

What Is Legal Research?

Do you want to live next door to a cell phone tower?
If Sprint wants to put a tower next door, can you stop it?
Legal research can help you find the answer.

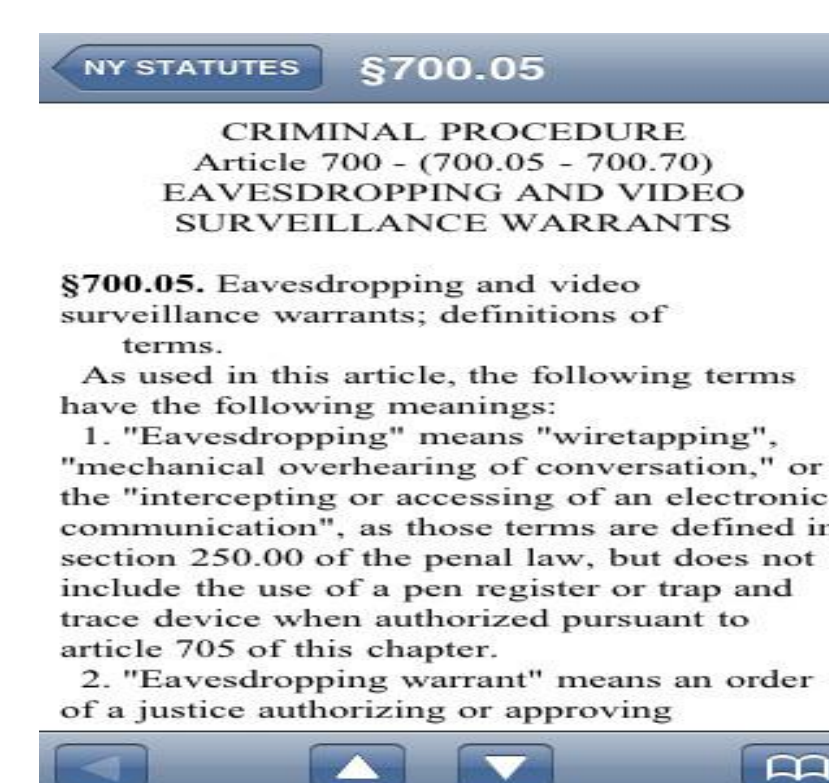
I am a professor of Legal Studies in Business. I am a lawyer. I have published articles on a variety of legal issues. I get my ideas for topics either from cases in my law office or from current events. As an academic, I get to choose the topics I research and write about. Most legal practitioners research the cases that walk in the door.

The siting of cell phone towers is one of my areas of expertise. Other subjects I have written about are insider trading, wine shipments to consumers, rent-to-own stores, and patronage employment. Two issues I am working on currently are third-party financing of litigation and the life settlement industry.

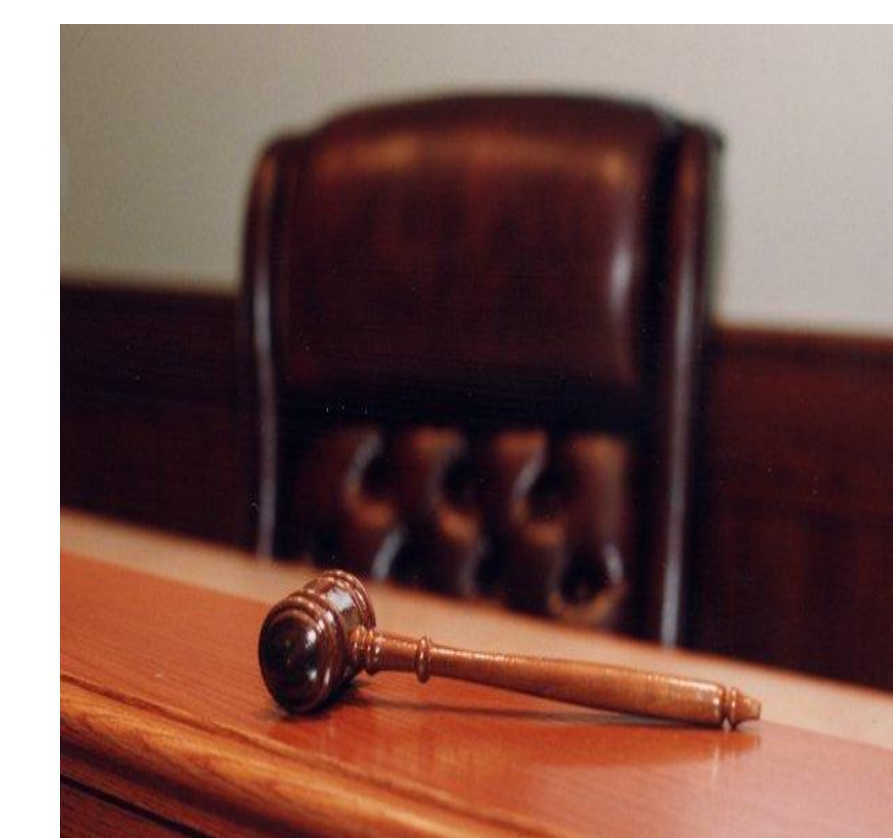
Primary sources for legal research are:



CONSTITUTIONS



STATUTES



COURT DECISIONS



ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Short answer to the cell phone question: A federal law, the Telecommunications Act of 1996, prohibits local governments from banning cell phone towers, but if local governments have good reasons (health concern is NOT one of them), they may be able to change the location or configuration of the tower.