The collection strengths of the Library of Virginia are Virginia government, history, and culture. The Library serves the executive and legislative branches of government and is the main repository of state government documents. Although not a law library, the Library houses a number of materials relating to the Virginia legal system. This guide compiles the key Virginia legal resources in the collection by topic and provides a brief description of the subject matter addressed by each.

GENERAL SOURCES

A step-by-step guide to legal research in the commonwealth.

Extensive discussion and explanation of Virginia and West Virginia law.

A summary of the basic legal rights and responsibilities that come to individuals when they turn 18.

A comprehensive bibliography of Virginia legal publications.

VIRGINIA CONSTITUTION / CODES / REGULATIONS

Available online at http://legis.state.va.us/Laws/Constitution.htm.

_Code of Virginia_. Charlottesville, Va.: Michie, 1949–. Kept up-to-date by supplements and revised volumes. KFV2430 1950 A2
A compilation of Virginia laws currently in force with annotations and references to case law. The Code has a detailed subject index. The unannotated version is available online at http://leg1.state.va.us/000/src.htm.

The official compilation of rules and regulations adopted by the agencies, departments, boards, commissions, and other authorities of the Commonwealth empowered by the basic laws of the _Code of Virginia_.
Available online at http://leg1.state.va.us/000/srr.htm.

Full-text access to selected Virginia city and county codes and minutes.

_Virginia Register of Regulations_. Richmond, Va.: Virginia Code Commission, 1984–. Biweekly. KFV2436 V5
This publication informs readers of the intended, proposed, and final regulatory action of state agencies. It also supplements the _Virginia Administrative Code_ between the releases of quarterly or semiannual updates. It is no longer distributed to depository libraries in paper format. Issues since volume 13 (1996/97) are available online at http://legis.state.va.us/codecomm/register/issfiles.htm.

COURT DECISIONS

The Virginia judicial system consists of a Supreme Court, a Court of Appeals, circuit courts in thirty-one judicial circuits, general district and juvenile and domestic relations district courts in thirty-two districts, and chief magistrates in thirty-two districts. The Library of Virginia collects the published decisions and opinions of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals.

The Supreme Court of Virginia possesses both original and appellate jurisdiction. Its primary function is to review decisions of lower courts, including the Court of Appeals, from which appeals have been allowed. Virginia does not allow an appeal to the Supreme Court as a matter of right except in cases involving the State Corporation Commission, the disbarment of an attorney, or review of the death penalty.
Virginia Legal Resources

The Court of Appeals of Virginia was established January 1, 1985. It is an intermediate appellate court, which was created in order to increase the appellate capacity of the court system and expedite the appellate process.

Cases Decided in the Supreme Court of Virginia or Virginia Reports. Richmond, Va.: Supreme Court of Virginia, 1798–. Semiannual. K62 V78
The decisions of the highest court in the Commonwealth. Decisions since June 1995 are available online at http://www.courts.state.va.us/opin.htm.

Advance Sheets of Cases Decided in the Supreme Court of Virginia. Richmond, Va.: Supreme Court of Virginia. Irregular. K62 V782
A preliminary publication of the decisions of the Supreme Court of Virginia.

Virginia Court of Appeals Reports. Richmond, Va.: Virginia Court of Appeals, 1986–. Semiannual. KFV2448 A2
The decisions of the Court of Appeals. Decisions since May 1995 are available online at http://www.courts.state.va.us/opin.htm.

Virginia Court of Appeals Advance Reports. St. Paul, Minn.: West, 1995–. Biweekly. KFV2448 A2
Advance announcements of the decisions of the Court of Appeals.

CASE CITATIONS

Provides case name, decision date, and citation for each case decided by the Virginia Supreme Court and the Virginia Court of Appeals from 1920 to present.

A complete citation system to all Virginia cases reported in the various series of Virginia Reports and The Southeastern Reporter. Provides means of retrieving a list of decisions and sources that have cited a case.

Brief summaries and relevant legal principles of all tort cases from Virginia Reports, volumes 180 through 256. Supplements include later cases.

DIRECTORIES

General Information Relating to the Courts within Each Circuit and District in Virginia. Richmond, Va.: Supreme Court of Virginia, 1980–. Annual. KFV 2915 A19 G3

A directory of federal and state courts.

The Virginias (States of Virginia and West Virginia) Legal Directory. Dallas, Tex.: Legal Directories Publishing, Annual. KF190 V51
A directory of licensed attorneys in Virginia and West Virginia.

MANUALS, HANDBOOKS, AND FORMS

A handbook describing the general powers and responsibilities of municipal council members.

A manual that provides a compilation of the sections of the Code of Virginia that pertain to local governments.

Virginia Forms. Newark, N.J.: LexisNexis, 1978–. Kept up-to-date by supplements and revised volumes. KFV2468 G68
This work contains suggested text for legal transactions in Virginia. Topics covered include civil litigation, commercial transactions, medical malpractice, criminal procedure, civil matters, and real estate transactions.

A quick reference and discussion of the statutory and case law pertinent to the examination of titles to real property.

This guide is a joint effort of the Young Lawyers Section of the Virginia Bar Association and Virginia Continuing Legal Education, and includes forms and detailed instructions on the handling of cases.
This work analyzes the history and development of the Virginia Constitution and undertakes a detailed treatment of the evolving interpretation of each section as seen in constitutional conventions, revisions commissions, judicial decisions, attorney general opinions, and legislative and gubernatorial deliberations.

RULES AND PROCEDURE

A scholarly treatise on the Virginia judicial system.

District Court Manual. Richmond, Va.: Supreme Court of Virginia, Office of the Executive Secretary, 2005–. Kept up-to-date by loose-leaf supplements. KFV2929 A25 2005
Available online at http://www.courts.state.va.us/ed/resources/dcmman/1.pdf
A detailed presentation of current procedures for the district courts.

An overview and discussion of Virginia judgment collection practices.

This treatise provides general guidance concerning civil pleading and practice, and includes references to consult for additional information.

A compilation and discussion of the law of jury instruction.

An overview and analysis of the Virginia law of evidence, not only for practicing attorneys, but for all who seek to understand the step-by-step approach of collecting and using evidence at trial.

Instructions to jury members on sections of the Virginia Code regarding civil law.

Instructions to jury members on sections of the Virginia Code regarding criminal law.

A reference and discussion of “remedies” for administering justice after a defined wrong has occurred.

Compilation of the rules of practice and procedures followed by federal, state, and local courts.

Discretionary sentencing guidelines to assist the judiciary in achieving consistency of punishment and reduction of unwarranted sentencing disparity.

SUBJECT AREAS

Discusses the history and purpose of bankruptcy law and the steps involved in the management of various types of bankruptcy.

Business Entities. Egan, Minn.: Thomson/West, 2004–. Annual. KFV2610 W33
A convenient reference for basic information on Virginia corporations including creation, dissolution of stock, maintenance, major transactions, and mergers. Contains more than 100 business forms including those used for drafting articles of incorporation, applying for a corporate name, drafting minutes of the first board of directors meeting, doing business as a foreign firm, establishing bylaws, and creating a corporate charter.

Topics covered include: discrimination claims, testing and interviews, employee rights and protections, termination of employment, and public employer issues.


This treatise presents current Virginia family law and discusses the law's underlying rationale as well as its practical application in court.


An in-depth treatise on the laws and procedures of devolution of estates.


A compilation of all laws pertaining to highways and related subjects issued by the Department of Transportation.

**Landlord/Tenant Handbook.** Eagan, Minn.: Thomson/West, 2004–. KFV2517 F752

A practical manual intended for use in both the courtroom and the office.


This work covers in detail what constitutes “personal injury” and which tort actions may be taken as a result.

**Probate Handbook.** Eagan, Minn.: Thomson/West, 2005–. Annual. KFV2544 B76

A thorough treatment of probate and non-probate assets, estate planning, tax issues, accountings, guardianships, and conservatorships.

**Products Liability.** Eagan, Minn.: Thomson/West, 2005. KFV2597 P74 2005

A comprehensive guide to products liability claims under Virginia law.


A practical handbook of Virginia’s real estate laws.


This work describes the laws that provide assistance to employees who have been injured in the workplace.


This three-volume set covers workplace issues in simple, easy-to-understand language.

**PERIODICALS**

**Virginia Lawyers Weekly.** Richmond, Va.: Virginia Lawyers Weekly, 1986–. Weekly. Film 639

A newspaper that contains timely digests of appellate court decisions, summaries of trial court and administrative court decisions, verdict and settlement reports, and other news of interest to Virginia lawyers.

**Virginia Lawyer/ Virginia Lawyer Register.** Alternate issues. Richmond, Va.: Virginia State Bar, 1988–. Monthly. KF200 V55

The official publications of the Virginia State Bar.

Issues since 1998 are available online at http://www.vsb.org/publications/vlawyer/index.html


Issues since volume 12 (Fall 2003) are available online at http://www.law.gmu.edu/gmulawreview


**William and Mary Law Review.** Williamsburg, Va.: Marshall-Wythe School of Law, 1957–. Six times a year. K42 W72

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