

California Water Law: A Legal Research Guide

Volume 78

By: Tobe Liebert

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- First and only research guide of its kind!
- Uncover how agencies, boards, and commissions play a role in water distribution in California
- Research the importance of water litigation in an era of greater water shortages and a warming climate
- Perfect for students, professors, attorneys, or anyone studying historical research on California water law!



About This Title

Water law is of great importance in California due to the lack of water in the majority of the state and the prospect of greater shortages in an era of warming climate. "Water Law" defies a simple definition. It typically refers to a wide variety of topics that address the ownership, allocation, use, and quality of water. In the early days of California statehood, water law existed primarily as a way of settling disputes between competing users, but it is now a complex intersection of private rights and public policy, where state and federal interests in the management and preservation of water resources have been increasingly asserted. Indeed, because of the recent rise of environmental concerns and legislation, one scholar has stated: "in many respects, water law in California today is primarily environmental law."

It is certain that conflicts and litigation over the rights to and usage of water are going to increase in the coming years. This guide introduces researchers to the basic concepts and resources (both print and online) needed to research water law issues in California. This new book explains the identity, function, and publications of the various government bodies involved with water law issues in California, and provides researchers starting points when conducting historical research on California water law.

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About the Author

Tobe Liebert is a law librarian with many years of experience in academic law libraries. Tobe received his undergraduate degree at Centre College of Kentucky, where he majored in history, and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He then began his legal career by attending the University of Kentucky School of Law. Following graduation, he worked as an attorney in Louisville for five years.

After his years of private law practice, he attended library school at the University of Indiana at Bloomington. Upon graduation, he began his librarian career at the Loyola Law School of Los Angeles. At Loyola he worked as a reference librarian and taught legal research to first-year law students. Tobe subsequently worked at the law schools of the University of Southern California and the University of Texas at Austin. While at Texas, he began publishing extensively, often in collaboration with Professor Roy Mersky, one of the foundational figures in law librarianship.

Tobe then moved to Chicago, where he worked at the law schools of both John Marshall and Chicago-Kent. During this time he also taught a distance education course in legal research for the LLM program at the University of Southern California School of Law. He recently returned to the Los Angeles area and works again at the Loyola Law School. Tobe teaches both first-year and advanced legal research and is currently preparing a distance education course for evening law students. His latest scholarly interest is in water law.

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