



LAW ON THE FRONTLINES:

FOUNDATIONS OF LAW FOR
PUBLIC LIBRARY REFERENCE

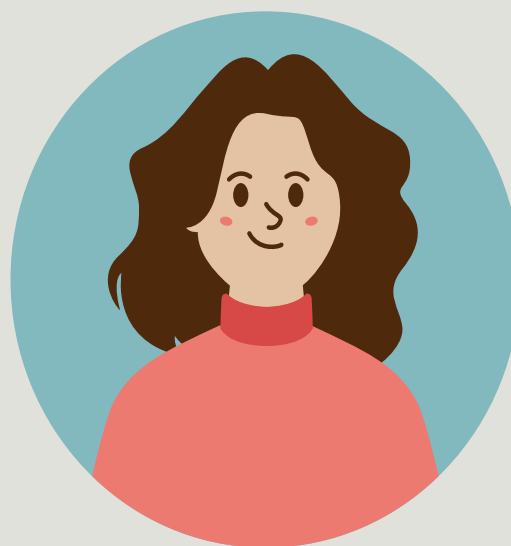


Today's Crew



Joy Hollerbach

Thurgood Marshall
State Law Library



Vickie Yiannoulou

Prince George's County
Circuit Court Law Library



Audrey Dingler

Thurgood Marshall
State Law Library



The Frontlines Project: Partners & Core Curriculum

The Frontlines project includes representatives from the

- Thurgood Marshall State Law Library
- Conference of Maryland Court Law Library Directors (CMCLLD)
- the Maryland Access to Justice Commission, and
- the Access to Justice Department of the Administrative Office of the Courts (A2J)

Instructors for each course will vary but the information provided is based on the core curriculum of the ongoing Frontlines Project.

Learning Outcomes

Describe

the structure of government.



Explain

the connection between the structure of government and finding the law.



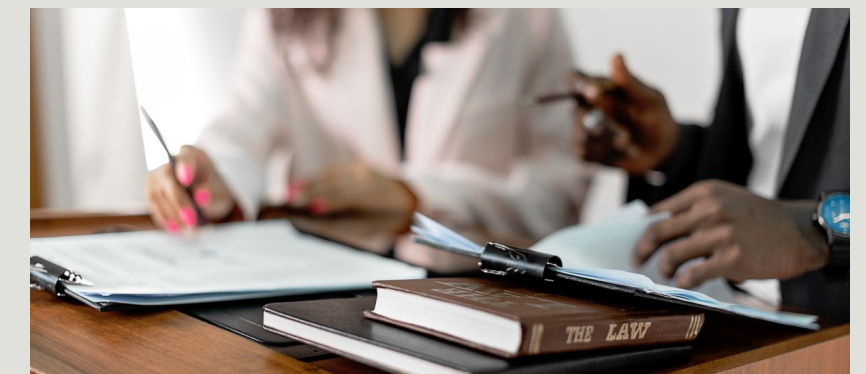
Utilize

primary resources of law.



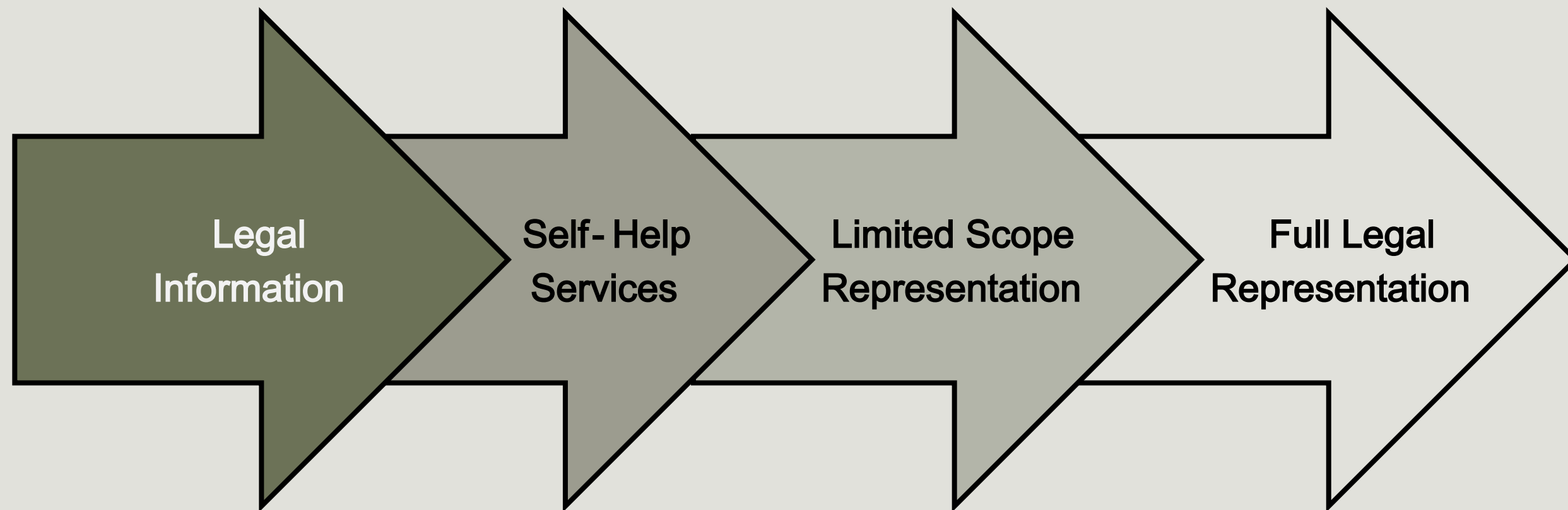
Describe

where to find help when needed.



Access to Justice

A quick review...



Why are public libraries key players in access to justice?



What is Law?

Language passed by government bodies that holds force over all parties in a particular jurisdiction.



Three branches & the law they make

CONSTITUTION

Legislature

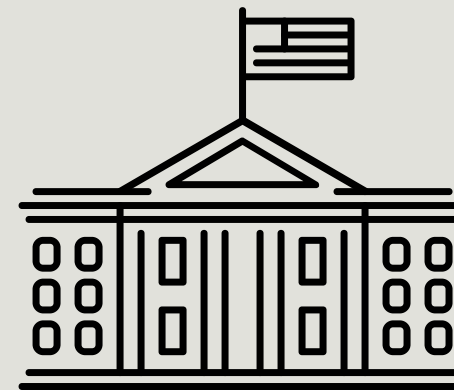


Congress
General Assembly
County Council

Statutory Law

Statutes (aka Acts, Session laws, Ordinances)

Executive

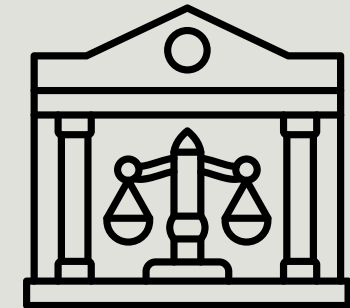


President
Governor
Executive Agencies

Regulatory Law Administrative Law

Regulations
Executive Orders

Judiciary

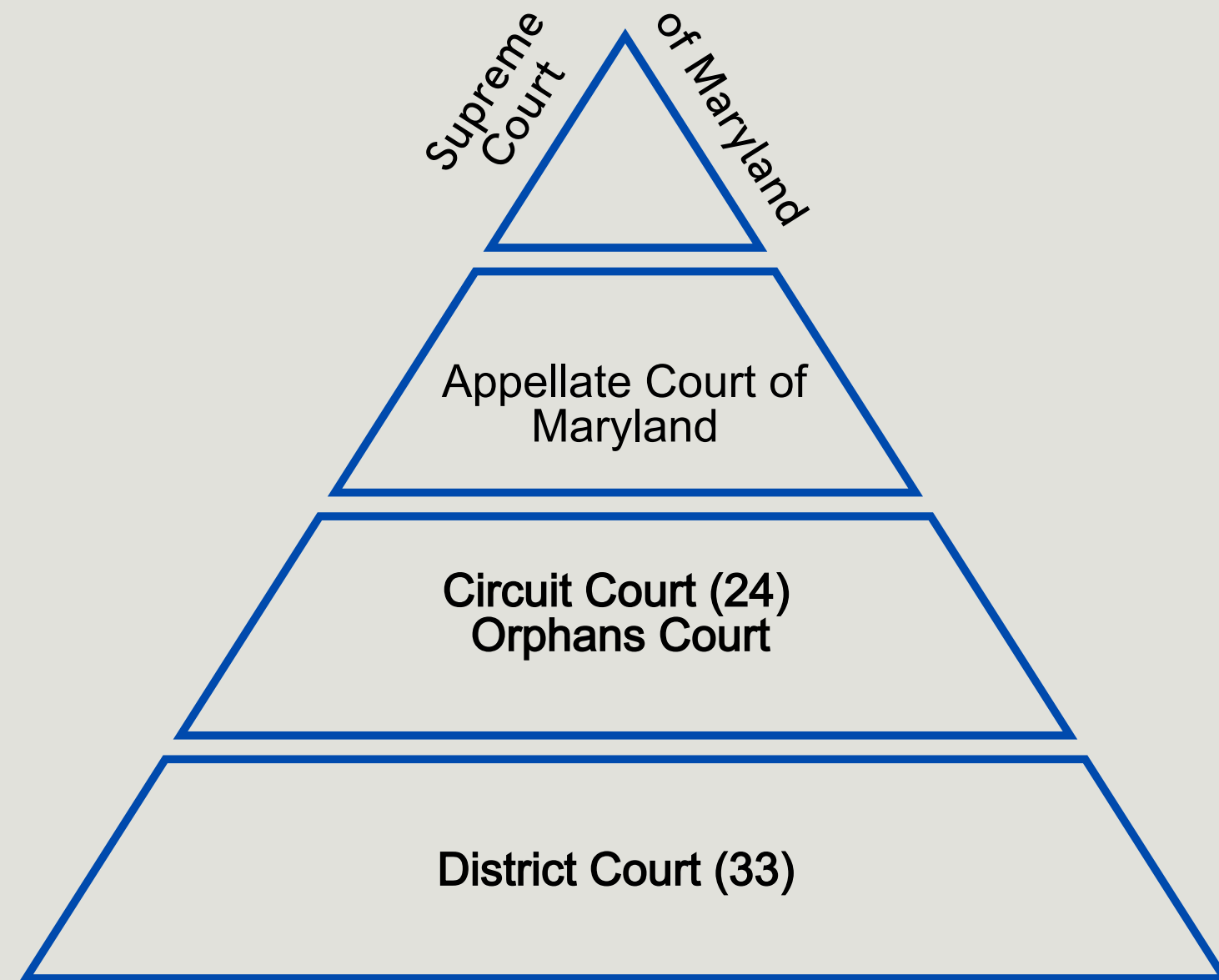
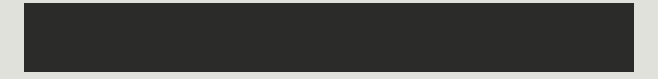


Courts (appellate, trial)

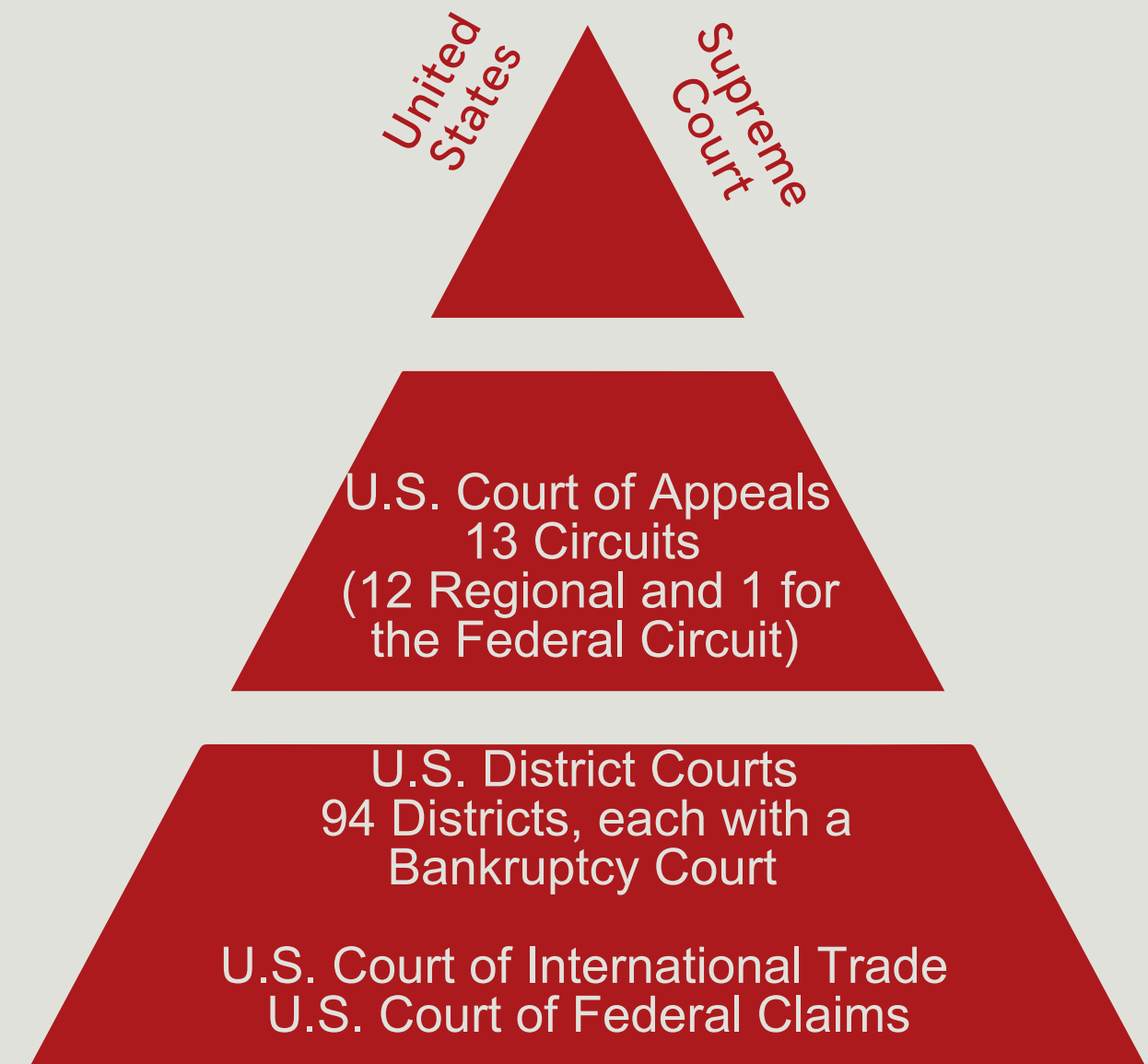
Case Law

Cases, aka Opinions
Rules of Procedure

Court Structure

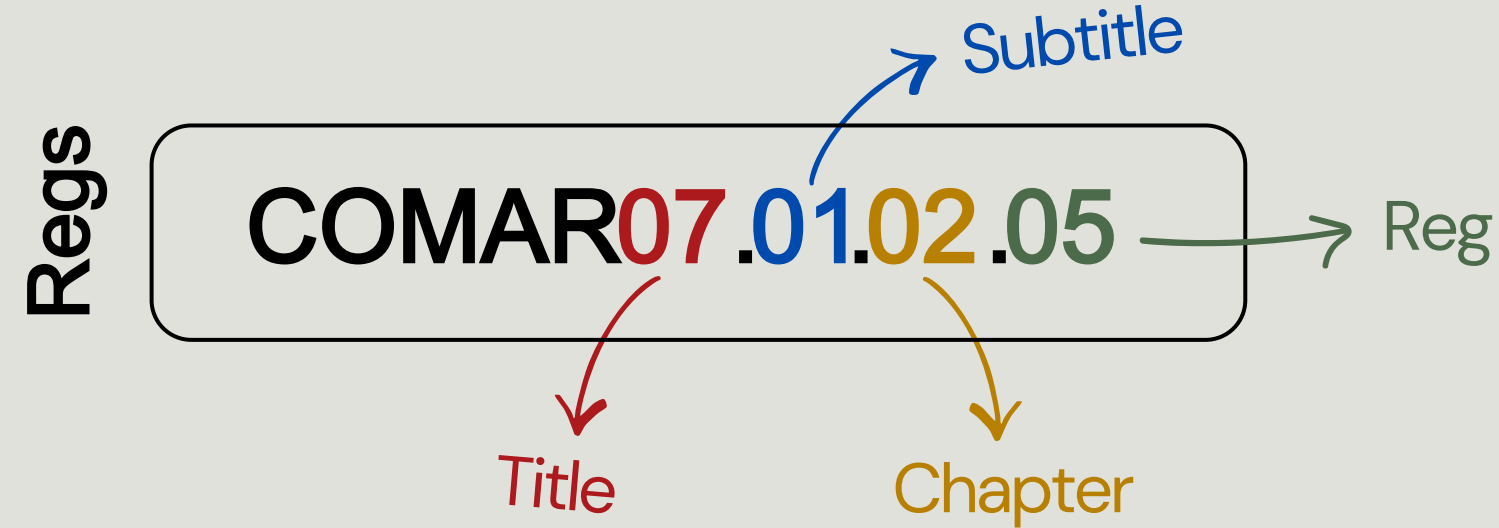
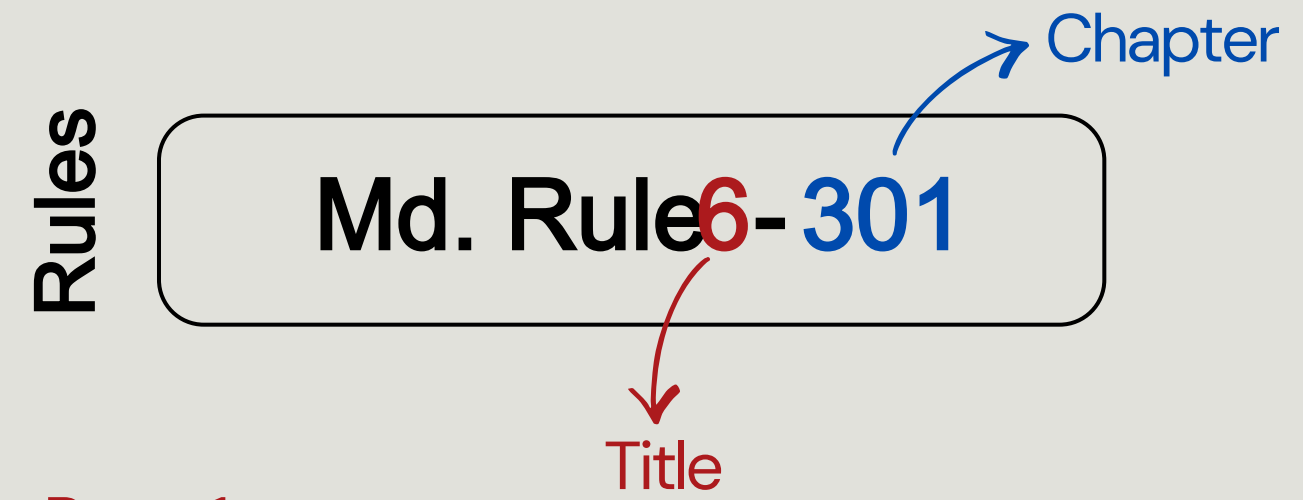
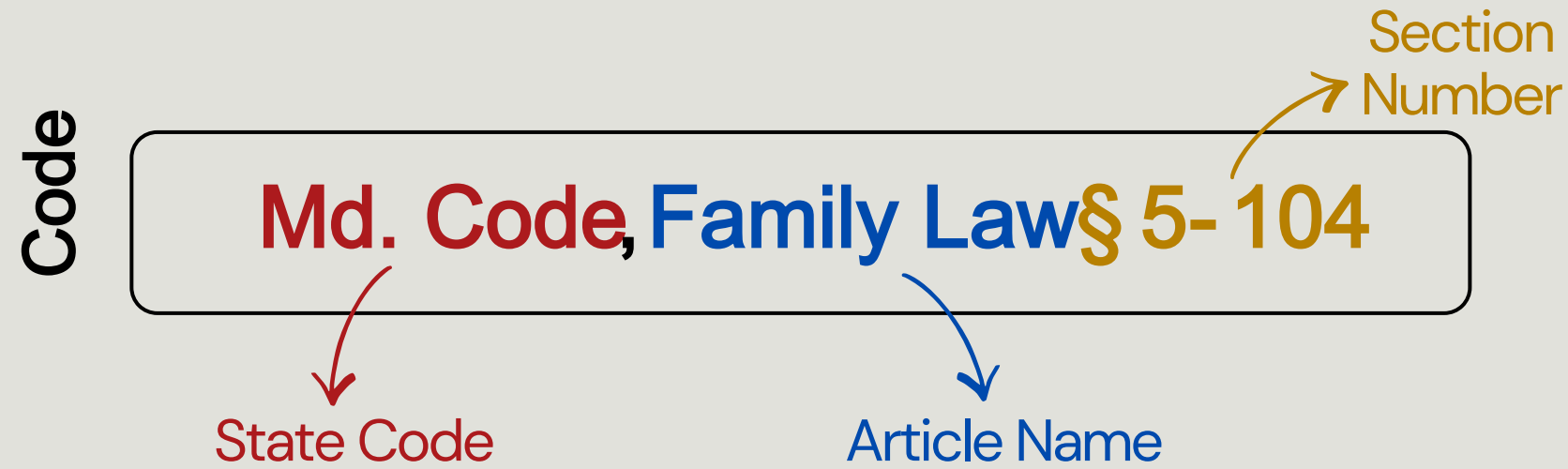


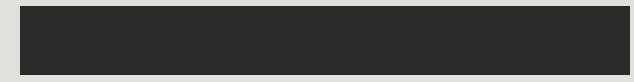
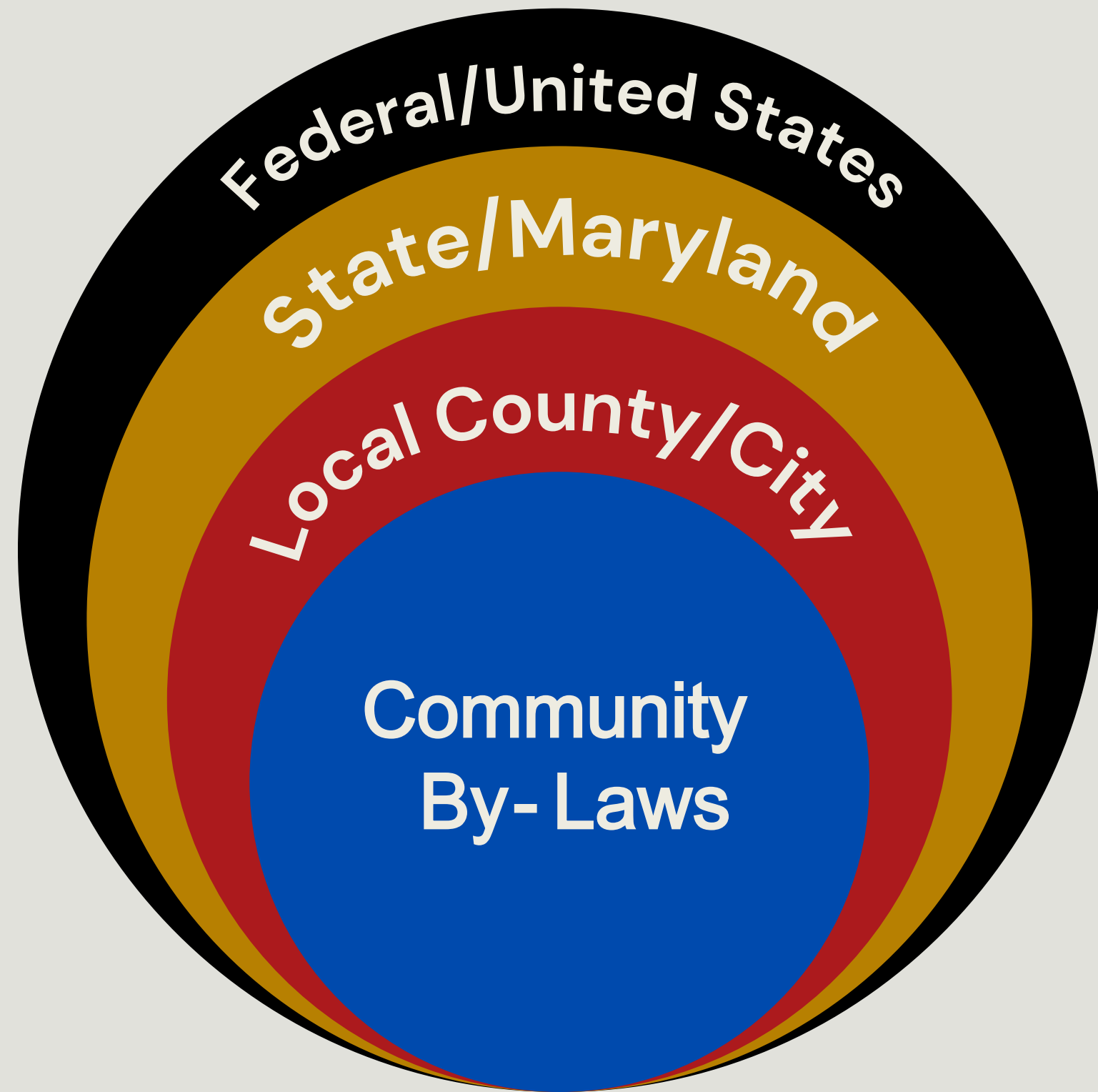
Maryland Courts



Federal Courts

Recognizing Citation Formats





Location Matters

Importance of Dates & Language



Finding the Law

MISSION & VISION JOBS SITE INDEX ACCESSIBILITY 

English 

MARYLAND COURTS
Fair, Efficient, & Effective Justice For All

ENHANCED BY Google

Opinions Search Search Tips

HOME USING THE LIBRARY RESEARCH ABOUT US PEOPLE'S LAW LIBRARY ASK A LAW LIBRARIAN

 **Thurgood Marshall State Law Library**

361 ROWE BOULEVARD
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401
410-260-1430 | 888-216-8156
LAWLIBRARY@MDCOURTS.GOV

Search Catalog 

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YOU ARE IN:
Research
Catalog
Gateway to Maryland Law
Databases
Research Guides
Collections
Special Collections Room

Gateway to Maryland Law

The Thurgood Marshall State Law Library has an extensive collection of primary and secondary sources focusing on Maryland law. Many of these resources are available online, but some require physical presence at the Library to access.

Maryland Code | County and Municipal Codes | Court Rules | Case Law | Regulations | Attorney General Opinions | State Publications | Task Force Reports | Incorporated by Reference | Law Reviews and Journals

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Maryland Code and Rules
- Maryland County Codes
- Maryland Law Collections
- Maryland Law Reviews and Journals
- Maryland Municipal Codes
- Maryland Publications
- Scanned Collections
- Task Force Reports



Practice

Using the Gateway to Maryland Law, find the following:

- * Md Code, Nat Res, sec. 4803 – what is this section about?
- * Find the Md Code section that gives pedestrians the right of way where pedestrian control signs are in place.
- * Find the COMAR regulations addressing the topic from question #1.
- * Find the section of your local code that discusses the keeping of livestock or fowl. If your county allows it, how many ducks can you have?

DROP YOUR FINDINGS IN CHAT

CASE LAW

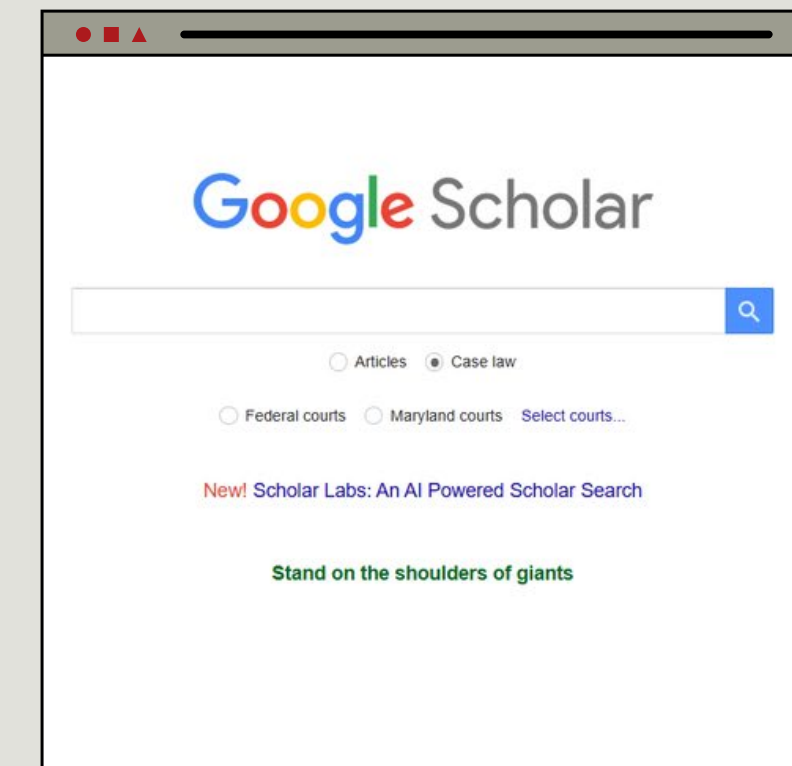
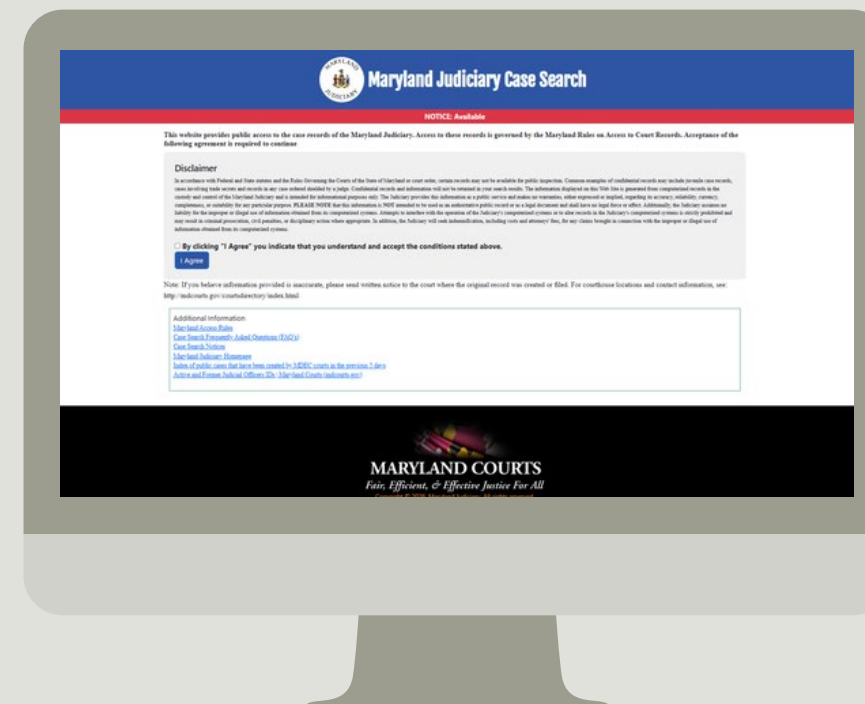
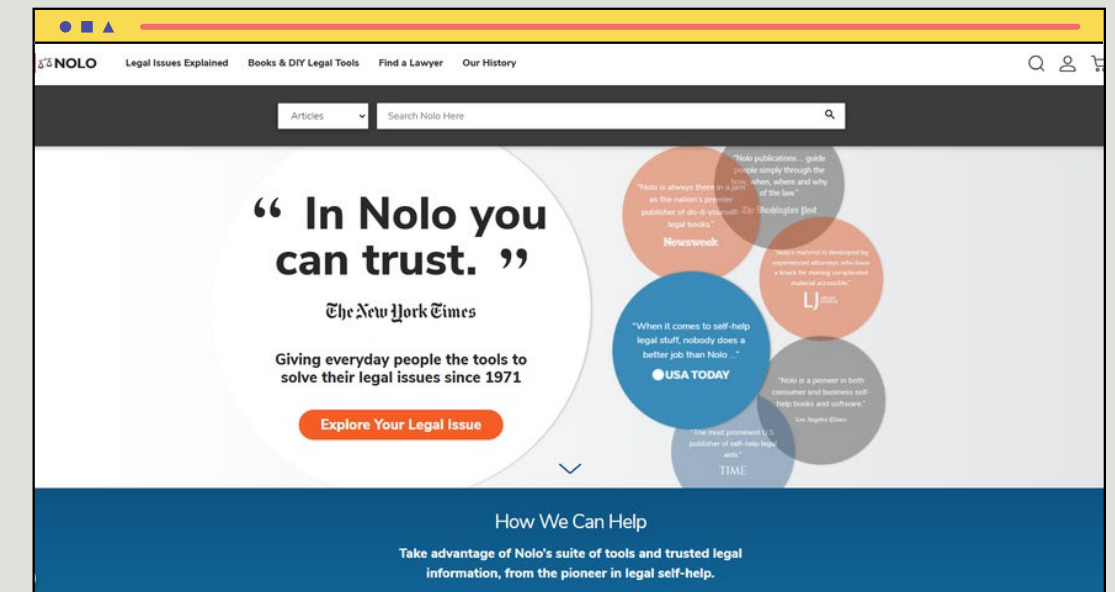
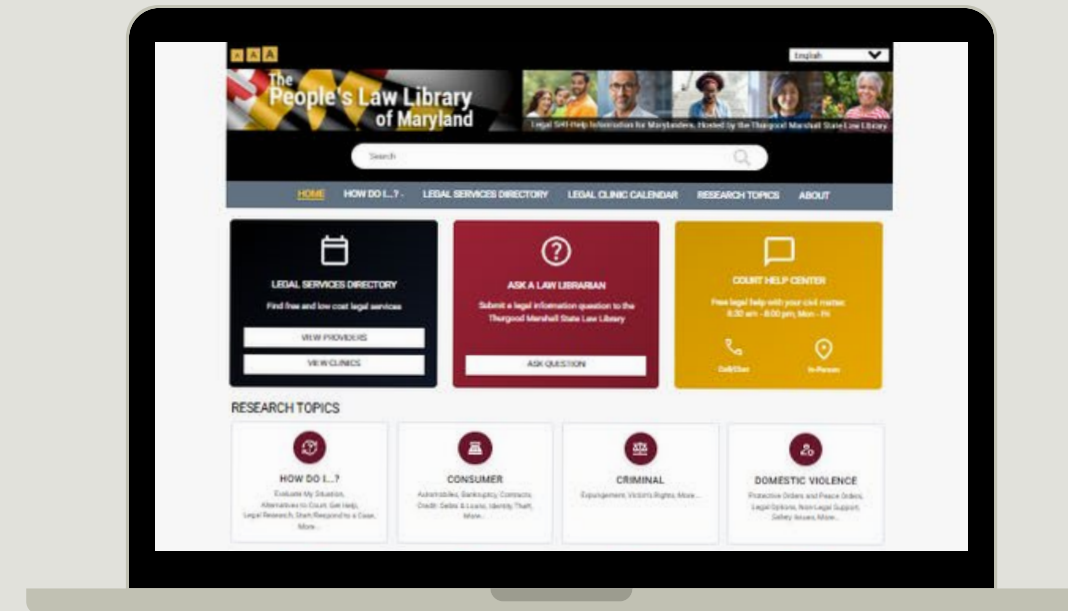
Secondary Sources

- * Provides citations to primary law
- * [People's Law Library of Maryland](#)
- * [Nolo](#)

Case law databases

- * Westlaw / Lexis (fee based)
- * [Google Scholar](#)(free)

[Maryland Judiciary Case Search](#)





Practice

Using the Maryland PLL website, find the article on Defamation Law; locate and write down the citations to the two Maryland cases cited for this topic.

Then, go to Google Scholar. Look up one of the two citations you identified. In that case, identify the following:

- a) The date of the decision
- b) The judge who authored the opinion
- c) The decision of the court

DROP YOUR FINDINGS IN CHAT

If You Hit a Wall



[Court Help Centers](#) - *note: note all family help centers assist with adult guardianship.*



[Family Court Help Centers](#)



[Women's Law Center of Maryland](#)

Family Law Hotline

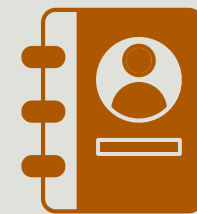
Employment Law Hotline



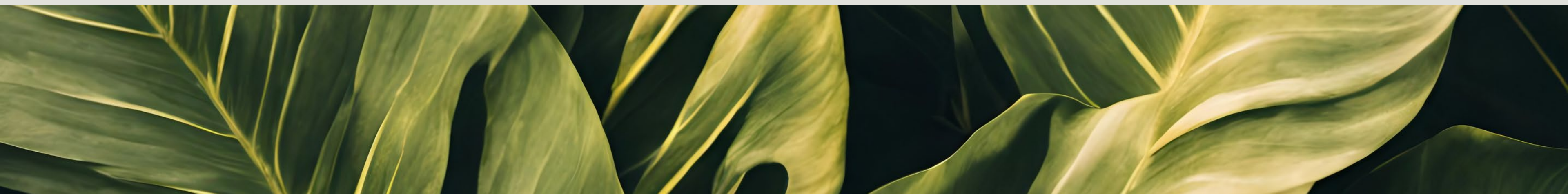
[MD Legal Aid](#)



[Public Law Libraries](#)

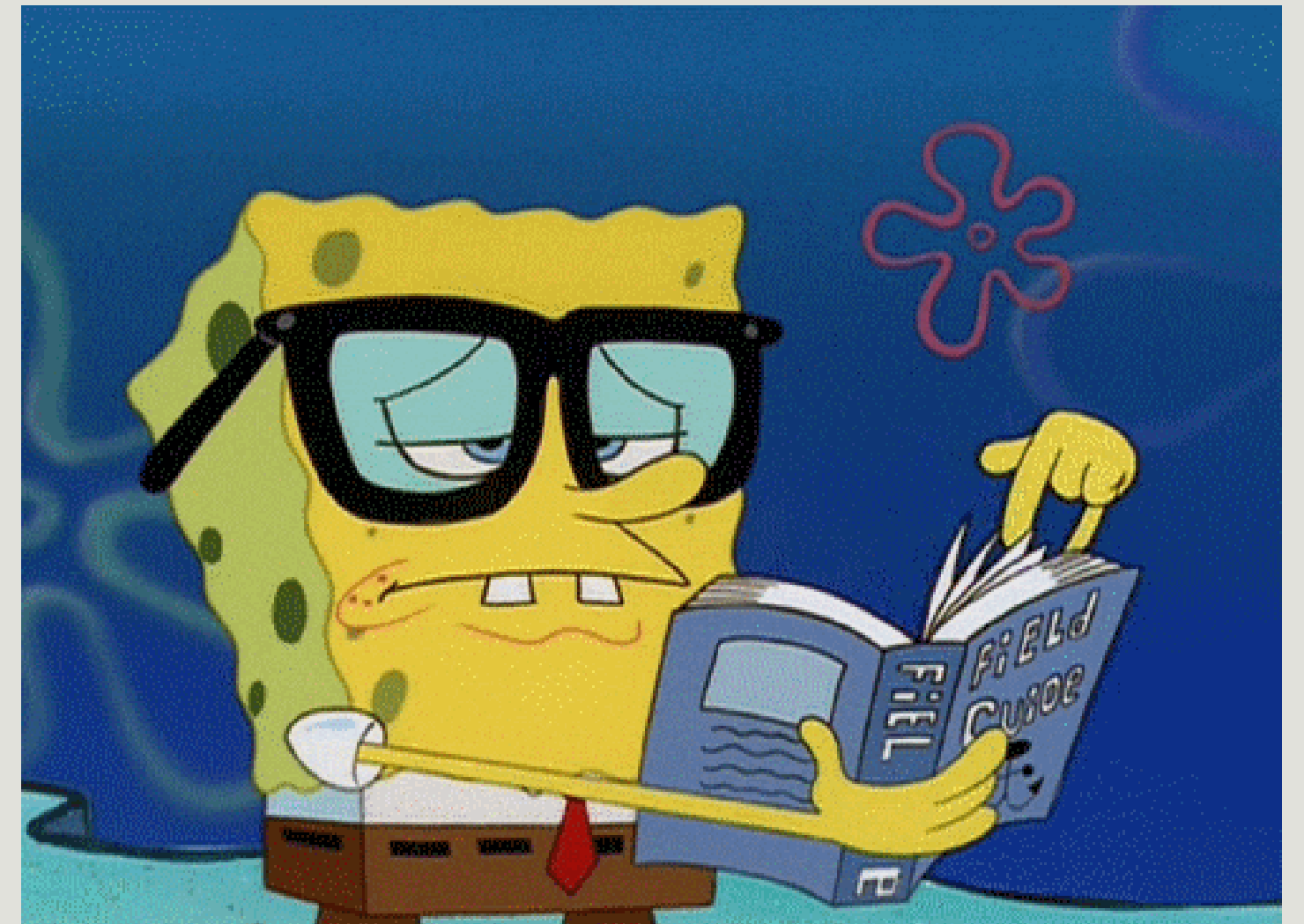


[PLL Legal Services Directory](#)



SELF-EDUCATION: LEGAL REFERENCE

- Maryland Judiciary videos – [What is the Law?](#)
- [Frontlines Page - Introduction](#)
- [Frontlines past recordings and slides](#)
- [Maryland Public Library Toolkit](#)



MORE QUESTIONS?



[Thurgood Marshall State Law Library](#)

410 - 260 - 1430

lawlibrary@mdcourts.gov

[A2J Department, Administrative Office of the Courts](#)

410 - 260 - 1258

inquiries@mdcourts.gov

[MD Access to Justice Commission](#)

443 - 703 - 3037

[Maryland Court & County Law Libraries](#)

THANKS A BUNCH

