



## New York State Legal Sources

This guide covers basic sources of legal information for New York State case law (decisions of judges), statutory law (acts of the legislature) and administrative law (rules and regulations). For questions on United States court cases, see the library guide [How to Find Court Cases](#). For questions of U.S. laws and regulations, see the library guide [United States Laws and Regulations](#). For questions on tax law, see the guide [Taxation Sources](#). Additional information can be located through the library catalog [infoLINK](#) and the Internet.

### A NOTE ON COURT CASE CITATIONS

Common practice is to list plaintiff first, then defendant. There are cross-references in most indexes to defendants. Legal citations follow the form 123 ABC 456 (e.g., 339 N.Y.S.2d 113). The first group of numbers is a volume number; the letters in the middle designate the publication in question; and last group is the page number. Many times, several sources for the case are given—you can find the case in any of the sources listed. Use the abbreviation in the citation to find the name of the source. In this guide, the abbreviation for a legal series is listed in the left margin. For an exhaustive list see *Bieber's Dictionary of Legal Abbreviations*, Ref KF246 .B46.

### ONLINE LEGAL RESOURCES

**LEXIS-NEXIS Academic Universe** (BU only)

available via [metaLINK](#)

This legal database contains New York State court cases as well as the current New York State code, court rules, and constitution. Court decisions are currently available for:

- New York Supreme Court Cases -Appellate division—from 1892
- New York Court of Appeals—from 1794
- New York Lower Court cases—from 1851

From the **LEXIS-NEXIS Academic Universe** homepage, click on “legal research”, click on “state case law”, then “New York”. If you have the legal citation or case name, from the “legal research” page, click on “get a case”.

**Westlaw Campus Research** (BU only)

available via [metaLINK](#)

This legal database contains New York State court cases as well as current New York statutes, constitution and court rules. Related print publications include McKinney's Consolidated Laws of New York Annotated and McKinney's New York Rules of Court pamphlets. Court cases are currently available:

- New York Court of the Correction of Errors—1828-1841
- New York Supreme Court of Judicature—1828-1841
- New York Court of Appeals—from 1847
- New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division—from 1896
- New York Supreme Court—from 1799
- New York Miscellaneous Courts of Record—from 1888

From the Westlaw homepage, click on the “Law” tab. In the “Search” section, type in your search terms, then select “New York” under “Journals and Law Reviews”, “State Cases”, “State Statutes” or “State Administrative Codes”. If you have a legal citation or case name, go to the “Shortcuts” section and enter your information.

### **Other New York State legal sites:**

New York Assembly Legislative Information System:  
Recent NY Court of Appeals cases can be found at:

<http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/>  
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/ny/ctap/>

For a list of other sites, go to Binghamton University Libraries' Home Page, click on "Virtual Reference Collection." Select "Government Information". Next select "New York State Government." Here you can search current bills and resolutions, vetoes, budget bills, statutes, the N. Y. S. constitution and N. Y. S. laws. <http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/subjects/govinfo/nysdocs.html>

## **PRINT RESOURCES**

### **NEW YORK STATE COURT DECISIONS**

<b>Abbott New York Digest 2d</b> 1930-1961	KFN 5057 .A2 1971 (3 <sup>rd</sup> floor)
<b>West's New York Digest 3d</b> 1961-1978	KFN 5057 .A2 1979 (3 <sup>rd</sup> floor)
<b>West's New York Digest 4th</b> 1978-present	Ref KFN 5057 .A2 1989

These sets are indexes to New York State court cases. There is an index to cases by plaintiff and defendant, and a "word index" to the subject headings used in the main body of the index. These sets index the sources listed below:

<b>New York Supplement</b> , 1st and 2nd	KFN 5045 .A33-A333 (3 <sup>rd</sup> floor)
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<b>N.Y.S.</b> <b>N.Y.S.2d</b>	A commercial publication, with annotations, reporting decisions for cases argued in New York State courts (Court of Appeals, Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, Supreme Court, and others). Library owns complete set, 1888-present. Check pocket supplements at the back of each volume for updates.
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<b>Misc.</b>	<b>New York Miscellaneous Reports</b> The library owns v.1-208, 1892-1955.	KFN 5051 .A5 (Library Annex)
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<b>N.Y.</b>	<b>New York Court of Appeals Reports</b> The library owns v.1-309, 1859-1955.	KFN 5045 .A18 (Library Annex)
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<b>App.Div.</b> <b>A.D.</b>	<b>N. Y. Supreme Court.</b> <b>Appellate Division Reports</b> The library owns series 1, v.1-286, 1896-1955.	KFN 5048 .A22 (Library Annex)
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### **NEW YORK STATE STATUTORY LAW**

<b>McKinney's Consolidated Laws of New York,</b> <b>Annotated</b>	Ref K .N4 A25
Current New York State laws, compiled into eighty-nine subject areas.	

<b>L.[year]</b> <b>ch. [no.]</b>	<b>Laws of the State of New York</b> A chronological presentation of every statute enacted, grouped by sessions of the Legislature. Library has 1847:v.2, 1867:v.2, 1872-2000, except for 1909,1937,1953,1975, and 1980-88. Years 1982-1993 can be found in New York State Documents fiche: LEG 006.8-3 LAWSN 88-18815.	KFN 5025 .A2 (3 <sup>rd</sup> floor)
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<b>McKinney's Session Laws of New York</b>	Ref K .N57 .A4
A commercial version of the proceeding work, which also includes memoranda commenting on individual statutes, the governor's messages, and the like. Kept up-to-date by paperbound supplements. Library holds 1952-present.	

## NEW YORK STATE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

### ***New York State Register***

Periodicals

A weekly compilation containing notice of newly proposed rules as well as proposed changes to existing rules. The most recent issues are shelved in Current Periodicals under "New York State Register," and the back issues from 1979 on, are bound. Years 1994-present can be found at: <http://www.dos.state.ny.us/info/register.htm>

Approved rules and rule changes are incorporated into the **NYCRR** (see below).

### **NYCRR**

### ***Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York***

Ref KFN 5025 .A3

This set contains the full text of New York's current regulations.

## NEW YORK STATE LEGAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

### **NY Jur 2d**

### ***New York Jurisprudence, 2d Series***

Ref KFN 5065 .N48 1979

A legal encyclopedia to New York State law--it can be a good place to start looking for cases and laws on particular subjects. Check pocket supplements at the back of each volume for updates.

## COURT DECISIONS OF OTHER STATES

### ***LEXIS-NEXIS Academic Universe*** (BU only)

available via [metaLINK](#)

Many court decisions, laws, codes and regulations of other states are available on ***LEXIS-NEXIS Academic Universe***. From the Lexis-Nexis homepage, click on "legal research", then click on "state case law" or "state codes".

### ***Westlaw Campus Research*** (BU only)

available via [metaLINK](#)

Many court decisions, laws, codes and regulations of other states are available on ***Westlaw Campus Research***. From the Westlaw homepage, click on the "Law" tab. In the "Search" section, type in your search terms (see "more search tips" for help), then select your state under "Journals and Law Reviews", "State Cases", "State Statutes" or "State Administrative Codes".

Binghamton University has no printed court decisions for other states. Some major cases may be found in the following:

<b>A.L.R.</b>	<b><i>American Law Reports, Annotated</i></b> 1919-1948	KF 105 .A6 (3 <sup>rd</sup> floor)
<b>A.L.R.2d</b>	<b><i>American Law Reports, Annotated 2d</i></b> 1948-1965	KF 105. A7 "
<b>A.L.R.3d</b>	<b><i>American Law Reports, 3d</i></b> 1965-1980	KF 105 .A8 "
<b>A.L.R.4</b>	<b><i>American Law Reports, 4d</i></b> 1980-1991	KF 105 .A85 "
<b>A.L.R.5</b>	<b><i>American Law Reports, 5th</i></b> 1992-present	KF 105. A88 "

These series contain important cases from appellate courts nationwide, as well as essays on certain subjects, e.g., abortion, and how state courts have ruled recently on these subjects. Detailed indexes are at the end of each set. This series is also available online in ***Westlaw Campus Research*** (see above).

### ***Martindale-Hubbell Law Digest***

Ref K .U5 M22

This is a two-volume set containing 20-40 page digests of the laws of each state of the nation, arranged by legal topic.

## COMMON ABBREVIATIONS

(Guides: **NY** = this guide; **CT** = How to Find Court Cases; **US** = United States Laws and Regulations)

Look in the left-hand margin of these guides to find the abbreviations. For an exhaustive list see ***Bieber's Dictionary of Legal Abbreviations***, Ref KF 246 .B46.

<u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Location in Guide</u>
A.D.	Appellate Division	NY p.2
A.L.R.	American Law Reports	NY p.3
Am Jur 2d	American Jurisprudence, 2nd Series	CT p.3
App Div	Appellate Division	NY p.2
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	US p.3
CLS	New York Consolidated Legal Service (not at B.U.)	
F.2d	Federal Reporter, 2d Series	CT p.4
F.Supp	Federal Supplement	CT p.4
L.[year] ch.[number]	Laws of the State of New York	NY p.2
L.Ed	U.S. Supreme Court Reports, Lawyers' Edition	CT p.3
L.Ed 2d	U.S. Supreme Court Reports, Lawyers' Ed., 2nd Series	CT p.3
Misc	New York Miscellaneous Reports	NY p.2
N.Y.	New York Court of Appeals Reports	NY p.2
NYCRR	New York Code of Rules and Regulations	NY p.3
NY Jur 2d	New York Jurisprudence	NY p.3
N.Y.S.	New York Supplement	NY p.2
N.Y.S.2d	New York Supplement, 2nd Series	NY p.2
P.L.	Public Law	US p.2
S.Ct.	Supreme Court Reporter	CT p.3
Stat.	United States Statues at Large	US p.1
U.S.	United States Reports	CT p.3
U.S.C.	United States Code	US p.1
U.S.C.A.	United States Code Annotated	US p.1