NORTH CAROLINA LEGAL RESEARCH

The purpose of this guide is to list the most popular resources available for Campbell Law students conducting legal research in North Carolina.

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RESEARCH TUTORIALS
CALI (Computer Assisted Legal Instruction) is a database of online tutorials free to Campbell Law students. All students were issued a card with login information during orientation, but if you misplaced yours, email any of the reference librarians for a new one. Courses available:

- North Carolina Legal Research: Primary Source Materials
  This lesson provides an introduction on how to locate North Carolina legal materials including North Carolina constitutional provisions, statutes, case law, regulations, and municipal provisions. It covers print, major databases, and free and low-cost databases.

- North Carolina Secondary Research
  This lesson is designed to give a basic overview of secondary sources used in North Carolina legal research. Secondary resources are commentary on the law written by legal professionals or legal publishers. They are useful for finding background information and citations to primary resources, but it is important to remember that secondary resources are not the law.

CONSTITUTION

- CURRENT
  - North Carolina General Assembly website
  - General Statutes of North Carolina Annotated, volume 19
    KFN7429.N67 (LexisNexis)
  - LexisNexis
HISTORICAL VERSIONS OF NC CONSTITUTION
There have been three versions of the North Carolina Constitution. The first was ratified in 1776, then again, following the civil war, in 1868, and the most recent in 1971.

- NCpedia
  An educational site created by the North Carolina State Library. It includes a discussion of the history of the NC Constitution along with proposed constitutions.

- NC Session Laws
  As each new constitution was ratified it was included in the North Carolina Session Laws.
    - HeinOnline Session Law Library includes the NC Session Laws from 1715 to 2009
    - Print KFN7425.A23

STATUTES
- CURRENT
  - General Statutes of North Carolina Annotated, KFN7429.N67
    This version, published by LexisNexis, is the official version of the North Carolina General Statutes. If you forget which version is official, you can check the beginning of each volume. The official version has a message written by the North Carolina General Assembly Legislative Services Office stating that those general statutes were published under its supervision. An unofficial version will not.
    Please note that only the LexisNexis print General Statutes are official. The online version is to be used for research purposes only, and any language is to be checked against the official print version.
  - West’s North Carolina General Statutes Annotated, KFN7430.A4
    The unofficial version of the North Carolina General Statutes. Use for research purposes only, and be sure to check any language against the official LexisNexis print version.
  - Westlaw
    Database Identifier: NC-ST-ANN
Use for research purposes only and be sure to check any language against the official LexisNexis print version of the statutes.

- **North Carolina General Statutes**
  Free online version. Please note, even though it’s provided by the North Carolina General Assembly, it is not an official version of the North Carolina General Statutes. Be sure to check the language against the LexisNexis print version of the statutes.

- **Historical Statutes**
  Sometimes in the course of your legal research, you do not need to know what the current law is on a subject, but what the law was at a certain point in time. For example, if you are representing a client who was charged with a crime before the law was amended.
  - **Superseded Statutes in Print**: Campbell Law Library has the complete collection in remote storage. Email a reference librarian and the volume you need will be retrieved for you. It usually takes one business day.
  - **Westlaw** (1986-current):  
    Database Identifier: 
    Westlaw has two sets of historical statutes. One set was published by the company Michie, and covers the period of 1986-2007. Its database identifier is (NC-STMANNxx) where “xx” is the last two numbers of the date (i.e. “NC-STMANN86” for 1986). 
    The other historical set was published by West and covers the period of 1999-current. The database identifier is (NC-STANN99). 
    As always with an online resource, you will want to check it with the official print version to ensure its accuracy. With historical bills, it’s especially important to check the dates and whether the changes were incorporated from a later supplement.
    As always with an online resource, you will want to check it with the official print version to ensure its accuracy. With historical bills, it’s especially important to check the dates and whether the changes were incorporated from a later supplement.
  - **Making of Modern Law: Primary Sources (1620-1926)**
    Available through the law library’s [database page](#).

**Legislative History**
North Carolina Legislative history is not nearly as robust as federal legislative history. The North Carolina Legislative Library, located just blocks from Campbell Law, provides access to the documents available. Some recent documents are available online, but some materials are only available in print. The Legislative library staff has created a handy step-by-step guide for conducting Legislative history research in North Carolina.
CASE LAW

- **CASES**
  - **Print:**
    - **North Carolina Reports**
      The North Carolina Reports is the official reporter of the North Carolina Supreme Court.
      KFN7448.N67
    - **North Carolina Court of Appeals Reports**
      The North Carolina Court of Appeals Reports is the official reporter of the North Carolina Court of Appeals.
      KFN7445.N67
    - **West’s South Eastern Reporter**
      The South Eastern Reporter is an unofficial reporter published by West that uses the West Keynumber System. This reporter covers the appellate courts of North Carolina, Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. It’s broken into three different series depending on the date the opinions were issued, so be sure you have the right series for the time period you’re interested in.
      - 1st Series (1887 – 1939), KF135 .S6
      - 2d Series (1939 - 1988), KF
      - 3d Series (1988 - current) KF
  - **Electronic:**
    - **Westlaw:**
      Database Identifier: NC-CS (state cases, dates of coverage vary by court)
      Database Identifier: NC-CS-ALL (state and federal cases, dates of coverage vary by court)
    - **Lexis:**
      Legal > States Legal - U.S. > North Carolina > Find Cases > NC State Cases, Combined (state cases, dates of coverage vary by court)
      Legal > States Legal - U.S. > North Carolina > Find Cases > NC Federal & State Cases, Combined (state and federal cases, dates of coverage vary by court)
    - **North Carolina Supreme Court and Court of Appeals Opinions** (1998-Current) (Provided by the North Carolina Court System)
      Note that while these opinions are provided by the North Carolina Court System, they are not the official version of the opinion. You must verify their accuracy against the official print version in the North Carolina Reports or the North Carolina Court of Appeals Reports.

- **DIGESTS**
  - Digests are topically organized indices of case law. You use them when you are looking for cases in your jurisdiction on a particular point of law. They are published by West so use the West Keynumber System.
  - **West’s North Carolina Digest 2d**
    This digest indexes the opinions of the North Carolina Supreme Court and the North Carolina Court of Appeals. While it is a 2d series, it replaced the first series
instead of supplementing it, as was done with the South Eastern Digest. That means the North Carolina Digest 2d covers all North Carolina case law from 1778 to current.

KFN7457.W4

- **West’s South Eastern Digest**
  
  The South Eastern Digest indexes the cases in the South Eastern Reporter. As with the South Eastern Reporter, the South Eastern Digest is broken down into series that cover different date ranges. Please note that the dates of the series of the digests do not correspond to the dates on the series of the reporters.
  
  - 1st Series (1778 – 1935) KKF135.S6
  - 2nd Series (1935 – Current) KF135.S61

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE COURT DOCUMENTS**

- **North Carolina Supreme Court and Court of Appeals Briefs and Records**
  
  - **Online**
    
    - [NC Supreme Court and Court of Appeals Document E-Filing Document Library](#)
      
      (selective 1998-current)
    
    - **Westlaw**
      
      Database Identifier: NC-BRIEF-ALL (selective, beginning 1998)
      
      Supreme Court only: NC-SCT-BRIEF (selective, beginning 2001)
    
    - **Lexis** (2001-current)
      
      Legal > Court Records, Briefs and Filings > States Briefs, Motions & Pleadings > North Carolina
  
  - **Print**
    
    - Campbell Law Library
      
      Supreme Court (1974-1999); Court of Appeals (1979-1999). These are kept in remote storage, so you will need to request them from a librarian. They usually take one business day to receive.
    
    - UNC Law Library, Duke Law Library, Wake Forest Law School Library, and NC Central Law Library also have selective coverage of the briefs and records. Check their catalog or contact their reference desks to find their coverage range.

- **North Carolina Lower Court Documents**
  
  - **Westlaw**
    
    - NC Superior Courts: NC-FILING (selective, 2001 – current)
    
    
    - NC state court trial orders: NC-TRIALORDERS (selective, 2001 – current)
    
    - NC state dockets: DOCK-NC-STCTS (selective, 2001 – current)
  
  - **Lexis** (selective, 2000 – current)
    
    - Legal > States Legal - U.S. > North Carolina > Search Court Records, Briefs and Filings > States Briefs, Motions & Pleadings > North Carolina
NORTH CAROLINA FEDERAL COURT DOCUMENTS
Fourth Circuit Briefs and Records
  o Print
    Campbell has 4th Circuit records and briefs from 1983-1995 in microform only.
  o Online
    ▪ Westlaw (1979-current, selective pre-1976)
      CTA4-BRIEFS
    ▪ Lexis (2000 – current)
      Legal > Court Records, Briefs and Filings > Federal Briefs, Motions & Pleadings > Federal Briefs and Motions, Combined

COURT INFORMATION:
The North Carolina Court System Home Page provides access to information about the courts, including dockets, calendars, and even case statistics.

COURT RULES
  • Print
    o North Carolina General Statutes Rules Volume
      Contains state and federal rules.
    o North Carolina Rules of Court
      Reserves KFN7929.A195
      Published by West, this set includes state, federal, and local rules.
  • Online
    o NC Court System’s Local Court Rules and Forms
    o Westlaw: NC-ST-ANN
    o Lexis: Legal > States Legal - U.S. > North Carolina > Find Statutes, Regulations, Administrative Materials & Court Rules > By Court Rules > NC - North Carolina State & Federal Court Rules

NORTH CAROLINA ADMINISTRATIVE LAW
  • Regulations
    North Carolina regulations are published in the North Carolina Administrative Code.
    o North Carolina Administrative Code (Print)
    o KFN7435.A2
    o Westlaw: NC-ADC (Current)
    o NC Administrative Code Online
      Provided by the North Carolina Office of Administrative Hearings
  • NORTH CAROLINA REGISTER
    The North Carolina Register, beginning in 1986, contains information relating to agency rulemaking, executive orders, contested case decisions and other notices required by or affecting Chapter 150B of the General Statutes. All proposed administrative rules and
notices of public hearings filed under G.S. 150B-21.2 must be published in the Register. It is published twice a month.

- Print KFN7434.A2
  Provided by the North Carolina Office of Administrative Hearings

- NORTH CAROLINA ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT
  The North Carolina Administrative Procedure Act describes the procedures agencies must follow when creating rules or adjudicating disputes.
  - North Carolina General Statutes ch. 150B

- AGENCIES
  - NC Agency List A website created by North Carolina that links to all the state agencies and shows their hierarchy.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- County Website Directory
  Created by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, this website links to the websites of each North Carolina County.

- Municipal Codes or Ordinances
  Municode, a private publisher, makes available for free the municipal codes and ordinances of many of the municipalities in North Carolina.

- UNC School of Government Local Government Directory
  A directory with links to many helpful local government webpages.

LEGAL ENCYCLOPEDIAS

Strong's North Carolina Index 4th (1989 - )
Summarizes topics in North Carolina Law.

- Print:  KFN7445.1 .S8
- Online: Westlaw: NCINDEX

TREATISES

Treatises exist on almost every aspect of North Carolina law. Below are listed a few of the most popular, but for a more complete list please see appendix D of Scott Childs and Nick Sexton’s North Carolina Legal Research Guide (2009), or Part VII of North Carolina Small Office Resource Manual (S. Neil Carmak & George W. Lennon, eds.) (2011).

- Print
  - Patrick K. Hetrick and James B. McLaughlin, Jr., Webster’s Real Estate Law in North Carolina: Possessory Interests and Present Interests in Real Property (2011).

- **Online**
  Selected treatises are also available on Westlaw and LexisNexis
  - **Westlaw**: All Databases > U.S. State Materials > North Carolina > Forms, Treatises, CLEs and Other Practice Material
  - **LexisNexis**: Legal > States Legal - U.S. > North Carolina > Search Analysis & CLE Materials > All North Carolina Treatises & Analytical Materials

**STATE LAW REVIEWS, BAR JOURNALS & LEGAL NEWSPAPERS**

- **Campbell Law Review**
  K3 .A582 (1979-current)
  [Campbell Law Scholarly Repository](#) (1979-current)
  HeinOnline (1979-current)

- **North Carolina Law Review**
  K14 .O72 (1922-current)
  HeinOnline (1922-current)

- **North Carolina Central Law Review**
  Formerly known as the North Carolina Central Law Journal
  HeinOnline (1969-current)

- **Wake Forest Law Review**
  K27 .A36 (1970- )
  HeinOnline (1965-2010)
  Journal Home Page

- **Elon Law Review**
  K5 .L66 (2009-current)
  HeinOnline (2009-current)

- **Charlotte Law Review**
  HeinOnline (2008-current)

- **North Carolina State Bar Journal**
  Formerly the *North Carolina State Bar Quarterly*, and the *North Carolina State Bar*.
  K14.06 (1959-current)
  HeinOnline (1959-current)

- **North Carolina Lawyer**
  Formerly *Bar Notes*.
  Remote Storage oversized (2003-2011)

- **North Carolina Lawyers Weekly**
  K14 .O724 (last 12 months)
  Remote Storage (1988-12 months ago)
  LegalTrac (2001-current)
RESEARCH GUIDES

  Reserves KFN7475.M38 2009
  One of the most helpful tools in conducting North Carolina Legal research. It covers basic information, such as the layout of the NC legal system, to very specific information, such as where to find 1973 ethics opinions. It even includes appendices which list the available NC legal treatises, law libraries and their contact information, and more.