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Wandering the Web

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WANDERING THE WEB....

Selected Sites of Interest to Commercial Lawyers

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Selected Internet Sites of Interest to Commercial Lawyers
by **Professor Robert M. Lawless**
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Federal Materials

(1) United States Code

<<http://www.law.cornell.edu:80/uscode>>.

The U.S. Code is maintained by the **Legal Information Institute** ("LII") and is current as of 1/26/94. Updates may be tracked through the **Library of Congress' Thomas site**, which is discussed below. The LII maintains a page to assist in the update process at <<http://www.law.cornell.edu/lexicon/uscode.html>>.

(2) Specific federal statutes

Securities Act of 1933

<<http://www.law.uc.edu/CCL/33Act/index.html>>

Securities Act of 1934

<<http://www.law.uc.edu/CCL/34Act/index.html>>

Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1994

<<http://bankrupt.com/usbc.1994.html>>

(3) U.S. Supreme Court decisions

<<http://www.law.cornell.edu:-80/supct/supct.table.html>>.

This is a searchable database of opinions dating back to 1990.

(4) Other court decisions

<<http://www.law.cornell.edu/opinions.html>>

All of the U.S. Courts of Appeals and at least thirteen state courts have searchable databases of recent opinions. Generally, these databases have opinions for only the most recent year or two, but their usefulness will grow as the years go by.

(5) Code of Federal Regulations

<<http://www.pls.com:8001/his/cfr.html>>

The House of Representatives maintains a searchable database of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(6) Federal bill tracking & legislative history

<<http://thomas.loc.gov>>

The Library of Congress' free Thomas service contains a wealth of information, including the text of bills pending before Congress as well as text from the Congressional Record. Thomas allows you to search for bills by subject, keywords, committee and sponsor. Thomas also contains links to many more government sites with further information.

Bankruptcy & Commercial Law Materials

(1) Internet Bankruptcy Library

<<http://bankrupt.com>>

The **Bankruptcy Creditors' Service** maintains an extensive collection of bankruptcy materials, such as news stories about major chapter 11s <[ftp://bankrupt.com/chap11.html](http://bankrupt.com/chap11.html)>; some financial data from major chapter 11s <[ftp://bankrupt.com/Bankruptcy_Petitions](http://bankrupt.com/Bankruptcy_Petitions)>; the full text of the **Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1994** <<http://bankrupt.com/usbc.1994.html>>; a limited library of form pleadings <<http://bankrupt.com/plead.html>>; and other materials.

(2) Credit Mgmt. Info. & Support, Inc.

<<http://www.teleport.com/%7Erichh/index.html>>

This company's Web server provides an overview of many business bankruptcy issues.

(3) Massachusetts Bankruptcy Page

<<http://prospex.com/craigmacauley/bankruptcy.html>>

The Boston law firm of **Craig & Macauley** maintains a Web site with a searchable index of all Massachusetts bankruptcy decisions since January 1, 1995.

(4) Commercial Law League of America

<<http://bankrupt.com:80/clla/clla.html>>

The **Commercial Law League of America** maintains an Internet site with information about that organization, which includes information about the CLLA's lobbying efforts in Washington. <<http://bankrupt.com:80/clla/legis.html>>. It is a good way to keep updated on commercial-law developments in Washington. Reports about meetings of the **National Bankruptcy Review Commission** also are posted periodically <<http://bankrupt.com:80/clla/bankcom.html>>.

(5) American Bankruptcy Institute

<<http://www.abtworld.org>>

The ABI maintains a Web server that promises the "premier site for bankruptcy information." It is a fee-paid service, costing ABI members \$12.50/month.

(6) Executive Office for U.S. Trustees

<<http://gopher.usdoj.gov/offices/ust.html>>

The **Executive Office for U.S. Trustees** maintains a sparse Web presence. Its most useful feature is the EOUST's guidelines for reviewing fee applications <gopher://justice2.usdoj.gov:70/11/ust/guidelines>.

Other Useful Materials

(1) IRS Forms & Publications

<http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/basic/forms_pubs/forms.html>

The IRS maintains an extensive library of forms, instructions, and other publications. These files can be downloaded and printed. Unfortunately, you will need a special graphics program, such as **Adobe Acrobat** to view these forms. On the brighter side, the IRS site points you to a version of Adobe Acrobat that you may download and use for free.

(2) Legal Information Institute

<<http://www.law.cornell.edu>>

One of the early providers of legal information on the Web was **Cornell Law School**. Today, they maintain a Web site with extensive amounts of legal material; many of the materials mentioned elsewhere in this document are from the Legal Information Institute. The LII also maintains "pointers" to other sources of legal information.

(3) Legal Resource Database

<<http://www.twc.com/entropy/marks/bkmrk.html>>

The Legal Resource Database is an index of Web sites with legal materials. The database is arranged according to subject matter.

(4) FindLaw

<<http://www.findlaw.com>>

FindLaw is a newcomer to the Web but has quickly become a useful resource for practicing attorneys. It is an extensive index of Web sites with legal materials. The subject matter categories are cross-referenced, so, for example, UCC articles 3 and 4 are indexed under banking law as well as commercial law.