Research Refresher: Regulations and Administrative Law

I. Ask a Librarian

- **Your firm's library**: librarians can be your best friend when you need help!
- **Goodson Law Library** ([http://www.law.duke.edu/lib](http://www.law.duke.edu/lib)): open Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. over the summer. Call, e-mail, IM or find us on the web/Facebook.

II. Finding Information About Agencies

- **United States Government Manual**
  - This annually-published official handbook of the U.S. Government provides information on agencies, as well as quasi-official agencies, boards, and commissions. Entries include contact information, including regional offices, and a summary of the agency’s purpose, programs, and activities. A list of commonly used acronyms is also included.

- **LSU Libraries Federal Agencies Directory**
  - [http://www.lib.lsu.edu/gov/fedgov.html](http://www.lib.lsu.edu/gov/fedgov.html)
  - This web site provides links to all of the regulatory agencies listed in the U.S. Government Manual.

III. Finding Regulations

- **Regulations.gov** ([http://www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)): Created by the federal government, regulations.gov is a portal for agencies’ rulemaking documents, including proposed rules and text of public comments. Public comments are also accepted through regulations.gov.

- **Federal Register**:
  - The official daily publication of the executive branch since 1936. It includes notices, proposed and final regulations, and Presidential executive orders and proclamations.
  - **Print**: check with your library for availability.
  - **Electronic**:
    - Lexis and Westlaw: July 1980 – date (updated daily).
    - HeinOnline ([http://library.duke.edu/metasearch/db/id/DUK00693](http://library.duke.edu/metasearch/db/id/DUK00693)): Federal Register Library provides all issues in PDF from 1936 – date.

- **Code of Federal Regulations**:
  - The annual codification of the final rules published in the Federal Register.
  - **Print**: 50 volumes, each updated yearly.
  - **Electronic**:
    - Lexis and Westlaw
    - GPO Access ([http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr)): provides the official CFR from 1996 – date in a searchable and browseable format; provides an unofficial, but more frequently updated, version called e-CFR ([http://e CFR.gpoaccess.gov](http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov)).
    - HeinOnline ([http://library.duke.edu/metasearch/db/id/DUK00693](http://library.duke.edu/metasearch/db/id/DUK00693)): Code of Federal Regulations Library provides all volumes in PDF from 1938 – date.
• **Daily Updates**

IV. Updating Regulations

• **Electronically**
  - **Lexis**: CFR databases are updated to incorporate changes within 2 weeks.
  - **Westlaw**: CFR databases are updated to incorporate changes within 2 weeks. Also, Westlaw links to pending changes using the KeyCite feature.
  - **e-CFR**: updated within 1-2 days. ([http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov](http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov))

• **In Print**: List of CFR Sections Affected (LSA). This publication provides citations to the Federal Register for any changes since the last annual update of the CFR title.

V. Administrative Decisions and Rulings

• **Officially published Reports of Decisions**: The *Bluebook* lists the official administrative publications in Table 1, at the end of the federal section. Check with your library for availability.

• **Westlaw and Lexis**: Both services provide topical databases. Additionally, Lexis offers the database Federal Agency Decisions, Combined. Westlaw offers the database Federal Administrative Materials, All.

• **Agency Web Sites**: A list of available agency materials is available from UVA at [http://www.lib.virginia.edu/govdocs/fed_decisions_agency.html](http://www.lib.virginia.edu/govdocs/fed_decisions_agency.html)

• **HeinOnline**: ([http://library.duke.edu/metasearch/db/id/DUK00693](http://library.duke.edu/metasearch/db/id/DUK00693)) Contains many official sources for administrative decisions in its U.S. Federal Agency Library.

• **Electronic Commercial Databases/Looseleaf Services**: These sources publish administrative decisions in specific subject areas. The CCH Tax and Business & Finance services are available at [http://library.duke.edu/metasearch/db/id/DUK00923](http://library.duke.edu/metasearch/db/id/DUK00923)

VI. Learning More About Regulations and Administrative Law

• **Research Guides**
  - Administrative Law Research Guide from the Georgetown Law Library: [http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/admin.cfm](http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/admin.cfm)

• **Treatises and Study Guides**
  - Alfred C. Aman, *Administrative Law* (West Hornbook series, 2d. ed. 2001)

• **The Rulemaking Process**