Legal Encyclopedias in Print

Generally:
- *American Jurisprudence (AmJur)* and *Corpus Juris Secundum (CJS)* are two multi-volume encyclopedias of all major legal topics, and, importantly, they include citations to caselaw, statutes, and regulatory law in all jurisdictions. Some legal encyclopedias focus on a single state.
- **Do not cite to an encyclopedia in briefs and papers.** Encyclopedias are no substitute for citing the law itself (a case, statute or regulation, e.g.), in the view of most courts.

Always Update Print Encyclopedias
- Check for a softbound supplemental pamphlet shelved beside the hard bound book.
- Look for pocket parts inside the back cover pocket.
- Use *Shepard’s* to update cases and statutes. Online, update with *Shepard’s (Lexis)* or *Keycite (Westlaw)*.

Legal Encyclopedias Are Useful for:
- Starting place -- for research
- Explanations of most topics -- in law
- Explanations of legal language -- terms of art
- Source of keywords -- for online Boolean searching
- Citations -- to key cases, statutes and regulations
- Citations to other secondary sources for explanations of legal theory, trends, etc.

How to Use Legal Encyclopedias
- Start with the indexes at the end of the set.
- After you find the volume cited in the index,
  - Look for citations in the footnotes at the bottom of the page;
  - See if the volume is updated by
    - Pocket part
    - Supplemental volume.

How to Cite a Legal Encyclopedia
- Cite to legal encyclopedias only in your school work (not court papers or law review articles).
- Use *The Bluebook*, Rule 15.8, Special Citation Forms, e.g.,
  - 17 Am. Jur.2d Contracts § 74 (1964)
  - 88 C.J.S. Trials § 192 (1955)

American Jurisprudence (AmJur)
- Easy to read and understand.
- Comprehensive -- more than 80 volumes.
- Cross-referenced to other Thomson West publications, using West Topic and Key Number system:
  - *American Digest System*
  - ALR and ALR Federal
  - AmJur Legal Forms 2d, AmJur Trials
• Updated with pocket parts and volume supplements.
• Good indexes at the end of the set:
  o General index (descriptive-word index) at the end of the set
  o Topic index and a New Topics volume or binder at the end
  o AmJur Deskbook volume at the end – useful facts and figures for legal researchers.

**Location:** Reference Room.

**Corpus Juris Secundum (C.J.S.)**

- Cross-referenced to other Thomson West products, using the West Topic and Key Number system
- Very comprehensive and detailed
- Updated with pocket parts and cumulative pocket part supplements
- Good indexes at the end of the set
- Separate topic indexes follow topic volumes
- Summarizes prevailing law ("black letter law")
- Outline at the beginning of each topic
- More than 80 volumes

**Location:** Clinic Library.

**State Legal Encyclopedias**

- Much more detail than in AmJur or C.J.S.
- Many are published by Thomson (West) or Reed Elsevier’s LexisNexis Group
- Similar to AmJur and C.J.S, but not as highly regarded.
- Organization varies.

**Location:** Following state statutes in the Main Collection stacks.

**West’s Encyclopedia of American Law**

- Easy to understand summaries of major topics
- Written for the non-lawyer
- Twelve volume set

**Location:** Reference Room, Ref. KF154 .W47 (1998)