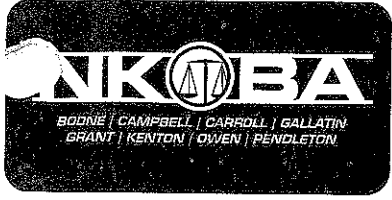


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NORTHERN KENTUCKY BAR ASSOCIATION



CROSSING THE OHIO, FORMS IN THE BUCKEYE STATE

by Mike Whiteman; Associate Dean for Law Library Services & Information Technology; Chase College of Law

This month we are crossing the river and looking at formbooks in Ohio. Ohio, the 7th most populace state, has a greater number of attorneys than Kentucky and therefore a greater number of useful formbooks to help the legal practitioner ply his or her trade. I will cover many of the excellent resources available to the attorneys who practice in Ohio. However, please keep in mind that there may be other formbooks available to you. If one of the formbooks listed below does not have what you are looking for ask a fellow attorney or librarian for assistance, or turn to one of the general (non-state specific) formbooks. While the Chase Law Library has a formidable collection of Ohio materials, please don't forget that the Cincinnati Law Library (located on the 6th floor of the Hamilton County Courthouse) is another valuable source for all things Ohio. Finally, remember it's not cheating to use these forms, its just plain smart!

(Note that many of these formbooks come with accompanying CD-ROMs that allow practitioners to easily download and modify a given form to meet their particular legal situation.)

Ohio Transactional Formbooks

Ohio Forms & Transactions (West Publishing), *Ohio Forms, Legal and Business* (West Publishing), and *Ohio Transaction Guide-Legal Forms* (Matthew Bender) are all multi-volume general purpose formbooks. They include forms on creating business entities, employment contracts, sales and leasing agreements, real property transactions, estate planning, as well as most of the areas covered by Ohio's Uniform Commercial Code.

Ohio Trial Practice Formbooks

Ohio Jur® Pleading & Practice Forms (West Publishing) & *Ohio Forms of Pleading and Practice* (Matthew Bender) are both excellent multi-volume sets that cover forms used in trial practice. These forms are tied to the Rules of Court in Ohio and in many instances are derived from actual documents submitted to the courts. So when a judge tells you to file a Rule 12b motion no need to worry about what s/he meant, simply turn to one of these useful sources.

There are numerous Ohio formbooks dedicated to specific legal topics. These include *Baldwin's Ohio Practice* (West Publishing): Merrick-Rippner Probate Law

Civil Practice Forms

Ohio Secured Transactions Under Revised Article 9 of the U.C.C. Forms & Practice Manual (Data Trace Publishing Co.)
Ohio Corporation Law (Matthew Bender)

Ohio has a set of jury instructions that were created by the Ohio Judicial Conference. This gives Ohio lawyers a set of standard jury instructions for both civil and criminal cases.

Ohio Jury Instructions (prepared by the Jury Instructions Committee of the Ohio Judicial Conference). (This set is also available, free of charge, to OSBA members via the Casemaker online service.)

Next column I will focus in on formbooks that cover federal law. Until then happy drafting ?

Ranking Tables for States, U.S. Census Bureau, available at
<http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t2.html>
See the Dec. 2004 Lex Loci for a list of these general formbooks.