Parallel Citations: U.S. Code, Public Laws & Statutes-at-Large

Bills enacted by Congress are called session laws. Session laws are published individually as slip laws and then, chronologically, in the Statutes-at-Large, with both a session number and a public law citation. Sometime afterwards, the new statutes are codified by subject matter and published in the United States Code.

Example:
1. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 in the 89th Congress was given a public law number: Pub. L. No. 89-110, published as a slip law.
2. It was next included, in chronological order, in the session laws, Statutes-at-Large: 79 Stat. 445.

How to find all three citations:

- When you have the U.S. Code citation:
  - Use the codes in print:
    - United States Code (U.S.C.)
  - Public Law number and Statutes-at-Large citation: Both are listed after each statute, in parenthesis.
  - Electronic:
    - Lexis/Nexis and Westlaw.

- When you have the name of the statute:
  - Public Law number and Statutes-at-Large citation: If the statute is listed in the U.S.C.A., you will find citations to the public law number and the Statutes-at-Large, and, if there is a “short title,” also to the U.S. Code.
  - Public Law number, Statutes-at-Large, & U.S. Code citations: If the statute is listed in the U.S.C.S., you will find citations to the public law number, Statutes-at-Large, and the U.S. Code.
  - Shepard’s Acts and Cases by Popular Name prints the parallel citations.
• Electronic:
  - Thomas, at http://www.thomas.loc.gov/; use “Search Bills and Resolutions.” In Word/phrase, type the name of the law.
  - Lexis, Shepard’s; Westlaw.

• When you have the Public Law Citation:
  - The Statutes-at-Large (published in chronological order) has the Public Law citation in the list of public laws at the beginning of each volume.
  - The United States Code Congressional & Administrative News correlates the public law citations with the Statutes-at-Large citation in Table 1 of the last volume for each congressional session.
  - The U.S. Code citation is in the left-hand or right-hand margins of the page where the statute is printed in the Statutes-at-Large and the United States Code Congressional and Administrative News (USCCAN).

• Electronic:
  - GPO Access, at http://www.gpoaccess.gov/; see “Legislative Resources.”

• When you have the Statutes-at-Large citation:
  - Public Law citation: Table 1 of the last volume correlates public law numbers with the Statutes-at-Large citation.
  - U.S. Code citation: Printed in the left-hand or right-hand margins of the page in the Statutes-at-Large and the United States Code Congressional and Administrative News (USCCAN).

• Electronic:
  - Lexis/Nexis and Westlaw.

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