LEGAL RESEARCH GUIDE SERIES
SPECIALIZED RESEARCH GUIDE # 9
NATIONAL SECURITY LAW

A GUIDE TO
NATIONAL SECURITY LAW RESEARCH

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
LAW SCHOOL
JACOB BURNS LAW LIBRARY
NATIONAL SECURITY LAW RESEARCH

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I. INTRODUCTION

This guide presents print and digital resources for researching national security law. Primary sources covered include statutes, regulations, presidential orders, cases, and treaties. Secondary sources covered include treatises, journals, newspapers and magazines, governmental and scholarly reports, and websites.

To determine if a source listed in this guide is available in Bloomberg Law, Lexis Advance, or Westlaw, enter the name of the source in the search box at the top of the page and then select the source from the drop-down list.

To obtain Bloomberg Law, Lexis Advance, or Westlaw credentials, email eservices@law.gwu.edu and include your GWid number.

To locate other databases, see the Law Library’s Guide to Online Resources.

II. OVERVIEW OF GWU LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

Jacob Burns Law Library: http://law.gwu.libguides.com/researchportal#catalogs

Provides access to works relating to the creation, implementation, and interpretation of international and domestic laws affecting U.S. national security. Search by title, author, subject heading or keyword.

Gelman Library: https://library.gwu.edu/

Provides access to works relating to the political, social, economic, and military aspects of national security policies. Search by title, author, subject heading or keyword.

National Security Archives: https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/

Provides access to government records and declassified documents relating to national security and foreign affairs. Located at Gelman Library. For cyber-related documents, see the Cyber Vault Project: https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/project/cyber-vault-project

III. SELECTED NATIONAL SECURITY RESEARCH AIDS

The following research guides are useful for discovering additional resources for researching national security law and related topics.


National Defense University, Military Policy Awareness Links (MiPALs): http://ndu.libguides.com/merln

U.S. Naval War College Research Guides: http://usnwc.libguides.com/

NATO Multimedia Library Research Guides: http://natolibguides.info/welcome
IV. SELECTED COMMERCIAL DATABASES:

**Bloomberg Law BNA Law Reports**

http://www.bloomberglaw.com/law_reports


**Cambridge Books Online**

http://law.gwu.libguides.com/electronicresources/databases

Provides cross-searchable access to the full text of selected books from Cambridge University Press. Includes several titles relating to the law of armed conflicts, use of force, and international humanitarian law.

**CQ Researcher**

http://libguides.gwu.edu/databases

Provides access to in-depth reports on contemporary social and political issues. Includes reports on foreign relations, national security, homeland security, and terrorism, etc.

**Declassified Documents Reference System**

http://libguides.gwu.edu/databases

Provides access to declassified documents regarding foreign and domestic policy (documents issued 1900-2008).

**National Security Archive** (2 sites: GW’s and ProQuest’s)

http://libguides.gwu.edu/databases

Provides access to declassified documents relating to national security and foreign affairs.

**HeinOnline**

http://law.gwu.libguides.com/electronicresources/databases

Provides access to law journals, federal and state session laws, the United States Code, federal regulations, administrative publications, treaties, etc., in PDF.

**International Security & Counter-Terrorism Reference Center**

http://libguides.gwu.edu/databases

Combines indexing, abstracting, and selected full text from journal and periodical articles, reports, summaries, blogs, etc., on topics relating to security and terrorism. Also includes images.

**Lexis Advance (Military Law Materials)**

Explore Content > Practice Area > Military & Veterans Law
Aggregates primary and secondary sources relating to military law and procedure. Includes cases, statutes, regulations, court rules, forms, treatises, filings, news, and journal articles. Also see the Military Justice page.

**Making of Modern Law Digital Archive** (Legal Treatises, 1800-1926)

http://law.gwu.libguides.com/electronicresources/databases

Provides access to historical Anglo-American legal treatises and pamphlets. Includes several titles relating to military and national security law.

**Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law**

http://law.gwu.libguides.com/electronicresources/databases

Explains and summarizes international law topics. Includes several articles pertaining to foreign relations, space law, the law of armed conflict, use of force, international humanitarian law, etc.

**Military & Government Collection**

http://libguides.gwu.edu/databases

Provides current news pertaining to all branches of the military, covering about 400 titles, with the full text of nearly 300 journals and periodicals. Includes CountryWatch's Country Review.

**Oxford Scholarship Online**

http://law.gwu.libguides.com/electronicresources/databases

Provides cross-searchable access to the full text of selected titles from Oxford University Press. Includes several titles relating to the law of armed conflict, use of force, and international humanitarian law.

**Policy File Index**

http://libguides.gwu.edu/databases

Indexes gray literature—government policy papers, research institute reports and documents, etc.—on foreign and domestic policy.

**PAIS Index**

http://libguides.gwu.edu/databases

Indexes and abstracts journal articles, books, gray literature, and reports relating to economic conditions, government, human rights, international relations, and politics.

**ProQuest Congressional & ProQuest Legislative Insight**

http://law.gwu.libguides.com/electronicresources/databases

Both provide access to legislative history materials, including congressional reports, documents, prints, hearings, etc. Also include reports from the Congressional Research Service and the Government Accountability Office.
Westlaw

Topics > Military Law

Aggregates primary and secondary sources relating to homeland and national security and military law. Includes cases, statutes, regulations, treatises, news, and journal articles.

WorldCat

http://law.gwu.libguides.com/electronicresources/databases or http://www.worldcat.org

Searches the collections of more than 10,000 libraries. Useful for finding materials not available locally.

V. SELECTED WEBSITES

A. Databases and Portals


Provides access to a wide variety of military and government funded documents. Includes business, scientific and technical reports; regulations, directives, and other policy documents; academic papers, reports, theses, and dissertations, etc.

Electronic Information System for International Law: http://www.eisil.org

Provides subject guides on space law, terrorism, international humanitarian law, etc. The guides describe and link to related documents and websites. Provided by the American Society of International Law.

Federation of American Scientists: https://www.fas.org

Provides access to various government documents regarding national security. Use the Site Map to navigate to the website.

Homeland Security Digital Library: https://www.hsdl.org/c/

Provides access to a variety of documents relating to homeland security, including federal and state laws, policy documents, presidential executive orders and directives, governmental and scholarly reports, news, etc.


Provides access to subject guides, reports, country profiles, etc., relating to national security, terrorism, arms control, etc.

B. Advocacy Organizations, Associations, Research Centers, and Think Tanks

The listed organizations are either entirely focused on national security or have research programs devoted to national security. They often use their websites to post research and reports, videos and transcripts of events, and other documents.

American Bar Association (ABA), Standing Committee on Law and National Security: https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_services/law_national_security.html
An ABA committee focused on law and national security issues. The website posts its publications, videos and materials from events, etc.

**American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU):** [https://www.aclu.org/issues/national-security](https://www.aclu.org/issues/national-security)

An advocacy organization focused on civil liberties issues. Website posts articles, reports, court briefs, videos of events, etc.

**American Enterprise Institute**


A widely regarded center-right policy research institute. The website posts its publications, videos and transcripts of conferences, etc.

**Brookings Institution**

[https://www.brookings.edu/topics/](https://www.brookings.edu/topics/) > Defense and Security > National Security

A widely regarded center-left policy research institute. The website posts its publications, videos and transcripts of events, etc.

**Cato Institute**

[https://www.cato.org/](https://www.cato.org/) > Research Areas > Foreign Policy and National Security

A widely regarded libertarian policy research institute. The website posts its publications, videos and transcripts of events, etc.

**Center on Law and Security:** [http://www.lawandsecurity.org/](http://www.lawandsecurity.org/)

A research institute at NYU focused on law and national security. Website posts Terrorist Trial Report Cards, reports that provide statistics and information on U.S. terrorism trials, and other institute publications.

**Council on Foreign Relations:** [https://www.cfr.org/](https://www.cfr.org/) > Topics > Defense and Security

Research institute focused on foreign policy and international affairs. The website posts its publications, transcripts of events, etc.

**Heritage Foundation**

[http://www.heritage.org](http://www.heritage.org) > Issues > National Security and Defense

A center-right research institute. The website posts its publications, videos and transcripts of events, etc.

**RAND Corporation:** [http://www.rand.org/](http://www.rand.org/) > Research

A research institute widely recognized for its work in national security, homeland security, terrorism, and related matters. The website posts reports, press releases, videos of events, etc.
C. Blogs

The following blogs regularly feature commentary on issues relating to homeland security, national security, terrorism, etc.

ABA Blawg Directory: http://www.abajournal.com/blawgs > By Topic tab

Lists and links to blogs on topics relating to national security, including: Cybersecurity, Guantanamo/Detainees, Military Law, Terrorism, etc.

Gregory S. McNeal, Law and Terrorism: http://gsmcneal.com/

Focuses on drones, terrorism, national security law, and international law. Authored by Gregory McNeal, Professor, Pepperdine University School of Law.

Just Security: https://www.justsecurity.org/

An “online forum for the rigorous analysis of U.S. national security law and policy” based at the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at New York University School of Law.

Lawfare: http://www.lawfareblog.com/


Opinio Juris: http://opiniojuris.org

Comments on various issues relating to international law and international relations. Authored by professors from various law schools.
VI. SECONDARY SOURCES

A. Find Additional Materials

Using the online catalog (http://jacob.law.gwu.edu), try a Subject Heading search: National Security, United States Foreign Relations, United States Defenses.

B. Call Number Ranges: KF4651, KF4850-4856, KF7201-7755

C. Treatises and Casebooks


D. Documentary Compilations and Handbooks


The book has 23 chapters, each of which is a standalone introduction to a discrete topic of national security law or homeland security law, written by an expert in the field. Each chapter has a bibliography of additional readings and a list of experts to contact for more information.


Includes excerpts from government reports, statements and letters of legislators, laws, agency documents, etc.


Multi-volume series provides access to U.S. and foreign documents relating to terrorism. Available documents include government reports, legislation, agency and ministerial orders, court proceedings, speeches, emails, policy papers, etc.


Includes various government and private-sector documents pertaining to terrorism, torture, rendition, detention, defense acquisition, private contractors, intelligence, export controls, money laundering, etc.


Includes timelines of key events and legislation, bibliographies, profiles of key individuals, excerpts of speeches, etc.

**E. Law Journals**

*Harvard National Security Journal*

[Online](2010-); [Lexis Advance](2010-); Westlaw (HVNSJ) (2010-); [HeinOnline](2010-)

*Journal of National Security Law and Policy*

[Online](2005-); [Lexis Advance](2005-); Westlaw (JNSLP) (2005-); [HeinOnline](2005-)

Print location: LL2 K10.O666 (2005-)

*National Security Law Journal*

[Online](2013-); [Lexis Advance](2013-); [HeinOnline](2013-)

*The Journal of National Security Law*


**F. Current Awareness**

Current awareness sources provide daily or weekly coverage of administrative, legislative, judicial, and political developments regarding an area of law. The following sources cover news relating to national security.

**Homeland Security Briefing:** [Bloomberg BNA](http://www.bna.com)

Provided daily coverage of the U.S Department of Homeland Security and related agencies, federal and state activity relating to homeland security, and links to primary documents. Ceased 6/1/2018, but archived issues still available.

**JURIST:** [http://www.jurist.org](http://www.jurist.org)

Provides daily coverage of domestic and international legal news, and links to key primary documents and related websites.
G. Newspapers and Magazines

Newspapers and magazine articles are important sources for researchers looking for facts and commentary on events and issues relating to national security law.

**Government Executive**: [https://www.govexec.com/](https://www.govexec.com/)

Covers stories relating to the management of federal agencies with excellent coverage of the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security.

**Lexis Advance (News Materials)**

Provides full-text articles from domestic and international newspapers, newswires and press releases.

**Newspapers and News Sources Databases** ([https://libguides.gwu.edu/newspapersdatabases](https://libguides.gwu.edu/newspapersdatabases))

See core news databases as well as individual titles. Provided by the Gelman Library.

**National Security Law Report (ABA)**


Provides coverage of congressional committee reports, legal updates, court cases, presidential orders, etc.

**Westlaw (News Materials)**

Provides full-text articles from domestic and international newspapers, magazines, radio and television news programs, etc. > All Content > [News](https://www.swlawnews.com/)

[News]
H. Legal Periodical Indexes

Legal periodical indexes are useful for quickly locating articles on topics relating to national security law.

Current Index to Legal Periodicals

Provides rapid indexing of about 570 publications. Related subject headings include: “Military, War and Peace.”

Westlaw (CILP) (most recent eight weeks); Current Index to Legal Periodicals: http://law.gwu.libguides.com/cilp

Index to Legal Periodicals / Legal Source

Legal Source (formerly Index to Legal Periodicals) indexes over 1,000 law reviews and journals from the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. Coverage is 1908 to date. Related subject headings include: “National Security,” “Terrorism,” and “War.”

Legal Source (1981- ) and Index to Legal Periodicals Retrospective (1908-1981)

http://law.gwu.libguides.com/electronicresources/databases

Legal Resource Index (Electronic Companion to Current Law Index)

Legal Resources Index contains abstracts from journals throughout the world.

Westlaw (LRI) (1980- ).

LegalTrac (1980 - )

An expanded web-based version of the print Current Law Index. Indexes over 1,500 law reviews, journals, legal newspapers, etc., from the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the U.K. Related subject headings include: “Armed Forces,” “National Security,” “Terrorism,” and “Torture.”

http://law.gwu.libguides.com/electronicresources/databases

I. Government Reports

1. Congressional Research Service (CRS) Reports

The Congressional Research Service is a research agency within the Library of Congress that provides objective policy analysis. Many CRS reports address national security laws and policies.


University of North Texas Digital Library http://digital.library.unt.edu/explore/collections/CRSR

Bloomberg Law (PDF, most extensive collection available)

Legislative & Regulatory > Legislative Resources > Legislative Materials > CRS Reports

ProQuest Congressional (PDF, selective, 1916- )

http://law.gwu.libguides.com/electronicresources/databases
2. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Reports

The GAO audits and evaluates federal agencies, activities, and programs to ensure that agencies are doing their jobs and providing good service. There are many GAO reports on topics relating to national security.

GAO: http://www.gao.gov (1922- ); Westlaw (GAO-RPTS) (1994- );

ProQuest Congressional (2004- )

http://law.gwu.libguides.com/electronicresources/databases

3. Inspector General (IG) Reports

Most federal agencies have an IG office. Inspectors General investigate and audit federal agencies to prevent fraud and to promote efficiency and effectiveness. IG reports particularly relevant to national security researchers include those by the Departments of Defense, Justice, and State.

Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency: http://www.ignet.gov

Links to agency IG websites. IG websites provide access to reports, congressional testimony, press releases, etc.

4. Federal Advisory Commissions and Committees

Federal advisory commissions and committees may review topics relating to national security. An example of an advisory commission is the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States (the “9-11 Commission”). Commissions hold hearings, issue reports, etc.

CyberCemetery (archived information): http://govinfo.library.unt.edu

Federal Interagency Databases Online: http://govwebs.net/fido/

ProQuest Congressional:

http://law.gwu.libguides.com/electronicresources/databases

Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board: https://www pclob.gov/

VII. PRIMARY SOURCES

A. U.S. Constitution

Congress.gov: https://www.congress.gov/ > The U.S. Founding Documents


Provides access to the text of the Constitution, The Constitution of the United States of America: Analysis and Interpretation (a treatise), subject index, case annotations, etc.

Legal Information Institute: http://www.law.cornell.edu Primary Sources > Constitution
Provides access to the Constitution and related case annotations. Provided by the Cornell University Law Library.

Lexis Advance (USCS); Westlaw (USCA-CONST) (current)

Bloomberg Law:

Legislative & Regulatory > Legislative Resources > Codes & Statutes > Browse U.S. Constitution

HeinOnline (United States Code) (1925- ) (generally available in vol. 1 of each edition under Organic Laws)

http://law.gwu.libguides.com/electronicresources/databases


B. Debates on the U.S. Constitution

Writings and debates on the Constitution from the early years of the American republic are often cited, in the context of national security law, on matters relating to separation of powers and the government’s authority to take certain actions.

1. The Federalist Papers


Congress.gov: https://www.congress.gov/founding-documents

HeinOnline (Legal Classics)

http://law.gwu.libguides.com/electronicresources/databases


2. The Debates in the Several State Conventions on the Adoption of the Federal Constitution (“Elliot's Debates”)

Record of debates and proceedings among the states on the adoption of the Constitution and other founding documents.


HeinOnline (Legal Classics)

http://law.gwu.libguides.com/electronicresources/databases

Print location: Reserve (1ST FL) & SL3, KF4511 .D43 1891 and SL3, KF4502 .E5 1941

3. The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787 (“Farrand's Records”)

A multi-volume collection of records and proceedings from the 1787 Constitutional Convention. Contains a topical index.
C. Executive Branch Materials

1. Presidential Documents

Presidential materials bearing on national security law include executive orders, directives, memoranda, reorganization plans, speeches, etc. Presidential documents are available from several sources. For more information, see the research guide Locating Presidential Documents.

American Presidency Project: http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu

Provides access to presidential documents, debates, speeches, etc. Hosted by U.C. Santa Barbara.

Govinfo.gov: https://www.govinfo.gov/app/browse/category/budget-presidential

Provides access to the Compilation of Presidential Documents and Public Papers of the Presidents.


Provides full text of declassified presidential directives and executive orders relating to national security.

Declassified Documents Reference System

http://libguides.gwu.edu/databases

Provides access to declassified documents. Includes presidential documents and documents from executive agencies.

(Digital) National Security Archive

http://libguides.gwu.edu/databases

Provides access to declassified documents. Includes many presidential documents and documents from executive agencies.

HeinOnline (U.S. Presidential Library)

http://law.gwu.libguides.com/electronicresources/databases

Provides full text access to several publications containing presidential documents.

Lexis Advance (1981- )
Includes executive and administrative orders, proclamations, reorganization plans, speeches, etc. Browse > Sources > Search for a source > Public Papers of the Presidents

**Westlaw** *(PRES) (executive orders 1936- ; other documents 1984- )*

Includes executive and administrative orders, proclamations, reorganization plans, etc.

**Print versions:**

**Code of Federal Regulations.** Title 3, The President, Previous years: LL1 (LEGAL REFERENCE) (1936- ); current year, RESERVE (1ST FL)

Includes most publicly available presidential documents except for directives and speeches.

**Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents:** SL2, J80.A284 (1965-2009, Vo. 2-36; 38-45)

Includes most publicly available presidential documents, including speeches, but not directives.

**Attorney General Opinions**

The Attorney General issues opinions to give legal advice to the President and federal agencies. Several opinions address national security issues.


**Westlaw** (1791- ); *(USAG)*

**HeinOnline** *(U.S. Attorney General & Department of Justice Collection)*

- Official Opinions of the Attorneys General of the United States (1791-1982)
- Opinions of the Office of Legal Counsel of the United States Department of Justice (1977-2008)
  


2. **Federal Regulations**

Regulations relating to national security, like all regulations, are published in the *Federal Register* and codified in the *Code of Federal Regulations* (C.F.R.). In the C.F.R, Titles 3, 6, and 32 cover presidential documents, homeland security, and national defense, respectively. For more information, see the research guide *Locating Federal Regulations.*

**Federal Register**


Lexis Advance (March 1936- ): [Federal Register](https://www.govinfo.gov/app/browse/category/regulatory-info)
3. **Federal Agency Directives**

Federal agencies issue directives to make and implement internal policies and programs. Unlike statutes or regulations, directives may be classified.

Federal Agency Directory: [https://www.usa.gov/federal-agencies/a](https://www.usa.gov/federal-agencies/a)

Federal agency directives are often available from agency websites. The Federal Agency Directory lists and links to agency websites.

Declassified Documents Reference System

[http://libguides.gwu.edu/databases](http://libguides.gwu.edu/databases)

Provides access to presidential and agency directives.

(Digital) National Security Archive

[http://libguides.gwu.edu/databases](http://libguides.gwu.edu/databases)

Provides access to presidential and agency directives.

D. **Legislative Branch Materials**

Like all federal legislation, laws relating to national security are published as slip laws, and then compiled chronologically in the United States Statutes at Large. Laws are then codified, arranged by
subject, in the United States Code. In the U.S.C., titles 6, 10, 22, and 50, cover domestic security, the armed forces, foreign relations, and war and national defense, respectively. For more information, see the research guide Federal Statutory Research.
1. **Statutory Materials**

**Selected Statutes**


Authorizes presidential regulation of exports of arms and defense services for commercial and political purposes.


Creates the position of the Director of National Intelligence; implements stricter border and transportation security, and immigration requirements; criminalizes acts relating to receiving training from terrorists or supporting terrorists.


Establishes military commissions to prosecute foreign nationals deemed to be unlawful enemy combatants.


Creates the National Security Council and establishes the military’s current organizational structure.


Prohibits military deployments to perform state law enforcement duties unless authorized by statute or the Constitution.


Authorizes the President to make disaster declarations and provide aid to states, including military relief operations. Amended the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, 88 Stat. 143.

Increases powers available to federal authorities to search communications; regulate financial transactions; investigate, detain and deport immigrants; and conduct terrorist investigations. Also creates new federal crimes relating to terrorist acts.


Requires the President to consult with and report to Congress when the military is introduced into conflicts.


United States Statutes at Large
HeinOnline (U.S. Statutes at Large) (1789- )

http://law.gwu.libguides.com/electronicresources/databases

Print location: BURNS (2ND FL) KF50.U5 (1789- )

United States Code

Lexis Advance (current): United States Code Service

Westlaw (USCA) (current); (United States Code Annotated - Historical (1990-2017))

Bloomberg Law (United States Code)

Legislative & Regulatory > Legislative Resources > United States Code (current) or > Historical U.S. Code Versions (1994-2015)

HeinOnline (United States Code) (1925- )

http://law.gwu.libguides.com/electronicresources/databases

Print location: BURNS (2ND FL) (1940- )
2. Legislative History Materials

A legislative history is a collection of documents—committee reports, transcripts of debates, hearings, etc.—that Congress creates when considering legislation. A legislative history is most frequently used to determine legislative intent. For more information, see the specialized research guide Federal Legislative History.

Congress.gov (1973-): https://www.congress.gov/

HeinOnline (U.S. Federal Legislative History Library)

http://law.gwu.libguides.com/electronicresources/databases

ProQuest Congressional & ProQuest Legislative Insight

http://law.gwu.libguides.com/electronicresources/databases

3. Congressional Committees

Several congressional committees have jurisdiction over legislation, agencies, programs, etc., relating to national security. Committee websites publish bills, hearing transcripts, reports, responses to requests for information, press releases, and other materials related to their work.

Govinfo.gov: https://www.govinfo.gov/app/browse/category/committee-materials

Links to congressional committee websites and related resources. Provides access to the House and Senate manuals which list committees and describes each committee’s jurisdiction.

Leadership Connect (previously Leadership Directories)

http://law.gwu.libguides.com/electronicresources/databases

Lists congressional committees and committee members, and summarizes each committee’s jurisdiction. Publishers of the print version: Congressional Yellow Book.

Print location: Congressional Yellow Book [READY REFERENCE (1ST FL), JK1010.C68].

Lists congressional committees and committee members, and summarizes each committee’s jurisdiction.
E. Judicial Branch Materials

Matters relating to national security are often tried in federal district courts, with appeals to the circuit courts of appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. For more information, see the research guide Finding Cases and Interpreting Citations.

1. Federal Court Decisions


Federal courts may provide selected opinions and orders on their websites. USCourts.gov lists and links to court websites.

Google Scholar: [https://scholar.google.com/](https://scholar.google.com/) (selective)

Lexis Advance (coverage varies by court): Cases > All U.S. Federal

Westlaw (ALLFEDS) (1790- )

Bloomberg Law:

Browse > Litigation & Dockets > Court Opinions Search > Federal Court Opinions (1789- )

>>Other Federal Courts > Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review (2/2002- );

2. Federal Court Pleadings and Briefs

Bloomberg Law:

Browse > Litigation & Dockets > Dockets Search > All Federal Dockets (generally from 1989- )


Provides access to U.S. Supreme Court briefs.

Lexis Advance (coverage varies by court): Federal Briefs

Westlaw: Briefs

Provides access to briefs from the U.S. Supreme Court (1930 - , selective)* and U.S. Courts of Appeal (1972- ).

* For petitions, selected coverage begins with 1985. For joint appendices, selected coverage begins with 1982. A limited number of selected older briefs, petitions, and joint appendices may be included.
A new database still adding content, Supreme Court Insight, 1975-2016, is a collection of full opinions from Supreme Court argued cases, including per decision, dockets, oral arguments, joint appendices and amicus briefs.


Provides access to federal court dockets and documents. Coverage varies by court. Fee required.

U.S. Supreme Court Records & Briefs Digital Archive (PDF, 1832-1978): http://law.gwu.libguides.com/electronicresources/databases

Find party briefs, cert. petitions, certiorari, transcripts, etc.

Microform location: United States Supreme Court Records and Briefs: MICROFICHE (LL1), Fiche 114B FO (1897- )

3. Specialized Courts and Commissions

Due to efficiency concerns or the need to protect sensitive information, special court systems and administrative courts have been created to handle certain types of cases relating to national security matters. For example, terrorist cases may be tried in federal district courts or military commissions. Cases against military service members are often resolved through the military justice system. Secret surveillance warrants are handled through the United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

http://www.fjc.gov/history/home.nsf/page/courts_special_fisc.html

F. Treaty and International Agreement Materials

Treaties and international agreements are important aspects of national security law because U.S. national security interests often involve relations with foreign countries. The U.S. uses treaties and international agreements to create military alliances, establish military bases on foreign soil, make laws governing armed conflicts, prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, settle disputes, etc. For more information, see the research guide Treaties and International Agreements:

http://law.gwu.libguides.com/treaties

G. United Nations Security Council Materials

The U.S. often interacts with the U.N. Security Council with respect to international activities that affect U.S. national security. Security Council materials include resolutions, decisions, and various reports. For more information, see the research guide United Nations Research:

http://law.gwu.libguides.com/UN_Resources