

Prestatehood Legal Materials

A Fifty-State Research Guide,
Including New York City and the District of Columbia



Available digitally for the first time!

This database is derived from the AALL's Joseph L. Andrews Legal Literature Award-winning 2005 sourcebook, *Prestatehood Legal Materials: A Fifty-State Research Guide, Including New York City and the District of Columbia*, which is edited by Michael Chiorazzi and Marguerite Most and is held in more than 350 libraries. It provides brief overviews of state histories from colonization to statehood and identifies a wide range of both readily available and hard-to-find materials from each state, and the database provides **links to more than 1,500 full-text documents**. This is an invaluable and comprehensive tool for researchers. Unprecedented in its coverage of territorial government, this database holds resources that reveal the underlying legal principles that helped shape the United States. Research how foreign countries controlled the laws of these territories and how the states eventually broke away to govern themselves. Examine the legal issues with Native Americans, inter-state and the Mexican and Canadian borders, and the development of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government.

Included in this database are bibliographies, references, and discussions on a varied list of source materials, including:

- State codes drafted by Congress
- County, state, and national archives
- Journals and digests
- State and federal reports, citations, surveys, and studies
- Books, manuscripts, papers, speeches, and theses
- Town and city records and documents
- And more!

"A one-stop source of information about the primary sources of law during the colonial and territorial periods of states"

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Prestatehood Legal Materials

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Browse the print edition, use the visual map of the states, or select a state from the drop-down box.

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Numbers indicate geographic boundaries of United States Courts of Appeals and United States District Courts.

Collections of Original Documents

Brodhead, John Romeyn. *Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New-York*. 15 vols. Weed, Parsons. 1856-1887.

The Colonial Laws of New York from the Year 1664 to the Revolution. 5 vols. J. B. Lyons, 1894.

Lincoln, Charles Z., ed. *Messages from the Governors ...* vol. 1: 1683-1776 Colonial Period. 1909.

Surveys of New York Colonial Legal History

Chester, Alden. *Courts and Lawyers of New York; A History, 1609-1625*. 3 vols. American Historical Society, 1925.

Daly, Charles P. "History of the Court of Common Pleas for the City and County of New York." J. W. Amerman, 1857. Printed as introduction to I. E. D. Smith's *Common Pleas Reports*.

Goebel, Julius. "The Courts and the Law in Colonial New York." In 3 *History of the State of New York*. Alexander C. Flick ed. Columbia University Press, 1933.

Particular Courts

*Hamlin, Paul M. and Charles E. Baker, eds. *Supreme Court of Judicature of the Province of New York 1691-1704*. 3 vols. New York Historical Society, 1959.

Hough, Charles M., ed. *Reports of Cases in the Vice Admiralty of the Province of New York and in the Court of Admiralty of the State of New York, 1715-1788*. Yale University Press, 1925.

Morris, Richard B., ed. *Select Cases of the Mayor's Court of New York City, 1674-1784*. American Historical Society, 1935.

"A high standard of excellence is maintained throughout. Coverage is exhaustive, including legislative, constitutional, executive, judicial, and secondary sources, plus, manuscript materials and online resources."

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