Characteristics of a Legal Treatise

- **Scholarly author** – e.g., law professors, expert practitioners or judges

- **Single subject area** -- e.g., torts, civil procedure, contracts, leases, etc.

- **Multi-volume set** (usually)

- **Thorough coverage** of the subject area
  
  - Detailed index
  - Comprehensive table of contents
  - Comprehensive footnoting, citing to many jurisdictions
  - Organized by paragraphs (¶) or sections (§)
  - Often has tables of cases and/or statutes

- **But not:**
  
  - Not a practitioner’s manual (even if published in looseleaf format)
  - Not a hornbook (one volume primer on an area of law)
  - Not a nutshell (concise, one volume paperback summary of an area of law)

How to Find a Treatise

- Use the catalog
- Do a keyword or title search for the subject matter, e.g., contracts, torts, etc.
  
  - Note: Most treatises do not have the word “treatise” in the title
- Write down the call number
- Find the book(s) in the stacks
- Browse books with the same call number for treatise characteristics

How to Cite a Treatise

- Use *The Bluebook*, Rule 15:
  
  - Court or litigation format:
    
  
  - Law review format:
    

See page 2, over, for a list of treatises for law school course subjects.
Treatises for First Year Law School Course Subjects

Civil Procedure

Call Number KF 8840 (Often called “Wright & Miller”)

*Moore’s Federal Practice*, James Wm. Moore et al.
Call Number KF 8820 .A313 .M632 (often called “Moore’s”)

Contracts

*Corbin on Contracts*, Arthur L. Corbin (rev. by Joseph M. Perillo)
Call number KF 801. C65

*Farnsworth on Contracts*, E. Allan Farnsworth
Call number KF 801 .F37

Criminal Law

*Search and Seizure: A Treatise on the Fourth Amendment*, Wayne R. LaFave
KF 9630 .L26

*Wharton’s Criminal Law*, Charles E. Torcia
Call number KF 9219 .W43

Legal Research and Writing

*Finding the Law*, Robert C. Berring, Elizabeth A. Edinger
Call number KF 240 .B45

*Fundamentals of Legal Research*, Roy M. Mersky & Donald J. Dunn
Call number Res. KF 240 .J32

*Legal Research: How to Find and Understand the Law*, Stephen Elias and Susan Levinkind
Call number KF 240 .E35

*Professional Writing for Lawyers*, Margaret Z. Johns
Call number Res. KF 250 .J64

Torts

Call number KF 1250 .S568

*The Law of Torts*, Fowler V. Harper, Fleming James, Jr. & Oscar S. Gray
Call number KF 1250 .H37