



## ***SOME WEB SITES RELATED TO POLITICAL SCIENCE AND LAW***



***ABA Juvenile Justice Committee*** [www.abanet.org/crimjust/juvjus/](http://www.abanet.org/crimjust/juvjus/)

American Bar Association (ABA) committee that "is an active voice in promoting changes in the juvenile justice system." Site includes information on the application of the death penalty to juveniles, as well as links to related news and organizations.

***\*ABA LawInfo.org*** [www.abalawinfo.org](http://www.abalawinfo.org)

For consumers who need answers to routine legal questions or want to determine their rights. Covers eight broad topics: family, home, job, finances, buying and selling, courts, criminal justice, and finding a lawyer. Provides practical information on using a lawyer and locating free or low-cost legal help. Topics, along with their subtopics, list sites provided by various ABA publications. Information is sometimes in the form of FAQs or links to external resources. State web sites are listed under Public Service Assistance Providers.

***\*AllLaw.com*** [www.alllaw.com](http://www.alllaw.com)

An online directory of legal-related information and services. Covers such broad topics as family law, estate planning, divorce, and criminal law with signed articles, forms, and links to external resources. Links to information on individual state and federal laws, law schools, legal organizations, forms, and more are also provided. Also offers a search engine for finding lawyers and calculators to assist in determining both child support and penalties for drinking and driving violations.

***\*American Law Sources On-line (ALSO!)*** [www.lawsources.com](http://www.lawsources.com)

"A comprehensive, uniform, and useful compilation of links to freely accessible online sources of law for the United States and Canada." Includes links to commentary and practice aids that are either freely available or can be obtained for a modest fee from governmental and nonprofit sources. Also included is a link to the Mexican Instituto de Investigaciones Juridicas containing online legal sources for Mexico.

***AnnualCreditReport.com*** [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com)

Created by the big three credit reporting agencies in the United States (Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion) to furnish free annual credit reports, as required by federal law.

***\*California Courts Self Help Center*** [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)

Designed to help consumers locate legal assistance, learn about the state's law and court systems, and, in some situations, forgo the use of lawyers. Provides information on such topics as California family law, traffic information, juvenile law, the court system and procedures, and how to secure free or low-cost legal help.

***Center for Jury Studies*** [www.ncsconline.org/Juries/](http://www.ncsconline.org/Juries/)

Features research papers on topics related to juries and jury trials. Includes a series of papers on hung juries, a manual addressing juror stress, and news and documents on jury trial innovations and technologies.

***\*DivorceNet*** [www.divorcenet.com](http://www.divorcenet.com)

Provides a state-by-state resource center for divorce law offering summaries of each state's divorce laws, often with links to full-text statutes; listings of family lawyers and support services; articles on divorce law; child support calculators; and resource links. Answer desks allow consumers to e-mail questions on law, relationships, taxes, and psychology.

***Ecolex: A Gateway to Environmental Law*** [www.ecolex.org/](http://www.ecolex.org/)

A searchable, global database on environmental law. Includes bibliographic information for treaties, national legislation, court decisions, and literature from international journals and monographs. Links are made to full text if available. Also in French and Spanish.

***Electoral College*** [www.archives.gov/federal\\_register/electoral\\_college/](http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/electoral_college/)

Information on the U.S. electoral college, including its history, how it works, relevant law, allocation of electoral votes, results from past elections, deadlines for state officials, links to teaching resources, and a FAQ. From the National Archives and Record Administration (NARA).

***\*Electronic Credit Repair Kit*** [www.mix6.com/credit/](http://www.mix6.com/credit/)

A guide that helps consumers remove errors from credit reports. Includes sample letters that can be used to get action from credit bureaus, credit reporting agencies, and debt collectors and how to begin fixing an unfairly damaged credit history.

***Eminent Domain: Taking Property for Public Use*** <http://realestate.findlaw.com/homeownership/home-land-use-zoning/home-land-use>

Explanation of the law that allows the government to take private land and turn it to public use. Includes the story of the law, "Takings" Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, just compensation, and a link to a list of land use and zoning lawyers in the U.S. and its territories.

***FactCheck.org: Annenberg Political Fact Check*** [www.factcheck.org/](http://www.factcheck.org/)

Describes itself as a nonpartisan, nonprofit, consumer advocate for voters that monitors "the factual accuracy of what is said by major U.S. political players in the form of TV ads, debates, speeches, interviews, and news releases." The site's original articles analyze and comment on political claims and statements, providing summaries and the facts. Searchable. From the Annenberg Public Policy Center (APPC) of the University of Pennsylvania.

***Findlaw*** [www.findlaw.com/](http://www.findlaw.com/)

A major site for legal information. Covers federal and state laws, cases, finding a lawyer, legal forms, law schools, articles, and other online material.

***History of Televised Presidential Debates*** [www.museum.tv/debateweb/html/index.htm](http://www.museum.tv/debateweb/html/index.htm)

Video clips, photos, headlines, and commentary on the presidential debates on television from 1960-2000. Essays, statistics, and interviews with scholars, and classroom activities are included. Explores "television's impact on the American political arena." From MBC: The Museum of Broadcast Communications.

***Innocence Project*** <http://www.innocenceproject.org/>

A nonprofit legal clinic that "only handles cases where postconviction DNA testing of evidence can yield conclusive proof of innocence." Has information on cases and causes of wrongful convictions, legislative trends, and DNA testing. Related links are listed and the site is searchable. From the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in New York.

***\*Internet Law Library*** [www.lawguru.com/ilawlib/index.html](http://www.lawguru.com/ilawlib/index.html)

Includes U.S. federal law, laws of other nations (all 191 members of the United Nations), all jurisdictions (from agriculture to taxation to war), attorney and legal profession directories, and law book reviews. Has a free "Ask a Lawyer" link. "Legal FAQ Section" offers answers to questions about numerous topics. Hundreds of legal links and resources are arranged in an alphabetical subject format. U.S. attorney directory is listed by state and

type of law practiced. Some parts charge for services, such as downloading legal forms and more in-depth legal research.

***Judicial Confirmation Process: Selecting Federal Judges in the Twenty-First Century***

<http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/forum/symposium-jc/>

Collection of essays from 2004 by "a panel of leading legal scholars and political scientists ... [presenting] their thoughts, analyses and suggestions on the overall judicial confirmations process." Topics include anatomy of a confirmation, and whether the judicial confirmation process is broken.

***Legalengine.com*** [www.legalengine.com/](http://www.legalengine.com/)

Covers cases, laws, news, online forms, finding a lawyer, online legal references, and more.

***Living Room Candidate: Presidential Campaign Commercials, 1952-2004***

[www.ammi.org/livingroomcandidate/](http://www.ammi.org/livingroomcandidate/)

This exhibition presents "more than 250 television commercials from every election year beginning in 1952, when the first campaign ads aired." Browse the commercials by election year, type of commercial (such as "Real People"), or issue (such as taxes). Includes background information on each election, candidate profiles, and election results. "The Desktop Candidate" discusses the role of the Internet in political campaigns. Searchable. From the American Museum of the Moving Image.

***\*LLRX.com-Web Guide to U.S. Supreme Court Research*** [www.llrx.com/features/supremectwebguide.htm](http://www.llrx.com/features/supremectwebguide.htm)

Annotated guide that provides "a selection of annotated links to the most reliable, substantive sites for U.S. Supreme Court research." Focus is "predominantly on information that is freely, or inexpensively, available on the Internet."

***\*Nations of the World*** [www.loc.gov/law/guide/nations.html](http://www.loc.gov/law/guide/nations.html)

Provides links to information on all the countries' constitutions as well as their legislative, executive, and judicial bodies. Links to web sources, including World Factbook, Country Studies, and Human Rights Reports. Part of the Law Library of Congress's Global Legal Information Network.

***\*Nolo***

[www.nolo.com/](http://www.nolo.com/)

Legal information geared toward the consumer and layperson in the areas of business and human resources; patents, copyright and art; wills and estate planning; property and money; family law and immigration; and rights and disputes. Site map leads to "Help With Legal Research" with its basic definitions and information, and links to Federal Statutes, State Statutes, and a legal glossary.

***\*Opensecrets.org*** [www.opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org)

"Tracks money in politics, and its effect on elections and public policy." Provides information from the Federal Election Commission about campaign contributions to Congress, the political parties, and the presidential campaigns, documented with citations and methodology. Navigated by tabs at the top of the Web page, search engines within the site, or links to current issues.

***Oyez: U.S. Supreme Court Multimedia*** [www.oyez.org](http://www.oyez.org)

Site that allows the public to hear audio recordings of all Supreme Court oral arguments from 1995 on, as well as earlier selected recordings. Earlier cases are text only. Also contains podcasts of arguments by Supreme Court nominees, pending court cases, list of all Supreme Court events by date ("On This Day"), legal news, biographies of past and present Supreme Court Justices, cases, virtual tour of the Supreme Court, and calendar of court events.

***Political Advocacy Groups: A Directory of United States Lobbyists*** [www.csuchico.edu/~kcfount/](http://www.csuchico.edu/~kcfount/)

This site lists lobbying groups by issue. Entries include contact information and a brief description of the group. Selected entries also indicate the number of times "news articles across the country quoted, mentioned, or cited

each group" during July 1999 through June 2001, and whether the group rates the performance of members of Congress. Searchable.

***PollingReport.com*** [www.pollingreport.com](http://www.pollingreport.com)

"An independent, nonpartisan resource on trends in American public opinion" that "offers polling results on a wide variety of topics from the top pollsters in the United States."

***Project Vote Smart*** [www.vote-smart.org/](http://www.vote-smart.org/)

"As a national library of factual information, ... covers ... candidates and elected officials in five basic categories: biographical information, issue positions, voting records, campaign finances and interest group ratings. Searchable by candidate/official name or zip code.

***Reference Guide to the Geneva Conventions*** [www.globalissuesgroup.com/geneva/](http://www.globalissuesgroup.com/geneva/)

Includes history, guides, online and offline resources, an index to the conventions, the full text of the conventions, and text and information about other treaties.

***State Laws and Published Ordinances: Firearms*** [www.atf.gov/firearms/statelaws/](http://www.atf.gov/firearms/statelaws/)

Summaries of firearm laws for each state and U.S. territory, and a Ready Reference Table comparing the states (waiting periods, etc.). Includes laws related to out-of-state purchases. From the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, U.S. Department of the Treasury.

***Supreme Court Historical Society*** <http://www.supremecourthistory.org/>

Provides a history of the Court (including data on past and present justices), description of the Court process, and guide to researching the Court. Also includes sections on women's rights and on the Supreme Court packing controversy of 1937. "The Learning Center" contains information for students and teachers.

***U.S. Congress Votes Database*** <http://projects.washingtonpost.com/congress/>

Features "every vote in the United States Congress since the 102nd Congress (1991)." Browse by member, or by topics such as party, state, region, "boomer status," gender, missed votes, and astrological sign; and for specific types of votes, such as impeachments, nominations, and treaties. From the Washington Post.

***Virtual Chase*** <http://www.virtualchase.com/>

Provides information about web sites and research strategies for finding material on the law. Offers articles, guides, teaching materials, an alert service Internet research strategies and resources, and more. Includes a "People Finder Guide" for finding information in public records and other people finder tools. Aimed at experienced researchers, lawyers and other legal professionals but useful to the layman as well.

For books, see **Some Materials on Political Science Available in the Mesa College Library** and **Some Materials on Law Available in the Mesa College Library** handouts.