

# Gaming Research Tips

.....quick start for studies, reports and papers

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## Tip Sheet #5: Federal Gaming Laws

**Federal gaming issues.** The majority of gaming laws are state laws and related regulations.

However, national laws that involve interstate commerce, interstate wire and wireless communications, and gaming without boundaries, such as the Internet spill over into Federal law.

[Thomas](#) is the Library of Congress's legislative information storehouse on the Internet. Search by bill number or key word. Available: bill summary, bill text, text search, Committee reports, and more.

**Federal legislative process.** For a brief update on federal lawmaking, see the online publication, "How Our Laws are Made" found at the [Thomas web site](#).

Learn how to find:

--Copies of bills, their amendments and status as to voting, passage, etc.

--Documents that go with a bill, such as Senate or House Reports (legislative history)

--Copies of the *Congressional Record* showing debates on the floor

--Reports of Hearings on a bill where testimony is taken

**Law citations.** This is not a course in legal research so you will have to pick up the finer points on your own.

The leading authority for legal citation is *The Blue Book*, sometimes called *A Uniform System of Citation*, put out by Harvard and found in every library.

A good rule of thumb to remember is that citations have 3 parts:

Number/Abbreviation/Number

The first number is the volume; in the middle is the book name abbreviated and the final number is the page or section where the law can be found.

A single law goes from a public law to a collection of statutes (by year and date) to a classified system by subject called a code.

A public law such as the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 is known as P.L. 100-497. The same law may be cited as 102 Stat. 2467 showing the volume and page of the *Statutes at Large*. It can also be 25 U.S.C. 2701 where the law is later filed with other laws on the same subject in the *United States Code*.

**United States Constitution.** This is the supreme law of the land, but don't look for the term gambling there. The Constitution is more likely to be relevant to the denial of a gambler's constitutional rights or the sovereignty of Indian tribes who own casinos.

The U. S. Congress updates and republishes the Constitution from time to time. See the latest print or online

version titled: [\*The Constitution of the United States of America, Analysis and Interpretation: Annotations of Cases Decided by the Supreme Court of the United States.\*](#) It links the Constitution to related cases for broader understanding and interpretation.

**Suggested topics for research.**

- relation of the Bank Secrecy Act to casino cash transactions
- College sports betting—Should it be banned
- Communications Act of 1934 & the broadcasting of gambling ads
- Cruise ships and gambling in international waters
- Money laundering through casinos as a Federal financial crime
- how the Federal Wire Act affects horseracing
- Does the USA Patriot Act consider casinos as financial institutions
- Tax implications of wagering gains & losses
- Wagering Paraphernalia Act and the shipment of slot machines
- reporting of jackpots to the IRS

**For more information:**

*Federal Gambling Law.* Cabot, A. N., et al., 1999.