

PROFESSIONAL LEGAL RESEARCH

Bankruptcy is a federal statutory procedure in which an insolvent debtor is relieved of most debts by means of a judicially supervised reorganization or liquidation for the benefit of the bankrupt's creditors. This quick reference guide highlights the bankruptcy content on Westlaw and shows you how to retrieve relevant documents.

Bankruptcy Law

Bankruptcy law practice typically involves issues relating to the debtor–creditor relationship. Bankruptcy issues may overlap many state and federal practice areas, including litigation, real estate transactions, landlord-tenant law, intellectual property, and contracts.

Bankruptcy Law Resources on Westlaw

Westlaw includes an extensive collection of bankruptcy law materials, including primary law, secondary sources, public records, forms, and dockets. In each category listed below, a few key databases are highlighted. These databases and other bankruptcy-related resources can be accessed in the right frame of the tabbed Bankruptcy Practitioner page (Figure 1). In the left frame of the Bankruptcy Practitioner page, you can do either of the following:

- Type a database identifier, e.g., **fbkr-usca** for the Federal Bankruptcy–U.S. Code Annotated database, in the *Search for a database* text box to display its Search page.
- If you know the citation of a document, type your citation in the *Find by citation* text box. If you are unsure of the correct citation format, click **Find using a template** to display fill-in-the-blank Find templates.

STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

Statutes are the foundation of federal bankruptcy law. The FBKR-USCA database contains documents from the *United States Code Annotated*® that relate to federal bankruptcy laws and matters subject to bankruptcy jurisdiction, including rules of procedure for federal courts. The Federal Bankruptcy–Code of Federal Regulations database (FBKR-CFR) contains documents from the *Code of Federal Regulations* that relate to federal bankruptcy laws.

Category:

Practice Area Fundamentals

For research assistance 24 hours a day, seven days a week, call the West Reference Attorneys at 1-800-850-WEST (1-800-850-9378) or click **Help** on Westlaw® for a live help session.

CASE LAW

Court decisions that construe and review bankruptcy laws, regulations, and agency decisions are another important source of information when you research bankruptcy law. The Federal Bankruptcy–Cases database (FBKR-CS) includes cases from federal courts that relate to federal bankruptcy laws and matters subject to bankruptcy jurisdiction.

FORMS

The Westlaw eforms: Bankruptcy database (FBKR-FRMS) includes bankruptcy-related federal court forms and selected state court forms. To access FBKR-FRMS, select **Search one or more of the databases on this page** and then select the **Official Bankruptcy Forms** check box under *Forms*.

SECONDARY SOURCES

The Bankruptcy–Law Reviews, Texts, and Bar Journals database (BKR-TP) includes analytical texts, law reviews, and legal periodicals that discuss federal bankruptcy laws and matters subject to bankruptcy jurisdiction. Among the leading texts and treatises available on Westlaw is *Norton Bankruptcy Law and Practice 3d*, a comprehensive survey of all aspects of bankruptcy law and procedure, available in the Norton Bankruptcy Law and Practice 3d database (NRTN-BLP). The *2005 Bankruptcy Reform Legislation with Analysis* treatise, available in the 2005 Bankruptcy Reform Legislation with Analysis database (BAPCPA), analyzes the changes made by the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 to the Bankruptcy Code.

Figure 1. Bankruptcy Practitioner page

For assistance using Westlaw, call 1-800-850-WEST (1-800-850-9378).
For free reference materials, visit west.thomson.com/westlaw/guides.