

American Law Reports (ALR)

What is an *American Law Report (ALR)*?

- Articles on specific legal topics. Article brings together relevant cases and produces an analysis of the law on a specific issue across jurisdictions.
- Written by lawyers at Thomson West Publishing.
- Consists of *ALR* 1st – 6th series and *ALR Federal*.
- *ALR Federal* focuses specifically on Federal issues.

Why use an *American Law Report (ALR)* for legal research?

- If there is an *ALR* article on your topic, it is a great starting place. It discusses the current state of the law and gives references to relevant case citations and statutes in every jurisdiction that has commented on the topic.
 - There may not be an *ALR* on point for your research.
- One representative case is reprinted.
- Includes references to secondary sources. References may include:
 - West Topic and Key Numbers
 - Westlaw databases and suggested search terms
 - Other *American Law Reports*
 - Legal Encyclopedias
 - *American Jurisprudence Proof of Facts*
 - Forms
 - Law Reviews
 - Briefs available on Westlaw

How to find and use an *American Law Report (ALR)*?

- Subject index is shelved at the end of set.
- Available on Westlaw as an individual database.
- Westlaw's *ResultsPlus* will indicate a relevant *ALR* based on your search terms.
- Each *ALR* includes a table of contents and index.

Updating an *American Law Report (ALR)*?

- Text of the *ALR* is not updated.
- May be superseded by a later *ALR* and this will be noted in the pocket part.
- Recent cases on the same topic are cited in the pocket part.
- New secondary sources are included in the pocket part.

Where to find an *American Law Report (ALR)* in the Garbrecht Law Library?

- Bound volumes with pocket parts are available on the 2nd floor of the Library.