

PROFESSIONAL LEGAL RESEARCH

Securities law is the body of federal and state law that regulates the registration, offering, and trading of shares of stock, bonds, and debentures issued by corporations as evidence of ownership. In addition to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and other federal statutes and regulations, state statutes—often called blue sky laws— also govern securities. This quick reference guide highlights the securities law resources on Westlaw and shows you how to retrieve relevant documents.

Securities Law

Securities law practice typically involves issues such as those relating to the registration and sale of securities; the regulation of issuers, broker-dealers, and the securities markets; the jurisdiction and powers of regulators; and public and private enforcement actions.

Securities Law Resources on Westlaw

Westlaw includes an extensive collection of securities law materials, including primary law, secondary sources, forms, and briefs. In each category listed below, a few key databases are highlighted. These databases and other securities law–related resources can be accessed at the tabbed Securities Practitioner page (Figure 1), or you can type a database identifier, e.g., **amjur** for the American Jurisprudence 2d database, in the *Search for a database* text box in the left frame. You can also click **View Securities Directory** in the left frame to display the *Securities* section of the Westlaw Directory.

Remember that the easiest way to retrieve a specific document when you know 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**. If you are unsure of the correct citation format, click **Find using a template** in the left frame of the Securities Practitioner page to display fill-in-the-blank Find templates. You can also click **Find securities documents** in the left frame to display a Find template that you can use to retrieve a section of a securities act.

STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

Statutes are the foundation of federal securities law. The Federal Securities–U.S. Code Annotated database (FSEC-USCA) contains documents from the *United States Code Annotated*® that relate to trading and distribution of investment securities and commodity futures, including rules of practice for the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The Federal Securities–Code of Federal Regulations database (FSEC-CFR) contains documents from the *Code of Federal Regulations* promulgated under statutory authority that relate to trading and distribution of investment securities and commodity futures.

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.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATERIALS

Releases and decisions from the SEC and other agencies interpret laws and regulations and are often a component of securities law research. SEC decisions and releases are included in the Federal Securities–Securities Releases database (FSEC-RELS). The Federal Securities–SEC No-Action Letters database (FSEC-NAL) includes letters released by the SEC that analyze and respond to written requests that the SEC take no action regarding the transactions described in the letters.

CASE LAW

Court decisions that construe and review securities laws, regulations, and agency decisions are another important source of information when you research securities law. The Federal Securities–Cases database (FSEC-CS) includes securities cases from the federal courts that relate to the trading and distribution of investment securities and commodity futures.

SECONDARY SOURCES

The Securities and Blue Sky Law–Law Reviews, Texts, and Bar Journals database (SEC-TP) includes analytical texts, law reviews, and legal periodicals that discuss securities law. If you are unfamiliar with securities law, you may find the AMJUR database a helpful starting point. Among the leading texts and treatises available on Westlaw is *Law of Securities Regulation*, Sixth Edition, by Thomas Lee Hazen, which is available in the Law of Securities Regulation database (LAWSECREG).

BLUE SKY LAW MATERIALS

State securities statutes are contained in the Individual State Blue Sky Statutes databases (XXSEC-ST) and state securities regulations are contained in the Individual State Blue Sky Regulations databases (XXSEC-REG), where XX is a state's two-letter postal abbreviation, e.g., CASEC-ST or CASEC-REG.



Figure 1. Securities 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.