

Legal Research and Writing Techniques

Form #12.013

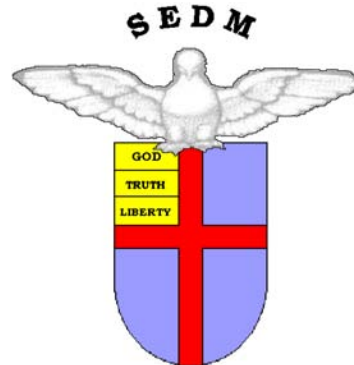
Litigation Tool #10.005

by:

Sovereignty Education and Defense Ministry (SEDM)

<http://sedm.org>

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Course Materials

If you want a copy of this presentation after viewing the course, you can download it from:

- Liberty University, Item #2.4
<http://sedm.org/LibertyU/LibertyU.htm>
- SEDM Forms/Pubs Page, Form #12.013
<http://sedm.org/Forms/FormIndex.htm>

Disclaimer

- Information appearing in this presentation is educational in nature
- Everything presented is based on:
 - Thousands of hours of scriptural and legal research
 - Review and use of the resulting research by the over 1 Million people who have visited and are currently using the [SEDM Website](#) and [Family Guardian Website](#)
 - Continuous feedback from our several readers that have improved the quality of the information over time
- If you find anything wrong in this presentation, we would appreciate you pointing out the evidence upon which you base that conclusion so that we may continually improve our materials. Your evidence must be completely consistent with our presentation below:
 - Reasonable Belief About Income Tax Liability*, Form #05.007
 - <http://sedm.org/Forms/FormIndex.htm>
- The application of this information to your specific legal circumstances is entirely your choice and responsibility
- The information presented is copyrighted and subject to the copyright restrictions found at:
 - <http://sedm.org/disclaimer.htm>
- This disclaimer is the SAME disclaimer as the U.S. government uses. See section 4.10.7.2.8 at:
 - <http://www.irs.gov/irm/part4/ch10s11.html>

Why We **MUST** Learn Law!

- "One who turns his ear from hearing the law [[God's law](#) or [man's law](#)], even his prayer is an abomination."
[[Prov. 28:9](#), Bible, NKJV]
- "But this crowd that does not know [and quote and follow and use] [the law](#) is accursed."
[[John 7:49](#), Bible, NKJV]
- "Salvation is far from the wicked, For they do not seek [Your](#) [\[God's\] statutes](#)."
[[Psalms 119:155](#), Bible, NKJV]
- "Every man is supposed to know the law. A party who makes a contract [[or a franchise, which is also a contract](#)] with an officer [of [the government](#)] without having it reduced to writing is knowingly accessory to a violation of duty on his part. Such a party aids in the violation of the law."
[*Clark v. United States*, 95 U.S. 539 (1877)]

Course Summary

- **Audience:** The average American
- **Length:** Approximately 90 minutes
- **Purpose:**
 - Introduce you to legal terminology.
 - Introduce you to the uniform system of Legal Citation (Blue Book).
 - Introduce the precedence and hierarchy of law.
 - Show you how to search and locate federal and state constitutions, statutes, regulations, rules, cases, and legal authorities
 - Provide guidance on how to locate all information available about a specific legal subject.
 - Demonstrate how to Shepardize court cases.
 - Show you how to follow an ongoing case in federal court.
 - Demonstrate how to prepare legal pleadings using Microsoft Word 2003 and 2007.
 - Describe the various practice guides available to simplify your research and litigation.
 - Demonstrate how to use the SEDM website's extensive resources to do legal research.
 - Familiarize you with all the free internet resources available for doing legal research.

Problem

- Public schools no longer teach anything about law or how to do legal research.
- Even those who go to college for advanced degrees do not learn anything about law unless they are studying to become a lawyer or legal professional.
- When legal disputes arise, we often can't afford "the luxury of justice" because lawyers are so expensive and we are ill equipped to litigate the case on our own, leaving no remedy.
- Our society has become an abomination throughout the world because our ignorance of the law has permitted a Satanic priesthood called the American Bar Association (ABA) to [take over the government and the legal profession](#), destroy our rights and liberties, and lead us into damnation. Listen to the following if you don't believe us <http://famguardian.org/Media/DevilsAdvocate-Part13.wmv>
- On this subject, the Bible says:
 - *"My [God's] people are destroyed [and enslaved] for lack of knowledge [and the lack of education that produces it]."* [[Hosea 4:6](#), Bible, NKJV]
 - *"One who turns his ear from hearing the law [[God's law](#) or [man's law](#)], even his prayer is an abomination."* [Prov. 28:9, Bible, NKJV]
 - *"But this crowd that does not know [and quote and follow and use] [the law](#) is accursed.?"* [John 7:49, Bible, NKJV]
 - *"Salvation is far from the wicked, For they do not seek [Your \[God's\] statutes](#)."* [Psalms 119:155, Bible, NKJV]

Solution

- **We MUST:**
 - Study and learn the law for ourselves.
 - Learn how to do legal research.
 - Learn about government jurisdiction and how to challenge it.
 - Learn how to litigate cases for ourselves, including preparing pleadings.
 - Learn enough about the law to be an intelligent consumer of legal services.
 - Know what our rights are. If you don't, then YOU DON'T HAVE ANY and people will walk all over you!
 - Learn to prevent abuses of “[words of art](#)” and [presumption](#) that might enslave us.
- **This course will therefore teach you enough about legal research to be able to:**
 - Find all the major free legal research sources on the web.
 - Verify legal cites for yourself.
 - Know whether the authorities cited are even relevant to your circumstances.
 - Recognize a good and well-informed attorney.
 - Supervise the activities of your attorney, should you hire one.
 - Participate in your own litigation as a paralegal and verify and improve the work of your co-counsel

Course Outline

- 1. Introduction to legal terminology.**
- 2. Introduction to the Uniform System of Legal Citation (Blue Book).**
- 3. Introduction to legal abbreviations and citations**
- 4. Precedence and hierarchy of law**
- 5. Legal Research Sources page**
- 6. State legal research sources**
- 7. Researching a subject matter**
- 8. Following cases in real time**
- 9. How to Shepardize court cases**
- 10. Statutory Construction and Interpretation**
- 11. Introduction to legal writing (Red Book)**
- 12. How to prepare legal pleadings using Microsoft Word 2003 and 2007.**
- 13. How to use the SEDM website's extensive resources to do legal research.**
- 14. Legal Research Subscription Services**

Course Outline

- 15. Law Practice Guides**
- 16. Unlicensed Practice of Law (UPL)**
- 17. Discovery of Useful Evidence**
- 18. Case Management Software**
- 19. SEDM Paralegal Services**
- 20. Member Subscription Service**
- 21. Keeping up with changes to our materials**
- 22. Digging Deeper**

Introduction to Legal Terminology

- **The legal field, like the telecommunications and electronics field, has thousands of abbreviations.**
- **The legal field also has a standardized way of citing authoritative sources.**
- **Understanding the format of legal citations and recognizing the most common abbreviations will help you:**
 - **Read and understand legal treatises.**
 - **Verify the authorities cited by your opponent and the judge during litigation.**
 - **Quickly locate legal authorities required to assemble a legal papers.**

Legal terminology: Abbreviations

- Every legal citation uses a set of abbreviations that have been standardized throughout the legal field.
- All common legal abbreviations are cataloged in:
 - The Bluebook, Section T
- The following internet resources on our sister website have a common list of abbreviations:

Legal Abbreviations

<http://famguardian.org/TaxFreedom/LegalRef/Abbreviations/LegalAbbrev.htm>

Introduction to the Uniform System of Legal Citation (Blue Book)

- The entire field of legal citation, abbreviations, and terminology has been standardized.
- The definitive reference on the subject is the following:
 - *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*; Sixteenth Edition; The Harvard Law Review Association; 1998
- Book is described on Wikipedia:
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bluebook>
- *The Bluebook* is available at:
 - Online:
<http://www.legalbluebook.com/>
 - Most legal book stores.
 - Law school book stores.
 - Amazon.com:
<http://www.amazon.com/Bluebook-Citation-Law-Review-Harvard/dp/600014329X>
- Other similar references are also available:
 - Basic Legal Citation, Cornell Law School
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/citation/>
- The book is over 400 pages, and it is pointless to list all that it contains here. Suffice it to say: **YOU GOTTA HAVE THIS!**

Common Federal Court Abbreviations

Abbrev.	Year(s)	Meaning
U.S.	1875-Present	United States Reports. Contains rulings of the U.S. Supreme Court.
S.Ct.	1893-Pres.	United States Supreme Court.
F.	1889-1912	Federal Series, First Edition. Federal District and Circuit Courts.
F.2d.	1930-1982	Federal Series, Second Edition. Federal District and Circuit Courts.
F.3d.	1982-Pres.	Federal Series, Third Edition. Federal District and Circuit Courts.
F.Cl.	1992-Pres.	Federal Claims Report. United States Court of Claims.
F.Supp.	1932-1960	Federal Supplement.
L.Ed.	1790-Pres.	Lawyer's Edition.
A.L.R.		American Law Reports. West Publishing. Federal caselaw. Copyrighted, annotated caselaw focusing on specific fields.
D.C. Cir.		Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.
Cl.Ct	1982-1992	United States Claims Court Reporter.
Ct.Cl.	1863-1982	United States Court of Claims Reporter.
T.C.	1942-Pres.	United States Tax Court
B.R.	1979-Pres.	United States Bankruptcy Court

Common Federal Statute and Regulation Abbreviations

Abbrev.	Year(s)	Meaning
Stat.	1789-Pres	United States Statutes at Large. Enacted by the United States Congress.
Pub.L.		Public Law passed by Congress.
U.S.C.	1926-Pres.	United States Code. Published by the Law Revision Counsel of the House of Representatives.
U.S.C.A.		United States Code, Annotated. Published by West Publishing. Very good place to learn about legislative intent of a statute in the U.S. Code.
U.S.C.S.		United States Code Service. Published by the Law Co-op.
C.F.R.	1938-Pres.	Code of Federal Regulations. Published by the Office of the Federal Register.
F.R.	1930-1982	Federal Register. Published by the Office of the Federal Register..
H.R.	1982-Pres.	House Resolution
S.R.	1992-Pres.	Senate Report.

Common State Abbreviations

- **Like the federal government, each state has unique abbreviations all its own for cases, statutes, and regulations.**
- **Since there are 50 states, then the abbreviations are too numerous to list here.**
- **You can find all the state abbreviations divided by state in:**
 - **The Bluebook, Section T**
- **Section T of the above book is 161 pages long.**

Legal Terminology: Citations

- **Constitutional Citations:**

- Format: “Art. XX, Sect. YY, Cl. ZZ” or
- Where:
 - » “XX”=Article number within the Constitution.
 - » “YY”=Section number within the article.
 - » “ZZ”=Clause number within section.
- Example: “Art. 1, Sect. 8, Clause 3” means
 - » “1”=Article 1
 - » “8”=Section 8
 - » “3”=Clause 3

- **Statute Citations:**

- Format: TT STATUTE §SSSS
- Where:
 - » TT=Title of the body of code. For instance, “26” is the Internal Revenue Code or Title 26 within the U.S. Code.
 - » STATUTE=Abbreviation for statute reference. For instance “U.S.C.” means the U.S. Code and “Stat.” means the United States Statutes at Large.
 - » SSSS=Section number within the title.
- Example: “26 U.S.C. §643” means
 - » “26”=Title 26
 - » “U.S.C.”= “U.S. Code”.
 - » “643”=Section 643.

Legal Terminology: Citations

- **Regulation Citations:**

- Format: VVVV REGULATION PPPPP
- Where:
 - » “VVVV” =Volume number.
 - » “REGULATION”= Regulation source, such as “C.F.R.” or “F.R.”
 - » “PPPPP”=Page within the volume.
- Example: “134 F.R. 10365” means
 - » “134”=Volume 134
 - » “F.R.”=Federal Register
 - » “10365”=Page 10365 within volume 134.

- **Case Citations:**

- Format: VVV NAME PP
- Where:
 - » VVV=Volume number
 - » NAME=Abbreviation of legal authority
 - » PPPP=Page number within the volume
- Example: “10 F. 202” means
 - » “1”=Volume 10.
 - » “F.”=Federal Reporter, First Series.
 - » “10”=Page 10 within volume 10.

Introduction to the Precedence of Law

- **Within the legal field, some citations of authority take precedence over others.**
- **Understanding the precedence of law is very important when there are conflicts of law between multiple authorities cited.**
- **The field which studies conflicts between multiple jurisdictions is called:**
 - **Conflicts of Law**- Currently
 - **Private International Law**-before 1900's.
- **Precedence of federal Law, in decreasing order of priority:**
 - **Constitution**
 - **Statutes At Large**
 - **U.S. Code**
 - **Federal Register**
 - **Code of Federal Regulations**
 - **Agency publications**
- **A table of precedence of federal law is provided free on our sister site below:**
 - **Precedence of Law**
<http://famguardian.org/TaxFreedom/LegalRef/PrecOfLaws.htm>

Federal Legal Research Sources

- The following page on our website is something you should bookmark and use as a startup tab on your browser:

Legal Research Sources

<http://famguardian.org/TaxFreedom/LegalRef/LegalResrchSrc.htm>

- The above page:
 - Contains nearly EVERY type of free legal research source you could imagine.
 - Is organized by jurisdiction and type of law to make things VERY easy to locate.
 - Is available from the following main pages on our website under the heading “OFFSITE LEGAL RESEARCH LINKS”
 - » Opening page
<http://sedm.org/>
 - » Litigation Tools Page
<http://sedm.org/Litigation/LitIndex.htm>
 - » Sermons Page
<http://sedm.org/Sermons/Sermons.htm>

State Legal Research Sources

- The following page on our website is something you should bookmark and use as a startup tab on your browser:

State Legal Research Sources

<http://famguardian.org/TaxFreedom/LegalRef/StateLegalResources.htm>

- The above page:
 - Contains nearly EVERY type of free state legal research source you could imagine.
 - Is organized by state and type of law to make things VERY easy to locate.
 - Is available from the following main pages on our website under the heading “OFFSITE LEGAL RESEARCH LINKS”
 - » Opening page
<http://sedm.org/>
 - » Litigation Tools Page
<http://sedm.org/Litigation/LitIndex.htm>
 - » Sermons Page
<http://sedm.org/Sermons/Sermons.htm>

Researching a Subject Matter

- If you are called to research a particular subject matter, we recommend the following sequence to locate the relevant authorities on the subject:
 1. If you have a Westlaw online research account, you should find the subject matter under the West Keycite system. Then search for all subjects under that Keycite number.
 2. Look on our [Forms/Pubs Page](#) under section 1.5: Memorandums of Law. There are over forty different memorandums of law on various subjects. See if there is a memorandum that directly addresses the subject you are interested in:
<http://sedm.org/Forms/FormIndex.htm>
 3. Use the [Search Page](#) on the SEDM website
<http://sedm.org/Search.htm>
 4. Visit the [Subject Index Page](#) on Family Guardian to find relevant materials
<http://famguardian.org/TaxFreedom/LegalRef/SubjectIndex.htm>
 5. Look in the Legal Dictionary Page on Family Guardian:
<http://famguardian.org/Publications/Bouviere/bouvier.htm>
 6. If the subject is a particular statute, first login to your paid subscription law site such as Westlaw or VersusLaw and look up the Annotated version of the statute to quickly find all the relevant caselaw on it.

Researching a Subject Matter (cont.)

7. If you have a legal encyclopedia or your legal subscription service includes it, look up the subject matter in the following:
 - » American Jurisprudence (Am.Jur) Legal Encyclopedia
 - » Corpus Juris Secundum (C.J.S.) Legal Encyclopedia
8. If you have a Westlaw Account that includes American Law Reports, look up the specific subject you are interested in.
<http://west.thomson.com/westlaw/litigator/alr/default.aspx>
9. If you need cases that relate to a specific subject, search for the subject in your online legal subscription service.
10. You can also use Google books, which has hundreds of FREE law books in browsable, downloadable pdf format. The books they offer have expired copyrights and may freely be shared and used.
<http://books.google.com>
11. West Publishing sells a very useful series of books called “In a Nutshell”. These are short, small, well indexed reference books on various legal subjects. They are the equivalent of “Cliff’s Notes” for the legal field and are referred to as “Study Aids”. We have several of them. See:
<http://www.westacademic.com/Professors/ProductSearchResults.aspx?tab=6&series=69&searchtypeasstring=ADVANCED-SEARCH>
12. If you STILL cannot find the information you seek, then visit the following:
 - » *Family Guardian Forums*: Legal Research Assistance Topic
<http://famguardian.org/forums/index.php?showforum=80>

Following Cases in Real Time

- **If you would like to follow any case being litigated in federal court in real time, please get an account on the following:**
 - **Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER)**
<http://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov/>
- **Features of PACER:**
 - All federal courts are now online.
 - You can download and read all the pleadings in any case.
 - You are charged per page for items you download. The fee is 8 cents per page at this time.
 - Your credit card is debited monthly for your downloads.
 - Search tools are very poor. You **MUST** know what you are looking for to find it.
- **PACER provides a GREAT way to locate sample pleadings for particular types of cases that you can reuse.**
 - You can download the PDF.
 - You can use Adobe Acrobat to convert the PDF into editable Microsoft Word format.
 - You can then reuse the work of your opponent and reuse it against him/her later.

Statutory Construction and Interpretation

- The definitive work on statutory construction and interpretation, often quoted by the U.S. Supreme Court is:
 - Statutes and Statutory Construction, Second edition. Jabez Sutherland, 1904.
- You can view and download the above book FREE on Google books:
 - Volume 1:
<http://books.google.com/books?id=Jw49AAAAIAAJ&printsec=titlepage>
 - Volume 2:
<http://books.google.com/books?id=4xA9AAAAIAAJ&printsec=titlepage>
- In addition to the above, the following work on our website is EXTREMELY helpful in combating “word of art” games by judges and government prosecutors:
 - Meaning of the Words “includes” and “including”, Form #05.014
<http://sedm.org/Forms/FormIndex.htm>
- The following article also describes the use of law dictionaries by the U.S. Supreme Court:
 - Looking It Up: The Supreme Court’s Use of Dictionaries in Statutory and Constitutional Interpretation, Kevin Werbach
<http://famguardian.org/Subjects/LawAndGovt/Articles/SupremeCourtDictUse/SupremeCourtDictUse.htm>

Shepardizing Cases

- “Shepardizing” refers to the process of determining whether a specific case has been overruled or superseded.
- If you don’t shepardize your case before citing it in your pleadings and the case is outdated, you may be excoriated by the judge or discredited by your opponent because your legal authorities are irrelevant or “frivolous”.
- The term “Shepardize” came from the name of a series of publications called Shepards Citations.
- Shepard’s Citations are currently published by Lexis-Nexis
<http://www.lexisnexis.com/>
- Westlaw has their own method for doing the same thing. They have a Key Cite system that puts a colored flag next to each case to show whether the case is a reliable source of precedence.
- Less expensive subscription legal research services don’t include tools for doing shepardizing. These include:
 - Findlaw: <http://findlaw.com>
 - Versus Law: <http://versuslaw.com>
 - Lois Law: <http://www.loislawschool.com/>

Introduction to Legal Writing

- Legal writing is covered extensively in the following terse reference:

The Redbook: A Manual on Legal Style

Bryan A. Garner, Editor in Chief, *Black's Law Dictionary*, West Publishing; 2002; ISBN 0-314-25859-0

- Having a legal dictionary is also important:
 - *Black's Law Dictionary*: The industry standard. Published by Westlaw.
 - *Bouvier's Dictionary of Law*: Good for historical definitions. The standard up until about 1900.
- You can find electronic versions of the above dictionaries that are public domain because outside the copyright window. See:
 - *Bouvier's Dictionary of Law*, 1856:
<http://famguardian.org/Publications/Bouviers/bouvier.htm>
 - *Blacks Law Dictionary, 1st Edition*, 1896:
SEDM Member Subscription Library,
<http://sedm.org/Membership/Subscriptions.htm>
 - *Blacks Law Dictionary, 2nd Edition*, 1910:
<http://famguardian.org/Publications/Black'sLawDictionary/BlacksSecond-1910.pdf>
- We also recommend that you review and use legal maxims in your pleadings from the following source:
 - *Bouvier's Maxims of Law*;
<http://famguardian.org/Publications/BouvierMaximsOfLaw/BouviersMaxims.htm>

How to Prepare Legal Pleadings

- The ability to prepare legal pleadings is essential to successfully litigating your case in court.
- We have developed templates for common legal pleadings on our website at the following location:
 - *Litigation Tools Page*
<http://sedm.org/Litigation/LitIndex.htm>
- A good, general purpose pleading you can start with is the following:
 - *Legal Pleading/Motion*, Litigation Tool #01.001
<http://sedm.org/Litigation/LitIndex.htm>
- You will need to learn how to use hopefully a more common word processor, such as Microsoft Word
- We have also compiled two very instructive videos showing you how to use our legal pleading templates on our website as follows, available on our Support Page:
 - *Using Microsoft Word Pleading Templates: MS Word 2003*, Item 6.1
<http://sedm.org/Support/Support.htm>
 - *Using Microsoft Word Pleading Templates: MS Word 2007*, Item 6.2
<http://sedm.org/Support/Support.htm>

How to Prepare Legal Pleadings (cont)

- **Important things to remember about pleading preparation**
 - Local rules of the court you are litigating in determine the acceptable format for pleadings.
 - Local court rules also often place limitations on the **LENGTH** of pleadings.
 - Longer pleadings should include a **Table of Authorities** at the beginning. Our sample templates include that Table for your reuse.
- **Word processing software:**
 - In the government, **Word Perfect** is the de facto standard for writing pleadings.
 - In the commercial world, **Microsoft Word** is the de facto standard for writing pleadings.
 - If you are using **Microsoft Word**, they have a built in template library that also includes pleading templates you can use as a starting point.

How to Use the SEDM Website

- We have prepared a FREE 90 minute video on how to use the SEDM Website.
- The video is available as follows:
 - Opening Page of SEDM Website under “Website Video Orientation:
SEDM Opening Page: <http://sedm.org>
DIRECT LINK:
<http://famguardian1.org/Mirror/Support/UsingSedmWebsite.wmv>
 - SEDM Forms/Pubs page, Form #12.010
<http://sedm.org/Forms/FormIndex.htm>
- Please download the above video and watch it several times if need be in order to become totally familiar and comfortable with our extensive website.

Subscription Internet Legal Research Sources

- **Most of the legal research sources you will need are free.**
- **The ones you will need to pay for include mainly the following:**
 - **United States Statutes at Large from 1900 to the the current year minus about 2 years.**
 - **United States Code, Annotated. This is copyrighted material published by Westlaw.**
 - **Historical versions of the United States Code.**
 - **Code of Federal Regulations (CFRs) before about four years ago.**
 - **Congressional Record before the past two years.**
 - **American Law Reports (A.L.R.). This is copyrighted material published by Westlaw.**
 - **Federal District and Circuit court rulings before about 1930.**
 - **U.S. Supreme Court before about 1900.**
 - **State court rulings before the last two years.**
 - **Federal Register before the last two years.**
 - **American Jurisprudence (Am.Jur.) Legal Encyclopedia.**
 - **Corpus Juris Secundum (C.J.S.) Legal Encyclopedia.**
- **You will need to sign up for a paid subscription with an online provider to get the above sources.**

Popular Legal Subscription Services

- **Westlaw**
 - Online federal and state caselaw, statutes, and regulations from the beginning.
 - Congressional record.
 - Statutes at Large (VERY expensive)
 - State surveys-correlates statutes of one state with other states.
 - Cost:\$130/month on up.
- **Lexis-Nexis**
 - Online federal and state caselaw, statutes, and regulations from the beginning.
 - Congressional record.
 - Cost: Expensive.
- **Louslaw:**
 - Online federal and state caselaw, statutes, and regulations from the beginning.
 - Cost: \$175/month on up.

Popular Legal Subscription Services (cont)

- **Versus Law**
 - Online state caselaw, statutes, and regulations from about 1900 to the present.
 - Online federal caselaw from the beginning.
 - \$20/month or more, depending on the plan.
 - Best for the average freedom researcher. Pretty complete and affordable.
- **Fast Case**
 - Online state caselaw, statutes, and regulations from 1950 to the present.
 - Online federal caselaw, statutes, and regulations from the beginning.
 - \$95/month.
 - A little pricey for the average freedom lover.
 - They have a free version called Public Library of Law (PLOL). Try it!
- **U.S.S.C.+ CD-ROM**
 - United States Supreme Court rulings from 1789 to the present on ONE CD-Rom for only \$99.
 - SOURCE: <http://www.accesslaw.com/>

Popular Legal Subscription Services (cont)

- **The above services are listed, described, and referenced at the bottom of the following page and in the columns on the right:**

Legal Research Sources

<http://famguardian.org/TaxFreedom/LegalRef/LegalResrchSrc.htm>

Law Practice Guides

- **Law Practice Guides:**
 - Are very helpful in learning and executing legal procedure.
 - Provide sample forms and pleadings.
 - Are available in paper and electronic form.
 - Are indispensable for those who want to win in court.
- **Several publishers produce law practice guides to help you with the litigation process.**

Law Practice Guides: SEDM

- **SEDM Practice Guides**

- *Federal Litigation Quick Reference*, Litigation Tool #10.001
LITIGATION TOOLS PAGE: <http://sedm.org/Litigation/LitIndex.htm>
DIRECT LINK: <http://sedm.org/Litigation/PracticeGuides/LitQuickRef.pdf>
- *Civil Court Remedies for Sovereigns: Taxation*, Litigation Tool #10.002
LITIGATION TOOLS PAGE: <http://sedm.org/Litigation/LitIndex.htm>
DIRECT LINK: <http://sedm.org/ItemInfo/Ebooks/CivCourtRem-Tax/CivCourtRem-Tax.htm>
- *Responding to a Criminal Tax Indictment*, Litigation Tool #10.004
LITIGATION TOOLS PAGE: <http://sedm.org/Litigation/LitIndex.htm>
DIRECT LINK: <http://sedm.org/ItemInfo/Ebooks/TaxArainment/TaxArainment.htm>
- *Secrets of the Legal Industry*, Litigation Tool #10.003
LITIGATION TOOLS PAGE: <http://sedm.org/Litigation/LitIndex.htm>
DIRECT LINK: <http://sedm.org/ItemInfo/Ebooks/SecretsOfLegalIndustry.htm>

- You can find specific SEDM practice guide titles, including this title, on our website at:

Litigation Tools Page, Section 1.10.0

<http://sedm.org/Litigation/LitIndex.htm>

Law Practice Guides: Commercial

- **Commercial publishers**
 - **James Publishing:** <http://www.jamespublishing.com/>
 - **Rutter Group:** <http://www.ruttergroup.com/>
 - **California Continuing Education of the Bar (CEB):** <http://ceb.com/>
 - **The Bluebook (legal terminology):** <http://www.legalbluebook.com/>
 - **The Redbook (legal writing):**
<http://www.amazon.com/Redbook-Manual-Legal-Style-Ed/dp/0314168915>
 - **West Publishing:** <http://west.thomson.com/>
 - **Lexis Nexis:** <http://www.lexisnexis.com/>
- **A very helpful self-study course for sui juris litigants written by a lawyer is:**
 - **Jurisdiction**
<http://www.jurisdiction.com/>
- **You can find specific commercial practice guide titles on our Website at:**
Litigation Tools Page, Section 1.10.1
<http://sedm.org/Litigation/LitIndex.htm>

Law Practice Guides: Government

- **Government publishers:**
 - **Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts:**
<http://www.uscourts.gov/library.html>
 - » Publish several useful litigation tool.
 - » Example practice guides:
 - Benchbook for U.S. District Court Judges
 - Chambers Handbook for Judges' Law Clerks and Secretaries
 - Civil Litigation Management Manual
 - Civil Rico: A Manual for Federal Attorneys
 - Deskbook for Chief Judges of the U.S. District Courts
 - Effective Use of Courtroom Technology
 - Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure
 - Manual for Recurring Problems in Criminal Trials
 - **U.S. Dept. of Justice:**
 - » U.S. Attorney Manual:
http://www.justice.gov/usao/eousa/foia_reading_room/usam/
 - » U.S. Attorney Bulletin:
http://www.justice.gov/usao/eousa/foia_reading_room/foiamanuals.html
 - **U.S. District Courts:** <http://www.uscourts.gov/courtlinks/>
 - » Publish local court rules.
 - » Click on the above link to find your court and look at the local rules.
- **You can find specific commercial practice guide titles on our Website at:**
***Litigation Tools Page*, Section 1.10.2**
<http://sedm.org/Litigation/LitIndex.htm>

Unlicensed Practice of Law (UPL)

- **Those who wish to defend themselves in court:**
 - Should NOT declare themselves “Pro Per” or “Pro Se”
 - Should NEVER say they are “representing themselves”. Doing so means they are representing a public officer in the government.
 - Should ALWAYS describe themselves as “Sui Juris”.

“Sui juris. Of his own right; possessing full social and civil rights; not under any legal disability, or the power of another, or guardianship. Having capacity to manage one’s own affairs; not under legal disability to act for one’s self.”

[Black’s Law Dictionary, Sixth Edition, p. 1434]
- **Two choices of hiring legal help:**
 - Hire a coach or co-counsel
 - Hire someone to “represent you” who has power of attorney to do ANYTHING. DANGEROUS! Don’t to it!
- **If you litigate without hiring an attorney, you may be challenged for the judge or the government prosecutor for “practicing law without a license”, and especially if you are representing an entity such as a trust.**
- **Resources for responding to the accusation that you are engaging in “Unlicensed Practice of Law”:**

Unlicensed Practice of Law, Form #05.029
<http://sedm.org/Forms/FormIndex.htm>

Discovery of Useful Evidence

- **The rules for gathering and safeguarding evidence in federal court:**

Federal Rules on Evidence

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/rules/fre/index.html>

- **Discovery of useful evidence through FOIA is covered in:**

- Forms/Pubs Page, Section 1.3: Discovery

<http://sedm.org/Forms/FormIndex.htm>

- **Discovery of useful evidence through legal process during litigation is covered in:**

- Litigation Tools Page, Section 1.2: Discovery

<http://sedm.org/Litigation/LitIndex.htm>

- **Important evidence has been compiled that you can reuse in your pleadings on our website. Locations:**

- SEDM Exhibits Page

<http://sedm.org/Exhibits/ExhibitIndex.htm>

- Family Guardian Sovereignty Forms and Instructions Online, Form #10.04, Evidence

<http://famguardian.org/TaxFreedom/FormsInstr-Evidence.htm>

Case Management Software

- **Purpose**: To track all details and information about an ongoing case you are litigating in any court.
- **Example details that it tracks:**
 - Clients and client information
 - Witnesses
 - Expert witnesses
 - Court hearing dates
 - Case docket
 - Discovery
 - Deadline dates
 - Conflict of interest checking
 - Pleadings filed and service of process
 - Timekeeping and billing for attorneys and paralegals working on the case
- **All major law offices have in-house case management software. If you are going to fight the big boys YOU NEED IT TOO.**
- **If you do a lot of litigation, this kind of a tool is a MUST!**

Example Case Management Products

- **AbacusLaw**-Abacus Software, San Diego.
<http://www.abacuslaw.com/>
- **Needles-Needles**, Inc.
<http://www.needleslaw.com/>
- **PC Law**-Lexis Nexis
<http://www.lexisnexis.com/law-firms/practice-management/specialized-law/pclaw.aspx>
- **ProLaw**-Thomson
<http://www.elite.com/prolaw/>
- **Family Legal Assistant (FLA)**-Family Guardian Fellowship
<http://famguardian.org/Tools/FLA/FLA.htm>

Family Legal Assistant (FLA)

- **Case management software custom developed by our sister website.**
- **Considerably simplifies your litigation.**
- **Tracks docket, clients, evidence, expert witnesses, court dates, etc.**
- **Client journal for ongoing log of activities.**
- **Integrated attorney timekeeping and billing.**
- **Does conflict of interest checks across all your client base.**
- **Database of legal and government acronyms.**
- **FREE!**
- **System requirements:**
 - **Microsoft Access 2000 or Microsoft Office Professional 2000 or later installed**
 - **Windows 2000, XP, Vista, or Windows 7 compatible**
 - **Will NOT run on Macintosh computers**
- **For further details, see:**
<http://famguardian.org/Tools/FLA/FLA.htm>

SEDM Paralegal Services

- **SEDM can provide paralegal services such as:**
 - Doing research on a subject, such as finding legal authorities.
 - Writing pleadings you can use and improve in your own litigation.
- **Paralegal services are only available to:**
 - Members
 - Member Subscribers.
- **We do not “practice law”. We DO law.**
 - Only licensed attorneys supervised by a judge and representing public offices and entities can really “practice” law.
 - Unauthorized Practice of Law statutes cannot be enforced against those who are protecting PRIVATE entities. The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly held that the ability to regulate PRIVATE conduct is “repugnant to the Constitution”.
- **If you would like to request paralegal services from SEDM, please see:**
 - *Litigation Support Client Intake Packet*, Form #01.003
<http://sedm.org/Forms/FormIndex.htm>

Member Subscription Service

- SEDM offers a premium legal reference service for dedicated legal researchers and freedom warriors called “[Member Subscriptions](#)”.
- Member Subscriptions is described in detail on the opening page under “Member Subscriptions”. Direct link:
<http://sedm.org/Membership/Subscriptions.htm>
- Member Subscriptions must be renewed annually.
- Features:
 - Access to over 400 downloadable, searchable, PDF legal research books in our Member Subscription Library
 - Access to Member Subscriptions forms on our [Forms/Pubs Page](#)
 - Access to Member Subscriptions items on our [Litigation Tools Page](#)
 - Discounts of 10 percent on State and Federal Response Letters
 - Three free legal questions answered per year
- None of the following will give you access to [Member Subscriptions](#). You have to sign up through our Ministry Bookstore to participate in this premium service:
 - A [Member Forums](#) account.
 - A [Ministry Bookstore](#) account.
 - Faxing a [Member Agreement](#) and becoming a Basic Member

Keeping Up with Changes to Our Materials

- Our website is updated very frequently to keep up with changes in the legal and tax fields
- It is VERY important to keep abreast of changes made to the extensive materials on our website
- To save you time locating what we changed and preventing you from having to reread our materials in their entirety to find the changes:
 - Many of our publications come with a Revision History at the beginning. This history changes changes down to the section level, so you can reread only the changes that were made since the last time you read the item.
 - The item description pages for most bookstore eBooks includes a Revision History right under the book graphic. Examples:
 - » [Sovereignty Forms and Instructions Manual, Form #10.005](#)
 - » [Tax Fraud Prevention Manual, Form #06.008](#)
 - » [Nontaxpayer's Audit Defense Manual, Form #06.011](#)
 - We also provide an area in the [SEDM Member Forums](#) where you can go to view an ongoing, chronological record of all the changes we make to the materials on our website. The title of the topic is “Website Updates” and it is the first topic in the forums, to make it easy to keep up to date. The direct address is:
<http://sedm.org/forums/index.php?showforum=33>

Digging Deeper

If you would like to investigate the subject of legal research and writing deeper, we recommend the following resources:

- **Legal Research DVD**, Form #11.201-SEDM. Provides all the major government practice guides, the complete U.S. Code, and many federal regulations.
<http://sedm.org/Forms/FormIndex.htm>
- **Federal Tax Research: Guide to Materials and Techniques**, Fifth Edition; Gail Levin Richmond, Foundation Press, 1997, ISBN 1-56662457-6.
- **Trial Advocacy Before Judges, Jurors, and Arbitrators**, Second Edition, Roger Haydock and John Sonteng, West Publishing, 1999, ISBN 0-314-23743-7.

Pop Quiz!

- Describe what each of the following **IMPORTANT** abbreviations stands for and what government entity publishes them:
 - Art. 1, Section 8
 - U.S.C.
 - C.F.R.
 - F.R.
 - F.
 - F.2d.
 - F.3d
 - U.S.
 - S.Ct.
 - F.Supp.
 - Stat.
- Decode the following references:
 - 26 U.S.C. §7701
 - 26 C.F.R. §1.1441
 - 10 F.R. 10356
 - 10 Stat. 12

Pop Quiz!

- **Describe the sequence you would use to learn all the statutes, caselaw, and reference information available for a particular legal subject.**
- **Describe the first page where on the SEDM Website that you would go to start your search for legal references on any given subject.**

Get FREE and SOVEREIGN!

- If you want to apply what you have learned here to your specific situation to becoming FREE and SOVEREIGN, then we recommend:
 - *Path to Freedom*, Form #09.015
<http://sedm.org/Forms/FormIndex.htm>
 - *SEDM Liberty University*: Complete free curricula on freedom and sovereignty
<http://sedm.org/LibertyU/LibertyU.htm>

Sovereignty Education and Defense Ministry (SEDM)

- Founded in 2003
- A non-profit Christian/religious ministry
- Mission statement found at:
<http://sedm.org/AboutUs.htm>
- ***SEDM Articles of Mission***, Form #01.004 available at:
<http://sedm.org/Forms/FormIndex.htm>
- Managed by a board of ordained ministers
- Ministry offerings are completely consistent with materials found on the [Family Guardian Website](#)
- Educational course materials available only to “members”, who must be “nonresident aliens” and “nontaxpayers” not engaged in a “[trade or business](#)” and who believe in God
- All educational materials obtained online *only*
- Signed [Membership Agreement, Form #01.001](#) required to join or obtain any ministry offerings
- Based out of (but NOT domiciled in) Canada and outside of jurisdiction of United States government
- Focus exclusively on *human beings* and not “[persons](#)” or *businesses*
- See the “[About Us](#)” page for further details on the ministry
- See our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page, which answers most questions to or about us:
 - <http://sedm.org/FAQs/FAQs.htm>

Sovereignty Education and Defense Ministry (SEDM)

- **WE DO NOT:**

- Interact directly with the IRS on your behalf
- Offer asset protection, trusts, or corporation soles
- “Represent” anyone using IRS 2848 Power of Attorney forms
- Prepare or advise in the preparation of tax returns for anyone
- Offer educational materials or services to “[taxpayers](#)”, “[U.S. citizens](#)”, “[U.S. persons](#)”, “U.S. residents”, or any instrumentality of the federal government, including especially “[public officers](#)”
- Provide legal advice or representation (but do provide “assistance of counsel”). See our article on [Unlicensed Practice of Law, Form #05.029](#)
- Connect ourselves with a “[trade or business in the United States](#)”
- Offer any kind of investment or “[tax shelter](#)” or engage in any kind of commerce
- Engage in factual or actionable speech. All of our offerings constitute religious beliefs and opinions that are not admissible as evidence pursuant to [Fed.Rul.Ev. 610](#). Only you can make them admissible as evidence by signing them under penalty of perjury as part of an affidavit
- Advocate or endorse any of the Flawed Tax Arguments identified by the courts in the following document:

Flawed Tax Arguments to Avoid, Form #08.004

<http://sedm.org/Forms/FormIndex.htm>

Getting Connected: Resources

- **Ministries**
 - Family Guardian Website: <http://famguardian.org>
 - Sovereignty Education and Defense Ministry (SEDM): <http://sedm.org>
- **Organizations:**
 - We the People Foundation for Constitutional Education:
<http://givemeliberty.org>
- **Freedom websites:**
 - USA the Republic: <http://www.usa-the-republic.com/>
 - Show Me the Law: <http://www.showmethelaw.net/>
 - National Organization to Stop Socialism Now (NO SSN): <http://www.nossn.com/>
- **Legal Research Sources**
 - Legal Research Sources:
<http://famguardian.org/TaxFreedom/LegalRef/LegalResrchSrc.htm>
 - *Legal Research DVD*-very complete legal reference library on one DVD. Includes all titles of U.S.C, regulations, organic documents, etc.
 - Cornell University Legal Information Institute (LII): <http://www4.law.cornell.edu/>
 - Electronic Code of Federal Regulations (eCFR): <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/ecfr/>
 - Versus Law (case research, fee-based): <http://www.versuslaw.com/>
 - FindLaw: <http://www.findlaw.com/>
 - USSC+ (Supreme Court CD-ROM): <http://www.accesslawsales.com>