

USING AND UPDATING A.L.R.

American Law Reports (A.L.R.) is a selective, annotated reporting service published by Thomson/West, and is a useful starting point for legal research. The unusual format of A.L.R. is based on the belief that researchers' time can be saved by beginning research in leading cases, rather than in comprehensive case digests. The A.L.R. is arranged in alphabetical order by subject. Each annotation starts with a reprint of a selected court decision. This case is used as the subject of the annotation to follow, which addresses a specific point of law found in the case. The annotation contains finding aids, cross-references, various tables, and short notes grouped by subject which illuminate the points discussed in the reprinted case decision. A.L.R. has many indexes to help the researcher locate pertinent annotations. Citations to A.L.R. annotations can also be found in many Bancroft/Whitney publications (Am. Jur. 2d, Deering's, U.S.C.S., etc.) or through WESTLAW.

A.L.R. consists of eight series:

A.L.R. 1st: 175 volumes published from 1919-1948; includes state and federal topics.  
KF 132 .A5

A.L.R. 2nd: 100 volumes published from 1948-1965; includes state and federal topics.  
KF 132 .A52

KF 132 .A53

KF 132 .A54

A.L.R. 5th: 125 volumes published from 1992-2005; includes state topics only.  
KF 132 .A542

A.L.R. 6th: Newest series; began publication in 2005; includes state topics only.  
KF 132 .A543

KF 132 .A55
A.L.R. Federal 2nd : Series began 2005; includes federal topics only. 
KF 132 .A552

The following indexes and digests provide access to the case annotations within the various A.L.R. series:

A.L.R. 1st: 
- A.L.R. Quick Index KF 132 .A51
- West's A.L.R. Digest KF 132.1 .A55 2004
- A.L.R. Word Index KF 132 .A513

A.L.R. 2nd: 
- ALR Index (v.1-75) KF 132.6 .I535
- ALR 2d series Word Index KF 132 .A521
- West's A.L.R. Digest KF 132.1 .A55 2004

A.L.R. 3rd: 
- ALR Index KF 132.6 .I535
- ALR Quick Index KF 132.6 .Q5

A.L.R. 4th, 5th & 6th: 
- West's A.L.R. Digest KF 132.1 .A55 2004
- ALR Index KF 132.6 .I535
- ALR Quick Index KF 132.6 .Q5

A.L.R. Fed. & 2nd: 
- West's A.L.R. Digest KF 132.1 .A55 2004
- ALR Index KF 132.6 .I535

UPDATING A.L.R. ANNOTATIONS

Updating methods for annotations found in the A.L.R. will vary depending upon which series is being used:

A.L.R. 1st: 
- A.L.R. Blue Book of Supplemental Decisions - KF 132 .A514. (6 volumes with annual pamphlet issued. Check each supplemental volume; they are not cumulative.)

A.L.R. 2nd: 
- A.L.R. 2nd Later Case Service - KF 132 .A523. (21 volumes arranged by original A.L.R. 2nd citation; supplemented with annual pocket parts.)

A.L.R. 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th: 
Annual pocket parts in each volume.

A.L.R. Fed & 2nd: 
Annual pocket parts in each volume

Cases found in the A.L.R. can be cite checked by using the official or regional citations, either in the bound Shepard's volumes or online using LEXIS or WESTLAW. There is no Shepard's Citations specifically for the A.L.R.

A.L.R. ONLINE

The A.L.R. 2d through 6th Series, as well as A.L.R. Federal and A.L.R. Federal 2nd, is available for full-text searching on WESTLAW.

Note: USD's educational contracts with Mead Data Central and West Publishing limits LEXIS and WESTLAW use to currently enrolled USD law students, law faculty and staff only.

CONTACT A REFERENCE LIBRARIAN FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE