

PATHFINDER

LEGAL RESOURCES FOR THE PUBLIC LIBRARY – 2011

STARTING POINTS

California Judicial Council Forms <i>(For use statewide)</i>	http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/forms
Sonoma County Superior Court Forms <i>(Specific to each county)</i>	http://sonoma.courts.ca.gov/forms-filing
Sonoma County Court <i>(Free Self-Help Services)</i>	http://www.sonomasuperiorcourt.com/
Sonoma County Law Library	http://www.sonomacountylawlibrary.org
Fair Housing of Sonoma County	http://www.fhosc.org
State of California Home Page	http://www.ca.gov/
Federal Government Home Page	http://www.firstgov.gov/index.shtml
California Courts Information	http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/
California Superior Courts	http://www.courts.ca.gov/superiorcourts.htm
Laws of the U.S. and All States	http://www.lawsonline.com
Laws of California	http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html
California County Law Libraries	http://www.publiclawlibrary.org
Nolo Press Self-Help Legal Web Site	http://www.nolo.com
Legal Services Web Site	http://www.lawhelpCalifornia.org

Legal Aid of Sonoma County, 1105 North Dutton Avenue <http://www.legalaidsc.org>
Santa Rosa, CA 95401 (707) 542-1290 Provides direct services to low-income
people needing assistance with eviction defense or family law matters.

Legal research: How to find and understand the law by Stephen R. Elias and Susan Levinkind, Nolo Press, Berkeley, California, 15th edition, 2009 340.7307 *Elias*

Nolo's encyclopedia of everyday law: Answers to your most frequently asked legal questions by Shae Irving, Nolo Press, Berkeley, California, 8th edition, 2011. 349.73 *Nolo's*

Nolo's guide to California law by Lisa Guerin and Patricia Gima, Nolo Press, Berkeley, California, 11th edition, 2011. 349.94 *Nolo*

BANKRUPTCY/DEBT

<http://www.lawsonline.com> Click on U.S. Codes, scroll down to Title 11 "Bankruptcy"

<http://www.nolo.com/> Click on Bankruptcy

Bankruptcy books published by Nolo Press, Berkeley, California:

Chapter 13 bankruptcy: Keep your property and repay your debts over time by Steven Elias, 10th edition, 2010. This guide explains how to file for Chapter 13 bankruptcy, which allows debtors to repay many of their debts. *346.73078 Elias*

Credit repair by Robin Leonard and Margaret Reiter, 10th edition, 2011. Describes credit reports, explains the process for correcting errors on reports. Discusses dealing with creditors and setting up repayment plans. *332.743 Leonard*

How to file for Chapter 7 bankruptcy by Stephen Elias, Albin Renauer, Robin Leonard, 17th edition, 2011. Covers personal bankruptcy procedure; explains qualification, includes forms and instruction. *346.73078 Elias*

The new bankruptcy: Will it work for you? by Stephen Elias, 4th edition, 2011. Qualifying for Chapter 7 bankruptcy; how Chapter 13 repayment plans work. *346.7307 Elias*

Solve your money troubles: Get debt collectors off your back and regain financial freedom by Robin Leonard, 12th edition, 2009. Information on prudent use of credit cards, negotiating with creditors, prioritizing debts and rebuilding credit. *346.7307 Leonard*

CONSUMER LAW

<http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov/> The Federal Citizen's Information Center is a government web site which covers topics including federal programs, food, housing, and money; features a new publication each week.

<http://www.dca.ca.gov/> is the California Department of Consumer Affairs Web site. Click on tab "For Consumers" at the top of the page.

<http://www.dre.ca.gov/> is the California Department of Real Estate Web site. Search this site for information on loans, licensing of real estate salespeople and mortgage brokers, filing a complaint against a broker.

101 Law forms for personal use by Robin Leonard and Ralph Warner, Nolo Press, Berkeley, California, 8th edition, 2011. Contains straightforward, commonly used forms including promissory notes, bills of sale and authorizations for childcare. 347.7355 Warner

Everybody's guide to Small Claims Court in California by Ralph Warner, Nolo Press, Berkeley, California, 18th edition, 2010. Guide to preparing and filing a case and collecting judgments. 347.79404 Warner

COPYRIGHT, TRADEMARKS AND PATENTS

<http://www.nolo.com> Click on Patents, Trademark & Copyright ; scroll down to patent law or trademark law.

<http://www.uspto.gov/> Official site of the U.S. Government Patent and Trademark Office. Can do a patent search, file for an application for a patent, check on the status of your application. Downloadable forms available.

<http://www.copyright.gov/> Library of Congress U.S. Copyright Office. Current information on copyright basics. Can search and record a copyright; access laws and regulations.

Intellectual property books published by Nolo Press, Berkeley, California

Patent, copyright & trademark by Richard Stim, 11th edition, 2010. Provides an overview of patent, copyright, trademark and trade secret law. 346.7304 Stim

Nolo's patents for beginners, by David Pressman and Richard Stim, 6th edition, 2009. Part of the Nolo Press Legal Basics Series; good starting point for the first-time inventor. 608.7 Pressman

Patent it yourself, by David Pressman, 15th edition, 2011. How to file a provisional patent application, document the invention process, assign and license your invention to others. 346.73048

Trademark: Legal care for your business & product name, by Stephen Elias, 9th edition, 2010. How to conduct a trademark search, choose a name and protect your trademark. 346.7304 Elias

The copyright handbook: What every writer needs to know, by Stephen Fishman, 11th edition, 2011. Learn what can be protected by copyright law, register a work, avoid infringement. 346.0482 Fishman

CRIMINAL LAW

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html> Click the Penal Code, search by subject.

<http://www.nolo.com> Click on Criminal Law.

<http://www.lawsonline.com> Click on U.S. Codes, scroll down to Title 18 "Crimes and criminal procedure"

Criminal law books published by Nolo Press, Berkeley, California:

The criminal law handbook: Know your rights, survive the system by Paul Bergman and Sara J. Berman-Barrett, 12th edition, 2011. Covers arrest, search and seizure, preliminary hearings and plea-bargaining. *345.73 Bergman*

Fight your ticket and win in California by David Brown, 14th edition, 2011. How to deal with violations including speeding, driving without a license, and reckless or drunk driving and the consequences of ignoring tickets. *345.794 Brown*

Criminal law books produced by Sphinx Publishing, Naperville, Illinois:

Crime victim's guide to justice by Mary L. Boland, 3rd edition, 2008. Explains rights and obligations in the criminal justice system. *344.7303 Boland*

Guia de justicia para victimas is the Spanish language edition of Crime victim's guide to justice, 1st edition, 2001. *SP 344.73 Boland*

EMPLOYMENT

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html> Click on Labor Code, search by subject.

<http://www.nolo.com> Click on Employment Law.

Employment law books published by Nolo Press, Berkeley, California:

Create your own employee handbook: A legal and practical guide by Lisa Guerin ,5th edition, 2011. Advice on developing a business handbook covering company benefits, policies and procedures. *658.3 Guerin*

Your rights in the workplace by Barbara Kate Repa, 9th edition, 2010. Covers wage and hour laws, family leave policies, workplace safety. *344.7301 Repa*

Working for yourself: Law and taxes for independent contractors, freelancers and consultants by Stephen Fishman, 8th edition, 2011. Topics include choosing a business structure, setting up an office, getting paid on time and complying with state and federal tax codes. *346.73024*

California workers' comp: How to take charge when you're injured on the job by Christopher Ball, 8th edition, 2010. Overview of claim, protecting your rights.

ESTATE PLANNING, TRUSTS AND PROBATE

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html> Click Probate Code, search by subject.

<http://www.nolo.com> Click on Wills, Trusts & Estate Planning, scroll down to power of attorney, wills, etc.

Estate planning books published by Nolo Press, Berkeley, California:

Estate planning basics by Denis Clifford, 6th edition, 2011. Part of the Nolo Press Legal Basics Series, good introduction to the topic. 346.73052 Clifford

Plan your estate by Denis Clifford, 10th edition, 2010. Explains wills, the various types of trusts, durable powers of attorney and techniques to avoid probate. 346.73052

Make your own living trust by Denis Clifford, 10th edition, 2011. Defines a living trust, describes how to create, transfer property into and change or revoke a trust. Includes forms CD. 346.7305

Quick & legal will book, by Denis Clifford, 6th edition, 2011. How to draft a will, choose an executor and leave money and property to beneficiaries. 346.7305

Living wills & powers of attorney for California by Shae Irving, 3rd edition, 2009. Explains planning for incapacity in the event you are unable to make healthcare or financial decisions. Includes forms CD. 344.79404

How to probate an estate in California by Julia Nissley, 21st edition, 2011. Contains instructions for transferring property, change titles, collect on insurance policies, handle a probate court proceeding. Includes forms CD. 346.79405

FAMILY LAW

<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/> California courts self-help legal Web site. Click on "Families and children". Court forms can be completed online. Information on parentage, custody and visitation, child support, spousal support and adoption is included.

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html> Web site of the California Legislature; select the California Family Code, search by subject.

<http://www.nolo.com> Click on Divorce and Family Law, scroll down to various topics.

Family Law books published by Nolo Press, Berkeley, California

How to do your own divorce in California by Charles E. Sherman, 34th edition, 2011. Basic information for handling your divorce without hiring an attorney. 346.794 Sherman

How to solve divorce problems in California: a guide for petitioners and respondents by Charles E. Sherman, 9th edition, 2011. Useful for a contested divorce; how to handle issues and resolve problems. 346.794

Divorce without court: A guide to mediation and collaborative divorce by Katherine E. Stoner, 2nd edition, 2009. Mediation can be a quick, inexpensive way to resolve disputes. Covers finding a mediator, preparing for mediation and conducting yourself during the mediation process. 346.7301 Stoner

Divorce & money: How to make the best financial decisions during divorce by Violet Woodhouse, 10th edition, 2011. Discusses determining the value of property, dividing debts, child and spousal support and settlements. 346.016

How to change your name in California by Lisa Sedano and Emily Doskow, 13th edition, 2011. How to revert to a former name after divorce, change children's names or amend birth certificates. 346.794 Sedano.

Building a parenting agreement that works by Mimi E. Lyster, 7th edition, 2010. Covers minimizing conflict, cooperating in caring for children after divorce. 346.7301 Lyster

The guardianship book for California: How to become a child's legal guardian by David Brown and Emily Doskow, 8th edition, 2011. How to prepare, file and serve guardianship papers, appear before a judge and obtain legal guardianship of a child who is an orphan or whose parents are unable to care for him or her. 346.794 Brown

Living together: A legal guide for unmarried couples by Toni Ihara, Ralph Warner and Frederick Hertz, 14th edition, 2008. Explains the legal ramifications of living together, owning joint property, and raising children. 346.016 Ihara

A legal guide for lesbian & gay couples by Denis Clifford, Emily Doskow and Frederick Hertz, 15th edition, 2010. Covers domestic partner benefits, raising children, making medical decisions and co-owning property. 346.7301

Family law books produced by Sphinx Publishing, Naperville, Illinois:

Como solicitar su propio divorcio: con formularios by Edward Haman, revised edition, 2001. Spanish language edition explains filing for divorce, when to use an attorney. SP 346.7301 Haman

Unmarried parents rights by Jacqueline Stanley, 2nd edition, 2003. Outlines rights and responsibilities of unmarried parents; addresses financial issues, raising children and custody issues. 346.7301 Stanley

Los derechos de padres solteros by Jacqueline D. Stanley. Spanish version of Unmarried parents rights, 1st edition, 2007. SP 346.7301 Stanley

Grandparents' rights: your legal guide to protecting your relationship with your grandchildren by Tracy Truly, 4th edition, 2005. Covers visitation issues that may arise after divorce, raising grandchildren, obtaining legal guardianship. 346.73015 Truly

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION

<http://www.nolo.com> Click on Immigration.

<http://uscis.gov/graphics> United States Citizen and Information Services governmental Web site. Includes laws, regulations, field offices, citizenship forms and fees. Site can be translated into many languages.

<http://www.lawsonline.com> Click on U.S. Codes, scroll down to Title 8 “Aliens and Nationality”

U.S.A. immigration guide by Ramon Carrion, 5th edition, 2004. Overview of the visa system. 342.7308 Carrion

Books published by Nolo Press, Berkeley, California

Becoming a U.S. citizen: A guide to the laws, exam and interview by Ilona Bray, 5th edition, 2010. Covers applying for citizenship, studying for the exam and preparing for the interview. 342.7308 Bray

U.S. immigration made easy by Ilona Bray, 15th edition, 2011. Explains legal means to enter the country, qualify for work or student visas, apply for citizenship. 342.082 Bray

How to get a green card: by Ilona Bray, 9th edition, 2010. Focuses on obtaining green cards through parents, spouses and employers; current edition covers topic of tightened security and how it affects green card applicants. 342.082 Bray

Fiancé and marriage visas: A couple's guide to U.S. Immigration by Ilona Bray; updated by Carl Falstrom, 6th edition, 2010. Intended for fiancés and spouses of U.S. citizens, provides step-by-step instructions and forms. 342.73082 Bray

Student & tourist visas: How to come to the U.S. by Ilona Bray and Richard A. Boswell, 1st edition, 2001. Explains applying for a visa to visit or attend school, including necessary forms and instructions. 342.73082 Bray

LANDLORDS & TENANTS

<http://www.dca.ca.gov/> California Department of Consumer Affairs Web site. Scroll down under "Quick Hits" on left to Landlord Tenant.

<http://www.fhosc.org> Fair Housing of Sonoma County provides free information and referral services on fair housing and landlord-tenant matters

<http://www.nolo.com> Click on Real Estate and Rental Property.

Landlord/Tenant books published by Nolo Press, Berkeley, California

California tenants' rights by Janet Portman and David Brown, 18th edition, 2010.
346.79404

Every landlord's legal guide by Janet Portman, Marcia Stewart and Ralph Warner, 10th edition, 2010. *346.043 Stewart*

The California landlord's law book: Rights and responsibilities by David Brown, Ralph Warner and Janet Portman, 14th edition, 2011. *346.043 Brown*

The California landlord's law book: Evictions by David Brown, 14th edition, 2011.
346.043 Brown

LAWS AND REGULATIONS ON THE INTERNET

Laws of the U.S. and All States	http://www.lawsonline.com
Federal Regulations	http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html
California Laws	http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html
Sonoma County Code	http://municipalcodes.lexisnexis.com/codes/sonomaco/

NEIGHBOR LAW

Neighbor law: Fences, trees, boundaries & noise by Cora Jordan and Emily Doskow, Nolo Press, Berkeley, California, 7th edition, 2011. Deals with noisy neighbors, trees on adjacent properties, issues with runoff, fences on lot lines and blocked views.

346.73043 Jordan

Every dog's legal guide: A must-have book for your owner by Mary Randolph, Nolo Press, Berkeley, California, 6th edition, 2007. Barking, biting and leash laws; renting property as a dog owner. *636.7 Randolph*

REAL ESTATE

<http://www.ca.gov/> This is the State of California home page. Click on “Heath and Safety”, then “Laws and Regulations”.

<http://www.nolo.com> Click on Real Estate and Rental Property.

Real estate books published by Nolo Press, Berkeley, California

How to buy a house in California by Ralph Warner, Ira Serkes and George Devine, 13th edition, 2011. Covers finding an agent, choosing a house, financing strategies, making an offer, home inspections and closing escrow. 643.12 Warner

For sale by owner in California by George Devine, 10th edition, 2011. How to sell your home with limited or no help from a real estate agent. Topics include pricing, marketing, open houses, negotiating with prospective borrowers and escrow. 333.338 Devine

Deeds for California Real Estate by Mary Randolph, 8th edition, 2010. Forms of holding title, transferring real estate to a living trust, giving or selling real estate to a relative or friend. 346.794 Randolph

Real estate books produced by Sphinx Publishing, Naperville, Illinois:

Guia esencial para los contratos de arrendamiento de bienes raices by Mark Warda, 1st edition, 2002. Spanish language version on real estate leases. SP 360.0434 Warda

TAX

<http://www.lawsonline.com> Click on U.S. Codes, scroll down to find the federal laws on taxation (Title 26 Internal Code)

<http://www.irs.gov> This is the Internal Revenue Service Web site, which included downloadable forms and publications and answers to frequently asked questions.

<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/> On the left side of the screen click on "More Topics", then on "California Taxes" or "Federal Taxes".

<http://leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html> Web site of the California Legislature; scroll down and select the California Revenue and Tax Code, search by subject.

<http://www.nolo.com> Click on Taxes.

Tax books published by Nolo Press, Berkeley, California

Stand up to the I.R.S. by Frederick W. Daily, 10th edition, 2009. How to find IRS forms online, document deductions, file delinquent tax returns and set up an installment repayment plan. 343.7304 *Daily*

What every inventor needs to know about business and taxes, by Stephen Fishman, 2nd edition, 2005. Deducting invention expenses, transferring invention rights and dealing with tax issues. 343.7305 *Fishman*

Tax savvy for small business by Frederick W. Daily, 14th edition, 2011. Documenting expenses, claiming deductions, handling audits. 343.7305 *Daily*