

**George Mason University  
Law Library  
Spring 2015**

---

**Preparing to Practice in Virginia**



# Library Privileges for Grads

---

- IDs work through October 12, 2015
  - Study rooms
  - Check out books (until Sept. 30)
  - Computer labs
- In-Library Resources for attorneys
  - WestlawNext
  - Bloomberg Law
  - Lexis.com
- Reference service for attorneys
  - Call or email us. 703-993-8076.

# Lexis and Westlaw Access

---

## Lexis

- Graduating students have access until July 31. To extend access, visit <https://www.lexisnexis.com/grad-access/>.

## Westlaw

- Access to job-related resources for 18 months after graduation (no action required for this service).
- Graduating students may extend their passwords thru November 30.
  - Look for information on the Westlaw Law School homepage; requires you to complete [this survey](#).

# BloombergLaw

---

- Access until December 31 for any purpose, including commercial.



# Virginia Bar Benefit:



## **FastCase ([www.fastcase.com](http://www.fastcase.com))**

- Free to Virginia State Bar members for 3 years
  - Login on Bar Website
- Federal and state case law, statutes, and regulations
- Search using Boolean operators, natural language, or by citation
- Apps for iPad and iPhone/Android

# Free & Low Cost Legal Research

---

- Library Guide to [Free Legal Research Sites](#)
  - Link on the Law Library Home Page
- Main free sources for primary materials:
  - [Google Scholar](#) (case law and articles)
  - [Fdsys](#) (federal government official, authenticated publications)
  - State Legislature' s page (for state laws)
    - E.g., [Code of Virginia](#)
  - [Cornell LII](#)
  - [Justia](#)
  - [Findlaw](#) (Thompson Reuters)
- **Note: No free citation checker exists. Must go to a local law library.**

# Virginia Practice Materials

---

## Legal Ethics

- **ABA/BNA Lawyers' Manual on Professional Conduct**
  - In library, [print](#) or [Bloomberg BNA](#)
- **Virginia Legal Ethics Opinions**
  - VA CLE Office LEOs (<http://www.vacle.org/leoslegallinks-pg107.aspx>)
  - LEO Summaries from McGuireWoods (<http://www.mcguirewoods.com/services/leo/>)

# Virginia Practice Materials

---

## Secondary Sources

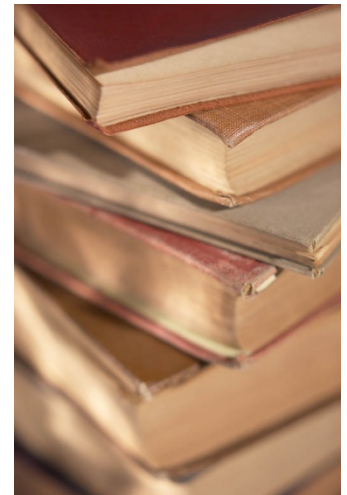
- *Virginia Lawyer: A Deskbook for Practitioners*
- *Virginia Remedies*
- *Virginia Criminal Law & Procedure*
- *Virginia Practice Series*

## Virginia CLEs

- Subject specific
- New developments, tricks, and forms
- Library – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

## Municipal Codes

- Check whether local laws apply
- [Municode.com](http://Municode.com) – search multiple codes simultaneously





# Virginia Practice Materials

---

## ○ Statutes

- Code of Virginia via LIS (<http://leg1.state.va.us/000/src.htm>)
- Legislative History – Contact Division of Legislative Research Services

## ○ Law Library Research Guide

- [Virginia Legal Materials](#)

# Virginia Practice Materials

---

## **Continuing Legal Education (“CLE”)**

- Requirement: 12 hours per year (4 “Live”), including 2 hours in ethics or professionalism
- CLE materials – useful for research and practice
- Sources for info about upcoming CLE classes
  - **Virginia Law Foundation ([www.vacle.org](http://www.vacle.org))**
  - **Virginia Lawyers Weekly ([www.virginialaw.com](http://www.virginialaw.com))**
  - **Mason Law (<http://www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/schedule>)**
    - Main program is 2 credit ethics program each October