Free or Low-Cost Law Library Access

Alexandria Law Library
520 King Street, Lower Level 34,
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-746-4077
Hours: 9AM-2PM M-F, Weekends closed
Free Westlaw & LexisNexis access[1], Internet & Wi-Fi
Director: Rose T. Dawson
http://alexandriava.gov/LawLibrary
https://alexlibraryva.org/law-library

American University Washington College of Law Pence Law Library
4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 22016-8182
202-274-4350
Hours: M-Th; 9AM-10PM F-Sat; 9AM- 12AM Sun,
(Public Use: 8AM-8PM M-F, 9-5PM weekend)
Free Westlaw Public Terminal available and in near constant use.
https://www.wcl.AMerican.edu/impact/library/

American University Bender Library
4400 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 22016
202-885-3238
Hours: Monday-Thursday 8 AM-12AM, Friday 8AM-9PM, Saturday 9AM-9PM, Sunday 9AM- 12AM.
(A valid AU ID is required to enter the building between 11:00PM and 7:00AM)
Free Lexis Lite database access
https://www.AMerican.edu/library/

Catholic University of America Law Library
3600 John McCormack Road, NE
Washington, DC 20064-8206
202-319-5155
Hours: M-F 7-11:45; Weekends 9-11:45 M-TH 9-10PM; F 9-8PM; Sat 9-5PM Sun 12PM-8 PM
*Limited Access
Open to the public and free access to Lexis/Nexus Academic Service which includes cases, statutes, some journals but no treatises. Also free access to Hein On-Line. The Law Library is restricted to CUA Law Students during the fall and spring reading and examination periods. Students must use their CUA I.D.s to enter the law library.
https://www.law.edu/about-us/law-library/index.html

[1] Customers have free access to Westlaw on four workstations that includes state and federal case law, statutes, court rules, AMJur, CFR, ALR, the Restatements, many forms, jury verdict materials, KeyCite, law reviews and journals, treatises in Bankruptcy, Intellectual Property, Criminal Law, Employment Law, Evidence, Federal Practice, Personal Injury, Products Liability, Property Law, Tax Law, Workers Compensation and others. Search time is free but limited to thirty minutes if others are waiting. Printing is $00.20 per page.

Georgetown University Edward Bennett Williams Library

111 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20001-1489
202-662-9130
Hours: M-Sunday 7AM-2AM.
Access is restricted to Georgetown students and faculty except for the Public Patron program at http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/visitors/patron_progrAM.cfm
Alumni membership is free; lawyers pay $150.00 a year. Westlaw and Lexis access is restricted to students and faculty.
http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/

George Mason University Law School Library

3301 Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22201
703-993-8120
Hours: M-TH 8AM-11PM; F 8AM-10PM; Sat. 10AM-10PM; Sun. 11AM-11PM
KeyCite and Sheppard's are available on-line but only faculty and staff may use Lexis and Westlaw. However, many databases are available to lawyers at this public law library and are listed on the website under the heading catalogues:
http://www.law.gmu.edu/libtech/

George Washington University Jacob Burns Law Library

716 20th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20052-4306
202-994-1375
Hours: M-F 8AM-11:45PM; weekends 9AM-11:45PM
(Summer Hours: 9AM-9PM M-F)
https://www.law.gwu.edu/library
The library is not open to the public, however, a lawyer can join the Friends Program for $250.00 a year and get access to on-line databases, including Westlaw, but books may not be checked out.

Howard University Allen Mercer Daniel Law Library

2929 Van Ness Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20008-1106
202-806-8045
Hours: M-F 7AM-11PM; Sat. 9AM-10PM; Sun. 11AM-11PM.
While this library is open to the public, the on-line service is limited to Shepardizing on Lexis and Hein On-line. Public visitors may not check out materials, but may use them within the library.
http://library.law.howard.edu/

Law Library of Congress

101 Independence Avenue, SE LM 101
Washington, DC 20540
202-707-5079
Hours: M-S 8:30AM-5PM; closed Sunday.
While it claims to be the world's largest collection of law books and legal resources, the Law Library of Congress does not allow public access to Westlaw or Lexis. It does offer public access to Hein On-Line and a host of other data bases dealing with legislative and foreign law research.
http://www.loc.gov/law/

Fairfax Public Law Library

4110 Chain Bridge Road
Fairfax, VA 22030
Courthouse, Room 115
703-246-2170
Hours: M & Thu 8AM to 7PM; Tue, Wed, & Friday 8AM-4:30PM
Lexis & Westlaw are free[2]; printing cost is $0.25 per page.
Fastcase Geronimo, VA specific, free + printing cost.
Hein On-Line, contains all US law reviews from volume one to present, the Federal Register, CFRs and other material.
Tom Pulver, Library Director
http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/courts/lawlib/
https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/public-law-library

Walter T. McCarthy Law Library

1425 N. Courthouse Road, Suite 1700,
Arlington, VA 22201
703-228-7005
Director: Patricia Petroccione
Hours: 8:30-4 M-F
Lawyers may access free of charge Westlaw and Lexis and research all state and federal statutes and cases, the all Feds data base, and may use KeyCite on Westlaw and Sheppard's on Lexis. Two terminals are available for use by lawyers and the general public. Printing is $00.20 per page.

U.S. Courts Library – Alexandria

1st Floor, U.S. Courthouse
401 Courthouse Square
Alexandria. VA 22314
703-299-3300
Hours: M-F 8:30-5:00PM
Members of the bar may use this library, but there is no on-line service of any kind. While lawyers may use this library, it is primarily used by judges and their law clerks.

University of the District of Columbia Law Library

4200 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Building 39
Washington, D.C. 20008-1122
202-274-7310
Hours: M-F 8AM-11:30 PM; Sat. 10AM-10PM; Sun. 12PM-11:30PM.
This public law library allows access to basic Westlaw but it is not possible to print from the terminal.
http://www.law.udc.edu/?page=LibraryMenu

[2] The director reports these databases are regularly used by lawyers and the general public, but do not receive heavy volume and are generally available on a walk-in basis.

Here are links to District of Columbia and Virginia Public Law Libraries and other research portals:

http://www.courts.state.va.us/main.htm

https://www.gpo.gov/

http://jenkinslaw.org

http://heinonline.org/

http://www.versuslaw.com/

http://public.resource.org/

http://www.law.cornell.edu/

http://www.plol.org/Pages/Search.aspx

https://www.fastcase.com

Fastcase is a DC Bar Member Benefit:
http://www.dcbar.org/for_lawyers/membership/current_members/memberBenefits.cfm#fastcase

http://www.law.virginia.edu/nutshell

http://www.jenkinslaw.org/

http://scholar.google.com/

Free content and resources on LexisNexis
https://www.lexisnexis.com/community

The content is this resource was updated May 13, 2020. If you are aware of changes, please let us know so that we can keep it current.

Questions or comments? Contact:

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