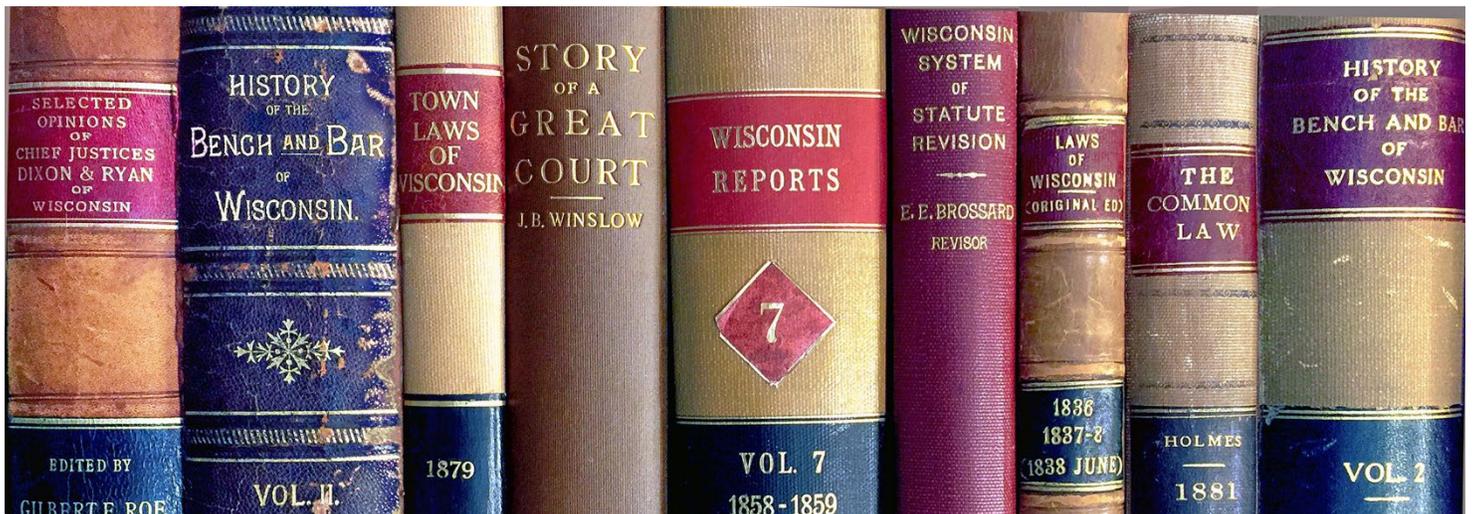




Wisconsin State Law Library

Founded by the 1836 Act of Congress that established the territory of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin State Law Library exists to serve the legal information needs of the officers and employees of this state, attorneys, and the public. The library provides the highest quality of professional expertise in the selection, maintenance, and use of materials, information, and technology in order to facilitate equal access to the law.



To carry out this mission, the library offers a wide array of services.

The Library Collection

The David T. Prosser Jr. Library, the main branch of the State Law Library, is located in Madison at 120 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in the Risser Justice Center. The library's collection consists of a comprehensive set of materials that serve the needs of current legal research. Materials emphasized are those necessary for the daily practice of law and the continuing development and interpretation of laws and regulations in the judicial, administrative, and legislative areas.

The library subscribes to a number of legal research databases and makes them available to the public. Westlaw, LexisNexis, HeinOnline, Bloomberg Law, and Index to Legal Periodicals are just some of the digital research tools that are accessible on public computers at no charge.

Research Assistance

Whether a specific piece of information is needed, a court form, or guidance in finding materials in the library or navigating a legal research website, State Law Library reference staff will do their best to help.

Anyone may use the library's general reference service which is available in person as well as by email, phone, and mail. For judges and attorneys, the library also offers case law and citator research services.

Phone 800-322-9755 or email wsl.ref@wicourts.gov. Please note that library staff cannot give legal advice.

State Law Library Website

The State Law Library website provides easy access to authoritative sources of legal and government information. Visit wilawlibrary.gov.

The website's Legal Topics page alone contains thousands of links arranged in over 450 different topics, from Abandoned Property to Zoning Law. The Wisconsin Law page provides access to free, reliable sources of primary law such as statutes & administrative code, Supreme Court & Court of Appeals opinions, and Attorney General Opinions.

A County Legal Resources Database directing to county agencies, legal assistance organizations, court forms, guides, and local court rules is also available. A Wisconsin Ordinances and Codes page links to municipal and county ordinances available on the internet.

Specialized Wisconsin Materials

In addition to an extensive collection of standard primary law sources and leading treatises in every practice area, the David T. Prosser Jr. Library houses several specialized Wisconsin collections.

Wisconsin Briefs

The library provides public access to briefs and appendices for cases decided by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, dating back to 1839, and Wisconsin Court of Appeals, 1978 forward. Starting in July 2009, briefs filed electronically are available through the Wisconsin Supreme Court & Court of Appeals Access (WSCCA) database. Briefs for cases from 1992 to the inception of e-filing are available in the UW Law Library's Wisconsin Briefs database. Visit the library's Wisconsin Briefs page for more information

<https://wilawlibrary.gov/search/briefs.html>

Wisconsin Jury Instructions

The library maintains a collection of current and superseded Wisconsin civil, criminal, and children's jury instructions. A database of current instructions debuted on the library's website in early 2021.

Judicial Council Collection

A source of drafting history of Wisconsin Supreme Court Rules and court-related Wisconsin Statutes, the library maintains a collection of Judicial Council meeting minutes and committee documents dating back to the 1950s. An index that lists every committee document is available on the library's Judicial Council Collection page,

<https://wilawlibrary.gov/search/jc.html>

Historic Wisconsin Administrative Code

A collection of superseded state administrative code sections dating back to Register 27, 1958 is maintained. The library also owns select codes dating back to the early 20th century.

Branch Libraries

The State Law Library manages the Milwaukee County Law Library and the Dane County Law Library under contractual agreements with those counties. These libraries are conveniently located in each county's courthouse. The county branches provide a wide array of reference and information services to judges and court staff, county employees, attorneys, and self-represented litigants. Both maintain core print collections of primary and secondary Wisconsin resources and have public computers with access to digital legal research databases such as Books Unbound (State Bar of Wisconsin's database), HeinOnline, and Westlaw.

Legal Research Classes

Classes covering basic legal research procedures as well as special topics, tools, and databases are offered by the State Law Library. Classes are presented virtually and in-person. To see a current schedule, visit our Classes page

<https://wilawlibrary.gov/learn/classes.html>

Circulation

The State Law Library extends borrowing privileges to Wisconsin judges and court staff, attorneys and authorized support staff, and government employees. To obtain a library card, simply stop in at any one of our three libraries or visit the library's Get a Library Card page to apply online

<https://wilawlibrary.gov/services/librarycard.html>

Wisconsin judges and attorneys who are unable to come to the library may borrow materials through our convenient Borrow by Mail service

<https://wilawlibrary.gov/services/borrow.html>

Keep Up-To-Date

Subscribe to the library's monthly newsletter WSL @ Your Service

<https://wilawlibrary.gov/newsletter/index.html> and follow us Facebook.

