

## Iowa Legal Research Guide

**IOWA  
LEGAL RESEARCH GUIDE**

**John D. Edwards**

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## PREFACE



The impetus for the *Iowa Legal Research Guide* was the need to provide a single source in which researchers could find the key sources to consult for thorough legal research. One of the great benefits to users of this guide is that the chapters have been written by members of the Iowa Bar who have considerable expertise in the subjects they are covering. The efforts of more than seventy members of the Iowa State Bar Association resulted in this resource for attorneys, legal assistants, law librarians, faculty, students, and others researching Iowa law. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first comprehensive research guide for Iowa law and the first state guide to include the work of so many members of the bar.

Some basic familiarity with legal research was assumed in drafting the chapters. For those needing additional information on basic research tools, any well-known national text may be of assistance, including: Morris L. Cohen, Robert C. Berring & Kent C. Olson, *How to Find the Law* (9th ed., West 1989); Roy M. Mersky & Donald J. Dunn, *Fundamentals of Legal Research* (8th ed., Foundation 2002); and Christina L. Kunz et al., *The Process of Legal Research* (5th ed., Aspen 2000).

The first twelve chapters follow the pattern of other guides in giving information about the sources of primary law, such as the Iowa Constitution, statutes, local legislation, case law, and administrative law, as well as covering other essential sources for Iowa researchers. In Chapter 13, however, the focus shifts to providing specialized research information on thirty areas of Iowa practice. Each of these chapters begins with an introductory Starting Points section to tell the researcher what basic resources should be consulted for an initial review of the subject. A “Research Process” section follows and presents the specific steps to pursue as well as sources to consult in investigating the topic. A “Final Checklist” in each chapter helps ensure

that no steps are missed in the process. Many chapters include an “Additional References” section providing a more expansive bibliography of available resources.

The explosion of Internet resources provides legal researchers with access to a wealth of information. Hundreds of Web site URLs are included throughout this guide to assist the user. Although each URL was working at the time this book went to press, it is inevitable that some may not be at the time a researcher keys them in. If the Web site appears to be unavailable, a search engine such as Google <<http://www.google.com>> may be able to find the site.

John D. Edwards  
January 2003

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



A comprehensive work of this scope would not have been possible without the contributions of many individuals. The following pages list the more than seventy Iowa attorneys who authored chapters for this guide. Others played a key role in helping bring the book to fruition. Initial discussions began in late 1998 with Iowa State Bar Association President David Beckman. Meetings in 1999 with ISBA Executive Director Dwight Dinkla and Communications Director Charles Corcoran helped finalize the concept of a cooperative project of the ISBA and the Drake and Iowa law schools. In summer 1999 letters went out to ISBA chairs asking for assistance in helping find authors for the project. William S. Hein & Co. accepted the book proposal and provided considerable support and assistance throughout the process. Charles Corcoran frequently included news items in *The Iowa Lawyer*, including a cover spread in the January 2000 issue, until volunteers were found for each chapter. He continued to provide invaluable support throughout the project.

Input on chapter drafts by ISBA chairs and faculty members at the Drake University and the University of Iowa was very helpful. Some of those who offered comments include: Jerry Anderson, Martin Begleiter, Andrea Charlow, Jeff Courter, Greg Kenyon, Roxann Ryan, Webb Wassmer, Molly Williams, and Mark Zaiger. The staff at Drake University Law Library was invaluable in checking details and offering assistance whenever needed. Especially appreciated were the efforts of: Kathy Bowen, David Hanson, Karen Hermann, Susan Lerdal, Rebecca Lutkenhaus, Shawn Madsen, Sarah Pedersen, Carol Smith, Michael Spoerl, Mary Anne Sulentic, Deborah Sulzbach, Julie Thomas, Sherry VonBehren, and Karen Wallace. This book would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of Administrative Assistant Ruth Terrell in inputting changes, checking URLs, and verifying information, among other tasks, to

complete the work. The superb work of Beth Ann Edwards in copy editing and proofreading was most timely and much appreciated.

Other state research guides by William S. Hein & Co. helped immensely in outlining the scope of coverage. Of particular assistance was Melanie K. Putman & Susan M. Schaefer, *Ohio Legal Research Guide* (Hein, 1997), which was modeled after Ellen M. Gibson's *New York Legal Research Guide* (Hein, 1988; 2d ed. 1998).

John D. Edwards

## ABOUT THE EDITOR



John D. Edwards received his J.D. from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law, his M.A.L.S. from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and his B.A. from Southeast Missouri State University. He is a member of the Missouri Bar. In addition to serving Drake University Law School as Professor of Law and Director of the Law Library, he also is Executive Director of Legal Research and Writing and Director of Information Technology. Before joining the Drake staff in 1984, he was Associate Law Librarian at the University of Oklahoma Law Library.

Professor Edwards' articles on legal research have appeared in the *Law Library Journal* and in monographs. During the initial stages of this guide he edited the book *Emerging Solutions in Reference Services: Implications for Libraries in the New Millennium* (Haworth Press, 2001). He was elected to the Clive City Council in 1995 and reelected in 1999. Since 1998 he has served as Mayor Pro Tem.

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