

PROFESSIONAL LEGAL RESEARCH

Real property law is the body of law that deals with the ownership, possession, and right of use of real property. This quick reference guide highlights the real property law resources on Westlaw and shows you how to retrieve relevant documents.

Real Property Law

Real property law practice typically involves issues such as those relating to residential and commercial property, the purchase and sale of property, the landlord-tenant relationship, construction and development, land use, and zoning.

Real Property Law Resources on Westlaw

Westlaw includes an extensive collection of real property law materials, including forms, model documents, state primary law, and secondary sources. In each category listed below, a few key databases are highlighted. These databases and other real property law resources can be accessed at the tabbed Real Property Practitioner page (Figure 1), or you can type a database identifier, e.g., **modeldoc-rp** for the Model Documents: Real Property database, in the *Search for a database* text box in the left frame.

Remember that the easiest way to retrieve a specific document when you have the citation is to use the Find service. Type your citation in the *Find by citation* text box in the left frame of a tabbed page and click **Go**.

FORMS, CHECKLISTS, AND CLAUSES

The All State and General Real Property Forms, Clauses, and Checklists database (RPFOR-ALL) contains forms, clauses, and checklists that are helpful in the practice of real property law. To retrieve forms in a particular area of real property law, click a link, e.g., **Leases**, in the *Forms, Checklists, and Clauses* section of the Real Property Practitioner page. A search template is displayed.

MODEL DOCUMENTS

The MODELDOC-RP database contains real property agreements, contracts, and other documents filed as exhibits with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). To retrieve documents in a particular area of real property law, click a link, e.g., **Assignments**, in the *Real Property Documents (Model Docs)* section of the Real Property Practitioner page. A search template is displayed.

Category:

Practice Area Fundamentals

For research assistance 24 hours a day, seven days a week, call the West Reference Attorneys at 1-800-850-WEST (1-800-850-9378) or click **Help** on Westlaw® for a live help session.

STATUTES AND COURT RULES

Statutes and court rules that relate to real property law are contained in the Individual State Statutes–Annotated databases (XX-ST-ANN), where XX is a state’s two-letter postal abbreviation, e.g., CA-ST-ANN.

SECONDARY SOURCES

If you are unfamiliar with real property law, you may find the American Jurisprudence 2d: Real Property database (AMJUR-RP) a helpful starting point. To access other real property guides in a particular area of real property law, click a link, e.g., **Residential/Landlord Tenant**, in the *Practice Guides* section of the Real Property Practitioner page.

The screenshot shows the Westlaw interface for the Real Property Practitioner page. The top navigation bar includes links for FIND&PRINT, KEYCITE, DIRECTORY, KEY NUMBERS, COURT DOCS, FORMFINDER, SITE MAP, HELP, and SIGN OFF. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for Law School, Westlaw, Law Review, Moot Court, Ohio, and Real Property Practitioner. The main content area is organized into several sections: Shortcuts (Find by citation, KeyCite this citation, Search for a database, Profiler - Attorney or Judge, Westlaw Research Aids), Resources (Real Property Documents (Model Docs), Forms, Checklists & Clauses), and Practice Guides (American Law Reports (ALR) by Topic, Commercial, Residential / Landlord-Tenant, Finance/Tax, Construction and Development, Land Use and Zoning). The page also includes a News and Current Awareness section with links to legal newspapers and real property news.

Figure 1. Real Property Practitioner page

For assistance using Westlaw, call 1-800-850-WEST (1-800-850-9378).
For free reference materials, visit west.thomson.com/westlaw/guides.