

LRC Research Training

# Health Law & Reproduction Spring 2025

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# What we will cover

- Picking a paper topic
- Literature review
  - Books & articles
  - Law and other disciplines
- Generative AI
- Note-taking tools and techniques

# Picking a Paper Topic

# News

- [news.google.com](https://news.google.com)
- [Lexis](#) & [Factiva](#) have thorough news archives

The screenshot shows the Google News interface with a search for "reproduction health law". The search bar at the top contains the text "reproduction health law" and includes a search icon, a close button, and a dropdown arrow. Below the search bar, there are navigation tabs for "Home", "For you", "Following", "News Showcase", "U.S.", "World", "Local", "Business", "Technology", and "Entertainment". The main content area displays four news articles:

- The National Law Review**: "Second Circuit Reinstates New York Reproductive Health Notice of Rights Requirement for Employee Handbooks" (1 hour ago). The image shows a pair of scales of justice with a red uterus in the center.
- Reuters.com**: "Protecting reproductive health data: state laws against geofencing" (4 days ago). The image shows a sign for the "Abolish Women's Health Organization" with the number "2903".
- Arizona Mirror**: "Reproductive health newsmakers included pregnant women, judges and anti-abortion activists in 2024" (6 days ago • By Sofia Resnick). The image shows a protest sign that reads "NOT your body NOT your CHOICE".
- Epstein Becker Green**: "Video: New HIPAA Final Rule - Key Changes to Reproductive Health Care Privacy - Thought Leaders in Health..." (Sep 23). The image shows a doctor in a white coat with arms crossed.

On the right side of the search results, there is a search bar with the text "reproduction health law" and a magnifying glass icon. Below it, it says "Search results" and a "Save" button with a star icon.

# Legal News Sources

- [Law360](#)
  - Practice area: [Health](#)
- [Lexis+ Legal News](#)
  - Practice area: [Healthcare Law](#)
- [Westlaw Today](#)
  - Practice area: [Health Law](#)
- [Bloomberg Law News](#)
  - Practice areas: [Health Law & Business](#) and [Pharma & Life Sciences](#)

# Blogs & Current Awareness

- [Reproductive Rights Prof Blog](#)
- [Bioethics.com – Reproductive Ethics](#)
- [Harvard Law’s Bill of Health blog](#)
- [Bioethics Today – Reproductive Ethics](#)
- [RepoHealthLaw Blog](#)
  
- [Topic finding tools from Bloomberg Law](#)
  - Circuit Splits Chart
  - Supreme Court Today Tracker
  - United States Law Week

# Research Institutes & Advocacy Organizations

- [Guttmacher Institute](#)
- [Hastings Center – Ethics and Abortion](#)
- [Center for Reproductive Rights](#)
- [Planned Parenthood- Issues](#)
- [ACLU – Reproductive Freedom](#)
- [National Women’s Law Center – Health Care & Reproductive Rights](#)
- [USD Law’s Center for Health Law Policy and Bioethics](#)

# Existing Scholarship

- Look at existing articles from relevant journal articles (law or another discipline) to see if the author(s) suggest other topics of exploration.
  - See what the author(s) says is outside the scope of the article or need to be explored in more depth.
  - Often mentioned in introduction or conclusion.

# Literature Review

# What is a lit review?

- A survey of books, scholarly articles, and any other sources relevant to a particular issue, area of research, or theory.
- Helps you formulate your thesis and locate your arguments within the larger field of study.

# Reliable Sources

- Evaluate sources for:
  - **Authority** – author is identified, reputable, credentialed
  - **Objectivity** – fairness, lack of bias
  - **Accuracy** – provides references to sources, verifiable
  - **Scope** – relevant to your topic and argument
  - **Currency** – may vary by topic, but make sure you know the current state of thinking in your field (even if it's rooted in older writings)

# Legal Databases



Enter a source name, a citation, terms or shep: [citation] to Shepardize®

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Banking & Financial Services	Criminal Law & Procedure	Insurance Law	Real Property Law
Bankruptcy Law	Education Law	International Law	Securities Law
Business & Corporate Law	Employee Benefits & Exec Comp	International Trade Law	Tax Law
Civil Procedure	Energy & Utilities Law	Labor & Employment Law	Torts
Civil Rights Law	Entertainment & Sports	Legal Ethics	Trade Secrets Law
Commercial Law (UCC)	Environmental Law	<b>Life Sciences/Pharmaceutical</b>	Trademark Law
Communications Law	Equal Justice	Manufacturing	Transportation Law
Computer & Internet Law	Estate, Gift & Trust Law	Military & Military Justice	Veterans Law
Constitutional Law	Evidence	Municipal Law	White Collar & Regulatory Defense
Construction Law	Family Law	Native American Law	Workers' Compensation & SSDI

Tools & Resources

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- Case Briefs
- Restatements Of The Law
- Lexis Learn
- Law School Resources
- Interactive Citation Workstation

AI Assistant

Legal Research

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Healthcare Law



Search all sources on this page  Select sources to search

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> Cases

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Proposed

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State Net Full Text Bills - Healthcare ⓘ

Federal Register - Selected Healthcare ⓘ

State Net Regulatory Text - Healthcare ⓘ

∨ Administrative Materials

All Healthcare Law Administrative Materials ⓘ

State Agency Decisions - Healthcare

U.S. Attorney General Opinions

U.S. Health & Human Services Materials

Federal Agency Decisions - Healthcare

∨ Case Related Materials

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All Healthcare Law Jury

All Healthcare Law Expert

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Healthcare Law - Browse Topic 📄

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Law360 Health

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Humana To Pay \$90M To End 8-Year Medicare Drug FCA Battle 📄

Fri, 16 Aug 2024 22:34:09

The Biggest Texas Rulings Of 2024: A Midyear Report



Enter terms, citations, databases, questions, anything ...

CA, All Fed.



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Precision Research

Content types

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**Practice areas**

My content

Tools



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Bankruptcy

Capital Markets

Commercial Law

Construction Law

Corporate Counsel

Corporate Governance

Corporations

Criminal Law

Data Privacy

Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation

Employment

Energy & Environment

Estate Planning

Family Law

Finance & Banking

Government Contracts

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Medical Litigation

Mergers & Acquisitions

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Municipal Law

Native American Law

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## Key Features

### AI-Assisted Research

Conversational AI can support legal research by providing insights into legal questions along with quick access to supporting materials from primary law.

### Claims Explorer

New

Find potential claims for your fact pattern and highlight specific statutory, common law, and constitutional causes of action for further research.

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Home

# Health

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## Health Resources

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|--|---|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Statutes & Court Rules              | <input type="checkbox"/> Expert Materials               |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Decisions & Guidance | <input type="checkbox"/> Proposed & Enacted Legislation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary Sources                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Proposed & Adopted Regulations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forms                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Arbitration Materials          |

## Health Analysis

### 'Help wanted': Justice department debuts its Corporate Whistleblower Awards Pilot Program

Practitioner Insights Commentaries

Preston Pugh, Tiffany V. Wynn, Laura Schwartz and Ahnna Chu of Crowell & Moring LLP discuss the U.S. Department of Justice's pilot program for corporate whistleblower awards.

### Calculation of economic damages in defamation cases

Practitioner Insights Commentaries

Sameer Somal of Blue Ocean Global Technology examines the roles that damages calculations and expert witnesses play in defamation disputes like the one between actors Johnny Depp and Amber Heard.

### Judge denies Zymergen pre-IPO investors' bid to exit class action

## Tools

- Health Policy Tracking Service
- News
- Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
- Regulatory Guidance Summaries
- Drafting Assistant Essential
- Mobile Applications (Emerging Areas of Practice Series)
- Westlaw Today

## Featured Publications



Health Law Practice Guide



Food & Drug Administration, Fourth Edition



Health Care & Antitrust Law

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- Health
- Health Home**
- Pharmaceutical Law & Practice
- Health Care Fraud Analytics

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Bloomberg Law 2025 New



The latest installment of Bloomberg Law's annual outlook series, featuring more than 30 articles from our legal analysts that look ahead to what 2025 has

Help Desk

## Pharma Law & Practice

Resources for lawyers navigating the pharmaceutical industry

GO

### Practical Guidance

[AI Legal Issues Toolkit](#)

[AI in Health Care](#)

[In-House Pharma Toolkit](#) New

[FDA Compliance](#) New

[Prescription Drug Pricing & Security](#)

[Medicare Toolkit](#)

[HIPAA Toolkit](#)

[Health Industry ESG Toolkit](#)

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### Health:

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### Chart Builders

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### State Health Resources

Click on a jurisdiction in the map below or select a jurisdiction from the dropdown menu to view our collection of laws, regulations, practice tools, and other materials specific to your state.

[State Regulation & Legislation Tracker](#)

## In Focus

[Abortion Law](#)

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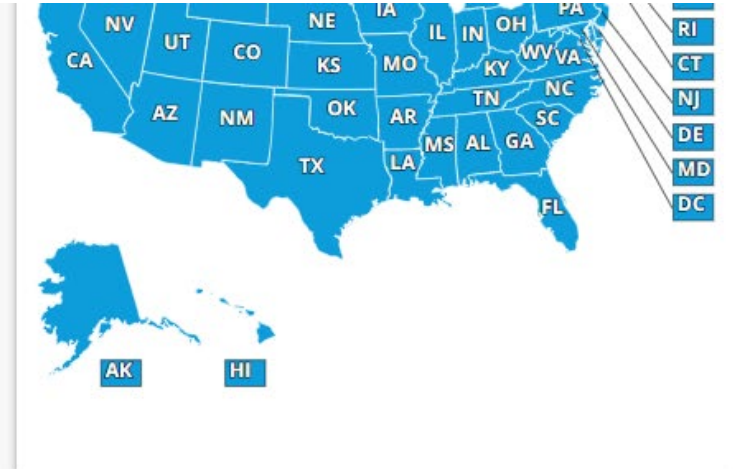
[Gender Identity](#)

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[Telehealth](#)



## News & Analysis

[Health News](#)

[Bloomberg Law Analysis](#)

## Health Laws

[No Surprises Act](#) [Go to: Overview](#)

[Emergency Medical Treatment & Labor Act](#) [Go to: Overview](#)

[Stark Law](#) [Go to: Overview](#)

[Anti-Kickback Statute](#) [Go to: Overview](#)

[False Claims Act](#) [Go to: Overview](#)

## Dockets & Opinions

[Federal Health Law Dockets](#)

[State Health Law Dockets](#)

[Federal Health Law Opinions](#)

[State Health Law Opinions](#)

## Reference Materials

[Biotechnology & the Law](#)

[Opioid Prescribing: An AHLA 50 State Survey](#)

[Health Care Fraud & Abuse](#)

[Vaccines and Vaccination Policies: What Employers Need to Know](#)

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## Agency Materials

# Legislative History & Current Legislative Materials

- Federal
  - [ProQuest Legislative Insight](#)
  - [Congress.gov](#)
- California
  - [LRC Guide to California Legislative History](#)
  - [California Legislative Information](#)
- Other states – talk to a reference librarian

# ProQuest Trends & Policy: U.S. Healthcare

- Collection on federal executive, legislative, and judicial documents arranged topically along with statistics, data, and related newspaper content.
- Content explorable in timelines or by topics such as Abortion and Reproductive Rights, Bioethics, Health Disparities, the ACA, and more.

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# Abortion and Reproductive Rights

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## Contents

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Abortion and reproductive rights have been inextricably linked since the earliest years of American history. During the colonial era, inducing abortion with medicinal, herbal remedies was common practice. Male physicians were not often utilized in abortion procedures from this time through the 1800s. Midwives, who were sometimes enslaved women, would perform these procedures on white women, though laws prohibited enslaved people from participating in abortion. Thus began a long discrepancy between the kinds of healthcare afforded the white population in the U.S. compared to BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, people of color) populations.



Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt Pro-choice demonstration in front of SCOTUS.

[image](#)

The first state law to restrict abortion was passed in Connecticut in 1821. The law allowed abortion prior to "quickening," the term used to note when fetal movement can be felt by the pregnant person. This usually occurs between thirteen and twenty weeks into a pregnancy. Several other states followed suit in the coming decades, including New York, which made post-quickening abortions a felony in 1829. Restrictions on abortion were brought forth by different motives, some of which were of concern for the health and safety of those procuring abortions. Other concerns were spurred by eugenic fears about the decline of the white population in relation to the growth of immigrant populations. Eugenicists thought that people with physical, moral, or mental disabilities, as well as foreign nationals and BIPOC populations, did not contribute to the "greater national race" and deemed such persons undesirable. Generally, abortion before quickening was still available until the 1870s, though civil fines were sometimes imposed.

In 1873, Anthony Comstock, the head of the Committee for the Suppression of Vice, rallied behind legislation that made it illegal to disseminate information informing the public of abortion and contraception through the mail. This legislation, known as the [Comstock Act](#) deemed such information as "obscene, lewd or lascivious, immoral, or indecent." The law was challenged by Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood, amongst others, though it was never repealed. Sanger worked to provide information on contraception and reproductive services to women during this time, despite the Comstock Act. Though she



## FEATURED EVENTS

1821

The first state law to restrict abortion is passed in Connecticut. The law allows abortion prior to "quickening," when fetal movement is first felt by the pregnant person.

Further Reading

[Abortion, Part 1, Hearing](#)

Hearings before the *Subcom on Constitutional Amendments* to consider S.J. Res. 119 and S.J. Res. 130 (texts, p. 1-2), to amend the Constitution to guarantee the right of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness and to prohibit euthanasia killing of...

1873

The [Comstock Act](#) is passed to restrict information on abortion and contraception from being disseminated through the mail.

Further Reading

[Family Planning Services and Population Research Programs, Five-Year Plan, Report of the Secretary, HEW, Committee Prints and Other Publications](#)

Report by HEW, prepared for the Special Subcom on Human Resources, setting forth HEW's five year plan for implementing the Family Planning Services and Population Research Programs, and the extension of family planning services to all...

1927



Doctor injects test subject with placebo as part of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study.

[Buck v. Bell](#) upholds eugenics-driven forced sterilization laws in the state of Virginia.

See Topic Page: [Bioethics](#)

Further Reading

[Court decisions relating to public health: Digest of decisions abstracted and published currently in Public Health Reports during period...](#)

**Documents**

1965

[Griswold v. Connecticut](#) establishes the right to privacy, which overturns state laws allowing contraception to be used by married couples.

Further Reading

[Griswold v. Connecticut: Oral Argument](#), [Oral Argument](#)



# STATISTICS AND DATA

**Table 10. Methods of birth control for women 15-44 years of age, according to race and age: United States, 1973, 1982, and 1988**

Percent of women using each method of birth control

Method of birth control	1973			1982			1988		
	White	Black	Hispanic	White	Black	Hispanic	White	Black	Hispanic
All women	40.0	28.0	35.0	45.0	35.0	40.0	50.0	40.0	45.0
15-19 years	10.0	5.0	8.0	15.0	10.0	12.0	20.0	15.0	18.0
20-24 years	20.0	15.0	18.0	25.0	20.0	22.0	35.0	30.0	32.0
25-29 years	30.0	25.0	28.0	35.0	30.0	32.0	45.0	40.0	42.0
30-34 years	40.0	35.0	38.0	45.0	40.0	42.0	55.0	50.0	52.0
35-44 years	50.0	45.0	48.0	55.0	50.0	52.0	65.0	60.0	62.0

**Table 11. Legal abortion, abortion-related deaths, and abortion-related death rates, according to period of gestation: United States, 1974-76 through 1989-91**

Rate per 100,000 live births

Period of gestation	1974-76		1977-79		1980-82		1983-85		1986-88		1989-91	
	Abortion	Death	Abortion	Death	Abortion	Death	Abortion	Death	Abortion	Death	Abortion	Death
All abortions	10.0	0.5	12.0	0.6	15.0	0.7	18.0	0.8	20.0	0.9	22.0	
First trimester	8.0	0.4	10.0	0.5	12.0	0.6	14.0	0.7	16.0	0.8	18.0	
Second trimester	2.0	0.1	2.0	0.1	3.0	0.1	4.0	0.1	4.0	0.1	5.0	
Third trimester	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.5	

**Table 12. Contraceptive use for the past month among women aged 15-44, by age, race and Hispanic origin, and method of contraception: United States, selected years 1982 through 2011-2015**

Percent of women using each method of birth control

Method of birth control	1982		1992		2002		2011-2015	
	White	Black	White	Black	White	Black	White	Black
All women	45.0	35.0	50.0	40.0	55.0	45.0	60.0	50.0
15-19 years	10.0	5.0	15.0	10.0	20.0	15.0	25.0	20.0
20-24 years	20.0	15.0	25.0	20.0	30.0	25.0	35.0	30.0
25-29 years	30.0	25.0	35.0	30.0	40.0	35.0	45.0	40.0
30-34 years	40.0	35.0	45.0	40.0	50.0	45.0	55.0	50.0
35-44 years	50.0	45.0	55.0	50.0	60.0	55.0	65.0	60.0

Methods Of Contraception For Ever-Married Women 15-44 Years Of Age, According To Race And Age: United States, 1973, 1982, And 1988: Health United States 1992 and Healthy People 2000 Review

Legal Abortions, Abortion-Related Deaths, And Abortion-Related Death Rates, According To Period Of Gestation: United States, 1974-76 Through 1989-91: Health, United States, 1998 With Socioeconomic Status and Health Chartbook

Contraceptive Use In The Past Month Among Women Aged 15-44, By Age, Race And Hispanic Origin, And Method Of Contraception: United States, Selected Years 1982 Through 2011-2015: Health, United States, 2017 With Special Feature on Mortality

**Table 13. Current Contraceptive Use by Women by Race and Marital Status: 2002 [By Method]**

Percent of women using each method of birth control

Method of birth control	White		Black		Hispanic	
	Married	Unmarried	Married	Unmarried	Married	Unmarried
All women	55.0	45.0	45.0	35.0	50.0	40.0
15-19 years	10.0	5.0	15.0	10.0	20.0	15.0
20-24 years	20.0	15.0	25.0	20.0	30.0	25.0
25-29 years	30.0	25.0	35.0	30.0	40.0	35.0
30-34 years	40.0	35.0	45.0	40.0	50.0	45.0
35-44 years	50.0	45.0	55.0	50.0	60.0	55.0

**Table 14. Legal abortion and abortion-related deaths by characteristics of women: United States, selected years 1973-2007**

Rate per 100,000 live births

Characteristic	1973-76		1977-79		1980-82		1983-85		1986-88		1989-91	
	Abortion	Death	Abortion	Death	Abortion	Death	Abortion	Death	Abortion	Death	Abortion	Death
All women	10.0	0.5	12.0	0.6	15.0	0.7	18.0	0.8	20.0	0.9	22.0	
White	8.0	0.4	10.0	0.5	12.0	0.6	14.0	0.7	16.0	0.8	18.0	
Black	12.0	0.6	14.0	0.7	16.0	0.8	18.0	0.9	20.0	1.0	22.0	

Current Contraceptive Use By Women By Race And Marital Status: 2002 [By Method](Page no.0129 Table no.0094)

Legal Abortions And Legal Abortion Ratios, By Selected Patient Characteristics: United States, Selected Years 1973-2007: Health, United States, 2011 With Special Feature on Socioeconomic Status and Health



## PUBLIC LAWS and EXECUTIVE ORDERS

- 1 [\[Sheppard-Towner Maternity and Infancy Act\]: Public Law 67-97 \[67 S. 1039\]](#)  
**Public Law**  
Date: November 23, 1921  
Public Law: 67 S. 1039  
An Act For the promotion of the welfare and hygiene of maternity and infancy, and for other purposes.  
[Details](#)   [Full text - PDF](#)
- 2 [Family Planning Services and Population Research Act of 1970: Public Law 91-572 \[91 S. 2108\]](#)  
**Public Law**  
Date: December 24, 1970  
Public Law: 91 S. 2108  
To promote public health and welfare by expanding, improving, and better coordinating the family planning services and population research activities of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.  
[Details](#)   [Full text - PDF](#)
- 3 [Pregnancy Discrimination Act: Public Law 95-555 \[95 S. 995\]](#)  
**Public Law**  
Date: October 31, 1978  
Public Law: 95 S. 995  
To amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to prohibit sex discrimination on the basis of pregnancy.  
[Details](#)   [Full text - PDF](#)
- 4 [Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003: Public Law 108-105 \[108 S. 3\]](#)  
**Public Law**  
Date: November 05, 2003  
Public Law: 108 S. 3  
To prohibit the procedure commonly known as partial-birth abortion.  
[Details](#)   [Full text - PDF](#)
- 5 [Ensuring Enforcement and Implementation of Abortion Restrictions in the](#)

## REPORTS and OTHER GOVERNMENT MATERIALS

- 1 [Medical and Psychological Impact of Abortion](#)  
**Hearing**  
Date: March 16, 1989  
Hearing before the Subcom on Human Resources and Intergovernmental Relations to examine medical and psychological effects of abortion.  
[Details](#)   [Full text - PDF](#)
- 2 [The Politics of Blame: Family Planning, Abortion and the Poor](#)  
**Executive Branch Documents**  
Date: January 01, 1996  
[Details](#)   [Full text - PDF](#)
- 3 [Improving Women's Health: Why Contraceptive Insurance Coverage Matters](#)  
**Hearing**  
Date: September 10, 2001  
Hearing to consider S. 104, the Equity in Prescription Insurance and Contraceptive Coverage Act, to require health insurance plans that provide benefits for any FDA-approved prescription drugs and devices or any outpatient services to also provide coverage for FDA-approved contraception drugs and devices and outpatient contraceptive services.  
[Details](#)   [Full text - PDF](#)
- 4 [Abortion and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act](#)  
**CRS Report**  
Date: September 10, 2010  
Reviews abortion provisions in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), which address coverage of abortion services by qualified health plans that will be available through health benefit exchanges beginning in 2014. Provides background information on the so-called "Hyde Amendment," which restricts use of HHS funds to pay for elective abortion services provided through the Medicaid program. Discusses impact of Executive Order No. 13535 on availability of abortion services, particularly with regard to provision of such services by community health centers. Examines coverage of elective abortions in the temporary high risk health insurance pool program established by PPACA

## NEWSPAPERS



1 [CODE IS DRAWN UP ON BIRTH CONTROL: Planned Parenthood Group Suggests Plan to End Religious Controversy](#)

**The New York Times**

Apr 27, 1960

[Details](#)



2 [Constitutional Question: Is There a Right to Abortion?](#)

**The New York Times**

Linda J. Greenhouse. Jan 25, 1970

[Details](#)



3 [After Roe v. Wade: 10 Years' Conflict Over Abortion: Abortion Ruling Set Off 10 Years' Conflict Over Rights and Laws Americans Divided on Abortion](#)

**The Washington Post**

Jan 23, 1983

[Details](#)



4 [Abortion Since Roe v. Wade: Safer, Earlier and at a 'Plateau': \[FINAL Edition\]](#)

**The Washington Post**

Susan Okie. Mar 21, 1989

[Details](#)



5 [Roe v. Wade Overturned: For Women, a Seismic Shift In Reproductive Landscape](#)

**Wall Street Journal**

Laura Kusisto, Jennifer Calfas, Dominique Mosbergen, and Deanna Paul. Jun 25, 2022

[Details](#)

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## View More PRESS RELEASES

1 [CDC Researchers Report Increased Risk of Ectopic Pregnancy After Tubal Sterilization](#)

**Press Release**

Date: March 01, 1997

[Details](#)

2 [Abortion Surveillance](#)

**Press Release**

Date: June 07, 2002

[Details](#)

3 [STATEMENT BY TOMMY G. THOMPSON Secretary of Health and Human Services On Senate Passage of the Partial Birth Abortion Ban](#)

**Press Release**

Date: March 13, 2003

[Details](#)

4 [Statement by the President on Roe v. Wade Anniversary](#)

**Press Release**

Date: January 22, 2012

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5 [Administration takes steps to ensure women's continued access to contraception coverage, while respecting religious-based objections](#)

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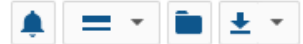
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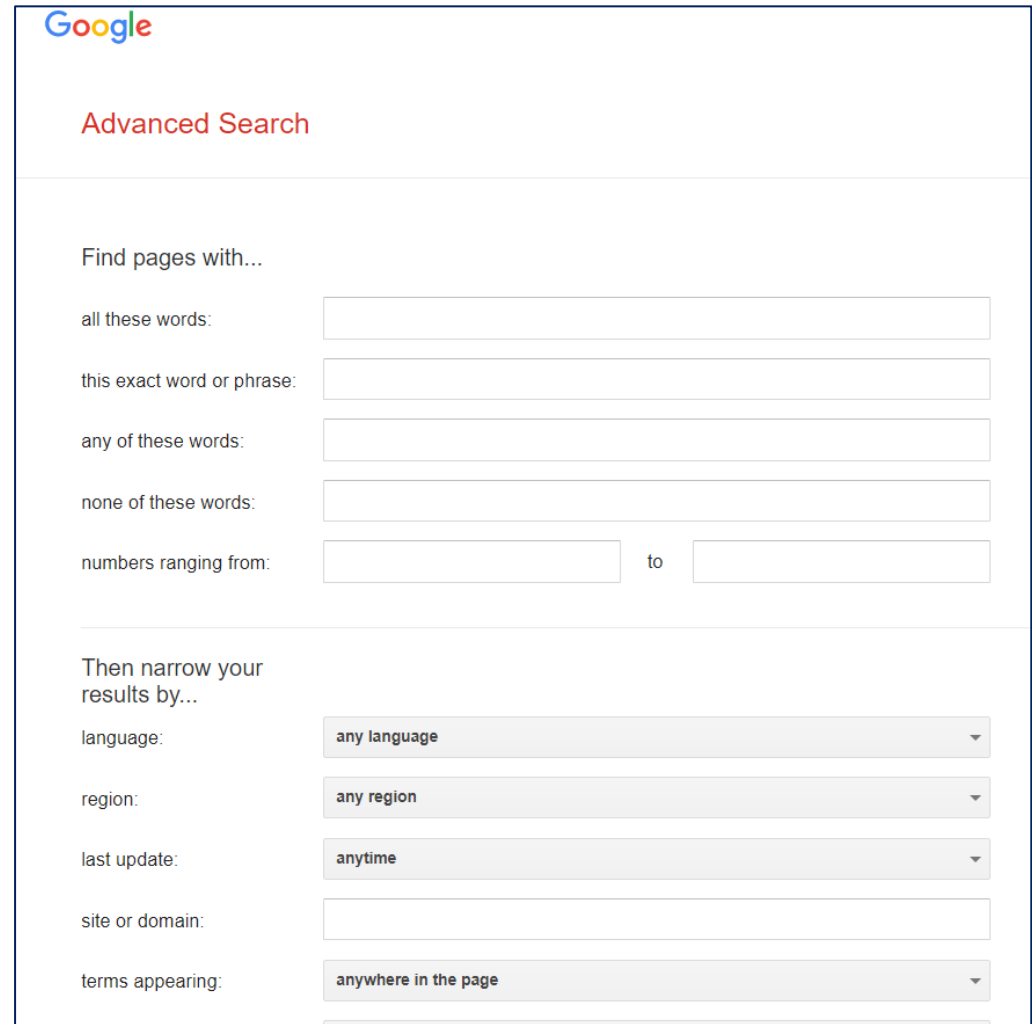
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- Narrow by language, region, or date
- Search a specific website or domain (e.g. .edu or .gov)



The screenshot shows the Google Advanced Search page. At the top left is the Google logo. Below it, the text "Advanced Search" is displayed in red. The main section is titled "Find pages with..." and contains five rows of search criteria, each with a corresponding input field:

- all these words: [input field]
- this exact word or phrase: [input field]
- any of these words: [input field]
- none of these words: [input field]
- numbers ranging from: [input field] to [input field]

Below this section, the text "Then narrow your results by..." is followed by six rows of filters, each with a dropdown menu:

- language: any language
- region: any region
- last update: anytime
- site or domain: [input field]
- terms appearing: anywhere in the page

# Generative (Gen) AI

# How do Gen AI tools work?

- Gen AI tools that produce text use large language models (LLMs) to simulate conversations.
- LLMs are trained on the internet but are not a search engine by themselves.
- LLMs predict what each word of a response should be based on training.

# How do Gen AI tools search?

- A gen AI tool can use a process called retrieval augmented generation (RAG) to couple an LLM with a search engine.
  - RAG works by turning a user's prompt into a search query. The LLM is then supposed to use the results of the query when producing its response.
  - The goal of RAG is to allow the gen AI tool to access sources of information beyond its training data, which may be proprietary or more current.

# Strengths of Gen AI for Research and Writing

- Pattern Recognition
- Large vocabulary
  - Conversational (some tools)
- Summarization

# Weaknesses of Gen AI for Research and Writing

- Confidence
  - You don't know what you don't know and neither does gen AI.
- Training limited in scope (content and time)
  - Or quality of connected search engine/ database
- Inherent bias for training sources
- Hallucinations

# Gen AI Research Tasks

Find	Learn/Investigate	Create/Synthesize/Summarize
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Find some starting cases on a topic</li><li>• Find cases matching query</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learn about an area of law</li><li>• Identify the most relevant, timely, &amp; authoritative cases</li><li>• Ensure there is no authority going the other way</li><li>• Identify the relevant rule(s)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure you've found all cases on point</li><li>• Summarize the leading authorities</li><li>• Prune tangential authorities</li><li>• Harmonize authorities</li><li>• Reconcile authorities in conflict</li></ul>

Adapted from Rebecca Fordon, Cindy Guyer & Adam Lederer, From AND/OR to AI: Techniques for Prompting Generative AI Tools (May 21, 2024).

# Gen AI Writing Tasks

- Catching typos and grammar errors
  - But not for Bluebooking
- Modifying tone
- Brainstorming
- Summarizing specific, discrete pieces of text

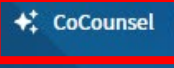
# Principles of Prompt Engineering: RICE

- **R: Role** (assigning a role to the AI)
  - Some legal AI tools, including Lexis and Westlaw tools, do not require the prompt to include a role because the legal role is built into the tool.
- **I: Instructions** (specific tasks for the AI)
- **C: Context** (providing necessary background info)
- **E: Expectations** (clarifying desired outcomes)
  - Constraints/formatting the response should follow
  - Examples of how to complete the instructions

Sarah Gotschall, *A Legal Research Prompting Guide and Generative AI System Comparison Exercise*, AI LAW LIBRARIANS (July 17, 2024), <https://www.ailawlibrarians.com/2024/07/17/a-legal-research-prompting-guide-and-generative-ai-system-comparison-exercise/>.

# Westlaw Gen AI Tools

- Search & Summarize Practical Law
  - Previously called Ask Practical Law AI
  - Scope: Practical Law content (limited practice areas, secondary sources only)
- AI-Assisted Research
  - Scope: cases, statutes, and other primary law (NO secondary sources)
- CoCounsel Core
  - Practice-oriented skills such as review, summarize, and draft documents.



Enter terms, citations, databases, questions, anything ...



CA, All Fed.



Search Tips >  
Advanced >



GET STARTED:

[Cases](#)

[Practical Law](#)

[Regulations](#)

[Secondary Sources](#)

[Statutes](#)



**AI-Assisted Research**

[Precision Research](#)

[Content types](#)

[Federal materials](#)

[State materials](#)

[Practice areas](#)

[My content](#)

[Tools](#)





# Welcome to Westlaw's AI-Assisted Research

Ask a legal research question just the way you think about it, as if you were giving instructions to a colleague. Please see our [tips for best results](#) for questions this feature does not yet support and suggestions for improving results.

AI-Assisted Research uses generative AI and can occasionally produce inaccuracies, so it should always be used as part of a research process in connection with additional research where primary sources are checked to fully understand the nuance of the issues and further improve accuracy.

[Read more about AI-Assisted Research](#)

 Researching causes of action? Use [Claims Explorer](#) 

Jurisdiction:

CA, All Fed.

**Ask a legal research question**

Ask your legal research question with more detail for better results

My recent questions 

Submit

New to AI? Read [how the AI works](#) and get [tips for best results](#)



My work



[My work](#) / New chat

Results

Chat files



+ New

Sort by date ▾



Today

Getting Started with the Draft Skill

AI-Assisted Research in Westlaw

December 2024

Getting Started with Search a Database Skill

November 2024

Getting Started with Search a Database Skill

Archived matters >



CoCounsel 2.0 ▾

## Welcome, Julianne

What would you like to do today?

### Your CoCounsel skills

**Research**  
Get answers about legal authorities or the content of your databases.

**Review**  
Pinpoint key information in documents and contracts.

**Summarize**  
Condense critical information in any kind of document.

**Draft**  
Write letters, emails, memos, questions for investigative projects, and more.

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What would you like to do today?

Upload CoCounsel skills



Your data is safe and secure. [Learn more](#)

# Evaluating AI-Generated Content

<b>Usage: “Did I use the right tool?”</b>	<b>Input: “Did I use an effective prompt?”</b>	<b>Output: “Did the tool give an acceptable response?”</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Designed purpose of tool</li><li>• Scope of training and/or RAG</li><li>• Tool transparency</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prompt engineering principles (RICE)</li><li>• Influence of follow-up interactions</li><li>• Missing perspectives from prompts</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Source &amp; accuracy verification</li><li>• Bias &amp; perspective in response</li><li>• Interaction dynamic between AI &amp; user</li><li>• Critical evaluation considering ultimate research objective</li></ul>

Adapted from Mary Ann Naumann, Re-Engineering Research: Integrating Generative AI & Prompt Engineering into Information Literacy Programs (June 30, 2024).

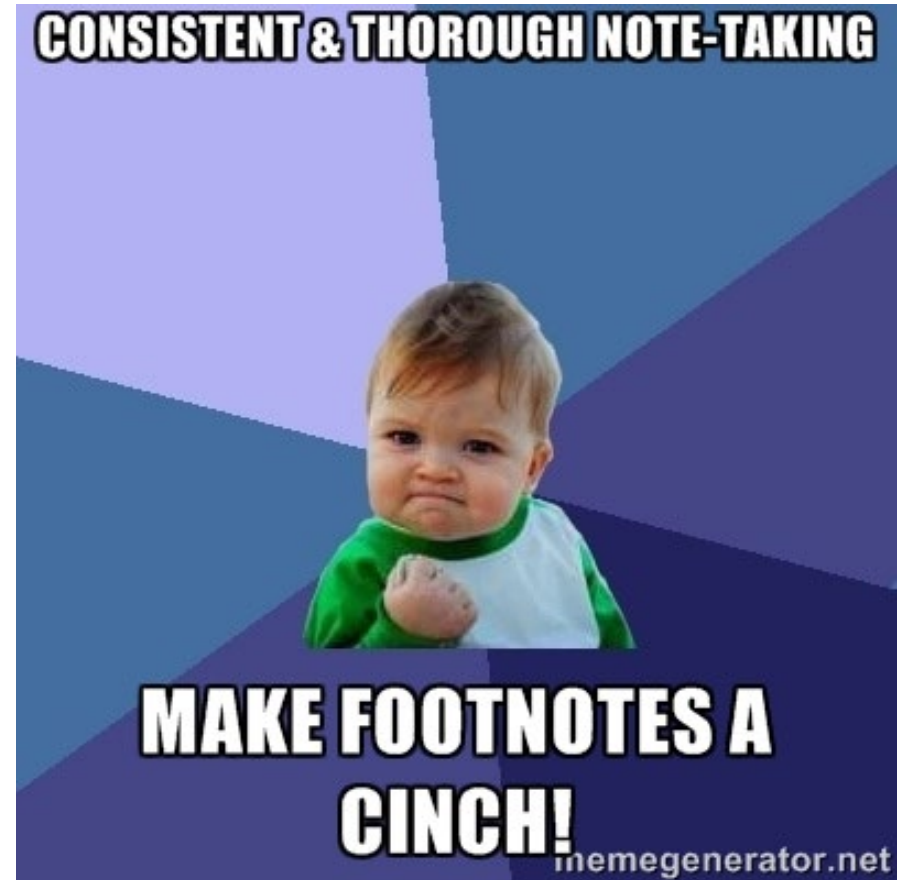
# Gen AI in Academic Writing

- Disclose what tool you used and what you used it for.
- Ask ahead of time if you're not sure whether you should or should not use a tool.
- [LRC Guide to Generative AI Tools for USD Law Students](#)

# Note-Taking Tools & Techniques

# Why good note-taking is important

- Bolster your argument
- Avoid inadvertent plagiarism
- Save yourself time and trouble when creating citations



# What to look for in a tool

- Reference manager
- Citation support for Bluebook style
- Organize and annotate PDFs, webpages, and other digital content
- Fits your research style--something you will use!!



# Note-taking apps



# Document AND citation management

**EndNote™**  
**zotero**



## Typical features include:

- Free or premium upgrade
- Web, client, mobile apps
- PDF storage & annotation
- Cloud & local storage
- Web content capture
- Citation style (“bibliographic utility”)

# Comparing Tools

- Comparing reference managers:
  - [U. Wisconsin-Madison Libraries: Citation Manager Comparison Chart](#)
  - [Yale Law Library: Choose a Research/Citation Management System that is Right for You](#)
- Setting up Bluebook style:
  - [U. Cincinnati Law Library: Citation Management Services](#)

# Citing the best source

- Don't rely on Source A to tell you what Source B says – go back to the original
  - Don't cite Scholar A to tell your reader what Scholar B argued
  - Don't cite a book or an article to tell your reader what a case held
  - Don't cite a case to tell you what the statute says

# Web citations

## Bluebook Rule 18

- Author (if any)
- Title of article or page
- Publication/Organization/Sponsor
- Date
- URL
- Archive of page (Perma.cc or Internet Archive)

When in doubt, more info is better!

# Archive Webpages: Perma.cc

## Sign up with Perma.cc

Perma.cc is available for use by anyone. Some types of users and organizations have special privileges and responsibilities. Select the affiliation that best describes you or your organization to learn more and get started creating an account. See **our documentation** for more about Perma.cc's affiliations and roles.

### Individual

Anyone can create an account and start creating Perma Links.

### Libraries >

Libraries play a critical role in powering and supporting Perma.cc.

### Journals >

Over 150 academic law journals prevent link rot with Perma.cc.

### Faculty >

Faculty use Perma.cc to prevent link rot in their scholarship.

### Courts >

Courts care about the accuracy, integrity and reliability of the citations in their opinions.

### Law Firms >

Law firms use Perma.cc to prevent link rot in their court filings and marketing materials.

# Example with an archive link

Rocio Gonzalez, *Puerto Rico's Status Debate Continues as Island Marks 61 Years as a Commonwealth*, Huffington Post (July 25, 2013, 9:00 AM), [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/07/25/Puerto-rico-status-debate\\_n\\_3651755.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/07/25/Puerto-rico-status-debate_n_3651755.html) [<http://perma.cc/C6UP-96HN>].

## **LRC Reference**

[lrcrefer@sandiego.edu](mailto:lrcrefer@sandiego.edu)

619.260.4612

Chat: [sandiego.edu/law/library](https://sandiego.edu/law/library)

Book an appointment: [law-sandiego.libcal.com/appointments](https://law-sandiego.libcal.com/appointments)

In-person

Mon – Thur: 9am-6pm

Fri: 9am-5pm

Sun: 12pm-4pm

## **Julianne Odin**

[jodin@sandiego.edu](mailto:jodin@sandiego.edu)

619.202.3574

Book an appointment: [law-sandiego.libcal.com/appointments/jodin](https://law-sandiego.libcal.com/appointments/jodin)