

Legal Briefs

Connecting the Community to Our Resources

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Legal Information in Languages Other than English

The Wahab Public Law Library web page (www.vb.gov.com/dept/library/law) offers links to legal information which are available in other languages. On our web page, you will find links to federal sites which offer translations in other languages and although the majority are translated into Spanish, there are several that offer translations in over 25 languages. One of those sites is the Federal Citizen Information Center (www.pueblo.gsa.gov/multilanguage/multilang.htm) which links to the USA.gov site and provides helpful links to topics such as consumer information, education, family, and money.

You will also find several Virginia specific web sites translated into Spanish, such as the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles and the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission. The Virginia Government web page offers translations in the following languages: Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, and Spanish. The Virginia State Bar offers a Spanish version of the popular brochure entitled, *So You're 18*, for free on their web site at: www.vsb.org/site/publications/.

Our Foreign Language and International Resources page includes links to translation tools such as Yahoo Babel Fish language translator, which translates text into other languages. We recommend you review the helpful tips for entering your query in order to get the highest quality translation.

If you need legal advice, you can contact the Virginia State Bar Lawyer Referral Service at: 800-552-7977 or Virginia Legal Aid at www.valegalaid.org.

Did You Know?

- Wahab Public Law Library served 18,190 customers during fiscal year 2007-2008.
- In the past month, staff fielded over 180 phone calls, split relatively evenly between reference and directional questions.
- In the past year, Westlaw Patron Access was used by our customers 2,522 times.
- Our collection currently consists of 12,200 volumes.
- Some of the most popular information requests are for divorce, name change, and reinstatement of driver's license.
- Although our collection is mostly reference, we circulated 1,754 items last year, mostly through holds, and registered 14 new library customers!
- Wahab Public Law Library is proud to be part of the Virginia Beach Public Library System!





Who Are Our Customers?

In a sense, there's no such thing as a 'typical' Law Library customer. Whether it's an attorney defending someone accused of a crime, a paralegal student completing an assignment, or a member of the public filing his or her own divorce, each customer comes to us with a unique, and in many cases, critical need for legal information.

Members of the public are usually referred to us by the court clerks' offices. While ideally, everyone should have expert representation to handle their legal problems, in reality, many people can't afford attorneys and don't qualify for legal aid. While Law Library staff can't give legal advice, we can provide access to information, instruction on basic legal research, and assistance in using our resources so that these self-represented litigants can exercise their right to access the court system.

Attorneys in large firms often have excellent in-house libraries, but for smaller practices, the Law Library is a vital resource. Attorneys can use Westlaw or Casefinder at no charge beyond print fees, or research the law in our comprehensive collection of Virginia materials with research assistance from our trained staff.

As part of our commitment to lifelong learning, the Law Library opens our facility to Tidewater Community College's Legal Administration program, which holds classes here. We've also hosted Westlaw trainings for Commonwealth's Attorney staff, and support other local paralegal and court reporting schools by offering tours, training, and a place for study.

**"The life of the law has not been logic; it has been experience."
Oliver Wendell Holmes**

What's New?



On the Bookshelf

With talk of the nation's financial uncertainty, it is not difficult to see how it effects us here at home.

The number of foreclosures and bankruptcies are on the rise. Here at Wahab, we have several print resources and brochures that can help both attorneys and self-represented litigants seek the information they require.

23rd Annual Mid-Atlantic Institute on Bankruptcy and Reorganization Practice
Virginia CLE, 2008
R 346.755078 M627I 2008

Discusses recent developments in bankruptcy procedure, bankruptcy evidence, the ethics of metadata, hot topics in Chapter 11, automatic stay in business bankruptcies, modifications of Chapter 13 plans under BAPCPA, bailout legislation, and the ripple effect of the sub-prime fallout on real estate construction.

Bankruptcy Code, Rules and Forms
2009 Edition
R 346.73078 B218W 2009E

Contains the bankruptcy code and related provisions, bankruptcy rules, interim

to the federal bankruptcy rules, official and procedural bankruptcy forms, federal rules of civil procedure, evidence, appellate procedure, and related provisions of the code of federal regulations.

Around the Internet

FDsys—GPO Access
<http://fdsys.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/home.action>

GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys) is a new digital system that will allow the GPO to manage information from all three branches of government. Currently, this information is available at GPO Access. The migration from this older system to FDsys will be complete in mid to late 2009.

Above the Law
<http://abovethelaw.com/>

Above the Law is a behind-the-scenes look at the legal world. It provides original commentary on legal developments and is a source of news and gossip on the profession's most colorful personalities and powerful institutions. Above the Law is one of the ABA Journal's Top 100 Blawgs.

Tech Tips

Featured Blog

Jallenlawtek – <http://www.jallenlawtekblog.com/>

Get the latest information about technological developments and the use of technology in the practice of law and in the courtroom. Jallenlawtek is written by Jeffrey Allen, a civil practice attorney who has been practicing law since 1973. In addition to his law practice, Allen also presents several CLE programs throughout the United States on technology's impact on the law. He also writes columns for Technology eReport (<http://www.abanet.org/genpractice/ereport/>), Experience Magazine, and the Technology & Practice Guide issues of GPSolo Magazine (<http://www.abanet.org/genpractice/magazine/index.html>).



Featured Tool

Twitter and the Law – <http://twitter.com/>

Twitter is evolving into more than just a micro-blog to let friends know what you are doing. Many agencies and law firms are using Twitter as a tool to keep their clients up to date. Many law firms and legal publications have Twitter accounts for you to keep up to date with the latest information.

Legal News on Twitter

ABA Journal - <http://twitter.com/ABAJournal>

Ars Law/Policy News - <http://twitter.com/ArsLaw>

Legal Blog Watch - <http://twitter.com/LegalBlogWatch>

Legal News: Hot Docs - http://twitter.com/Legal_News

Legal Twitt - <http://twitter.com/legaltwitt>



Pro Se Corner—Landlord-Tenant Materials

“How do I evict someone?” “We can’t sell our house. What do we have to do to rent it out?” “My landlord refuses to fix our leaking roof. What are my rights?”

Whether you’re a landlord or a tenant, legal issues related to renting can be complex and scary—after all, housing is fundamental. Fortunately, there is help for you in investigating Virginia landlord-tenant issues.

The Virginia Residential Landlord Tenant Handbook, which includes the text of the Virginia Residential Landlord & Tenant Act (VRLTA) as well as information about where to get legal help is available online at http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/Homelessnessstohomeownership/PDFs/Landlord_Tenant_Handbook.pdf

Virginia Legal Aid (www.valegalaid.org) has a collection of online resources on landlord-tenant topics. Select ‘Housing,’ then ‘Landlord-Tenant Problems.’

Virginia Cooperative Extension’s “Renter’s Rights and Responsibilities” site explains your rights and responsibilities under the VRLTA at <http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/family/354-066/354-066.html>

For more in-depth research, Wahab Public Law Library has the following print resources:
Virginia Practice: Landlord –Tenant Handbook. (West, 2008-2009)
Every Landlord’s Legal Guide (Nolo, 9th Edition)
Every Tenant’s Legal Guide (Nolo, 5th Edition)

Upcoming Program

In celebration of National Library Week and this year’s theme, “Worlds connect @ your library”, the Wahab Public Law Library and local attorney Page Kistler will present a program on Domestic Relations specifically for the Hispanic community.

The program will be held on Thursday, April 16th from 4:00—5:00 p.m. Registration begins Monday, March 16th.

To register, please call 385-4419, Monday—Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Wahab Public Law Library
2425 Nimmo Parkway
Building 10B,
Ground Floor
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Phone: 757-385-4419
Fax: 757-385-8742

Email: LLstaff@vbgov.com

Hours of Operation
Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**The Law Library will be
closed on the following
dates:**

**Monday, May 25, 2009—
Memorial Day**

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Via E-mail!

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receiving Legal Briefs
via e-mail, please call
the law library staff at
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send an email to:
llstaff@vbgov.com

Mailing Address

**Visit our web site at:
www.vbgov.com/dept/library/law**

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Wahab Public
Law Library is to ensure:

Free access to current legal and law
related information for
research and the practice of law, and

Well-trained professional staff to
provide quality customer service to
the general public, government
agency employees, the judiciary,
and members of the legal profession.

