

Contract Law Resources

Introduction

Many of the leading texts and treatises on contract law have been used in print by multiple generations of attorneys, but now a number of contract law resources are available in electronic form, either free or by subscription, on the Internet. One of the most exciting new additions to the array of electronic resources for Michigan attorneys is the alternative online book format offered by the Institute for Continuing Legal Education (ICLE) in Ann Arbor. This article will survey both widely-used print resources and newer electronic offerings relating to contract law.

Traditional Resources

The following have been available for many years and still remain excellent resources for attorneys researching contract law issues; all are updated at least annually with supplements:

- Arthur L. Corbin, *Corbin on Contracts* (Rev. ed. 1993)
- Samuel Williston, *A Treatise on the Law of Contracts* (4th ed. 1990)

- Joseph M. Perillo, *Calamari and Perillo on Contracts* (5th ed. 2003)

Restatement (Second) of Contracts (1981) Corbin can also be accessed online through Lexis, while both Williston and the Restatement are available through Westlaw.

State Practice Materials

ICLE also has a comprehensive set of offerings in the area of contracts and commercial law, including:

- John R. Trentacosta, ed, *Michigan Contract Law* (2003)
- Patrick E. Mears & Scott W. Dales, *Michigan's Revised Article 9 of the UCC* (2004)
- Mark A. Kleist et al., ed, *Michigan Business Formbook* (2d ed. 2004)
- Barbara A. Patek, et al., ed, *Michigan Law of Damages and Other Remedies* (3d ed 2005)

These texts provide a discussion of substantive law prepared by attorneys who are experts in their fields. *Michigan's Revised Article 9 of the UCC* and the *Michigan Business Formbook* also provide state-specific forms in print and on CD-ROM. Attorneys who par-

ticipate in ICLE's partnership program can access the forms online as well.¹

ICLE is also venturing into electronic publishing and will be offering online versions of *Michigan Contract Law* and the *Michigan Business Formbook* within the next year. *Michigan Law of Damages and Other Remedies*, which includes a discussion of remedies for breach of contract, is currently available online. A sample of an online book is posted on the ICLE website.² Attorneys will find this new format to be very convenient, because cases and other primary law sources cited in the text can be accessed instantly through hyperlinks. ICLE seminar materials, including materials from the annual Business Law Institute, can also be purchased through the ICLE website.³

Websites

A number of websites provide general information about contract law, including the Cornell Legal Information Institute⁴ and Findlaw.⁵ The Cornell site is valuable because of its links to primary law materials, including state Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) provisions. The Findlaw site offers links to a wide variety of resources, including law firms and contract forms.

The Contracting and Organizations Research Institute (CORI) website, sponsored by the University of Missouri, provides a digital library with over 25,000 contracts.⁶ CORI collects submissions of contracts used in actual transactions and makes them available for free to registered users. The contracts database is searchable by type of contract or by keyword. OneCLE, a provider of continuing legal education in California, also maintains a free database of sample contracts on its website.⁷

Another resource that is worthy of note is ContractsProf Blog, the official blog of the American Association of Law Schools Section on Contracts.⁸ Participating law professors use this blog to comment on recent court decisions or other developments relating to contracts and commercial law. This is

a useful site for keeping up-to-date on developments in contract law. On the lighter side, you can link from the site to copies of contracts used by celebrities, such as Jennifer Lopez and Jimmy Buffett.

Other Internet Resources

In addition to these specific websites, two general resource guides on the Internet provide a wealth of information for the attorney seeking information relating to contracts and business law. The Virtual Chase, a highly-respected site developed by law librarian Genie Tyburski, has a legal research guide covering business law.⁹ This unique guide offers links to primary and secondary legal information, as well as government and other sources for general business information. Schuyler Cook, a government information and reference librarian at Cleveland-Marchall College of Law, has also prepared a detailed Contracts Resource Guide, which is available on the law school website.¹⁰ The guide covers both print and electronic resources, and includes coverage of Westlaw and Lexis materials relating to commercial law and contracts. Both of these would be excellent starting points for attorneys seeking a broad range of contract law resources on the Web. ◆

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FOOTNOTES

1. <http://www.icle.org/store/partnership.htm>.
2. <http://www.icle.org/shared/asp/samplesearchBook.asp?book=2000556230>.
3. http://www.icle.org/store/catalog_seminarmaterials.cfm.
4. <http://straylight.law.cornell.edu/topics/contracts.html>.
5. <http://www.findlaw.com/01topics/07contracts/index.html>.
6. <http://cori.missouri.edu/>.
7. <http://www.onecle.com/>.
8. http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/contractsprof_blog/.
9. http://www.virtualchase.com/resources/business_law.html.
10. <http://www.law.csuohio.edu/lawlibrary/ContractLawResourceGuide.htm>.