



## Civil Appeals Research Guide

### Breach of Contract

#### Getting Started with Legal Research

Legal research involves identifying the statutes and case law that apply to your case. The easiest way to start is with “secondary sources,” which are materials that discuss and explain the law but are not the law itself. This guide provides secondary sources that can be used as a *starting place* for your research. Some websites are included, but most resources are books. Look for them at your nearest law library.

#### Important Terms

- Statutes – the law written by the elected legislature. Illinois statutes are enacted by the Illinois General Assembly and can be found in the *Illinois Compiled Statutes* at the law library or on the General Assembly’s website (<http://ilga.gov/>).
- Case law – the law based on judicial opinions. Case law can be found in books of Reports, on the Court’s website (<http://illinoiscourts.gov/>), or in online databases.
- Court Rules – the rules set out by the Illinois Supreme Court, including very specific rules about Appeals. They can be found in the book series *Illinois Court Rules and Procedure* or on the Supreme Court website (<http://illinoiscourts.gov/SupremeCourt/Rules/>).

#### General Research Resources

##### Dictionaries and Encyclopedias

- *Black’s Law Dictionary* (Thomson/West)
- *Nolo’s Free Dictionary of Law Terms and Legal Definitions* (<https://www.nolo.com/dictionary>)
- *Illinois Law & Practice* (Thomson/West) – legal encyclopedia
- *Illinois Jurisprudence* (LexisNexis) – legal encyclopedia

**IICLE’s** – stands for Illinois Institute of Continuing Legal Education. These books offer easy-to-understand analysis on a wide variety of legal issues.

- *Civil Appeals: State and Federal* (2018)

##### Books about Civil Appeals

- *Appeals to the Illinois Supreme and Appellate Courts*, by Edward J. Kionka (ISBA)
- *Illinois Appellate Practice Manual*, by Timothy J. Storm (Thomson/West)
- *Nichols Illinois Civil Practice with Forms*, by Clark A. Nichols (Thomson/West)
- *A Guide to Illinois Civil Appellate Procedure*, Appellate Lawyers Association, online at [www.applawyers.org/resources/Documents/Civil Appeals Guide Revised 2019 01 10.pdf](http://www.applawyers.org/resources/Documents/Civil%20Appeals%20Guide%20Revised%202019%2001%2010.pdf)

##### Books about Conducting Legal Research in Illinois

- *Illinois Legal Research*, by Mark E. Wojcik (Carolina Academic Press)
- *Finding Illinois Law: A Librarian’s Guide for Non-Lawyers*, by the Chicago Association of Law Librarians, online at <http://chicagolawlib.org/finding-illinois-law/>

**Resources on Contracts:**

Check your local public law library for the following books. You can use them to learn about the legal principles affecting your case. They will also point you to important statutes and case law.

**IICLE Books on Contracts:**

- *Contract Law* (2020)
- *Illinois Municipal Law: Contracts, Litigation, and Home Rule* (2015)
- *Causes of Action: Contract and Business Disputes* (2017)

**Books on Contracts:**

- *Corbin on Contracts*, by Arthur L. Corbin (LexisNexis)
- *Williston: A Treatise on the Law of Contracts*, Richard A. Lord (Thomson/West)
- *Farnsworth on Contracts*, by E. Allan Farnsworth ( )
- *Calamari and Perillo on Contracts*, by John D. Calamari & Joseph M. Perillo (Thomson/West)
- *Contracts in a Nutshell*, by Claude D. Rohwer & Anthony M. Skrocki (West Academic)

**Books on Special Topics in Contracts:**

- *Uniform Commercial Code in a Nutshell*, by Bradford Stone & Kristen David Adams (West Academic)
- *The Tech Contracts Handbook: Cloud Computing Agreements, Software Licenses, and Other IT Contracts for Lawyers and Businesspeople*, by David W. Tollen (American Bar Association, Section of Intellectual Property Law)
- *Consultant & Independent Contractor Agreements*, by Stephen Fishman (Nolo)

**Seeking Additional Help**

Law librarians may help you find the books listed in this guide or other suitable replacements if these are not available. In general, library staff can help you find information and develop search strategies, but they are unable to provide legal advice or interpret the law.