WIKIPEDIA IN THE LEGAL RESEARCH CLASSROOM

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CALICOn June 8, 2018
CURRENT POPULARITY OF WIKIPEDIA

- #5 on Alexa Internet’s list of Top 50 global sites based on page views and unique site users
- 5,660,834 articles in English Wikipedia
- 128,292 active editors
- Wikipedia traffic comes from search engines

PERCEPTIONS OF WIKIPEDIA IN ACADEMIA

Criticisms by Academics

▪ Unreliability of the authority, credibility, and objectivity of the articles, authors, and sources of information
▪ Inaccurate information
▪ Undue weight given to majority or long-established views of events or topics

Rebuttals by Other Academics

▪ Quality/inaccuracies of articles are not much worse than printed encyclopedias
▪ Constant editing process
▪ Wikipedia’s purpose is to provide general information
▪ Good tool for teaching digital literacy skills

STUDENT USE PATTERNS OF WIKIPEDIA

- The Google Generation; Digital Natives; Millennials; The Net Generation

- Studies conclude that undergraduate students:
  - Access Wikipedia through Google
  - Use Wikipedia as a “first step” or “near the beginning” of their research
  - Use Wikipedia to:
    - Gain an overview or background on preliminary information
    - Identify related terms and language
    - Identify sources on the topic through the hyperlinks
  - Year of Student
  - Gender

- Student views of Wikipedia

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LEGAL WIKIPEDIA PAGES

People (Judges, Congressmen, Political Figures)
Terms (Concepts, Theories, Definitions)
Subject Areas
Courts & Legal Systems
Legal Publications
Primary Law (Cases, Statutes, Bills, Regulations)
News (Movements, Trials)
Lawsuit

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A lawsuit (or suit in law) is a "vernacular term for a suit, action, or cause instituted or depending between two private persons in the courts of law. A lawsuit is any proceeding by a party or parties against another in a court of law. Sometimes, the term "lawsuit" is in reference to a civil action brought in a court of law in which a plaintiff, a party who claims to have incurred loss as a result of a defendant's actions, demands a legal or equitable remedy. The defendant is required to respond to the plaintiff's complaint. If the plaintiff is successful, judgment is in the plaintiff's favor, and a variety of court orders may be issued to enforce a right, award damages, or impose a temporary or permanent injunction to prevent an act or compel an act. A declaratory judgment may be issued to prevent future legal disputes. A lawsuit may involve dispute resolution or private law issues between individuals, business entities or non-profit organizations. A lawsuit may also enable the state to be treated as if it were a private party in a civil case, as plaintiff, or defendant regarding an injury, or may provide the state with a civil cause of action to enforce certain laws. The conduct of a lawsuit is called litigation. The plaintiffs and defendants are called litigants and the attorneys representing them are called litigators. The term litigation may also refer to criminal law.

Terms & The Infobox
Criminal law

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

"Penal law" redirects here. For the historic British law punishing nonfeasors, see Penal law (British).

Criminal law

Criminal law is the body of law that relates to crime. It prescribes conduct perceived as threatening, harmful, or otherwise endangering to the property, health, safety, and moral welfare of people. Most criminal law is established by statute, which is to say that the laws are enacted by a legislature. It includes the punishment of people who violate these laws.

Criminal law varies according to jurisdiction, and differs from civil law, where emphasis is more on dispute resolution and victim compensation than on punishment. Criminal procedure is formalized official activity that authenticates the fact of commission of a crime and authorizes punitive treatment of the offender. These are all core definitions; they do not comprehend all legal systems, all stages in the development of a legal system, or all elements within a given legal system.

Contents

1 History
2 Objectives of criminal law
3 Selected criminal laws
   3.1 Elements
   3.2 Actus reus
   3.3 Mala in se
   3.4 Strict liability
   3.5 Fatal offenses
   3.6 Personal offenses
   3.7 Property offenses
   3.8 Participatory offenses
   3.9 Mala in se vs. mala prohibita
4 Criminal law provisions
5 See also
   5.1 International criminal law
   5.2 National criminal law
6 References
   6.1 Citations
   6.2 Sources
7 External links

Criminal law

- Elements
- Actus reus
- Mala rea
- Causation
- Concurrence
- Scope of criminal liability
- Complexity
- Corporate
- Vicarious
- Severity of offense
- Felony
- Infraction (also called violation)
- Misdemeanor
- Indictable offenses
- Attempt
- Conspiracy
- Indictment
- Solicitation
- Offense against the person
- Assasination
- Assault
- Battery
- Burglary
- Criminal negligence
- False imprisonment
- Home invasion
- Homocide
- Kidnapping
- Manslaughter (corporate)
- Mayhem
- Murder (corporate)
- Negligent homicide
- Public indecency
- Rape
- Robbery
- Sexual assault
- Criminal liability
- Common
- Misdemeanor
- Felony
- Indictable
- Inchoate offenses
- Attempt
- Conspiracy
- Indictment
- Solicitation
- Crimes against justice
- Compounding
- Maladministration in office
- Misuse of judicial power
- Misrepresentation
- Obstruction
- Perjury
- Pernocting the course of justice
- Veiledness crimes
- Adultery
- Apeptosis
- Buggery
- Providing contraception information
- Complicit law
- D(email)
- Economic
- Gambling for interest
- Lewd and lascivious behavior
- Exhibitionism
- Creation of obscenity
- Prostitution
- Recreational drug use
- (including alcohol, when prohibited)
- Sodomy
- Suicide
- Crimes against animals
- Cruely to animals
- Whistle smuggling
- Bestiality
- Defences for liability
- Automatism
- Consent
- Defence of property
- Diminished responsibility
- Duress
- Enforcement
- Ignorantia juris non excusat
- Intention
- Ignorance
- Justification
- Mistake (defeat)
- Necessity
- Provocation
- Self-defense
- Other common law areas
- Common
- Bribery
- Property
- Tort
- Wilks
- Books and websites
Miller v. Alabama

Miller v. Alabama, 567 U.S. 460 (2012), was a United States Supreme Court case in which the Court held that mandatory sentences of life without the possibility of parole are unconstitutional for juvenile offenders. The ruling applied even to those persons who had committed murder as a juvenile, extending beyond the Graham v. Florida (2010) case, which ruled juvenile life without parole sentences unconstitutional for crimes excluding murder.

Background

The decision of the court was based on two consolidated cases, Jackson v. Hobbs, No. 10-9647, and Miller v. Alabama, No. 10-9646. The Los Angeles Times wrote: "In one case that came before the court, Quintrele Jackson was 14 when he and two other teenagers went to a video store in Arkansas planning to rob it. He stayed outside, and one of the youths pulled a gun and killed the store clerk. Jackson was charged as an adult and given a life term with no parole. In the second case, Evan Miller, a 14-year-old from Alabama, was convicted of murder after he and another boy set fire to a trailer where they had bought drugs from a neighbor. He too was given a life term with no parole:"

Jackson waited outside the store for a time, but entered shortly before Derrick Shields shot the store clerk. There is debate as to whether he told the clerk, "We ain't payin'" or whether he said to his accomplice, "I thought you all was payin'". Jackson was not the shooter.

Evans committed robbery in the act of robbing his neighbor. Cole Cannon. Cannon had fallen asleep after he, Miller, and Miller's friend Cobly Smith had indulged in alcohol and marijuana. Cannon awoke as Miller was replacing his (Cannon's) wallet, and Smith hit Cannon with a baseball bat. Miller took up the bat and proceeded to severely beat Cannon. Smith and Miller later returned to destroy the evidence of what they had done by setting fire to Cannon's trailer. Cannon died of severe injuries and smoke inhalation.

Opinion of the Court

Majority opinion

Justice Elena Kagan wrote for the majority of the Court that "mandatory life without parole for those under age of 18 at the time of their crime violates the 8th Amendment's prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment."
Clean Water Act

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Clean Water Act (CWA) is the primary federal law in the United States governing water pollution. Its objective is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters by preventing point and nonpoint pollution sources, providing assistance to publicly owned treatment works for the improvement of wastewater treatment, and maintaining the integrity of wetlands. It is one of the United States' first and most influential modern environmental laws. As with many other major U.S. federal environmental statutes, it is administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in coordination with state governments. Its implementing regulations are codified at 40 C.F.R. Subchapters D, N, and O (Parts 104-146, 401-471, and 501-603).

Technically, the name of the law is the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.[1] The first FWPACA was enacted in 1948, but took on its modern form when completely rewritten in 1972 in an act entitled the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972.[2] Major changes have subsequently been introduced via amendatory legislation including the Clean Water Act of 1987[3] and the Water Quality Act of 1987.[4]


Contents [show]

1 Background
  1.1 Health implications of water pollution
  1.1.1 Gastrointestinal illness
  1.1.2 Reproductive problems
  1.1.3 Neurological disorders
  1.2 Waters protected under the CWA
  1.3 Pollution control strategy in the CWA
    1.3.1 Point sources
    1.3.1.1 Technology-based standards
    1.3.1.2 Quality-based standards
    1.3.1.2.1 Designated uses
    1.3.1.2.2 Water quality criteria
    1.3.1.2.3 Anti-degradation policy
    1.3.1.2.4 General policies
    1.3.2 Nonpoint sources
    1.3.3 Financing of pollution controls
    1.3.4 Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act
  1.4 Major statutory provisions

Clean Water Act

Other short titles
Federal Water Pollution Control Act
Amendments of 1972

Long title
An Act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.
CWA

Accompanies (politically)
Water, Air, and Land Protection Act of 1970

Enacted by
the 92nd United States Congress
Effective
October 18, 1972

Citations

Public law
92-500
Statutes at Large
86 Stat. 818

Codification

Acts amended
Federal Water Pollution Control Act
Amendments of 1972

Titles amended
33 U.S.C. Navigable Waters

U.S.C. sections
33 U.S.C. §§ 1251-1252, 1313-1387

U.S.C. sections
33 U.S.C. ch. 23, §§ 1151-1157

Legislative history

Introduction in the Senate as S. 2770 by Edmund Muskie (D-ME) on October 28, 1971

Committee consideration by Senate Public Works Committee
Passed the Senate on November 2, 1971 (92-99)
Passed the Senate on May 29, 1972 (passed)
Reported by the joint conference committee on October 4, 1972; agreed to by the House on October 4, 1972 (290-119) and by the Senate on October 4, 1972 (74-2)
Voted over by President Richard Nixon on October 17, 1972

Overridden by the Senate on October 17, 1972 (52-48)

Overridden by the House and became law on October 18, 1972 (247-23)

Major amendments

El-Saffar v. Yourik, 439 U.S. 112 (1977)

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.) is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on disability. It affords similar protections against discrimination to Americans with disabilities as the Civil Rights Act of 1964[1][2] which made discrimination based on race, religion, sex, national origin, and other characteristics illegal. In addition, unlike the Civil Rights Act, the ADA also requires covered employers to provide reasonable accommodations to employees with disabilities, and imposes accessibility requirements on public accommodations.[3]

In 1990, the National Council on Disability had recommended enactment of an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and drafted the first version of the bill which was introduced in the House and Senate in 1990. The final version of the bill was signed into law on July 26, 1990, by President George H. W. Bush. It was later amended in 2008 and signed by President George W. Bush with changes effective as of January 1, 2009.[4]
Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, often shortened to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) or nicknamed Obamacare, is a United States federal statute enacted by the 111th United States Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama on March 23, 2010. The term "Obamacare" was first used by opponents, then appropriated by supporters, and eventually used by President Obama himself. Together with the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 amendments, it represents the U.S. healthcare system's most significant regulatory overhaul and expansion of coverage since the passage of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965.

The ACA's major provisions came into force in 2014. By 2016, the uninsured share of the population had roughly halved, with estimates ranging from 20–24 million additional people covered during 2016. The increased coverage was due, roughly equally, to an expansion of Medicaid eligibility and to major changes to individual insurance markets. Both involved new spending, funded through a combination of new taxes and cuts to Medicare provider rates and Medicare Advantage. Several Congressional Budget Office reports said that overall these provisions reduced the budget deficit, that repealing the ACA would increase the deficit[15], and that the law reduced income inequality by raising the top 1% to fund roughly $600 billion in benefits on average to families in the bottom 60% of the income distribution.[8] The law also enacted a host of delivery system reforms intended to constrain healthcare costs and improve quality. After the law went into effect, increases in overall healthcare spending slowed, including premiums for employer-based insurance plans.[113]

The act largely retains the existing structure of Medicare, Medicaid, and the employer market, but individual markets were radically reorganized through a three-tiered scheme.[113] Insurers in these markets are made to accept all applicants and charge the same rates regardless of pre-existing conditions or age. To combat resultant adverse selection, the act mandates that individuals buy insurance and insurers cover a list of "essential health benefits." However, a repeal of the tax mandate, passed as part of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, will become effective in 2019. To help households between 100–400% of the Federal Poverty Line afford these compulsory policies, the law provides insurance premium subsidies. Other individual market changes include health marketplaces and risk adjustment programs.

The act has also faced challenges and opposition. The Supreme Court ruled 0–4 in 2012 that states could choose not to participate in the ACA's Medicaid expansion, although it upheld the law as a whole.[114] The federal health exchange, Healthcare.gov, faced major technical problems at the beginning of its rollout in 2013. In 2017, a united Republican government failed to pass several different partial repeals of the ACA. The law spent several years opposed by a slim plurality of Americans polled, although its provisions were generally more popular than the law as a whole.[114] and the law gained majority support by 2017.[18]

Contents

1 Provisions
  1.1 Regulations
  1.2 Individual mandate
  1.3 Subsidies
  1.4 Exchanges
  1.5 Risk corridor program
  1.6 Temporary reinsurance

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

Long title

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

Acronyms

PPACA, ACA

Nickname

Obamacare, Affordable Care Act, Health Insurance Reform, Healthcare Reform

Enacted by

the 111th United States Congress

Effective

March 23, 2010; 8 years ago
Most major provisions phased in by January 2014, remaining provisions phased in by 2020; individual mandate repealed starting 2018

Citations

Public law

111–148

Statutes at

Large

124 Stat. 119; through 124 Stat. 1025 (996 pages)

Legislative history

• Introduced in the House as the "Service Members Home Ownership Tax Act of 2009" (H.R. 3206) by Charles B. Rangel (D-NY) on September 17, 2009
• Committee consideration by Ways and Means
• Passed the House on November 7, 2009 (220–205) with amendment
• Passed the Senate as the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" on December 24, 2009 (60–39) with amendments
• House agreed to Senate amendment on March 21, 2010 (212–216)
• Signed into law by President Barack Obama on March 23, 2010

Major amendments

Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010
Comprehensive 1099 Taxpayer Protection and Repayment of Exchange Subsidy Overpayments Act of 2011
Public Law 115–97 passed as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017

United States Supreme Court cases

National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius
Burwell v. Hobby Lobby
King v. Burwell
STUDY OF US LEGISLATION INFOBOXES ON WIKIPEDIA

**Objective:** To study the US Legislation Infoboxes on Wikipedia by identifying the scope & depth of information included in the infoboxes and the hyperlinked “sources” for the included information

**Method:**

1. Selected a sample of 20 federal laws spanning approximately 50 years that had a Wikipedia page including a US Legislation Infobox

2. Created a master spreadsheet that tracked the 28 US Legislation Infobox template categories for each law, including
   - whether the category included information
   - whether the information included a hyperlink
   - the type of website hyperlinked
“Verifiability, no original research and neutral point of view are Wikipedia's core content policies. In Wikipedia, **verifiability** means that other people using the encyclopedia can check that the information comes from a **reliable source**.”

“Base articles on reliable, third-party, published sources with a reputation for fact-checking and accuracy. Source material must have been **published**, the definition of which for our purposes is "made available to the public in some form".”

“All quotations, and any material whose verifiability has been challenged or is likely to be challenged, must include an inline citation that directly supports the material.”

“Wikipedia articles should be **based mainly on reliable secondary sources**, i.e., a document or recording that relates or discusses information originally presented elsewhere. Reputable tertiary sources, such as introductory-level university textbooks, almanacs, and encyclopedias, may be cited. However, although Wikipedia articles are tertiary sources, Wikipedia employs no systematic mechanism for fact checking or accuracy. Thus, **Wikipedia articles (and Wikipedia mirrors) in themselves are not reliable sources for any purpose**. Because Wikipedia forbids original research, there is nothing reliable in it that is not citable with something else.”

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEGISLATION</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clean Air Act</td>
<td>1963</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civil Rights Act of 1964</td>
<td>1964</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965</td>
<td>1965</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Historic Preservation Act of 1966</td>
<td>1966</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freedom of Information Act</td>
<td>1967</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fair Credit Reporting Act</td>
<td>1970</td>
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<tr>
<td>Occupational Safety and Health Act</td>
<td>1971</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clean Water Act</td>
<td>1972</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Minimum Drinking Age Act of 1984</td>
<td>1984</td>
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<tr>
<td>American with Disabilities Act of 1990</td>
<td>1990</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family and Medical Leave Act</td>
<td>1993</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act</td>
<td>1996</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defense of Marriage Act</td>
<td>1996</td>
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<tr>
<td>USA PATRIOT Act</td>
<td>2001</td>
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<td>Homeland Security Act</td>
<td>2002</td>
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<td>Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002</td>
<td>2002</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Affordable Care Act</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dod-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Violence Against Women Act

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA, also known as the Violence Against Women and Prosecutors Act of 1990) is an Act of the United States Congress to provide funds and support for the prevention and treatment of domestic and sexual violence. The Act provides funding to states, localities, and organizations to support services for victims of domestic violence, including shelters, legal services, and community support programs. The Act also establishes programs to provide training for law enforcement officers and prosecutors on how to handle cases of domestic and sexual violence.

Child Online Protection Act

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Child Online Protection Act (COPA) was a law in the United States of America. It was signed into law in 1996 with the broad purpose of restricting access to material deemed to be harmful to minors on the Internet. The Act required that all web content be reviewed by a neutral third party (the “Internet Watch Foundation”) to determine if it was inappropriate for children. The Act was challenged in court and ultimately declared unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court in 2008.

Lanham Act

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Lanham Act (15 U.S.C. § 1051 et seq.) is a federal statute that provides for civil remedies for trademark infringement. The Act was enacted in 1946 and is still in effect today. The Act provides for the recovery of damages for trademark infringement, including both profits and actual damages.

Background

[Add background information here, such as the history of each act and its impact on society.]

Laws

[List the laws mentioned, including their titles and related information.]

Tools

[Discuss any tools or technologies related to the laws, such as software or hardware devices.]

Images

[Include any images or illustrations related to the laws.]

Sources

[Provide sources for the information included in the page, such as statutes, regulations, or scholarly articles.]

Language

[Note the primary language of the page and any translations or multilingual elements.]

Citations

[Cite any external references or sources used in the page, such as academic papers or legal documents.]
INFOBOX ANALYSIS

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
<td>Total Possible Entries</td>
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<td>Total Entries</td>
<td>316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entries with Hyperlinks</td>
<td>208</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Entries with Hyperlinks: 66%
Entries without Hyperlinks: 34%
US LEGISLATION INFOBOX ANALYSIS

Categories: Basic Information

- **Name**: 20 entries
- **Other Short Title**: 4 entries
- **Long Title**: 19 entries
- **Acronyms**: 14 entries
- **Nicknames**: 7 entries
- **Enacted By**: 20 entries (15 hyperlinked entries)
- **Effective Date**: 16 entries

Legend:
- Entry
- Hyperlinked Entry
US LEGISLATION INFOBOX ANALYSIS

Categories: Legislative History

- Introduced
- Committee
- Passed Body 1
- Passed Body 2
- Reported
- Agreed Body 3
- Signed by President**
- Major Amendments
- US Supreme Cases

Entries | Hyperlinked Entries
## INFOBOX ANALYSIS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hyperlinked Entry</th>
<th>Number of Entries</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wikipedia Page</td>
<td>121</td>
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<tr>
<td>.GOV Site</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDF</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Govtrack.US</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Information Institute</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justia</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Hyperlinks

- **Wikipedia**: 52%
- **.GOV** Site: 19%
- **PDFs**: 14%
- Govtrack.us: 8%
- Legal Information Institute: 6%
- Justia: 1%

![Pie chart showing the percentage of hyperlinks from different sources](chart.png)
# INFOBOX ANALYSIS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wikipedia Page Type</th>
<th>Number of Entries</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USC Title</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congressional Session</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congressman</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Act</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Wikipedia Links Pie Chart]

- USC Titles: 24%
- Congress: 17%
- Congressman: 15%
- President: 15%
- Committee: 14%
- Act: 12%
- Case: 3%
CONCLUSIONS BASED ON INFOBOX ANALYSIS

1. Many major US federal laws don’t have an infobox.

2. When an infobox is available, there can be a lot of information included.

3. The majority of the included information had hyperlinked “sources”.
   1. None of the hyperlinks led to questionable websites or dead links.
   2. 33% of the entries with hyperlinks led to .gov websites or PDFs hosted by .gov websites.
   3. 52% of the entries with hyperlinks led to Wikipedia pages.
   4. There are many opportunities to link to more freely available government and primary sources for the information included in the infobases.

4. The infobox is an acceptable source of initial information for researching a federal law.
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WIKIPEDIA USE IN THE LEGAL RESEARCH CLASSROOM

1. Discuss Wikipedia with your legal research class.

2. Be clear about your expectations for use of Wikipedia.
   1. Wikipedia is a good first step for certain research tasks.
   2. Wikipedia includes a narrow range of links to additional sources of information.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WIKIPEDIA USE IN THE LEGAL RESEARCH CLASSROOM

4. Check to see what Wikipedia pages exist for your assignment topics.

5. Keep up to date on evolutions in Wikipedia pages.

6. Take advantage of opportunities to update and contribute to information on Wikipedia.