Research Refresher: Statutes & Legislative History

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): 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 Federal Bills and Statutes
- Westlaw (https://lawschool.westlaw.com): Useful databases include USCA (United States Code Annotated), USCA-POP (Popular Name Table), and USCAAN (United States Code Congressional & Administrative News)
- HeinOnline’s United States Code Database (http://library.duke.edu/metasearch/db/id/DUK00693): Provides PDF versions of the United States Code from 1925-present
- Thomas (http://thomas.loc.gov): Library of Congress website that provides the full text of bills dating back to 1989, and Bill Summary & Status information from 1973-present

III. Federal Legislative History Materials
- Duke Federal Legislative History Research Guide (http://www.law.duke.edu/lib/researchguides/fedleg): frequently updated guide featuring easy-to-use table of contents and comprehensive information on both print and electronic legislative history resources
- HeinOnline’s U.S. Federal Legislative History Library and U.S. Congressional Documents Library (http://library.duke.edu/metasearch/db/id/DUK00693):
- Westlaw (https://lawschool.westlaw.com): LH and FED-LH databases
- LexisNexis Congressional (http://library.duke.edu/metasearch/db/id/DUK00841): Select full-text includes Congressional reports from 1995-present, and PDFs for hearings from 1800s-present
- Thomas (http://thomas.loc.gov): “All Congressional Actions” portion of Bill Summary & Status information useful for determining what legislative history materials exist for a particular law, and will link to any available reports and debates (generally 1994-present)
- GPO Access [soon to be GPO Federal Digital System – Fdsys] (http://www.gpoaccess.gov): Includes committee reports, selected hearings, and the daily Congressional Record with coverage from 1994-present

IV. State Legislative History Materials
- Look at Websites of State-specific Law Libraries and Legislative Libraries
  - For North Carolina, try UNC Katherine R. Everett Law Library’s Research Guides (http://library.law.unc.edu/research/nc_legal_databases.html#lhg) and the North Carolina Legislative Library’s Research Guides (http://www.ncleg.net/library/Guides/guides.html)
- Westlaw (https://lawschool.westlaw.com): STATE-LEGHIST database