

CA Legal Research Guides

Lincoln Law School of San Jose
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Lincoln Law School of San Jose Research Guide

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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>)

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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/>)

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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/>)

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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>

Electronic Database:

Westlaw:

CA-CS (state cases)

[https://1.next.westlaw.com/Browse/Home/Cases/CaliforniaStateFederalCases/CaliforniaStateCases?transitionType=Default&contextData=\(sc.Default\)](https://1.next.westlaw.com/Browse/Home/Cases/CaliforniaStateFederalCases/CaliforniaStateCases?transitionType=Default&contextData=(sc.Default))

&

CA-ADC (regulations)

(<http://lawschool.westlaw.com/shared/westlawRedirect.asp?url=http%3A//www.westlaw.com/search/default.wl?db=CA-ADC&Action=search&RS=ITK3.0&VR=1.0&appflag=87.9>)

Internet Resources:

Administrative Code

<http://ccr.oal.ca.gov/>

California Regulatory Notice Register

http://www.oal.ca.gov/Notice_Register.htm

Agencies

Attorney General Opinions

<http://ag.ca.gov/opinions.php>

Office of the Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.

<http://gov.ca.gov/>

State Agencies and Departments California Agency directory.

<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.

<http://wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/California>

California Courts

<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 policy-making body for the state court system.

<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>

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

<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>

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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)

[https://1.next.westlaw.com/Browse/Home/Cases/CaliforniaStateFederalCases/CaliforniaStateCases?transitionType=Default&contextData=\(sc.Default\)](https://1.next.westlaw.com/Browse/Home/Cases/CaliforniaStateFederalCases/CaliforniaStateCases?transitionType=Default&contextData=(sc.Default))

&

CA-ADC (regulations)

(<http://lawschool.westlaw.com/shared/westlawRedirect.asp?url=http%3A//www.westlaw.com/search/default.wl?db=CA-ADC&Action=search&RS=ITK3.0&VR=1.0&appflag=87.9>)

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>

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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>

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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>

Library of Congress: California Legal Resources Library of Congress guide to California legal materials.

<http://www.loc.gov/law/help/guide/states/us-ca.php>

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.sfbar.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.macattorney.com/tools.html>

Law.com California The Recorder (Essential California Legal Content).

<http://www.law.com/jsp/ca/index.jsp>

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VIII. LEGAL AND RESEARCH GUIDES

Law Libraries in California

Guide: U.S. States & Territories: Legal Links (*Law Library of Congress*)

<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.ll.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://lalaw.lib.ca.us/research/pathfinders/califleghistory/>

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

<http://www.law.berkeley.edu/library/dynamic/guide.php?guide=general/calLegis>

Internet Resources by Subject (*Northern California Association of Law Libraries*)

<http://www.nocall.org/links/index.html>

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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*

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

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

| 28 Cal 4th 703 | 122 Cal Rptr. 3d 545 | 502 P.3d (2002) |
|--|--|--|
| 28 = Volume # | 122 = Volume # | 50 = Volume # |
| Cal 4 th = 4 th Series | Cal Rptr. 3 rd = CA Reporter 3 rd Series | P.3d = Pacific Reporter 3 rd series |
| 703 = page number | 545 = page number | 332= page number |
| | | 2002 = year of decision |

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

| Case Name | 1st Citation, | 2nd Citation, |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Armstrong v. County of San Mateo., | 146 Cal. App. 3d 597, | 194 Cal. Rptr 296 (1983) |

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

| 146 Cal. App. 3d 597 | 194 Cal. Rptr 296 (1983) |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 146 = Volume # | 194 = Volume # |
| Cal App. 3d = CA Appellate Reports 2 nd Series | Cal Rptr = CA Reporter |
| 597 = page number | 296 = page number |
| | 1983 = year of decision |

- **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

| Title of Code | Section # | Publisher & Date, |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Education | § 37220 | (West 2009) |

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X. Sources of the Law – Federal, State & Local

| | Legislative (Statutory Law) | Executive (Administrative Law) | Judicial (Case or Common Law) |
|---------------------------|---|--|--|
| Federal | <p>US Statutes At Large</p> <p>USCCAN (West)</p> <p><i>United States Code</i> http://uscode.house.gov/search/criteria.shtml</p> | <p>Treaties</p> <p><i>Executive Orders</i> http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/orders</p> <p>Cabinet & Admin. Agencies <i>Federal Register</i> http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html</p> <p><i>Code of Federal Regulations</i> http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html</p> <p><i>Admin. Agency Decisions</i> http://www.usa.gov/</p> | <p>US Supreme Court</p> <p>US Reports <i>Supreme Court</i> http://www.supremecourtus.gov/</p> <p><i>Supreme Court Index</i> http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct/index.html</p> <p>Supreme Court Reporter - Lawyer's Edition</p> <p><i>US Courts of Appeal</i> <i>Federal Reporter</i></p> <p><i>US District Court</i> <i>Federal Supplement</i></p> <p>Court Rules - Federal http://www.uscourts.gov/Home.aspx</p> |
| California | <p><i>California Annotated Codes</i> www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html</p> <p>West's California Annotated Codes</p> <p>Deering's California Annotated Codes</p> <p>LARMAC Consilidated Index to the Constitution and Laws of California</p> <p>Statutes and Amendments to the Codes</p> | <p><i>California Code of Regulations</i> http://tinyurl.com/y3kvsvd</p> <p><i>California Regulatory Notice Register</i> http://www.oal.ca.gov/Notice_Register.htm</p> <p><i>California Attorney General</i> http://caag.state.ca.us/</p> <p><i>Attorney General Opinions</i> http://ag.ca.gov/opinions/index.php</p> <p><i>California Governor</i> http://gov.ca.gov/</p> <p><i>California Office of Administrative Hearings</i> http://www.oah.dgs.ca.gov/</p> <p><i>California Office of Administrative Law</i> http://www.oal.ca.gov/</p> <p><i>California Public Utilities Commission</i> http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/puc/</p> | <p>West's California Reporter</p> <p>California Appellate Reports</p> <p>West's Pacific Reporter</p> <p>Court Rules - California http://www.courts.ca.gov/rules.htm?legaltab</p> <p>California Courts http://www.courts.ca.gov/</p> <p>California Supreme Court http://www.courts.ca.gov/courts/supreme.htm</p> <p>California Courts of Appeal http://www.courts.ca.gov/courts/courts_of_appeal/.htm</p> <p>California Superior Courts http://www.courts.ca.gov/superiorcourts.htm</p> <p>California Cases http://www.courts.ca.gov/opinions/.htm</p> <p>SCOCAL http://scocal.stanford.edu/</p> |
| Santa Clara County | <p><i>San Jose Municipal Code</i> http://tinyurl.com/3wywy25</p> <p><i>Santa Clara County Codes & Ordinances</i> http://tinyurl.com/72r4z3t</p> | | <p>Court Rules – Local San Jose http://tinyurl.com/69zods7</p> |