

California Legal Research

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#2644394 in Books Carolina Academic Press 2008-09-25 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.25 x 5.50 x .75l, .76 #File Name: 1594604037246 pages | File size: 59.Mb

Hether C. Macfarlane, Suzanne E. Rowe : California Legal Research before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised California Legal Research:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent! By Michael Tully California Legal Research ("CLR") is a great book for anybody researching California law, beginners, experienced, and anybody in-between. I first encountered CLR in my legal research class. While I don't refer to it as often, CLR still retains its place on my desk. CLR takes a complex endeavor and makes it as accessible as I've ever seen. Especially nice for beginners are the

tables and charts throughout. Tips on reading and analyzing case law, interpreting the California constitution, and interpreting California statutes are also included. Most importantly, CLR is written in plain English. While the book mainly pertains to California legal research, there are some sections devoted to researching federal law as well. Online (Wexis) and print sources are both covered. My only complaint, no fault of the book, is the lack of Westlaw Next information. However, Westlaw Next was introduced a few years after this book was published. Whether you're looking for a quick refresher or just starting out, CLR provides the reader with a creditably detailed, but accessible resource. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not a user friendly text book By Customer This text is not written in a clear outline format. It is very difficult to follow for the student. It feels pieced together. There are very few practical examples and no glossary. I was extremely frustrated and had to use supplemental reading to fill in the blanks throughout my course. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I Can't Say Enough Good Things By L. Schocket I truly can't say enough good things about this book. I read it in the hopes of clarifying things I was unclear about after taking a lazily taught class with a less-than-stellar textbook on the topic. It filled in the blanks...and then some. This book uses plain language to explain some things that can be and have been explained in very confusing ways. I especially love its helpful step-by-step charts followed by detailed instructions on various research procedures. California Legal Research makes every step of the legal research process much more tolerable. I now plan to buy other books offered by the same publisher on similar topics, with the hope that they will be as beautifully written as this one.

California Legal Research fills a unique niche in the literature available for California state law research. This book explains not just the sources of California law but the process of conducting research using those sources. The book should be valuable to a wide range of audiences from first-year students to seasoned veterans. After introductory chapters devoted to the basic research process and fundamental research techniques, California Legal Research explores judicial opinions, the state constitution, statutes and legislative history, and administrative law. The book then turns to updating research with Shepard's and KeyCite, using secondary sources and practice guides, and planning a research strategy. A final chapter explains legal citation, with information on the California Style Manual, the ALWD Citation Manual, and the Bluebook. Print and online resources are introduced simultaneously, with guidance on when each medium is likely to be most effective in solving legal problems. Outlines of the research process and focused excerpts from key state sources make the book easy to use. Brief discussions of legal analysis are included throughout, recognizing the interplay between research and analysis. California Legal Research supplements its primary discussion of state research with brief discussions of federal research. Thus, it can be used as the sole text in a research course or in conjunction with texts focusing on topical or federal research.

About the Author Hether Macfarlane is the Director of Legal Process, University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. Suzanne E. Rowe is a professor of law and Director of Legal Research and Writing at the University of Oregon School of Law.