

## Research Guide to Real Estate and General Law

Real estate, real property, and realty are all legal terms that refer to land and any improvements on it, such as buildings, fences, and other immovable structures. Real estate transactions are governed by a wide range of federal, state, and local rules and regulations, which often vary significantly from one jurisdiction to the next. This research guide is designed to provide a foundation and launching point for further research into the world of real estate laws. The resources derive from an assortment of government, academic, non-profit, for-profit, and non-governmental organizations. It is up to you to determine a resource's bias, veracity, authenticity, and date currency.

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## General Legal Resources

### NAR Legal Affairs Podcast

The NAR Legal Affairs podcast is a resource for reporting current legal issues related to real estate professionals. Episodes feature interviews with practicing attorneys and others involved in real estate legal issues.

- [Legal Podcast: Pocket Listings](#)  
California Association of REALTORS® attorney Elizabeth Miller-Bougdanos discusses the legal issues raised by pocket listings in a preview of this year's Risk Management Forum.
- [Legal Podcast: Flood Insurance Program](#)  
Russell Riggs, Senior Regulatory Policy Representative, and Ralph Holmen, former Associate General Counsel of the National Association of Realtors®, discuss recent changes to the [Flood Insurance Program](#) and potential disclosure issues for real estate professionals.  
[NAR Activity Update - National Flood Insurance Program \(NFIP\)](#)
- [Legal Podcast: Appraiser Independence](#)  
REALTOR® Vic Knight, also licensed as an appraiser, discusses how real estate professionals can continue to work with appraisers following Dodd-Frank.  
[Appraiser Independence](#)  
[10 Tips for Brokers to Help the Appraisal Process](#)  
[A Guide to Understanding a Residential Appraisal](#)

### Laws, Rules, & Statutes

- [U. S. Code \(USC\)](#) (Legal Information Institute - Cornell University Law School).
- [U. S. Code \(USC\)](#) (U.S. House of Representatives).
- [Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\)](#) (Legal Information Institute - Cornell University Law School).
- [Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\)](#) (U.S. Government Printing Office).
- [Uniform Commercial Code \(UCC\)](#) (Legal Information Institute - Cornell University Law School).
- [State Law Resources](#) (Legal Information Institute - Cornell University Law School) - Links to state constitutions, agency rules, statutes, and other resources.

### Government Agencies

- [Real estate regulatory agencies](#) (Association of Real Estate License Law Officials) - Contact information for real estate regulatory agencies for each U.S. state and Canadian province, and other countries.
- [Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System](#)
- [Bureau of Land Management \(BLM\)](#)
- [US Bureau of Reclamation](#)
- [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau \(CFPB\)](#)
- [U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#)

## Library

- [Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity \(OFHEO\)](#)
- [Fannie Mae](#)
- [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#)
- [Federal Housing Administration \(FHA\)](#)
- [Federal Housing Finance Agency \(FHFA\)](#)
- [Federal Trade Commission \(FTC\)](#)
- [US Forest Service - Lands & Realty Management](#)
- [Freddie Mac](#)
- [Government National Mortgage Association \(Ginnie Mae\)](#)
- [Internal Revenue Service](#)
- [USDA Rural Development](#)
- [Securities & Exchange Commission \(SEC\)](#)
- [Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#)
- [Department of Veterans Affairs - Loan Guaranty Service](#)

## Tools

- [U.S. Courts](#)  
Legal glossary, statistics, court records, FAQs, and other general legal resources from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.
- [Court Locator](#) (Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts).
- [Google Scholar](#) - Find legal opinions & journals
- [Legal Information Institute \(LII\)](#) (Cornell University Law School).

## Databases

- [EBSCO](#) (**E** indicates [password required](#))  
A collection of more than 5,000 scholarly and industry-related journals, newspapers, and magazines, and company information.

## Journals

- [ABA Banking Journal](#) **E**
- [American Business Law Journal](#) **E**
- [Business Law Today](#) **E**

## Real Estate Law

### Websites & Tools

- [Real estate regulatory agencies](#) (Association of Real Estate License Law Officials) - Contact information for real estate regulatory agencies for each U.S. state and Canadian province, and other countries.
- [Legal Pulse](#)  
The Legal Pulse is a quarterly research project undertaken by NAR Legal Affairs. The Legal Pulse systematically collects information on 94 issues in eleven major topic areas that involve the legal liability of real estate brokers, salespeople, and real estate managers.
- [ABA Section of Real Property, Trust and Estate Law](#)
- [Real estate rules and laws](#) (Association of Real Estate License Law Officials) - Directory of laws and rules regulating the real estate business in each state.
- [Competition & Real Estate by State](#) (U.S. Department of Justice) - Overview of antitrust laws as they pertain to real estate in each state.

### eBooks

Below are a few popular eBooks in our library on this topic. To search for more eBooks on this topic, visit our [eBooks website](#).

- Kälin, C.H. (2005). [International Real Estate Handbook: Acquisition, Ownership and Sale of Real Estate Residence, Tax and Inheritance Law](#).
- Laro, D. & Pratt, S.P. (2005). [Business Valuation and Taxes: Procedure, Law, and Perspective](#).

### Books

Below are a few popular print items in our library catalog on this topic. To search for more print items on this topic, visit our [Library Catalog](#) website.

- Aalberts, R. J. & Siedel, G.J. (2012). [Real Estate Law](#).
- Sprankling, J. G. (2012). [Understanding Property Law](#).
- Burke, B.D., Burkhart, A.M., & Helmholtz, R.H. (2010). [Fundamentals of Property Law](#).
- McAndrews, J. P. (2009). [Commercial Real Estate Law Practice Manual: With Forms](#).
- Powell, R.R. & Wolf, M.A. (2009). [Powell on Real Property](#).
- Stein, G.M., Fisher, Morton P., & Fisher, Marjorie P. (2008). [A Practical Guide to Commercial Real Estate Transactions: From Contract to Closing](#).
- Frasca, O.E. & Reece, K.E. (2007). [The Digital Paper Trail in Real Estate Transactions](#).
- Youngman, J.M. (2006). [Legal Issues in Property Valuation and Taxation: Cases and Materials](#).
- Hovenkamp, H. Kurtz, S. (2005). [Principle of Property Law](#).
- Russell, M.L. (2004). [Fair Housing](#).
- Hammill, P.J. & Pollock, E.R. (2002-). [Real Estate Law Digest](#).
- Davis, T.H., Jr. & Weinstein, J.S. (2001). [Trademark Law Handbook](#).
- Friedman, M.R. (1998). [Contracts and Conveyances of Real Property](#).

## Library

- Friedman, M.R. (1997). [Friedman on Leases](#).
- Alvin, A.L. (1994-). [The Real Estate Investor's Deskbook](#).

**Journals**

- [Probate & Property](#)
- [Real Estate Law Journal](#)  
Table of contents available using "More Information" links on left. For full text, contact the RU Library.
- [Real Estate Issues](#) **E**

**Land Use Law****eBooks**

Below are a few popular eBooks in our library on this topic. To search for more eBooks on this topic, visit our [eBooks website](#).

- Schultz, D. (2010). [Evicted! Property Rights and Eminent Domain in America](#).
- Chalifour, N.J. (2006). [Land Use Law for Sustainable Development](#).
- Jordan, C. (2006). [Neighbor Law: Fences, Trees, Boundaries & Noise](#).
- Merriam, D.H. (2005). [The Complete Guide to Zoning: How Real Estate Owners and Developers Can Create and Preserve Property Value](#).
- Warda, M. (2005). [Homeowner's Rights](#).

**Books**

Below are a few popular print items in our library catalog on this topic. To search for more print items on this topic, visit our [Library Catalog](#) website.

- (2011). [Zoning and Planning Law Handbook](#).

**Journals**

- [Journal of Land Use & Environmental Law](#)
- [Land Economics](#) **E**
- [Journal of the American Planning Association](#) **E**
- [On Common Ground](#)

## Mortgage finance law

### eBooks

Below are a few popular eBooks in our library on this topic. To search for more eBooks on this topic, visit our [eBooks website](#).


- Hayre, L. (2002). [Salomon Smith Barney Guide to Mortgage-Backed and Asset-Backed Securities](#).

### Books

Below are a few popular print items in our library catalog on this topic. To search for more print items on this topic, visit our [Library Catalog](#) website.

- Alvin, A.L. (1994). [The Real Estate Investor's Deskbook](#).
- Bruce, J.W. (2009). [Real Estate Finance in a Nutshell](#).

### Websites & Tools

- [RESPA - Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act](#)   
(U. S. Department of Housing & Urban Development) - Includes "RESPA in Plain English," interpretive rules, FAQs, and other resources.

### Journals

- [ABA Banking Journal](#) **E**