What is *A.L.R.?*

*American Law Reports (A.L.R.)* is a secondary resource that:

- Analyzes typical cases and statutory texts on about 400 legal topics.
- Reprints the analyzed case.
- Adds citations to similar cases.
- Organizes cases by jurisdiction, legal rule or outcome.
- Lists resources for continuing research.
- Cross-references cases to the West Topic and Key Number system (for recent years).
- Has a digest helpful for locating topics and issues, as well as annotations.

**CAVEAT:** *A.L.R.* annotations are seldom cited in briefs and cases.

*Why Use A.L.R.?*

- To find cases.
- To get an attorney’s explanation of the topic and legal issues.
- To find related research resources – cases, statutes, regulations, articles, etc.; use the tables volumes.

*How to Use A.L.R. in Print*

- Start with the *Index* to find a topic and annotation.
  - The *Quick Index* is helpful but not complete:
    - *ALR Quick Index* for *ALR3d, 4th, and 5th*
    - *ALR Federal Quick Index*
  - Use the digests for *A.L.R.* and *A.L.R.2d* or the combined digest for *A.L.R. 3d, 4th, 5th* and *Fed.*, which includes 400+ alphabetical topics.
  - Annotation History tables tell you which annotations have been updated.
- Read the annotation’s case, opening sections and statement.
- Look at the article outline, index, and jurisdictional table of cases.
- Note the references section for further research resources.
- Check for an update in the pocket part; look for a newer, updated edition.
- Check the Annotation History Table for a more current annotation.
- Call the Latest Case Service for citations to relevant cases decided after the last update. A toll free number is located in the pocket supplement.

*How to Use A.L.R. Online*

- *A.L.R.* is available from Westlaw online.
  - Law students may use their passwords.
  - Public patrons may use the Westlaw Public Access Terminal at Circulation
- From the directory, choose *A.L.R., American Law Reports.*
- Enter search terms using Boolean search logic (keywords) or Natural Language.
Features of A.L.R. Online

- Very detailed analyses of cases and statutes
- Weekly updating with additional cases
- KeyCite Alert for monitoring the A.L.R. citation for new developments.

Annotation Features

- Table of Contents
- Article Outline
- Index
- Case or Statutory Text
- Table of Cases listed by jurisdiction (state and federal cases)
- Research References

To update A.L.R online

- Use Westlaw’s KeyCite and KeyCite Alert.

Reference: