NEW YORK CITY LEGAL RESEARCH

This guide only reflects resources available in the Deane Law Library and online. For more detailed information, consult William H. Manz, *Gibson’s New York Legal Research Guide* (3d ed. 2004) (Reserve, Reference, Reading Room KFN5074.G53 2004). Call numbers refer to the Classified collection (main stacks) unless otherwise noted.

I. Legislative Materials

- **The codified laws of New York City** are published in the *New York City Charter and Administrative Code*. An official annotated version is available on Reserve, and the city provides a free version without annotations at [http://24.97.137.100/nyc/](http://24.97.137.100/nyc/), as does the New York State Legislature at [http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/menuf.cgi](http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/menuf.cgi) (click on “Laws of New York” and then scroll to the bottom of the page) (neither of these sites make warranties of currentness). It is also available on Westlaw (NYC-C and NYC-CODE) and Lexis.
  - The *Administrative Code* was recodified in 1985. Print versions contain tables for correlating the new and old section numbers.
  - *Shepard’s New York Statute Citations* (Reading Room KFN5039.S51) contains citations to the Code, including whether sections have been changed. (The NYC Code can be Shepardized on Lexis.)

- **Session Laws**. The library has two different compilations that are equivalent to session laws for New York City. The *New York City Legislative Annual* (Reading Room KFX2003.A7 N48) contains the text of New York City local laws from 1991-. And the *New York City Charter and Administrative Code Annotated* (Reserve) includes local laws and New York State session laws that affect New York City from 1985-.


- Bills are often referred to as **Intros** or “Introductions.” Intros are numbered consecutively beginning with each City Council term (e.g., Int. 500-2007 was the 500th law introduced during the term that includes 2007). Intros from 1990- are available from the City Council’s website (linked above).

- **Legislative History**. City Council committee reports are published in the *New York City Legislative Annual* (Reading Room KFX2003.A7 N48). Some reports are also available from the City Council’s website (linked above, 1990-) and the Department of Records, [http://www.nyc.gov/html/records/home.html](http://www.nyc.gov/html/records/home.html) (2003-).
II. Executive Materials

- New York City’s equivalent to the Code of Federal Regulations are the *Rules of the City of New York*. The *Rules* are available on Reserve and on Lexis and Westlaw (NYC-RULES).
- The *Rules* can be updated with *Rule Changes of the Departments and Agencies of the City of New York* (Reserve).
- The *Corporation Counsel* is roughly the city’s equivalent to an attorney general’s office. Corporation Counsel opinions are available from 1980- on Westlaw (NYC-CCO) and Lexis. Some decisions are available at www.citylaw.org.
- The city’s equivalent to the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division is the *Commission on Human Rights*. The Commission’s decisions are available on Westlaw (NYCCIV-ADMIN [1970-]) and at www.citylaw.org (1995- and selected earlier decisions).
- The *Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings* (OATH) is an independent tribunal hearing matters related to various agencies. OATH decisions from 1990- (and selected earlier decisions) are available at www.citylaw.org, and selected recent decisions are available on OATH’s website, www.nyc.gov/html/oath/home.html.

III. Judicial Materials

- The *New York City Civil Court* has existed since 1962. Its judges are elected to ten year terms. Its appeals are heard by the state Supreme Court, Appellate Term. Court rules can be found in 22 NYCRR part 208, McKinney’s Rules of Court: State, and Consolidated Laws Service (CLS) volume 43. Forms can be found in CLS volume 43. The Civil Court has separate parts for Housing and Small Claims which have their own rules.
- Judges on the *New York City Criminal Court* are appointed by the mayor. Appeals are heard by the state Supreme Court Appellate Division. The court’s rules can be found in 22 NYCRR part 125, McKinney’s Rules of Court: State, and CLS volume 43.

- Cases
  
  - Some opinions of New York City courts are in *Miscellaneous Reports* (Reading Room KFN5051.A2; Westlaw NY-ORCS; Lexis); decisions from 1995- and selected pre-1995 decisions are available at http://www.courts.state.ny.us/reporter/Decisions.htm, and in the *New York Supplement* (Reading Room KFN5045.A333; Westlaw NY-CS).
  
  - The *New York Law Journal* (Reserve [current]; microform cabinet 24 [older]) prints some New York City cases (selections of these are on Westlaw from 1990- NYLJ and Lexis from 1989-). The *Law Journal* has its own digest, (Reading Room KFN5057.W5; online [ask a Reference Librarian]).
  
  - Housing Court Decisions are available in the *New York City Housing Court Reporter* (Reserve). The *Housing Court Reporter* has a digest (Reserve). A selection of Housing Court cases are also available for free at http://tenant.net.

David Dames
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