Strategy for Success:

1. Narrow the question and plan your research

2. Start with secondary sources

3. Find primary sources cited in secondary sources
Narrow the Question & Plan Your Research

- What are the legal issues (both broad and narrow)?
- What are the facts?
- What is the applicable jurisdiction?

*Use the answers to these questions to generate search terms, which you can use in various combinations to generate results.*
Start With Secondary Sources!

- Legal Encyclopedias
- ALRs (American Law Reports)
- Restatements
- Treatises
- Law journal articles

Starting with scholarly sources *about* your topic will help you learn the important details and *also* cite to relevant primary sources (cases, statutes, and regulations)!
Use Secondary Source Citations to Primary Sources

Secondary sources will mention relevant statutes, cases, and regulations. Use these citations to build your research.

Statutes, cases, and regulations at federal, state, and local levels can all have an impact on your issue.
Learn More:
Guide to Getting Started with Legal Research

Get Research Help from a Law Librarian:
Schedule a Research Consultation