Resources for Labor Law

by Lawrence D. MacLachlan (University of Missouri—Kansas City Law Library)

This column deals with resources for research in the area of labor law. Work is one of the defining characteristics of most people's lives and labor law, as the law of the workplace, presents a complex combination of statutes, rules, regulations, and agency and judicial decisions. The function of labor law is to enumerate specific rights, obligations and prohibitions and to establish and maintain balance in the relationships of the workplace.

The following items begin with works that present an all-encompassing or general overview treatment of labor law and then proceed to identify single-topic works with a specialized focus to allow for progressively more specific and detailed research. Where available, prices, ISBN, and publisher phone numbers are provided to help in making selection choices. The field of labor law is very dynamic and while additional cost is involved to maintain currency, caution should be noted about the reliability of unsupplemented works.

General Overview


Kheil, Theodore W. Labor Law: New York: Matthew Bender, 1973. ISBN 0-8205-1344-X. ph: 1-800-223-1940. $1,170.00. Eleven looseleaf volumes, continuously updated provide comprehensive in-depth coverage of the field. This work is for a researcher with previous experience in the area of labor law and knowledge of the major issues and basic principles.

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And so what does the war over electronic publishing rights mean for libraries? Jeri Van Goethem, head of the Acquisitions and Serials Department at the William R. Perkins Library, Duke University, who has followed the controversy, said, "All writers are entitled to financial return for their work, but unfortunately more dollars tend to go to intermediaries than to writers. Anything published in print and re-published electronically should provide the kinds of revenues for writers as would be obtained for any reprint, or second printing."

But she added, "If PRC is successful in obtaining copyright fees, the result for libraries will no doubt be higher charges for access and with additional surcharges added in for the publisher/vendor."

Some librarians don't expect the cost to go up tremendously. "Currently, the fees for electronic services are already so high a few more dollars won't hurt if writers are successful in getting electronic rights agreements," Holley explained.

Librarians interviewed by Against the Grain are also concerned that the increasing cost of repaying copyright holders is creating a trend detrimental to the interests of libraries: electronic access is becoming a license to view but not to keep. As Van Goethem explained, "We are paying large amounts but have no rights for future control of the information. In databases of electronic journals, titles frequently disappear -- as recently happened with Science in the UMI ProQuest databases. The backfile can no longer be accessed, even though we paid for the right to the entire file. So this is an unreliable method of providing information to the university community. I think we would be willing to pay copyright charges if we could then 'own' the data."

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Endnotes

7. Follett, Keillor and Toffler, "Writer's Statement."
34. Van Goethem, interview by Linda P. Albright.
35. Holley, interview by Linda P. Albright.

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practical pointers and footnotes to relevant decisional authority.


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Radical candidate, and all the rest. Not all the rest, for the woman has not yet appeared on the scene. But nobody must miss the tale. This hero went on in subsequent novels, to earn a knighthood becoming Sir R.H. The last of the R.H. books was written by the governor of one of the British commonwealths, who lived from 1875 to 1940. This prolific author published his first novel before he went to Oxford where he served as Librarian of the Oxford Union in 1898. Happily, these books and several others by our author are still in print and are still fun to read.  

9. The number in this title alludes to a famous sleuth. The author is not particularly well-known and, if memory serves me, it is a book that is fun to read but not especially memorable except for the title. Was it made into a movie or a television show? I think it might have been but that is not a clue. How can I say more without giving the book away?  

10. Another famous figure in this non-fiction work. At least I think it is non-fiction. Why can’t I remember? Am I suppressing something? An address perhaps? Too much Viennese coffee can cause temporary loss of memory.  

Now that I have compiled this puzzle it occurs to me that you will probably need an online public access catalog with keyword searching to get some of these answers. I suggest that you use the OCLC online union catalog for comprehensiveness. Actually, some of you may be able to get most of these without leaving your chair. Number ten could be a stumper but if you analyze it carefully you will no doubt find the correct answer.


Individual/At-Will Employment

Brodie, Donald W. Individual Employment Disputes: Definite & Indefinite Term Contracts. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1990. ISBN 0-89930-512-1, ph: 1-203-226-3571. $59.95. As unions struggle to maintain membership and devise strategies to organize public and previously unrepresented employees, the fastest growing sub-field within labor law is individual/at-will employment. Within this sub-field one of the first questions to be asked is as to the existence of a contract, express or implied, or for a definite or indefinite term. This work provides clear and excellent analysis of this critical initial question.


Specter, Howard A., Finkin, Matthew W. Individual Employment Law & Litigation (with 1991 Supplement). Charlottesville, VA: Michie, 1989. ISBN 0-87473-447-9, ph: 1-800-446-3410. $160.00. This two-volume work, supplemented with pocket parts, covers the formation, duration and termination of the individual employment relationship. A state-by-state analysis of the law of company policy manuals is included as are discussions of limitation on subsequent employment because of trade-secrets and non-compete covenants. The second volume addresses rights of the individual employee against defamation and interference with prospective employment and covers arbitration, litigation and remedies. A good selection of sample forms, complaints, motions and orders is included.

Internal Union Governance