EXERCISE #5 – STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE HISTORY
DUE: Wednesday, February 25, 2004, 10:30 a.m.

Goals of this Assignment:
1) To introduce you to the key information needed to compile a legislative history.
2) To introduce you to some of the sources used to do legislative research.
3) To give you experience citing legislative materials.

A. Federal Legislative History

Using either the 1969 U.S.C.A.N. index or the U.S.C. Popular Names Table, locate the 1997 law dealing with adoption and safe families.

1. What is the “short title” of this act?

   ANSWER:

2. What date did it become law?

   ANSWER:

3. What is the P.L. number?

   ANSWER:

4. What is the United States Statutes at Large cite?

   ANSWER:

Continue this exercise using the 1997 United States Code Congressional and Administrative News volumes (U.S.C.C.A.N.). Locate the “legislative history” section of the public law you identified in number 3 above. While U.S.C.C.A.N. does not provide the complete legislative history of the act, it is a good starting point. Note the boldtype information under the title of the act.

5. Identify the bill that was passed into law.

   ANSWER:
6. What report(s) are listed? List these reports by type and number.

**ANSWER:**

7. What volume(s) of the *Congressional Record* contains the debate on the act?

**ANSWER:**


**ANSWER:**

9. Skim the report(s) to find the answer to the next two questions:

a. What is the stated purpose of this Act?

**ANSWER:**

b. What is the projected decrease in direct spending over the budget period fiscal years 1997-2002?

**ANSWER:**

10. Many recent federal legislative histories are now easily available online. Log onto LexisNexis Congressional, a database created and maintained by Congressional Information Service, Inc. (CIS), which is now owned by Lexis. As a UW account holder, you can go to [http://www.lib.washington.edu](http://www.lib.washington.edu), select the “research” heading and then click “Internet legal research.” Scroll down until you see “US Legal Resources” and find the link to “LexisNexis Congressional.” From there, select the “CIS Index” link on the left. Then select “legislative histories by number.”

Now find the legislative history for the public law you identified in number 3 above by filling in the blanks for the public law number.

Now find the legislative history for the public law you identified in number 3 above by filling in the blanks for the public law number.
Question: Does the legislative history you found on Congressional Universe give you any significant additional information than what you have already discovered through print materials?

ANSWER:

B. Compiled Legislative Histories

Before undertaking legislative history research, it would be wise to see whether a legislative history on your law has already been compiled. Nancy Johnson’s *Compiled Legislative Histories*, which is located at the Reference Office, is an excellent starting point.

If you have questions about the legislative process, another good resource is Judith Manion’s *A Research Guide to Congress*, 2d ed., also available in the Reference Office.

You can also use MARIAN to find compiled legislative histories in the Law Library collection. (Note: there are many we do not own since we already have the underlying documents (reports, debates and hearings) in the collection.)

11. Using MARIAN, locate the legislative history for the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Identify the title, call number and location of one of your results.

ANSWER:

C. Updating Current Legislation

12. The *Congressional Index* (CCH) is a useful tool for gathering information about pending legislation. Consult the CCH Congressional Index for the 108th Congress (2002-2003). Briefly describe what the Index provides.

ANSWER:

13. Using the index, identify the following information on House Bill 2115.

a. When was this bill introduced?

ANSWER:
b. What, if anything, happened to this bill on 7/24/03?  

**ANSWER:**

14. If you are interested articles about pending legislation, or simply what is happening on Capitol Hill, one excellent print resource is Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report, available in the Reference Stacks at KF49 .C64, published by Congressional Quarterly Inc. (It is not available on LEXIS and no longer updated on Westlaw.)

a. Using the index found in each issue, and working backwards chronologically, please find the article entitled “Flag Protection Amendment Stirs Again.” Cite to this article in Bluebook form.

**ANSWER:**

b. Log-on to www.CQ.com. From the bar on the left, select “CQ Weekly Latest Issue” under the “shortcuts” heading using the subject index on the left. Identify the page number of the article that discusses President Bush’s defense of his tax cuts.

**ANSWER:**

**D. State Legislative History**

The sources for state legislative history and the available research tools are less adequate than those available for federal legislative research. If you do state legislative research in Washington, the *Washington Legal Researcher’s Deskbook 2d* is a valuable tool to get you started. Another good resource is Edward Seeberger’s *Sine Die: A Guide to the Washington State Legislative Process*, available in the Reference Office and on Reserve. If you are doing legislative history in other states, Mary Fisher’s *Guide to State Legislative and Administrative Materials* provides helpful state-by-state contact information.

15. The first step in researching legislative history is to identify the year, chapter, and section number of a Washington act, e.g. [Laws 1991 ch 226 § 11]. Using the RCW or RCWA, identify the year, chapter, and section number of the *Cosmetologists, Barbers & Manicurists Act* as first enacted. (Hint: the desired information is usually found in the bracketed statutory history section, located right after the text of the RCW section codifying the act). (If unclear, you might check after the “intent” section.)

**ANSWER:**
16. Using the information you just obtained, find your law in the appropriate volume of *Laws of Washington*. Identify the bill number, the year of the session, and whether the session was “regular”, “special”, or “extraordinary”.

**ANSWER:**

17. Check the *Legislative Digest and History of Bills* (KFW15 .A2 at Reference Stacks). This book tells you which committees reported on the bill and when. Consult the appropriate volume of the *Legislative Digest* and look up your bill. Name two committees that voted on your bill.

**ANSWER:**

Using your bill number, session number and year, you can also refer to the *House Journal* or the *Senate Journal*. These journals provide points of inquiry, texts of amendments and substitutions, and dates of floor action on your bill. You can also obtain the bill itself, substitute versions, resolutions, memorials, and initiatives by consulting the Law Library’s collection of House and Senate Bills. The most complete collection of Washington bills, however, is located at the Washington State Archives.

18. A related, but different, source of information concerning Washington state legislation is the *Final Legislative Report* (KFW 15.2 at Reference Stacks). Check this resource for the same bill you researched above and tell me what additional information, if any, is provided that you had not already discovered by checking the *Legislative Digest and History of Bills*.

**ANSWER:**

**E. State Legislative History on the Internet**

Starting from the law library homepage select “Internet Legal Resources”. Then “Laws, Legislation, and the Legislature”, and then “Bills”. This takes you to the Washington State Legislature’s web site, which contains a wealth of information on current legislation. Find S.B. 5033.

19. What is the intent of the bill—what does it do?

**ANSWER:**
20. What committees have considered the bill in 2003?

ANSWER:

F. Bluebook Exercises

21. Assuming that the given information is accurate, correct the following citation:
Unenacted Senate Bill 1210, 102nd Congress, 2nd Session (1994), 140 Cong. Record S6421 (1994)

ANSWER:

22. Organize the following information into a Bluebook citation:
Statement of John Walsh, Chairman of MADD, entitled “America’s Most Wanted,” which was given at a hearing on Senate bill 1999 before the Senate Finance Committee of the 103rd Congress in 1994.

ANSWER: