



Chastek Library

COMPARING STATE LAWS

Research Guide

Comparing state laws is a fairly common research task, and arises in a wide variety of contexts. Before looking for individual state statutes, find out if the comparison you're interested in has already been done.

The first section of this guide, "Multiple Subject Sources" describes topical finding aids for surveys of state laws available in the Chastek Library (both print and online). Resources that survey legislation on specific topics are listed alphabetically by subject.

Keep in mind that legislation changes frequently, so review each statute for currency.

MULTIPLE SUBJECT SOURCES

Print

- Cheryl Rae Nyberg, *Subject Compilations of State Laws* (1981 - 2010). (KF1.S92 - Greenan Reading Room)

Published annually, this is an annotated subject compilation of citations to books, law review articles, and other sources that compare state statutes. It is non-cumulative so you may need to review multiple volumes.

- *National Survey of State Laws* (Richard A. Leiter ed., 6th ed. 2008). (KF386.N38 2008 - Greenan Reading Room)

This provides brief summaries and citations, in chart form, to state laws on a limited selection of topics.

- National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, *Uniform Laws Annotated* (1968). (KF165 .A43 1968 - Greenan Reading Room & Westlaw [ULA](#))

Uniform Laws Annotated is the most complete collection of uniform and model acts, codes, and rules. It includes comments from drafters, tables of adopting jurisdictions, case annotations, and references to secondary sources.

Online

- HeinOnline – [Subject Compilations of State Laws \(1960 – 2010\)](#).

Electronic version of *Subject Compilations of State Laws*.

- Westlaw – 50-State Surveys ([SURVEYS](#) & [REG-SURVEYS](#))

Westlaw provides searchable databases to compare state statutes ([SURVEYS](#)) derived from the *National Survey of State Laws* and state regulations ([REG-SURVEYS](#)). Surveys contain links to the relevant codes or regulations.

- LexisNexis – [50-State Surveys, Legislation & Regulations](#). (CODES;SURVEY)

The LexisNexis database contains surveys in chart form for a variety of subjects. Each survey contains links to the relevant code or regulations.

- National Conference of State Legislatures.
<http://www.ncsl.org/IssuesResearch/tabid/756/Default.aspx>

The NCSL webpage presents a lengthy list of 50-State surveys as well as substantive and comparative articles on state laws. The Issues & Research page leads to bills and other information on hot topics before state legislatures.

SUBJECT-SPECIFIC SOURCES

Abortion & Reproductive Rights

- NARAL/Pro-Choice America
<http://www.prochoiceamerica.org/government-and-you/state-governments/>

Agriculture & Farming

- National Agricultural Law Center
<http://www.nationalaglawcenter.org/reporter/clearinghouse/>

Animals & Pets

- Animal Legal and Historical Center
<http://www.animallaw.info/>

Business Associations

- American Bar Association Committee on Corporate Laws, *Model Business Corporation Act Annotated* (4th ed. 2008). (KF1404.52.A74 2008 - Greenan Reading Room)

Child Abuse & Welfare

- Child Welfare Information Gateway
http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/state/

- American Prosecutors Research Institute
http://www.ndaa.org/ncpca_state_statutes.html

Consumer Law

- American Bar Association Commercial Finance Committee, *Commercial Lending Law: A State-By-State Guide* (2009). (KF1035.C658 2009 – Third Floor)
- Charles Harak, et al, *Access to Utility Service: Regulated, De-regulated and Unregulated Utilities, Deliverable Fuels, and Telecommunications* (4th ed. 2008). (KF2094.S28 2008 - Third Floor)
- Carolyn L. Carter, *Repossessions* (7th ed. 2010). (KF1058.S54 2010 - Third Floor)
- Carolyn L. Carter, *Automobile Fraud: Odometer Tampering, Lemon Laundering, and Concealment of Salvage or Other Adverse History* (3d ed. 2007). (KF2036.A8 S33 2007 - Third Floor)

Damages

- Linda L. Schlueter, *Punitive Damages* (6th ed. 2010). (KF1250.S34 2010 - Third Floor)

Education

- Education Commission of the States
http://www.ecs.org/ecsmain.asp?page=/html/statesTerritories/state_map.htm?am=2

Elder Law

- National Center on Elder Abuse
http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/NCEARoot/Main_Site/Library/Laws/APS_IA_LTCOP_Citations_Chart_08-08.aspx

Elections & Voting

- National Association of Secretaries of State
http://nass.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=193&Itemid=441

Employment Law

- Brian M. Malsberger, *Covenants Not To Compete: A State-by-State Survey* (7th ed. 2010). (KF3463.Z95 C68 2010 - Third Floor)
- Brian M. Malsberger, *Employee Duty of Loyalty: A State-by-State Survey* (4th ed. 2009). (KF3197.Z95 E47 2009 - Third Floor)
- Peter M. Panken, *A State-by-State Survey of the Law on Religion in the Workplace* (2001). (KF3466.5.Z95 P36 2001 - Third Floor)

Firearms & Weapons

- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
<http://www.atf.gov/publications/download/p/atf-p-5300-5/atf-p-5300-5.pdf>

- National Rifle Association, Institute for Legislative Action
<http://www.nraila.org/GunLaws/>

Foreclosure

- National Governor's Association – Center for Best Practices
<http://www.nga.org/portal/site/nga/menuitem.1f41d49be2d3d33eacdcbbeb501010a0/?vgnextoid=ab75191ee609f110VgnVCM1000005e00100aRCRD>

Freedom of Speech

- First Amendment Center
<http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/topicssummary.aspx>

Gays & Lesbians

- Lambda Legal
<http://www.lambdalegal.org/states-regions/>

Judgments

- Roger D. Townsend, ed., *Superseding and Staying Judgments: A National Compendium* (2007). (KF9025.S87 2007 - Third Floor)

News Media

- Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press
<http://www.rcfp.org/readingroom/index.php>
- First Amendment Center - Journalist Shield Statutes
http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/analysis.aspx?id=15938&SearchString=shield_laws

Sports Law

- Robert G. Rodriguez, *The Regulation of Boxing: A History and Comparative Analysis of Policies Among American States* (2009). (KF3989.R63 2009 - Third Floor)

Taxation

- Federation of Tax Administrators: State Comparisons.
<http://www.taxadmin.org/fta/rate/>
- Susan Pace Hamill, *As Certain as Death: A Fifty-State Survey of State and Local Tax Laws* (2007). (KF6750.Z95 H36 2007 - Kelley Reading Room)

Trade Secrets

- Brian M. Malsberger, *Trade Secrets: A State-by-State Survey* (3d ed. 2006). (KF3197.Z95 M35 2006 - Third Floor)

Water Law

- Robert E. Beck, ed., *Waters and Water Rights* (3d ed. 2009). (KF645.W3 2009 – Advocacy Collection, Second Floor)