



THANK YOU AL GORE! THE INTERNET AS A CITY ATTORNEY TOOL¹

MINNESOTA CITY ATTORNEYS EDUCATIONAL
CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 6, 2010²

MINNESOTA STATE LEGAL RESOURCES

Minnesota Laws, Legislation & the Legislature

State Constitution

<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/cco/rules/mncon/preamble.htm>

Minnesota Revisor of Statutes

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/pubs/>

- search Minnesota statutes, session laws, and rules by number, keyword, and phrases
- view statutes by topic
- includes links to Tables 1 and 2
- also includes link to Minnesota Constitution

Bills: Legislation under Consideration

<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legis.asp>

MyBills Personalized Bill Tracking

<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/leg/billslogin.asp>

- MyBills provides personalized bill tracking
- e-mail & RSS notification for current Minnesota Legislation

Governor's Log

<http://www.governor.state.mn.us/priorities/legislation/index.htm>

- shows bills signed into law, dates, vetoed, veto message
- dates back to 2003

¹ All links are designed to be live. To access this document electronically, go to <http://www.kennedy-graven.com/CM/Custom/MINNESOTA-STATE-LEGAL-RESOURCES.pdf>.

² Updated to include suggestions provided by conference attendees.

Legislative History Material

<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/leghist/histstep.asp>

- comprehensive audio and visual recordings of House and Senate committee hearings and floor sessions from 2004 (House) and 2005 (Senate) to the present
- select coverage from 1998 to present

Session Laws: Enacted Legislation

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/>

Session Laws Amended, Repealed, or the Subject of Other Action

https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/law_action.php

- allows you to search for citations to uncoded laws enacted from 1945 through 2009 that were amended, repealed, or the subject of other action subsequent to their enactment.

Minnesota Court Opinions, Court Rules, Other Judicial Materials

Courts Website

<http://www.mncourts.gov/?page=24>



Opinions from the Supreme Court & Court of Appeals

<http://www.lawlibrary.state.mn.us/archive/>

- archive contains free opinions
 - o Supreme Court opinions and orders (May 2, 1996 - January 21, 2010)
 - o Court of Appeals *published* opinions (May 7, 1996 - January 19, 2010)
 - o Court of Appeals *unpublished and order* opinions (May 7, 1996 - January 19, 2010)
- searchable by docket number, release date, and party name

Court Rules

<http://www.mncourts.gov/?page=511>

- one can Sign up to receive updates
- includes: Recent Rules Orders, Public Access, Appellate, Civil, Criminal, Evidence, Juvenile Delinquency, Guardian Ad Litem, Juvenile Protection, Adoption Procedure, General Rules of Practice

Court Forms

<http://www.mncourts.gov/?page=513>

- state approved court forms free of charge
- non-English Court Forms available at <http://www.mncourts.gov/?page=1874>

Minnesota Trial Court Public Access

<http://pa.courts.state.mn.us/default.aspx>

- searchable by County
- includes searchable Criminal/Traffic/Petty and Civil, Family & Probate Case Records as well as a Judgments Search and a Court Calendar

Attorney Registration Numbers

<http://www.mncourts.gov/default.aspx?page=302>

Minnesota Court of Appeals Standards of Review

<http://www.lawlibrary.state.mn.us/casofrev.html>

- includes hyperlinks to statutes and opinions (if freely available)

Minnesota Appellate Court Briefs Collection

<http://www.lawlibrary.state.mn.us/briefs.html>

- collection contains briefs that you can use as models or to supplement your research

Minnesota Rules, Regulations, Administrative Decisions, the Governor & Agencies

Minnesota Rules

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/> - list by agency

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/pubs/> - searchable

<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/sonar/sonar.asp> - searchable SONAR database

- coverage begins in 2006 (a few pre-2006 SONARs also available)
- earlier years should be requested from the issuing agency
- SONARs issued from 1989 to 1996 may be available at the Minnesota Historical Society in the materials from the defunct Legislative Commission to Review Administrative Rules

Minnesota State Register

<http://www.comm.media.state.mn.us/bookstore/mnbookstore.asp?page=register>

- The State Register is published every Monday, (on Tuesday if Monday is a holiday) and includes: Minnesota Rules; Executive & Commissioner's Orders, Revenue Notices, Appointments, Proclamations; Official Notices; Professional, Technical & Consulting Contracts; State Grants & Loans; Non-State Public Bids, Contracts & Grants.
- access the *State Register* at no charge

Governor

<http://www.governor.state.mn.us/>

<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/execorders/execorders.asp> - searchable exec orders from 1968-on

Secretary of State

<http://www.sos.state.mn.us/>

- ballot question info with sample ballots at <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=969>
- business searches at http://da.sos.state.mn.us/minnesota/corp_inquiry-find.asp?:Norder_item_type_id=10&sm=7

State Auditor

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/>

- a lot of data and reports on drop down menus

Attorney General

<http://www.ag.state.mn.us/>

- access to public information and guidance documents (such as Landlord-Tenant)

- opinions (1993+) available in “Resources” drop down menu (<http://www.ag.state.mn.us/resources/resourcesattgenopinion.asp>)
- comprehensive listing of Legal Resources available in “Resources” drop down menu
- to get access to pre-1993 opinions, email Library.Ag@state.mn.us (Karla Gedell is super responsive!)

Office of Administrative Hearings

<http://www.oah.state.mn.us/> - general website

<http://search.state.mn.us/oah/> - Search the OAH ALJ Report Database

- database contains reports, recommendations, and orders from public cases in the APA Division of the Office of Administrative Hearings from 1993 (a few pre-1993 also available)

Bureau of Mediation Services

<http://www.bms.state.mn.us/>

- for decisions: http://www.bms.state.mn.us/representation_decisions.html
- for arbitration awards: http://www.bms.state.mn.us/arbitration_awards.html

Administrative Agencies

http://www.state.mn.us/portal/mn/jsp/content.do?az_type=description&subchannel=-536887676&programid=536906629&id=-8494&agency=NorthStar&sp2=y

- listing of all state agencies with links to each home page
- also included in this listing are state boards, councils, commissions, committees, ombudsmen offices and task forces
- a few notable links
 - o Trees - http://www.forestry.umn.edu/extension/urban_com/MinnesotaLawsAndTrees.html
 - o Wells - <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells/disclosures/certificateform.pdf>
 - o Delinquent Tax and Tax Forfeiture Manual -- a helpful guide on tax forfeited property, only available online - http://www.taxes.state.mn.us/property_tax_administrators/other_supporting_content/readbook_main.shtml
 - o Alcohol & Gambling Enforcement – see topic links on upper left <http://www.dps.state.mn.us/alcgamb/alcgamb.aspx>
 - o Gambling Control Board’s Manual – revised 9/09 <http://www.gcb.state.mn.us/LawfulGamblingManual.htm> with lots of helpful links on general page as well: <http://www.gcb.state.mn.us/>
 - o Environmental Quality Board – review guidance documents are especially helpful but a little out of date - <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/EnvRevGuidanceDocuments.htm>
 - o Department of Labor and Industry - <http://www.dli.mn.gov/main.asp>
 - o Commissioner of Administration’s Information Policy Analysis Division Opinions - <http://www.ipad.state.mn.us/opinions/index.html>
 - o Level 3 Predatory Offender Information - <http://www.doc.state.mn.us/level3/search.asp>
 - o Department of Corrections Offender Locator - <http://info.doc.state.mn.us/publicviewer/main.asp>
 - o Department of Transportation – A to Z database - <http://dotapp7.dot.state.mn.us/atoz/>





State Employees white pages

http://www.mail.state.mn.us/white_pages/Lookup

- produces all relevant contact information
- searchable database

Minnesota Municipal Codes, Ordinances, and Information

Minnesota State Law Library: County and Municipal Ordinances

<http://www.lawlibrary.state.mn.us/ordinance.html>

- access to the ordinances of towns, cities, and counties that have made ordinances available
- a few provide only select information or summaries

Sample and model ordinances compiled by the League of Minnesota Cities

<http://www.lmc.org/page/1/resource-library.jsp>

- includes model ordinances and links to about 50 customized city codes

League of Minnesota Cities Online Resource Library

<http://www.lmc.org/page/1/resource-library.jsp>

- sample ordinances and codes for over 50 Minnesota cities
- database for searching many sources including: Handbook for Minnesota Cities, HR Reference Manual, Information memos, Legislative/policy analysis information, models, reports, and League training handouts
- property tax calculator
- grant resources
- HR Reference Manual
- Salary and Benefits Survey

Google Earth

<http://www.earth.google.com>

- 3d satellite imagery of land
- provides images of property
- shows road and street layouts
- requires a software download



Date calculator: Add to or subtract from a date

<http://www.timeanddate.com/date/dateadd.html>

- add or subtract days, months and years to a date to calculate a past or future date

Law of the Land Blog

<http://lawoftheland.wordpress.com/>



- by Albany Law School Associate Dean and Professor Patricia Salkin on trends, issues, laws, decisions, and policies impacting land use and zoning law
- searchable by topic
- can subscribe by email to receive a daily email with notable decisions
- RSS option

Municipal Research and Services Center of Washington

<http://www.mrsc.org/>

- Although some of the site is focused on the state of Washington, it also provides sources useful for municipal lawyers generally.
- sample municipal forms
- useful information on many areas that may impact municipalities, including economic development, housing, legal, planning, and many more
- provides links to research tools, news, and other services.

Texas City Attorneys Association – Secondary Effects Information (Adult Businesses)

<http://www.texascityattorneys.org/bulletin-SOB.html>

- information on impacts of adult businesses on municipalities, including secondary impacts, impacts on crime levels, and property value effects, as well as additional research sources

Land Use Law course materials from Prof. Daniel R. Mandelker

Washington University School of Law

<http://law.wustl.edu/landuselaw/>

- photos mentioned at the City Attorney Conference
<http://law.wustl.edu/landuselaw/photos.html>

Social Media Information

- <http://social-media-university-global.org/> - education on using social media
- <http://www.seattle.gov/pan/legislation.htm> - City of Seattle's policies and standards regarding web use, blogging, and social media
- <http://www.myfloridalegal.com/ago.nsf/Opinions/25F14F90483F3901852575A2004E46CB> - Florida's Attorney General Opinion on social media
- <http://citycouncilbloghandbook.wikispaces.com/> - Social Web handbook for Washington State local electeds
- <http://www.govtech.com/gt/729676> - Utah Creates Social Media Guidelines for Employees Who Blog, Tweet, Etc.

MINNESOTA LEGAL COMMUNITY (ORGANIZATIONS AND LIBRARIES)

Minnesota Board of Continuing Legal Education

<http://www.mbcle.state.mn.us/mbcle/pages/home.asp>

- CLE tracking through OASIS

Minnesota Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board

<http://www.mncourts.gov/lprb/index.asp>

- links to articles on issues of professional responsibility
- public discipline records

Minnesota State Bar Association Website

<http://www.mnbar.org/>

- a good site for keeping up with MN legal news, and the members area has a research service
- check out *fastcase* – free to MSBA members

Libraries

Minnesota State Law Library

<http://www.lawlibrary.state.mn.us/>

- Internet Legal Resources link at <http://www.lawlibrary.state.mn.us/mnlr.html> is a great jumping off point to all types of research

Hennepin County Law Library

<http://hclaw.co.hennepin.mn.us/>

- librarians will find just about anything for you, scan it into a pdf, and email it to you

Ramsey County Law Library

<http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ll>

William Mitchell Law Library

<http://www.wmitchell.edu/resources/>

- comprehensive listing of free internet legal resources
- “Municipalities” includes links to the numerous codifiers and other organizations that compile municipal codes

LawMoose Minnesota Legal Web

<http://lawmoose.com/index.cfm?HomeCommunity=MNLaw>

- provides a reference library online, a search engine, an index of legal periodicals, and a directory of judges

FEDERAL LEGAL RESOURCES

U.S. Government’s Official Web Portal

<http://www.usa.gov/>

- features section for state and local employees with links to information on a variety of topics
- directory of local governments
- useful government information on many topics
- RSS feeds available

U.S. Laws, Legislation & the Congress

U.S. Constitution

<http://topics.law.cornell.edu/constitution>

GPO Access

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/>

- one stop shop
- collection of major sources, full text, including the budget; Code of Federal Regulations and Federal Register; Commerce Business Daily; congressional bills (searchable from 1993), calendars, directories, hearings, prints, reports, the Congressional Record, and other materials; Economic Indicators and President's Economic Report; General Accounting Office reports; selected administrative agency decisions; Supreme Court opinions; and U.S. Code and session laws.
- public laws searchable, from 1995 (104th Congress)



U.S. Code Surf

<http://www.uscodesurf.com/>

- search the United States Code with natural language searches

Library of Congress - Thomas

<http://thomas.loc.gov/>

- legislative resources, including bills, bill status (searchable from 1993), committee reports and websites
- public laws are arranged by Congress then public law number, from 1973 (93d Congress)
- Congressional Record, Presidential nominations, treaties, and other material

Cornell University's Legal Information Institute

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/federal/>

- contains the U.S. Code, the Code of Federal Regulations, and decisions from the Supreme Court and Courts of Appeals

Regulations.Gov

<http://www.regulations.gov/>

- website provides proposed regulations from the *Federal Register* and online forms for submitting comments about proposed regulations

Statutes at Large

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwsl.html>

- 1789-1875 (vols. 1-18, 1st-43d Congresses)
- the Statutes at Large includes the text of the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, the Constitution, amendments to the Constitution, treaties with Indians and foreign nations, and presidential proclamations.
- see also: Annals of Congress at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwac.html> and links to Register of Debates, Congressional Globe, and Congressional Record, which record the historical debates of Congress from 1875 on

U.S. Court Opinions, Court Rules, Other Judicial Material

U.S. Supreme Court Opinions

<http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/opinions.html>

- coverage from 1991 to present
- useful for recent slip opinions & bound volumes (vol. 502-date)

Case-Law

<http://www.case-law.us/>

- access to federal case law using natural language searches

Findlaw

<http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/>

- cases and Codes section contains resources and links for both state and federal laws
- includes resources pertaining to constitutions, statutes, cases and more
- search for case summaries or select a jurisdiction to browse applicable laws
- Supreme Court decisions from 1893 to present, search by citation, party name or keyword

Justia

<http://supreme.justia.com/>

- coverage from 1759 to present
- search by US reports citation, party name or keyword

Oyez

<http://www.oyez.org>

- cases back to 1792
- summaries and lots of interesting details and media links
- provides live audio as well; for example: http://www.oyez.org/cases/1980-1989/1988/1988_87_154/argument to listen the oral argument in DeShaney v. Winnebago County



Eighth Circuit

Court of Appeals

<http://www.ca8.uscourts.gov/>

- opinions search at <http://www.ca8.uscourts.gov/opns/opFrame.html> or <http://www.ca8.uscourts.gov/onestop.html> (by case name or party name)
- links to forms, fees, jury instructions, rules, etc.

Minnesota District Courts

<http://www.mnd.uscourts.gov/>

- links to forms, fees, jury instructions, calendars, rules, etc.
- opinions searchable through PACER (for a fee)

Findlaw for 8th Circuit

<http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/courts/8th.html>

Other Court Information & Materials

Court Rules, Forms, and Dockets

<http://www.llrx.com/courtrules/>

- includes links to federal and state courts

U.S. Courts

<http://www.uscourts.gov/courtlinks/>

- live links to all the district courts, maps, addresses, telephone numbers, etc.; i.e., the 8th Circuit district courts listed at <http://216.152.235.70/webdir.fwx>
- maps show which states are in each circuit

U.S. Agencies

A-Z Index of U.S. Government Departments and Agencies

http://www.usa.gov/Agencies/Federal/All_Agencies/index.shtml

Agency Materials of Interest: Housing

Joint Statement of DOJ and HUD on Group Homes, Local Land Use, and the Fair Housing Act

http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/housing/final8_1.php

HUD – Disability Rights in Housing

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/ftheo/disabilities/inhousing.cfm>

Agency Materials of Interest: Disabilities

ADA Home Page

<http://www.ada.gov/>

- technical assistance
- links to other federal agencies with ADA responsibilities
- includes design standards materials
- provides regulations and many other resources

DOJ Civil Rights Division – Commonly asked questions about ADA and Law Enforcement

http://www.ada.gov/q%26a_law.htm

Agency Materials of Interest: Religion

DOJ's Housing and Civil Enforcement Section materials on the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA)

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/housing/rluipaexplain.php>

- DOJ also has a guide available at http://www.justice.gov/crt/religdisc/rluipa_guide.pdf
- not DOJ material, but another site is <http://www.rluipa.com/>

EEOC's Compliance Manual on Religious Accommodation
<http://www.eeoc.gov/policy/docs/religion.html>

Agency Materials of Interest: Employment



DOL's Compliance Materials on The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)
<http://www.dol.gov/compliance/laws/comp-flsa.htm>

DOL's Compliance Materials on The Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)
<http://www.dol.gov/whd/fmla/>

DOL's Regulatory Library for the Wage and Hour Division
<http://www.dol.gov/whd/reg-library.htm>
- links to all the Acts

EEOC's page for Employers
<http://www.eeoc.gov/employers/index.cfm>
- links to types of discrimination on left side

Agency Materials of Interest: Transportation and Relocation

Federal Highway Administration discussion groups on various real estate issues
<http://knowledge.fhwa.dot.gov/cops/rex.nsf/home>

Federal Highway Administration Real Estate Acquisition Guide for Local Public Agencies
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/realestate/lpaguide/index.htm>

Federal Highway Administration Relocation Brochure for displaced persons
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/realestate/rights/yourrights.pdf>

Federal Highway Administration FAQs on the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/realestate/ua/uafaqs.htm>

U.S. Public Record Databases

DOJ's Sex Offender Registry
<http://www.nsopw.gov/Core/OffenderSearchCriteria.aspx>

EPA's Superfund Query Site
http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/cerclis/cerclis_query.html
- retrieves data from the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) database
- searchable by geography and facility

EPA's Toxic Release Inventory

<http://www.epa.gov/tri/>

- contains information on toxic chemical releases and waste management activities reported annually by certain industries as well as federal facilities

Federal Bureau of Prisons: Inmate Locator

<http://www.bop.gov/iiloc2/LocateInmate.jsp>

- searchable from 1982
- see also: facility locator at <http://www.bop.gov/DataSource/execute/dsFacilityLoc>

Federal Election Commission: Campaign Finance Disclosure

http://www.fec.gov/finance/disclosure/disclosure_data_search.shtml

IRS Searchable Database of Charities

<http://www.irs.gov/app/pub-78/>

- list of organizations eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions
- online version of Publication 78, Cumulative List of Organizations described in Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, to help conduct a more efficient search of these organizations

SEC's Searchable Database of Corporate Filings

<http://www.sec.gov/edgar/searchedgar/webusers.htm>

OTHER SITES OF INTEREST (DICTIONARIES, JOBS, OTHER)

Dictionaries and Terms

Law.com

<http://dictionary.law.com/>

NOLO's plain English legal dictionary

<http://www.nolo.com/dictionary/index.html>

US Legal

<http://definitions.uslegal.com/>

Legal Latin Chart (because "Lawyers are notorious for using bits of Latin")

<http://www.swarb.co.uk/lawb/genLegalLatin.shtml>

Wikipedia's List of Legal Latin Terms

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_legal_Latin_terms

Jobs

American Bar Association Career Counsel

<http://www.abanet.org/careercounsel/>

- audio and visual resources
- job search and career enhancement advice

AttorneyJobs

<http://www.attorneyjobs.com/wps/portal/attorneyjobs/home>

- information for attorneys on positions in firms, corporations, and government entities
- for job seekers and employers
- site exclusively for attorney jobs

LawJobs

<http://www.lawjobs.com>

- job search site for legal jobs
- search by geographic location and practice area

Other

Arbitrator Database

<http://www.arbsearch.com>

- Results link to summaries of cases fitting search parameters, along with a full-text citation
- Includes more than 4,800 arbitrator biographies with background and decision statistics
- Subscriber service, but free trial access provided

Citation Guide

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/citation/>

- revised in May 2007 to reflect changes appearing in the third edition of the ALWD Citation Manual, published in 2006.
- keyed to the 2005 edition of The Bluebook

Google – because when in doubt, Google it

<http://www.google.com>

- and see <http://scholar.google.com/> for legal opinions and journal information

Internet Legal Research Group

<http://www.ilrg.com>

Justia

<http://www.justia.com>

Kroll on Track – Discovery Case Law Searchable Database

<http://www.krollontrack.com/case-summaries/>

- by topic and jurisdiction or by keyword
- i.e., spoliation

LexisWeb

<http://www.lexisweb.com/>

- Google for lawyers
- free

Zabasearch

<http://www.zabasearch.com>

- allows you to search for people with results showing phone number, address, map
- also allows you to search by phone number
- works quite well (yikes!)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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