

**Supreme Court Law Library**  
Brigid Hoffman, Chief of Legal Research  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501  
605-773-4898  
Open 8 am – 5 pm Monday-Friday



Located on the second floor of the South Dakota State Capitol, the Supreme Court Law Library offers reference services for the Court and its staff and is open for use by attorneys and the public during regular business hours. SDCL 16-1-14 provides:

The Supreme Court library shall consist of all constitutions, statutes, session laws, court reports, digests, textbooks, and other legal publications now owned by the state and under the control of the justices of the Supreme Court, or which may hereafter be acquired by purchase, exchange, or otherwise.

The Supreme Court library shall be under the exclusive control and supervision of the justices of the Supreme Court who are hereby authorized to make such rules and regulations regarding its use as they may deem proper.

The library's collection contains materials and titles related to South Dakota law, including published decisions, codified law, legislative materials, attorney general's opinions, and the South Dakota Law Review. Basic federal resources and several legal treatises are also found in the library.

## **Federal Depository Library**

The library became a federal depository library in 1978. It serves the government needs of the single U.S. Congressional District that encompasses all of South Dakota. The only other depository near it is the State Library, also in Pierre.



[FDLP Basic Collection](#)

## **Borrowing Materials**

Supreme Court personnel may borrow any book from the library at any time. No other person may remove a book from the library without first obtaining permission from the chief of legal research. Check-out cards with instructions are found throughout the library to document borrowed materials.

## **Services for Individuals Outside the Supreme Court**

The library staff is available to assist individuals outside of the Supreme Court in locating documents from specific citations to law-related materials. For those outside the Court, the staff is not authorized to perform legal research, explain what a particular opinion or statute means, or advise a course of action. Staff may, via email, provide scans of requested materials of reasonable length to patrons outside of the Court. Staff reserves the right to decline a request from an individual outside of the Court.

## **Technology Access**

The library has two computers that provide public access to Westlaw. Patrons visiting the library may use these computers for legal research. The library has a third computer with a microfiche/microfilm scanner and software. Patrons may print from this scanner. There is no other public access to a copier or printer. The third library computer also allows access to the electronic FDLP basic collection through a desktop link.

## **Decorum**

The law library is a quiet place to research. Users are asked to act in a respectful manner.