A Guide to Researching the Law of
MEXICO
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Reference Department
Revised March 2001
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Foreign and Comparative
Law Librarian
This guide is intended to assist researchers in studying the current and historical law of Mexico through sources available at the University of Michigan Law Library. It does not purport to provide either a complete discussion of the Mexican legal system or an exhaustive list of sources. It likewise does not address specific issues relating to international law.

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About the Law Library's Mexico Collection

The Mexico collection at the University of Michigan Law Library is comprised of materials in print, microform, and electronic formats. The collection includes primary federal materials from 1710 to the present, as well as secondary sources from the early 18th century to the present. The collection also includes incomplete sets of some primary materials from Mexican states from the 1840s to the 1990s; however, the Law Library does not currently collect primary materials from Mexico at the state level.

The bulk of the Mexico collection is in print format, housed in the Legal Research Stacks under call numbers FL8 M6.1 et seq. Because this area of the Library is closed to the public, researchers must either request that books from the Mexico collection be paged to them, or receive a pass to enter the closed stacks area. Closed stack pull requests and passes may be obtained at the Circulation Desk.

The Mexican Legal System

Mexico is a federal republic, consisting of 31 states and a Federal District. A civil law jurisdiction, the Mexican legal system is historically rooted in 16th century Spanish and Pre-Colombian indigenous law. When the Spanish conquistadores conquered Mexico in the 1500s, they found an advanced indigenous legal system already in place; the Spanish Crown maintained that system to the extent it did not conflict with established Spanish and religious law. The Crown also supplemented the indigenous system with Spanish laws, and created new legislation and legal institutions intended solely for colonial Mexico. This system, dominated by Spanish law, remained intact for the next three hundred years.

The movement toward Mexican independence began in 1810 with a series of civil wars that lasted until 1867, when the first stable republican government was formed. The Mexican legislation that developed during this time was shaped in great part by the French civil law ideals of codification, but remained strongly influenced by its Spanish heritage. In 1917, as a result of the Mexican Revolution, the legal and judicial systems, as well as the overall structure of government and society, underwent significant change, as the modern Mexican republic began to emerge. Virtually all current state and federal legislation dates from this post-revolutionary period.

Sources: See Reynolds and Flores, Avalos, under "General Secondary Sources, below.
The Mexican Legislative System

The Mexican federal government is divided into the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. The executive branch is headed by the President, who is elected to a six-year term without the possibility of re-election. The legislative branch is comprised of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies; senators are elected to a six-year term, and deputies are elected to a three-year term. Senators and deputies cannot be re-elected for an immediately succeeding term.

Although the Mexican Constitution empowers both the executive and legislative branches to initiate legislation, in practice most legislation is initiated by the executive branch. A new bill must pass both the Senate and the Chamber by a majority vote. The President has veto power, which may be overridden by a two-thirds vote in each legislative Chamber. Once a bill has passed through both Chambers, the President “promulgates” the bill and has it published in the official government newspaper, Diario de la Federacion. The President also issues the “reglamento” for the new law, including the rules and regulations that give effect to its more general provisions.

Sources: See Avalos, under “General Secondary Sources, below.

The Mexican Judicial System

The federal judiciary in Mexico is governed by the Constitution and by the Ley organica del poder judicial de la federacion (Organic Law of the Federal Judiciary). The federal judicial system is three-tiered. The Suprema Corte de Justicia de la Nacion (Supreme Court) has final appellate jurisdiction over all state and federal courts. The Supreme Court meets in plenary session for cases involving jurisdictional, constitutional and agrarian issues. The Court also divides and meets in four different salas, or panels: the criminal panel, civil panel, administrative panel, and labor panel. At the second tier are the Tribunales de Circuito (Circuit Courts), federal appellate courts which are divided into Tribunales Unitarios de Circuito (single-judge courts) and Tribunales Colegiados de Circuito (collegiate courts). The federal courts of first instance are the Juzgados de Distrito (District Courts) and Jurados Populares Federales (Jury Courts).

Federal courts in Mexico have jurisdiction over all matters involving federal laws or treaties, all controversies involving
allegations of violations of individual rights, all matters in which
the federal government is a party, all state-federal controversies, all
matters involving maritime law, and all cases involving members of
the Diplomatic and Consular Corps. Thus, the federal judiciary
oversees a broader range of cases, and thus holds a larger share of
judicial power, than do the state judiciaries.

There are several federal judicial bodies in Mexico that are not part
of the regular federal court system. These include the Tribunal
Fiscal de la Federacion (Tax Court), which deals with fiscal
disputes between an individual and the federal government; the
Juntas de Conciliacion y Arbitraje (Labor Court), which handles
claims by workers who allege violations of the Federal Labor Code,
as well as collective bargaining and strike-related matters; and the
Tribunales Militares (Military courts), which handles disputes
involving the military.

Sources: See Avalos, under “General Secondary Sources, below.

➤ **Sources of Mexican Law**

The sources of modern Mexican law are constitution, legislation,
regulation, and custom. As is typical in a civil law system,
constitution will override all legislation, legislation will override all
regulation, and regulation will override all custom. In addition,
federal law is the dominant law of Mexico, and will override state
law in the case of conflict.

Mexico still operates today under the constitution it enacted in
1917. The ConstitucionPolitica de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos
(Political Constitution of the United Mexican States), commonly
referred to as the Constitution of 1917, is the superior law of the
land. Federal legislation is codified as appropriate into the five
standard civil law codes: Código civil para el Distrito y Territorios
Federales (Civil Code), Código de procedimientos civiles para el
Distrito Federal y Territorios de México (Code of Civil Procedure),
Código de comercio y leyes complementarias (Commercial Code),
Código penal para el Distrito Territorios Federales (Criminal Code),
and Código de procedimientos penales para el Distrito Federal y
Territorios (Code of Criminal Procedure). Other federal legislation
of national application, usually termed Ley or Ley federal, is
published individually in the Diario oficial, Mexico’s official gazette.
Laws and regulations are not numbered, and are identified by the
date in which they appear in the official gazette.
Although the principle of *stare decisis* is not recognized in the civil law tradition, the Mexican judiciary does create a limited body of case law. The Supreme Court and collegiate circuit courts may establish formally binding precedent known as *jusrisprudencia*, which is created by the publication of five consecutive and consistent opinions by an identically-constituted court on a certain point of law. *Jurisprudencia* is binding on the court that established it and on all lower federal and state courts. The Supreme Court may also issue *tesis sobresalientes*, cases of note that have persuasive value, but are not binding on lower courts.

One notable institution of the Mexican judicial system, which has spread to other Latin American jurisdictions, is the *juicio de amparo*, or *amparo* (literally, “favor, aid, protection or shelter”) lawsuits. These suits do not have any exact equivalent in the common law tradition, although they encompass elements of actions for writ of habeas corpus, injunction, error, mandamus, and certiorari. There are five types of *amparo* suits: *amparo* as a defense of individual liberties or rights; *amparo* against laws, as a defense against unconstitutional laws; *amparo* in judicial matters, as an examination of the legality of judicial decisions; administrative *amparo*, as an examination of the legality of administrative decisions affecting the individual; and *amparo* in agrarian matters, protecting the communal ejidal rights of those who work the land. *Amparo* suits are numerous, and are considered among the most important lawsuits heard by Mexican courts.

Scholarly opinion, although not a source of law, is nevertheless heavily relied upon by Mexican lawyers and judges. This practice is rooted in the tradition of civil law, which was developed by legal scholars. Legal treatises by Mexican legal scholars are referred to as *doctrina*, and are consulted by judges and lawyers in much the same way as case law is consulted in the common law tradition.

**Sources:** See Avalos, under “General Secondary Sources, below.

**Researching the Law of Mexico**

As is the case with all legal research involving foreign law, the very important first step is to plan a research strategy. Consultation of general secondary sources and research guides will provide citations to likely subject-specific secondary sources, which will in turn provide citations to primary materials.
As a general rule, the starting point for Mexican legal research is to find the code and/or leyes that apply to a particular research issue. Look for these by consulting general and/or subject-specific secondary sources, as listed below. Next, it is important to find the appropriate scholarly doctrina that address the issue. These may be found in periodicals and scholarly treatises. Finally, it is good practice to research applicable jurisprudencia in Supreme Court and other court opinions.

Below is a bibliography of selected Mexican law sources at the University of Michigan Law Library. Included in these selections are materials that the librarians consider to be the most important current sources for each topic, as well as new and notable additions to the collection. This bibliography is by no means exhaustive; to locate additional sources, including historical sources, in the Mexico collection, follow the “For Further Sources” suggestions listed under each topic.

Note: Sources listed below as [on order] have been ordered but not yet received by the Law Library; periodically check Lexcalibur to determine their status. Sources listed as [in process] have been received and are being prepared for shelving in the Law Library. In process sources may be pulled for patrons’ use; forms are available at the Circulation Desk.

Secondary Sources

- General Secondary Sources
• Medina, R. *The Mexican Legal System*, in Danner, R. and M. Bernal, eds. *Introduction to Foreign Legal Systems* (1994) [Ref Coll: Biblog Introduc]. Includes a selected bibliography of Mexican legal resources in English.


• *For further sources*, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
  ♦ LAW MEXICO BIBLIOGRAPHIES
  ♦ LEGAL RESEARCH MEXICO

**Subject-Specific Treatises and Secondary Sources**

**• Amparo (Juicio de)**


♦ *For further sources*, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
  ➢ AMPARO (WRIT) MEXICO

**• Administrative Law**

♦ Fraga, G. *Derecho administrativo* (40th ed. 2000) [on order].

♦ Gamiz, M. *Derecho constitucional y administrativo de las entidades federativas* (2nd ed. 2000) [in process].

For further sources, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:

- ADMINISTRATIVE LAW MEXICO

Alternative Dispute Resolution

- Urribarri Carpintero, G. *El arbitraje en Mexico* (1999) [on order].

- Rodriguez Gonzalez-Valadez, C. *Mexico ante el arbitraje comercial internacional* (1999) [on order].

For further sources, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:

- DISPUTE RESOLUTION LAW MEXICO
- ARBITRATION AND AWARD MEXICO

Banking Law

- Hegewisch Diaz Infante, F. *Derecho financiero mexicano : instituciones del sistema financiero mexicano* (2nd ed. 1999) [on order].

- Fuente Rodriguez, J. *Tratado de derecho bancario y bursatil: seguros, fianzas, organizaciones y actividades auxiliares del credito, grupos financieros* (2nd ed. 1999) [on order].

For further sources, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:

- BANKING LAW MEXICO
- FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS LAW AND LEGISLATION MEXICO

Civil Practice and Procedure

- Becerra Bautista, J. *El proceso civil en Mexico* (16th ed. 1999) [on order].

♦ For further sources, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
➢ CIVIL PROCEDURE MEXICO

• Civil Rights

♦ Izquierdo Mucino, M. Garantias individuales y sociales (2nd ed. 2000) [on order].

♦ Burgoa, I. Las garantias individuales (31st ed. 1999) [in process].

♦ For further sources, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
➢ CIVIL RIGHTS MEXICO

• Commercial Law

♦ Katz, I. La constitucion y el desarrollo economico de Mexico (1999) [on order].

♦ Serra Rojas, A. Derecho economico (5th ed. 1999) [on order].
♦ Arce Gargollo, J. Contratos mercantiles atipicos (5th ed. 1998) [on order].

♦ For further sources, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
➢ COMMERCIAL LAW MEXICO

• Comparative Law

♦ See “Conflict of Laws/Comparative Law/Private International Law,” below.

• Conflict of Laws/Comparative Law/Private International Law

♦ Pereznieto Castro, L. Derecho internacional privado: parte especial (2000) [on order].

♦ Arellano Garcia, C.  *Derecho internacional privado* (13th ed. 1999) [on order].

♦ *For further sources*, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
  ➢ CONFLICT OF LAWS MEXICO

• Contracts

♦ Perez Fernandez del Castillo, B.  *Contratos civiles* (6th ed. 1999) [on order].

♦ Zamora y Valencia, M.  *Contratos civiles* (7th ed. 1998) [on order].

♦ *For further sources*, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
  ➢ CONTRACTS MEXICO

• Constitutional Law


♦ Burgoa, I.  *Derecho constitucional mexicano* (13th ed. 2000) [in process].  Author is one of the top Mexican constitutional scholars.

♦ Rives Sanchez, R.  *La constitucion mexicana hacia el siglo XXI* (1a ed. 2000) [on order].

♦ Sanchez Bringas, E.  *Derecho constitucional* (5th ed. 2000) [on order].
For further sources, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
- CONSTITUTIONAL LAW MEXICO
- MEXICO CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY

- Copyright Law

- Criminal Law
  - Porte-Petit Candaudap, C. Apuntamientos de la parte general de derecho penal (18th ed. 1999) [on order].
  - Barrita Lopez, F. Delitos, sistematicas y reformas penales (2nd ed. 1998) [on order].
  - For further sources, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
    - CRIMINAL LAW MEXICO

- Criminal Procedure
  - Lara Espinoza, S. Las garantias constitucionales en materia penal (2nd ed. 1999) [in process].
  - For further sources, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
    - CRIMINAL PROCEDURE MEXICO

- Environmental Law
  - Quintana Valtierra, J. Derecho ambiental mexicano: lineamientos generales (2000) [on order].
♦ Branes Ballesteros, R. *Manual de derecho ambiental mexicano* (2nd ed. 2000) [on order].

♦ Gonzalez Marquez, J. *Introduccion al derecho ambiental mexicano* (2nd ed. 1999) [on order].

♦ *For further sources*, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
  ➢ ENVIRONMENTAL LAW MEXICO

• Family Law

♦ Chavez Asencio, M. *La familia en el derecho: derecho de familia y relaciones juridicas familiares* (5th ed. 1999) [on order].

♦ Chavez Asencio, M. *La adopcion: la relaciones juridicas paterno-filiales* (1999) [on order].

♦ Chavez Asencio, M. *La violencia intrafamiliar en la legislacion mexicana* (2nd ed. 1999) [on order].

♦ *For further sources*, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
  ➢ DOMESTIC RELATIONS MEXICO
  ➢ HUSBAND AND WIFE MEXICO

• Immigration Law

♦ Victal Adame, O. *Derecho migratorio mexicano* (3rd ed. 1999) [on order].

♦ *For further sources*, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
  ➢ EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION LAW MEXICO

• Indigenous Peoples Law


♦ Benítez, F. *Cultura y derechos de los pueblos indígenas de México* (1996) [FL8 M6.9 C9685 Y105 D431 1996].

♦ For further sources, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
  ➢ INDIANS OF MEXICO LEGAL STATUS

• Intellectual Property Law/Copyright/Patent/Trademark

♦ Serrano Migallon, F. *Mexico en el orden internacional de la propiedad intelectual* (2000) [on order].

♦ Serrano Migallon, F. *Nueva ley federal del derecho de autor* (1998) [on order].

♦ For further sources, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
  ➢ COPYRIGHT MEXICO
  ➢ INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY MEXICO

• Jurisdiction

♦ Soberanes Fernández, J. *Sistema jurisdiccional mexicano* (1999) [on order].

♦ For further sources, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
  ➢ JURISDICTION MEXICO

• Jurisprudencia

♦ Plascencia Villanueva, R. *Jurisprudencia* (1997) [on order].

♦ For further sources, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
  ➢ JURISPRUDENCE MEXICO
• Legal Ethics
  ♦ Perez Fernandez del Castillo, B. *Deontologia juridica: etica del abogado* (4th ed. 1999) [on order].
  ♦ Campillo Sainz, J. *Dignidad del abogado: algunas consideraciones sobre etica professional* (9th ed. 1999) [on order].
  ♦ *For further sources*, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
    ➢ LEGAL ETHICS MEXICO

• Legal History
  ♦ Cruz Barney, O. *Historia del derecho en Mexico* (1999) [on order].
  ♦ *For further sources*, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
    ➢ LAW MEXICO HISTORY

• Labor Law
  ♦ Garrido Ramon, A. *Derecho individual del trabajo* (1999) [on order].
  ♦ Borrel Navarro, M. *Analisis practico y jurisprudencial del derecho mexicano del trabajo* (1998) [on order].
  ♦ *For further sources*, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
    ➢ LABOR LAWS AND LEGISLATION MEXICO
• Patent Law

• Private International Law
  ♦ See “Conflict of Laws/Comparative Law/Private International Law,” above.

• Property Law
  ♦ Namorado Urrutia, P. Bienes, derechos reales, posesion y usucapion (1999) [on order].
  ♦ For further sources, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
    ➢ PROPERTY MEXICO
    ➢ REAL PROPERTY MEXICO
    ➢ EMINENT DOMAIN MEXICO

• Religion and the Law
  ♦ Soberanes Fernandez, J. Los bienes eclesiasticos en la historia constitucional de Mexico (1999) [on order].
  ♦ For further sources, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
    ➢ CHURCH AND STATE MEXICO
    ➢ CATHOLIC CHURCH MEXICO

• Securities Law
  ♦ Carvallo Yanez, E. Nuevo derecho bancario y bursatil mexicano : teoria y practica juridica de las agrupaciones financieras, las instituciones de credito y las casas de bolsa (4th ed. 1999) [on order].
For further sources, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
- SECURITIES MEXICO
- STOCK EXCHANGES LAW AND LEGISLATION MEXICO

- Taxation

- Kaye, D. Derecho procesal fiscal (5th ed. 1999) [on order].
- Margain Manautou, E. Introduccion al estudio del derecho tributario mexicano (14th ed. 1999) [on order].

For further sources, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
- TAXATION LAW AND LEGISLATION MEXICO

- Torts

- Ochoa Olvera, S. La demanda por dano moral: derecho y legislacion comparados: jurisprudencia nacional actualizada: jurisprudencia extranjera: casos prototipicos: formularios (2nd ed. 1999) [on order].

For further sources, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
- TORTS MEXICO

- Trademark Law


- Trusts

- Gutierrez y Gonzalez, E. Derecho sucesorio (3rd ed. 1998) [on order].
- Monserrit Ortiz Soltero, S. El fideicomiso mexicano (1998) [on order].
♦ For further sources, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
  ➢ TRUSTS AND TRUSTEES MEXICO
  ➢ FIDEICOMMISSUM MEXICO

• Women and the Law

♦ Vallarta Vazquez, M. *Marco juridico internacional de los derechos humanos de la mujer* (1998) [on order].

♦ For further sources, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
  ➢ WOMEN LEGAL STATUS LAWS ETC. MEXICO
  ➢ WOMEN'S RIGHTS MEXICO

• Additional Topics

♦ Search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH or KEYWORD SEARCH option, using appropriate subject or keyword terms.

❖ Periodical Literature

• Indexes and Finding Aids for Mexican Periodicals

♦ *Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals* (1960-) [Ref Coll: Indexes Index to; also available electronically through the Law Library homepage]. Indexes by subject and author.

♦ Avalos, F. *The Mexican Legal System* (2nd ed. 2000) [Ref Coll: Bibliog Avalos]. Subject-indexed bibliography includes references to journal articles.

• Selected Mexican Legal Journals

♦ *Revista de la Facultad de Derecho de Mexico* (1951-) [FL2 M6121 R456].

♦ *Boletin mexicano de derecho comparado* (1968-) [FL2 B688 M611].

♦ *Revista de investigaciones juridicas* (1978-) [FL2 R456 I62].
Primary Sources

A Note on Translations

Unless a researcher is very fluent in Spanish, the official language of Mexico, it will be necessary to work with translations of primary materials, when available. The most authoritative translation is one that is officially provided by the promulgating source; lacking an official translation, the most reliable alternative is one prepared by a certified legal translator. In the absence of these sources, a respected commercial or unofficial translation must be used.

Finding Aids for Sources of Mexican Primary Materials in English


♦ *See also* world-wide compilations of laws in translation:

  ➢ *Copyright Laws and Treaties of the World* (1956-) [JX9 UN.96 C78L]. Includes Mexican copyright laws and treaties in English only, with amendments through December 1981.


- Legislation
  - Constitution
    - Constitución política de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, 31 Jan. 1917 (Constitution of 1917) (ed. oficial 1917) [FL8 M6.18 1917o].
    - Spanish and English texts, with amendment interpretations to 1997, in Doing Business in Mexico (1980-) [FL8 M6.9 D6579 B97 1980].
    - For further sources, search Lexcalibur using the WORD SEARCH option:
      - CONSTITUTION MEXICO
    - Also available on LEXIS (see “LEXIS-NEXIS and WESTLAW,” below) and on the Internet (see “Selected Internet Sources for Mexican Law,” below).
  - Major Codifications
    The codes of Mexico are published commercially and in the Diario oficial, the Mexican official gazette. There are no official, government-published codes. The Law Library collects new editions of codes published by Porrúa Hermanos, the universally accepted “standard” for codes, every five years. Legislation affecting codes in interim years
may be found in the Diario oficial (see “Official Gazette,” below). The Law Library also collects scholarly annotations and commentaries on codes.

Mexican codes do not have indexes; instead, they provide short, general tables of contents. When searching in a code for statutes on a certain subject, think in broad, general subjects, then narrow the search to specifics. For example, when searching for the law of adoption, start with the heading “Of persons,” since adoption deals with a relationship of persons. Under “of persons,” search through headings such as “marriage,” “divorce,” “birth registration,” etc. until finding “adoptions.”

♦ Civil Code

The Mexican Civil Code was originally enacted in 1928, then reformed by decree in 1987 and again in 1988.

- Código civil para el Distrito y Territorios Federales (1928) (68th ed. 2000) [on order].


- For further sources, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
  - CIVIL LAW MEXICO DISTrito FEDERAL

- Also available on LEXIS (see “LEXIS-NEXIS and WESTLAW,” below) and on the Internet (see “Selected Internet Sources for Mexican Law,” below).
♦ Code of Civil Procedure

The Mexican Code of Civil Procedure was originally enacted in 1932. It was amended in 1988, and reformed in 1995.

- Código de procedimientos civiles para el Distrito Federal y Territorios de México (1932) (55th ed. 2000) [on order].

- For further sources, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
  ▪ COMMERCIAL LAW MEXICO

- Also available on LEXIS (see “LEXIS-NEXIS and WESTLAW,” below) and on the Internet (see “Selected Internet Sources for Mexican Law,” below).

♦ Commercial Code

The Mexican Commercial Code was originally enacted in 1889, which makes it the only modern code to date from Mexico’s pre-revolutionary period. The code was amended in 1989 and in 1996.

- Código de comercio y leyes complementarias (1889) (68th ed. 2000) [on order].


- For further sources, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
  ▪ COMMERCIAL LAW MEXICO
Also available on LEXIS and WESTLAW (see “LEXIS-NEXIS and WESTLAW,” below) and on the Internet (see “Selected Internet Sources for Mexican Law,” below).

♦ Criminal Code

The Mexican Criminal Code was originally enacted in 1931, and has not been significantly amended since that time.

➤ Código penal para el Distrito Territorios Federales (1931) (54th ed. 1999) [on order].

➤ Código penal anotado (1999) [on order].

➤ For further sources, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
  ▪ CRIMINAL LAW MEXICO DISTRITO FEDERAL

➤ Also available on LEXIS (see “LEXIS-NEXIS and WESTLAW,” below) and on the Internet (see “Selected Internet Sources for Mexican Law,” below).

♦ Code of Criminal Procedure

The Mexican Code of Criminal Procedure was enacted in 1931, and has not been amended significantly since that time. A separate code, the Código Federal de procedimientos penales, exists for national federal matters.

➤ Código de procedimientos penales para el Distrito Federal y Territorios (1931) (54th ed. 1999) [on order].


➤ For further sources, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH option:
  ▪ CRIMINAL PROCEDURE MEXICO
Also available on LEXIS (see “LEXIS-NEXIS and WESTLAW,” below) and on the Internet (see “Selected Internet Sources for Mexican Law,” below).

♦ Additional Codes

➢ Search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH or KEYWORD SEARCH option, using appropriate subject or keyword terms.

➢ Refer to LEXIS (see “LEXIS-NEXIS and WESTLAW,” below) and the Internet (see “Selected Internet Sources for Mexican Law,” below).

• Individually Published Laws

Laws that do not appear in the Mexican codes appear in the Diario oficial, and may also be published individually or in subject compilations. The Law Library collects the most important such legislation, typically in compilation form or with annotations or commentary. Legislation not collected individually by the Law Library may be found in the Diario oficial (see “Official Gazette,” below).

♦ Colección fiscal (2000) [on order].

♦ Colección laboral (2000) [on order].

♦ Colección mercantil (2000) [on order].

♦ Lopez Nogales, A. Ley agraria: comentada (2000) [on order].

♦ Lucero Espinosa, M. Ley federal de procedimiento administrativo: comentada (1999) [on order].

♦ Adato Green, V. Ley organica del poder judicial de la Federacion: comentada (1998) [on order].

♦ For further sources, search Lexcalibur using the LC SUBJECT SEARCH or TITLE SEARCH options, using the name or subject of the law in question.

♦ Numerous additional compilations of laws by subject are available on LEXIS ((see “LEXIS-NEXIS and WESTLAW,” below).

- Session Laws

The Mexican equivalents of American session laws are published in the Diario oficial, Mexico’s official gazette. See “Official Gazette,” below.

♦ Gaceta informativa de legislacion nacional (1985-1990) [FL8 M6.2 G12]. Only published for five years. Reprints of selected “important” legislation, in full.

♦ Legislacion y jurisprudencia: gaceta informativa (1983-1984) [FL8 M6.2 L52]. Library has one year only. Reprints of selected “important” legislation, in full.

- Official Gazette

Mexico’s official gazette is the Diario oficial, which appears daily (except Saturday and Sunday). The Diario oficial publishes session laws, treaties, and official government notices and information.

The Diario oficial is divided into three sections: primera, segunda, and tercera. (Occasionally the segunda and tercera sections are bound in the succeeding volume.) A general index appears in each daily Diario oficial, typically at the end of the primera section. The title page lists the page number of the index. There is no cumulative index to the Diario oficial. However, as Mexican laws are typically referred to by the date in which they were published in the Diario oficial, finding the appropriate Diario oficial volume is not overly difficult. In addition, Reynolds, T. and A. Flores, Foreign Law: Current Sources of Codes and Basic Legislation in Jurisdictions of the World (1989-) [Ref Coll: Bibliog Reynolds] and Avalos, F, The Mexican Legal System [2nd
ed. 2000) [Ref Coll: Bibliog Avalos] both include citations to the \textit{Diario oficial}.

- \textit{Diario oficial: organo del gobierno constitucional de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos} (Aug.1867--; missing 1969-1980) [FL8 M6.2 D6].

- Court Reports

There is no official reporter for Mexican court reports. The Law Library subscribes to the \textit{Semanario judicial de la Federacion}, considered the most comprehensive and authoritative source for Mexican jurisprudence. Published judicial decisions are divided by time periods, called \textit{epocas}. The first four \textit{epocas} (1871-1910) have no binding force, because they were not based on the current Constitution (which was not adopted until 1917). Applicable jurisprudence begins with the fifth \textit{epoca}, in 1918.

\textit{Jurisprudencia} from both the Supreme Court and the collegiate courts are published in the \textit{Semanario judicial de la Federacion}. During some \textit{epocas}, reports from both courts appear in the same volumes; during others, reports from each court are published in separate volumes.

At the back of each volume are a number of indexes, including a general index, subject index, index of actions involving constitutional controversies, \textit{indice de ejecutorias} (similar to a limited Shepard's), and index by federal legislation. A cumulative index is typically published at the end of an \textit{epoca}. Interim cumulative indexes also appear periodically throughout an \textit{epoca}.

- \textit{Semanario judicial de la Federacion} (1 \textit{epoca} (1871) – 6 \textit{epoca} 28 (1959); 8 \textit{epoca} 12 (1993-) [FL8 M6.65 S4]; 6 \textit{epoca} 27 (1959) – 138 (1968) [S 109 Microfilm].

- \textit{Jurisprudencia} and \textit{thesis} are also available on LEXIS (see “LEXIS-NEXIS and WESTLAW,” below) and on the Internet (see “Selected Internet Sources for Mexican Law,” below).
• **Treaties**

Mexican treaties are published in the *Diario oficial* (see “Official Gazette,” above) and are also published separately by the government in a series entitled *Tratados celebrados por Mexico*. The main volumes of this series began publication in 1992; the set also includes *Apendice* volumes containing treaties from 1890 through 1994.

At the back of each volume are a chronological index, an index of bilateral treaties listed alphabetically by country, an index of multilateral treaties, and an index of treaties with international organizations. There is no cumulative index to this set.

♦ *Tratados celebrados por Mexico* (1992-) [JX8 9 M6.3].

• **Administrative Laws**

Mexico has no separate body of administrative law. Administrative laws and procedures are included in the federal legislation.

❖ *Special Topics and Sources*

➢ **Legal Dictionaries**

- *Becerra, J.*  *Diccionario de terminología jurídica mexicana, español-inglés* (1999) [on order].


- *Alcaraz Varo, E.*  *Diccionario de términos jurídicos: ingles-español, spanish-english* (2nd ed. 1994) [DC 35 S73 A348d 1994].

- *For further sources*, search Lexcalibur using the *LC SUBJECT SEARCH* option:
  ♦ LAW DICTIONARIES SPANISH
**LEXIS-NEXIS and WESTLAW**

The following list includes only files that are current and updated regularly. For archival material available in these databases, see the most recent database directories for each service (available in paper at the Reference Desk or online through each service).

- **LEXIS**
  - *Jurisprudencia de la Corte Suprema de Mexico* (MXJUR): Provides *jurisprudencia* from the Mexican Supreme Court from the 1900s through January 31, 2001. Updated regularly, as received from the Court. In Spanish.
• **Leyes Ambientales de Mexico** (MXAMB). The environmental laws of Mexico, both federal and state, from the 1900s through January 31, 2001. Updated monthly. In Spanish.

• **Leyes Comerciales de Mexico** (MXCOM). The commercial laws of Mexico, both federal and state, from the 1900s through January 31, 2001. Updated monthly. In Spanish.

• **Leyes Electorales de Mexico** (MXELEC). The electoral laws of Mexico, both federal and state, from the 1900s through January 31, 2001. Updated monthly. In Spanish.

• **Leyes Fiscal o de Impuestos de Mexico** (MXFISC). The tax laws of Mexico, both federal and state, from the 1900s through January 31, 2001. Updated monthly. In Spanish.

• **Leyes de Industria e Higiene de Mexico** (MXINDU). The industry and hygiene laws of Mexico, both federal and state, from the 1900s through January 31, 2001. Updated monthly. In Spanish.

• **Ley Internactional de Mexico** (MXINTL). The international legislation of Mexico, both federal and state, from the 1900s through January 31, 2001. Updated monthly. In Spanish.

• **Leyes Laborales de Mexico** (MXLABR). The labor laws of Mexico, both federal and state, from the 1900s through January 31, 2001. Updated monthly. In Spanish.

• **Leyes de Notarios Publicos de Mexico** (MXNP). The public notary laws of Mexico, both federal and state, from

• **Leyes de Salud de Mexico** (MXSALU). The health laws of Mexico, both federal and state, from the 1900s through January 31, 2001. Updated monthly. In Spanish.
• **ENFLEX Mexico Environmental Statutory and Regulatory Materials (MXENV).** Full-text translations of law and regulations governing environmental, occupational health and safety (EHS), and hazardous materials transportation activities for Mexico. Current, updated monthly. In English.

**WESTLAW**

♦ *Codigos Civil y de Comercio Mexicanos* (CODMEX). The Mexican Civil and Commercial Codes, through current. In Spanish.

♦ **ENFLEX Mexico Environmental Statutory and Regulatory Materials (ENFLEX-MX).** Full-text translations of law and regulations governing environmental, occupational health and safety (EHS), and hazardous materials transportation activities for Mexico. Current. In English.


**Selected Mexican Law-Related Internet Sources**

This list focuses on web sites that provide free access to Mexican primary materials and on gateway sites that provide directories of Mexican legal information sources available on the Internet.

• **InfoJus (Informacion Juridica)**
  <http://info.juridicas.unam.mx> Maintained by the Universidad Nacional Autonomia de Mexico (UNAM). A comprehensive legal resource on Mexican law. Includes statutes, constitutions, regulations, Supreme Court case law, and other information. In Spanish.
• **Law Library of Congress Guide to Law Online: Mexico**
  
  <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/glin/mexico.html>
  Annotated compendium of internet sources of law-related information and government bodies. Especially useful is the “Legal Guides and Miscellaneous” directory, which points to numerous research guides available online. In English.

• **Mexican Law**
  
  <http://www.mexlaw.com/guide.htm> Maintained by Professor Jose A. Vargas of the University of San Diego School of Law. “Guide to Electronic Resources for Mexican Law” provides a listing of websites from the U.S., Mexico, and international organizations, with critical comments about each. In English.

• **Cámara de senadores**
  
  <http://www.senado.gob.mx> The webpage of the Mexican Senate. Provides much information about the Senate and the issues currently before it. *Iniciativas Presentadas* section provides full text of bills formally submitted to the Senate. In Spanish.

• **Legislacion Federal de Mexico**
  

• **Suprema Corte de Justicia de la Nacion**
  
  <www.scjn.gob.mx/Principal.asp> The webpage of the Supreme Court of Mexico. *Consulta de Jurisprudencia y Tesis Aisladas desde 1917* section includes *jurisprudencia* and *tesis* from 1917 to current. Updated monthly. In Spanish.

• **Mexican Trademark and Copyright Law as it Applies to E-Commerce**
  
Further Questions?

If you have further questions or need additional help researching the law of Mexico, please ask a librarian! The Law Library is open daily from 8 a.m. till midnight. The Reference Desk is staffed daily from 9 a.m. till midnight, and professional reference librarians are either at the Desk or available to assist you from 9 a.m. till 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. (Hours may vary during holiday and interim term periods; call the Reference Desk at (734) 764-9324 to verify the Library’s schedule.)

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