



<i>Preface</i>	xiii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xv
<b>PART I RESEARCH PROCESS</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Chapter 1 Introduction to Legal Research</b>	<b>3</b>
A. Introduction	3
B. The research thought process	3
C. A process for legal research	6
<b>Chapter 2 The American Legal System</b>	<b>9</b>
A. Sources of law	9
B. Types and weight of authority	12
1. Types of authority	12
2. Weight of authority	12
a. Secondary authority: always nonbinding	13
b. Primary authority: sometimes binding, sometimes nonbinding	13
c. Summary of weight of authority	18
C. How legal information is organized and cited	18
<b>Chapter 3 Defining a Research Question</b>	<b>21</b>
A. What question do you need to answer?	21
B. What terms are likely to describe what you are looking for?	24
C. Search term chart	25
<b>Chapter 4 Pre-Search Filtering</b>	<b>27</b>
A. How pre-search filtering affects research	27
B. Criteria for pre-search filtering	29
C. A process for pre-search filtering	31
<b>Chapter 5 Research Tools and Search Techniques</b>	<b>35</b>
A. Selecting a research tool	35
B. Common search techniques: citation, word, and subject searching	36
C. Effective word searching	38
1. Types of word searches	38
2. Drafting effective word searches	39
3. Terms and connectors searching	40
a. Terms and connectors search logic	40

b. Drafting a terms and connectors search	42
4. Example searches	43
<b>Chapter 6 Working with Search Results</b>	<b>47</b>
A. Assessing search results	47
1. The organization of the results	47
2. Telling things apart online	48
3. Post-search filtering	50
B. Updating research	52
C. Refining, repeating, and ending the search	53
1. Is your research complete?	54
2. What if you do not find anything useful?	55
3. What if you find an overwhelming amount of information?	56
<b>Chapter 7 Keeping Track of What You Find</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>PART II RESEARCHING INDIVIDUAL TYPES OF AUTHORITY</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Chapter 8 Legal and Nonlegal Secondary Sources</b>	<b>65</b>
A. Introduction	65
1. When secondary sources will be most useful	65
2. Limits on the appropriate use of secondary sources	66
3. Traditional legal secondary sources	67
a. Legal encyclopedias	67
b. Treatises	67
c. Legal periodicals	68
d. <i>American Law Reports</i> Annotations	70
e. Restatements	70
f. Uniform laws and model acts	71
B. Methods of researching legal secondary sources	71
1. Legal encyclopedias	73
2. Treatises	74
3. Legal periodicals	75
4. <i>American Law Reports</i>	76
5. Restatements	77
6. Uniform laws and model acts	78
C. Researching nonlegal secondary sources	79
D. Researching secondary sources in print	80
<b>Chapter 9 Cases</b>	<b>83</b>
A. Introduction	83
1. The structure of the court system	83
2. Sources of cases	83
3. The anatomy of a published case	86
4. Unpublished, or nonprecedential, opinions	88
B. Methods of researching cases	89

C. Case research example	91
D. Specialized tools for case research	94
<b>Chapter 10 Citators and Other Updating Tools</b>	<b>97</b>
A. Introduction	97
1. The purpose of a citator	97
2. When to use a citator in case research	98
3. Terms and procedural concepts used in citator research	98
B. Using a citator for case research	99
1. Shepard's in Lexis	99
2. KeyCite in Westlaw	102
3. BCite in Bloomberg Law	105
C. Choosing among citators	106
D. Staying up to date with alert services	107
<b>Chapter 11 Statutes and Court Rules</b>	<b>109</b>
A. Introduction	109
1. The publication process for federal statutes	109
2. The organization of statutory codes	111
3. Types and sources of statutory codes	111
B. Methods of researching statutes and court rules	114
1. Researching statutes	114
2. Researching court rules	115
C. Statutory research example	116
D. Using a citator for statutory research	120
<b>Chapter 12 Federal Legislative History and Administrative Regulations</b>	<b>123</b>
A. Federal legislative history	123
1. Introduction	123
2. The process of enacting a federal law	124
3. Types of federal legislative history documents	125
a. Bills	126
b. Hearings	126
c. Floor debates	126
d. Committee reports	127
4. Methods of researching federal legislative history documents	127
a. Compiled legislative histories	128
b. Government sources	129
c. Commercial services	129
B. Federal administrative regulations	130
1. Introduction	130
2. The process of adopting a federal regulation	131
3. Methods of researching federal regulations	132
4. Sources of federal regulations	133
a. Government sources	133
b. Commercial services	133

<b>PART III</b>	<b>RESEARCH FLOWCHARTS</b>	135
	A. General research flowchart	136
	B. Nonbinding authority research flowchart	138
	C. Flowcharts for four common types of research	140
	1. State common-law research flowchart	141
	2. State statutory research flowchart	142
	3. Federal statutory research flowchart	143
	4. State and federal procedural research flowchart	144
<b>Appendix</b>	<b>Selected Research Resources</b>	145
	<i>Index</i>	151