

THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO  
LAW LIBRARY  
Information Series

9 Ohio Legal  
Research



The Supreme Court of Ohio Law Library has a wide variety of print and electronic resources that are helpful for conducting research on the Constitution, laws and legal history of Ohio. The majority of the Ohio collection is shelved on the 11<sup>th</sup> Floor in the Ohio stacks or in the Reading Room.

#### Ohio Legal Research Guide (KFO 75 P88)

Detailed and comprehensive reference work on every aspect of Ohio legal research. Includes chapters on the Ohio Constitution, the legislative process, historical codes, legislative history, the judicial system, court reports, digests, citators, court rules, treatises, practice books, newsletters, periodicals, indexes, form books and biographies of Ohio judges and lawyers.

### **HISTORICAL LEGAL RESEARCH**

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The library has an extensive collection of primary and secondary materials that are helpful for studying the legal history of Ohio, including historical codes, session laws, superseded statutes and court rules and early Ohio reporters.

#### The History of Ohio Law (KFO 78 H57)

A two-volume set containing a collection of essays by academic lawyers, historians and practitioners, and a foreword by Chief Justice Thomas J. Moyer.

### **THE OHIO CONSTITUTION**

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The first Ohio Constitution was adopted in 1802 as a prerequisite to statehood. The present Ohio Constitution, dated 1851 (as amended), is the second constitution in the state's history.

#### Ohio State Constitution: A Reference Guide (KFO 401 1851 A6S74)

A guide to the text and interpretation of the Ohio Constitution. A section-by-section commentary explains each provision and traces its origins and its interpretation by the courts and other government bodies. Includes a chapter on the constitutional history of Ohio, a bibliographical essay, a selected bibliography, a table of cases and a subject index.

### **LAWS, CODES AND STATUTES**

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#### Bulletin (KFO 15 A2)

Complete record of all bills, passed or not, introduced in the Ohio General Assembly.

#### General Code (KFO 30 1910 A2)

Second codification of Ohio laws (1910-1952).

#### Journals, House and Senate (KFO 18)

Published daily, these pamphlets contain procedural accounts of the legislative activity in the Ohio General Assembly.

#### Laws of Ohio (KFO 25)

Official session laws of the state of Ohio.

#### Revised Code

Third codification of Ohio laws (1953 - present).

- Baldwin's *Ohio Revised Code* (KFO 30 1994 A2)
- Page's *Ohio Revised Code* (KFO 30.5 P3)

#### Revised Statutes (KFO 30 1880 A2)

First codification of Ohio laws (1880-1910).

#### Superseded State Statutes

Superseded Ohio statutes back to 1840 are available on microfiche in the AV Room on the 12<sup>th</sup> Floor.

### **LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**

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Legislative histories are used to understand the purpose and intent of statutes. Consult the following sources for information on how to find and use available sources of legislative history in Ohio.

#### Compiling Legislative History in Ohio

*Dayton Bar Briefs* 49 No. 4 (December 1999): 26-27

#### A Guide to Legislative History in Ohio

[www.lsc.state.oh.us/membersonly/history.pdf](http://www.lsc.state.oh.us/membersonly/history.pdf)

#### Legislative History in Ohio: Myths and Realities

*Cleveland State Law Review* 46, No. 1 (1998): 49-90

## **DIGESTS AND ENCYCLOPEDIAS**

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Martindale-Hubbell Law Digest (REF DIR M31)  
Brief summaries of Ohio laws organized by subject. Includes case citations and references to the *Ohio Revised Code*.

Ohio Jurisprudence 3d (KFO 80 O4)  
Legal encyclopedia of Ohio law. The library also has the first and second series of *Ohio Jurisprudence*.

West's Ohio Digest (KFO 57 W4)  
Brief summaries of Ohio reported cases organized by subject. Includes digests of Ohio state cases, as well as federal cases originating in Ohio, from 1803 to the present.

## **ONLINE RESOURCES**

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LexisNexis / Westlaw  
Subscription-based databases include a wide variety of information used in Ohio legal research, including cases, court rules, encyclopedias, law reviews, legislative history, newspapers and treatises.

Ohio Law  
<http://ohiolawinfo.blogspot.com/>  
Prepared by the director of the library, this blog provides links to reviews and announcements of online sources of Ohio law.

Ohio Legal Gateway  
<http://oh.legalgateway.com/default.asp>  
Includes links to state government resources for legal research, guidebooks to general information about specific areas of the law and a lawyer referral service.

Supreme Court of Ohio Web Site  
[www.supremecourtofohio.gov](http://www.supremecourtofohio.gov)  
Official Web site of the Supreme Court of Ohio. Includes summaries of recent opinions, all Court decisions back to 1992, caseload statistics for all courts in Ohio and links to the Ohio District Courts of Appeals, the Court of Claims and the Supreme Court of Ohio Law Library.

## **RECORDS AND BRIEFS**

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Records and briefs allow for an in-depth study of the facts of a case and document the arguments advanced by each party to a case. Supreme Court of Ohio records and briefs are available on microfilm (1897-1986) and microfiche (1964-1975, 1996-2003) in the AV Room on the 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, in bound volumes (1903-1995) on the 15<sup>th</sup> Floor and on Westlaw back to 1990.

## **REPORTERS**

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Ohio State Reports (KFO 45 A2)  
Decisions of the Supreme Court of Ohio.

Ohio Appellate Reports (KFO 48 A2)  
Decisions from the Ohio District Courts of Appeals.

Ohio Miscellaneous Reports (KFO 51 A2)  
Decisions from the lower trial courts.

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

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Ohio Administrative Code (KFO 35 1994 A2)  
<http://onlinedocs.andersonpublishing.com/oac>  
Regulations of the administrative agencies of the state of Ohio.

Ohio Monthly Record (KFO 35 A2)  
Updates the *Ohio Administrative Code*.

Register of Ohio  
[www.registerofohio.state.oh.us/index.jsp](http://www.registerofohio.state.oh.us/index.jsp)  
Updated weekly. Contains information about rule-making procedures and notices of upcoming public hearings on proposed rules.

An Overview of Administrative Rule-Making Procedure in Ohio  
[www.lsc.state.oh.us/membersonly/126rulemakinginohio.pdf](http://www.lsc.state.oh.us/membersonly/126rulemakinginohio.pdf)  
An LSC members-only brief. Outlines the rule-making procedure and describes how state agencies adopt administrative rules.

*For more information contact Government Documents Librarian Diana Mercer at [mercerd@scomet.state.oh.us](mailto:mercerd@scomet.state.oh.us).*

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