REQUIRED TEXTBOOKs

The required textbook is KENT C. OLSON, PRINCIPLES OF LEGAL RESEARCH (CONCISE HORNBOOK) (West Academic 2nd ed. 2015). The print edition is on reserve and it is available in electronic format as part of the West Study Aids Subscription at http://home.westacademic.com. The web page links reference in the textbook are available on the web at http://libguides.law.virginia.edu/plr. Please review these links prior to class along with your textbook readings.

Additional readings will be assigned and/or discussed in class from the latest available edition of the Legal Information Buyer’s Guide & Reference Manual, by Kendall F. Svengalis (published annually at http://www.nelawpress.com/). Svengalis talks about practical bottom line pricing decisions. This is a book you should consider purchasing if you plan on starting your own solo or small law practice. A CD with a PDF copy of the book is on reserve under my name at the library information desk.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

For review of basics an optional resource is Legal Research in a Nutshell, 12th Edition by Morris Cohen and Kent C. Olson (2016). It is available in the West Study Aids Subscription at http://home.westacademic.com/. The Legal Research in a Nutshell book has a web page which keeps the links up to date at http://lib.law.virginia.edu/nutshell. Also recommended for review is TERRILL POLLMAN, et al., LEGAL RESEARCH: EXAMPLES AND EXPLANATIONS (Wolters Kluwer 2017). Additional recommended readings and materials may be distributed in class and/or listed on TWEN.

FIRST ASSIGNMENT (for Wednesday, January 4th)

1. Read the syllabus! The syllabus includes an overview of the course goals, the course schedule, and the major projects.

2. Read the 1st assignment text:
   - Olson Chapter 1
   - Svengalis Chapters 1, 2, and 4

3. Sign up for the Advanced Legal Research TWEN course - The latest version of the Syllabus and other course materials will be made available via TWEN. under Advanced Legal Research Seminar - Law 6798. You will also submit your assignments via TWEN.

4. Fill out the student questionnaire. Bring the completed questionnaire to the first class.

5. Start thinking about a paper topic. The major project for the course is a Federal legislative history paper. Information about the project is in the syllabus, and a summary legislative history of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is provided in the syllabus as an example. Legislative history is a skill that will be helpful in numerous aspects of law practice. What issues are you passionate about? Chances are there is a federal statute connected with it.
For this project you will want to find a middle ground between statues that have an overwhelming amount of information about them, or statutes where there is not enough information about them. Do some initial searching about STATUTORY topics of interest on Google and Wikipedia (yes, it can be useful) to see what is out there before we go into detail in class.