

PROFESSIONAL LEGAL RESEARCH

Corporate law refers to the law regarding legal entities established to conduct business. Corporate governance is the set of processes, customs, policies, and laws affecting the way a corporation is directed, administered, and controlled. This quick reference guide highlights the corporate governance resources on Westlaw and shows you how to retrieve relevant documents.

Corporate Law

Corporate law practice typically involves issues such as those relating to incorporation; the corporation's shareholders and directors; mergers and acquisitions; securities registration, reporting, and transactions; and compliance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

Corporate Law Resources on Westlaw

Westlaw includes an extensive collection of corporate law materials, including primary law and secondary sources. News and business information databases cover developments in corporate issues. In each category listed below, a few key databases are highlighted. These databases and other corporate law-related resources can be accessed at the tabbed Corporate Governance page (Figure 1), or you can type a database identifier, e.g., **corpcg** for the Corporate Counsel Guidelines database, in the *Search for a database* text box in the left frame.

Remember that the easiest way to retrieve a specific document when you know the citation is to use the Find service. Type a citation in the *Find by citation* text box in the left frame of a tabbed page and click **Go**.

STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

The Federal Securities–U.S. Code Annotated database (FSEC-USCA) contains documents from the *United States Code Annotated*® that relate to trading and distribution of investment securities and commodity futures, including rules of practice for the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Federal Securities–Code of Federal Regulations database (FSEC-CFR) contains federal regulations promulgated under statutory authority.

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.

BILLS AND BILL TRACKING

The Corporate Governance–U.S. Bills database (CGOV-USBILLS) includes the full text of bills and resolutions introduced in the current Congress relating to corporate governance. The Corporate Governance–U.S. Bill Tracking database (CGOV-BILLTRK) contains summaries and status information concerning current federal legislation relating to corporate governance. You can access these databases in the *Governance Bill and Reg Tracking* section of the Corporate Governance page.

SECONDARY SOURCES

Secondary sources are valuable resources for guidance in corporate governance. For example, the CORPCG database provides analysis of the legal rules unique to in-house corporate counsel. When you access a treatise or other publication in the *Corporate Governance*, *Corporate Compliance*, or *Officers and Directors* section of the Corporate Governance page, the table of contents for the publication is displayed. To browse the table of contents, click the plus (+) and minus (–) symbols.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

The Corporate Governance–News database (CORPGOV-NEWS) contains articles about corporate governance covering topics such as accounting practices, executive compensation, and Sarbanes-Oxley. To access this database, click **Corporate Governance News** in the *Governance News and Information* section.

To retrieve articles that discuss recent developments in corporate law, click a link under *Andrews Litigation Reporters: Current Awareness* in the *Shortcuts* section in the left frame.



Figure 1. Corporate Governance page

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