

# Law Library Briefs

Roger Williams University School of Law Library



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## Rhode Island Practice Materials

In addition to the sources for Rhode Island case law, statutes and administrative law, there are various practice materials which you might find useful in researching Rhode Island law. Two major publishers of Rhode Island practice materials are the Rhode Island Bar Association (<http://www.ribar.com>) and the National Business Institute, Inc. The Rhode Island Bar Association's Continuing Legal Education committee plans and offers over sixty programs annually on various topics.

Presenters of CLE programs generally submit written materials to supplement their presentations. These written materials are published in hardcopy and one copy of each is purchased for the Law Library's collection. The level of detail on the topic varies from one CLE publication to another as some are meant to bring the practitioner up-to-date with the recent changes in that area of law rather than being a comprehensive treatise on that area of law. The contents of a CLE publication might include discussion of recent cases, newly enacted statutes, or regulations that have been recently issued by a state agency. Forms, where appropriate, are

often included.

The CLE materials are shelved by call number in the stacks along with the official *Rhode Island Reports*, the *West's Rhode Island Digest*, the *Rhode Island General Laws*, and the *Code of Rhode Island Rules and Regulations*. The call number of the CLE materials begins with the three letters "KFR." To search for CLE publications on a topic using the Law Library's WebCatalog, conduct a keyword search and add the phrase "Rhode Island" to your search query (e.g. "**Rhode Island**" and **wills**). To browse a listing of CLE publications by subject using the WebCatalog, click on Subject Headings and type in "Rhode Island." If there is more than one edition of a title, the current edition does not circulate. The inside cover of the book is stamped "non-circulating." Previous editions may be checked out of the library for a period of twenty-one days.

Here are some other selected Rhode Island practice materials:

℘ A recent addition to the Rhode Island collection is *Rhode Island Civil and Appellate Procedure: Rules of Civil and Appellate*

*Procedure with Commentaries* (Reserve and Stacks, KFR529. A2 R84 2004 - ). This work updates Professor Robert B. Kent's classic treatise, *Rules of Civil Procedure with Commentaries* (KFR528 .R84 1969). Part I focuses on the Superior Court Rules of Civil Procedure. It is a collaborative effort by Professor Kent, Professor B. Mitchell Simpson, III, former Rhode Island Supreme Court Justice Robert G. Flanders, Jr., and David Wollin of the Providence law firm Adler Pollock & Sheehan. Part 2 focuses on the Supreme Court Rules of Appellate Procedure and is authored by Mr. Wollin.

℘ The *Rhode Island Zoning Handbook* (KFR458 .C43 1993-) is authored by Roland F. Chase and is supplemented annually. The *Handbook* covers ordinances, restrictions, nonconforming cases and substandard lots, and historic district zoning. Other topics in the *Handbook* are the zoning board of review, relief, enforcement, administrative appeals, and judicial review. Mr. Chase is "of counsel" to Miller Scott & Holbrook in Newport.

℘ Boston University Professor of Law Eric D. Green is the editor of

the *Rhode Island Evidence Manual* (KFR540 .A44 .G74 2005 - ). The *Manual* is organized by Rule. The text of each Rule is accompanied by the Advisory Committee's Note and Case Developments, consisting of annotations of cases in which the Court has interpreted that Rule. The Rhode Island Rules of Evidence are based upon the Federal Rules of Evidence.

☞ Attorneys Jeffrey L. Hirsch and Catherine Reuben of Robinson & Cole are the co-authors of *Labor and Employment in Rhode Island: A Guide to Rhode Island Employment Laws, Regulations, and Practices* (KFR331 .H57 1992). This comprehensive *Guide* discusses the various federal laws and regulations governing the employer - employee relationship in addition to Rhode Island state laws, regulations, and cases. Applicable forms are included. The *Guide* is updated annually.

☞ *The R.I. Child Welfare Law: A Lawyer's Guide* (KFR350 .C4 O3 1998) by Sharon O'Keefe is a compilation of the text of statutes and case law annotations relevant to the law of child welfare in Rhode Island. There are chapters on various proceedings in Family Court and the role of the Department of Children, Youth and Families in the Rhode Island child welfare system. Ms. O'Keefe is with the Office of the Child Advocate in Rhode Island.

☞ For those looking for guidance in drafting civil jury instructions, you might find the instructions you are looking for in the *Model*

*Civil Jury Instructions for Rhode Island* (Reserve and Stacks, KFR542.6 .Z9 J87 2003). This is a project of the Rhode Island Bar Association Superior Court Bench/Bar Committee. Instructions are organized by topic in numbered chapters and sections. Chapters 100 through 400 contain the most commonly used instructions. Chapters numbered 1000 *et seq.* consist of model jury instructions pertaining to specific tort actions. Instructions on damages are included.

☞ Attorney Ronald J. Resmini has authored several treatises on Rhode Island law. Among them are *Rhode Island Civil Practice and Procedure* (Reserve, KFR530 .R47 1996 - ) and *Rhode Island Tort Law and Personal Injury Practice*, 2d ed. (Reserve and Stacks, KFR 197 .P3 R47 1999). These treatises are updated with annual cumulative supplements. To view the contents of these treatises or others using the Law Library WebCatalog, just type in the titles.

☞ Although a bit outdated, *Wills, Trusts and Gifts* by David T. Riedel (Reserve, KFR144 .R48) is a useful treatise to consult for Rhode Island law on the formalities, construction and interpretation of wills, alternatives to wills, trusts, and gifts. Powers of attorney, advance medical directives, antenuptial agreements, simultaneous deaths, and anatomical gifts are also covered. There is an appendix containing forms. Mr. Riedel is a partner with the Providence law firm of

Tillinghast Licht LLP.



## Library News

New Library Student Assistants!

Hired this spring to work at the Circulation Desk as Library Student Assistants are first-year students Camilla Stevens and Jillian Carpenter. They staff the Circulation Desk on Saturdays from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Camilla graduated from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. She has her B.S. in Political Science and minored in Criminal Justice and International Studies. She worked for a year prior to coming to law school. Camilla decided to attend law school because she wants to be able to speak for those who otherwise would not be heard. She has a strong interest in the First Amendment and hopefully will one day be practising in that area.

Jillian is from East Windsor, New Jersey. She received a B.A. from Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania where she worked as both a Writing Associate for the English Department and an Alumni researcher for the Director of Development. Jillian's area of interest is intellectual property.

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