CA Legal Research Guides – Table of Contents

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Lincoln Law School of San Jose Research Guide

I. Statutes & Legislature

Statutes & Codes

Finding California Statutes
http://libguides.law.ucla.edu/content.php?pid=39743

Print
• West's Annotated California Code

Electronic
• Westlaw: CA-ST-ANN (online version of West's Annotated California Code)
  http://tinyurl.com/7n8wbnu
• Internet: State Statutes
  http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html

Legislature Resources Online

Frequently Asked Questions about California Law
http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/faq.html

California Constitution
Links to the table of contents for the State of California Constitution.
http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/const-toc.html

California and U.S. Legal History
UC Hastings research guide for California and US legal history.
http://library.uchastings.edu/library/guides/california-research/CAlegalhistory.html

California Legislative Information
http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/

Legislative Index
(http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/legpubs-legindex.html)

Table of Sections Affected
(http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/legpubs-tosa.html)

California Session Laws
(http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/statute.html)

California Legislature Bill Information
(http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html)

A Guide to Accessing Legislative Information on the Internet
(http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/guide.html)

Official California Legislative Information
(http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/index.html)

Initiative Process in California
UC Hastings guide to the Initiative process in California, including helpful websites.
(http://library.uchastings.edu/library/guides/california-research/initiatives.html)

Legislative Analyst's Office
California's nonpartisan fiscal and policy advisor for the 2013 budget, high-speed rail & other California concerns.
(http://www.lao.ca.gov/)

California Law Revision Commission
An independent state agency reviewing and recommending reforms for state laws.
(http://www.clrc.ca.gov/)

State Legislature Homepage
http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/

CA Senate - CA Senate page, with info about hearings, committees & more.
(http://senate.ca.gov/)

California Senate Daily File - publication of the day's meetings and events.
(http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/dayfile.html)

California Senate Daily Journal - daily publications, grouped according to month on Senate minutes.
(http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/senate-journal.html)

Legislative Council Agency Reports - information about reports by various state and local agencies.
(http://www.agencyreports.ca.gov/)

California State Assembly (House)
(http://www.assembly.ca.gov/defaulttext.asp)

California Assembly Daily File
(http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/dayfile.html)

California Bills - Search California bills by session, house (Assembly or Senate) and author.
(http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html)

California Statutes, 1993 - Search California statutes, dating back to 1993.
(http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/statute.html)

California Bills Index - Index of Assembly and Senate bills dating from 1993. Bills are listed sequentially by bill number, and alphabetically by the bill's author.
(http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilindex.html)
II. The Judicial Branch (Courts & Case Law)

**California Courts** Homepage to the California Judicial Branch.
(http://www.courts.ca.gov)

**California Courts: Rules** Rules of court, amended and local rules.
(http://www.courts.ca.gov/rules.htm)

**California Official Reports** Search published opinions on California cases, by Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.
(http://www.lexisnexis.com/clients/CACourts/)

**U.S. District Court, Central District of California**
(http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/)

**U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California**
(http://www.caed.uscourts.gov/)

**U.S. District Court, Northern District of California**
(http://www.cand.uscourts.gov/)

**U.S. District Court, Southern District of California**
(http://www.casd.uscourts.gov/)

**California Judicial Council** The policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation.
(http://www.courts.ca.gov/policyadmin-jc.htm)

**Judicial Council Forms** Browse all forms, or view lists by number or name.
(http://www.courts.ca.gov/forms.htm)

**California Courts Self Help Center** - Find legal resources and legal contact information for your legal concerns.

**California Case Law** Search Federal District Courts of California, and State Supreme and Appellate courts.
(http://california.lp.findlaw.com/ca02_caselaw/index.html)

**California Appellate Courts Case Information System** This system provides case information for California Supreme Court and Court of Appeal cases. Case information is updated once an hour throughout the business day.
(http://appellatecases.courtinfo.ca.gov/)

**United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit** With quick links to view cases, announcements, oral arguments and inmate execution dates.
(http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/)

**U.S. Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit Opinions** Published opinions by the 9th Circuit Courts, including Case Code Glossary. View cases in order of title, case #, case origin, case type, case code, or date filed.
(http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/opinions/)

**California Courts: Opinions of the Supreme Court and Courts of Appeals** View published & unpublished opinions for 1st through 6th Appellate Districts.
(http://www.courts.ca.gov/opinions.htm)

**California Supreme Court and Appellate Court Slip Opinions** Posted by month.
(http://www.courts.ca.gov/opinions.htm)

**California Supreme Court and Appellate Court Opinions** Decision date back to 1893. Browseable by year and U.S. Reports volume number, and searchable by citation, case title and full text.
(http://www.findlaw.com/cacases/)
III. Executive Branch – Administrative Law

**California Code of Regulations** Provides free public access to the full text of the CCR.
(http://www.calregs.com/)

**California Attorney General** Kamala D. Harris
(http://caag.state.ca.us/)

**California Attorney General Opinions** Print requests necessary for published copies of opinions by the California Attorney General. Opinions dating to 1986 may be viewed on the website.
(http://oag.ca.gov/opinions)

**California Secretary of State** Debra Bowen
(http://www.sos.ca.gov/)

**California Regulatory Notice Register** Covers the past twelve months and is sorted by agency name.
(http://www.oal.ca.gov/notice_register.htm)

**State of California Administrative Manual** A reference source for statewide policies, procedures, regulations and information developed and issued by authoring agencies such as the Governor’s Office, Department of General Services (DGS), Department of Finance (DOF), and Department of Personnel Administration.
(http://sam.dgs.ca.gov/default.htm)

**California Office of Administrative Hearings** Includes relevant laws and regulations
(http://www.oah.dgs.ca.gov/)

**California Office of Administrative Law** Includes publications list and checklists
(http://www.oal.ca.gov/)

**California Franchise Tax Board** Track your California taxes information, learn more about California taxes for individual and business needs.
(http://www.ftb.ca.gov/index.shtml)

**California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board** An independent administrative court system for workers and employers seeking to challenge decisions made by the Employment Development Department (EDD).
(http://www.cuiab.ca.gov/index.shtm)

**California Public Utilities Commission** Regulates privately owned electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water, railroad, rail transit, and passenger transportation companies.
(http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/puc/)
IV. REGULATIONS & AGENCIES

**Regulations**

**California Regulations and Administrative Law** UC Hastings guide outlines how to locate and update California regulations.

[http://library.uchastings.edu/library/guides/california-research/calregs.html](http://library.uchastings.edu/library/guides/california-research/calregs.html)

**Electronic Database:**

**Westlaw:**

**CA-CS** (state cases)


**CA-ADC** (regulations)


**Internet Resources:**

**Administrative Code**

[http://ccr.oal.ca.gov/](http://ccr.oal.ca.gov/)

**California Regulatory Notice Register**

[http://www.oal.ca.gov/Notice_Register.htm](http://www.oal.ca.gov/Notice_Register.htm)

**Agencies**

**Attorney General Opinions**


[http://gov.ca.gov/](http://gov.ca.gov/)

**State Agencies and Departments** California Agency directory.

[http://www.ca.gov/CaSearch/Agencies.aspx](http://www.ca.gov/CaSearch/Agencies.aspx)

**California State Agency Databases** An annotated list of databases produced by the State of California, divided by the three elected branches of our government or agencies of the Executive.


**California Courts**

[http://www.courts.ca.gov/](http://www.courts.ca.gov/)

**Administrative Office of the Court** The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is the staff agency of the Judicial Council

[http://www.courts.ca.gov/policyadmin-aoc.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/policyadmin-aoc.htm)

**Judicial Council** The policy-making body for the state court system.

[http://www.courts.ca.gov/policyadmin.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/policyadmin.htm)

**California Rules of Court** Rules of court, amended and local rules.

[http://www.courts.ca.gov/rules.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/rules.htm)

**Trial Courts – Municipal and Superior** California has 58 trial courts, one in each county. In trial courts, or superior courts, a judge and sometimes a jury hears witnesses' testimony and other evidence and decides cases by applying the relevant law to the relevant facts. The California courts serve nearly 34 million people.

[http://www.courts.ca.gov/superiorkourts.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/superiorkourts.htm)

**Local Government Law** UC Hastings guide to Municipal Ordinances & Organizations for individual cities and counties in California.


**California Counties** (California State Association of Counties)


**California Cities** (League of California Cities)


**Municipal and County Codes and Ordinances**

[http://california.findlaw.com/CA01_codes/municode.html](http://california.findlaw.com/CA01_codes/municode.html)

**Current State and Local Government Problems (PLRI)**

[http://library.uchastings.edu/library/guides/california-research/plri-class.html](http://library.uchastings.edu/library/guides/california-research/plri-class.html)
V. CASES & COURTS

Cases

Print
California Appellate Reports (1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th series),
California Reports (1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th series)
West's California Reporter (1st, 2nd & 3rd series)

Electronic
CA-CS (state cases)
&
CA-ADC (regulations)

Internet:
Court Opinions Published and Unpublished Case opinions of the California Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal.
http://www.courts.ca.gov/opinions.htm

Courts
California Courts Homepage to the California Judicial Branch.
http://www.courts.ca.gov/

Administrative Office of the Court The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is the staff agency of the Judicial Council
http://www.courts.ca.gov/policyadmin-aoc.htm

Judicial Council The policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation.
http://www.courts.ca.gov/policyadmin.htm

California Rules of Court Rules of court, amended and local rules.
http://www.courts.ca.gov/rules.htm

Trial Courts – Municipal and Superior California has 58 trial courts, one in each county. In trial courts, or superior courts, a judge and sometimes a jury hears witnesses’ testimony and other evidence and decides cases by applying the relevant law to the relevant facts. The California courts serve nearly 34 million people.
http://www.courts.ca.gov/superiorcourts.htm
VI. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government Law
UC Hastings guide to local laws and regulations for California cities and counties.
http://library.uchastings.edu/library/guides/local-government/local-govt.html

California Counties
(California State Association of Counties)
http://www.csac.counties.org/default.asp?id=3

California Cities
(League of California Cities)
http://www.cacities.org/

Municipal and County Codes and Ordinances
http://california.findlaw.com/CA01_codes/municode.html

Current State and Local Government Problems (PLRI)
http://library.uchastings.edu/library/guides/california-research/plri-class.html

Resources for State and Local Employees
Various topics for government information.
http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/All-Topics.shtml
VII. GENERAL RESOURCES

State Encyclopedias

Print
Cal Jur III
Witkin’s Summary of California Law

Electronic
Westlaw – Log-in required:
CA-JUR http://tinyurl.com/74pska8

General resources online
State of California Government website.
http://www.ca.gov/index.asp

Bay Area Libraries for Legal Research UC Hastings PDF of Bay Area libraries with resources for legal study and research, with all pertinent contact information.
http://library.uchastings.edu/library/services/ask-alibrarian/Bay%20Area%20Libraries%20for%20Legal%20Research.pdf

California County Law Libraries Data for County Law Libraries for California, including hours, locations and contact information.
http://www.publiclawlibrary.org/find.html

California State Library For news on the State Library of California.
http://www.library.ca.gov/

State Bar of California Resources for potential and current lawyers & law schools.
http://www.calbar.ca.gov/state/calbar/calbar_home.jsp

Ethics Research Online Full text of ethics opinions issued by The State Bar of California Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct. (http://ethics.calbar.ca.gov/Committees/COPRAC.aspx)
http://ethics.calbar.ca.gov/Ethics/Opinions.aspx

California Law on the Internet UC Hastings guide to California Law online, divided into 5 fields: Courts, Judges & Cases; Laws & Regulations; Government Pages; Elective Information; Lawyers.
http://library.uchastings.edu/library/guides/california-research/california-law.html

FindLaw: California California research & resources page.
http://california.findlaw.com/

California Legal Forms UC Hastings guide to legal forms online & titles in print.
http://library.uchastings.edu/library/guides/california-research/callegforms.html

California Civil Procedure Online and print resources for California Civil Procedure.
http://library.uchastings.edu/library/guides/california-research/ca-civil-procedure.html

Legal Information Institute California Cornell University guide to California legal materials.
http://www.law.cornell.edu/states/california.html


California Bar Journal The official publication of the California State Bar.
http://www.calbarjournal.com/May2012/TopHeadlines.aspx

Tax Forms California tax forms & publications.
http://www.ftb.ca.gov/forms/search/index.aspx

Bar Association of San Francisco Resources for the Bay Area legal community.
http://www.sfbbar.org/

Lawyer Directory from Martindale Find a lawyer by name, practice, city or other search term.
http://www.martindale.com/

Attorney’s Toolbox Online tools and resources for practicing legal professionals.
http://www.martindale.com/tools.html

Law.com California The Recorder (Essential California Legal Content).
http://www.law.com/jsp/ca/index.jsp
http://www.loc.gov/law/help/guide/states.html#legal

Cornell Legal Information Institute California Cornell University California legal materials.
http://www.law.cornell.edu/states/california.html

Georgetown University Law Library: California Georgetown University California legal materials.
http://www.lil.georgetown.edu/states/california.cfm

Laws and Regulations (State of California)
http://www.ca.gov/About/Government/State/LawsAndRegs.html

Law Schools
http://stu.findlaw.com/schools/usaschools/california.html

Law School Libraries
http://california.lp.findlaw.com/ca05_law_libraries/schools.html

Law Schools in California (State Bar of California)
http://calbar.ca.gov/state/calbar/calbar_generic.jsp?cid=10115&id=5128

Libraries and Library Organizations (Northern California Association of Law Libraries)
http://www.nocall.org/links/libraries.html

LLSDC Legislative Source Book: California California State Assembly & State Senate documents and information.
http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/

Northern California Association of Law Libraries
http://www.nocall.org/

SANDALL: San Diego Area Law Libraries
http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/sandall/index.htm

Southern California Association of Law Libraries
http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/scall/

Western Pacific Association of Law Libraries
http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/westpac/

Research Guides

California Laws and Resources (Northern California Association of Law Libraries)
http://www.nocall.org/links/california.html

California Legal Resources (University of Southern California Law Library
http://law.usc.edu/library/resources/links/california.cfm

Finding California Legislative History (University of San Francisco Law Library)
http://www.usfca.edu/law_library/calleg.html

California Legislative History Information (Los Angeles County Law Library) (Los Angeles County Law Library)
http://llalaw.lib.ca.us/research/pathfinders/califleghistory/

A Guide to Finding California Legislative History (University of California Berkeley Law Library)

Internet Resources by Subject (Northern California Association of Law Libraries)
http://www.nocall.org/links/index.html
## IX. How To Read a Legal Citation – CA Edition

- **Cases**
  - CA Supreme Courts = *California Reports*
  - CA Court of Appeals = *California Appellate Reports*

### 1. CA Supreme Courts = *California Reports*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case Name</th>
<th>1st Citation</th>
<th>2nd Citation</th>
<th>3rd Citation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People v. Cash., 28 Cal. 4th 703, 122 Cal. Rptr. 3d 545; 50 P.3d 332 (2002)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Case name / name of parties (by last name/company name)**
People (Plaintiff) v. Cash (Appellant),

**First Citation / Official Citation** = *California Reports*

**Second & Third citations / Unofficial or Parallel Citations** = *California Reporter & Pacific Reporter*

#### Locating the Citation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>28 Cal 4th 703</th>
<th>122 Cal Rptr. 3d 545</th>
<th>502 P.3d (2002)</th>
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<tr>
<td>28 = Volume #</td>
<td>122 = Volume #</td>
<td>50 = Volume #</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cal 4th = 4th Series</td>
<td>Cal Rptr. 3rd = CA Reporter 3rd Series</td>
<td>P.3d = Pacific Reporter 3rd series</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>703 = page number</td>
<td>545 = page number</td>
<td>332 = page number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>2002 = year of decision</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2. CA Court of Appeals = *California Appellate Reports*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case Name</th>
<th>1st Citation,</th>
<th>2nd Citation,</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Case name / names of parties (by last name/company name)**
Armstrong (plaintiff) v. County of San Mateo (appellant),

**First Citation / Official Citation** = *California Appellate Reports*

**Second Citation / Unofficial or Parallel Citation** = *Cal Reporter*

#### Locating the Citation

<table>
<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>146 = Volume #</td>
<td>194 = Volume #</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cal App. 3d = CA Appellate Reports 2nd Series</td>
<td>Cal Rptr = CA Reporter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>597 = page number</td>
<td>296 = page number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1983 = year of decision</td>
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</table>

- **Statutes or Codes** = *West’s Annotated California Codes*
  - Usually does not include parallel citation
  - Year of publication of print volume used, **not** the year of enactment or amendment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of Code</th>
<th>Section #</th>
<th>Publisher &amp; Date,</th>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>§ 37220</td>
<td>(West 2009)</td>
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</table>
## X. Sources of the Law – Federal, State & Local

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislative (Statutory Law)</th>
<th>Executive (Administrative Law)</th>
<th>Judicial (Case or Common Law)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Federal</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>US Statutes At Large</td>
<td>Treaties</td>
<td>US Supreme Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USCCAN (West)</td>
<td>Executive Orders</td>
<td>US Reports</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cabinet &amp; Admin. Agencies</td>
<td>Supreme Court Reporter - Lawyer’s Edition</td>
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<td>Federal Register</td>
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<td>Code of Federal Regulations</td>
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<td>Admin. Agency Decisions</td>
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<td>California Code of Regulations</td>
<td>West’s California Reporter</td>
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<td>California Appellate Reports</td>
</tr>
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<td>California Regulatory Notice Register</td>
<td>West’s Pacific Reporter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West’s California Annotated Codes</td>
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<td>Deering’s California Annotated Codes</td>
<td>California Attorney General</td>
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<td>LARMAC Consolidated Index to the Constitution and Laws of California</td>
<td><a href="http://caag.state.ca.us/">http://caag.state.ca.us/</a></td>
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<td>Statutes and Amendments to the Codes</td>
<td>California Governor</td>
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<td>California Office of Administrative Hearings</td>
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<td>California Office of Administrative Law</td>
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<td>California Public Utilities Commission</td>
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<td>SCOCAL</td>
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<td><a href="http://scocal.stanford.edu/">http://scocal.stanford.edu/</a></td>
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<td><strong>Santa Clara County</strong></td>
<td>San Jose Municipal Code</td>
<td>Court Rules – Local San Jose</td>
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<td>Santa Clara County Codes &amp; Ordinances</td>
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<td><a href="http://tinyurl.com/72r4z3t">http://tinyurl.com/72r4z3t</a></td>
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</table>