



Finding Legislative History

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Legislative History & Intent

At The San Francisco Law Library

Wednesday, October 5, 2016, 12pm-1pm

1 Hour *free* Participatory MCLE Credit¹

Program Agenda

Download program materials PDF at www.sflawlibrary.org

Program I – Finding Legislative History - Outline

Posted materials: Finding Legislative History + Identifying California Legislative Documents

Preliminary note – “Questions and interruptions are welcome”.

Introduction - Distinguish Statutes / Regulations -

Addressing 4 basic topics -

1. California Statutes
2. California Regulations
3. Federal Statutes
4. Federal Regulations

California Statutes –

- A. Distinguish Statutes from Codes
- B. Legislative Process
- C. Define key terms –
 - a. AB/SB
 - b. Policy Committee/fiscal committee
 - c. Third reading

- C. How to determine what you need to research – You must identify particular chapters for particular years – then determine the bill number of the enacting bill.

- D. Sources of documents
 - a. on line – Leg Counsel + CLRC
 - b. local libraries – LA has bill copies and analyses but not bill files.
 - c. Sacramento collections

¹ The San Francisco Law Library is a multiple activity MCLE provider approved by the State Bar of California.

- E. What to expect in different eras – discussed at pages 3 & 4 of handout with more general historical context at pages 6 through 11.

Mention statements in the Journal – CAL-Span

California Regulations – Step 1 is Barclays for adoption history – Register and date.

- A. Prior to 1945 – Individual rules – State Library
- B. 1945 through 1970 – Registers + not much
- C. 1970 to present – developing rule making files – now Final Statement of Reasons

Federal Statutes –

- A. Distinguish Statutes from Codes
- B. Legislative Process – similar to California but much more formal
- C. Define key terms –
 - a. HR/S
 - b. Committee/sub-committee

C. How to determine what you need to research – You must identify particular chapters/public laws for particular years – then determine the Section within the Public Law bill number.

D. Sources of documents

- a. on line – Library of Congress, GPO access
- b. federal depository libraries
- c. Washington collections

E. What to expect in different eras

Code of Federal Regulations – Federal Registers entries – some indexing available for more recent adoptions. Possible agency files but the Federal Register discussion is often very complete

Local Ordinances and other States are sometimes feasible.

Commercial Services fees vary, but generally bill according to how many enactments are researched. We are the only one offering choice of options.