

Corpus Juris Secundum

see Secondary Authority below

Beware Corpus Juris Secundum is Roman Civil Law and it is a Secondary Authority. Maxims are the Primary Authority, the Chiefest Authority.

(It would be nice to find a copy of *Corpus Juris* by the American Law Book Company; the first edition.)

From Wikipedia:

Corpus Juris Secundum (C.J.S.) is an encyclopedia of U.S. law (**see Secondary Authority below**). Its full title is Corpus Juris Secundum: Complete Restatement Of The Entire American Law As Developed By All Reported Cases (**1936-**) It contains an alphabetical arrangement of legal topics as developed by U.S. defacto federal and defacto state cases. ([Corporation Law](#))

CJS is an authoritative American legal encyclopedia that provides a clear statement of each area of law including areas of the law that are evolving and provides footnoted citations to case law and other primary sources of law. **Named after the 6th century Corpus Juris Civilis of Emperor Justinian I of the Byzantine Empire, the first codification of Roman law and civil law.** (The name Corpus Juris literally means "body of the law"; **Secundum denotes the second edition of the encyclopedia**, which was originally issued as Corpus Juris by the American Law Book Company.) ([Now published by the British Company, West](#))

CJS is published by West, a Thomson Reuters business. It is updated with annual supplements to reflect modern developments in the law. Entire volumes are revised and reissued periodically as the supplements become large enough. It is also on Westlaw.[1] Before Thomson's acquisition of West, the **CJS competed against the American Jurisprudence legal encyclopedia**

Secondary Authority

*Afforded less weight than the actual texts of primary authority.
That is afforded less weight than the statutes in statutory law (corporate)*

SECONDARY AUTHORITY, In [law](#), a **secondary authority** is an authority **purporting** to explain the meaning or applicability of the actual verbatim texts of [primary authorities](#) (such as [constitutions](#), [statutes](#), [case law](#), [administrative regulations](#), [executive orders](#), [treaties](#), or similar [legal instruments](#)).

Some secondary authority materials are written and published by governments to explain the laws in simple, non-technical terms, while other secondary authority materials are written and published by private companies, non-profit organizations, or other groups or individuals. Some examples of secondary authority are:

- [Law review](#) articles, comments and notes (written by law professors, practicing lawyers, law students, etc.)
- Legal textbooks, such as [legal treatises](#) and [hornbooks](#)
- Legal digests, such as the [West American Digest System](#)
- Annotations published in statute books, [codes](#), or other materials, such as the annotations in the [American Law Reports](#) series
- Legal encyclopedias (such as [Corpus Juris Secundum](#) and [American Jurisprudence](#))
- Legal dictionaries (such as [Black's Law Dictionary](#))
- [Restatements of the Law](#) published by the [American Law Institute](#)
- Legal briefs and memoranda;
- Tax forms and instructions published by governments
- Government publications explaining or summarizing the laws
- Government employee manuals (such as the [Internal Revenue Manual](#) for employees of the [Internal Revenue Service](#))
- Course materials from continuing legal education seminars
- Debate in [legislatures](#), including such commentaries published in the [Congressional Record](#) (this may reveal [legislative intent](#))
- Other similar materials

In the United States, various legal scholars disagree over whether legislative histories in the form of texts of congressional committee reports should be considered to be secondary authority or, alternatively, primary authority.^[1]

NOTICE: Although secondary authorities are sometimes used in [legal research](#) (especially, to allow a researcher to gain a preliminary, overall understanding of an unfamiliar area of law) and are sometimes even cited by courts in deciding cases, secondary authorities are generally afforded less weight than the actual texts of primary authority.