

# RELY ON SECONDARY SOURCES FIRST

When your professor assigns a major research project, how do you absorb all the information? What will break it down for you and guide you through it, step by step?

Secondary sources are not the law, but they can be the best place to begin your research. They help you determine which primary cases, statutes and regulations you need. Practitioners often use secondary sources to quickly evaluate their legal topic and better understand the laws they read next.

## FINDING SECONDARY SOURCES WITH LEXIS ADVANCE® QUICKLAW® ... EASY AS ABC.

If you've searched Amazon.ca for merchandise, you already know how to conduct legal research with Lexis Advance Quicklaw. You use the same process to find legal research: search, category, filter. This easy, three-step process will help you quickly find the most relevant supporting authority.

**A.** I know the legal issue. Where do I find a secondary source that discusses it?

1. **Enter search terms** for your legal issue.
2. From the results, select the source category **Secondary Materials** in the top left box.
3. Select a Category such as **Legal Encyclopedias**

## SNAPSHOT OF SECONDARY SOURCES

**Legal Encyclopedias** – Halsbury's Laws of Canada is a multi-volume legal encyclopedia and definitive general reference too Canadian statutory and judicial law. Its jurisdiction-specific commentary provides a complete analysis of the black-letter of the law.

**Law Reviews and Journals** – In-depth peer-viewed articles on current issues in the law.

**Textbooks** – This includes a variety of practice area specific textbooks and practitioner manuals. These are written by judges, legal practitioners and law school faculty.

**Reference Indices** – The Index to Canadian Legal Literature (ICLL) is one such index. It is published by the Canadian Association of Law Libraries and is Canada's only comprehensive legal bibliography.

The screenshot displays the Lexis Advance Quicklaw search results for 'social host liability' in Canada. The search bar shows 'social host liability' and the results are filtered for 'CA Secondary Materials (110)'. The left sidebar shows a list of categories with 'Secondary Materials' selected (110 results). The main content area shows a list of results, with the first result selected: '1. Social Host Liability: A Logical Extension of Commercial Host Liability 515 - 547'. The detailed view of this article is shown, including the title, author (Elizabeth Tetley), and the abstract. The abstract discusses whether social host liability should be recognized in Canada and examines the standard of care required of social hosts. A second result is partially visible: '2. Before You Host a Party, Read This: Social Host Liability and the U.B.C.L. Rev. 371 - 388'.

B. My professor gave me a case. Which secondary sources should I read?

1. **QuickCITE®** your case citation.
2. **Select** the **Commentary Referring to this Case** link.
3. **Click** the associated links to view various articles related to your case.

The screenshot shows the Lexis Advance Quicklaw interface. At the top, a search bar contains the citation "[2011] 3 S.C.R. 269" with a red box and a blue circle labeled "1" around it. Below the search bar, there are navigation options like "Favourites" and "Help". The main content area shows search results for "CA Secondary Materials - Sources: Halsbury's Laws of Canada - Con...". A specific result is highlighted with a blue circle labeled "2", showing the title "Defamation in Canadian Law -- Defamation and Freedom of Expression -- A Balance Struck -- A balance struck" and the source "Halsbury's Laws of Canada - Defamation (Downward)". A blue circle labeled "3" is placed over the "HDE-9" link at the bottom of the result.

C. I want to start with just one secondary source targeting my issue's practice area. Where do I find a list of individual titles?

1. Select **Browse**, then **Sources** and criteria such as **By Practice Area**.
2. **Select your Practice Area.**
3. **Scroll** down the list and **Select** the **Table of Contents** for your chosen Encyclopedia or textbook.

The screenshot shows the Lexis Advance Quicklaw interface. The "Browse" menu is open, showing a list of countries: Canada, Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and United States of America. The "By Practice Area" option is selected with a blue circle labeled "2". Below the menu, a list of sources is shown, including "The Doctrine of Res Judicata (Lange)" and "Halsbury's Laws of Canada - Civil Procedure (Abrams, McGuinness, Brecher)". A blue circle labeled "3" is placed over the "Table of Contents - Halsbury's Laws of Canada - Civil Procedure (Abrams, McGuinness, Brecher)" link.

## ALREADY KNOW THE TEXTBOOK OR LEGAL ENCYCLOPEDIA YOU WANT?

Start typing the title in the search box and select the Table of Contents link.

## A TEXTBOOK IS LIKE A "COOKBOOK" FOR LAWYERS

Start your research with an encyclopedia to see which ingredients (cases, statutes, regulations... ) you need, and how to properly mix them together.

The screenshot shows the Lexis Advance Quicklaw interface. The search bar contains "Canadian Tort" with a red box around it. Below the search bar, there are navigation options like "Favourites" and "Help". The main content area shows search results for "Canadian Tort". A list of documents is shown, including "daniel v. canadian centre for victims of torture, [2013] o.h.r.t.d. no. 235" and "tonoukouin v. canadian centre for victims of torture, [2016] o.h.r.t.d. no. 1697". A blue circle labeled "3" is placed over the "Table of Contents" link at the bottom of the results.

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