Finding the Law: Legal Research for Non-Lawyers

Free or Low-cost Legal Research Databases

National Center for State Court

https://www.ncsc.org/information-and-resources/state-court-websites

Every state has its own legal database. All can be accessed through this portal.

United States Supreme Court

https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/opinions.aspx

Contains U.S. Supreme Court decisions beginning with the 2000 term and other useful information about the Court.

Court Links

http://www.uscourts.gov/about-federal-courts/federal-courts-public/court-website-links

Great database for lower federal courts. First choose from U.S. Court of Appeals, U.S. District Court, or Bankruptcy Court then enter information for a database search.

Cornell University Legal Information Institute (LII)

https://www.law.cornell.edu

Includes links to both state court decisions and also state regulations, as well as legal guides and other secondary sources.

Justia

https://www.justia.com

Justia has administrative codes, regulations, and scholarly legal articles as well as case law.

Findlaw

http://caselaw.findlaw.com/

Law Libraries often provide links to free legal resources. For example:

George Mason Antonin Scalia Law School

https://www.law.gmu.edu/library/freelegalresearch

Harvard Law School

https://guides.library.harvard.edu/free

San Diego Law Library

https://sandiegolawlibrary.org/free-legal-websites/