

# Meet CRS's Law Librarians at the Spring Federal Law Update

March 27, 2019

Research is the foundation of legal and legislative analysis. The Law Librarians in Research and Library Services (RLS) of the American Law Division (ALD) work directly with Members of Congress, committees, and congressional staff to locate, obtain, and compile primary and secondary federal and state legal materials.

Members and staff are welcome to meet with ALD Law Librarians the first week of ALD's spring Federal Law Update (FLU), a series of CRS legal seminars that will be held the **first two weeks of April 2019**. Law Librarians will be available at the FLU on April 2-4, 2019 to discuss Congress.gov and ways in which the Law Librarians can assist with legal research questions that arise during the legislative process. This year, the spring FLU seminars will be held **April 2-4 and 9-11** in the **Montpelier Room of the James Madison Memorial Building** in the Library of Congress. To register, click [here](#).

The ALD Law Librarians specialize in finding and retrieving legal information. Select examples of services the Law Librarians regularly provide are as follows:

## **Federal Statutory Law and Legislative Materials**

- Researching statutes as originally enacted and as codified in the United States Code (U.S.C.), as well as proposed legislation and amendments thereto.
- Compiling comprehensive and selected legislative histories.
- Retrieving congressional publications, such as committee hearings, reports, and prints.
- Assembling roll call vote reports by bill, statute, or topic.

## **Federal Administrative Law**

- Researching agency notices, proposed and final rules, and regulations as published in the Federal Register and as codified in the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.).
- Compiling comprehensive and selected regulatory histories.
- Locating published presidential documents (e.g., executive orders, proclamations, and signing statements).

**Congressional Research Service**

<https://crsreports.congress.gov>

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- Obtaining published administrative agency decisions and guidance.

**Federal Case Law**

- Researching cases that interpret particular U.S.C. or C.F.R. provisions.
- Identifying cases that address a particular legal issue or involve a specified party.
- Compiling the appellate history of a case or a list of other cases citing it through tools like Shepard's Citations.
- Obtaining briefs submitted in U.S. Supreme Court cases.
- Retrieving information concerning the status and court filings for a case (i.e., PACER dockets and court records).

**State Law**

- Identifying state statutes on a particular topic or compiling comparative examples from multiple states.
- Researching state administrative codes and other published state administrative agency materials.
- Searching for cases in state courts on a particular issue or with a specified party.

**Secondary Sources**

- Identifying CRS and other government agency reports, legal treatises, and law review/law journal articles that summarize, explain, or analyze particular legal issues.
- Providing news articles and other current awareness publications on legal and legislative developments.

To place a research request with the ALD Law Librarians, please call 7-6006.

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