



The Starting Place

*Washington State Law Library's
quarterly e-newsletter*

Serving the legal information needs of the citizens of Washington State

Winter 2011

Government Documents on the Web

As much as we sometimes dread searching for government documents and data on the web, it is often a necessary evil. Not only is it now easier to find specific documents, but there are also a host of wonderful websites cropping up that do a lot of the dirty work for us. Subject specific sites abound, as well as sites that present government information in ways that were not available in the past. Here is a sampling of what you will find on the web these days.

[MetaLib](#) This is a Government Printing Office federated search engine that scours multiple databases for federal government reports, articles, etc. A list of the available databases can be reviewed [here](#).

[BankrLaw @ UIUC College of Law](#) The BankrLaw Project provides the text of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code for any date between January 1, 1980 and the present.

[The Federal Register](#) This is not the Federal Register you are used to. Introduced in July 2010, this Federal Register 2.0 has been said to “look and feel more like an online news Web site instead of a bureaucratic diary.”

[Significant Features of the Property Tax®](#) A joint project between the George Washington Institute of Public Policy and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, this database allows the user to compare local property tax data for one or more states.

[Public Data Ferret](#) Shedding light on Washington state and local government, the Public Data Ferret digs up documents that citizens want to see.

[Washington State Library's Documents in the News](#) Curious about state and local government documents behind that recent news story? The State Library does the work for you, posting both the story and the relevant government documents.

A New Face at the WSL

The State Law Library welcomes our new Assistant Law Librarian for Collection Services, Larisa John. Larisa came to us in January from the Puyallup Public Library, where she served as Assistant Director.



Originally hailing from Wisconsin, Larisa received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Wisconsin Madison. She has lived on both coasts and has 17 years of experience in the library field. Having worked in various types of libraries, including a cartographic library, her diverse background makes her a great addition to the WSL staff.

On Display



Come by the Main Reading Room to see our "The Courtroom Goes to the Movies" display. See primary and secondary materials of real world cases that have been made into movies. These include *Inherit the Wind* (1960), starring Spencer Tracy and Fredric March, based on the Scopes monkey trial of 1925, and *In Cold Blood* (1968), starring

Robert Blake and Scott Wilson, based on the murder of a Midwest family as chronicled by Truman Capote in his book of the same name.

Moderate Means Program

In keeping with its 2011-2013 Strategic Goal to "enhance the culture of service" among its membership, the Washington State Bar Association has launched a statewide lawyer-referral program to expand access to legal services for citizens of moderate means (those whose income falls between 200 and 400 percent of the federal poverty level).

This Moderate Means Program is an extension of several already established local programs that serve to provide greater access to justice for those of moderate means. Working in partnership, the WSBA will recruit and train attorneys, the state's three law schools will provide intake and referral services, while participating attorneys agree to charge sliding scale fees based on the client's income.

You can find out more about this new program at <http://www.wsba.org/moderatemeansguidelines.htm> and sign up as a participating attorney at <http://www.mywsba.org/>.

From the BRC

[Retrospective of Courthouse Design, 2001-2010](#), Nat'l Center for State Courts, 2010
Call # NA4471 R48 2010

[Reforming the Nation's Financial System: Analysis of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010](#), LexisNexis, 2010
Call # KF974 B36 R1 2010

[Foreclosures : Defenses, Workouts, and Mortgage Servicing](#), National Consumer Law Center, 2010
Call # KF697 F6 R36 2010

Attention!

The Office of Reporter of Decisions Style Sheet has been revised effective December 28, 2010. Make sure your citation formats are up to date by reviewing the [Style Sheet](#) online.

Of Interest

[The Citizen's Almanac : Fundamental Documents, Symbols, and Anthems of the United States](#)

"From historic speeches to landmark Supreme Court decisions, The Citizen's Almanac offers a fascinating look into the fundamental civic values that have helped shape the country we know today." Although written for newly naturalized citizens, this is an indispensable compilation of your American heritage.



Washington State Law Library

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Visit us at: <http://www.courts.wa.gov/library>

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Chat with us at: <http://www.courts.wa.gov/library/?fa=library.ask>

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Comments Welcome!