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The Bankruptcy Lawyer's Guide to the Internet

Pearl Goldman



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The Bankruptcy Lawyer's Guide to the Internet

PEARL GOLDMAN

I. Introduction

In the 1960s, the federal government created the Advanced Research Projects Agency Network (ARPANET), the Internet's predecessor, to link "computers and computer networks owned by military, defense contractors, and university laboratories conducting defense-related research."¹ Used exclusively by the scientific community in its early years,² the Internet rapidly became a "worldwide group of public and private computers linked together in a network to share information."³ The Internet actually consists of several systems of communication and information retrieval, including the World Wide Web,⁴ Web 2.0,⁵ cloud computing,⁶ and e-mail.

This environment presents tremendous challenges for bankruptcy attorneys. The field of bankruptcy law includes a complex body of doctrinal and procedural law, involving not only Congress, the federal courts, and special appellate procedures but also a separate administrative system and even state law. Before the advent of computer-assisted legal research, bankruptcy research was confined to the available treatises, loose-leaf services, newsletters, and legal periodicals. Legal practitioners networked at professional and social events, obtained their news from newspapers, magazines, newsletters, and television, and read commentary in law journals. With the introduction of Westlaw and Lexis in the 1970s,⁷ however, the legal profession found itself in the midst of a research revolution. Court opinions were available online within hours of decision, before their publication in advance sheets.⁸ Today, administrative regulations are published on the Internet before they become available in print, news reports and legal research services are accessible on cell phones, commentary is published on blogs, and connections are made on social networking Web sites. The landscape of law practice has been altered forever.

Professor of Law, Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad Law Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The purpose of this guide is to assist the bankruptcy attorney in navigating this new landscape. This article updates and expands upon its predecessor,⁹ describes many of the online sources containing useful bankruptcy information, suggests strategies for efficient and cost-effective research, and discusses new information technology resources. Part II describes general, legal, and bankruptcy-related search engines, libraries, and directories. Part III discusses direct access to primary bankruptcy resources on the Internet, including legislation, judicial opinions, rules and forms, and administrative regulations. Part IV lists secondary and tertiary resources of interest to bankruptcy practitioners, including scholarly articles, news, and company research. Part V offers an introduction to Web 2.0 resources.

One cautionary note bears mention here. The Internet is in a constant state of flux. Web sites are added, altered, relocated, and removed on a daily basis. The dynamic nature of the Internet makes it impracticable for this guide to provide a comprehensive permanent list of the Web sites available to bankruptcy practitioners. Instead, the discussion seeks to provide readers with the skills needed to locate and navigate bankruptcy-related Web sites in the future.

II. Search Engines, Directories, and Electronic Libraries

Primary and secondary bankruptcy resources are housed on the Internet in libraries or collections maintained by governmental (.gov or .us), educational (.edu), commercial (.com), noncommercial (.org), military (.mil), and technological (.net) entities.¹⁰ These resources may be retrieved simply by typing the Web address, known as the URL, directly into the address line of the Web browser or by clicking on a link in another document. Without a URL or a link to a URL, however, Web directories, search engines, or electronic libraries must be used.

An electronic library is a collection of materials stored by a content provider, such as Westlaw or Lexis, in digital format. A Web directory is a site that catalogues information by subject and provides a list of links to relevant sites.¹¹ Directories are easy to use: a simple mouse click on an entry in a category or subcategory allows you to “jump” to another Internet site. Directories are excellent starting points for research because they are more selective than search engines and contain links chosen by subject specialists.¹²

If libraries or directories fail to yield results, however, try a search engine. Search engines are programs that index other sites and allow you to locate information from those other sites.¹³ When search terms, known as keywords or phrases, are entered into an online search form, the search engine’s software crawls the Internet, generates and ranks a

list of potentially relevant sites, and permits you to link automatically to the information sought.¹⁴ Metasearch engines are similar but allow searches to be sent to several search engines all at once.¹⁵

The following sections describe directories, libraries, and search engines that are dedicated to bankruptcy practice, as well as general legal and nonlegal resources that may be used to conduct related research in bankruptcy law.

A. Bankruptcy-Related Directories

Of the three sites originally discussed under this category,¹⁶ only one remains entirely free for the bankruptcy researcher: The Bankruptcy LawTrove¹⁷ is a directory created and maintained by Warren E. Agin, an attorney practicing bankruptcy law in Boston, Massachusetts. This site provides an excellent starting point for bankruptcy research on the Internet because it links you to a rich variety of primary and secondary resources. Such links include statutes, regulations, and cases, as well as government resources such as the U.S. Trustee's office homepage, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Courts Homepage, and The PACER Service Center.

The American Bankruptcy Institute's Web site¹⁸ is now primarily a subscription service. Nonmembers should not overlook this site, however. Many excellent features on the Online Resources page¹⁹ are free, including summaries of U.S. Supreme Court decisions, oral argument transcripts, and briefs. Other free resources include a full text, searchable online version of the Bankruptcy Code, bankruptcy statistics, legislative news and highlights, topical commentaries, business bankruptcy headlines, and links to bankruptcy courts, the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, and the search page at THOMAS—U.S. Congress on the Internet. Users may also enjoy listening to ABI Podcasts²⁰ on their computers or MP3 players. Finally, the site includes "Bankruptcy in the News," an online resource of print, radio, and television clips about consumer debt, corporate governance, bankruptcy-related legislation, and bankruptcy filings.

The InterNet Bankruptcy Library (IBL),²¹ run by Bankruptcy Creditors' Service, Inc. and the Beard Group, is now primarily a subscriber service, though it does provide free monthly email newsletters,²² links to local bankruptcy rules,²³ and free trial subscriptions to case-specific newsletters such as General Motors Bankruptcy News.²⁴ Another subscriber service, BankruptcyData.com,²⁵ provides access to information on business bankruptcy filings in federal bankruptcy districts. Although the site provides some free information, detailed information is available only with a subscription.

B. General Legal Search Engines, Directories, and Libraries

If none of the bankruptcy directories yields the desired results, then the following general legal directories, search engines, and libraries may prove useful.

1. Bar association Web sites

State and local bar associations offer free access to online legal research databases as a benefit of membership. By far, the most popular are Casemaker²⁶ and Fastcase,²⁷ each of which can be accessed on bar association Web sites. In fact, Fastcase is used by the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys.²⁸

Both Casemaker and Fastcase have collections that include federal and state cases, statutes, regulations, court rules, and constitutions, although not all bar associations subscribe to all available libraries. Through partner sites, some of which are available by subscription only, Fastcase also offers forms, a PACER search of federal filings, a newspaper archive, people finders, and business intelligence tools.²⁹

Their federal libraries include the full archive of Supreme Court cases. Fastcase has federal circuit opinions from 1924 and U.S. district court opinions from 1912, while Casemaker has federal circuit opinions from 1930 and U.S. district court opinions from 1932. Both offer state law libraries for all 50 states and the District of Columbia, though state coverage varies by state. Depending on the individual bar association's agreement with the provider, bankruptcy decisions may also be available.

Fastcase's libraries may be searched by keyword, natural language, or citation. Results are sorted by relevance. Casemaker uses Boolean and proximity searching in addition to search fields. Results are sorted by date. Each provider also offers a case citator service that shows how later courts have treated the case in question.³⁰

Finally, Fastcase has developed an iPhone application that is free to any iPhone user.³¹

2. FindLaw³²

One of the most popular sites has been FindLaw, a hybrid between a directory, a search engine, and a library. Acquired by West Group in 2001,³³ FindLaw has been redesigned to provide one home page for legal professionals³⁴ and another for consumers and small business owners.³⁵ Although FindLaw is still updated regularly and all content remains free, attorneys must still use print copies or commercial databases for access to traditional secondary materials and updating services.³⁶

Nevertheless, FindLaw's Legal Professionals page is an excellent starting point for legal research. Two rows of tabs provide access to resources such as Cases and Codes, Legal News, Newsletters, Blogs, and Forms. You can also search by jurisdiction, research type (e.g., statutory or case law), or practice area. For example, the Practice Areas list includes bankruptcy law,³⁷ which in turn links to several categories of resources, including Blogs and Podcasts,³⁸ Primary Materials,³⁹ and the FindLaw Bankruptcy Library.⁴⁰ The Bankruptcy Library itself may be searched by keyword or browsed by topic. Finally, you can perform a keyword search using LawCrawler,⁴¹ FindLaw's Google-powered legal search engine.

3. GovEngine.com⁴²

Operated by a nonprofit organization in Florida, GovEngine.com is a directory of links to federal, state, and local government sites and court Web sites. The main page has an interactive map for state resources and subdirectories for Federal Government, Federal Courts, State Government, State Courts, and Local Government. Subdirectories permit you to conduct searches on other websites. For example, GovEngine.com's page for Eleventh Circuit Resources not only links to pages for the Eleventh Circuit and its district and bankruptcy courts, but also allows you to browse for and conduct searches for Eleventh Circuit court opinions on FindLaw.⁴³

4. HG.org⁴⁴

HG.org (formerly Hieros Gamos) is a gargantuan directory of online legal resources, with menus for more than 200 legal subject areas, including bankruptcy law. Researchers selecting the bankruptcy topic⁴⁵ will find links to federal and international resources. Other links lead to bankruptcy court sites, agencies, news, and commentary. State law is available on a separate page,⁴⁶ which includes a link to the Uniform Commercial Code at Cornell's Legal Information Institute. Despite its size, the site is well organized and easy to use.

5. Justia⁴⁷

Justia is a hybrid site that offers free case law, statutes, regulations, legal articles, legal blog databases, and community resources via content pages, directories, and a Google-powered legal search engine.⁴⁸ The keyword search box at the top of the main page allows you to search the entire Justia site, though that might yield more information than you need.

Two directories on Justia are useful. First, the Legal Practice Areas Directory provides access to a Bankruptcy page,⁴⁹ which in turn links to articles,⁵⁰ the Bankruptcy Code,⁵¹ Rules and Forms,⁵² and court resources. Second, the Legal Research & Law Practice Directory contains links to federal and state courts⁵³ and legislatures,⁵⁴ the U.S. Code⁵⁵ and Constitution,⁵⁶ federal regulations,⁵⁷ legal forms,⁵⁸ blawgs,⁵⁹ Twitter resources,⁶⁰ and podcasts.⁶¹

6. LAWLink⁶²

The American Bar Association maintains LAWLink, a directory divided into several categories. First, the federal and state resources sections link to sites such as USA.gov,⁶³ THOMAS,⁶⁴ the U.S. Courts homepage,⁶⁵ the Code of Federal Regulations,⁶⁶ Regulations.gov,⁶⁷ the U.S. Code,⁶⁸ and a state court Web site⁶⁹ hosted by the National Center for State Courts. Second, the Legal Research Resources section links to sites such as FindLaw⁷⁰ and LexisONE.⁷¹ Third, the Business and Reference Resources section links to sites such as Search Systems,⁷² Hoovers Online,⁷³ and BigCharts.⁷⁴ Finally, LAWLink also provides access to electronic discovery resources.

7. Legal Information Institute (LII)⁷⁵

The Legal Information Institute at the Cornell Law School is a hybrid site that includes both a directory and legal content. LII provides full-text access to opinions of the U.S. Supreme Court⁷⁶ and the U.S. Court of Appeals,⁷⁷ as well as to the U.S. Code,⁷⁸ the Code of Federal Regulations,⁷⁹ the Uniform Commercial Code,⁸⁰ and all Federal Rules,⁸¹ including the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure.⁸² The site's Wex⁸³ wiki encyclopedia includes several bankruptcy topics and resources.

8. LexisONE⁸⁴

Another hybrid site is LexisONE, which was launched by Lexis-Nexis in July 2000.⁸⁵ After creating a free account, subscribers have access to case law,⁸⁶ forms,⁸⁷ news headlines,⁸⁸ blogs,⁸⁹ podcasts,⁹⁰ videocasts (also known as vodcasts),⁹¹ a Web search engine,⁹² and RSS Feeds.⁹³ The main page includes a directory of law related Web sites, including federal and state resource centers. One useful feature is the site's Practice Area Resources,⁹⁴ where a Bankruptcy Page⁹⁵ provides access to various Collier bankruptcy products.

9. Meta-Index for U.S. Legal Research⁹⁶

The Meta-Index for U.S. Legal Research, operated by the Georgia State University College of Law, provides one-stop searching of other

indexes for federal legislation and legislative history, opinions of the U.S. Supreme Court and all federal circuit courts, federal regulations, and various secondary sources. To use the search function, enter keywords or citations in the space provided, and then select the Search button. Search results will yield links to judicial opinions, legislation, and federal regulations on other sites.

10. The Public Library of Law (PLoL)⁹⁷

A service of Fastcase,⁹⁸ The Public Library of Law claims to be “world’s largest free law library.”⁹⁹ In fact, it is a hybrid site that combines the functions of directory, search engine, and library. Users have access to judicial opinions from the U.S. Supreme Court, Circuit Courts of Appeals, and state appellate courts, as well as links to federal and state statutes, court rules, and regulations. To access case law, you must register for a free account. PLoL also includes links to paid content on Fastcase.

11. WashLaw Web¹⁰⁰

Hosted by Washburn University School of Law, WashLaw Web is a hyperlinked directory of legal information available on the Internet, including U.S. Government and state resources, foreign and international materials, and links to practice resources. A subject-matter directory¹⁰¹ includes a subdirectory for Bankruptcy, Creditors’ and Debtors’ Rights,¹⁰² which in turn links to resources such as the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, Official Bankruptcy Rules, and U.S. Bankruptcy Courts.

C. General Nonlegal Directories and Search Engines

If a law-related resource does not generate the desired results, try a general directory or search engine. Hundreds are available, varying in size, indexing methods, search types, and sophistication. Two of the more popular¹⁰³ general resources are Google¹⁰⁴ and Yahoo,¹⁰⁵ although other sites discussed below may suit your purpose.

1. Google¹⁰⁶

For most users, Google’s interface is familiar. Simply enter keywords or phrases into the search box on the main page¹⁰⁷ or on the Google News page¹⁰⁸ to find relevant Web sites. The advanced search feature allows searches to be narrowed by language, document format, date, and so on.¹⁰⁹ Google offers an email alert service¹¹⁰ that advises you when

a new item matches your search topic. Google News also offers a RSS feed for search results.¹¹¹

Google has three additional resources useful to researchers. The first, Google Scholar,¹¹² is a database of federal and state case law and law journal articles. At the time of writing, Google Scholar includes full-text opinions for U.S. federal district, appellate, tax, and bankruptcy courts since 1923, U.S. Supreme Court cases since 1791, and U.S. state appellate and supreme court cases since 1950.¹¹³ It also includes citations to cases that are not yet online or publicly available.¹¹⁴

The second Google resource is a law directory with links to subtopics such as Courts, Legal Information, Organizations, and Reference.¹¹⁵ “Legal Information” is divided by area of law, including Bankruptcy Law,¹¹⁶ from which you can perform a keyword search or select any of the links to Bankruptcy Forms, the American Bankruptcy Institute, the U.S. Trustee Program, and other bankruptcy organizations.

The third resource is Google U.S. Government Search (also known as Google Uncle Sam), which limits search results to government-related Web pages.¹¹⁷

2. USA.gov¹¹⁸

Formerly known as FirstGov.gov, USA.gov is the U.S. government’s official Web portal. The site offers agency, alphabetical, jurisdictional, and subject matter directories, as well as simple and advanced keyword searches. The search box is located in the top right-hand corner of the main page. Alternatively, the Advanced Search Page¹¹⁹ permits you to limit your search to, e.g., exact phrases, Web page titles, types of file formats (e.g., PDF), jurisdiction, and so on. USA.gov then searches millions of Web pages from all levels of government. Results appear in order of relevance, with a sidebar on the left providing a list of related searches.

3. Yahoo!¹²⁰

Among the more popular general subject directories is Yahoo!, which may be used in three ways. First, you can submit a simple keyword search¹²¹ of the Yahoo! database; an advanced search¹²² allows you to narrow searches by country, date updated, domain, file format, language, word, and so on. Second, the Yahoo! homepage links you to specific topics, such as News¹²³ and Finance.¹²⁴ Third, the Yahoo! Directory¹²⁵ is divided into categories and subcategories. You can drill down using the Advanced Directory Search links¹²⁶ or you can go directly to the Bankruptcy Law subcategory.¹²⁷ To obtain additions to any category, just subscribe to the Yahoo! Directory RSS feed.¹²⁸

4. Metasearch engines

Finally, try a general metasearch engine that searches several search engines simultaneously from a single access point.¹²⁹ One of the oldest is MetaCrawler, which searches Google, Yahoo!, MSN, and Ask.¹³⁰ Other good meta-search engines include DogPile¹³¹ and SurfWax.¹³²

III. Primary Resources

A. The Bankruptcy Code and Related Legislation

1. Locating legislation

The U.S. Bankruptcy Code and related enactments are freely available in full-text on several Internet sites. The sites discussed here are FDsys and GPO Access, FindLaw, Cornell's Legal Information Institute, and the U.S. House of Representatives' Office of Law Revision Counsel. Although search results are over a year old, online updating brings research current to within a few days. In fact, these sites are not only free, but they are also more current than print sources and many commercial databases.¹³³ In addition to these sites, you may also be able to access federal legislation via your bar association's subscription to Casemaker¹³⁴ or Fastcase.¹³⁵

a. FindLaw¹³⁶

The U.S. Code is available on FindLaw, which obtains its information from the current version Code issued by the House of Representatives.¹³⁷ On FindLaw, the U.S. Code can be searched by keyword or citation¹³⁸ and browsed by title¹³⁹ or popular name.¹⁴⁰ The Bankruptcy Code¹⁴¹ itself may be browsed or searched as well. Enhancements include a link to Notes, which in turn cite the original public law number, the Statutes at Large section, later amendments, and legislative history. As no updating service is available, use the updating methods discussed in Section IV.A.2 below.

b. GPO Access¹⁴² and FDsys¹⁴³

GPO Access is a full-text searchable database maintained by the U.S. Government Printing Office. At the time of writing, the information on GPO Access is being migrated to GPO's new Federal Digital System (FDsys) on a collection-by-collection basis, which now includes the U.S. Code.¹⁴⁴ Until migration of all collections is complete, the information on GPO Access will remain available and current.¹⁴⁵ Each collection is discussed below.

The U.S. Code database on GPO Access presently contains the 2006, 2000, and 1994 editions of the U.S. Code, plus annual supplements.¹⁴⁶ You may browse¹⁴⁷ the database or search¹⁴⁸ by keyword, popular name, public law number, U.S. Code citation, or Statutes at Large citation. From the 2006 edition forward, files are available in PDF; earlier files are in ASCII format only.¹⁴⁹ The text of each statutory section is followed by public law and amendment information.

To update Code sections on GPO Access, look for a note that identifies the Public Law number and the type of change, e.g., amended or repealed. To access the text of that change, however, you must navigate to GPO's Public and Private Laws page, where you can browse or enter a citation search.¹⁵⁰

On FDsys, the U.S. Code database can be browsed by year¹⁵¹ or searched by citation.¹⁵² Advanced searches may be limited by publication date and by fields (e.g., full-text or title).¹⁵³ Up to five additional search criteria may be added at the bottom of the page. Results may be sorted by date and downloaded. The advantage of using FDsys is that it uses only one search method for all its collections, while the GPO Access search methods vary by collection. Unlike GPO, however, FDsys does not currently identify Code sections that have been updated. Current changes may be accessed in the FDsys Public Laws database by browsing, searching by citation, or conducting an Advanced Search.¹⁵⁴

c. Legal Information Institute (LII)¹⁵⁵

On Cornell's LII, the Bankruptcy Code and related legislation can be accessed by: (1) selecting the title and section;¹⁵⁶ (2) selecting a name from the Table of Popular Names;¹⁵⁷ (3) selecting a chapter or section from the hyperlinked Table of Contents;¹⁵⁸ (4) browsing through the hyperlinked Table of Contents for Title 11;¹⁵⁹ (5) performing a word search from the Title 11 search form to the right of the Table of Contents;¹⁶⁰ and (6) searching all U.S. Code titles.¹⁶¹

Search results are linked to cross-referenced Code sections. Results are also linked to applicable Public Law numbers, Statutes at Large citations, historical and revision notes, parallel authorities, such as the Code of Federal Regulations, and topical references, which are LII's overviews of subject areas. A new feature on the Table of Contents page¹⁶² and on the results page allows you to subscribe to RSS feeds to receive updates to U.S.C.A. titles, as the Office of the Law Revision Counsel issues them.¹⁶³

To determine if a section has been changed, click on the "How Current is This?" link, which appears whenever a Code section is displayed. If the section has been updated, results will be posted in a table that

links to the relevant Public Law Number on LII and to the Statutes at Large version on GPO Access. The update page also links to both the U.S. Code Classification Tables¹⁶⁴ and THOMAS.¹⁶⁵

d. Office of the House Law Revision Counsel¹⁶⁶

The site operated by the U.S. House of Representatives' Office of the House Law Revision Counsel (formerly the Internet Law Library) is easy to use and is more current than its counterpart at GPO Access.¹⁶⁷ In the U.S. Code database,¹⁶⁸ an online search form¹⁶⁹ allows you to limit your search to specific fields, such as title, section, appendix, rule, or form. In other words, you could search for "automatic stay" and limit your search to Title 11, section 361, or to Title 11 and Appendix. Additional search options include conventional keyword searches,¹⁷⁰ concept searches,¹⁷¹ related terms searches,¹⁷² fuzzy searches,¹⁷³ dictionary searches,¹⁷⁴ and cross-reference searches.¹⁷⁵ Boolean and proximity connectors¹⁷⁶ may be used. Other features include a Popular Name Tool,¹⁷⁷ a downloadable U.S. Code,¹⁷⁸ and a link to the U.S. Code Classification Tables.¹⁷⁹

At the time of writing, Titles 1 to 41 and the Table of Popular Names are based on Supplement II of the 2006 edition (January 5, 2009) of the Code, and Titles 42 through 50 Appendix and Tables I to VI are based on Supplement I of the 2006 edition (January 8, 2008) of the Code.¹⁸⁰ To update a code section, enter the title and section number into the search box on the search page.¹⁸¹ If there is a change, an Update link will appear on the results page. Click on that link to obtain the Public Law Number for the amendment. The text of the change can then be located on THOMAS,¹⁸² GPO Access,¹⁸³ or FDSys.¹⁸⁴

e. There's an app for that

Finally, for users of the iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch, the full text of the U.S. Code is available in a free application that may be downloaded from Apple's iTunes Store.¹⁸⁵ The application allows users to browse and search the U.S. Code. Although it relies on the most recent official electronic version of the U.S. Code, which does not include the latest statutes adopted by Congress, the newest version does update some of the content.¹⁸⁶ The U.S. Code is also available on Fastcase's free iPhone application.¹⁸⁷

2. Updating legislation

To update search results, use the links and features provided by the individual sites discussed above or consult the U.S. Code Classification Tables directly.¹⁸⁸ Tables are sorted in Public Law order, which identifies the Code sections affected by a particular law, and in Code order,

which identifies recently changed Code sections. If a Code section has been changed since its online publication, the Classification Tables will provide corresponding citations to public laws.

Once you have the Public Law citation, you may then retrieve and read the public laws in full-text on THOMAS, the Library of Congress database, on GPO Access, or on FDSys. On THOMAS,¹⁸⁹ select “Public Laws,” the number of the Congress, and the range of laws that includes your public law citation.¹⁹⁰ Alternatively, use the search box on the main page to enter information known about that Public Law, such as a word, phrase, or citation. To obtain additional updates after the date of the public law in question, enter a word search or a Congressional Bill Number in the bill file on THOMAS.¹⁹¹

On GPO Access,¹⁹² enter the public law citation as a keyword search. For example, to locate Public Law No. 111-016, enter “public law 111-016” into the search box, enclosing the citation in quotation marks. Alternatively, you may browse Public Laws for the current Congress on that same page.

If you have the Public Law number, you may access current changes on FDSys by browsing the Public Laws database¹⁹³ or searching by citation.¹⁹⁴ If the Public Law number is unknown, conduct an Advanced Search.¹⁹⁵ Advanced searches may be limited by publication date and by fields (e.g., full-text or title).¹⁹⁶ You may add up to five additional search criteria at the bottom of the page. Results may be sorted by date and downloaded.

While these methods involve more steps than a similar update search on Westlaw and Lexis and produce neither case annotations nor cross-references to secondary sources, they provide a less expensive alternative to commercial subscription services and are faster than a trip to the local law library.

3. Bill tracking

Five sites are available for tracking pending legislation: GPO Access and FDSys; GovTrack; OpenCongress.org; and THOMAS.

a. GPO Access¹⁹⁷ and FDSys¹⁹⁸

GPO Access has all published versions of bills from the 103rd Congress forward.¹⁹⁹ Users can search for current bills,²⁰⁰ older bills from 1993,²⁰¹ or the history of bills from 1983²⁰² by keyword or phrase, bill number, or subject. Bills from 1993 can also be browsed in numerical order.²⁰³

Committee Reports are available on the Congressional Reports database from the 104th Congress²⁰⁴ through the current Congress²⁰⁵ and

can be searched by keyword or phrase, report number, bill number, or type of report. Conference Reports can be browsed for the current and previous Congress.²⁰⁶

GPO Access also provides access to the Congressional Record.²⁰⁷ Use the Advanced Search²⁰⁸ option to search by keyword or phrase, section (e.g., Daily Digest, House, etc.), volume, issue date, page number, bill number, Member of Congress, and so on. GPO Access provides extensive search assistance on the Search Tips link on each of its databases.

Much of the legislative information available on GPO Access has migrated to FDsys, including Congressional Bills, Reports, Documents, Hearings, History of Bills, and the Congressional Record. Any of these collections may be browsed on FDsys by date,²⁰⁹ committee,²¹⁰ or collection,²¹¹ or searched on either the main search page²¹² or the Advanced Search page.²¹³ Advanced searches may be limited by publication date, available collections, and by fields (e.g., full-text, branch, category, citation, government author, sudoc class number, or title). You may add up to five additional search criteria at the bottom of the page. A citation search is also available.²¹⁴ Results may be sorted by date and downloaded.

b. GovTrack²¹⁵

GovTrack is a privately operated site that allows users to research and track activities in the U.S. Congress. GovTrack has information on all bills from the 103rd Congress and follows the status of current pending legislation.

You can search for a current bill or resolution by number or keywords.²¹⁶ Bills may also be browsed by subject²¹⁷ or committee.²¹⁸ Advanced searches may be limited by public law number, chamber, term, sponsor, co-sponsor, and status.²¹⁹

The best feature of this site is the free tracking service.²²⁰ In addition to Web feeds, trackers²²¹ are available throughout the site so that registered users can obtain a personalized feed or email updates. The following example illustrates how tracking operates. First, register for a free GovTrack account or use the third-party sign-in option to log in via your existing Gmail, Yahoo!, AOL, or OpenID e-mail account.²²² Go to the alphabetical Subjects page²²³ and click on "Bankruptcy" for a page of bills related to bankruptcy. To the right of the results page, select "Add This Tracker." Once you do this, your tracked events will be sent to you by daily or weekly email. They will also be stored on a personal tracked event page, called Your Trackers,²²⁴ which now contains links to all the items you are tracking. Finally, advanced users

can embed tracking widgets²²⁵ on their own Web sites to keep visitors up-to-date about legislation.

c. OpenCongress.org²²⁶

OpenCongress.org is a Web resource that aggregates and merges official government data with news and blog coverage, social networking, and public participation tools.²²⁷ The goal is to encourage greater public participation in government.²²⁸

On this site, you can track a bill²²⁹ or an issue²³⁰ through the legislative process, follow legislative developments by subscribing to customized RSS feeds or email alerts, and comment on proposed measures. The Bills page summarizes all current House and Senate bills, resolutions, joint resolutions, and concurrent resolutions.²³¹ Tabs on the Bills page allow you to sort bills by topic, date introduced, status (pending or rushed), or most mentioned in news sources or blogs. Clicking on the name of a bill takes you to an overview and summary of the bill and links to the most recent news and blog coverage of the bill. Other features include a blog,²³² a wiki,²³³ and tools such as a bill tracking widget.²³⁴

d. THOMAS²³⁵

THOMAS includes bills and resolutions from the 101st Congress through the current Congress.²³⁶ The bill texts are updated several times daily, and users may subscribe to RSS feeds to keep current.

Use the Bills and Resolutions database to search the full text of bills by keyword or bill number for a single Congress²³⁷ or for multiple Congresses.²³⁸ The Bill Summary and Status database²³⁹ provides other information about specific legislation from the 93rd Congress, including bill summaries, the latest major actions, all actions, titles, sponsors and cosponsors, committees, and related bill details. Amendment data is included from the 95th Congress. If the bill has been enacted into law, results will include a link to the full text of the law on GPO Access.

Committee Reports²⁴⁰ are available from the 104th Congress through the current Congress and can be browsed or searched by keyword or phrase, report number, bill number, committee, or date available online. Searches can be limited by type of report (House, Senate, Conference, or Joint). Results include the Bill Summary and Status, the full text of the bill, and the full text of committee reports.

Finally, THOMAS also provides a Congressional Record database from the 101st Congress.²⁴¹ Users may browse daily issues, go directly to the latest Daily Digest, or search by keyword or phrase, date

received or session, section of the Congressional Record, or member of Congress.

B. Judicial Opinions

The Internet is an excellent place to research recently decided bankruptcy cases. Generally, judicial opinions are available through several portals²⁴² and online libraries or on official court Web sites.

1. Portals and libraries

a. Bar association libraries

Casemaker²⁴³ and Fastcase²⁴⁴ are legal research services to which bar associations subscribe on behalf of their members. Both providers have collections that include federal and state cases, although not all bar associations subscribe to all available libraries. Neither has an update service equal to KeyCite or Shepard's, though both offer citator services.

Fastcase's case law libraries may be searched by keyword, natural language, or citation. Results are sorted by relevance and include the number of times each case has been cited. Results may also be sorted by case name, decision date, court hierarchy, or frequency of citation. An interactive graphical map highlights the most important cases, illustrates how the results occur over time, and uses pop-ups to provide more information about individual cases. Authority Check, Fastcase's citator service, searches for other cases that cite your case and displays the results as a list of hyperlinked case names. Finally, Fastcase also offers a free iPhone application that does not require a Fastcase subscription.²⁴⁵

Casemaker uses Boolean and proximity searching, field searching, and browsing. Results are sorted by date and include each opinion's most relevant paragraph and relevance ranking. Casemaker's citator service is called CASECheck, which offers a hyperlinked list of cases that have cited your case. Clicking on any case in the list will take you to the place in the case where the citation is found.

b. FindACase²⁴⁶

FindACase, a product of VersusLaw,²⁴⁷ consists of a network of 52 Web sites: one for each state, the District of Columbia, and a homepage. Each Web site provides access to state and federal case law for that particular state. Coverage includes opinions of the U.S. Supreme Court since 1886 and opinions of the federal circuit courts, the federal district courts, and state appellate courts. If citations and docket numbers are needed, the full document must be purchased for a charge of \$4.95.

Searches must be conducted on a state-by-state basis, even for federal cases. Once the state is selected, you may conduct either a standard search or a citation search. For a standard search, enter search words in the search query box and select one of three different search methods: all words, exact phrase, or Boolean. For a citation search, use one of three available methods: enter the citation into the standard search query box, use the citation search form, or conduct a fielded search.²⁴⁸

c. FindLaw²⁴⁹

FindLaw provides access to the full text of U.S. Supreme Court opinions from 1893 to the present.²⁵⁰ Cases are published in HTML format; hyperlinks allow you to jump instantly to footnotes and to many cited cases. Opinions may be searched by keyword, party name, or official U.S. citation,²⁵¹ or browsed by year and topic.²⁵² FindLaw's Supreme Court Center includes the Court's calendar,²⁵³ docket,²⁵⁴ rules,²⁵⁵ briefs,²⁵⁶ orders,²⁵⁷ and filing guides.²⁵⁸

FindLaw also links to the official Web sites for the circuit courts of appeals²⁵⁹ and maintains a searchable database of the opinions of each U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals from the mid-1990s onward.²⁶⁰ Each case database can be browsed by date or searched by keyword, docket number, or case name.²⁶¹ Hyperlinks in the online opinions allow you to jump instantly to footnotes and to many cited cases.

From September 2000 onward, FindLaw provides an archive of Opinion Summaries for the U.S. Supreme Court, all 13 U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals, and select state supreme and appellate courts.²⁶² This archive may be searched by court, topic, docket number, party name, date, or keyword. Registered users may subscribe to FindLaw's Case Summary Newsletters²⁶³ and Case Summary RSS Feeds,²⁶⁴ offering different methods for keeping current in practice areas such as Bankruptcy Law.

FindLaw provides a limited case updating service, with links to Supreme Court and Circuit Court opinions citing the found opinion, as well to Westlaw's KeyCite, a fee-for-use service.²⁶⁵

d. Google Scholar²⁶⁶

At the time of writing, Google Scholar includes full-text opinions for U.S. Supreme Court cases since 1791; U.S. federal district, appellate, tax, and bankruptcy courts since 1923; and U.S. state supreme court and appellate cases since 1950.²⁶⁷ It also provides citations to cases that are not yet online or publicly available.²⁶⁸

To search Google Scholar, select the “legal opinions and journals” radio button and search by case names or keywords and phrases. Google’s Advanced Scholar Search page²⁶⁹ provides additional options, including the ability to limit searches to “legal opinions and journals,” federal court opinions, or state court opinions. Searches may be limited to fields by, for example, entering a citation or case name into the exact phrase search box or a judge’s name into the author search box. On the search results page, you can limit searches by year.

Google Scholar offers a limited citator service. When you access a case, look for the “How Cited” tab, which will lead you to a page divided into three parts. First, there is a list titled, “How This Document Has Been Cited.” Each case in this list is accompanied by an excerpt of text that cites the found case. Clicking on one of these excerpts takes you directly²⁷⁰ to that location in the citing authority. Second, a “Cited By” list links you to cases, books, and journal articles that cite the found case. Finally, a “Related Documents” section links you to potentially relevant cases and journal articles.

e. Justia²⁷¹

Justia is well organized and simple to navigate. The Supreme Court Center offers a database of all U.S. Supreme Court decisions since 1791.²⁷² The database may be browsed by volume, year, or recent opinions and searched by keywords or phrases, including citations, party, or attorney name. The Supreme Court Center also provides links to secondary sources.²⁷³

Justia’s U.S. Court of Appeals database extends back to 1950.²⁷⁴ Cases may be browsed by Federal Reporter series, circuit, or year. You can search one or more jurisdictions by keywords or phrases, including citations, party, or attorney name. A portal provides links to the individual circuit court Web sites.²⁷⁵

Federal district and bankruptcy court cases may be accessed on Justia in two ways. The first is a portal with links to the individual court sites.²⁷⁶ The second is the Federal District Court Filings & Dockets database, which allows you to search civil filings and dockets from January 1, 2004 to the present.²⁷⁷

f. Legal Information Institute (LII)²⁷⁸

The LII at Cornell Law School provides access to the full text of U.S. Supreme Court opinions issued since 1990.²⁷⁹ Publication of earlier decisions is selective,²⁸⁰ with over 600 earlier decisions chosen for their historic significance.²⁸¹ Decisions may be searched by topic, judicial author, party name, or date. Results may be downloaded or read online.

Hyperlinked citations within each found document enable you to jump to other materials within the LII or other collections.

One useful resource is the LIIBulletin, a free e-mail current awareness service that distributes the syllabi of U.S. Supreme Court decisions within hours after their release²⁸² and offers commentary on cases pending before the Court.²⁸³ The LII site also provides links to briefs located on the American Bar Association Web site, oral arguments reproduced on Oyez, and to resources on the official Court site.²⁸⁴

U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decisions may be accessed here as well. LII provides both a portal to individual court sites²⁸⁵ and a search engine²⁸⁶ that permits you to search U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decisions on the Internet. Finally, links to district court and bankruptcy court decisions are organized by Circuit²⁸⁷ and by state.²⁸⁸

g. LexisONE²⁸⁹

LexisONE provides free access to U.S. Supreme Court opinions from 1781 to the present, as well as state and federal appellate cases, including decisions of the Bankruptcy Appellate Panels, decided within the last 10 years.²⁹⁰ Decisions of the U.S. district courts and bankruptcy courts are not available, however.

Case law may be researched from the main page. You may search by keyword or citation, and limit your searches by date, parties, judges, and counsel. Cases may also be browsed by court and year.²⁹¹ Hyperlinked citations within the document provide access to cited sources within the LexisONE collection. Once a case is retrieved, a link on the same page gives you the option to pay a fee to Shepardize® on Lexis-Nexis, a commercial service.

h. Public Library of Law²⁹²

At the Public Library of Law, a product of Fastcase,²⁹³ users have access judicial opinions from the U.S. Supreme Court from 1754, Circuit Courts of Appeals from 1950, and state appellate cases from 1997.²⁹⁴ Federal district and bankruptcy cases are not available, however. Cases may be searched by citation, docket number, party name, or keywords and phrases, and the search engine recognizes Boolean and proximity connectors. The Advanced Options link permits searches to be limited by court and date. Finally, you can subscribe to an RSS feed for recent decisions from specific courts.²⁹⁵

2. Supreme Court of the U.S.

The opinions of the Supreme Court of the U.S. have been available on the Internet since 1990.²⁹⁶ Today, several collections exist.

The Court maintains its own Web site,²⁹⁷ where it publishes its opinions individually in full text from 2006 to the present²⁹⁸ and in complete downloadable volumes of the *United States Reports* from volume 502 in 1991.²⁹⁹ Users may browse slip opinions and term opinions, published in reverse chronological order.³⁰⁰ Finally, the site also provides access to the Court's docket,³⁰¹ oral argument calendar,³⁰² Court rules,³⁰³ case handling guides,³⁰⁴ and oral argument transcripts from October 2000 onward.³⁰⁵

At the Oyez Project,³⁰⁶ you can listen to audio recordings of oral arguments made before the Court from the 1981 Term through the end of the 2008 Term, with selected audio before 1980.³⁰⁷ Case summaries from 1792 may be browsed by term, docket number, date argued, date decided, majority author, or vote.³⁰⁸ They may also be searched by keyword, and results may be narrowed by content type (e.g., transcript) or speaker (the name of a Justice or advocate).³⁰⁹ Finally, Oyez links to other resources: (1) On the Docket,³¹⁰ an online clearinghouse for news about decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court and cases that the justices accept for review;³¹¹ (2) Appellate.net, a law firm Web site that publishes a Docket Report describing recent cases accepted for review by the Court;³¹² (3) Justia's Supreme Court Center;³¹³ and (4) SCOTUS-Blog,³¹⁴ a Supreme Court blog featuring news and commentary on current litigation, links to media stories, and links to posts about the Court on other blogs.

Other free services are available, in addition to the libraries discussed above in Section II.B.1. U.S. Supreme Court decisions from 1937 to 1975 may be accessed from Federal Legal Information through Electronics (FLITE), a system maintained by the National Technical Information Service of the U.S. Government and available through FedWorld³¹⁵ and GPO Access.³¹⁶ Willamette Law Online offers same-day summaries of certiorari granted, oral arguments, and decisions published by the U.S. Supreme Court.³¹⁷ These summaries are available on site or via e-mail subscription.³¹⁸ Finally, Yale Law Library's Curiae Project, which was under construction at the time of writing, provides access to U.S. Supreme Court records and briefs and links to other sites.³¹⁹

3. U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeal

There is no shortage of Internet access to current opinions of the U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeal. When research is limited to a single jurisdiction, however, the best strategy is to access the court's site directly. If the URL is unknown, use one of the online portals or databases discussed below.

The U.S. Courts Homepage,³²⁰ maintained by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, serves as a gateway to the opinions of the circuit courts of appeals. Court links are accessible via the site's interactive map; alternatively, you can search for court links by district, circuit, zip code, area code, county, or state.³²¹ Results may be limited by court, e.g., district court, bankruptcy court, courts of appeals, or all courts.³²² Villanova's Federal Court Locator is easier to use, however, as it provides a simple menu of links to official court sites and to alternative archives of opinions.³²³

Direct access to the opinions of the U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeal is available on individual court sites. Operation of each site varies, of course, but most share several features in common. Several sites are updated daily, though older opinions are not archived. Generally, cases are searchable by year, first or second party, or by keyword. Some sites permit searches by docket number, decision date, opinion release date, and judges' names. Once retrieved, a case may be downloaded or read online.

4. Bankruptcy Appellate Panels (BAPs)

At the time of writing, there are BAPs in the First, Sixth, Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth circuits. The following resources are available for searching opinions on BAP Web sites:

- a. U.S. Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the First Circuit:³²⁴ Opinions from 1997 may be browsed by opinion number or searched by party, attorney, case number, or short title.
- b. U.S. Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the Sixth Circuit:³²⁵ Opinions from 1999 may be searched by keywords and phrases. A query builder is available to make results more precise. Results may then be sorted by relevance or date.
- c. U.S. Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the Eighth Circuit:³²⁶ Opinions from 1995 may be browsed by authoring judge, dissenting judge, daily descriptions, or month and year. They may also be searched by case number, release date, or party name, or keywords and phrases with Boolean connectors. Searches may be limited by date. Users can subscribe to daily opinions by RSS feed.
- d. U.S. Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the Ninth Circuit:³²⁷ Opinions from 2001 may be browsed by case name, BAP number, or date filed, and may be searched by keywords and phrases, using fuzzy searches³²⁸ or word variants such as plurals. Results may be sorted by relevance or date filed.

- e. U.S. Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the Tenth Circuit:³²⁹ Opinions from 1996 may be browsed by year of decision or year the Notice of Appeal was filed with the BAP; they may also be searched by keywords and phrases, including a date or case number. An Authoritative Index organizes opinions based on significant references to the Bankruptcy Code, the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Practice, and other authorities.

5. U.S. district courts and bankruptcy courts

As with the U.S. Circuit Courts, when research is limited to a single jurisdiction, the best strategy is to access the court site directly. Several Internet sites provide portal access to U.S. district court and bankruptcy court Web sites.

On the U.S. Courts Homepage,³³⁰ an interactive map provides access to court Web sites. You can also search for court links by district, circuit, zip code, area code, county, or state. Villanova's Federal Court Locator provides links to official court sites,³³¹ as does FedLaw,³³² while the American Bankruptcy Institute has links to bankruptcy courts.³³³ FindLaw's menu of links includes both U.S. district courts and bankruptcy courts by state and territory.³³⁴ Justia's Federal District Court Dockets and Filings Database³³⁵ allows you to search or browse opinions and orders. The most practical site, however, is Cornell's Legal Information Institute, which lists courts by state³³⁶ and by circuit³³⁷ and indicates whether opinions are available on each site.

C. Bankruptcy Rules and Local Court Rules

The Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure are generally available on any site providing access to the Bankruptcy Code. At Cornell's LII, the Bankruptcy Rules may be browsed by table of contents³³⁸ or searched by keyword.³³⁹ The LII also publishes the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure,³⁴⁰ the Federal Rules of Evidence,³⁴¹ and the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure.³⁴²

On GPO Access, go to the U.S. Code database³⁴³ and browse³⁴⁴ or search³⁴⁵ by keyword or citation. For example, to find the rule on involuntary petitions, complete the U.S. Code search form as follows: 11USC and Rule and "involuntary petition."

The Office of the House Law Revision Counsel³⁴⁶ provides access to all federal rules of evidence and procedure, including bankruptcy rules. Complete the online search form³⁴⁷ by entering a keyword or phrase and checking the appendix box. If you know the rule number, enter that into the appropriate search box. Searches may be limited by U.S.C.A. citation elements, such as Title 11, or fields, such as rule number.³⁴⁸

LLRX³⁴⁹ includes links to myriad sources for court rules.³⁵⁰ The court rules page may be searched by keyword or browsed by court, type of resource, or jurisdiction.³⁵¹

Local rules are usually available on individual court Web sites. If the URL is unknown, however, links may be found at the U.S. Courts site,³⁵² FedLaw,³⁵³ LLRX,³⁵⁴ or Villanova's Federal Court Locator.³⁵⁵

D. Bankruptcy Forms

Official Bankruptcy Forms must be used when filing and taking action in bankruptcy cases. During the course of some bankruptcy proceedings, Procedural Forms may be necessary as well. Official and procedural forms are generally available on any site providing access to the Bankruptcy Code. For, example, forms can be downloaded in pdf or text format from the U.S. Code database on GPO Access.³⁵⁶ At the site operated by the U.S. House of Representatives' Office of the House Law Revision Counsel, complete the online search form³⁵⁷ by entering a keyword or phrase and checking the appendix box. Searches may be limited by U.S. Code citation elements, such as Title 11, or fields, such as form number.³⁵⁸ Forms are also available on FDsys,³⁵⁹ Justia,³⁶⁰ LLRX,³⁶¹ and on the U.S. Courts site maintained by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.³⁶²

E. Administrative Law

Searching for federal regulations, whether in print or on the Internet, has traditionally been a complex multi-step process. These materials appear first in the Federal Register, a gazette that is issued every business day and published chronologically.³⁶³ Regulations are then republished by issuing agency and title in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).³⁶⁴ The CFR is divided into 50 titles, representing discrete areas subject to federal regulation.³⁶⁵ These titles are updated once each year, with one quarter of the titles revised and reissued on a rolling quarterly basis.³⁶⁶ Until a title is reissued, updates must be located in the Federal Register. The task has been simplified considerably with recent advances in on-line publication.

1. Locating and Updating Regulations

The best place to begin is the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations (e-CFR)³⁶⁷ from the National Archives and Records Administration. Although not an official edition,³⁶⁸ e-CFR provides a current, daily, updated version of the CFR integrated with Federal Register amendments.³⁶⁹ In other words, it is unnecessary to look for current updates in a separate Federal Register database. Like the annual CFR, however,

the e-CFR does not include or link to rules and regulations that will be in effect for less than one year.³⁷⁰ Nor does it link to Federal Register documents that do not change the text or effective date of regulations.³⁷¹

The e-CFR consists of two linked databases: the “current Code” and “amendment files.”³⁷² As amendments become effective, they are integrated into the current Code database so that only the updated CFR is displayed.³⁷³ For amendments that become effective in the future, hypertext links take users to the relevant amendment files.³⁷⁴ The amendment files in turn contain the text of amendments, the effective dates, the Federal Register date and page citation, and a link to the Federal Register page where the amendment appeared.

Using the e-CFR is easy. Select the “Simple Search” link in the left sidebar. Enter the relevant title, e.g., Title 28 (Judicial Administration), the search term, e.g., bankruptcy, and submit. For more experienced users, the Advanced Search feature permits Boolean and proximity searches. The database can also be browsed by CFR title. The current update status appears at the top of all e-CFR Web pages.³⁷⁵

2. Tracking and commenting on proposed regulations

Agencies are required to publish semiannual regulatory agendas describing developing or recently completed regulatory actions.³⁷⁶ These agendas are listed by issuing agency under the Proposed Rule section in the Federal Register’s table of contents.³⁷⁷ They are also published in the Federal Register twice each year as part of the Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions.³⁷⁸ The Unified Agenda is available electronically on GPO Access from 1994 forward³⁷⁹ and on Regulations.gov from Fall 2007.³⁸⁰

If your clients are subject to federal regulation, they will need to track proposed regulations. Several monitoring tools are available, many of which also provide opportunities for user participation and feedback.

a. FedThread.org³⁸¹

FedThread.org is a project of the Center for Information Technology Policy at Princeton University.³⁸² Its advanced search feature allows you to conduct a full-text search of the Federal Register, back to 2000, by publication date, agency name, document type, action, and citation fields.³⁸³ Results are provided in chronological order, beginning with items from 2000, so you should use the date feature to limit your results to more recent items. Once you have your search results, you can attach a note to any paragraph of the Federal Register. These comments provide users with an opportunity for discussion. Customized feeds are also available: you can subscribe to an RSS feed or email alert for sub-

sequent comments on the item, and FedThread.org will notify you when new items match your search query.

b. Justia Regulation Tracker³⁸⁴

On Justia's Regulation Tracker, there are three ways to access the Federal Register. First, the Federal Register may be browsed by agency or date. Second, the Federal Register may be searched by keyword, with the option to limit results by agency, date range, and type of document. Third, you can subscribe to feeds for documents matching your search results or emanating from a specific federal agency.³⁸⁵ You can even refine the RSS feed by specifying the type of regulation or stage in the regulation making process, such as rules, proposed rules, orders, notices, proposed rules, and so on, or by defining certain search terms, such as all regulations that mention bankruptcy.

c. OpenRegs.com³⁸⁶

OpenRegs.com is a user-friendly site. Its goal is to make the proposed and final regulations published in the Federal Register easy to find and discuss, so that citizens can become better informed and more involved in the regulatory process.³⁸⁷

There are several ways to find regulations on OpenRegs.com. First, you can find regulations by issuing agency.³⁸⁸ Each agency page has sections devoted to regulations with upcoming closing comments periods, recently opened comment periods, recently published final regulations, news relating to the agency, and a link to an RSS feed for that agency. Second, you can browse by topic, such as bankruptcy, to find regulations related to a particular subject matter regardless of issuing agency.³⁸⁹ You can also subscribe to an RSS feed so that you will be alerted to any newly proposed or final regulations related to this topic. Third, the home page³⁹⁰ provides a launching pad with links to recently proposed regulations, regulations with upcoming closing comments periods, and proposed regulations for which the comment periods are closing soon. Fourth, you can use the search box in the top right corner of the home page.³⁹¹ Finally, you can stay current by reading or participating in agency discussion groups³⁹² and by reading the OpenRegs.com blog.³⁹³

If you want to comment on an item officially, OpenRegs provides a link from the item to the same item on Regulations.gov.³⁹⁴ Finally, OpenRegs has a free Federal Register application for the iPhone and iPad.³⁹⁵

d. RegInfo.gov³⁹⁶

Further information about regulations under development is available on RegInfo.gov, a U.S. Government Web site produced by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the General Services Administration (GSA).³⁹⁷ RegInfo.gov tracks regulatory steps that occur prior to publication of a proposed or final rule. On this site, the current Unified Agenda may be searched by agency name and or subject index.³⁹⁸ Older editions, beginning with fall 1995, may be viewed by edition.³⁹⁹ To view published information across several editions, use the search function.⁴⁰⁰ RSS feeds are not available, however.

e. Regulations.gov⁴⁰¹

At Regulations.gov, the federal government provides online access to all final rules, proposed rules, many agency notices, additional supporting materials, public comments, and agency guidance and adjudications.⁴⁰² The site's most important features are the ability to comment online, to review the comments others have added, and to access the docket folder⁴⁰³ supplied by an agency.

Several search options are available from the home page. The simple search option allows you to search by keyword, phrase, identification number, or other term, and to limit the search to a document type, such as proposed rules,⁴⁰⁴ or to documents accepting comments.⁴⁰⁵ Using the advanced search option, you can refine searches by date, agency name, document type, or type of action, e.g., rulemaking or non-rulemaking.⁴⁰⁶ Additionally, you can browse by topic, subscribe to an RSS feed of the most recent Federal Register information sent to Regulations.gov,⁴⁰⁷ register for e-mail notifications of new documents added to a docket,⁴⁰⁸ and submit comments to agencies on proposed rules that are open for public comment.⁴⁰⁹

4. Other administrative research

Government agency Web sites may also be valuable for administrative research. For example, the U.S. Trustee Program's Web site⁴¹⁰ provides rules, guidelines, and notices,⁴¹¹ as well as administrative decisions regarding private trustees.⁴¹² Other sites that may be useful include the Federal Trade Commission,⁴¹³ the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation,⁴¹⁴ the Internal Revenue Service,⁴¹⁵ and the Securities and Exchange Commission.⁴¹⁶ A list of agency Web sites is available from USA.gov⁴¹⁷ and from Louisiana State University's Federal Agency Directory.⁴¹⁸

IV. Secondary and Tertiary Resources

Bankruptcy research entails more than finding primary authority. Researchers often require secondary resources to provide background information or to explain and interpret the law. Tertiary resources may also prove valuable to a researcher who requires statistical analysis or financial information, for example. The following discussion includes sites that may provide useful secondary and tertiary research materials.

A. Academic Law Reviews and Journals

There are five ways to access free legal scholarship online: (1) online indexes; (2) repositories of legal scholarship; (3) search engines; (4) individual journal Web sites; and (5) organization Web sites.

1. Online indexes

New York Law School provides a comprehensive hyperlinked index of law reviews with online content,⁴¹⁹ as do the Law Library of Congress⁴²⁰ and American Law Sources Online (ALSO!).⁴²¹ The University of Southern California Gould School of Law lists general, commercial, foreign, and subject-specific law reviews; those that are available in full-text online are marked with the letter F.⁴²² Finally, the Directory of Open Access Journals⁴²³ includes links to over 4259 journals in many disciplines, including Law,⁴²⁴ Business and Management,⁴²⁵ and Economics,⁴²⁶ and 3,300 periodicals across a broad range of subject areas that are freely available online. The subject “law” contains 81 journals, many of which are foreign or international journals.

2. Repositories of Legal Scholarship

a. *bepress* Legal Repository⁴²⁷

Founded in 1999 to address the costs and delays involved in commercial legal publishing, *bepress* is an open access repository of online journals, working papers, preprints, monographs, and law-related research materials.⁴²⁸ Its search tool, ResearchNow, enables users to search all open access content published or hosted by *bepress*.⁴²⁹ The Advanced Search Function allows searches within certain fields, such as abstracts, author’s name, author’s institutional affiliation, categories, corporate authors, dates, full text, publication titles, and subjects. Searches may be saved.

Three updating tools are available on *bepress*. First, you may elect to have your saved searches run daily, weekly, or monthly and to be notified via email when the search results change.⁴³⁰ Second, customized

email notifications are available to help you keep track of new articles in areas of interest.⁴³¹ Third, you may subscribe to the *bepress* RSS feed to be alerted to new content in the *bepress* Legal Repository.⁴³²

b. Social Science Research Network (SSRN)⁴³³

The Social Science Research Network (SSRN) was founded in 1994 to provide global open access to scholarly research for both authors and readers in several social science disciplines,⁴³⁴ including law.⁴³⁵ Some papers are available only with a subscription, but registration provides free access to all abstracts and thousands of downloadable full-text papers. SSRN's eLibrary can be searched by keyword, title, abstract, or author⁴³⁶ and browsed by journal, topic, or network.⁴³⁷

SSRN's Legal Scholarship Network (LSN) provides open access to legal scholarship, including abstracts, working papers, and final papers. A simple search on LSN for articles with "bankruptcy law" in the title yielded 52 articles. Changing the search to articles with "bankruptcy reorganization" in the abstract plus and either the title, content, or keywords yielded 38 articles. One nice feature is the "My Briefcase" page, which allows you to track your own past searches and downloads. Finally, you can subscribe to receive free e-mail announcements of new submissions to these collections.⁴³⁸

c. NELLCO Legal Scholarship Repository⁴³⁹

The New England Law Library Consortium Organization (NELLCO)⁴⁴⁰ operates the Legal Scholarship Repository,⁴⁴¹ which offers working papers, reports, lecture series, and workshop presentations created by NELLCO member schools.⁴⁴² The site can be browsed by author, disciplines, recent additions, or top downloads⁴⁴³ and searched by keyword, subject, author name, corporate author name, title, publication title, or abstract.⁴⁴⁴ You can register for email notification of new content in selected subject areas⁴⁴⁵ and subscribe to the NELLCO Legal Scholarship Repository RSS feed⁴⁴⁶ for site updates.

3. Search engines

General search engines may be used to locate articles posted on *bepress*, SSRN/LSN, and NELLCO. Simply enter the relevant search terms and add the name of the open access site you wish to use. For example, on Google, search for (bankruptcy + NELLCO) or (bankruptcy + SSRN) or (bankruptcy + *bepress*).

Alternatively, Google Scholar⁴⁴⁷ is a Google search engine specifically designed to retrieve scholarly literature.⁴⁴⁸ Select the "legal opinions and

journals” radio button and search by article titles or keyword. Google’s Advanced Scholar Search page⁴⁴⁹ provides additional options, including the ability to limit searches to “legal opinions and journals,” topics, authors, and date ranges, and to search other disciplines, including Business, Finance, and Economics.

4. Journal Web sites

Two academic bankruptcy journals are available online. Emory University Law School publishes the semi-annual Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal.⁴⁵⁰ Current⁴⁵¹ and archived⁴⁵² issues are available. St. John’s University School of Law publishes The American Bankruptcy Institute Law Review.⁴⁵³ Full-text articles are available from the Spring 2004 issue through to the current issue.⁴⁵⁴

Bankruptcy-related scholarship is often published in general academic law journals. Although virtually every legal periodical has an online presence, most provide little more than the current issue’s table of contents. However, many traditional law reviews now have “online companions.” These online companion publications generally publish shorter articles, ranging from responses to and updates of articles published in the host law review to essays, commentaries, debates, and op-ed pieces. In addition to being timelier than traditional articles, online companion articles are hyperlinked so that readers may easily access cited sources. The following alphabetical list of online companions is current at the time of writing:

- Cardozo Law Review’s *de novo*⁴⁵⁵
- Columbia Law Review’s *Sidebar*⁴⁵⁶
- Connecticut Law Review’s *CONNtemplations*⁴⁵⁷
- Harvard Law Review’s *Forum*⁴⁵⁸
- Indiana Law Journal’s *The Supplement*⁴⁵⁹
- Iowa Law Review’s *Bulletin*⁴⁶⁰
- Michigan Law Review’s *First Impressions*⁴⁶¹
- Minnesota Law Review’s *Headnotes*⁴⁶²
- Mississippi Law Journal’s *MISSing Sources*⁴⁶³
- Northwestern University Law Review’s *Colloquy*⁴⁶⁴
- Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law’s *OSJCL Amici: Views From the Field*⁴⁶⁵
- Penn State Law Review’s *Penn Statim*⁴⁶⁶

- Southern California Law Review's *Postscript*⁴⁶⁷
- Texas Law Review's *See Also*⁴⁶⁸
- Texas Tech Law Review's *The Addendum*⁴⁶⁹
- University of Illinois Law Review's *Law Forum*⁴⁷⁰
- University of Pennsylvania Law Review's *PENNumbra*⁴⁷¹
- Vanderbilt Law Review's *En Banc*⁴⁷²
- Virginia Law Review's *In Brief*⁴⁷³
- Washington University Law Review's *Slip Opinions*⁴⁷⁴
- Yale Law Journal 's *Yale Law Journal Online*⁴⁷⁵

5. Organization Web sites

Finally, bankruptcy-related scholarship is often available on organization Web sites, including many of those mentioned in this article. For example, the Bankruptcy Data Project⁴⁷⁶ at Harvard Law School devotes a page to scholarship about bankruptcy, consumer law, and related areas by directors and fellows.⁴⁷⁷ Similarly, the American College of Bankruptcy⁴⁷⁸ maintains a resource page⁴⁷⁹ with links to the full text of scholarly articles elsewhere on its site.

B. Fact-Finding

1. Bankruptcy statistics

Compiled bankruptcy statistics are published online by the federal judiciary in two places. First, the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts offers statistical reports free of charge, including statistics on the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 (BAPCPA) and on bankruptcy filings for each quarter.⁴⁸⁰ Second, the PACER Service Center hosts a number of federal case statistical reports that are available for eight cents per page.⁴⁸¹

The American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI) also provides information on U.S. bankruptcy filings each quarter.⁴⁸² Although this information is based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, its presentation differs, and ABI members receive an electronic newsletter with updates on the day they are released from the U.S. Courts.⁴⁸³

Professor Lynn M. Lopucki maintains WebBRD at the UCLA School of Law.⁴⁸⁴ WebBRD is a free bankruptcy research database that indexes large, public company bankruptcy cases and enables users to view data

by company⁴⁸⁵ and to design and conduct their own empirical studies simply by checking a series of boxes on the query page.⁴⁸⁶

At Harvard Law School, the Bankruptcy Data Project⁴⁸⁷ reports information on U.S. bankruptcy filings from open court records. The site provides three analyses of the data on petitions filed and persons filed: (1) filings under each chapter of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; (2) commercial and noncommercial filings; and (3) filings by legal entities and by individuals.⁴⁸⁸

BankruptcyData.com⁴⁸⁹ offers current and historic bankruptcy filing details⁴⁹⁰ about the 20 largest public company bankruptcy filings from 1980 to the present. No subscription is required to use this database but viewing documents requires either a subscription or a pay-per-item fee.

Finally, on Credit Slips,⁴⁹¹ a blog dedicated to current issues involving credit and bankruptcy, Professor Robert Lawless posts monthly updates on bankruptcy filing statistics using data provided by Automated Access to Court Electronic Records (AACER), a private company.⁴⁹²

To research federal statistic information beyond bankruptcies, try FedStats, a portal for federal statistical information from over 100 federal agencies.⁴⁹³ The site may be browsed by topic, state, or agency⁴⁹⁴ and searched by keyword.⁴⁹⁵

2. Bankruptcy filings

Several sites provide information about bankruptcy filings. PACER offers online access to bankruptcy court records and documents for a fee of .08 cents per page.⁴⁹⁶ PACER users who download these documents often make them publicly accessible by uploading them at Public.Resource.Org,⁴⁹⁷ where site operators in turn review these uploads and then post them on bulk.resource.org⁴⁹⁸ for others to access without cost. To locate documents on bulk.resource.org, search on Google using “site:bulk.resource.org keywords,” with keywords representing your search terms.

In 2009, FreeCourtDockets.com⁴⁹⁹ was launched by Courtport, LLC, a legal research and technology company. FreeCourtDockets.com is a federal court docket retrieval site, providing free access to full court dockets from any U.S. district civil or bankruptcy court, as well as from the U.S. Supreme Court. The main page provides links to “hot dockets,”⁵⁰⁰ while links to Cases of Interest are available on a separate page.⁵⁰¹ You need the court and case/docket number for the docket you want to retrieve. To retrieve all court dockets except U.S. Supreme cases, you must first obtain a free invitation code from the site.⁵⁰² To retrieve a docket, select your court type, e.g., U.S. bankruptcy court, and then your court; enter your case/docket number and your invitation code; and

then click the “Retrieve Docket” button. The underlying documents are not provided but links will take you to the PACER site if you wish to access documents.

Justia's Federal District Court Filings and Dockets database offers free federal district court dockets from 2004.⁵⁰³ Filings are categorized by State, Federal District Court, and Legal Practice Area, and include the presiding judge and cause of action information for each case.⁵⁰⁴ The database may be browsed by nature of suit (e.g., bankruptcy), state, or cases most recently filed, and searched by party name, judge name, court, or type of lawsuit. Results appear in reverse chronological and include a summary of the docket sheet. A yellow star indicates that underlying documents are available on Justia, while a gavel signals that the docket summary includes opinions and orders. If Justia does not have the full docket sheet and underlying documents, you will be directed to PACER.⁵⁰⁵

You can also subscribe to RSS feeds of new cases that meet specific criteria or to RSS feeds for customized searches.⁵⁰⁶ For example, with an RSS feed, you can track new bankruptcy cases, cases that are filed in a specific court, or cases involving a particular company.⁵⁰⁷

The U.S. Bankruptcy Courts offer Electronic Bankruptcy Noticing (EBN), a free service that allows court notices to be transmitted electronically via e-mail or computer-to-computer electronic transmission.⁵⁰⁸ Finally, the InterNet Bankruptcy Library (IBL), hosted by Bankruptcy Creditors' Service and the Beard Group, has news about bankruptcy filings.⁵⁰⁹

3. Financial filings

To locate real-time financial filings for companies required by law to file forms with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), use EDGAR,⁵¹⁰ the SEC's Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis, and Retrieval system. EDGAR provides free access to SEC filings, including registration statements, periodic reports, links to written and oral statements made by SEC staff, and links to related regulatory actions.⁵¹¹ The site is updated in real time and can be used to retrieve company filings from January 1, 1994.⁵¹² A tutorial is available on the site.⁵¹³

EDGAR's new search capabilities include full text⁵¹⁴ and advanced searching⁵¹⁵ (for the last four years), and Boolean searching. You can also search for key mutual fund disclosures, mutual fund voting records, mutual fund name, ticker, or SEC key (since February 2006), and variable insurance products (since February 2006).⁵¹⁶ Searches may be limited by field, such as company or fund name, ticker symbol, CIK (Central Index Key), file number, state, country, or SIC (Standard In-

dustrial Classification).⁵¹⁷ Finally, you can conduct custom searches of confidential treatment orders, effectiveness notices, SEC Central Index Key (CIK), and daily filings,⁵¹⁸ and subscribe to RSS Feeds.⁵¹⁹

For those interested in international company research, EDGAR may be supplemented by SEDAR (System for Electronic Document Analysis and Retrieval)⁵²⁰ for Canadian filings and CAROL (Company Annual Reports On-Line)⁵²¹ for European filings.

4. Company research

Company research will often extend beyond bankruptcy and SEC filings. The first place for finding company information is usually the company's own Web site. If the URL is unknown, use a search engine, such as Google. In the search box, enter the company name, perhaps adding .com to the name. General information about the company will be available in the "About" section of the company's site, with other information provided throughout the Web site. The Google search may also yield other Web sites that discuss the company being researched.

Company Web sites may not provide enough objective information, however, and additional search strategies may be required. Online company directories are useful for obtaining background information about public and private companies. These are discussed below.

a. AnnualReports.com⁵²²

Annual reports from most publicly traded companies are available through AnnualReports.com. The site may be searched alphabetically, by company name, by ticker symbol, by sector, by industry, by exchange, or by index.⁵²³ Once a company is found, the report may be viewed in either HTML or PDF format.⁵²⁴

b. CorporateInformation.com⁵²⁵

CorporateInformation.com produces company research reports on more than 31,000 companies from over 55 countries.⁵²⁶ Searching by company name, ticker symbol, industry, or keyword will yield a free company snapshot.⁵²⁷ The Advanced Search function lets you limit searches by global region or industry and browse an alphabetical list of individual company snapshots.⁵²⁸ Additional free content includes: (1) research links; (2) currency exchange rates; (3) company extensions and security identifiers; and (4) the top 100 companies ranked by current market capitalization, the latest fiscal year net sales, the latest fiscal year operating profit margin, 52-week price trend, and

three-year annual sales growth.⁵²⁹ Further information is available with a paid subscription.

c. Hoover's⁵³⁰

Hoover's, a Dun and Bradstreet subsidiary, features a database including more than 65 million corporations and organizations.⁵³¹ The site offers company overviews and descriptions, financial statements, SEC filings, 10-K filings, as well as key executives, products and operations, a list of competitors, and company news.⁵³² You can search the company database or browse the directory by company name, company geographical location, or industry.⁵³³ Free information is limited, however, and only subscribers have access to in-depth company information.

d. Investor Relations Information Network (IRIN)⁵³⁴

IRIN supplies free online access to more than 10,200 current and historical annual reports of more than 3,300 public companies.⁵³⁵ Reports may be searched by symbol, company name, or keyword, or browsed alphabetically, and then viewed online or downloaded. In addition to annual reports, results include delayed stock quotes and links to company information such as basic contact information, charts, and graphs. IRIN also offers access to other Internet resources. Its Link Library, accessible from the home page, includes a listing of more than 200 financial-based Web sites that are organized by category. You can save any of the sites to a password-protected resource called My Shelf.

e. Yahoo! Finance⁵³⁶

Yahoo! Finance currently has links for almost 40,000 companies and funds.⁵³⁷ The site provides company profiles, including officer and employee information, business summaries, business and earnings announcements, sector and industry classifications, financial statistics and ratios, stock charts, and links to other resources.⁵³⁸ Search by keyword or browse by company or fund name, sector, or industry.⁵³⁹

f. National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS)⁵⁴⁰

Finally, to obtain a company's corporate record in a specific state, consult that state's secretary of state Web site, if one exists. The NASS Web site provides links to all state Web sites and has contact information for those secretaries of state that are not online.⁵⁴¹

C. Distressed Assets

Hosted by the American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI), Bankruptcy-sales.com⁵⁴² provides information about asset sales from bankruptcy estates.⁵⁴³ In addition to conducting a simple keyword search from the main page, you can conduct an advanced search by category, subcategory, location, or expiration of assets.

D. Newsletters

1. Case-Specific Newsletters

Bankruptcy Creditors' Service, Inc. publishes an archive⁵⁴⁴ of case-specific newsletters that track high-profile corporate restructurings. Many of these are available at no charge.

2. CLLA Bankruptcy Section Newsletter⁵⁴⁵

The Commercial Law League of America's Bankruptcy Section⁵⁴⁶ publishes a monthly electronic newsletter that contains case comments and analysis, reports on new cases, and a Washington Hot News column. Cases summaries are hyperlinked to full-text reports on FindLaw.

3. Debt3 Online⁵⁴⁷

Debt3 Online (pronounced Debt Cubed Online) is a bimonthly publication of The Commercial Law League of America (CLLA), focusing on bankruptcy, collections, and debt recovery. It replaces the defunct Commercial Law Bulletin. Current and archived issues are available on the site at no charge.

4. Sovereign Debt Restructuring⁵⁴⁸

The InterNet Bankruptcy Library publishes *Sovereign Debt Restructuring*, a free monthly newsletter covering sovereign debt downgrades and defaults, bondholder collection activity, governments' efforts to extend payment on their debts, and proposals to restructure a country's debt obligations.⁵⁴⁹ Researchers may subscribe to the newsletter by email. Current and past issues are available for download directly on the site, however.

5. Troubled Company Reporter Newsclips⁵⁵⁰

The Beard Group, Bankruptcy Creditors' Service, Inc., and the InterNet Bankruptcy Library co-publish *Troubled Company Reporter (TCR) Newsclips*, a free e-mail news service about companies that are reorganizing, restructuring, or showing signs of financial strain. *TCR News-*

clips is available in five separate editions, covering Top Stories, the U.S., Asia Pacific, Europe, and Latin America. Archives of the subscription-based Troubled Company Reporter may be browsed by date online.⁵⁵¹

6. West Bankruptcy Newsletter⁵⁵²

West Bankruptcy Newsletter is a weekly newsletter published by West Group. Recent issues are archived at the site.⁵⁵³ The newsletter itself is free, but only Westlaw subscribers may use the hyperlinks to jump directly to the Bankruptcy Code and other cited sources, such as cases and treatises.

E. News Services

There are presently several news sites providing up-to-date business and legal information regarding bankruptcy and insolvency issues. General financial news is available on CNNMoney,⁵⁵⁴ which also allows researchers to search back issues for bankruptcy news. Google News⁵⁵⁵ offers the familiar Google search interface, a business tab, and e-mail alerts or RSS feeds. CEOExpress⁵⁵⁶ offers two news services. The first provides an index of links to a range of business news and information on the Web, with categories such as company research, quotes and market news, bankruptcies, IPO research, law, banking, small business, and more. The second, LawyerExpress, is a news portal for attorneys.⁵⁵⁷ Registered users can customize their own page at no charge.

F. Organizations and Associations

1. Commercial Law League of America (CLLA)⁵⁵⁸

The Commercial Law League of America (CLLA) is a professional organization of attorneys and other experts in commercial law, bankruptcy, insolvency, and collections. The CLLA site's offerings include a link to its YouTube Channel,⁵⁵⁹ news and information about debt collection and pending and proposed bankruptcy legislation, and an online discussion area.⁵⁶⁰ Finally, CLLA also publishes Debt3 Online, a bi-monthly newsletter that replaces the Commercial Law Bulletin.⁵⁶¹

2. National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks (NCBC)⁵⁶²

The National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks has established a network among clerks' offices throughout the country to discuss issues of concern and court procedures, to track legislative efforts affecting bankruptcy courts, and to monitor issues that may have an impact on the

work of the courts. The site contains links to other popular sites, such as the American Bankruptcy Institute.

3. National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees (NABT)⁵⁶³

Sponsored by the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees, this site gives users information about bankruptcy news, case summaries, seminars, conventions, and membership. Many of its resources are available to members only.

4. National Association of Chapter Thirteen Trustees (NACTT)⁵⁶⁴

The National Association of Chapter Thirteen Trustees (NACTT) sponsors this site to promote education and professionalism in the Chapter 13 bankruptcy community, which includes trustees, bankruptcy judges, lawyers for debtors and creditors, certified public accountants, and other insolvency related professionals. Among its offerings are a trustee search form, a quarterly newsletter, information about seminars, and links to bankruptcy-related sites, including NACTT's National Data Center⁵⁶⁵ and its Trustees' Education Network (TEN).⁵⁶⁶

5. National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys (NACBA)⁵⁶⁷

The National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys was formed to assist consumer debtors' attorneys in representing their clients effectively. The site provides access to documents filed in recent cases in which NACBA was active and states NACBA's position on certain proposed bankruptcy legislation. It also aggregates and provides links to legislative news,⁵⁶⁸ notable bankruptcy news,⁵⁶⁹ and bankruptcy related articles from around the Web.⁵⁷⁰

G. Electronic Discussion Groups

Legal researchers in every specialty know that effective research may require consultation with other specialists in the field. Electronic discussion groups have traditionally enable bankruptcy practitioners to keep abreast of developments in their field and to discuss topical issues with colleagues across the country.

An electronic discussion group (also known as a listserv) operates like an electronic mass mailing list, disseminating e-mail messages to each subscriber's inbox.⁵⁷¹ Recipients have the opportunity to reply to all other subscribers.⁵⁷² If a discussion group is moderated, subscribers' messages are reviewed by a human moderator who screens and selects

messages and forwards them to the entire list.⁵⁷³ If the discussion group is unmoderated, all messages are automatically distributed to all subscribers.⁵⁷⁴ Many listservs are archived, often at academic Web sites, so researchers can browse past messages for specific topics.

With the advent of Web 2.0,⁵⁷⁵ listservs are not as popular as they once were. Of the discussion groups mentioned in the predecessor to this article,⁵⁷⁶ only one has survived. UCCLAW-L was created by the editors of the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) Reporting Service to provide a forum for discussion of UCC issues.⁵⁷⁷ This list also offers a “digest” option that collects one or two days’ worth of UCCLaw e-mail into one large e-mail message. A browsable archive of the messages posted to this list is maintained by the Washburn University Law School.⁵⁷⁸ Washburn also maintains BK-Kansas, a discussion list for practitioners before the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Kansas.⁵⁷⁹ Members of the American Bankruptcy Institute may participate in committee discussion groups.⁵⁸⁰

V. Web 2.0

The term “Web 2.0” refers to new methods of using the Web to collaborate, share information, contribute to Web sites, and interact with others online, instead of passively viewing information provided by others.⁵⁸¹ Examples include blogs, wikis, podcasts, vodcasts, social networking sites, and virtual worlds, to name but a few.

A. Blogs and Blawgs

1. Introduction

Blogs are personal Web logs. Although they originated as online journals, blogs quickly evolved to become frequently updated Web sites that provide commentary or news on particular topics.⁵⁸² Legal blogs, sometimes known as “blawgs,” are authored, maintained, and hosted by attorneys, law firms, law schools, or legal organizations and are used to market law firm services or to communicate news, information, and opinion in real-time about current legal issues or specialized legal topics, such as bankruptcy.⁵⁸³ They often provide links to sources and to other blawgs. Unlike a law journal or newsletter, however, a blawg is organized in reverse chronological order and may permit readers to interact with the authors and other readers. Blawgs are valuable research tools⁵⁸⁴ because they allow us to eavesdrop “on the conversations between legal experts who are willing to share their opinions online.”⁵⁸⁵ Most blawgs have a search box on the main page.

The first step, then, is finding blawgs relevant to your research topic. Blawg directories and search engines are the best place to start.

2. Blawg directories and search engines

a. ABA Journal Blawg Directory⁵⁸⁶

The ABA Journal's Blawg Directory categorizes blawgs by legal topic, author type, region (including geographic regions and court jurisdiction), and law school affiliation. Each section, e.g., the Bankruptcy Law topic, is further divided alphabetically and by popularity, and a summary of each blawg site is provided. The summary includes a description, a list of principle authors, related categories for locating similar blawgs, and a sampling of recent blawg posts. To proceed to the blawg site, simply click on the title or a sample posting. Because this is a directory, no search engine is provided but the site is very simple to navigate.

b. Blawg.com⁵⁸⁷

Blawg.com is both a directory and a search engine. As a directory, it is separated into 30 main categories and numerous subcategories. To locate bankruptcy blawgs, follow the link on the home page from Legal Subjects & Areas to Bankruptcy. The bankruptcy law listing begins with recent postings and then lists approximately 20 bankruptcy law blawgs. Each listing in turn contains a brief description of the blawg, the author's name, and a link to the blawg site itself. To use Blawg.com as a search engine, enter key words or phrases in the search box at the top of the page. Updates are available by RSS feed.

c. Blawg Republic⁵⁸⁸

Blawg Republic is both a directory and a search engine that provides a digest of the latest news and commentary in the blawging community. The site is updated hourly.⁵⁸⁹ At the top of the main page, click on "Blawg Directory" to obtain a list of more than thirty law topics. Bankruptcy Law blawgs appear in both the Asset Protection Law and Business Law categories. To use the Blawg Republic as a search engine, enter key words or phrases in the search box at the top of the page. RSS feeds are available for each law category and search.

d. Justia Blawg Search⁵⁹⁰

Justia Blawg Search functions as both directory and search engine. As a directory, it is separated into more than 60 main categories and locations and numerous subcategories. Each category listing may be

viewed in list or expanded view. Both views are arranged by popularity but may be sorted alphabetically by blawg name or most recent post date. The list view provides a brief description of each blawg, the name of the author or authors, and the dates of recent postings. The expanded view identifies the topics of recent postings and allows you to rest your cursor lightly over these topics to obtain a pop-up summary of each posting. In both views, clicking on the title of the blawg will take you directly to the blawg site. To use Blawg Search as a search engine, enter key words or phrases in the search box at the top of the page. Updates are available by RSS feed.

3. General blog search engines

To search for nonlaw blogs, use a general blog search engine. Not surprisingly, Google offers Google Blog Search,⁵⁹¹ using the familiar Google interface and an advanced search function. Entering a search for “bankruptcy law blog” will yield primarily law blawgs, while simply entering the term “bankruptcy” is more likely to produce entries on news-related blogs. Results can be sorted by relevance or date. You can subscribe to Google’s Blog Alerts, located on the left side of the blog search results page. Updates are also available by RSS feeds. Yahoo!⁵⁹² operates a similar blog search engine, while Technorati⁵⁹³ offers both a directory and a search engine.

4. Microblogs

A microblog is a communication service that allows users to send and receive brief messages using the Internet, instant messaging software, or mobile phones.⁵⁹⁴ One such free service is *Twitter*,⁵⁹⁵ which lets users send short⁵⁹⁶ messages (called “tweets”) to a network of followers and receive tweets from those they choose to follow.

Although *Twitter* is used both for social networking and business communications, it is also a valuable way to obtain real-time updates on legal news and developments⁵⁹⁷ and to market your services.⁵⁹⁸ In 2009, the ABA Journal published a list of *Twitter* resources and applications that enable you to set up *Twitter* on your computer, cell phone, or PDA.⁵⁹⁹

Even if you choose not to use *Twitter* for communications, you may find it useful as a research tool. To locate recent tweets about bankruptcy law, navigate to the *Twitter* Web site at <http://twitter.com> and enter your search terms in the search box at the top of the page. Results appear in reverse chronological order. Simply click on the links that interest you. Alternatively, use Justia’s Legal Birds⁶⁰⁰ page to locate legal professionals on *Twitter*. This page provides a search engine, a list of “Top Legal

Birds,” a list of recent tweets, *Twitter* Resources, and a directory of legal topics, including Bankruptcy. Clicking on the link to the Bankruptcy topic takes you to a page of tweets that can be sorted by type of poster (lawyer, law librarian, or legal academic), viewed in list, grid, map format, and limited to recent tweets.

Other microblogging sites include Jaiku,⁶⁰¹ Plurk,⁶⁰² and Tumblr.⁶⁰³

B. Podcasts and Vodcasts

Podcasting is a means of publishing audio files to the Internet, permitting listeners (known as subscribers) to download and play back the files on their computers, iPods, MP3 players, or cell phones.⁶⁰⁴ Vodcasting is simply the video version of podcasting.⁶⁰⁵ Lawyers frequently use the technology to communicate with clients,⁶⁰⁶ to market their services,⁶⁰⁷ and to listen to CLE programs,⁶⁰⁸ conferences, news, and commentary in their fields.⁶⁰⁹

You can subscribe (free of charge) to a feed to receive new podcasts or vodcasts automatically when they are released. This technology allows you to listen to programs at your own convenience, as you do with on-demand television or TiVo.⁶¹⁰ All new content is automatically delivered to your computer and made available for transfer to portable media,⁶¹¹ thereby reducing the amount of time spent searching for information. To do so, you may have to download software, known as a podcatcher or aggregator program.⁶¹²

Several of the sites discussed elsewhere in this article provide access to law-related podcasts and vodcasts, including the American Bankruptcy Institute,⁶¹³ Blawg.com,⁶¹⁴ FindLaw,⁶¹⁵ Justia,⁶¹⁶ and LexisONE.⁶¹⁷ Westcast, a legal podcast operated by Thomson West, was discontinued in May 2010 but its archives are still available on the Thomson West site.⁶¹⁸ Westcast has been replaced by Legal Current,⁶¹⁹ which is available on iTunes.⁶²⁰ You may subscribe to Legal Current via RSS feed.

General resources that are useful for finding news and business information include Podcast Alley⁶²¹ and Vodcasts.TV.⁶²²

C. Social Networking Sites

Social networking sites are online communities that enable users to create personal or professional profiles, connect with other users, and interact within that online community.⁶²³ For bankruptcy attorneys, these sites provide new vehicles for networking⁶²⁴ and marketing,⁶²⁵ as well as new sources of evidence,⁶²⁶ reference checks,⁶²⁷ and background information about individuals and organizations.⁶²⁸ Many of these sites have mobile applications that facilitate cell phone access.

Among the more popular sites are such as Facebook⁶²⁹ and MySpace,⁶³⁰ both based on social contacts. On Facebook, more than 400 million active users make comments on the “walls” of their “friends,” and post status updates, images, videos, messages,⁶³¹ and even their own advertisements.⁶³² Used professionally, however, Facebook offers new opportunities for law firms to market themselves and to achieve branding and communication goals.⁶³³ On MySpace, users create personal mini-Web sites with status updates, applications, subscriptions, information, and multimedia, all of which they can share with “friends.”⁶³⁴

The newest entry into social networking is Google Buzz,⁶³⁵ which is built into Gmail,⁶³⁶ Google’s free email service. However, this connection between Google Buzz and Gmail, along with geo-tagging⁶³⁷ of a poster’s location on Google Maps, could create confidentiality risks for clients and ethical problems for attorneys using Gmail.⁶³⁸

As professionals increasingly use social networking sites for business purposes, more sites are being developed to meet this need. For example, LinkedIn⁶³⁹ is a professional networking site that allows you users to create a profile, post status updates, and invite people to link to them. LinkedIn’s main page includes a search tool that allows you to research an individual or company.⁶⁴⁰ Plaxo⁶⁴¹ is a social networking service similar to LinkedIn. Contacts are placed into an online address book that is updated automatically whenever one of your connections updates a profile or changes an e-mail address or phone number. The Plaxo Directory,⁶⁴² which links to members’ public profile pages, can be searched or browsed.

Social networking sites are being created specifically for attorneys as well. The first site, Legal OnRamp,⁶⁴³ is an invitation-only site for the legal industry.⁶⁴⁴ The site describes itself as “a collaborative system for in-house counsel and invited outside lawyers and third-party service providers.”⁶⁴⁵ Joining Legal OnRamp is easy: just click the “Request Invitation” envelope on the main page. The second site, LawLink,⁶⁴⁶ was created for lawyers, law students, expert witnesses, and law professionals. Members can create profiles, participate in discussion groups, ask or answer questions, create or join a law group, share documents, and post and view classified ads. The third site, Martindale-Hubbell Connected,⁶⁴⁷ includes LinkedIn connections within attorney and law firm profiles and offers online articles, topical discussion groups, forums, and peer-to-peer networking. The fourth site is the ABA’s LegallyMinded,⁶⁴⁸ an online community of legal professionals that “fuses cutting-edge social networking features, top-notch news and articles, and user-generated content.”⁶⁴⁹ Finally, JD Supra⁶⁵⁰ provides attorneys with opportunity to post firm newslet-

ters and to highlight their expertise by contributing to the site's online database of articles, documents, and forms.

D. Virtual Worlds

A virtual world is an online simulated environment intended for users to inhabit and interact by means of digital alter egos known as avatars. The most famous virtual world is Second Life,⁶⁵¹ where users own virtual property, operate virtual businesses, and use Linden dollars, a currency that has real value and is traded on a public exchange called the LindeX.⁶⁵² Attorneys and law firms have opened virtual offices in Second Life,⁶⁵³ where they have found revenue sources and an infinite variety of legal issues.⁶⁵⁴ They even have their own bar association, the Second Life Bar Association⁶⁵⁵ (SLBA).

It is only a matter of time before Second Life requires bankruptcy attorneys. For example, the 2007 insolvency of Ginko Financial, an investment bank in Second Life, resulted in the "real life" loss of approximately U.S. \$750,000 to Second Life residents who had invested 200 million Lindens with the bank.⁶⁵⁶ One cautionary note is worth mentioning, however. Virtual law practice may create "real world issues with bar rules, such as conflicts of interest or solicitation rules."⁶⁵⁷

E. Wikis

The final Web 2.0 resource is the wiki, a Web site that allows contributors to add and edit content collectively.⁶⁵⁸ Perhaps the most famous is Wikipedia,⁶⁵⁹ a free online encyclopedia launched in 2001⁶⁶⁰ that has found its way into everyday usage and judicial opinions.⁶⁶¹

Wikis may be useful for research purposes, though public wikis should be approached with caution,⁶⁶² as they may be edited by any visitor to the site.⁶⁶³ Cornell Law School's LII operates a reliable legal wiki called Wex.⁶⁶⁴ Wex is a free legal dictionary and encyclopedia that is created and edited by legal experts.⁶⁶⁵ The site, which can be browsed⁶⁶⁶ or searched,⁶⁶⁷ is designed for legal novices.⁶⁶⁸ Topics include Bankruptcy, Bankruptcy Court, Bankruptcy Fraud, Bankruptcy Power, Creditor, Debtor, and so on. Another legal wiki is JurisPedia, a project of law schools in Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, South Africa, and Vietnam. JurisPedia describes itself as "an encyclopaedic project of academic initiative devoted to worldwide law, legal and political sciences."⁶⁶⁹ Finally, there is ScotusWiki,⁶⁷⁰ edited by legal experts for the Supreme Court of the U.S.⁶⁷¹

The legal profession is slowly entering into the world of wikis.⁶⁷² Law firms can create and use wikis for information and knowledge sharing, marketing, client feedback, and team building⁶⁷³ and can

limit editing privileges to selected editors. Several sites allow you to create a free, hosted wiki, including EditThis,⁶⁷⁴ Seedwiki,⁶⁷⁵ PB-works,⁶⁷⁶ and Wikispaces.⁶⁷⁷

VI. Conclusion

The Internet provides a dynamic new technology for bankruptcy attorneys to stay current in their specialty. With the click of a mouse, you can access a vast database of legal and factual information, remain up-to-date with legislative, judicial, and administrative developments and current events, network with colleagues worldwide, and even hang out a shingle in cyberspace. Familiarity with the Internet makes the bankruptcy practitioner more competitive in an increasingly connected world.

This rapid growth also makes it impossible to provide comprehensive and current coverage of all available bankruptcy resources online. By the time this guide is published, some of the sites discussed may have been relocated or removed⁶⁷⁸ and new sites will have been added. Novices should not be deterred, however. Using the basic strategies outlined in this article, readers should be able to use the Internet to find the information they need. Also, if you find a good site, send me an e-mail!⁶⁷⁹

Notes

1. American Civil Liberties Union v. Reno, 929 F. Supp. 824, 831 (E.D. Pa. 1996), judgment aff'd, 521 U.S. 844, 117 S. Ct. 2329, 138 L. Ed. 2d 874, 25 Media L. Rep. (BNA) 1833 (1997). ARPAnet was initially sponsored by the Defense Department's Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA). American Civil Liberties Union v. Reno, 929 F. Supp. at 831.
2. Logan, *The Fifth Language: Learning a Living in the Computer Age* 266 (1995).
3. Levitt & Rosch, *The Cybersleuth's Guide to the Internet: Conducting Effective Investigative and Legal Research on the Web* 1 (10th ed. 2009).
4. Now known the Web, the World Wide Web is a collection of web pages stored on computers around the world. Levitt & Rosch at 1-2.
5. Web 2.0 refers to collaborative, user-generated content space that employs the Internet as a software platform. See Tim O'Reilly, *What Is Web 2.0: Design Patterns and Business Models for the Next Generation of Software* (Sept. 30, 2005), O'Reilly Network, <http://oreilly.com/lpt/a/6228>. The term "Web 2.0" includes blogs, social bookmarking, wikis, podcasts, RSS feeds, and social networking. Web 2.0 is discussed *infra* Part V.
6. Cloud computing allows you to log into a Web-based service that hosts software programs, use the software from your computer, and store your files online. Strickland, *How Cloud Computing Works, How Stuff Works*, <http://communication.howstuffworks.com/cloud-computing.htm> (last visited June 1, 2010). For an example of cloud computing, see Google Docs, <http://www.google.com/google-d-s/documents/> (last visited June 1, 2010).
7. For a historical analysis of computer-assisted legal research, see Harrington, *A Brief History of Computer-Assisted Legal Research*, 77 L. Libr. J. 543 (1985).
8. Wren & Robinson Wren, *Using Computers in Legal Research: A Guide To Lexis and Westlaw* 672 (1994).
9. See Goldman, *A Guide to Researching Bankruptcy Law on the Internet*, 8 J. Bankr. L. & Prac. 449 (1999).

10. Exceptions abound, of course. For example, .us domain names are available to the general public, e.g., GovTrack, <http://www.govtrack.us/> (last visited June 1, 2010), while the U.S. Postal Service uses a .com domain name for its site, see U.S. Postal Service, <http://www.usps.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010). Moreover, outside the U.S., a two-letter country code is assigned for governments. See IANA: Root Zone Database, <http://www.iana.org/domains/root/db/index.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

11. See Barkan, Mersky, & Dunn, *Fundamentals of Legal Research* 559 n.80 (9th ed. 2009).

12. Levitt & Rosch at 32.

13. Levitt & Rosch at 30.

14. See *American Civil Liberties Union v. Reno*, 929 F. Supp. at 842-43.

15. Sherman, *Metacrawlers and Metasearch Engines*, Search Engine Watch (Mar. 23, 2005), <http://searchenginewatch.com/2156241/>. Metasearch engines are discussed *infra* Section II.C.4.

16. See Goldman, 8 J. Bankr. L. & Prac. at 452-53.

17. The Bankruptcy Lawtrove, <http://www.lawtrove.com/bankruptcy/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

18. ABI World, <http://www.abiworld.org> (last visited June 1, 2010).

19. ABI World: Online Resources, http://www.abiworld.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Online_Resources (last visited June 1, 2010).

20. Conversations with Interesting Figures in the Insolvency World, ABI Podcasts, <http://podcast.abiworld.org/> (last visited June 1, 2010). Podcasts are discussed *infra* Section V.B.

21. The InterNet Bankruptcy Library, <http://bankrupt.com> (last visited June 1, 2010).

22. The InterNet Bankruptcy Library: Free Bankruptcy News and Updates, <http://bankrupt.com/freenews.html> (last visited June 1, 2010). These and other newsletters are discussed *infra* Section IV.D.

23. The InterNet Bankruptcy Library: Local Bankruptcy Rules, <http://www.bankrupt.com/lbr/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

24. The InterNet Bankruptcy Library: General Motors Bankruptcy News, <http://bankrupt.com/gm/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

25. BankruptcyData.com, <http://www.bankruptcydata.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

26. . Casemaker, <http://lawwriter.net/> (last visited June 1, 2010). At the time of writing, Casemaker's primary site, <http://www.casemaker.us/> was down for maintenance. Casemaker is also discussed *infra* Section IV.B.1.a.

27. . Fastcase, <http://www.fastcase.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010). Fastcase is also discussed *infra* Section IV.B.1.a.

28. See Fastcase: NABCA Members, <http://www.fastcase.com/nacba/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

29. Fastcase: What is Fastcase? <http://www.fastcase.com/whatisfastcase/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

30. Case law research on Casemaker and Fastcase is discussed *infra* Section IV.B.1.a.

31. iTunes: Fastcase for iPhone, <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/fastcase/id352470511?mt=8#> (last visited June 11, 2010). No Fastcase subscription is necessary.

32. FindLaw, <http://www.findlaw.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

33. West Group Acquires FindLaw, FindLaw—Press Releases (Jan. 26, 2001), <http://company.findlaw.com/pr/2001/012601.westgroup.html>. FindLaw is operated by Thomson Reuters. FindLaw—Home—Press center—Company Background, http://company.findlaw.com/company_info.html (last visited June 1, 2010).

34. FindLaw for Legal Professionals, <http://lp.findlaw.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

35. FindLaw, <http://www.findlaw.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

36. For example, to update a case, users may select “KeyCite this case on Westlaw,” an option on the case page. The link leads to Westlaw’s document retrieval page, where KeyCite is available by credit card. See Westlaw: Welcome to Westlaw by Credit Card, <http://creditcard.westlaw.com/welcome/frameless/default.wl> (last visited June 1, 2010).

37. FindLaw’s Bankruptcy Page may be accessed directly at FindLaw: Practice Areas—Bankruptcy Law, <http://www.findlaw.com/01topics/03bankruptcy/index.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

38. FindLaw: Practice Areas—Bankruptcy Law—Blogs and Podcasts, http://www.findlaw.com/01topics/03bankruptcy/mail_blog.html (last visited June 1, 2010).

39. FindLaw: Practice Areas—Bankruptcy Law—Primary Materials—Laws and Government Documents, http://www.findlaw.com/01topics/03bankruptcy/gov_laws.html (June 1, 2010).

40. FindLaw: Library—Bankruptcy, <http://library.findlaw.com/bankruptcy/index.html>, (last visited June 1, 2010).

41. FindLaw: LawCrawler—Legal Web & Databases Search, <http://lawcrawler.findlaw.com> (last visited June 1, 2010).

42. GovEngine.com, <http://www.govengine.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

43. See GovEngine.com: Federal Courts—Eleventh Circuit, http://www.govengine.com/federal_courts_judiciary/eleventh_district_court.html (last visited June 1, 2010).

44. HG.org, <http://www.hg.org> (last visited June 1, 2010).

45. HG.org: Bankruptcy Law—Guide to Bankruptcy Law, <http://www.hg.org/bankrpt.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

46. HG.org: U.S. State Law, <http://www.hg.org/usstates.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

47. Justia, <http://www.justia.com> (last visited June 1, 2010).

48. See Justia: About Justia, <http://company.justia.com/about.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

49. Justia: Bankruptcy, <http://www.justia.com/bankruptcy/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

50. Justia: Bankruptcy—Articles, <http://www.justia.com/bankruptcy/articles.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

51. Justia: Law—U.S. Law—U.S. Code—TITLE 11—Bankruptcy, <http://law.justia.com/us/codes/title11/title11.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

52. Justia: Law—U.S. Law—U.S. Code—Title 11A—Bankruptcy (Appendix)—Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure and Official Bankruptcy Forms, http://law.justia.com/us/codes/title11a/11a_1_.html (last visited June 1, 2010).

53. Justia: U.S. Federal and State Courts, <http://www.justia.com/courts/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

54. Justia: Law, <http://law.justia.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

55. Justia: U.S. Law—U.S. Code, <http://law.justia.com/us/codes/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

56. Justia: U.S. Supreme Court Center—U.S. Constitution, <http://supreme.justia.com/constitution/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

57. Justia: Code of Federal Regulations, <http://law.justia.com/us/cfr/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

58. See e.g., Justia: Official Federal Forms—Bankruptcy, <http://forms.justia.com/official-federal-forms/bankruptcy/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

59. Justia : Blawg Search—Law Blogs, Lawyer Blogs, Legal Blogs Directory & Search Engine, <http://blawgsearch.justia.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

60. Justia: Legal Birds—Legal Professionals on Twitter, <http://legalbirds.justia.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010). For a discussion of *Twitter*, see *infra* Section V.A.4.

61. Justia: Blawgs.FM—Law PodCasts, Lawyer PodCasts, Legal PodCasts Directory & Search Engine, <http://blawgsfm.justia.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

62. American Bar Association: LAWlink, The Legal Research Jumpstation, <http://www.abanet.org/tech/ltrc/lawlink/home.html> (last visited June 6, 2010).

63. Formerly FirstGov, USA.gov is the U.S. government's official Web portal to its own Web sites, document collections, and services. See USA.gov, <http://www.usa.gov/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

64. Thomas, the Library of Congress's Web site, provides public laws, bills, status, and other congressional documents for the 104th Congress through the current Congress. See Thomas (Library of Congress), <http://thomas.loc.gov> (last visited June 1, 2010).

65. The Federal Judiciary, <http://www.uscourts.gov> (last visited June 1, 2010).

66. GPO Access: Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)—Main Page, <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

67. Regulations.gov, <http://www.regulations.gov/> (last visited June 1, 2010). Regulations.gov is a federal regulatory clearinghouse that provides online access to every rule that is published and open for comment, from more than 160 different federal agencies. Regulations.gov—FAQ, <http://www.regulations.gov/search/Regs/home.html#faqs> (last visited June 1, 2010).

68. LII: U.S. Code—Home, <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

69. The National Center for State Courts: State Court Web Sites, http://www.ncsconline.org/D_KIS/info_court_web_sites.html#State (last visited June 1, 2010).

70. FindLaw, <http://www.findlaw.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

71. LexisONE, <http://law.lexisnexis.com/webcenters/lexisone/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

72. The SearchSystems.net Public Records Directory, <http://www.searchsystems.net> (last visited June 1, 2010). SearchSystems is a directory of online public records sources that includes bankruptcies, judgments, and tax liens. The SearchSystems.net Public Records Directory, <http://www.searchsystems.net> (last visited June 1, 2010).

73. Hoovers Online, <http://www.hoovers.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010). Hoovers Online is a resource for business news and information. Hoovers Online, <http://www.hoovers.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

74. BigCharts, <http://bigcharts.marketwatch.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010). This site provides interactive charts, quotes, industry analysis, market news, and commentary. BigCharts, <http://bigcharts.marketwatch.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

75. LII, Legal Information Institute at Cornell Law School, <http://www.law.cornell.edu/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

76. LII: Supreme Court Collection Home, <http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

77. LII: Federal Law Materials—Judicial Opinions, <http://www.law.cornell.edu/federal/opinions.html#other> (last visited June 1, 2010).

78. LII: U.S. Code, <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

79. LII: Code of Federal Regulations, <http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

80. LII: Uniform Commercial Code, <http://www.law.cornell.edu/ucc/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

81. LII: Federal Rules, <http://www.law.cornell.edu/rules/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

82. LII: Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, <http://www.law.cornell.edu/rules/frbp/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

83. LII: Wex, <http://topics.law.cornell.edu/wex/all> (last visited June 1, 2010).

84. LexisONE, <http://law.lexisnexis.com/webcenters/lexisone/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

85. Thomas Keefe, Internet Legal Portals, 94 Ill. B.J. 264, 265 (2006).

86. LexisONE: Search Free Case Law, <http://www.lexisone.com/lx1/caselaw/freecaselaw> (last visited June 1, 2010).

87. LexisONE: LexisNexis® Automated Forms, <http://www.lexisone.com/lx1/store/catalog?action=rootFreeCategory> (last visited June 1, 2010). The site claims to have more than 6,000 legal forms from its Matthew Bender collection. LexisONE: LexisNexis® Automated Forms, <http://www.lexisone.com/lx1/store/catalog?action=rootFreeCategory> (last visited June 1, 2010).

88. LexisONE: Daily Legal News, <http://law.lexisnexis.com/webcenters/lexisone/Daily-Legal-News-Powered-by-Mealeys/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

89. LexisONE: Blogs, <http://law.lexisnexis.com/webcenters/lexisone/lexisONE-Community-Blog> (last visited June 1, 2010).

90. LexisONE: Podcasts, <http://law.lexisnexis.com/webcenters/lexisone/lexisONE-Community-Podcast> (last visited June 1, 2010). A related feature occasionally features podcasts on bankruptcies in the news. See LexisONE: Daily Legal News Podcasts, <http://law.lexisnexis.com/webcenters/lexisone/Daily-Legal-News-Podcast-Powered-by-Mealeys> (last visited June 1, 2010).

91. LexisONE: Videocasts, <http://law.lexisnexis.com/webcenters/lexisone/Videocast/> (last visited June 1, 2010). In December 2009, the Videocasts page included a free 20-minute Webinar on commercial bankruptcy research. See LexisONE: Videocasts—Bankruptcy Free Webinar—Commercial Bankruptcy Research the Way You Want It, <http://law.lexisnexis.com/webcenters/lexisone/Videocast/Free-Webinar-Commercial-Bankruptcy-Research-the-Way-You-Want-It> (last visited June 1, 2010). Vodcasts are discussed infra Section V.B.

92. LexisONE: Lexis Web BETA, <http://law.lexisnexis.com/webcenters/lexisone/> (last visited June 1, 2010). The site states that this “[t]he only search engine that delivers free web content specifically from legal sites validated by LexisNexis® attorney editors for faster research and more relevant results.”

93. LexisONE: RSS Feeds, <http://law.lexisnexis.com/webcenters/lexisone/lexisONE-Community-RSS-Feeds> (last visited June 1, 2010). RSS (Really Simple Syndication) is a technology that gathers and delivers current data from Web sites directly to the user. Rosen, *Blogging... To Inform, Educate, and Attract New Clients*, 28 *Fam. Advoc.* 46, 46 (Winter 2006). RSS, XML, and Atom are “web feeds” that let you learn about updates to a Web site without having to visit the site. Wikipedia: RSS, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RSS> (last visited June 1, 2010). This feature is known as syndication, aggregation, or subscription, sometimes shown by an orange icon on the Web site. Wikipedia: RSS, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RSS> (last visited June 1, 2010).

94. LexisONE: Practice Area Resources, <http://law.lexisnexis.com/webcenters/lexisone/Practice-Area-Resources> (last visited June 1, 2010).

95. LexisONE: Practice Area Resources, Bankruptcy, <http://law.lexisnexis.com/webcenters/lexisone/Practice-Area-Resources/Bankruptcy/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

96. Meta-Index for U.S. Legal Research, <http://gsulaw2.gsu.edu/metaindex/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

97. The Public Library of Law, <http://www.plol.org/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

98. Fastcase, <http://www.fastcase.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010). Fastcase is an online case law database provided by subscription to individual lawyers and law firms and free to participating state and local bar associations. See Fastcase: Bar Association Subscribers, <http://www.fastcase.com/barmembers/> (last visited June 1, 2010). For a discussion of Fastcase, see Sections II.B.1 and IV.B.1.a.

99. The Public Library of Law, <http://www.plol.org/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

100. WashLaw Web, <http://www.washlaw.edu> (last visited June 1, 2010).

101. WashLaw Web: Legal Resources by Subject, <http://www.washlaw.edu/subject/index.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

102. WashLaw Web: Bankruptcy, Creditors' and Debtors' Rights, <http://www.washlaw.edu/subject/creditors.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

103. This conclusion is based on the report in Hitwise for the week ending May 29, 2010. See Top 20 Sites & Engines, Hitwise United States, <http://www.hitwise.com/datacenter/main/dashboard-10133.html> (last updated June 1, 2010).

104. Google, <http://www.google.com> (last visited June 1, 2010).

105. Yahoo! <http://www.yahoo.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010). Yahoo! now owns AllTheWeb, a popular search engine that searches for Web pages, news, documents, and images. See AlltheWeb.com, <http://www.alltheweb.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010). Filters on AllTheWeb's advanced search page allow searches to be narrowed by date, domain, file format, and language; search preferences may be saved. See AlltheWeb.com: Advanced Web Search, <http://www.alltheweb.com/advanced> (last visited June 1, 2010).

106. Google, <http://www.google.com> (last visited June 1, 2010).

107. Google, <http://www.google.com> (last visited June 1, 2010).

108. Google News, <http://news.google.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010). Google's News Archive retrieves older articles, in some cases dating before 1940. See Google News: Archive Search, <http://news.google.com/archivesearch> (last visited June 1, 2010).

109. Google: Advanced Search, http://www.google.com/advanced_search?hl=en (last visited June 1, 2010).

110. Google: Alerts, <http://www.google.com/alerts> (last visited June 1, 2010).

111. See Google News: RSS Feeds—Available Google News Feeds, <http://www.google.com/support/news/bin/answer.py?answer=59255&hl=en> (last visited June 1, 2010).

112. Google Scholar, <http://scholar.google.com> (last visited June 1, 2010). Google Scholar is discussed *infra* Sections III.B.1.d and IV.A.3.

113. Google Scholar: Help, <http://scholar.google.com/intl/en/scholar/help.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

114. Google Scholar: Help, <http://scholar.google.com/intl/en/scholar/help.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

115. See Google Directory: Society & Law, <http://www.google.com/Top/Society/Law/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

116. Google Directory: Society & Law—Legal Information & Bankruptcy http://www.google.com/Top/Society/Law/Legal_Information/Bankruptcy/ (last visited June 1, 2010).

117. See Google: U.S. Government Search, <http://www.google.com/unclesam> (last visited June 1, 2010).

118. USA.gov, <http://usa.gov/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

119. USA.gov: Advanced Search, <http://search.usa.gov/search/advanced> (last visited June 1, 2010).

120. Yahoo! <http://www.yahoo.com> (last visited June 1, 2010).

121. Yahoo! <http://www.yahoo.com> (last visited June 1, 2010).

122. Yahoo! Advanced Web Search, <http://search.yahoo.com/web/advanced> (last visited June 1, 2010).

123. Yahoo! News, <http://news.yahoo.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

124. Yahoo! Finance, <http://finance.yahoo.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

125. Yahoo! Directory, <http://dir.yahoo.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

126. Yahoo! Advanced Directory Search, <http://search.yahoo.com/dir/advanced> (last visited June 1, 2010).

127. Yahoo! Directory: Bankruptcy Law, http://dir.yahoo.com/Government/Law/Business/Commercial_Law/Bankruptcy/ (last visited June 1, 2010).

128. Yahoo! Directory: RSS Feeds, <http://dir.yahoo.com/rss/dir/index.php> (last visited June 1, 2010).

129. Wendy Boswell, Meta Search Engine, About.com: Computing and Technology—Web Search, http://websearch.about.com/od/m/g/meta_search_eng.htm (last visited June 3, 2010).

130. See MetaCrawler, <http://www.metacrawler.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010). MetaCrawler began in 1994 at the University of Washington and joined the InfoSpace Network in 2000. See MetaCrawler: About MetaCrawler, http://www.metacrawler.com/metacrawler/ws/about/_iceUrlFlag=11?_IceUrl=true (last visited June 1, 2010).

131. DogPile, <http://www.dogpile.com> (last visited June 1, 2010). DogPile searches through the leading search engines, with a sense of humor: Users enter “Go Fetch” instead of “Search.”

132. SurfWax, <http://www.surfwax.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

133. A new edition of the U.S. Code is published every six years, with cumulative supplements issued in each intervening year. Olson, *Principles of Legal Research* 75 (2009). However, laws contained in the U.S. Code's annual cumulative supplements are at least 12 months out of date when published. Olson at 75. The U.S. Code Service and the U.S. Code Annotated are updated with annual pocket parts and quarterly supplementary pamphlets. Olson at 79. The online versions of the U.S. Code available on Westlaw and Lexis generally include laws from the current session of Congress. See Olson at 79.

134. Casemaker, <http://lawwriter.net/> (last visited June 1, 2010). At the time of writing, Casemaker's primary site, <http://www.casemaker.us/> was down for maintenance. Casemaker is also discussed *infra* Section IV.B.1.a.

135. Fastcase, <http://www.fastcase.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010). Fastcase is also discussed *infra* Section IV.B.1.a.

136. FindLaw for Legal Professionals, <http://lp.findlaw.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

137. FindLaw: Cases and Codes—U.S. Code, <http://www.findlaw.com/cascode/uscodes/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

138. FindLaw, U.S. Code and Statutes, <http://codes.lp.findlaw.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

139. FindLaw: U.S. Code—Browse by Title, <http://codes.lp.findlaw.com/uscode/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

140. FindLaw: U.S. Code—Popular Names, <http://codes.lp.findlaw.com/uscodes/popularnames/index.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

141. FindLaw, U.S. Code, Title 11, Bankruptcy, <http://codes.lp.findlaw.com/uscode/11> (last visited June 1, 2010).

142. GPO Access, <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

143. GPO: FDsys, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

144. See GPO: FDsys—U.S. Code, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collectionUSCode.action?collectionCode=USCODE> (last visited June 1, 2010).

145. GPO Access: U.S. Code—Main Page, <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/index.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

146. See GPO Access: U.S. Code—Main Page, <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/index.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

147. See GPO Access: U.S. Code—Browse Titles Page, <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/browse.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

148. See GPO Access: U.S. Code—Search Tips, <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/tips.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

149. See GPO Access: U.S. Code—Search Tips, <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/tips.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

150. GPO Access: Public and Private Laws—Main Page, <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/plaws/index.html> (last visited June 1, 2010). Updating is discussed *infra* Section IV.A.2.

151. GPO: FDsys—U.S. Code—Browse, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collectionUSCode.action?collectionCode=USCODE> (last visited June 1, 2010).

152. GPO: FDsys—U.S. Code—Citation Search, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/submitcitation.action?publication=USCODE> (last visited June 1, 2010).

153. GPO: FDsys—Advanced Search, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/advanced/advsearchpage.action> (last visited June 1, 2010).

154. Updating is discussed *infra* Section IV.A.2.

155. LII, Legal Information Institute at Cornell Law School, <http://www.law.cornell.edu/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

156. LII: Find U.S. Code Materials by Title and Section, <http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/#SECTIONS> (last visited June 1, 2010).

157. LII: U.S. Code Collection, Popular Names of Acts in the U.S. Code, <http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/topn/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

158. LII: Table of Contents (by Title listing), <http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/#TITLES> (last visited June 1, 2010).

159. LII: U.S. Code, Title 11, http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode11/usc_sup_01_11_10_1.html (last visited June 1, 2010).

160. LII: U.S. Code, Title 11, http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode11/usc_sup_01_11_10_1.html (last visited June 1, 2010).

161. LII: Search all Titles of the U.S. Code, <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/search/index.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

162. LII: Table of Contents (By Title listing), <http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/#TITLES> (last visited June 1, 2010).

163. E.g., LII: LII RSS Feeds—Title 11, http://www4.law.cornell.edu/userinfo/rssuser.php?target=http://hula.law.cornell.edu/uscode/rss/usc_update_11.rss (last visited June 1, 2010).

164. U.S. House of Representatives, Office of the Law Revision Counsel: U.S. Code Classification Tables, <http://uscode.house.gov/classification/tables.shtml> (last visited June 1, 2010). The Classification Tables are discussed *infra* Section IV.A.2.

165. Thomas (Library of Congress), <http://thomas.loc.gov/> (last visited June 1, 2010). Thomas is discussed *infra* Section IV.A.2.

166. U.S. House of Representatives, Office of the Law Revision Counsel: U.S. Code, <http://uscode.house.gov/> (last visited June 1, 2010). Pursuant to Title 2, section 285(b) of the U.S. Code, the House of Representatives' Office of the Law Revision Counsel prepares and publishes the U.S. Code.

167. See Olson at 75.

168. U.S. House of Representatives, Office of the Law Revision Counsel: U.S. Code, <http://uscode.house.gov/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

169. See U.S. House of Representatives, Office of the Law Revision Counsel: U.S. Code—Search the U.S. Code, <http://uscode.house.gov/search/criteria.shtml> (last visited June 1, 2010).

170. In a keyword search, you enter only the word or words you wish to find. For example, entering the word “bankruptcy” will produce only documents using the word “bankruptcy.” Phrases should be placed in single quotation marks, e.g., ‘bankruptcy crime.’ See U.S. House of Representatives, Office of the Law Revision Counsel: U.S. Code—Help Searching the U.S. Code, <http://uscode.house.gov/help/uschelp.shtml> (last visited June 1, 2010).

171. A concept search looks for related ideas as well. For example, entering the word “bankruptcy” will yield results with words such as “insolvency.” See U.S. House of Representatives, Office of the Law Revision Counsel: Concept Search—Exploring a General Idea, <http://uscode.house.gov/search/help/htmlsrc/consrch.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

172. The Relate Advisor generates a list of words in the current database that are statistically related to the words in a query. You may then use these words to refine the query. See U.S. House of Representatives, Office of the Law Revision Counsel: Finding Words Related to Your Query, <http://uscode.house.gov/search/help/htmlsrc/reladv.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

173. . The Fuzzy Match Advisor will display a list of words with spelling similar to the first word in a query, which is useful in locating word variants or misspellings in the database. See U.S. House of Representatives, Office of the Law Revision Counsel: Fuzzy Matching—

Identifying Words with Similar Spelling, <http://uscode.house.gov/search/help/htmlsrc/fuzadv.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

174. The Dictionary Advisor permits you to verify the existence of words within a database. This feature is useful when a word search yields no results but you believe that the word is in the database. The Dictionary Advisor, which acts only on the first word in the query, can confirm or deny your suspicions. It also shows the variants of a given word existing in a database. See U.S. House of Representatives, Office of the Law Revision Counsel: Viewing a Database's Dictionary, <http://uscode.house.gov/search/help/htmlsrc/dicadv.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

175. In a cross-reference search, you search for code sections that refer to a specific title and section. See U.S. House of Representatives, Office of the Law Revision Counsel: U.S. Code—Search the U.S. Code, <http://uscode.house.gov/search/criteria.shtml> (last visited June 1, 2010).

176. Boolean connectors are words (such as “and,” “or,” “not”) or symbols (such as an ampersand, a tilde, a percentage sign, a minus sign, and so on). See Levitt & Rosch, *The Cybersleuth's Guide to the Internet: Conducting Effective Investigative and Legal Research on the Web* 1 (10th ed. 2009), at 34-35. Proximity connectors specify the maximum number of words that can separate search terms or require the words to appear in the same sentence or paragraph. See Olson at 15.

177. U.S. House of Representatives, Office of the Law Revision Counsel: U.S. Code—Table of Popular Names, <http://uscode.house.gov/popularnames/popularnames.htm>. (last visited June 1, 2010).

178. U.S. House of Representatives, Office of the Law Revision Counsel: Download the U.S. Code, <http://uscode.house.gov/download/download.shtml> (last visited June 1, 2010).

179. U.S. House of Representatives, Office of the Law Revision Counsel: U.S. Code Classification Tables, <http://uscode.house.gov/classification/tables.shtml> (last visited June 1, 2010). The U.S. Code Classification Tables list all sections of the U.S. Code that were amended since they were last published. See *infra* Section IV.A.2.

180. U.S. House of Representatives, Office of the Law Revision Counsel: About the Office and the U.S. Code, <http://uscode.house.gov/about/info.shtml> (last visited June 1, 2010).

181. See U.S. House of Representatives, Office of the Law Revision Counsel: U.S. Code—Search the U.S. Code, <http://uscode.house.gov/search/criteria.shtml> (last visited June 1, 2010).

182. Thomas (Library of Congress): Public Laws, <http://thomas.loc.gov/bss/d111/d111laws.html> (visited March 13, 2010). THOMAS is discussed *infra* Section IV.A.2.

183. GPO Access: Public and Private Laws—Main Page, <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/plaws/index.html> (last visited June 1, 2010). See *infra* Section IV.A.2.

184. GPO Access: Public and Private Laws—Browse, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=PLAW> (last visited June 1, 2010).

185. The application is available at iTunes, <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/u-s-code/id351184749?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D6> (last visited June 1, 2010).

186. Jeff Richardson, Free U.S. Code App Updates Content, Brings iPad Support, iPhone J.D. (May 12, 2010), http://www.iphonejd.com/iphone_jd/2010/05/free-us-code-app-update.html.

187. See iTunes: Fastcase for iPhone, <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/fastcase/id352470511?mt=8#> (last visited June 11, 2010). No Fastcase subscription is necessary.

188. U.S. House of Representatives, Office of the Law Revision Counsel: U.S. Code Classification Tables, <http://uscode.house.gov/classification/tables.shtml> (last visited June 1, 2010).

189. Thomas (Library of Congress), <http://thomas.loc.gov/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

190. E.g., Thomas (Library of Congress): Browse Public Laws—111th Congress, <http://thomas.loc.gov/bss/d111/d111laws.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

191. See Thomas (Library of Congress): Bill Text Search—111th Congress, <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/c111query.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

192. GPO Access: Public and Private Laws—Main Page, <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/plaws/index.html> (last visited June 1, 2010). See *infra* Section IV.A.2.

193. GPO Access: Public and Private Laws—Browse, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=PLAW> (last visited June 1, 2010).

194. GPO Access: Public and Private Laws—Citation Search, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/submitcitation.action?publication=PLAW> (last visited June 1, 2010).

195. GPO: FDsys—Advanced Search, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/advanced/advsearchpage.action> (last visited June 1, 2010). See *supra* text accompanying note 153.

196. GPO: FDsys—Advanced Search, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/advanced/advsearchpage.action> (last visited June 1, 2010).

197. GPO: FDsys, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

198. GPO Access, <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

199. GPO Access: Congressional Bills, <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/bills/index.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

200. GPO Access: Congressional Bills, <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/bills/index.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

201. GPO Access: Congressional Bills—Search, <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/bills/search.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

202. GPO Access: Congressional Bills—History of Bills, <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/hob/index.html> (last visited June 1, 2010). The History of Bills database lists legislative actions on bills that are reported in the Congressional Record.

203. GPO Access: Congressional Bills—Browse, <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/bills/browse.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

204. GPO Access: Congressional Reports—Search, <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/serialset/creports/search.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

205. GPO Access: Congressional Reports, <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/serialset/creports/index.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

206. GPO Access: U.S. Congress Conference Reports—Current Congress, <http://www.conferencereport.gpoaccess.gov/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

207. GPO Access: Congressional Record—Main Page, <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/crecord/index.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

208. GPO Access: Congressional Record—Advanced Search, <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/crecord/advanced.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

209. GPO: FDsys—Browse Dates, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/datab.action> (last visited June 1, 2010).

210. GPO: FDsys—Browse Committees, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/committeetab.action> (last visited June 1, 2010).

211. GPO: FDsys—Browse Publications, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collectiontab.action> (last visited June 1, 2010).

212. GPO: FDsys—Search, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/home.action> (last visited June 1, 2010).

213. GPO: FDsys—Advanced Search, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/advanced/advsearchpage.action> (last visited June 1, 2010).

214. GPO: FDsys—Citation Search, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/showcitation.action> (last visited June 1, 2010).

215. GovTrack, <http://www.govtrack.us/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

216. GovTrack: Federal Legislation, <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/legislation.xpd> (last visited June 1, 2010).

217. GovTrack: Bills by Subject, <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/subjects.xpd> (last visited June 1, 2010).

218. GovTrack: Congressional Committees, <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/committee.xpd> (last visited June 1, 2010).

219. GovTrack: Advanced Search, <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/billsearch.xpd> (last visited June 1, 2010).

220. GovTrack: Trackers, <http://www.govtrack.us/users/trackers.xpd> (last visited June 1, 2010).

221. General trackers cover the activity of the whole Congress, while targeted trackers cover every member of Congress, bill, subject area, and congressional committee. GovTrack: Trackers, <http://www.govtrack.us/users/trackers.xpd> (last visited June 1, 2010).

222. GovTrack: Create An Account, <http://www.govtrack.us/users/register.xpd> (last visited June 1, 2010).

223. GovTrack: Bills by Subject, <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/subjects.xpd> (last visited June 1, 2010).

224. GovTrack: Your Trackers, <http://www.govtrack.us/users/yourmonitors.xpd> (last visited June 1, 2010).

225. GovTrack: Widgets for Your Web Page, <http://www.govtrack.us/embed/> (last visited June 1, 2010). A widget is an application that can be embedded into a Web site on a page where you have authorship rights. Nations, How Can I Use a Web Widget? About.com: Web Trends, http://webtrends.about.com/od/widgets/a/what_is_widget.htm (last visited June 1, 2010). GovTrack gives you the HTML code to copy and paste into your Web page. Just search for legislation, subjects, committees, and so on, follow the link to the Tracked Events page feed, and then follow the link to embed the feed on your Web site. See GovTrack: Widgets for Your Web Page, <http://www.govtrack.us/embed/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

226. OpenCongress.org, <http://www.opencongress.org/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

227. OpenCongress.org: About, <http://www.opencongress.org/about> (last visited June 1, 2010). The site is produced and maintained by the Participatory Politics Foundation and the Sunlight Foundation. OpenCongress.org, <http://www.opencongress.org/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

228. OpenCongress.org, <http://www.opencongress.org/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

229. OpenCongress.org: All Bills—111th Congress, <http://www.opencongress.org/bill/all> (last visited June 1, 2010).

230. OpenCongress.org: Issues, <http://www.opencongress.org/issues/alphabetical/A> (last visited June 1, 2010).

231. OpenCongress.org: All Bills—111th Congress, <http://www.opencongress.org/bill/all> (last visited June 1, 2010).

232. OpenCongress.org: Blog, <http://www.opencongress.org/blog> (last visited June 1, 2010).

233. OpenCongress.org: Wiki, http://www.opencongress.org/wiki/Wiki_Home (last visited June 1, 2010).

234. OpenCongress.org: Tools, <http://www.opencongress.org/tools> (last visited June 1, 2010).

235. Thomas (Library of Congress), <http://thomas.loc.gov/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

236. Thomas (Library of Congress): Bills, Resolutions, http://thomas.loc.gov/home/bills_res.html (last visited June 1, 2010).

237. Thomas (Library of Congress): Bills, Resolutions—Search Bill Summary & Status—111th Congress, <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/c111query.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

238. Thomas (Library of Congress): Bills, Resolutions—Search Bill Text from Multiple Congresses, <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/multicongress/multicongress.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

239. Thomas (Library of Congress): Bills, Resolutions—Search Bill Summary and Status—111th Congress, <http://thomas.loc.gov/bss/111search.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

240. Thomas (Library of Congress): Committee Reports—111th Congress, <http://thomas.loc.gov/cp111/cp111query.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

241. Thomas (Library of Congress): Search the Congressional Record—111th Congress, <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/r111query.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

242. “Portal” is defined as a Web site that provides links to other sites. Dictionary of Computer and Internet Terms 374 (10th ed. 2009). Today, many online libraries also serve as portals.

243. Casemaker, <http://lawwriter.net/> (last visited June 1, 2010). At the time of writing, Casemaker’s primary site, <http://www.casemaker.us/> was down for maintenance.

244. Fastcase, <http://www.fastcase.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

245. See iTunes: Fastcase for iPhone, <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/fastcase/id352470511?mt=8#> (last visited June 11, 2010).

246. FindACase, www.findacase.com (last visited June 1, 2010).

247. VersusLaw, <http://www.versuslaw.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010). VersusLaw is a low-cost commercial provider of online case law research.

248. An excellent guide to conducting searches is available at FindACase: Network FAQs, <http://www.findacase.com/help/facnetFAQ.aspx> (last visited June 1, 2010).

249. FindLaw: Judicial Branch—Federal Resources, <http://www.findlaw.com/10fedgov/judicial/index.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

250. FindLaw: Cases and Codes—Supreme Court Opinions, <http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

251. FindLaw: Cases and Codes—Supreme Court Opinions, <http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

252. FindLaw: U.S. Supreme Court—Topical Case Index, http://supreme.lp.findlaw.com/supreme_court/caseindex.html (last visited June 1, 2010).

253. FindLaw: U.S. Supreme Court Calendar, http://supreme.lp.findlaw.com/supreme_court/calendar/index.html (last visited June 1, 2010).

254. FindLaw: Supreme Court Center—Docket, http://supreme.lp.findlaw.com/supreme_court/docket/index.html (last visited June 1, 2010).

255. FindLaw: Supreme Court Center—U.S. Supreme Court Rules, http://supreme.lp.findlaw.com/supreme_court/rules/index.html (last visited June 1, 2010).

256. FindLaw: Supreme Court Center—2007-2008 Briefs, http://supreme.lp.findlaw.com/supreme_court/briefs/index.html (last visited June 1, 2010).

257. FindLaw: Supreme Court Center—U.S. Supreme Court Orders, http://supreme.lp.findlaw.com/supreme_court/orders/index.html (last visited June 1, 2010).

258. FindLaw: Supreme Court Center—U.S. Supreme Court Filing Guides, http://supreme.lp.findlaw.com/supreme_court/guides/index.html (last visited June 1, 2010).

259. FindLaw: Official Sites—Federal Courts of Appeal, http://www.findlaw.com/10fedgov/judicial/appeals_courts_sites.html (last visited June 1, 2010).

260. FindLaw: Cases and Codes, <http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

261. See e.g., FindLaw: Federal Courts of Appeals—Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals Opinions, <http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/courts/11th.html#casesearch> (last visited June 1, 2010).

262. FindLaw: Case Summaries Search, <http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/casesummary/index.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

263. FindLaw: Newsletters, <http://newsletters.findlaw.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

264. FindLaw: RSS Feeds, <http://www.findlaw.com/rss-index/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

265. See e.g., *Rousey et ux v. Jacoway*, <http://laws.findlaw.com/us/544/320.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

266. Google Scholar, <http://scholar.google.com> (last visited June 1, 2010). Google Scholar is discussed *supra* Section II.C.1. and *infra* Section IV.A.3.

267. Google Scholar: Help, <http://scholar.google.com/intl/en/scholar/help.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

268. Google Scholar: Help, <http://scholar.google.com/intl/en/scholar/help.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

269. Google Scholar: Advanced Scholar, http://scholar.google.com/advanced_scholar_search (last visited June 1, 2010).

270. If the citing article is from a non-Google source, it may be in PDF form. In that case, you will be taken to the beginning of the article or to a log-in page of a commercial provider.

271. Justia, <http://www.justia.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

272. Justia: U.S. Supreme Court Center—U.S. Supreme Court Cases & Opinions, <http://supreme.justia.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

273. See Justia: U.S. Supreme Court Center—U.S. Supreme Court Cases & Opinions, <http://supreme.justia.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

274. Justia: U.S. Court of Appeals Cases and Opinions, <http://cases.justia.com/us-court-of-appeals/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

275. Justia: U.S. Courts of Appeal, <http://www.justia.com/courts/federal-courts/us-courts-of-appeals.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

276. Justia: Courts—U.S. District Courts and Bankruptcy Courts, <http://www.justia.com/courts/federal-courts/federal-courts.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

277. Justia: Federal District Court Filings and Dockets, <http://dockets.justia.com> (last visited June 1, 2010). This database is discussed *infra* Section IV.B.2.

278. LII: Legal Information Institute at Cornell Law School, <http://www.law.cornell.edu/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

279. See LII: U.S. Supreme Court Decisions—About Supreme Court Collection, <http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/supremes.htm> (last visited June 1, 2010).

280. LII: U.S. Supreme Court Decisions—About Supreme Court Collection, <http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/supremes.htm> (last visited June 1, 2010).

281. See LII: Collection of Historic Decisions of the US Supreme Court, <http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct/cases/historic.htm> (last visited June 1, 2010).

282. See LII: E-Mail Bulletins, <http://www.law.cornell.edu/focus/bulletins.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

283. These previews are also available on the LII site itself. See LII: LIIBulletin—Previews for oral arguments from 1 October 2008 to 30 June 2009, http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/oral_arg_previews.php?begin=20081001&end=20090630 (last visited June 1, 2010).

284. See LII: Supreme Court Collection, <http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/index.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

285. See LII: Federal Law Materials—Judicial Opinions, <http://www.law.cornell.edu/federal/opinions.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

286. See LII: Search the Opinions of the U.S. Circuit Courts, <http://www.law.cornell.edu/usca/search/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

287. LII: Federal Court Collection—District Court and Bankruptcy Court Decisions—by Circuit, <http://www.law.cornell.edu/federal/districts.html#circuit> (last visited June 1, 2010).

288. LII: Federal Court Collection—District Court and Bankruptcy Court Decisions—by State, <http://www.law.cornell.edu/federal/districtsbystate.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

289. LexisONE, <http://law.lexisnexis.com/webcenters/lexisone/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

290. LexisONE, <http://law.lexisnexis.com/webcenters/lexisone/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

291. LexisONE: Browse Federal, State Case Law, Supreme Court Cases, <http://www.lexisone.com/case-law-federal-courts.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

292. Public Library of Law, <http://www.plol.org/> (last visited June 1, 2010).
293. Fastcase, <http://www.fastcase.com/> (last visited May 28, 2010). Fastcase is a commercial legal research service used by state bar associations. Fastcase is discussed in Sections II.B.1 and IV.B.1.a.
294. See Public Library of Law, <http://www.plol.org/> (last visited June 1, 2010). Decisions of the Eleventh Circuit are available from 1981, and decisions of the Federal Circuit are available from 1982.
295. See Public Library of Law: Recent Decisions, <http://www.plol.org/Pages/RecentDecisions.aspx> (last visited June 1, 2010).
296. Benjamin R. Dryden, Technological Leaps and Bounds: Pro Se Prisoner Litigation in the Internet Age, 10 U. Pa. J. Const. L. 819, 834 (2008).
297. Supreme Court of the United States, <http://www.supremecourt.us.gov/> (last visited June 1, 2010).
298. Supreme Court of the United States: Opinions, <http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/opinions.aspx> (last visited June 1, 2010).
299. Supreme Court of the United States: Bound Volumes, <http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/boundvolumes.aspx> (last visited June 1, 2010).
300. Supreme Court of the United States: 2009 Term Opinions of the Court, <http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/slipopinions.aspx> (last visited June 1, 2010).
301. Supreme Court of the United States: Docket Search, <http://www.supremecourt.gov/docket/docket.aspx> (last visited June 1, 2010).
302. Supreme Court of the United States: Oral Arguments, http://www.supremecourt.gov/oral_arguments/oral_arguments.aspx (last visited June 1, 2010).
303. Supreme Court of the United States: Court Rules, <http://www.supremecourt.gov/ctrules/ctrules.aspx> (last visited June 1, 2010).
304. Supreme Court of the United States: Case Handling Guides, <http://www.supremecourt.gov/casehand/casehand.aspx> (last visited June 1, 2010).
305. Supreme Court of the United States: Argument Transcripts, http://www.supremecourt.gov/oral_arguments/argument_transcripts.aspx (last visited June 1, 2010).
306. The Oyez Project, <http://www.oyez.org/> (last visited June 1, 2010). The Oyez Project is published with support from the National Science Foundation, Northwestern University, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Oyez Project: About, <http://www.oyez.org/about> (last visited June 1, 2010).
307. The Oyez Project: About, <http://www.oyez.org/about> (last visited June 1, 2010). From the 2005 term onward, audio is available in both MP3 and podcast format, while earlier audio is available in RealPlayer format. The Oyez Project: About, <http://www.oyez.org/about> (last visited June 1, 2010). A project is underway to add a public, searchable archive of all audio recordings in the Court from October 1955, when the first recording system was installed. The Oyez Project: About, <http://www.oyez.org/about> (last visited June 1, 2010).
308. The Oyez Project: Cases—All Terms, <http://www.oyez.org/cases> (last visited June 1, 2010).
309. The Oyez Project: Search, <http://www.oyez.org/search> (last visited June 1, 2010).
310. On the Docket, <http://onthedocket.org/> (last visited June 1, 2010).
311. On the Docket: About, <http://onthedocket.org/about-docket> (last visited June 1, 2010).
312. Appellate.net, <http://www.appellate.net> (last visited June 1, 2010).
313. Justia: Supreme Court Center, <http://supreme.justia.com/> (last visited June 1, 2010).
314. SCOTUSBlog, <http://www.scotusblog.com/wp/> (last visited June 1, 2010).
315. FedWorld/FLITE Supreme Court Decisions Home Page, <http://supcourt.ntis.gov/> (last visited June 1, 2010). FedWorld makes decisions available as ASCII text files that can be read on-screen or saved to a hard drive. Searches may be conducted by case name or keyword.

FedWorld/FLITE Supreme Court Decisions Home Page, <http://supcourt.ntis.gov/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

316. GPO Access: Supreme Court Decisions, 1937-1975—Main Page, <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/supcrt/index.html> (last visited June 1, 2010). Users may search the decisions database by keywords, case names, or case numbers.

317. Willamette Law Online: U.S. Supreme Court, <http://www.willamette.edu/wucl/journals/wlo/us-supreme/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

318. Willamette Law Online: Subscribe/Unsubscribe, <http://www.willamette.edu/wucl/journals/wlo/subsc.htm> (last visited June 1, 2010).

319. The Curiae Project, <http://curiae.law.yale.edu> (last visited June 1, 2010).

320. U.S. Courts: The Federal Judiciary, <http://www.uscourts.gov/courtlinks/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

321. U.S. Courts: The Federal Judiciary, <http://www.uscourts.gov/courtlinks/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

322. U.S. Courts: The Federal Judiciary, <http://www.uscourts.gov/courtlinks/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

323. Villanova Law School: Federal Court Locator, <http://www.law.villanova.edu/Library/Research%20Guides/Federal%20Court%20Locator.aspx> (last visited June 1, 2010).

324. U.S. Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the First Circuit, <http://www.bap1.uscourts.gov/> (last visited June 1, 2010).

325. U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit: B.A.P. Information, <http://www.ca6.uscourts.gov/internet/bap/bap.htm> (last visited June 1, 2010).

326. U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit: Bankruptcy Appellate Panel Information Search, <http://www.ca8.uscourts.gov/newbap/bapFrame.html> (last visited June 1, 2010).

327. Bankruptcy Appellate Panel of the Ninth Circuit, <http://www.ce9.uscourts.gov/bap> (last visited June 1, 2010).

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