

FINDING THE LAW AT NAPERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

CONSTITUTIONS: FEDERAL AND STATE

FEDERAL

Reference [Encyclopedia of the American Constitution](#)
342.7302303 6 volumes
ENC New York: Macmillan Reference, 2000
(available at Nichols and 95th Street libraries)

*Also available in the [**Gale Virtual Reference Library**](#), Naperville Public Library Online Databases Collection.*

Articles on topics related to federal constitutional law, including summaries of significant United States Supreme Court decisions.

United States Constitution

<http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/constitution>

THE STATES

Reference [State Constitutions of the United States](#)
342.73 2nd edition
MAD Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly, 2006
(available at Nichols, Naper Boulevard, and 95th Street Libraries)

A collection of articles on each of the fifty state constitutions of the United States.

Constitutions for all fifty states:

<http://public.findlaw.com/constitution-day/state-constitutions.html>

CODIFIED AND COMMON LAW

Beyond federal and state constitutions, the law sources found at the Naperville Public Library can be classified as either codified law (the legislative acts passed by the United States Congress or state legislatures) or as common law (the decisions of federal, state, and local courts). The Naperville Public Library, while

not a full-service legal research facility, is able to provide access to a substantial number of the federal, state, and local law sources publicly available.

CODIFIED LAW

The Naperville Public Library holds basic resources in federal, state, and local codified law in its collections, searchable by **Popular Name**, **Subject**, and **Citation**.

POPULAR NAMES

Popular Names are the names codified laws bear at the time of passage by the United States Congress and state legislatures. The *Securities Exchange Act of 1934* and the *Fair Trade Act* are examples of popular names of laws.

WHERE TO FIND LAWS BY POPULAR NAME

FEDERAL LAWS

Codified laws take two forms: *statutes* and *regulations*. Statutes are legislative acts governing our social and commercial behavior. Regulations are rules created by special government agencies determining measurable standards that promote the general welfare. For example, a law that allows the Environmental Protection Agency to be created is a *statute*. A rule by the EPA on what constitutes acceptable air quality is a *regulation*.

Nichols Library has the federal statutes, known as the ***United States Code***.

For older laws:

Reference [United States Code](#)
342.73 2000 edition
UNI *Popular Name Table* - Volume 27, p. 725-975
 (available at the Nichols Library only)

The *Code* can also be searched on the Internet at:

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode>

For new and recently enacted laws:

Try the *Public Laws* website at:

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/plaws/index.html>

ILLINOIS LAWS

Reference [*Illinois Compiled Statutes*](#)

345.773 2004 edition

ILL *Popular Name Table* - Volume 9, part M-Z

(available at Nichols, Naper Boulevard, and 95th Street libraries)

Search the *Compiled Statutes* website at:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs.asp>

SUBJECT ACCESS TO CODIFIED LAW

Legal research by subject in paper sources is difficult. Street terms for a subject may not be the ones lawyers use when discussing the subject. Cross-referencing in the subject indexes to law codes is confusing to a first-time user. Below are examples of subjects and what the different cross-referencing terms mean when using the subject indexes for the *United States Code* and the *Illinois Compiled Statutes*.

1. **generally, this index** – tells the user to look in the general alphabetical listings of subject headings under the term preceding the phrase.

Example: Under the subject “Vegetable Seeds” you find the entry “Potatoes, generally, this index.” This means you should look under “Potatoes” in the general alphabetical listing to find a subject listing and law citations related to potatoes.

2. **this index** – tells the user that the phrase preceding this term is a main subject heading in itself. If you want to find this term in connection with the main subject under which you were looking, search for that subject as a subheading under the phrase preceded by “this index.”

Example: Under the subject “Armed Forces” you find the entry “Fines, Penalties and Forfeitures, this index.” This means you should look under “Fines, Penalties and Forfeitures” in the general subject listings alphabetically, and then look for “Armed Forces” as a subheading under that subject. Law citations will be found under the “Armed Forces” subheading.

3. **see specific index headings** – tells the user the subject heading has no real meaning in itself, but only in connection with a more general concept or subject.

Example: Under the subject “Assets” you find the entry “see specific index headings.” This means you need to look under specific subjects related to assets in the index, such as “Bankruptcy.”

Special Indexing Terms

1. **et seq.** – used to indicate that the subject is covered on a number of pages and sections after the section named.

Example: "38 5011 et seq." translates to “Title 38, section 5011 and following sections.”

2. **ante** – directs the user to the earlier parts of the alphabetical list of subjects under the same heading.

Example: Under the subject “Atomic Energy,” subheading “Officers and Employees,” you find “Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ante, this heading.” This means you should look under “Atomic Energy,” subheading “Nuclear Regulatory Commission,” found under the earlier subheadings, to find matter related to its officers and employees.

3. **post** – directs the user to the later part of the alphabetical list of subjects under the same heading.

Example: Under the subject “Aliens,” subheading “Crimes and offenses,” you find “Political contributions by, generally, post, this heading.” This means you should look under “Aliens,” subheading “Political contributions,” found in the later subheadings, to locate matter related to the political contributions of aliens.

FEDERAL CODIFIED LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Laws

Reference [United States Code](#)
342.73 2000 edition
UNI *Subject Index* - Volumes 30-35
(available at Nichols Library only)

The *Code* may be searched on line at these sites:

<http://uscode.house.gov>

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode>

Regulations

Code of Federal Regulations: CFR Index and Finding Aids

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html>

ILLINOIS CODIFIED LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Laws

Reference [*Illinois Compiled Statutes*](#)

345.773 2004 edition

ILL *Subject Index* - Volumes 8-9,
A-Z

(available at Nichols, Naper Boulevard, and 95th Street libraries)

The *Statutes* may be searched online at:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs.asp>

Regulations

Illinois Administrative Code

<http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/titles.html>

FINDING A LEGAL CITATION

Citations for laws and regulations follow a certain formula: a number followed by a symbol or punctuation mark, followed again by a number. Below are typical law citations for the United States and Illinois laws and regulations found in the Nichols Library legal sources:

FEDERAL

18 3162 *United States Code* citation.
Read as "Title 18, section 3162."

PL 85-479, 1 Public Law citation.
Read as "Public Law 85-479, section 1."

This is the number a law is given when it is approved by Congress and the President. It is found usually along with a *United States Code* citation unless it is no longer in force. This citation signals that it is the 479th law passed by the 85th Congress. Use these citations to find laws of the 95th -109th Congress in the *United States Code Congressional and Administrative News* (Reference 342.73 UNI, Nichols Library only). For older congresses, use Table III of the Tables volumes of the *United States Code* to find the Code citations corresponding to your Public Law citation.

Public Laws later than PL 109-229 (May 2006) can be found at the U. S. Government Printing Office website:
<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/plaws/index.html>

78 Stat. 249 *United States Statutes At Large* citation.
Read as "Volume 78 of the *United States Statutes At Large*, page 249."

It is found usually with a PL number (this law is also known as a part of PL 88-352) unless it was passed before 1902, when the public law citation system took effect. Since the Naperville Public Library does not subscribe to the *Statutes at Large*, use these citations or their corresponding Public Law numbers to find laws of the 95th -109th Congress in the *United States Code Congressional and Administrative News* (Reference 342.73 UNI, Nichols Library only). For earlier citations, use Table III of the Tables volumes of the *United States Code* to find the public law and code citations which correspond to your *Statutes At Large* citation.

For *Statutes at Large* citations later than 120 Stat. 390 (May 2006), use the U. S. Government Printing Office website:

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/plaws/index.html>

ILLINOIS

20 ILCS 505/5 *Illinois Compiled Statutes* citation.

Read as "Chapter 20 of the *Illinois Compiled Statutes*, Act 505, section 5."

P.A. 85-1 Public Act citation.

This citation signals that it is the first law enacted by the 85th Illinois General Assembly. Use these citations with the *Illinois Legislative Service* to find laws before they are codified in the *Illinois Compiled Statutes* (Reference 345.773 ILL, Nichols Library only).

Online, these citations beginning with the 90th Illinois General Assembly can be found at:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/default.asp>

92-1520 *Illinois Administrative Code* citation.

Read as "Title 92 of the *Illinois Administrative Code*, Part 1520."

Find these citations online at:

<http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/titles.html>

FINDING NEW LAWS

FEDERAL

Public and Private Laws Website

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/plaws/index.html>

This website contains laws as passed by Congress before they are filed under topics in the *United States Code*. You may look these up by Public Law (PL) number, *Statutes At Large* (Stat.) number, popular name, or subject. Public laws may be searched on this site back to the 104th Congress of 1995-96. For older laws, try *U. S. Code Congressional and Administrative News* (Reference 342.73 UNI, Nichols Library only)

Congressional reports used when the laws were still legislation under debate can be found at:

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/serialset/creports/index.html>

Presidential Proclamations and Executive Orders can found in the *Federal Register* at:

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>

ILLINOIS

To find Illinois Public Acts recently passed by the state legislature, but not yet published in the *Illinois Compiled Statutes*, consult:

Reference [Illinois Legislative Service](#)
345.773 Burdette Smith Co.
ILL (available at Nichols Library only)

This tool supplements the *Illinois Compiled Statutes*, 2004 edition, beginning with the 94th General Assembly to the present.

Use this website also for the latest Illinois Public Acts to be ratified:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/default.asp>

FINDING THE STATUS OF PENDING LEGISLATION

Tracking what has happened to a piece of proposed legislation can be done through several Reference Area tools:

FEDERAL

Federal bills are usually identified by these citation forms:

S 134 denotes a United States Senate bill. This number indicates that it is the 134th Senate bill to be introduced for that Congress.

HR 10 denotes a United States House of Representatives bill. This number indicates that it is the 10th House bill to be introduced for that Congress.

Reference [*Congressional Quarterly Weekly Reports*](#)

328.73 Current year plus past three years.

CON (available at Nichols Library only)

This periodical is an easy-to-read digest of the work of Congress each week. Consult the yellow-colored index by subject to find pages in the reports discussing a piece of pending legislation. A select list of this legislation can be found in the "Status of Major Legislation" section, featured in most issues of the reports. Major articles explaining important new laws are also a valuable part of this source.

For up-to-date federal legislation status, try this website:

<http://thomas.loc.gov>

ILLINOIS

Illinois General Assembly bills are usually identified with these citation forms:

SB 1634 denotes an Illinois Senate bill. The number indicates that this is the 1634th Senate bill to be introduced for that General Assembly.

HB 115 denotes an Illinois House of Representatives bill. The number indicates that this is the 115th House bill to be introduced for that General Assembly.

For up-to-date information on legislation, try the Illinois General Assembly website. Its website address is:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/default.asp>

You may also call the Illinois House Speaker's Office, which has a hotline for finding the status of any bill now pending. The number is **1-800-252-6300**. The hotline operates Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and weekend days at varying hours when the legislature is in session. In addition, the Illinois Legislature operates a service you can call for bill status research, available 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The phone number is **1-217-782-3356**.

DUPAGE COUNTY ORDINANCES

Reference [*The Code of DuPage County*](#)
342.263 Wheaton, IL: DuPage County Board, 1995
DUP (available at Naper Boulevard Library only)

NAPERVILLE CITY ORDINANCES

Reference [*Municipal Code of Naperville*](#)
342.0263 1984-
NAP (available at Nichols, Naper Boulevard, and 95th Street libraries)

Also available online at:

http://www.naperville.il.us/dynamic_content.aspx?id=235

Naperville City laws are found in the *Municipal Code*. Consult the index, which provides subject access to individual ordinances. For example, under the subject of "weeds", you find the number 9-1B-2.2. Read this as "Title 9, Chapter 1 Article B, Section 2, paragraph 2."

Reference [*City of Naperville Council Minutes*](#)
352.1 1857-1870 bound volume in Local History Room, Nichols Library.
NAP The latest five years are in packets.
(available at Nichols Library only)

Complete texts of enacted resolutions and ordinances, filed in manila envelope packets by Council meeting date. Ordinances,

before they become part of the *Code*, will have numbers such as "07-078." This means the ordinance was the 78th ordinance passed in the year 2007 by the Council, and you would look in the 2007 packets of the *Minutes* for its text. Unfortunately, there is no subject access to the actions of the Council in these packets.

City Council meeting minutes may also be accessed online from the latest back to 2002. Find them at:

http://www.naperville.il.us/dynamic_content.aspx?id=231

COMMON LAW: COURT DECISIONS

The Naperville Public Libraries has a limited collection only of the most significant United States Supreme Court cases. The best collection of these cases is found in:

Reference [*Landmark Decisions of the United States Supreme Court*](#)
347.7326 7 volumes
LAN Beverly Hills, CA: Excellent Books, 1991-2006
(available at Nichols Library only)

For better access to court decisions, consult the court decisions part of the **Internet Resources** section of this pamphlet. Outside of Naperville Public Library, the public may use the facilities below for access to court decisions:

Oesterle Library
North Central College
320 East School Street
Naperville, Illinois 60540
Phone: 630-637-5700
Call for hours

Has the **LEXUS/NEXUS** electronic database for full access to legislative acts and court decisions. Ask for the Reference Librarian on duty to use.

DuPage County Law Library
505 North County Farm Road
Wheaton, Illinois 60137
Phone: 630-682-7337
Hours 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday through Friday

LEGAL RESOURCES ON SELECTED TOPICS

GENERAL RESOURCES

Reference [Gale Encyclopedia of Everyday Law](#)
349.73 2nd edition
GAL Detroit: Thomson Gale, 2006
(available at Nichols and 95th Street libraries)

An electronic version is available in the Naperville Public Library Online Database Collection in the [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#).

Reference [West's Encyclopedia of American Law](#)
349.7303 13 volumes plus annual supplements
WES 2nd edition
Detroit: Thomson Gale, 2005
(available at Nichols Library only)

An electronic version is available in the Naperville Public Library Online Database Collection in the [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#).

BUSINESS LAW

346.06622 Mancuso, Anthony
MAN [Incorporate Your Business](#)
3rd edition
Berkeley, CA ; Nolo Press, 2005
(available at Nichols, Naper Boulevard, and 95th Street libraries)

346.0652 Steingold, Fred
STE [Legal Guide for Starting & Running a Small Business](#)
9th edition
Berkeley, CA; Nolo Press, 2006
(available at Nichols, Naper Boulevard, and 95th Street libraries)

COPYRIGHT, PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

Reference Elias, Stephen
346.48 [Patent, Copyright & Trademark](#)
ELI 7th edition
Berkeley, CA; Nolo Press, 2004
(available at Nichols, Naper Boulevard, and 95th Street libraries)

- 346.0486 Pressman, David
PRE [*Nolo's Patents for Beginners*](#)
5th edition
Berkeley, CA; Nolo Press, 2006
(available at Nichols, Naper Boulevard, and 95th Street
libraries)
- 346.482 Warda, Mark
WAR [*How to Register Your Own Copyright*](#)
5th Edition
Naperville, IL; Sphinx Publications, 2004
(available at Nichols, Naper Boulevard, and 95th Street libraries)
- 346.730482 Wilson, Lee
WIL [*The Copyright Guide: a Friendly Handbook for Protecting and
Profiting From Copyrights*](#)
3rd edition
New York; Allworth Press, 2003
(available at Nichols, Naper Boulevard, and 95th Street libraries)

DIVORCE AND CHILD CUSTODY

- 346.0173 Connell, Linda H.
CON [*Child Custody, Visitation and Support in Illinois*](#)
1st edition
Naperville, IL; Sphinx Publications, 2002
(available at Nichols and Naper Boulevard libraries)

- Reference Davis, Muller
346.015 [*Illinois Practice of Family Law*](#)
DAV 2 volumes
7th edition
St. Paul, MN; Thomson/West, 2006
(available at Nichols Library only)

- Reference
346.0173 Lyster, Mimi E.
LYS [*Child Custody: Building Agreements That Work*](#)
3rd edition
Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2003
(available at Nichols and 95th Street libraries)

346.166 Summers, Diane Brodman
SUM [File for Divorce in Illinois](#)
4th edition
Naperville, IL; Sphinx Publications, 2006
(available at Nichols, Naper Boulevard, and 95th Street libraries)

FORM BOOKS

Business

346.0652 Sitarz, Dan
SIT [Small Business Legal Forms Simplified](#)
4th edition
Carbondale, IL: Nova Publishing Company, 2005
(available at Nichols and 95th Street libraries)

346.730652 Steingold, Fred
STE [Legal Forms for Starting & Running a Small Business](#)
4th edition
Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2006
(available at Nichols, Naper Boulevard, and 95th Street libraries)

Personal

Reference Sitarz, Dan
347.55 [The Complete Book of Personal Legal Forms](#)
3rd edition
Carbondale, IL: Nova Publishers, 2001
(available at Nichols, Naper Boulevard, and 95th Street libraries)

347.055 Warda, Mark
WAR [The Most Valuable Personal Legal Forms You'll Ever Need](#)
2nd edition
Naperville, IL: Sphinx Publishers, 2003
(available at Nichols, Naper Boulevard, and 95th Street libraries)

347.55 Warner, Ralph E.
WAR [101 Law Forms for Personal Use](#)
4th edition
Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2004
(available at Nichols Library only)

IMMIGRATION LAW

342.73082 Gania, Edwin T.
GAN [U.S. Immigration: Step by Step](#)
3rd edition
Naperville, IL; Sphinx Publications, 2006
(available at Nichols and 95th Street Libraries)

342.73082 Lewis, Loida Nicolas
LEW [How to Get a Green Card](#)
7th edition
Berkeley, CA; Nolo, 2006
(available at Nichols Library only)

Reference United States
342.082 [Federal Immigration Laws and Regulations](#)
UNI Thomson/West, 2006
(available at Nichols Library only)

LABOR LAW

Reference [Illinois and Federal Employment Law Manual](#)
344.77301 Bloomington, MN; Ceridian, 2004
ILL (available at Nichols Library only)

Reference [The Labor Law Handbook](#)
344.77301 Springfield, IL; Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education,
LAB 2002
(available at Nichols Library only)

344.01 Repa, Barbara Kate
REP [Your Rights in the Work Place](#)
7th edition
Berkeley, CA, Nolo Press, 2005
(available at Nichols and Naper Boulevard libraries)

344.01 Steingold, Fred S.
STE [Employer's Legal Handbook](#)
7th edition
Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2005
(available at Nichols, Naper Boulevard, and 95th Street libraries)

LANDLORD AND TENANT, CONDOMINIUMS, REAL ESTATE

Reference [Illinois Condominium Law](#)
346.0433 Springfield, IL: Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education,
ILL 2000-2003
(available at Nichols Library only)

346.0434 Portman, Janet
POR [Every Tenant's Legal Guide](#)
4th edition
Berkeley, CA; Nolo Press, 2005
(available at Nichols Library only)

346.730434 Stewart, Marcia
STE [Every Landlord's Legal Guide](#)
8th edition
Berkeley, CA; Nolo Press, 2006
(available at Nichols, Naper Boulevard, and 95th Street libraries)

346.04346 Stewart, Marcia
STE [Leases & Rental Agreements](#)
6th edition
Berkeley, CA; Nolo Press, 2005
(available at Nichols, Naper Boulevard, and 95th Street libraries)

346.7730434 Summers, Diana Brodman
SUM [The Landlord's Legal Guide in Illinois](#)
Naperville, IL; Sphinx Publications, 2002
(available at Nichols, Naper Boulevard, and 95th Street libraries)

WILLS, ESTATES, PROBATE, AND GUARDIANSHIP

- 346.73054 Chambers, Joy
CHA [*The Easy Will and Living Will Kit*](#)
Naperville, IL; Sphinx Publishing, 2005
(available at Nichols, Naper Boulevard, and 95th Street libraries)
- 346.054 Clifford, Denis
CLI [*Quick & Legal Will Book*](#)
4th edition
Berkeley, CA; Nolo Press, 2006
(available at Nichols, Naper Boulevard, and 95th Street libraries)
- 345.052 Clifford, Denis
CLI [*Make Your Own Living Trust*](#)
8th edition
Berkeley CA, Nolo Press, 2007
(available at Nichols, Naper Boulevard, and 95th Street libraries)
- 346.029 Haman, Edward A.
HAM [*Power of Attorney Handbook*](#)
5th edition
Naperville, IL: Sphinx Publishing, 2004
(available at Nichols, Naper Boulevard, and 95th Street libraries)
- Reference Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission
346.018 [*A Guide to Adult Guardianship in Illinois*](#)
ILL Springfield, IL: The Commission, 2002
(available at Nichols, Naper Boulevard, and 95th Street libraries)

INTERNET RESOURCES: A SELECT LISTING

FEDERAL AND STATE CONSTITUTIONS ON THE WEB

Findlaw is a major website for finding basic legal sources of all kinds.

<http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/constitution>

<http://public.findlaw.com/constitution-day/state-constitutions.html>

CODIFIED LAW ON THE WEB

FEDERAL LAWS AND LEGISLATION

Public Laws

Available through the National Archives and Records Administration through the US Government Printing Office website, GPO Access, this Internet site contains laws passed by the United States Congress from the 104th Congress (1995-1996) to the present.

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/plaws/index.html>

THOMAS: Legislative Information on the Internet

THOMAS, offered through the Library of Congress, reports the activities of the United States Congress starting with the 101st Congress of 1989-1990 to date. Full texts of bills, bill status, roll call votes, and Public Laws from 1973 to date among many other legislative features.

<http://thomas.loc.gov>

United States Code

Several websites feature versions of the **United States Code**. The United States House of Representatives site has the latest updates. The web address is:

<http://uscode.house.gov>

Complete (minus the latest changes) editions of the code are found at the United States Government Printing Office and Law School of Cornell University websites, listed below:

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/index.html>

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode>

ILLINOIS LAWS AND LEGISLATION

Public Acts

Illinois Public Acts are available from the 90th Illinois General Assembly (1997-98) to the present via the Assembly's website: The address is:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/default.asp>

Illinois General Assembly

Pending legislation in both the Illinois Senate and House of Representatives is found here. The address is:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/default.asp>

Illinois Compiled Statutes

The full text of the Illinois statutes can be accessed from the Illinois General Assembly website at:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs.asp>

OUTSIDE ILLINOIS

The legislation and statutes of all other states as are available on the web can be found on the **Findlaw** website at:

<http://www.findlaw.com/11stategov/index.html>

On this site, use the hyperlink titled “*Primary Materials: Cases, Codes and Regulations*” to access them.

MUNICIPAL CODES

The **Municipal Code Corporation** maintains a website that contains the municipal codes of many U.S. cities. Find the full texts of these codes at:

<http://www.municode.com>

The City of Naperville makes the entire text of its code available on the web at the following address:

http://www.naperville.il.us/dynamic_content.aspx?id=235

REGULATIONS

FEDERAL

The **Code of Federal Regulations** is available full-text online via **GPO Access**.

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html>

Searching by citation or key words is available for all fifty code titles.

The **Federal Register** will provide the full texts of new regulations under review for approval. Uses the links provided at the above site or dial it directly at:

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>

ILLINOIS

The **Illinois Administrative Code** is available through the website of the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules. It can be accessed below at:

<http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/titles.html>

Some states, such as Minnesota and Wisconsin, have all their regulations available, and these are accessible through the state governments index of **Findlaw**. Choose from the menu of states displayed here to find if the state of your choice has made its regulations available on the Internet. The address of this **Findlaw** index is:

<http://www.findlaw.com/11stategov/index.html>

On this site, use the hyperlink titled "*Primary Materials: Cases, Codes and Regulations*" to access them.

COMMON LAW ON THE WEB

COURT DECISIONS

NOTE: Noncommercial online databases of court decisions usually date no further back than the mid-1990's. The United States Supreme Court decisions database is the one exception to this rule. For court decisions earlier than the mid-1990's, try the LEXUS/NEXUS database, available at no charge at:

Oesterle Library
North Central College
320 East School Street
Naperville, Illinois 60540
Phone: 630-357-682-7337
Hours 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday through Friday

FEDERAL

The full texts of United States Supreme Court decisions since 1893 can be found on the **Findlaw** website. The address is:

<http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.html>

Federal circuit court opinions and those of special federal courts such as Tax Court, Veteran's Appeals and Patent Court among others can be accessed through **Findlaw** using the menu page below:

<http://www.findlaw.com/casecode>

Please note the oldest opinions on file date only from 1996.

ILLINOIS

Illinois Appellate and Supreme courts decisions are available from 1996 to the present only through the Illinois State website. You may access the decisions directly at:

<http://www.state.il.us/court/Opinions/default.asp>

OTHER STATES

For court decisions of other states, try the state resources index of the **Findlaw** website at:

<http://www.findlaw.com/11stategov/index.html>

OTHER WEB SITES OF INTEREST

COPYRIGHT

United States Copyright Office

Contains basic information about copyrighting materials, copyright law, and copyright-related publications. Application forms for copyrighting all classes of materials are available.

<http://www.loc.gov/copyright>

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services

Information about immigration and naturalization laws and procedures as well as copies of important forms.

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis>

PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

The United States Patent and Trademark Office

Contains basic information on how to apply for a patent or trademark along with application forms.

<http://uspto.gov>