

# Introduction to Legal Research, Part 1

*Please log in to your Westlaw and Lexis accounts.  
We will be using both in class today.*



# Video Lectures You Have Watched

- ❖ Fundamentals of Legal Research at USD
- ❖ Introduction to the Research Plan
- ❖ Secondary Sources

# What We Will Cover This Week

- Secondary Sources  
(today)
  - Legal Encyclopedias
  - Treatises & Practice Guides
  - A.L.R. Annotations
  - Law Journals
- Primary Sources  
(next class)
  - Statutes
  - Caselaw



# Dog Show Stalker?



Jordan and Sydney are professional dog handlers in Southern California, well-respected for their showing of Weimaraners at famous events like the Westminster Kennel Club dog show. The two have always been friendly rivals, but after losing to Jordan last year, Sydney's behavior began to change.

- Four times when Jordan took his dogs to the grooming salon, Sydney's car was already there even though she lived nowhere in the area. Each time, she watched him and the dogs arrive, then drove away laughing.
- Around that same time, Jordan received 10 or 20 phone calls where the caller played audio of dogs angrily barking.
- Once the caller said in a quiet voice, "You'll never make it to Westminster again."
- After losing to Jordan yet another time Sydney yelled, "I will end this one way or another!" Another competitor overheard and told Sydney her comment was inappropriate, to which she replied, "What? It's not like I was threatening to kill anyone."

***Did Sydney's actions amount to enough of a credible threat to constitute criminal stalking in California?***



# Pre-Research Steps

- Write Issue Statement
- Identify Jurisdiction
- List Search Terms
- Make Research Plan

# Issue Statement

- Did Sydney's conduct amount to enough of a credible threat to constitute criminal stalking?

# Jurisdiction and Search Terms

- **Jurisdiction**
  - California
- **Search terms**
  - Stalking, criminal, “credible threat”

# Research Plan

- Begin in secondary sources
- Look at primary law citations found in secondary sources; search for other relevant primary law (next class)
- Run citators (next week)