LEGAL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS



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Introduction

Legal Research and Analysis develops the research discipline that legal work depends on. This Training Course covers research planning, source evaluation, statutory interpretation, and case analysis. Participants study primary and secondary sources, citators, precedent hierarchies, and the reasoning methods that turn raw material into usable conclusions. Furthermore, the programme connects research technique to practical output through research labs and analytical writing exercises. As a result, delegates leave able to find authorities quickly, verify them reliably, and analyse them with sound legal reasoning.

Legal Research and Analysis Course Objectives

- Plan legal research from a defined question or client problem.
- Distinguish primary sources, secondary sources, and commentary.
- Use legislation, regulations, and case law databases efficiently.
- Apply statutory interpretation and construction rules correctly.
- Analyse precedent, ratio decidendi, and obiter dicta.
- Verify authority accuracy using citators and update checks.
- Apply IRAC and CREAC analytical frameworks to research findings.
- Assess the strength and weight of competing authorities.
- Draft research memoranda and analytical summaries clearly.
- Maintain research records, citation accuracy, and version control.

Course Methodology

- Interactive workshops using real research questions and case files.
- Structured research planning and question formulation exercises.
- Guided database practice on legislation and case law platforms.
- Analytical writing labs using IRAC and CREAC structures.

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- Peer review of research memoranda and citation accuracy.
- Action planning that converts each session into a workplace commitment.

Who Should Take This Course

- Legal researchers and paralegals.
- Junior lawyers and legal trainees.
- Legal advisors and in-house counsel.
- Case support and litigation assistants.
- Compliance and regulatory research staff.
- Government legal officers and policy researchers.
- Law students and graduates entering practice.

Legal Research and Analysis Course Outlines

Day 1: Research Foundations and Question Framing

- The purpose of legal research and its professional standards.
- Breaking a client problem into researchable questions.
- Research planning, scope setting, and time budgeting.
- Key facts, legal issues, and jurisdictional limits.
- Research trails, notes, and record keeping.
- Ethical duties in research and confidentiality.
- Common research pitfalls and how to avoid them.

Day 2: Sources, Databases, and Search Technique

- Primary sources: constitutions, statutes, regulations, and cases.

- Secondary sources: textbooks, journals, commentaries, and digests.
- Search strategy: keywords, boolean operators, and filters.
- Free versus subscription legal databases.
- Citators, update checks, and reliability verification.
- Comparative and foreign legal research basics.
- Assessing source authority, currency, and relevance.

Day 3: Statutory Interpretation and Construction

- The literal, golden, and mischief rules.
- Purposive and contextual interpretation approaches.
- Internal aids: definitions, headings, and schedules.
- External aids: explanatory notes, travaux prparatoires.
- Presumptions and canons of construction.
- Ambiguity, conflict, and repeal by implication.
- Applying interpretation to a live provision.

Day 4: Case Law Analysis and Precedent

- Court hierarchy and binding versus persuasive authority.
- Ratio decidendi, obiter dicta, and material facts.
- Distinguishing cases and identifying relevant differences.
- Overruling, reversal, and per incuriam decisions.
- Multiple judgments and majority reasoning.
- Analogical reasoning and argument development.
- Building an authority matrix for a case.

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Day 5: Analysis, Writing, and Output

- IRAC and CREAC frameworks for legal analysis.
- Structuring a research memorandum.
- Assessing weight, strength, and risk in conclusions.
- Citation practice and referencing accuracy.
- Version control and updating research after legal change.
- Presenting research findings to non-lawyers.
- Personal action plan and continuous improvement.

Conclusion

By successfully completing Legal Research and Analysis, participants will have acquired a practical command of research planning, statutory interpretation, case analysis, and analytical writing. They will know how to find and verify authorities, apply IRAC and CREAC structures, and produce memoranda that support sound advice. In addition, the course prepares delegates to assess the weight of competing authorities and keep research current. As a result, they return to work ready to research and analyse legal questions with rigour. Gentex Training Center delivers this Training Course with a practical, standards-based approach.

FAQs for the Legal Research and Analysis Training course

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Q1 What is the "Legal Research and Analysis" course about?

It is a five-day programme that develops legal research and analytical capability. It covers research planning, source evaluation, searches on legislation and case law databases, statutory interpretation, case law analysis, IRAC and CREAC frameworks, and research memorandum writing.

Q2 What are the key benefits of the "Legal Research and Analysis" course?

Participants gain the ability to find relevant authorities quickly, verify them reliably, and analyse them with structured legal reasoning. They also learn to avoid citation errors, keep research current after legal change, and produce memoranda that colleagues and clients can rely on.

Q3 What skills will I gain from the "Legal Research and Analysis" course?

Legal research planning with question framing, statutory interpretation with construction rule application, case law analysis with precedent and ratio identification, and analytical writing with IRAC and CREAC structuring.

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Q4 What tools, methods, or standards are covered in the "Legal Research and Analysis" course?

The course covers primary and secondary source hierarchies, boolean search techniques and database filters, citator services and update checks, the literal, golden, and mischief rules of statutory interpretation, purposive and contextual interpretation approaches, ratio decidendi and obiter dicta analysis, case distinguishing and overruling doctrines, the IRAC and CREAC analytical frameworks, citation and referencing standards, and research trail and version control practices.

Q5 How is the "Legal Research and Analysis" course applied in real-world practice?

Delegates apply it through research plans, question frameworks, database searches, statutory interpretation notes, case authority matrices, research memoranda, analytical summaries, citation checklists, and updated research notes. They also use it to brief colleagues on legal position and to support opinions, submissions, and policy papers.