

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 Guide to Legal Research in Virginia*. Charlottesville, Va.: Virginia CLE Publications, 2005. KJV2475 G85 2005  
A step-by-step guide to legal research in the commonwealth.
- Michie's Jurisprudence of Virginia and West Virginia: A Complete Treatise of Virginia and West Virginia Law*. Charlottesville, Va.: Lexis Law Publishing, 1993-. Kept up-to-date by supplements and replacement volumes. KJV2465 M52  
Extensive discussion and explanation of Virginia and West Virginia law.
- So You're 18: A Handbook on Your Legal Rights and Responsibilities*. Richmond, Va.: Virginia State Bar: Conference of Local Bar Associations, 2005. KJV2811.5 T25 S7 2005  
A summary of the basic legal rights and responsibilities that come to individuals when they turn 18.  
Available online at <http://www.vsb.org/publications/index.html#18>.
- Bryson, Hamilton W. *Virginia Law Books: Essays and Bibliographies*. Philadelphia, Pa.: American Philosophical Society, 2000. KJV2401 V567 2000  
A comprehensive bibliography of Virginia legal publications.

## VIRGINIA CONSTITUTION / CODES / REGULATIONS

- The Constitution of Virginia: Effective July 1, 1971, with Amendments, January 1, 2005*. Richmond, Va.: Commonwealth of Virginia, 2005. KJV2801 1971 A358 2005  
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. KJV2430 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>.
- Virginia Administrative Code*. Rochester, N.Y.: Lawyers Cooperative Publishing, 1996. Print version is updated semiannually. KJV2840 A56 1996  
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>.
- [*Virginia Municipal Codes*]. "Municode.com." Municipal Code Corporation.  
Full-text access to selected Virginia city and county codes and minutes.  
Available online at [http://www.municode.com/resources/code\\_list.asp?stateID=46](http://www.municode.com/resources/code_list.asp?stateID=46).
- Virginia Register of Regulations*. Richmond, Va.: Virginia Code Commission, 1984-. Biweekly. KJV2436 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.

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## 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

**Shepard's Virginia Case Names Citator.** Colorado Springs, Colo.: Shepard's/McGraw-Hill, 1985–. Kept up-to-date by cumulative supplements. KfV2459 S49 1985

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.

**Shepard's Virginia Citations.** Colorado Springs, Colo.: Shepard's/McGraw-Hill, 1958–. Kept up-to-date by cumulative supplements. KfV2459 S5

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.

**Virginia Torts Case Finder.** Charlottesville, Va.: Lexis Law Publishing, 1999. Kept up-to-date by revised editions and cumulative supplements. KfV2595 A53 R63 1999

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 courts and judges in the Commonwealth. Available online at <http://www.courts.state.va.us/rule115.html>.

**Judicial Yellow Book.** New York, N.Y.: Leadership Directories, 1995–. Semiannual. Kf8700 A25 J92

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

**Handbook for Virginia Mayors and Council Members.** 5th ed. rev. Charlottesville, Va.: Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, University of Virginia; Richmond, Va.: Virginia Municipal League, 2004. KfV2831 Z9 W4 2004

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

**Virginia County Supervisor's Manual.** 7th ed. Charlottesville, Va.: Virginia Association of Counties, 2006. KfV2732 A56 2006

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 Virginia Title Examiners' Manual.** 3rd ed. Charlottesville, Va.: Lexis Law Publishing, 1998. KfV2527 D48 1998

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

**The Virginia Lawyer: A Deskbook for Practitioners.** Charlottesville, Va.: Virginia CLE Publications, Virginia Law Foundation, 2004–. Kept up-to-date by loose-leaf supplements. KfV2477 V468 2004

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.

***The Virginia State Constitution: A Reference Guide.*** Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 2006. KFV2801 1970 A6 D56 2006

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

***Bryson on Virginia Civil Procedure.*** 4th ed. Newark, N.J.: LexisNexis/Matthew Bender, 2005. Kept up-to-date by supplements. KFV2930 B74 2005

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/dcman/1.pdf>

A detailed presentation of current procedures for the district courts.

***Enforcement of Judgments and Liens in Virginia.*** 2nd ed. Charlottesville, Va.: Michie, 1994. Kept up-to-date by supplements. KFV2951 E53 1994

An overview and discussion of Virginia judgment collection practices.

***Friend's Virginia Pleading and Practice.*** Charlottesville, Va.: Lexis Law Publishing, 1998. Kept up-to-date by supplements. KFV2930 F75 1998

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

***Instructions for Virginia and West Virginia.*** 4th ed. Charlottesville, Va.: Lexis Law Publishing, 1995–1998. Kept up-to-date by supplements. KFV2942.6 A65 I57 1995

A compilation and discussion of the law of jury instruction.

***The Law of Evidence in Virginia.*** 6th ed. Newark, N.J.: LexisNexis, 2003. Kept up-to-date by supplements. KFV2940 F7 2003

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.

***Virginia Model Jury Instructions. Civil.*** Charlottesville, Va.: Michie, 1998–. Updated by revised editions and loose-leaf supplements. KFV2983 A65 V5 1998

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

***Virginia Model Jury Instructions. Criminal.*** Newark, N.J.: LexisNexis/Matthew Bender, 2003–. Kept up-to-date by revised editions and loose-leaf supplements. KFV2983 A65 V572 2003

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

***Virginia Remedies.*** 3rd ed. San Francisco: LexisNexis/Matthew Bender, 2005. KFV2947 C67 2005

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

***Virginia Rules Annotated: Including the Rules of the Courts and Commissions in Virginia, the Rules of the Federal Courts, and the Rules of the Supreme Court of the United States.*** Charlottesville, Va.: Lexis Law Publishing, 1976–. Kept up-to-date by revised editions and supplements. KFV2929 A2

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

***Virginia Sentencing Guidelines.*** 8th ed. Richmond, Va.: Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission, 2005. KFV2983.2 A85 2005

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

## SUBJECT AREAS

***Bankruptcy Practice in Virginia.*** Charlottesville, Va.: Virginia CLE Publications, 2004. Kept up-to-date by supplements. KFV2621 B36 2004

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.

- Employment Law Guide: Employee Rights and Employer Responsibilities in Virginia.** 4th ed. Charlottesville, Va.: Virginia CLE Publications, 2005. KJV2734 E464 2005  
Topics covered include: discrimination claims, testing and interviews, employee rights and protections, termination of employment, and public employer issues.
- Family Law: Theory, Practice and Forms.** St. Paul, Minn.: Thomson/West, 2005. Kept up-to-date by revised editions. KJV2494 S9 2005  
This treatise presents current Virginia family law and discusses the law's underlying rationale as well as its practical application in court.
- Harrison on Wills and Administration: A Discussion of the Devolution of a Decedent's Estate and the Procedure for the Distribution Thereof, for Virginia and West Virginia.** Charlottesville, Va.: Michie, 1985–1990. Kept up-to-date by supplements. KJV2544 H37 1985  
An in-depth treatise on the laws and procedures of devolution of estates.
- Highway Laws of Virginia: Statutes, Regulations and Cases Pertaining to the Department of Transportation.** Charlottesville, Va.: LexisNexis, 2004. Kept up-to-date by supplements. KJV2695 A3 2004  
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–. KJV2517 F752  
A practical manual intended for use in both the courtroom and the office.
- Personal Injury Law in Virginia.** 3rd ed. Newark, N.J.: LexisNexis, 2003. Kept up-to-date by supplements. KJV2597 P3 F75 2003  
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. KJV2544 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. KJV2597 P74 2005  
A comprehensive guide to products liability claims under Virginia law.
- Virginia Real Estate Practice and Law.** 7th ed. Chicago, Ill.: Dearborn Real Estate Education, 2005. KJV2526 V57 2005  
A practical handbook of Virginia's real estate laws.
- Virginia Worker's Compensation: Law and Practice.** New York, N.Y.: LexisNexis, 2000. Kept up-to-date by supplements. KJV2742 P37 2000  
This work describes the laws that provide assistance to employees who have been injured in the workplace.
- Workplace Law in Virginia.** McLean, Va.: Hill Spring, 1997. Kept up-to-date by supplements. KJV2731 M36 1997  
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/valawyer/index.html>
- George Mason Law Review.** Arlington, Va.: George Mason Law Journal Association, George Mason University School of Law, 1995–. Six times a year. K12 A9376  
Issues since volume 12 (Fall 2003) are available online at <http://www.law.gmu.edu/gmulawreview>
- University of Richmond Law Review.** Richmond, Va.: University of Richmond Law Review Association, 1977–. Quarterly. K25 I35
- Virginia Law Review.** Charlottesville, Va.: Virginia Law Review Association, 1913–. Frequency varies. K42 V73
- Washington and Lee Law Review.** Lexington, Va.: School of Law, Washington and Lee University, 1939–. Quarterly. K42 W3
- William and Mary Law Review.** Williamsburg, Va.: Marshall-Wythe School of Law, 1957–. Six times a year. K42 W72

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