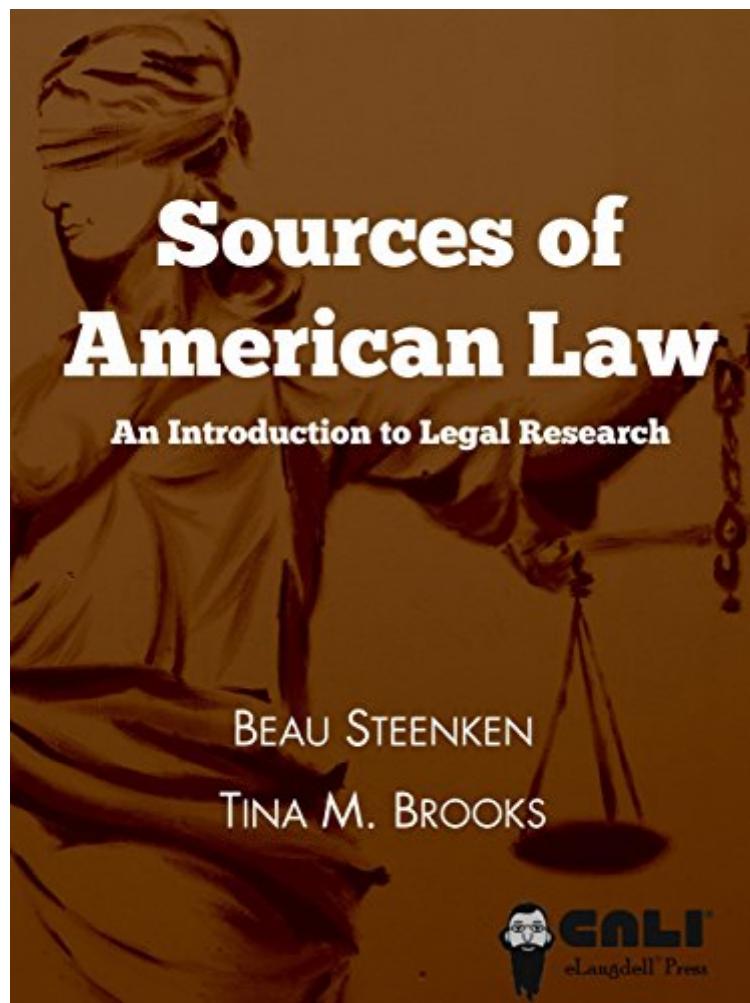




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# Sources Of American Law: An Introduction To Legal Research



## Synopsis

At its most basic definition the practice of law comprises conducting research to find relevant rules of law and then applying those rules to the specific set of circumstances faced by a client. However, in American law, the legal rules to be applied derive from myriad sources, complicating the process and making legal research different from other sorts of research. This text introduces first-year law students to the new kind of research required to study and to practice law. It seeks to demystify the art of legal research by following a “Source and Process” approach. First, the text introduces students to the major sources of American law and describes the forms the various authorities traditionally took in print. After establishing this base, the text proceeds to instruct students on the methods they will most likely use in practice, namely electronic research techniques and the consultation of secondary sources. Sources of Law incorporates screencasts currently hosted on YouTube that actively demonstrate the processes described in the static text. Finally, the text illustrates how the different pieces come together in the legal research process. Sources of Law focuses on realistic goals for 1Ls to learn in a relatively small amount of instruction time, and so focuses mainly on the basics. It does introduce some advanced material so that 1Ls can recognize pieces of information they may encounter in research, but it does not fully cover researching materials outside the scope of the traditional 1L course. As such, it is best-suited for introductory legal research courses for 1Ls. 46,021 Words, 184 pages in PDF Published July 2015 A Teacher’s Manual is available for faculty; please use your CALI credentials to login for access at [www.cali.org](http://www.cali.org).

## Book Information

File Size: 2854 KB

Print Length: 198 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction / CALI / eLangdell Press (August 31, 2015)

Publication Date: August 31, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B014ROG2GK

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #363,270 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #13

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Law > Law Practice > Research #109 in Kindle Store > Law >

Law Practice > Research #153 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Law > Legal Education

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