
THE CONSTITUTIONS OF THE STATES

A STATE BY STATE GUIDE AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

to Current Scholarly Research



OF THE STATES

A STATE BY STATE

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to Current Scholarly Research

by
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INTRODUCTION

This book is a companion volume to *The Constitution of the United States: A Guide and Bibliography to Current Scholarly Research*. The first title was initiated largely to help commemorate and participate in the increased research effort celebrating the bicentennial of the United States Constitution. Frequently during the compilation of our first work we found references to state constitutional scholarship. Many of the state constitutions have been revised and rewritten over the years, but the secondary literature and commentary surrounding these legal milestones has lagged far behind that of the federal constitution. Additionally, no comprehensive bibliography existed which compiled and organized this body of secondary literature. Our objective in this new title remained the same: to provide the legal scholar and researcher with both a guide and a bibliography to constitutional writings. Our hope is that *The Constitutions of the States: A State by State Guide and Bibliography to Current Scholarly Research* will provide direction for future researchers and in so doing open up this vast area of generally untapped resources and bring it into the fabric of the American legal world.

The Constitutions of the States focuses primarily upon current research in the legal periodical literature. The design and organizational structure follows that established with our prior work. This time each chapter is devoted to a single state constitution and within each chapter the entries are arranged according to the specific articles and sections of the respective state constitutions. This method of presentation enables the researcher to focus directly upon the specific topic areas of interest. Under each article and section the entries are then arranged in reverse chronological order and then alphabetically by the author's last name. This arrangement presents the most current and pertinent items first for the investigator's review.

We consider *The Constitutions of the States* a guide in the truest sense. As with our earlier work on the United States Constitution, what we have provided here is far more than a simple listing of entries. From the Table of Contents one can see the myriad diversity presented to the legal scholar with these fifty different state constitutions. With ratification dates which range from as far back as 1784 for New Hampshire to as recent as 1986 for Rhode Island, one sees the foundation for a broad spectrum of American legal tradition. One of the most daunting of tasks, both for the scholar and bibliographer, when confronting these fifty different constitutional documents is their lack of uniformity. Although most do follow structures and basic content of the federal constitution, there are significantly unique features in each state constitution. This is represented in the different titles given to each article and section and in the manner of their presentation. To discern the rich insight these many unique and often subtle differences imply, the researcher only needs to consult the classic *Index Digest of State Constitutions* (2d ed. 1959-1969) published by Oceana Publications to see comparative and parallel statements of provisions of all state constitutions arranged by subject.

In *The Constitutions of the States*, we have arranged the entries by state and then by article of each constitution. Additionally, we have also provided a number of different indexes which will assist the researcher. As with our previous work, we have included an Author Index and Title Index which identify each entry. All entries in the bibliography are presented following the *Uniform System of Citation* format. Consequently, only the last name of the author is entered for journal articles. The only occasions in which an author

name would not be listed in the Author Index are those where the name on the entry is "Case Comment" indicating an unsigned article in a legal periodical. These entries, however, will be listed in the Title Index and Case Name Index where appropriate.

The Title Index lists all entries in the bibliography. If the entry appears more than once in the bibliography, then each of the pages will be indicated sequentially following the title of the article in the Title Index. If two or more entries use the same name in the bibliography—such as *Constitutional Law* or *Evidence*—then a separate title will be listed in the Title Index for each new and distinct citation. Titles which begin with a number such as a year or section number precede the alphabetic entries.

One of the new features we have introduced with this book is the Case Name Index. This table of cases identifies specific case names which appear in the title of entries listed in the bibliography. Although these case names do appear in the full title of each entry, they are often not at the beginning of a title and, therefore, are lost as a search reference point in the alphabetically arranged Title Index. This new index of Case Names should improve researchers access to important entries within the bibliography and provide a method for tracking the impact specific court cases have upon the development of state constitutional law.

As with our earlier work we have concentrated on current legal scholarship in the selection of entries for *The Constitutions of the States*. The beginning point for our work was with the state constitutions themselves. We conducted a thorough and exhaustive search through the textual footnotes and commentary of each of the fifty state constitutions as contained in the annotated state codes of each state. In most cases we worked with the commercially produced state codes in an effort to identify potential entries which would have analytical or expository value for the bibliography. Our primary task has been, as it was with our first work, to produce a research tool that enabled scholars to narrow their investigations according to specific articles or sections of each state constitution.

Since many of the states have revised or rewritten their constitutions over the years we decided to concentrate only on the version currently in effect. The current date for each state constitution is identified in the Table of Contents chapter headings and at the beginning of each chapter. After having reviewed the fifty state constitutions, we proceeded to carefully extract potential entries from the *Index to Legal Periodicals*, *Current Law Index* and *InfoTrac* from 1970 until today. In some cases where we were unable to locate any source documents for a particular state constitution we expanded our search in the legal periodical literature to include earlier entries published before 1970.

The uniqueness of this bibliography is that it brings together many relevant articles and essays previously scattered in various locations into one centralized forum. We focus primarily on legal articles analyzing, examining, and interpreting various sections of the constitutions. Researchers should find this work an excellent starting point into contemporary state constitutional law research. Additionally, no other current volume exists which has attempted such an exhaustive bibliographic survey of the literature of state constitutional law. We do, however, wish to cite to older titles which are useful in tracing the historical development of state constitutions: B. Poore, *Charters and Constitutions* (1877); F. Stimson, *The Law of the Federal and State Constitutions of the United States* (1908); F. Thorpe, *Federal and State Constitutions* (1909); C. Kettleborough, *State Constitutions* (1918); New York Constitutional Convention Committee, 3

Reports: *Constitutions of the States and United States* (1938); B.J. Halevy, *Selective Bibliography on State Constitution Revision*, (1963); A.L. Sturm, *Selected Bibliography on State Constitutional Revisions* (1966); A.L. Sturm, *A Bibliography on State Constitutions and Constitutional Revisions, 1945-1975* (1975); C.E. Browne, *State Constitutional Conventions...1776-1959, A Bibliography* (1973), plus *Supplements for 1959-1975* by S.R. Yarger (1976) and for 1959-1976, with *Revisions and Amendments*, by B. Canning (1977); *State Constitutional Conventions, Commissions, and Amendments on Microfiche* (1972-1980); and the classic W.F. Swindler, *Sources and Documents of United States Constitutions* (1979) regarded by many legal researchers as the most useful historical source for state constitutions.

As with any documents of this size and scope, one encounters many debts along the way. First, we must express our wholehearted appreciation to the Editors and our friends from Oceana Publications, Inc. Special recognition goes to Ms. Diane M. Peters, second year law student at Washington University in Saint Louis, who assisted us so conscientiously throughout the preparation and data collection phases of this project. Ms. Peters has gained our highest respect and praise for her dedication and the fine quality of her work. We also wish to thank Mr. Brian Wooley, Circulation Assistant at the Washington University Freund Law Library and Karen Hunt, student assistant, who provided valuable technical and computer assistance in bringing this project to a successful conclusion. Finally, we wish to thank all of the members from the Washington University Law Library staff who suffered with us during this major bibliographic project.

To our fathers
Maj. Bernard D. Reams, U.S. Army (Ret.)
and
Dale Martin Yoak
(1911-1980)

THE CONSTITUTIONS OF THE STATES
A STATE BY STATE GUIDE
AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

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