location: KF154 .A42

The alphabetically arranged set restricts its case references to leading cases, but it does include statute references as well as references to uniform laws, ALR annotations, court rules and periodical articles. There is a general index, topical index and table of laws and rules. A separate New Topic Service Binder is where researchers will find new and evolving areas of the law before being relegated to the bound volumes.

American Jurisprudence Proof of Facts

Location: KF8933 .A42

The multi-volume set acts as a guide for a lawyer in the organization and preparation of materials for trial and in the examination of witnesses.

American Jurisprudence Trials

Location: KF8915 .A74

One part of the multi-volume trial practice treatise covers matters that are common to all types of problems in trial practice. The second part deals with the handling of trials for a specific topic.

Corpus Juris Secundum

Location: KF154 .C56

This was originally intended to be a Restatement of the entire body of American law, the set acts as a comprehensive overview of the law which includes footnote references to case law from state and federal courts. West topic and key numbers are included. There is a multi-volume General Index and each topic has a separate detailed index. It also includes a table of cases and a table of laws and rules. Words and phrases are also defined.

