

The Journalist's Guide to American Law



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This easy-to-use guidebook offers an overview of American law that should find a place on the desk of any journalism student or professional journalist. *The Journalist's Guide to American Law* provides an overview of major legal principles and issues in practical terms for journalists covering any aspect of the legal system. The book's organization captures both the bird's-eye view of the subject and offers an easy reference guide when the professional needs to understand a distinct legal concept. The areas covered range from professional concerns such as the First Amendment, cameras in the courtroom, Sunshine laws, and access to government documents to general legal matters such as the institutions of law and the lawmaking function of the judiciary, core constitutional principles such as separation of powers and judicial review, and the day-to-day functioning of courts. Equally at home on the desk of the general assignment reporter or the legal correspondent, as well as their producers and editors, the book equips the journalist with the knowledge required to translate complex legal notions into plain English.

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