



Mapping the Digital Legal Information of Mexico, Central America, the Spanish Speaking Caribbean and Haiti¹

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Abstract:

Over the past decade, the Latin American countries have committed to strengthening Democratic Governance in the region and to promoting transparency in government. This was a result of the Declaration of the Heads of State and Government in the Special Summit of the Americas Meeting which was held in Monterrey, Mexico in 2004 - the Declaration of Nuevo Leon. As part of the Declaration, the leaders committed to promote transparency and to provide the legal and regulatory framework to guarantee the right of access to information to their citizens. This was understood as a means to improve the quality of democracy and to strengthen the rule of law through an effective participation of the citizens. At the time of the meeting of the Summit of the Americas in Monterrey, Mexico and Panama were the only countries that already had enacted Freedom of Information Acts, both countries in 2002. As a result of the 2004 Summit, specific laws of transparency and access to public information were enacted by Puerto Rico through the Electronic Government Act in 2004; the Dominican Republic in 2005; Honduras in 2006; Nicaragua enacted two separate laws, one on access to public information in 2007, and another on transparency in 2008; Guatemala in 2008; and El Salvador in March 2011. The laws explicitly state that the creation and maintenance of government websites is the means for delivering the contents of public information (see Appendix 1). The laws also define the types of documents and the types of information that should be made accessible for the three branches of government: the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches. These include documents generated by the functions and operations of the governmental units, including

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documents on budget execution, programs, projects, bidding, purchasing, spending, and the legal framework.

This paper focuses on mapping the digital legal information of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panamá, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Puerto Rico. The mapping of the digital legal information for these countries is presented in the context of the fundamental right to access to public information expressed in many of these countries' national constitutions and in the specific laws enacted to ascertain the level of transparency of the countries in the region.

INTRODUCTION

In 2004, the Special Summit of the Americas meeting that took place in Monterrey, Mexico recommended the enactment of a law on the right to access public information in the Americas². The main objective of this recommendation was to improve the quality of democracy and to strengthen the rule of law through an effective participation of the citizens. There are four key principles under this law: (1) the principle of access to public information, which contemplates the right of all the citizens to request and access public information; (2) the principle of publicity, which considers the obligation of the public administration to disclose the information held by government agencies – with certain limitations; (3) the principle of participation, which envisions that all public entities must promote citizen participation; and (4) the principle of transparency, which aims to hold all government officers accountable for their use of public resources.

At the time of the Special Summit of the Americas meeting in Mexico, only Mexico (in 2002) and Panama (in 2002) had already enacted laws of transparency and the right to access public information. Since 2004, nine Central American and Caribbean countries have enacted such laws: the Dominican Republic in 2005; Honduras in 2006; Nicaragua enacted two separate laws, one on access to public information in 2007, and another on transparency in 2008; Guatemala in 2008; and most recently, in March 2011, El Salvador enacted *Ley de Acceso a la Información Pública*, Access to Public Information Act. Puerto Rico enacted in June 2004, the Electronic Government Act. Thus, for this region, Costa Rica, Cuba and Haiti remain without having passed specific laws on transparency or the right to access public information.

² Neuman, Laura, *Leyes de acceso a la información: piezas de un rompecabezas, un análisis de la normativa internacional*, http://www.cartercenter.org/resources/pdfs/peace/americas/ati_piezas_of_puzzle_spanish.pdf, last accessed June 13, 2011; see also, Summit of the Americas, *Follow up and Implementation: Mandates*, 64, http://www.summit-americas.org/sisca/justice_trans.html

The laws explicitly state that the creation and maintenance of government websites is the means for delivering the contents of public information. The laws also define the types of documents and the types of information that should be made accessible for the three branches of government (the Executive, the Legislative and the Judicial). These include the documents generated by the functions and operations of the government units, including documents on budget execution, programs, projects, bidding, purchasing, spending, and the legal framework.

This paper focuses on mapping the digital legal information of Mexico, Central America, the Spanish speaking Caribbean (Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico) and Haiti, in the context of the fundamental right to access to public information expressed in many of these countries' national constitutions and in the specific laws enacted. The law gives emphasis to the obligation of the State to systematize information accessible to the citizens and publicize it through different electronic media. Although the end goal is the same, there are differences among the countries in the effort to systematize and make legal information accessible. There are also differences within the countries, among the three branches of government and among the various government units.

MEXICO

Law of Transparency

In 2002, Mexico enacted a law to guarantee to all, access to information held by the Government Powers of the Union, *Federal Transparency and Access to Public Government Information* - <http://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/pdf/244.pdf>. The law protects the right of all persons to access public information and it makes public administration transparent by disclosing information held by agencies and by government entities. It makes this information available to the public by remote and local electronic means (Article 9) and defines the types of documents to be publicized. The law also mandates the creation of the Federal Institute for Access to Public Information and Data Protection (IFAI) <http://www.ifai.org.mx/> as an independent body charged with promoting and publicizing the exercise of the right to access public information.

Portals

Orden Jurídico - <http://www.ordenjuridico.gob.mx/> - is the main portal to laws found on government websites. Laws of the various government websites are displayed in a manner organized by hierarchical order. The Constitution, which is the supreme law of the land, is the first sphere. This is followed by the International sphere, the Federal sphere, the State and the Federal District sphere, and finally by the Municipal sphere. The Federal level opens to the three main branches of the federal government: the Legislative, the Executive, and the Judiciary, and to the Autonomous organizations. The State and Federal District levels contain links to the official websites of each State, organized in the same order as the Federal level: the Constitution, Executive, Legislative, Judicial, and Autonomous institutions of each State. Searches can be performed in every page by keyword in title, and at the State level they can be narrowed down by type of document. This is an outstanding resource as it is a single access point to all the laws on government websites in Mexico.

IberIUS, Red Iberoamericana de Información y Documentación Judicial - http://www.iberius.org/web/guest/recursos_juridicos - provides access to the Constitution and codes of Mexico. It briefly describes the judicial system of Mexico and links to judicial organizations.

Latin Laws: Biblioteca Legal Latinoamericana - <http://www.latinlaws.com/> - provides the full text of the laws of Mexico organized by area of practice. It links to official and private sources.

Constitution

Orden Jurídico contains the full text, in PDF, of the Political Constitution of the United States of Mexico, enacted in 1917 with constitutional amendments through 2011 - <http://www.ordenjuridico.gob.mx/Constitucion/cn16.pdf> - It also has the historical constitutional documents from 1810 to 1823, and the texts of the constitutions enacted by Mexico since 1824 to 1917, in PDF.

The Chamber of Deputies contains the official text of the Political Constitution of the United States of Mexico enacted in 1917 with constitutional amendments through 2011. It is available in PDF, Word, and ZIP formats - <http://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/pdf/1.pdf> - The constitutional

reforms introduced to the 1917 Mexican Constitution are organized in chronological order by Decree Number and Date, in sequential order by articles, and in chronological order by presidential term.

The Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas (IIJ) contains the Political Constitution of the United States of Mexico updated through 2011 - <http://info4.juridicas.unam.mx/ijure/fed/9/> - In addition to the Spanish text of the Constitution, it also contains the text of the Constitution in English and French updated through 2005. IIJ also provides access to the historical documents that lead to the enactment of the 1917 Constitution and to the Constitutional reforms since 1917 in chronological order by enactment date and by article number.

The Agrarian Courts also contain the Political Constitution of the United States of Mexico, updated through 2007 - <http://www.tribunalesagrarios.gob.mx/images/stories/LegislacionAgraria/const-politica-de-los-e-unidos-mexicanos.pdf>

The Political Database of the Americas contains the 1917 Federal Constitution with reforms through 2010, in HTML - <http://pdba.georgetown.edu/Constitutions/Mexico/mexico.html> - It also has the official text of the 1917 Federal Constitution with reforms through 2000, 2008, and 2009 in PDF, and the Federal Constitution of 1917, in HTML.

Constituciones Hispanoamericanas, Mexico has the historical constitutional texts starting with the Constitution of Apatzingán of 1814 to the Constitution of 1917, updated with reforms through 2002 - <http://bib.cervantesvirtual.com/portal/constituciones/pais.formato?pais=Mexico&indice=constituciones>

WIPO Lex provides access to the Constitution of the United Mexican States, updated to 2010 - <http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/profile.jsp?code=MX>

Legislation

The Official Diary of the Federation (DOF) - <http://dof.gob.mx/> - is the Official Gazette of Mexico. It is published by the Secretaría de Gobernación, accessible through the website since 1917 to date. The current issues of the Official Gazette can also be accessed in HTML and Word formats. The section *Laws and Regulations* link to *Orden Juridico*.

The Senate of the Republic - <http://www.senado.gob.mx/> - has laws and decrees enacted since 2006 to date as well as minutes of the legislative sessions. The Diary of the Debates of the Senate is available starting in 1985 in HTML format. The retrospective issues of the Diary of the Debates, from 1875 to 2003 have been digitized and published in DVD format.

The Chamber of Deputies - <http://www.diputados.gob.mx/inicio.htm> - publicizes the official text of legislation in PDF, Word and Zip. It is organized into several sections: (a) *Federal Laws in Force*, includes the Constitution, the Codes, and the most usual Federal laws; (b) *Constitutional Reforms* since 1916 in chronological order, by constitutional article, and by presidential term; (c) *The Legal Framework* and internal regulations of Congress and its Chambers; (d) *Repealed Federal Laws* since May 2004; and (e) *Federal Regulations in Force* and repealed federal regulations. The Chamber of Deputies also has the Annual Cumulative Index since January 1994 and the daily table of contents of the Official Gazette (DOF) since January 2006 to date.

The Institute of Legal Research (IIJ) - <http://www.juridicas.unam.mx/> - has Federal and State Legislation in HTML format, and the Index to the Official Gazette since 2000, in PDF.

The Secretary of the Public Function, under Normateca - <http://www.normateca.gob.mx/Inicio.php> - contains the official texts in PDF of federal laws, norms, and procedures regulating the government in Mexico.

World Law Guide (Lexadin) – Mexico - <http://www.lexadin.nl/wlg/legis/nofr/oeur/lxwemex.htm> - identifies foreign legal resources worldwide and organizes these sources by country and area of law, including: constitutional law, litigation and court procedure, administrative law, labor law, construction law, e-commerce, criminal law, commercial law, and intellectual property. The end of each country page contains links to the sources of law of that country.

Legislation by Topic

The Secretary of Foreign Relations – <http://www.sre.gob.mx/index.php> - under *Legal Framework*, contains the official text in PDF, of laws, regulations, decrees, and internal agreements on matters such as extradition, foreign investment, nationality, and human trafficking. The *Digital Library on International Relations* provides access, in PDF, to publications and historical documents on Mexican foreign relations, including titles such as: *Guide to the Archives Regarding the Limits and Rivers between Mexico and Belice* (1994) and *Digital Archives of Documents on the War of Texas, 1835, and the War between Mexico – United States, 1846 -1848* - http://www.sre.gob.mx/acervo/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=68&Itemid=345

The Secretary of Finance and Public Credit - <http://www.shcp.gob.mx/Paginas/default.aspx> - contains laws, decrees, agreements, reports, guidelines, norms and procedures on public finance since 1998 to date. Simple and advanced searches can be performed by date, by type of document, and by keyword. It contains the official text of the laws in PDF.

The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources - <http://www.semarnat.gob.mx/Pages/Inicio.aspx> -under *Laws and Norms*, contains official documents in PDF of federal laws, agreements, and Mexican norms on the environment and natural resources.

The Secretary of Energy - <http://www.sener.gob.mx/Default.aspx> - under *Acerca de SENER*, has the constitutional framework, the legal and regulatory framework, and the official Mexican norms of the energy sector. It redirects the user to the full text of the Official Gazette on the Chamber of Deputies website.

The Federal Institute of Access to Information and Data Protection (IFAI) - <http://www.ifai.org.mx/> - is the entity that supervises access to public information and protection of personal data in Mexico. IFAI reports on transparency and personal data protection issues and produces an index of transparency of public institutions in Mexico. IFAI began publishing an online journal *Transparencia y Privacidad*, in PDF No. 1 (2011) http://revista.ifai.org.mx/numero_1/index.html

NATLEX - Mexico - http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.country?p_lang=en&p_country=MEX-contains Mexican labor laws and regulations. NATLEX includes the labor and criminal codes, employment and labor laws, social security law, migrant workers laws, equal opportunity and non-discrimination laws,

and laws on the protection of children and young persons. It also includes international and bilateral agreements to which the country is a party.

The Doing Business Library of the World Bank - <http://www.doingbusiness.org/law-library> - provides access to the Constitution, banking and credit laws, commercial and company laws, labor laws, tax laws, and land and building laws. It provides official and non-official sources in PDF.

FAOLEX - <http://faolex.fao.org/faolex/index.htm> - is a database of laws and regulations on topics falling within UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) mandate, including: agriculture, cultivated plants, environment, fisheries, food, forestry, land and soil, livestock, water and wild species, and ecosystems. In many cases the documents are translated into multiple languages. Basic search options allow searching by country. It links to the full text of the document in Word or PDF formats and contains official and non-official sources.

ECOLEX - <http://www.ecolex.org/start.php> - is a database providing information on environmental law. It includes treaties, court decisions, legislation, and monographs and articles. Simple and advanced searches can be performed, and it can be narrowed down by type of document and by country. It contains the official texts of the laws in PDF.

DOALOS - UN Division of Ocean Affairs and Laws of the Seas, Maritime Space – Legislation and Treaties is an online database on national maritime delimitation legislation and treaties of countries around the world. The Mexico page is available at - <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/STATEFILES/MEX.htm>

UNODOC – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime – Mexico - http://www.unodc.org/en/browse_country.jsp?country=MEX, has laws, decrees, regulations, and resolutions since 1962 through 2010 on topics such as narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the prevention of money laundering and illicit trafficking in narcotics. English and Spanish versions of some of the laws are available.

IMOLIN – Money Laundering Information Network, administered by UNODOC, is a portal to laws and regulations regarding the prevention and prosecution of money laundering and illicit trafficking in narcotics. IMOLIN also includes laws on extradition, the criminal code, and the criminal procedure code. The full text of the legislation is provided in PDF or Word formats. Mexico - <https://www.imolin.org/amlid2/browse.jsp?country=MEX>

WIPO Lex is the online database of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to national laws, implemented rules and regulations, treaties, monographs, and articles on intellectual property. Searches can be performed by country and subject matter, by type of treaty and organization, and full text search. The laws are in HTML and PDF formats in the original language and translated into English – Mexico page in WIPO Lex - <http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/profile.jsp?code=MX>

The OAS, Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition website briefly describes the legal system of OAS member states. It contains legislation on assistance between countries on criminal matters. It also has the text of bilateral treaties and multilateral instruments to which the country is a party. Documents can be accessed in Spanish, English, or French, and in PDF, Word, or HTML formats – Mexico page - <http://www.oas.org/juridico/mla/en/mex/index.html>

Jurisprudence

The Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation -

<http://www.scjn.gob.mx/2010/Paginas/PrincipalV2010.aspx> - provides electronic access to the decisions of the courts through different publications: (a) *Public Versions of the Judgments of the Supreme Court* contains the full text in Word format of the opinions since 2003 to date; (b) *Semanario Judicial de la Federación* is the official journal of the Judiciary covering the cases of the Supreme Court and its Chambers as well as the opinions of the Collegiate Courts, however, only the two most current issues of April and May 2011 are available in PDF open access on the website of the Judiciary; (c) *IUS Jurisprudence and Isolated Thesis* compiles and systematizes the decisions of the Federal courts published in the *Semanario Judicial de la Federación* since June 1917.

The Electoral Tribunal of the Judiciary - <http://portal.te.gob.mx/> - makes available judgments of the TEPJF since 1996 and jurisprudential thesis since 2002 in HTML. The Gazette of Jurisprudence is published electronically in DVD - <http://gaceta.tribunalelectoral.gob.mx/updates/#Linea>

The Agrarian Courts of Mexico - <http://www.tribunalesagrarios.gob.mx/> - under *Jurisprudence*, contains the digest of the decisions organized in alphabetical order, by topic, in HTML format.

The Federal Tribunal on Mediation and Arbitration - <http://www.tfca.gob.mx/> - publishes some of the awards or redirects the user to the Official Gazette on the webpage of the Secretary of Government.

The Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas (IIJ) - <http://www.juridicas.unam.mx/infjur/leg/jrs/> - under *InfoJus*, has the jurisprudence of the Mexican courts. It provides access to the jurisprudential thesis published in the *Semanario Judicial de la Federación* since 2000 in HTML format.

Doctrine

The Supreme Court of Justice - <http://www.scjn.gob.mx/2010/Paginas/PrincipalV2010.aspx> - publishes the following legal journals:

Raíz y Conciencia, Instituto de Investigaciones Jurisprudenciales y de Promoción y Difusión de la Ética Judicial, is a monthly publication with online access starting in February - <http://www.scjn.gob.mx/2010/difusion/Paginas/RaizyConciencia.aspx>

Revista Criterio y Conducta, no. 1 (2007) – Instituto de Investigaciones Jurisprudenciales y de Promoción y Difusión de la Ética Judicial – provides online access to issues no. 1, (2007) – no. 4 (2008) - <http://www2.scjn.gob.mx/investigacionesjurisprudenciales/criterioyconducta.asp>

Chronicles of the Court is a monographic title recording the reasoning of the Supreme Court on different legal matters. It is published in video or word format - <http://www.scjn.gob.mx/Micrositios/unidadcronicas/Paginas/cronicasplenasalas.aspx>

The Judicial Council (CJF) - <http://www.cjf.gob.mx/default.html> - publishes the following legal journals online:

Revista del Instituto Federal de la Defensoría Pública. The full text of issues no. 8 (2009) and no. 9 (2010) are accessible in PDF on the website of the Council; however, only the table of contents of previous issues are available - <http://www.ifdp.cjf.gob.mx/investig/revista.asp>

Revista del Instituto de la Judicatura Federal, no. 1 (1997) – current through no. 29 (2010) in PDF. This legal journal can be searched by author, title, or subject.

<http://www.ijf.cjf.gob.mx/publica.asp>

The Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas (IJJ) publishes treatises and legal journals and makes them accessible online in the Juridical Virtual Library - <http://www.juridicas.unam.mx/publica/> - Treatises and legal journals can be searched by keyword in title and by author. More than 40 Latin American legal journals are accessible through the Juridical Virtual Library of the IJJ in PDF format. Some of the electronic journals accessible include: *Anales de Jurisprudencia*, *Anuario Mexicano de Derecho Internacional*, *Anuario Mexicano de Historia del Derecho*, *Boletín del Instituto de Derecho Comparado de México*, *Boletín Mexicano de Derecho Comparado*, *Comparative Media Law Journal*, *Cuestiones Constitucionales*, *Mexican Law Review*, *Revista de Derecho Privado*, and *Revista Mexicana de Historia del Derecho*.

Scielo - <http://www.scielo.org/php/index.php?lang=en> - provides full text access to *Anuario Mexicano de Derecho Internacional*, a legal journal from Mexico.

Redalyc - <http://redalyc.uaemex.mx/> - includes the full text of two Mexican legal journals: *Boletín Mexicano de Derecho Comparado* and *Cuestiones Constitucionales*.

Latindex - <http://www.latindex.unam.mx/> - the online regional bibliographic information system of scientific journals published in Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal. Latindex is hosted by the Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Latindex records 65 Mexican legal journals; of these 25 (38%) are online legal journals. Thirteen of these journals are published by the Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas of UNAM: *Anuario Mexicano de Derecho Internacional*, *Anuario Mexicano de Historia del Derecho*, *Boletín Mexicano de Derecho Comparado*, *Comparative Media Law Journal*, *Cuestiones Constitucionales*, *Derecho Comparado de la Información*, *Dialogo Jurisprudencial*, *Mexican Law Review*, *Problema: Anuario de Filosofía y Teoría del Derecho*, *Revista de Derecho Privado*, *Revista Latinoamericana de Derecho*, *Revista Latinoamericana de Derecho Social*, and *Reforma Judicial*. Two additional legal journals from UNAM are: the *Revista de la Facultad de Derecho de Mexico* published by the Faculty of Law, and *Critica Jurídica* published by UNAM's Interdisciplinary Research Center for the Sciences and the Humanities.

Treaties

Orden Jurídico - <http://www.ordenjuridico.gob.mx/> - under *International Sphere* contains the full text of the international treaties and conventions to which Mexico is a party. It includes the full text in PDF of treaties signed by Mexico and in force between 1836 to 2009, treaties and declarations on human rights, and ratification of treaties, agreements and conventions of the various international organizations. In addition, it provides access to the full text in PDF of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, the law regulating the celebration of international treaties in Mexico, and the law regulating the approval by Mexico of international treaties on economic matters.

The Chamber of Deputies - <http://www.diputados.gob.mx/inicio.htm> - under *Leyes Federales y Estatales, Compilaciones Temáticas*, has the treaties, agreements, and other international instruments approved by Congress and ratified by Mexico which were published in the Official Gazette since 2002. It contains the official text in Word format.

The Senate - <http://www.senado.gob.mx/index.php?ver=sp&mn=8> - under *Contenido de Instrumentos Internacionales*, contains the full text in PDF of the international, multilateral, and bilateral agreements approved by the Senate since December 14, 2006.

The Supreme Court of Justice - <http://www.scjn.gob.mx/2010/Paginas/PrincipalV2010.aspx> – under *Laws and International Treaties*, one finds searching by keywords or by topics bilateral and multilateral treaties signed by Mexico since 1918. Official full text published in the Official Diary of the Federation (DOF) in PDF.

SICE – The Foreign Trade Information System of the Organization of American States (OAS), contains the full text of trade agreements and bilateral investment treaties in force, documents on trade policy, and national legislation in force on key trade disciplines such as foreign investment, e-commerce, commercial arbitration, ADR, competition policy, antidumping, and intellectual property rights. Documents are available in English, Spanish, and French, and in multiple formats, such as Word and PDF. The Mexico page in SICE is available at - http://www.sice.oas.org/ctyindex/MEX/MEXNatIDocs_e.asp

Commercial Databases

Mexican Laws in English - <http://www.mexicanlaws.com/> - is a fee-based online legal database that provides English translations of current Mexican legislation.

InterAm, developed by the National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade (Natlaw), is an on-line collection of codes, laws, regulations, case law, and secondary source materials on all areas related to business and economic development for countries in the Americas. It is not a comprehensive database but it covers the most important sources in each area of law. Files are in text format. InterAm includes translations into English of selected legal materials. Mexico resources in InterAm - <http://natlaw.com/interam/mx/> - cover laws since 1872 with the Political Constitution of the State of Sonora and case law since 1997. It provides access to the index and full text of the daily issues of the Official Gazette of Mexico since 1994 to the present.

vLEX is an online legal database that covers legislation, jurisprudence, and doctrine of many jurisdictions around the world. It provides the full text in text format. The Mexico database in vLEX - <http://vlex.com.mx/jurisdictions/MX> - covers all federal codes since 1911 to the present; State codes since 1850 to the present; the Official Gazette since 1992 to present; official standards since 1993; jurisprudence of the Supreme Court of Justice since 1955; cases of the Collegiate Circuit Courts since 1981; opinions of the Electoral Court of the Federation since 1996; decisions of the Judicial Council of the Federation since 1995; and judgments of the Fiscal and Administrative Federal Court since 2007. Doctrine includes treatises, legal journals, and some case law digests and compilation of laws.

IFLP – The Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals - <http://www.law.berkeley.edu/library/iflp/index.html> - indexes eight legal journals from Mexico: *Revista Latinoamericana de Derecho*, *Anuario Mexicano de Derecho Internacional*, *Anuario Mexicano de Historia del Derecho*, *Boletín Mexicano de Derecho Comparado*, *Revista de Investigaciones Jurídicas*, *Revista de la Facultad de Derecho de México*, *Revista Latinoamericana de Derecho*, and *Revista Mexicana de Derecho Internacional Privado y Comparado*.

LexisNexis - <http://www.lexisnexis.com/> - has an excellent coverage of Mexico within the Foreign Laws and Legal Resources databases, full text in Spanish. Coverage includes case law from the

Supreme Court of Justice from the 1900's through the present, federal laws and codes, and some state laws. Mexican legal journals are not included in the Database.

GUATEMALA

Law of Transparency

In 2008, Guatemala enacted its Access to Public Information Act, Decree No. 57-2008, <http://www.scspr.gob.gt/docs/infpublic.pdf>, to guarantee the transparency of the public administration and the right of all persons to request and have free access to public information. The law is based on the principle of maximum publicity (Article 3.1) and the obligation of transparency in the public administration (Article 3.2). The law defines the types of documents and information to be publicized by the three branches of government.

Portals

CENADOJ is the National Center of Analysis and Judicial Documentation which is a unit of the Judiciary of Guatemala. *Leyes y Resoluciones* - <http://www.oj.gob.gt/> - provides access to the legislation and jurisprudence of Guatemala published in the Official Gazette - *El Diario de Centro América* – in text format. The jurisprudence covers not only the decisions of the Supreme Court of Justice since 1972, but also the decisions of the different courts of appeals, including: Court of Appeal on Labor and Social Security Matters, since 1989; Court of Appeal on Children and Adolescence Matters, since 2005; Court of Appeal in Constitutional Matters, since 2005; Court of Appeal on Civil and Commercial Matters, since 2004; Court of Appeal on Family Matters, since 2004; Court of Appeal on Criminal Matters, since 2005; and Court of Appeal on Administrative Law Matters, since 2001. It also contains the laws of Guatemala since 1808. Keyword searches can be performed on each individual database or across all the databases. Full text of the documents can be downloaded in Word format.

iberIUS: Red Iberoamericana de Información y Documentación Judicial - http://www.iberius.org/web/guest/recursos_juridicos - provides access to the constitution and the codes of Guatemala in PDF, and links to the Official Gazette, *Diario de Centro América*. It briefly describes the judicial system of the country and links to judicial organizations.

Latin Laws: Biblioteca Legal Latinoamericana - <http://www.latinlaws.com/country/Honduras/> <http://www.latinlaws.com/> - has the full text of the laws of Guatemala organized by area of practice. It links to official and private sources.

Constitution

The Political Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala of 1985, with amendments through 1993, can be found at the following websites:

The Congress of the Republic - http://www.congreso.gob.gt/gt/normativa_constitucional.asp - Political Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala in PDF.

The Constitutional Court of Guatemala, Political Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala - http://www.cc.gob.gt/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=36&Itemid=67 - in PDF and HTML formats.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Political Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala - http://www.minex.gob.gt/Consulta_Doc.aspx?IdDoc=1782 in PDF.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Security, Political Constitution of Guatemala - <http://www.mintrabajo.gob.gt/index.php/leyes-y-convenios/leyes-constitucionales/52-constitucion-politica-de-guatemala>

The Ministry of Government, Political Constitution of Guatemala of 1985 with reforms through 1993 - http://www.mingob.gob.gt/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=262&Itemid=85

The Superintendence of Banking – Political Constitution of Guatemala, 1985 amendments through 1993 <http://www.sib.gob.gt/web/sib/207> in PDF format.

Political Database of the Americas, Constitution of Guatemala of 1985 including 1993 constitutional reforms - <http://pdba.georgetown.edu/Constitutions/Guate/guate.html> - It also includes the Constitution of 1985 in HTML.

Constituciones Hispanoamericanas, Guatemala has the constitutions since the first Constitution in 1825 through the Political Constitution of 1985 with reforms through 1993. <http://bib.cervantesvirtual.com/portal/constituciones/pais.formato?pais=Guatemala&indice=constituciones>

WIPO Lex, Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala of 1985 as amended 1993 <http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/profile.jsp?code=GT>

Legislation

The Congress of the Republic of Guatemala website - <http://www.congreso.gob.gt/> - under *Marco Jurídico* and *Consulta Legislativa* contains constitutional laws (the Constitution, Amparo law, Electoral Law, and Law of Political Parties) and ordinary laws. There is a link to a previous webpage where one can find the text of peace treaties and agreements signed and ratified by Guatemala in PDF format. Additionally, listed in chronological order from 1842 to 1985 are the *Decreets*, although, only a digest of the law is provided. Starting in 1986, open access to the full text from the Official Gazette is attached to the summary of the law in PDF.

The Official Gazette is the newspaper *El Diario de Centro América* - <http://www.dca.gob.gt/> - the laws are published under the section *Legal*. The website does not provide access to past archives of the newspaper, only the daily issue is accessible free online in PDF format.

Organismo Judicial (OJ) - <http://www.oj.gob.gt/> - under *Leyes y Resoluciones*, has regulations, codes, and laws related to the organization and functions of the judiciary in PDF.

World Law Guide (Lexadin) - Guatemala - <http://www.lexadin.nl/wlg/legis/nofr/oeur/lxwegua.htm> - Identifies foreign legal resources worldwide and organizes these sources by country and area of law, including: constitutional law, litigation and court procedure, administrative law, labor law, construction law, e-commerce, criminal law, commercial law, and intellectual property. The end of each country page contains links to the sources of law of that country.

Legislation by Topic

The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN) - <http://www.marn.gob.gt/> - is an excellent website providing comprehensive coverage of laws and regulations related to natural resources and the environment. *Todas las Normas* and *MARN* are the main portals allowing open access to the laws. *Todas las Normas* organizes the laws by source of law: enacted laws by Congress; Presidential Decrees, Protocols, and Treaties. A search engine on MARN allows for searching by keyword. Official and non-official texts are available in PDF format.

CALAS - <http://www.calas.org.gt> - Centro de Acción Legal – Ambiental y Social de Guatemala, reports the contentious cases before the courts on crimes against the environment. It is a digest, the full text of the decisions are not available, only a brief description of the cases, parties involved, status of the case, and outcomes.

The Ministry of Culture and Sports - <http://www.mcd.gob.gt/> - under *Acuerdos y Leyes* contains not only laws and decrees relating to sports and culture, but also copyright laws, laws on protected areas, and laws for the promotion of the book and the protection of cultural patrimony. It also contains agreements and publications of the Ministry such as *Compendio de Leyes sobre la Proteccion del Patrimonio Cultural Guatemalteco* (Unesco, 2006) in PDF format.

The Ministry of Public Finance - <http://www.minfin.gob.gt/> - under *Documents*, contains publications, manuals, laws, agreements, and ministerial resolutions specific to this sector. The documents are official and non-official texts in PDF. One of its publications is *Compendio de Leyes y Normativas Tesoreria Nacional*.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Security - <http://www.mintrabajo.gob.gt/> - under *Laws and Conventions*, provides access to constitutional laws and ordinary laws, including: the Labor, Criminal and Civil Codes; the Public Administration Salaries Act; the Contentious Administrative Act; the Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents; laws on unions and regulation of strikes of public employees; and agreements, conventions and regulations in the field of labor and social security. Sources are available in PDF and HTML formats.

The Ministry of Government - <http://www.mingob.gob.gt/> - under *Consulta Ciudadana - Legislacion*, contains the legislation on national security, delinquency, and penitentiary laws in PDF.

The Ministry of Economy - <http://www.mineco.gob.gt/presentacion/principal.aspx> - under *Leyes y Normas*, contains the laws and regulations on free zones, exports and maquila, free competence, commercial laws, and foreign trade laws. The official texts are available in PDF format.

The Central Bank of Guatemala - <http://www.banguat.gob.gt/> - under *Banking and Financial Laws*, contains monetary and banking laws and regulations in force in PDF format.

The Superintendence of Banks - <http://www.sib.gob.gt/> - under *Normativa*, provides access to money laundering laws in English and Spanish. It also contains banking and financial and insurance laws in force, and the code of commerce in PDF.

The Superintendence of Tax Administration - <http://portal.sat.gob.gt/sitio/> - under *Leyes*, arranges the legislation into custom laws and tax legislation and related norms.

The Superintendence of Telecommunications - <http://www.sit.gob.gt/> - under *Marco Legal y Regulatorio*, has laws and regulations covering telecommunications, radio communications, telephone, and radiofrequency in PDF.

The National Registry of Persons - <https://www.renap.gob.gt/> - under *Sección de Información Pública*, contains laws and regulations related to the national registry of persons.

The Intellectual Property Registry - <http://www.rpi.gob.gt/top.html> - under *Legislación*, provides access to intellectual property, patent, trademark, and copyright laws and regulations as well as to the Internal Revenue Code, and treaties and conventions of international organizations.

The Registry of Secured Transactions - <http://www.rgm.gob.gt/> - under *Ley y Reglamento*, contains the legal framework for secured transactions in Guatemala. Official laws are available in PDF.

The Guatemalan Notary Law Institute - <http://www.igdnorarial.org.gt/> - under *Estatutos - Legislacion*, has the Commercial Code, the Civil Code, and the Notary Code, as well as property and secured transactions laws.

NATLEX – Guatemala -

http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.country?p_lang=en&p_country=GTM- contains Guatemalan labor laws and regulations. NATLEX includes the labor and criminal code, employment and labor laws, social security law, migrant worker laws, equal opportunity and non-discrimination laws, and laws on the protection of children and young persons. It also includes international and bilateral agreements to which Guatemala is a party.

The Doing Business Library of the World Bank - <http://www.doingbusiness.org/law-library> - provides access to Guatemala's civil procedure code, commercial and company laws, labor laws, and tax laws. Official and non-official sources are available in PDF.

FAOLEX - <http://faolex.fao.org/faolex/index.htm> - is a database of laws and regulations on topics falling within UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) mandate, including: agriculture, cultivated plants, environment, fisheries, food, forestry, land and soil, livestock, water and wild species, and ecosystems. In many cases the documents are translated into multiple languages. Basic search options allow searching by country. It links to the full text of the document in Word or PDF formats and contains both official and non-official sources.

ECOLEX - <http://www.ecolex.org/start.php> - is a database providing information on environmental law. It includes treaties, court decisions, legislation, monographs, and articles. Simple and advanced searches can be performed, and it can be narrowed down by type of document and by country. It contains official texts of the laws in PDF.

DOALOS - UN Division of Ocean Affairs and Laws of the Seas, Maritime Space – Legislation and Treaties is an online database on national maritime delimitation legislation and treaties of countries around the world. The Guatemala page is available at - <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/STATEFILES/GTM.htm>

UNODOC – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime – Guatemala -

http://www.unodc.org/enl/browse_country.jsp?country=GUA - has laws, decrees, regulations and resolutions from 1962 through 2010 governing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as well as laws preventing money laundering and illicit trafficking in narcotics. English and Spanish versions of some of the laws are available.

WIPO Lex is the online database of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to national laws, implemented rules and regulations, treaties, monographs, and articles on intellectual property. Searches can be performed by country and subject matter, by type of treaty and organization, and

full text search. The laws are in HTML and PDF formats in the original language and translated into English – The Guatemala page in WIPO Lex is available at - <http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/profile.jsp?code=GT>

The OAS, Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition website, briefly describes the legal system of OAS member states. It has legislation on assistance between countries on criminal matters. It also has the text of bilateral treaties and multilateral instruments to which the country is a party. Documents can be accessed in Spanish, English, or French, and in PDF, Word, or HTML format – Guatemala page - <http://www.oas.org/juridico/mla/en/gtm/index.html>

Derecho Penal is a portal on criminal law resources of various countries of the world, in Spanish hosted by the University of Fribourg in Switzerland - <http://www.unifr.ch/ddp1/derechopenal/?menu=legislacion#C> – The Guatemala section contains the Criminal Code of Guatemala (Decree n. 17-1973) and Judiciary Law (Decree No. 2, 1989) in PDF.

Jurisprudence

CENADOJ - <http://www.oj.gob.gt/> - has an online database containing the full text and summaries of decisions of the Supreme Court of Justice since 1972, the decisions of the Courts of Appeals since 2004, the decisions of the Labor Courts since 1989, and the decisions of the Contentious Administrative Court since 2001. The database is also published in CD-ROM.

The Constitutional Court of Guatemala - <http://www.cc.gob.gt/> - under *Centro de Documentación, Gaceta y Jurisprudencia*, one finds two databases *Gacetas Jurisprudenciales (MLex)* contains the decisions of the Constitutional Court since 1986 to 2009, and the *Sistema de Gestion Documental - SIGED 2009* <http://www.cc.gob.gt/siged2009/> has the decisions of the court starting in 2009 in PDF format. Under *Publications* one can find jurisdictional decisions and agreements in PDF.

Doctrine

The Ministry of Foreign Relations - <http://www.minex.gob.gt/> - electronically publishes documents and articles such as *Marco General y Descripción de Acciones del Estado de Guatemala en Materia Migratoria*, by Erick Mauricio Maldonado Ríos (2010).

The Ministry of Defense - <http://www.mindef.mil.gt/> - under *Publications*, contains *Libro de la Defensa Nacional de la República de Guatemala* (1980?)

The Ministry of Culture and Sports - <http://www.mcd.gob.gt/> - under *Acuerdos y Leyes*, publishes several articles and commentaries such as: *Breviario de Legislación Cultural* by Max Araujo (2005); *Breviario de Legislación Nacional Acerca de las Expresiones Culturales Tradicionales, los Conocimientos Ancestrales y los Derechos de los Pueblos Indígenas en Materia de Cultura* (2010); and *Compendio de Leyes Sobre la Protección del Patrimonio Cultural Guatemalteco* (Unesco, 2006).

The Constitutional Court - <http://www.cc.gob.gt/> - under *Constitution and Constitutional Justice* provides access to treatises such as: *Constitución y Justicia Constitucional: Jornadas de Derecho Constitucional en Centroamérica* (Barcelona, 2008) and *Los procesos de paz en Centroamérica y las funciones de las Cortes de Constitucionalidad* (Barcelona, 2001).

The Human Rights Ombudsman, or Procurador de los Derechos Humanos - <http://www.pdh.org.gt/> - under *Documentos*, publishes the *Annual Reports* on the situation on human rights in Guatemala, on peace agreements, and on criminal statistics.

The Institute for Comparative Studies in Criminal Law of Guatemala (ICCPG) - <http://www.iccpg.org.gt/> - focuses on criminal policy and human rights. The Institute publishes a legal journal *Revista Centroamericana Justicia Penal y Sociedad*; however, the only issues available online are no. 28 and 29 (2008). The institute also includes articles published from 2007 to 2010 on topics such as gender violence in armed conflicts and the current status of the Guatemalan prison system (brief analysis), among other studies.

The Legal Research Institute - Instituto de Investigaciones Juridicas, a department of the University Rafael Landivar, publishes the *Revista de Derechos Humanos*, 2003 – starting with vol. 3, no. 3 (2005). The journal is accessible through the website of the Institute - http://www.url.edu.gt/PortalURL/Principal_01.aspx?s=54

Latindex - <http://www.latindex.unam.mx/> - the online regional bibliographic information system of scientific journals published in Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal. Latindex is hosted by the Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Latindex records 2 legal journals for Guatemala, *Revista de la Facultad de Ciencias Juridicas y Sociales de Guatemala*, and *Revista de la Facultad de Derecho, Universidad Francisco Marroquin*, there is no online access to these two journals.

Treaties

The website of the Ministry of Foreign Relations - <http://www.minex.gob.gt/> - has several sections of special interest. *Territorial Dispute with Belice* includes documents covering the history of the dispute, maps, agreements and treaties since 1783, and conventions and resolutions between the two countries. Official documents are available in PDF format. The Ministry also publishes the full text of cases and decisions of the International Court of Justice on territorial disputes between the countries. Under the section *Digital Archives*, the Ministry makes accessible the documents regarding the political integration of the Central American Republics (SICA).

SICE – The OAS Foreign Trade Information System contains the full text of trade agreements and bilateral investment treaties in force, documents on trade policy, and national legislation in force on key trade disciplines such as: foreign investment, e-commerce, commercial arbitration, ADR, competition policy, antidumping, and intellectual property rights. Documents are available in English, Spanish, and French, and in Word and PDF formats. Guatemala's page in SICE is available at: http://www.sice.oas.org/ctyindex/GTM/GTMNatIDocs_e.asp

Commercial Databases

Infile - <http://www.infile.com/home/> - is a fee-based database of the laws of Guatemala in force. Lex Global - <http://www.lexglobal.com/?errors=1> - provides access to various sources, including: laws; jurisprudence of the Supreme Court of Justice of Guatemala and of the Constitutional Court; information regarding registered trademarks and patents; commercial societies published in the Official Gazette; links to the image of the Official Gazette; treaties, resolutions, norms and agreements of the different government offices; and resolutions of the Monetary Board.

InterAm, developed by the National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade (Natlaw), is an on-line collection of codes, laws, regulations, case law, and secondary source materials on all areas related to business and economic development for countries in the Americas. It is not a comprehensive database but covers the most important sources in each area of law. Files are in text format. InterAm includes translations into English of selected legal materials. Guatemala resources in InterAm - <http://natlaw.com/interam/gu/> - cover laws starting with the Civil and Mercantile Procedure Code of 1963 and the Political Constitution of Guatemala of 1985; however, there is no case law included for Guatemala.

IFLP – Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals - <http://www.law.berkeley.edu/library/iflp/index.html> - indexes the *Revista de la Facultad de Derecho, Universidad Francisco Marroquin*, a legal journal from Guatemala.

EL SALVADOR

Law of Transparency

On March 11, 2011, El Salvador approved a law that guarantees to all the right to access to public information, promoting transparency of public administration, *Ley de Acceso a la Información Pública* - <http://www.asamblea.gob.sv/eparlamento/indice-legislativo/buscador-de-documentos-legislativos/ley-de-acceso-a-la-informacion>. The law mandates the use of information and communication technologies in providing access to the information generated by the different government entities and the implementation of e-government. The law establishes transparency and access to public information as the basic condition for the effective participation of citizens, improving the quality of democracy and strengthening the rule of law.

Portals

Latin Laws: Biblioteca Legal Latinoamericana - <http://www.latinlaws.com/country/Honduras/> <http://www.latinlaws.com/> - provides access to the full text of the laws of El Salvador, organized by area of practice. It links to official and private sources.

iberIUS: Red Iberoamericana de Información y Documentación Judicial - http://www.iberius.org/web/guest/recursos_juridicos - provides access to the Constitution and to the Civil and Criminal Codes of El Salvador in PDF. In addition, it briefly describes the judicial system and links to the National Congress, the Official Gazette, and to the Judicial Documentation Center.

Constitution

The Legislative Assembly provides access to the official text in PDF of the Constitution of El Salvador enacted in 1983 with amendments through 2009 - http://www.asamblea.gob.sv/asamblea-legislativa/constitucion/Constitucion_Actualizada_Republica_El_Salvador.pdf

The Supreme Court of Justice contains the Constitution of the Republic of El Salvador of 1983 in force - http://www.csj.gob.sv/constitu/images/pdf/con_vige.pdf

The Ministry of Foreign Relations has the Constitution of the Republic of El Salvador of 1983, with amendments through 2009 in PDF - <http://www.rree.gob.sv/index.php?/category/asuntos-juridicos/1.php> -

The General Attorney Office contains the Constitution of the Republic of El Salvador of 1983, updated through 2009 - <http://www.pgr.gob.sv/documentos/ConstitucionDeLaRepublica.pdf>

The Political Database of the Americas has the Constitution of El Salvador of 1983 with reforms until 2009, in PDF - <http://pdba.georgetown.edu/Constitutions/ElSal/elsalvador.html> - It also includes the Constitution of 1983 with constitutional reforms through 2000 and 2003 in PDF.

Constituciones Hispanoamericanas, has the full text of the Constitutions of El Salvador starting with the Declaration of Independence in 1821 through the Constitution of 1983 with reforms through 2000 -

http://bib.cervantesvirtual.com/portal/constituciones/pais.formato?pais=El_Salvador&indice=constituciones

Legislation

The Legislative Documentation Center - <http://www.asamblea.gob.sv/> - developed an online database of laws, decrees, codes, and regulations, of El Salvador starting in 1847. It is not comprehensive, but 375 legislative documents are contained in the database. Basic and advanced searches can be performed, retrieving both a summary and the official full text in PDF. The *Anuario Legislativo* is the official publication of the National Assembly. It is accessible in electronic format since 1997 to the present.

El Diario Oficial - <http://www.imprentanacional.gob.sv/> - is the Official Gazette of El Salvador. It is available in digital format since 1847 to the present on the website of the National Press of El Salvador.

World Law Guide (Lexadin), El Salvador - <http://www.lexadin.nl/wlg/legis/nofr/oeur/lxweesa.htm> - identifies foreign legal resources worldwide and organizes these sources by country and area of law, including: constitutional law, litigation and court procedure, administrative law, labor law, construction law, e-commerce, criminal law, commercial law, and intellectual property. The end of each country page contains links to the sources of law of that country.

Legislation by topic

The Ministry of Education has norms, laws, regulations, circulars, and norms related to this sector - <http://www.mined.gob.sv/>

The Ministry of National Defense, includes military laws and regulations, as well as the code of military justice - http://www.fuerzaarmada.gob.sv:90/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=147&Itemid=166

The Ministry of Public Finances - <http://www.mh.gob.sv/portal/page/portal/PMH/> - under *Fiscal Transparency* contains the regulatory framework organized into four areas: (a) Financial Administration, (b) Customs Administration, (c) Tax Administration, and (d) Procurement. Each of these areas contains laws, decrees, regulations, guidelines, circulars, manuals, and accounting catalogues. In addition, the Tax Administration section has the full official text in PDF of treaties and conventions and the Central American Custom Code and regulations.

The Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, has a database *Virtual Regulations Documentation Center / Centro Virtual de Documentación Regulatoria* with policies, laws, regulations, norms, manuals, guidelines, and clinical protocols on public health and related topics, since 1956 in PDF - <http://asp.mspas.gob.sv/regulacion/default.asp>

The Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources, under *Institutional Framework*, contains laws, regulations, policies, agreements, treaties, and protocols on environmental law, forest, natural resources, and urbanism. The website also has the full text of conventions and international treaties related to this sector in PDF format. It contains both official and non-official documents - <http://www.marn.gob.sv/>

The Attorney General's Office website has the full text in PDF of the following codes: the organic law of the Public Ministry, family procedure codes, the labor code, the civil and commercial procedure codes, the criminal procedure code, and international agreements and conventions for the protection of minors - <http://www.pgr.gob.sv/>

The General Prosecutor Office contains laws and regulations, in PDF, relating to prosecutor's functions, criminal prosecution policies, and proposals for the reform of the code of criminal procedure and for the reform of the telecommunications law - <http://www.fgr.gob.sv/>

The Central Reserve Bank of El Salvador, under *Temas - Sistema Financiero* has the legal framework of the financial system of El Salvador along with regulations and guidelines that complement the laws - <http://www.bcr.gob.sv/>

The Superintendence of the Financial System of El Salvador - <http://www.ssf.gob.sv/> - under *Institution* contains the legal framework of the Superintendence, including the criminal code, the civil and commercial code, banking laws, standards, and manuals. The laws are arranged by topic, including: laws for superintendence, laws of autonomous institutions, financial and money laundering laws, laws on privatization of Banks, laws against acts of terrorism, income tax laws, prudential norms and accounting laws, and manuals for banks and insurances. The non-official texts of the laws are available in PDF format.

NATLEX - El Salvador -

http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.country?p_lang=en&p_country=SLV - contains the labor laws and regulations of El Salvador. NATLEX includes the labor and criminal code, employment and labor laws, social security law, migrant workers laws, equal opportunity and non-discrimination laws, and laws on the protection of children and young persons. It also includes international and bilateral agreements to which the country is a party.

Doing Business Library of the World Bank - <http://www.doingbusiness.org/law-library> - provides access to the Constitution, banking and credit laws, commercial and company laws, labor laws, tax laws, land and building laws, and consumer protection laws of El Salvador. Official and non-official sources are available in PDF.

FAOLEX - <http://faolex.fao.org/faolex/index.htm> - is a database of laws and regulations on topics falling within UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) mandate, including: agriculture, cultivated plants, environment, fisheries, food, forestry, land and soil, livestock, water and wild species, and ecosystems. In many cases the documents are translated into multiple languages. Basic search options allow searching by country. It links to the full text of the documents in Word or PDF formats and contains official and non-official sources.

ECOLEX - <http://www.ecolex.org/start.php> - is a database providing information on environmental law. It includes treaties, court decisions, legislation, monographs, and articles. Simple and advanced searches can be performed and narrowed down by type of document and by country. It contains official texts of the laws in PDF.

DOALOS - UN Division of Ocean Affairs and Laws of the Seas, Maritime Space – Legislation and Treaties is an online database on national maritime delimitation legislation and treaties of countries around the world. El Salvador page is available at -

<http://www.un.org/Depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/STATEFILES/SLV.htm> – there is no maritime boundary delimitation agreement available in this database for El Salvador; however, the database includes the case concerning the land, island and maritime frontier dispute between El Salvador and Honduras which was before the International Court of Justice in September 1992.

UNODOC – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime - El Salvador

http://www.unodc.org/en/browse_country.jsp?country=ELS – provides access to laws, decrees, regulations, and resolutions since 1980 through 2007 governing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as well as laws preventing money laundering and illicit trafficking in narcotics. English and Spanish versions of some of the laws are available.

IMOLIN – Money Laundering Information Network, administered by UNODOC, is a portal to laws and regulations concerning the prevention and prosecution of money laundering and illicit trafficking in narcotics. IMOLIN also includes laws on extradition, the criminal code, and the criminal procedure code. The full text of the legislation is provided in PDF or Word formats. El Salvador -

<https://www.imolin.org/amlid2/browse.jsp?country=ELS>

WIPO Lex is the online database of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to national laws, implemented rules and regulations, treaties, monographs, and articles on intellectual property. Searches can be performed by country and subject matter, by type of treaty and organization, and full text search. The laws are in HTML and PDF formats in the original language and translated into English. The El Salvador page in WIPO Lex is available at -

<http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/profile.jsp?code=SV>

OAS, Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition website, briefly describes the legal system of OAS member states. It has legislation on assistance between countries on criminal matters. It also has the text of bilateral treaties and multilateral instruments to which the country is a party. Documents are available in Spanish, English, or French, and in PDF, Word or HTML documents. El Salvador page - <http://www.oas.org/juridico/mla/en/slv/index.html>

Jurisprudence

The Supreme Court of Justice, Judicial Documentation Center/Centro de Documentación Judicial - <http://www.jurisprudencia.gob.sv/> - has an online database containing case law, legislation, international agreements, treaties, and doctrine. Searches can be performed by multiple entries. Each document contains a brief summary of factual information and the full text in PDF.

Doctrine

The University Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas, Department of Legal Sciences -

<http://www.uca.edu.sv/deptos/ccij/> - provides access to *De Legibus*, No. 1 – 2007, a legal journal; however, only three issues were published. The table of contents of this journal is available online.

The University of El Salvador - <http://www.ues.edu.sv/> - Faculty of Jurisprudence and Social Sciences publishes the following journals: *Revista Derecho*, no. 1 (June, 2010), however, only the table of contents is available online; *Revista Ciencias Políticas*, no. 1 (2008) – no. 9 (2011); and *Revista de Derecho Público*, no. 1 (2009) – n. 2 (2010). It also publishes the following Newsletters:

Foro Político, no. 1 (2008) – No. 6 (2010); *Foro Jurídico*, no. 1 (2008) – no. 8 (2010); and *Jurisprudence*, no. 1 (2010) – No. 7 (2011).

Latindex - <http://www.latindex.unam.mx/> - the online regional bibliographic information system of scientific journals published in Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal. Latindex is hosted by the Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Latindex does not include any legal journals for El Salvador.

Treaties

The Ministry of Economy provides access to the full text, in PDF of the Free Trade Agreements signed by El Salvador -

http://www.minec.gob.sv/index.php?option=com_phocadownload&view=section&id=10:tratados-libre-comercio-el-salvador&Itemid=63

SICE – OAS Foreign Trade Information System contains the full text of trade agreements and bilateral investment treaties in force as well as documents on trade policy and national legislation in force on key trade disciplines such as: foreign investment, e-commerce, commercial arbitration, ADR, competition policy, antidumping, and intellectual property rights. Documents are available in English, Spanish, and French, and in Word and PDF formats. The El Salvador page in SICE is available at - http://www.sice.oas.org/ctyindex/SLV/SLVNatIDocs_e.asp

Commercial Databases

InterAm, developed by the National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade (Natlaw), is an on-line collection of codes, laws, regulations, case law, and secondary source materials on all areas related to business and economic development for countries in the Americas. It is not a comprehensive database but it covers the most important sources in each area of law. Files are in text format.

InterAm includes translations into English of selected legal materials. El Salvador resources in InterAm -

<http://natlaw.com/interam/es/> - covers laws starting with the Civil Code of 1860 with reforms through 2004, case law since 1995, and the Constitution of El Salvador of 1983 with reforms through 2003.

HONDURAS

Law of Transparency

The duty to inform and the right to access to public information are the main objectives of the transparency law enacted by Honduras in 2006, *Ley de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información Pública*,

http://www.tse.hn/Transparencia/Documentos-T/Leyes/Ley_de_Transparencia.pdf. Decree No. 170-2006. The law establishes the need to publicize government information through electronic means and mandates the creation of the Institute to Public Access to Information (AIP).

Portals

The Judiciary of Honduras - <http://www.poderjudicial.gob.hn/> - is the main portal to the legislation and jurisprudence of Honduras. *The Centro Electrónico de Documentación e Información Judicial* (CEDIJ) is responsible for the development of the electronic database, *Jurisprudence and Judicial Information System (CSJ)* - <http://www.poderjudicial.gob.hn/juris/principal.aspx> - It contains five major areas: jurisprudence (decisions of the Supreme Court); laws (codes, laws, regulations, decrees, treaties, agreements, and conventions); autos acordados; a juridical dictionary; and the Judicial Gazette. Simple and advanced searches can be performed by keyword, by topic, by area of practice, and by date. The laws section is organized in alphabetical order.

The Portal of the Honduras Government - <http://www.gob.hn/> - is the official portal to all branches of government (the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judiciary), the Superior Court of Accounts, the Supreme Electoral Court, and the General Attorney's Office.

Latin Laws: Biblioteca Legal Latinoamericana - <http://www.latinlaws.com/> - provides the full text of the laws of Honduras organized by area of practice. It links to official and private sources.

IberIUS, Red Iberoamericana de Información y Documentación Judicial - http://www.iberius.org/web/guest/recursos_juridicos - has the codes and most usual laws of Honduras and it links to the Supreme Court's online database, *Jurisprudence and Judicial Information System*.

Constitution

The Judiciary contains the Constitution of the Republic of Honduras of 1982 with amendments through 2006 -

[http://www.poderjudicial.gob.hn/juris/Leyes/Constitución%20de%20la%20República%20\(09\).pdf](http://www.poderjudicial.gob.hn/juris/Leyes/Constitución%20de%20la%20República%20(09).pdf)

The Secretary of Agriculture, under Transparency - Laws and Regulations contains the Political Constitution of Honduras of 1982 updated through 2001 -

http://www.sag.gob.hn/files/Transparencia/leyes/Constitucion_Rep_Honduras_1982.pdf

The Secretary of Culture, Arts and Sports, under Transparency, Laws and Decrees provides access to the official text in PDF of the Political Constitution enacted in 1982, with reforms through 2001 -

http://www.scad.gob.hn/Documentos/TRANSPARENCIA/4_REGULACION/LEYES/Constitucion%20de%20la%20Republica.pdf

The Secretary of Finance - under Documents, Legal Documents, contains the 1982 Constitution of the Republic of Honduras with constitutional reforms through 2001 - <http://www.sefin.gob.hn/data/leyes/constitucion1982.pdf>

The Secretary of State of Industry and Commerce – under Transparency Portal, Regulations, and Laws contains the Constitution of the Republic of Honduras of 1982 with constitutional reforms through 2004 - http://www.sic.gob.hn/portal_transparencia/local_pdf/Leyes/Contitucion_de_la_Republica.pdf

The Secretary of Public Works, Transportation and Housing, under Transparency Portal, Regulation has the official text in PDF of the Constitution of the Republic of Honduras of 1982 with constitutional reforms through 2006 - <http://soptravi.gob.hn/transparencia/Informacion/Leyes%20y%20Reglamentos/Constitucion%20de%20la%20Republica.pdf>

The Secretary of Labor and Social Security provides access to the Constitution of the Republic of Honduras of 1982 with constitutional reforms through 2004 - http://www.trabajo.gob.hn/biblioteca-y-documentos/leyes/Constitucion_de_la_republica.pdf

The Supreme Electoral Tribunal has the Constitution of the Republic of 1982 with amendments through 2001 - <http://www.tse.hn/web/documentos/Costitución%20de%20la%20República.pdf>

Political Database of the Americas provides access to the Political Constitution of Honduras of 1982 with constitutional reforms through 2005 and 2006 - <http://pdba.georgetown.edu/Constitutions/Honduras/honduras.html>

Constituciones Hispanoamericanas, Honduras provides access to the historical constitutional texts starting with the Constitution of the United Provinces of Central America of 1824 through the Constitution of 1982 with reforms through 1999 in HTML. <http://bib.cervantesvirtual.com/portal/constituciones/pais.formato?pais=Honduras&indice=constituciones>

Legislation

The National Congress - <http://www.congreso.gob.hn/portada> - under *Leyes de Honduras*, lists the most important laws of Honduras since 1906 in chronological order, official texts in PDF. The section *Legislative Process* contains the minutes of the meetings of the National Assembly since January 2010, and a description and chart of the law making process.

The Official Gazette - *La Gaceta, Diario Oficial de la Republica de Honduras* - <http://www.enaghn.com/> - is published by the Empresa Nacional de Artes Graficas under the Secretary of Government and Justice. It is a daily publication published in paper format. The electronic version is distributed in CD Rom. Only year 2004 is available in PDF, open access on the website of the Gazette.

World Law Guide (Lexadin) – Honduras - <http://www.lexadin.nl/wlg/legis/nofr/oeur/lxwehnd.htm> - identifies foreign legal resources worldwide and organizes these sources by country and area of law, including: constitutional law, litigation and court procedure, administrative law, labor law,

construction law, e-commerce, criminal law, commercial law, and intellectual property. The end of each country page contains links to the sources of law of that country.

Legislation by Topic

Most of Honduras government websites provide access to the laws and regulations for their specific sectors under the section Transparency Portal.

The Secretary of Tourism and the Honduras Institute of Tourism - <http://www.iht.hn/> - under *Inversiones, Legislación Vigente*, provides access to investment laws and regulations in force, including intellectual property laws and regulations, laws for the protection of the environment, property law, and laws and regulations of tourism. Some of these laws are available in English.

The Secretary of Education - <http://www.se.gob.hn/> - under *Leyes Educativas* and also under *Transparencia* has laws, regulations, decrees, and agreements related to the function of the Ministry of Education. This section also links to the website of the Official Gazette.

The Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock - <http://www.sag.gob.hn/> - under *Ley de Transparencia, Regulation*, contains laws, regulations, decrees, and agreements. It also includes the labor code.

The Secretary of Culture, Arts and Sports - <http://www.scad.gob.hn/> - under *Transparencia - Regulacion*, contains the full text in PDF of official Executive decrees promoting the political, economic, and social development of afro-Honduran and indigenous communities. It also contains laws and decrees on the protection of cultural patrimony.

The Secretary of Finance - <http://www.sefin.gob.hn/> - under *Documents, Legal Documents*, provides access to banks and banking laws, commerce, customs laws, the Uniform Custom Code of Central America, tax laws, public administration law, and government procurement laws.

The Secretary of State of Industry and Commerce - <http://www.sic.gob.hn/> - under *Transparencia – Regulation* contains laws, decrees, regulations, and agreements related to industry and commerce, including sources such as: the Labor, Penal, and Civil Procedure codes; the Law on Biofuels; laws for the Defense and Promotion of Competition; Investment laws; Law of Imports; Consumer Protection laws; and the Law implementing the Central America – United States – Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA).

The Secretary of Public Works, Transportation and Housing - <http://www.soptravi.gob.hn/dr/> - under *Transparencia Portal*, lists laws, regulations, decrees, and agreements on ground transportation and civil aeronautics.

The Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment - <http://www.serna.gob.hn/> - under *Transparencia Portal, Regulation*, contains laws, regulations, agreements, decrees, conventions, and international protocols on the subject. It also contains a non-official compilation of environmental laws of Honduras, *Compendio de Legislacion Ambiental* by Edwin Natanahel Sanchez Navas, (2011) - <http://www.serna.gob.hn/ultimos%20boletines%20informativos/Compendio.pdf>

The Secretary of Health - <http://www.salud.gob.hn/> - under *Transparencia Portal, Regulation*, makes available laws, agreements, conventions, and technical norms on health. It links to the Official

Gazette, the Health Code, the codes of all health related professional associations, and technical norms.

The Secretary of Labor and Social Security - <http://www.trabajo.gob.hn/> - under *Biblioteca* and also under *Transparency Portal*, provides a comprehensive compilation of laws, regulations, agreements, international treaties, and conventions on labor and social security law. It includes the Labor Code and its amendments; the Child and Adolescence Code; the Mediation and Arbitration Act; the Law of Equal Opportunity for Women Act; the full text of the Equal Remuneration Convention of 1951; the Minimum Age Convention, 1973; and the Equity and Integral Development for Persons with Disabilities Act.

The Secretary of External Planning and Cooperation - SEPLAN - <http://www.seplan.gob.hn/> - under Documents, contains territorial planning and land use laws and regulations.

The National Association of Industrials (ANDI) - <http://www.andi.hn/> - under Documents, contains laws regulating and promoting the industrial sector in PDF format.

The Central Bank of Honduras - <http://www.bch.hn/> - and the Junta Tecnica de Normas de Contabilidad y Auditoria - <http://www.juntec.org.hn/> - provide access to financial and banking laws.

Sustainable Development Network - Red de Desarrollo Sostenible (RDS) - <http://rds.hn/> - *Transversal Axes*, covers norms and regulations for education, gender, health, and water.

The National Commission on Human Rights - <http://www.conadeh.hn/Joomla/> - provides online access to the National Commission on Human Rights including reports and documents, since 2005 in PDF format. Under *Transparency* one finds a link to the previous portal of the CONADEH providing access to compilation of laws, documents, and books current to 2009.

NATLEX - Honduras -

http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.country?p_lang=en&p_country=HND- contains labor laws and regulations of Honduras. NATLEX includes the labor and criminal codes, employment and labor laws, social security law, migrant workers laws, equal opportunity and non-discrimination laws, and laws on the protection of children and young persons. It also includes international and bilateral agreements to which Honduras is a party.

The Doing Business Library of the World Bank - <http://www.doingbusiness.org/law-library> - provides access to the Constitution, banking and credit laws, commercial and company laws, labor laws, tax laws, and land and building laws. It has official and non-official sources in PDF.

FAOLEX - <http://faolex.fao.org/faolex/index.htm> - is a database of laws and regulations on topics falling within UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) mandate, including: agriculture, cultivated plants, environment, fisheries, food, forestry, land and soil, livestock, water and wild species, and ecosystems. In many cases the documents are translated into multiple languages. Basic search options allow searching by country. It links to the full text of the document in Word or PDF formats and contains official and non-official sources.

ECOLEX - <http://www.ecolex.org/start.php> - is a database providing information on environmental law. It includes treaties, court decisions, legislation, monographs, and articles. Simple and advanced

searches can be performed, and it can be narrowed down by type of document and by country. It contains the official texts of the laws in PDF.

DOALOS - UN Division of Ocean Affairs and Laws of the Seas, Maritime Space – Legislation and Treaties; it is an online database on national maritime delimitation legislation and treaties of countries around the world. Honduras - <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/STATEFILES/HND.htm>

UNODOC – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime – Honduras, http://www.unodc.org/en/browse_country.jsp?country=HON – provides access to laws, decrees, regulations, and resolutions since 1971 through 2003 governing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as well as laws relating to the prevention of money laundering and illicit trafficking in narcotics. English and Spanish versions of some of the laws are available.

IMOLIN – Money Laundering Information Network, administered by UNODOC, is a portal to laws and regulations relating to the prevention and prosecution of money laundering and illicit trafficking in narcotics. IMOLIN also includes laws on extradition, the criminal code, and the criminal procedure code. The full text of the legislation is provided in PDF or Word format – Honduras page - <https://www.imolin.org/amliid2/browse.jsp?country=HON>

WIPO Lex is the online database of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to national laws, implemented rules and regulations, treaties, monographs, and articles on intellectual property. Searches can be performed by country and subject matter, by type of treaty and organization, and full text search. The laws are in HTML and PDF formats in the original language and are also translated into English. The Honduras page in WIPO Lex is available at - <http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/profile.jsp?code=HN>

The OAS, Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition, briefly describes the legal system of OAS member states. It has legislation on assistance between countries on criminal matters. It also has the text of bilateral treaties and multilateral instruments to which the country is a party. Documents can be accessed in Spanish, English, or French, and in PDF, Word or HTML formats. The Honduras page is available at - <http://www.oas.org/juridico/mla/en/hnd/index.html>

Derecho Penal – Legislation, is a portal on Criminal Law resources of the world, in Spanish, hosted by the University of Fribourg in Switzerland - <http://www.unifr.ch/ddp1/derechopenal/?menu=legislacion#C> – The Honduras section contains the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code in PDF.

Jurisprudence:

The website of the Judiciary - <http://www.poderjudicial.gob.hn/> - under Jurisprudence and Juridical Information System (CSJ), contains the decisions of the Supreme Court of Justice, in PDF.

The Electoral Tribunal - <http://www.tse.hn/web/> - under *Biblioteca* has the Electoral laws and regulations of Honduras, including plebiscite and referendum laws, national register of people acts, and the history and statutes of all the political parties of Honduras.

Doctrine

Latindex - <http://www.latindex.unam.mx/> - the online regional bibliographic information system of scientific journals published in Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal. Latindex is hosted by the Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Latindex does not include any legal journals for Honduras.

Treaties

The Secretary of Industry and Commerce - <http://www.sic.gob.hn/> - under treaties in force has all the bilateral and multilateral treaties signed by Honduras.

SICE – OAS Foreign Trade Information System contains the full text of trade agreements and bilateral investment treaties in force, documents on trade policy, and national legislation in force on key trade disciplines, including: foreign investment, e-commerce, commercial arbitration, ADR, competition policy, antidumping, and intellectual property rights. Documents are available in English, Spanish, and French, and in Word and PDF formats. Honduras page in SICE - http://www.sice.oas.org/ctyindex/HND/HNDNatDocs_e.asp

Commercial Databases

InterAm, developed by the National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade (Natlaw), is an on-line collection of codes, laws, regulations, case law, and secondary source materials on all areas related to business and economic development for countries in the Americas. It is not a comprehensive database but it covers the most important sources in each area of law. Files are in text format. InterAm includes translations into English of selected legal materials. The Honduras resources in InterAm - <http://natlaw.com/interam/hn/> - cover laws starting with the Civil Code of 1906; however, no case law is included.

NICARAGUA

Law of Transparency

In 2007, Nicaragua enacted a law dealing with access to public information, Law No. 621 of 2007 - [http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/Normaweb.nsf/\(\\$All\)/675A94FF2EBFEE9106257331007476F2?OpenDocument](http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/Normaweb.nsf/($All)/675A94FF2EBFEE9106257331007476F2?OpenDocument), followed in 2008, by a law on transparency of public entities of Nicaragua, [http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/Normaweb.nsf/\(\\$All\)/C34AD5893B7AFF9E06257508005C5EB6?OpenDocument](http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/Normaweb.nsf/($All)/C34AD5893B7AFF9E06257508005C5EB6?OpenDocument) - Both are based on the following key principles: the right of all to request and access public information (principle of access to public information); all information generated or held by government entities is designated as public (principle of publicity); all public entities must promote citizen participation (principle of participation); and finally, the principle of transparency which states that all government officers are accountable for the use of public resources. These laws mandate the creation and maintenance of government websites as a means of delivering the contents of public information.

Portals

Latin Laws: Biblioteca Legal Latinoamericana - <http://www.latinlaws.com/> - contains laws of Nicaragua organized by area of practice. It links to official and non-official sources.

IberIUS, Red Iberoamericana de Información y Documentación Judicial - http://www.iberius.org/web/guest/recursos_juridicos - provides access to the Constitution, codes, and other laws of Nicaragua. It links to the website of the National Congress and to the Official Gazette.

Constitution

The National Assembly contains the full text in PDF of the Political Constitution of Nicaragua amended through 2010 - <http://www.asamblea.gob.ni/opciones/constituciones/ConstitucionPolitica.pdf>

The Supreme Court of Justice has the official text in PDF of the Political Constitution of Nicaragua with reforms through 2010 - http://www.cedij.poderjudicial.gob.ni/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&Itemid=75&gid=64

The Central Bank of Nicaragua provides access to the official text in PDF of the Political Constitution of Nicaragua with reforms through 2010 - <http://www.bcn.gob.ni/banco/legislacion/constitucion.pdf>

The Ministry of Health has the official text in PDF of the Political Constitution of Nicaragua with reforms through 2010 - http://www.minsa.gob.ni/index.php?option=com_remository&Itemid=52&func=startdown&id=6830

The National Assembly contains the unofficial text in PDF of the Political Constitution of Nicaragua of 1987. Spanish and English versions are available - <http://www.asamblea.gob.ni/opciones/digesto/6.1/1/ce.pdf>

Political Database of the Americas has the Political Constitution of Nicaragua of 1987, with the 1995, 2000, and 2005 reforms in HTML - <http://pdba.georgetown.edu/Constitutions/Nica/nica.html> - It also includes the Constitution of 1987 with reforms through 1995 and the Constitution of 1987.

Constituciones Hispanoamericanas, Nicaragua has the historical constitutional texts starting with the Constitution of 1826 through the Constitution of 1987, incorporating the constitutional reforms of 1995, 2000 and 2005 - <http://bib.cervantesvirtual.com/portal/constituciones/pais.formato?pais=Nicaragua&indice=constituciones>

Legislation

La Gaceta, Diario Oficial - <http://www.lagaceta.gob.ni/> - is the Official Gazette of Nicaragua. The webpage of the Official Gazette displays only the table of contents, called *Sumarios*, starting in August, 2008 to present. There is not full text access to the Official Gazette online; the full text of *La Gaceta* is only available in print.

The National Assembly of Nicaragua - <http://www.asamblea.gob.ni/> - provides access to the laws of Nicaragua and publicizes the report of the Assembly daily sessions through different website pages, including: *Gaceta de Leyes*, which is the Official Gazette since 2009 to date in PDF; *Legislation 1913 – 2011*, which contains the non official full text of the laws of Nicaragua since 1913, can be searched by keyword, by type of law, and in chronological order; and *Digesto Jurídico*, which contains the full text of the debates on the constitutional reforms of the 1987 Political Constitution of Nicaragua. The National Assembly also created *Leyes Aprobadas*, a bill tracking system to follow the bills introduced to Congress and approved since 2007.

World Law Guide (Lexadin) - Nicaragua - <http://www.lexadin.nl/wlg/legis/nofr/oeur/lxwenic.htm> - Identifies foreign legal resources worldwide and organizes these sources by country and area of law, including: constitutional law, litigation and court procedure, administrative law, labor law, construction law, e-commerce, criminal law, commercial law, and intellectual property. The end of the page for each country provides links to legal sources, which are mainly government websites.

Legislation by Topics

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs webpage - <http://www.cancilleria.gob.ni/> - has several pages of interest. *Legal Framework* contains laws, decrees, and regulations relating to the functions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in HTML format. *Virtual Library* has a collection of the agreements, memorandums, acts, conventions, and treaties signed by Nicaragua with other countries. The full text, non-official documents are available in PDF. Searches can be performed by topic, by country, and by type of document. *Soberanía* contains documents related to the territorial conflicts of Nicaragua with Honduras, Colombia, and Costa Rica. All documents relating to the boundary

conflicts, including International Court of Justice (ICJ) cases of maritime delimitation, can be retrieved in HTML or PDF formats.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forest - <http://www.magfor.gob.ni/> - has forest laws. Some of these laws have been translated into English and into Miskitu and Mayanga, which are indigenous languages. A compilation of the forest laws of Nicaragua was published and made available free open access in PDF on the website of the Ministry, *Compendio Jurídico Forestal de Nicaragua, 1998-2008* (2008).

The Ministry of Education - <http://www.mined.gob.ni/> - under Legal Framework has relevant laws, regulations, manuals, procedures, and agreements since 2007 to present.

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce webpage- <http://www.mific.gob.ni/> - has several sections of interest. *Information for Entrepreneurs* contains regulations on social security, hygiene and safety at work, food and drug regulations, free zones, and fiscal and custom laws including the Custom Code for Central America and its regulations in PDF. *International Commercial Agreements* has the full text of the treaties and agreements in force signed by Nicaragua, as well as the full text of treaties under negotiation. There is a section on commercial arbitration and solution of controversies which explains arbitration mechanisms and procedures in Nicaragua. *Consumer Protection* contains the laws in defense of consumers and its regulations. Finally, *Access to Public Information* provides access to the official text of ministerial agreements since 2009, in PDF.

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure - <http://www.mti.gob.ni/> - contains legislation on construction and urban planning, ground transportation, and maritime law and their regulations in HTML and PDF texts.

The Central Bank website - <http://www.bcn.gob.ni/> - contains laws related to the banking and financial system of Nicaragua, regulation of credit cards, and securities. Additionally, the Central Bank has a *Virtual Library* where the publications of the Bank are accessible online. There is also an Index to the laws of Nicaragua in chronological order by type of law and regulation since 1874 to 2007 in PDF.

The Superintendence of Banks website - <http://www.superintendencia.gob.ni/> - contains official and non-official texts in PDF of financial, banking, and money laundering laws and regulations.

The National Institute of Energy - <http://www.ine.gob.ni/> - covers three main areas: electricity, hydrocarbons, and the environment. For each of these areas there is access to laws, decrees, resolutions, norms, presidential agreements, and technical standards. Access to the full text of official and non official documents in PDF is available.

The Nicaraguan Institute of Telecommunications and Post Office - <http://www.telcor.gob.ni/Default.asp> - is an excellent website containing laws, regulations, technical norms, presidential decrees, and case law related to telecommunication and postal services. Agreements and administrative resolutions are available since 1996 to the present. Full text of official and non official documents are accessible in PDF.

The Superior Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP) - <http://www.cosep.org.ni/index.php> - is an excellent source for labor law. *Legislation* contains labor laws in force in Nicaragua, with the full text in PDF of laws, decrees, treaties, conventions, and agreements. The documents can be searched and printed, but they cannot be downloaded. This is a comprehensive compilation of labor laws covering labor, social security, civil service, children and youth, health, contentious administrative law, trade unions, sanitary measures, income tax, hygiene and security at work, unemployment compensation, professional diseases, and other labor law related topics.

The Nicaragua Chamber of Commerce – Mediation and Arbitration Center - <http://www.caconic.org.ni/> - has conventions, laws, regulations, procedures, and articles on mediation and arbitration in Nicaragua. The documents are accessible full text in PDF.

NATLEX – Nicaragua - http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.country?p_lang=en&p_country=NIC contains Nicaraguan labor laws and regulations. NATLEX includes the labor and criminal code, employment and labor laws, social security law, migrant workers law, equal opportunity and non-discrimination laws, and laws on the protection of children and the youth. It also includes international or bilateral agreements to which the country is a party.

The Doing Business Library of the World Bank - <http://www.doingbusiness.org/law-library> - provides access to Nicaraguan banking and credit laws, bankruptcy laws, the civil code, commercial and company laws, tax, labor, and land laws.

FAOLEX - <http://faolex.fao.org/faolex/index.htm> - is a database of laws and regulations on topics falling within UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) mandate, including: agriculture, cultivated plants, environment, fisheries, food, forestry, land and soil, livestock, water, wild species, and ecosystems. In many cases the documents are translated into multiple languages. Basic search options allow searching by country. It links to the full text of the law in Word or PDF formats and contains official and non-official sources.

ECOLEX - <http://www.ecolex.org/start.php> - is a database providing information on environmental law. It includes treaties, court decisions, legislation, monographs, and articles. Simple and advanced searches can be performed, and it can be narrowed down by type of document and by country. It contains the official texts of the laws in PDF.

DOALOS - UN Division of Ocean Affairs and Laws of the Seas, Maritime Space – Legislation and Treaties; it is an online database on national maritime delimitation legislation and treaties of countries around the world. Nicaragua's page in DOALOS is available at - <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/STATEFILES/NIC.htm> - There is no maritime boundary delimitation agreement available in the database for Nicaragua.

UNODOC – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime – Nicaragua - http://www.unodc.org/enl/browse_country.jsp?country=NIC - has laws, decrees, regulations, and resolutions since 1973 through 2010 governing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as well as laws regarding the prevention of money laundering and illicit trafficking in narcotics. English and Spanish versions of some of the laws are available.

WIPO Lex is the online database of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to national laws, implemented rules and regulations, treaties, monographs, and articles on intellectual property.

Searches can be performed by country and subject matter, by type of treaty and organization, and full text search. The laws are in HTML and PDF formats in the original language and translated into English. Nicaragua's page in WIPO Lex can be found at - <http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/profile.jsp?code=NI>

The OAS, Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition website, briefly describes the legal system of OAS member states. It has legislation on assistance between countries on criminal matters. It also has the text of bilateral treaties and multilateral instruments to which the country is a party. Documents can be accessed in Spanish, English, or French, and in PDF, Word or HTML format. Nicaragua - <http://www.oas.org/juridico/mla/en/nic/index.html>

Derecho Penal – Legislation is a portal on criminal law resources of the world. It is available in Spanish and is hosted by the University of Fribourg in Switzerland - <http://www.unifr.ch/ddp1/derechopenal/?menu=legislacion#C> - Nicaragua's criminal laws include the Criminal Codes of Nicaragua of 1974 and 2007, the Criminal Procedure Code, and the Organic Law of the Public Ministry.

Jurisprudence

The Supreme Court of Justice - *Centro de Documentación e Información Judicial (CEDIJ)* – <http://www.poderjudicial.gob.ni/> - under *Important Documents*, contains the text of the Constitution of Nicaragua and its constitutional reforms, the civil code and the civil procedure code, the penal code and code of criminal procedure, and the labor code. The Supreme Court of Justice makes available its decisions on the webpage of the Court under the section *SALAS*, or Chambers of the Court. One finds full text the decisions on criminal matters since 2003, on constitutional matters since 1997, and on contentious administrative matters since 2001, in PDF format. The decisions on civil matters are not accessible online.

The Supreme Court publishes the *Judicial Bulletin*, a digest of the decisions of the Court. Some issues of the Judicial Bulletin are available for free. However you need first to register as user of the *CEDIJ* and after being accepted as a user you can access the information, select the Bulletin or publication and follow a purchasing procedure until final purchase and check out. The Centro has search engine for jurisprudence but it is still not active. The CEDIJ also has a search engine for legislation and conventions and agreements.

Doctrine

The Supreme Court of Justice publishes the legal journal *Revista Justicia*, in electronic format accessible online starting with issue no. 27, 2003 and continuing through issue No. 41, 2010 - <http://www.poderjudicial.gob.ni/> - Under *Documents of Interest* - <http://www.poderjudicial.gob.ni/paginas/descargas.asp> - one finds different studies evaluating the administration of justice and the court system in Nicaragua, in HTML and PDF.

The Central Bank website - <http://www.bcn.gob.ni/> - contains laws related to the banking and financial system of Nicaragua, regulation of credit cards, and securities. Additionally, the Central Bank has a *Virtual Library* where the publications of the Bank are accessible online. There is also an Index to the laws of Nicaragua in chronological order by type of law and regulation since 1874 to 2007 in PDF.

American Chamber of Commerce of Nicaragua - <http://www.amcham.org.ni/index.php> - publishes *Doing Business in Nicaragua* (2010) in ODF format.

Latindex - <http://www.latindex.unam.mx/> - the online regional bibliographic information system of scientific journals published in Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal. Latindex is hosted by the Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Latindex records one legal journal for Nicaragua, the *Revista de Derecho*, Facultad de Ciencias Juridicas, Universidad Centroamericana . There is no online full text access to this journal.

Treaties

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs webpage - <http://www.cancilleria.gob.ni/> - under *Virtual Library* has a collection of the agreements, memorandums, acts, conventions, and treaties signed by Nicaragua with other countries. The full text, non-official documents are available in PDF. Searches can be performed by topic, by country, and by type of document. *Soberanía* contains documents related to the territorial conflicts of Nicaragua with Honduras, Colombia, and Costa Rica. All documents relating to the boundary conflicts, including International Court of Justice (ICJ) cases of maritime delimitation, can be retrieved in HTML or PDF formats.

SICE – OAS Foreign Trade Information System contains the full text of trade agreements and bilateral investment treaties in force as well as documents on trade policy and national legislation in force on key trade disciplines such as: foreign investment, e-commerce, commercial arbitration, ADR, competition policy, antidumping, and intellectual property rights. Documents are available in English and Spanish and in Word and PDF formats. The Nicaragua page in SICE is available at - http://www.sice.oas.org/ctyindex/NIC/NICNatIDocs_e.asp

Commercial Databases

InterAm, developed by the National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade (Natlaw), is an on-line collection of codes, laws, regulations, case law, and secondary materials on all areas related to business and economic development for countries in the Americas. It is not a comprehensive database but it covers the most important sources in each area of law for each country. Files are in text format. InterAm includes translations into English of selected legal materials. Nicaragua resources in InterAm - <http://natlaw.com/interam/ni/> - covers laws including the 1867 Civil Code, the Constitution of 1986 with reforms through 2005, and case law since 1991.

vLEX online legal database covers legislation, jurisprudence and doctrine of many jurisdictions around the world. Sources are available full text, in text format. The Nicaragua database in vLEX - <http://ni.vlex.com/libraries/legislacion-nicaragua-165> - contains legislation since 1808 to present.

COSTA RICA

Law of Transparency

Costa Rica has not yet enacted a law of transparency or access to public information. However, the Constitution of Costa Rica (Article 30) guarantees the right of free access to information of public interest in all government departments.

Portals

Latin Laws: Biblioteca Legal Latinoamericana - <http://www.latinlaws.com/> - provides the full text of laws of Costa Rica organized by area of practice. It links to official and non-official sources.

iberIUS: Red Iberoamericana de Información y Documentación Judicial - http://www.iberius.org/web/guest/recursos_juridicos - has the constitution and civil and criminal codes of Costa Rica in PDF. It links to the Costa Rican Judicial Information Center and to other judicial organizations in Costa Rica.

Constitution

The Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court has the full text of the Political Constitution of the Republic of Costa Rica of 1949 with amendments through 2003 in HTML - <http://www.poder-judicial.go.cr/salaconstitucional/leyes/constitucion%20politica%20texto.html> - It also has all the constitutions of Costa Rica and constitutional reforms since the Concordia Pact of 1822 to the Constitution of 1917 in HTML - <http://www.poder-judicial.go.cr/salaconstitucional/expedientes/constituciones%20anteriores.html>

The Comptroller General of the Republic - [Constitución Política de la República de Costa Rica](#) - provides access to the Political Constitution of the Republic of Costa Rica enacted in 1949 with amendments through 2003, in Word format.

WIPO Lex contains the Political Constitution of the Republic of Costa Rica of 1949, updated through 2005. English and Spanish versions are available in HTML and PDF - <http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/profile.jsp?code=CR>

Political Database of the Americas has the Political Constitution of 1949 with reforms through 2003 and it also provides the original text of the 1949 Constitution in HTML - <http://pdba.georgetown.edu/Constitutions/Costa/costa2.html> -

CostaRicaLaw provides access to the Political Constitution of the Republic of Costa Rica of 1949, with amendments through 1989 - http://www.costaricalaw.com/legalnet/constitutional_law/constitenglish.html in HTML

Constituciones Hispanoamericanas has the Constitutions of Costa Rica of 1824, 1949, and 1949 with amendments through 2001 -

http://bib.cervantesvirtual.com/portal/constituciones/pais.formato?pais=Costa_Rica&indice=constituciones

Biblioteca Jurídica Virtual (UNAM) provides access to *Las Constituciones Iberoamericanas: Costa Rica*, edited by Ruben Hernández Valle (Mexico: UNAM, 2005), which is a historical analysis of the Constitutions of Costa Rica -

<http://www.bibliojuridica.org/libros/libro.htm?l=1541> - The book includes the text of all the historical constitutions of Costa Rica since 1922 to the 1949 Constitution in PDF format.

Saborio & Coto, Lawyers - <http://www.cesdepu.com/actas.htm> - provides online access to the proceedings of the National Constituent Assembly of 1949 in PDF and Word formats.

InfoLEG Legislative Information – Costa Rica has the Political Constitution of the Republic of Costa Rica of 1949, amended through 1975 in HTML - <http://www.constitution.org/cons/costaric.htm>

Legislation

The National Assembly of Costa Rica - <http://www.asamblea.go.cr/default.aspx> - *Integrated Legislative System (SIL)* contains all the laws, decrees, and regulations of Costa Rica. It can be searched by the number of the law or by keyword in title. Not all the laws are linked to their full text. The official full text, when available, is in Word and PDF formats.

Costa Rican Legal Information System (SCIJ), a database of the Supreme Court of Justice, contains laws, executive decrees, and regulations since 1821 to date. It is available through the database PGR SINALEVI in SCIJ -

http://www.pgr.go.cr/scij/busqueda/normativa/normas/nrm_repartidor.asp?param1=AVA – Searches can be performed based on different criteria.

The Digital Gazette, *Diario Oficial de Costa Rica* - <http://www.gobiernofacil.go.cr/e-gob/gacetadigital/> - is the online version of the Official Gazette. It is published by the National Printing Office. The electronic publication has the same legal authority as the printed source. This authority is based on Article 2 of Executive Decree No. 26651-G (16 February of 1998) and Article 3 of Act No. 8454 (October 13, 2005) on Digital signature and electronic documents which provides that any documents transmitted by electronic means or computer, shall be considered legally equivalent to the documents transmitted by physical means. Only two issues of the digital gazette are accessible online, issues No. 88 and No. 89 of 2010. The electronic version of the Gazette as well as the Judicial Bulletin is available since 2004 to current on the website of the National Printing Office of Costa Rica - <http://www.imprenal.go.cr/> in html and PDF formats.

Costaricalaw - <http://www.costaricalaw.com/> - is a private website that provides free access to laws of Costa Rica in HTML on various subject matters, including, among other topics: the codes, marriage and family law, criminal law, business and investment law, and intellectual property law. For each topic there is a brief summary of that specific area of law. The interface and commentaries are in English, but the texts of the laws are in Spanish.

World Law Guide (Lexadin) - Costa Rica - <http://www.lexadin.nl/wlg/legis/nofr/oeur/lxwecri.htm> - identifies foreign legal resources worldwide and organizes these sources by country and area of law, including: constitutional law, litigation and court procedure, administrative law, labor law,

construction law, e-commerce, criminal law, commercial law, and intellectual property. The end of each country page provides links to legal sources, which are mainly government websites.

Legislation by Topic

The Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy - <http://www.mideplan.go.cr/> - under *Normativas* and *Lineamientos* identifies the laws relevant to economic planning and policy, and links to the SCIJ database for the full text of those laws.

The Ministry of Agriculture - <http://www.mag.go.cr/> - under *Virtual Library* and also under *Legislation* links to a database on agricultural legislation. It contains the full text in PDF and references to agricultural laws and decrees since 1948.

The Ministry of Science and Technology - <http://www.micit.go.cr/> - within its legal framework contains laws, decrees, and regulations regarding digital signature and innovation. Official and non-official documents are available in PDF.

The Ministry of Public Health of Costa Rica - <http://www.ministeriodesalud.go.cr/> - provides access to protocols, health norms, and guidelines.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Security of Costa Rica - <http://www.mtss.go.cr/> - provides online access to the Costa Rican labor laws under *Legislacion Laboral*. The Ministry also publishes, in electronic book format, a digest of labor laws of Costa Rica: *Compendio de Criterios Juridico Laborales, 1999 -2010* (2011), which is a compilation of labor and social security legislation of Costa Rica.

The General Comptrollers of the Republic - http://cgrw01.cgr.go.cr/portal/page?_pageid=434,1761306&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL - under *Documents – Laws and Regulations* contains laws and norms against corruption and illicit enrichment of public officials, general public administration law, and administrative procurement laws.

The Superintendence General of Financial Entities - <http://www.sugef.fi.cr/> - and the Central Bank of Costa Rica - <http://www.bccr.fi.cr/documentos/secretaria/publicacionessecretaria.asp> - are excellent sources of laws, decrees, and resolutions regulating the financial and banking system of Costa Rica.

NATLEX – Costa Rica – http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.country?p_lang=en&p_country=CRI – contains Costa Rica labor laws and regulations. NATLEX includes the labor and criminal codes, employment and labor laws, social security law, migrant workers laws, equal opportunity and non-discrimination laws, and laws on the protection of children and youth. It also includes international and bilateral agreements to which Costa Rica is a party.

The Doing Business Library of the World Bank - <http://www.doingbusiness.org/law-library> - provides access to the constitution, civil code and code of civil procedure, banking and credit laws, commercial and company laws, labor laws, tax laws, and land and building laws of Costa Rica. Official and non-official sources are available in PDF.

FAOLEX - <http://faolex.fao.org/faolex/index.htm> - is a database of laws and regulations on topics falling within UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) mandate, including: agriculture, cultivated plants, environment, fisheries, food, forestry, land and soil, livestock, water, wild species, and ecosystems. In many cases the documents are translated into multiple languages. Basic search options allow searching by country. It links to the full text of the document in Word or PDF formats and contains official and non-official sources.

ECOLEX - <http://www.ecolex.org/start.php> - is a database providing information on environmental law. It includes treaties, court decisions, legislation, monographs, and articles. Simple and advanced searches can be performed, and it can be narrowed down by type of document and by country. It contains official texts of the laws in PDF.

DOALOS - UN Division of Ocean Affairs and Laws of the Seas, Maritime Space – Legislation and Treaties is an online database on national maritime delimitation legislation and treaties of countries around the world. The Costa Rica page is available at - <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/STATEFILES/CRI.htm>

UNODOC – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Costa Rica - http://www.unodc.org/en/browse_country.jsp?country=COS - has laws, decrees, regulations, and resolutions since 1959 through 2004 governing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as well as laws regarding the prevention of money laundering and illicit trafficking in narcotics. English and Spanish versions of some of the laws are available.

IMOLIN – Money Laundering Information Network, administered by UNODOC, is a portal to laws and regulations regarding the prevention and prosecution of money laundering and illicit trafficking in narcotics. IMOLIN also includes laws on extradition, the criminal code, and the criminal procedure code. The full text of the legislation is provided in PDF or Word format. Costa Rica - <https://www.imolin.org/amliid2/browse.jsp?country=COS>

WIPO Lex is the online database of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to national laws, implemented rules and regulations, treaties, monographs, and articles on intellectual property. Searches can be performed by country and subject matter, by type of treaty and organization, and full text search. The laws are in HTML and PDF formats in the original language and translated into English. Costa Rica page in WIPO Lex - <http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/profile.jsp?code=CR>

The OAS, Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition website, briefly describes the legal system of OAS member states. It has legislation on assistance between countries on criminal matters. It also has the text of bilateral treaties and multilateral instruments to which the country is a party. Documents can be accessed in Spanish, English, or French, and in PDF, Word or HTML format. The Costa Rican page is available at - <http://www.oas.org/juridico/mla/en/cr/index.html>

Derecho Penal – Legislation is a portal on criminal law resources of the world in Spanish, hosted by the University of Fribourg in Switzerland - <http://www.unifr.ch/ddp1/derechopenal/?menu=legislacion#C> - The Costa Rican section has the official texts in PDF of the criminal code updated through 2002, the Code of Criminal Procedure, and other criminal law.

Jurisprudence

Costa Rican Legal Information System (SCIJ) - http://200.91.68.20/scij/jur_repartidor_principal.asp - is an online database developed by the Judiciary which integrates the legislation and jurisprudence of Costa Rica. There are three main databases: (1) *Poder Judicial*, which contains the jurisprudence of the Supreme Court of Justice, judgments of the Cassation and Constitutional Chambers of the Supreme Court, and the opinions of lower courts on all matters; (2) *PGR SINALEVI*, which contains legislation, laws, executive decrees, conventions, international agreements, regulations, and other norms since 1821 to current; and (3) *Hacienda*, which contains resolutions and directives of the Directorate General of Taxation and the judgments of the Administrative Tax Court since 1988 to date. Beginning in February 2010, SCIJ started including rulings of the National Customs Court among other documents issued by the Directorate General of Customs. The databases are searchable by multiple fields and the full text of the documents is available in HTML.

Another excellent source for jurisprudence is *Mega Index Tribunales* - <http://www.poder-judicial.go.cr/megaindex-tribunales/> - This is a database of the judiciary which allows for the searching case law of all courts in Costa Rica by keyword. The documents are available full text in HTML. This database is current to 2008.

The electronic version of the Judicial Bulletin is available since 2004 to current on the website of the National Printing Office of Costa Rica - <http://www.imprenal.go.cr/> in html and PDF formats.

Doctrine

The Law School of the University of Costa Rica makes available free and open access its publications in PDF format:

a) Publications of the Legal Research Institute/Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas - <http://www.ij.derecho.ucr.ac.cr/phps/publicaciones/publicaciones.php> –

b) Revista de Ciencias Jurídicas - <http://www.ij.derecho.ucr.ac.cr/phps/publicaciones/revistas.php> - starting with issue No. 83 (1997) to date.

c) Other legal documents –including legal articles, constitutional laws and decisions of the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice of Costa Rica from 1989 to 2006 - <http://www.ij.derecho.ucr.ac.cr/phps/documentacion/documentacion.php>

The Universidad Latinoamericana de Ciencia y Tecnología (ULACIT) Law School publications are available at - <http://www.ulacit.ac.cr/carreras/seccion/publicaciones.php?career=4> – It includes legal articles from students, faculty, and lawyers from 2004 through 2009, in PDF format.

The Judicial School has several publications, including the *Journal of the Judicial School* which is available in PDF starting in 2001, and the *Revista Judicial*, which is the official journal of the Judiciary of Costa Rica, in PDF, starting with issue No. 81 to date - http://www.poder-judicial.go.cr/escuelajudicial/documents/revs_juds/rev_jud_93.pdf

The Centro de Estudios y Formación Constitucional de Centro América y El Caribe - <http://www.poder-judicial.go.cr/salaconstitucional/cefcca/index.html> - under *Publications* contains monographs and articles in PDF on constitutional law in Central America and the Caribbean, such as *Constitución y Justicia Constitucional - Jornadas de Derecho Constitucional en Centroamérica (2008)*.

Scielo - <http://www.scielo.org/php/index.php?lang=en> - provides full text access to *Medicina Legal de Costa Rica/Legal Medicine of Costa Rica*, a legal journal from Costa Rica.

Dialnet indexes the legal journal of the University of Costa Rica, *Revista de Ciencias Jurídicas* - <http://dialnet.unirioja.es/servlet/revista?codigo=11343>

Latindex - <http://www.latindex.unam.mx/> - the online regional bibliographic information system of scientific journals published in Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal. Latindex is hosted by the Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Latindex records nine electronic legal journal for Costa Rica, *ILANUD al día*, *IUS Doctrina*, *Medicina Legal de Costa Rica*, *Peace and Conflict Review*, *Revista de Ciencias Jurídicas*, *Revista de Ciencias Penales*, *Revista de Derecho Electoral*, *Revista Derecho y Tecnologías de Información*, *Revista Digital de la Maestría en Ciencias Penales*.

Treaties

The Ministry of Foreign Trade - <http://www.comex.go.cr/Paginas/inicio2.aspx> - provides access to: treaties, conventions, and agreements relating to the economic integration of Central America; treaties, agreements, negotiations, investment treaties signed by Costa Rica; and to Costa Rican laws on foreign trade.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs - <http://www.rree.go.cr/> - under bilateral and multilateral relations contains a summary of agreements signed by Costa Rica with other countries. *Normativa Jurídica* has laws and regulations relevant to Foreign Affairs.

SICE – OAS Foreign Trade Information System contains the full text of trade agreements and bilateral investment treaties in force in Costa Rica as well as documents on trade policy and national legislation in force on key trade disciplines such as: foreign investment, e-commerce, commercial arbitration, ADR, competition policy, antidumping, and intellectual property rights. Documents are available in English, Spanish, or French, and in Word and PDF formats. Costa Rica - http://www.sice.oas.org/ctyindex/CRI/CRINatlDocs_e.asp

Commercial Databases

InterAm, developed by the National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade (Natlaw), is an online collection of codes, laws, regulations, case law, and secondary source materials on all areas related to business and economic development for countries in the Americas. It is not a comprehensive database but it covers the most important sources for each area of law. Files are in text format. InterAm includes translations into English of selected legal materials. Costa Rica resources in InterAm - <http://natlaw.com/interam/cr/> - covers case law since 1968, and laws dating back to 1885 starting with the Fiscal Code of 1885. It also contains the Political Constitution of Costa Rica of 1949 in English with reforms through 2002, and in Spanish with reforms through 2008.

PANAMA

Law of Transparency

In 2002, Panama enacted Law No. 6 on transparency of the public administration and established the Habeas Data - http://www.presidencia.gob.pa/ley_n6_2002.pdf. The law gives emphasis to the obligation of the State to systematize information accessible to the citizens and publicize it through different electronic media (Article 1.12). The law also defines the types of information and types of documents accessible to all.

Portals

Latin Laws: Biblioteca Legal Latinoamericana - <http://www.latinlaws.com/> - has the full text of laws of Panama organized by area of practice. It links to official and non-official sources.

IberIUS, Red Iberoamericana de Información y Documentación Judicial - http://www.iberius.org/web/guest/recursos_juridicos - provides access to the Constitution and codes of Panama and links to the Official Gazette and other government websites with important online legal resources.

Constitution

The Panama Canal Authority contains the Political Constitution of the Republic of Panama of 1972 with amendments through 2004 - <http://www.acp.gob.pa/esp/plan/documentos/referencia/acp-plan-ref-constitucion.pdf>

Panama's National Assembly has the official text in PDF of the Political Constitution of Panama of 2004 - <http://www.asamblea.gob.pa/asamblea/constitucion/>

Grupo Editorial Epasa contains the Political Constitution of the Republic of Panama of 2004. It provides access to a PDF version from Legispan - <http://www.epasa.com/constitucion/constitucion.pdf>

Political Database of the Americas has the Constitution of Panama of 1972 with the 1978, 1983, 1993, 1994, and 2004 reforms in HTML - <http://pdba.georgetown.edu/Constitutions/Panama/panama.html>

CENDOJ provides access to official and non-official texts in PDF of all the historical texts of the Political Constitution of Panama since 1841 to the 1972 Constitution with reforms through 2004 - <http://www.organojudicial.gob.pa/cendoj/>

LegalInfo Panama provides access to the Political Constitution of Panama of 1994 - <http://www.legalinfo-panama.com/legislacion/Constitucion/Constitucion.pdf>

Constituciones Hispanoamericanas has the historical constitutional texts of Panama starting with the First Constitution of 1841 to the Constitution of 1972 with reforms through 1994 -

<http://bib.cervantesvirtual.com/portal/constituciones/pais.formato?pais=Panama&indice=constituciones>

Legislation

LEGISPAN - <http://www.asamblea.gob.pa/main/> - is the online legal database of the National Assembly of Panama containing the laws of Panama and the *Digital Official Gazette* since 1903 - <http://www.asamblea.gob.pa/main/Escondidos/LegispanyGacetaOficial.aspx> - LEGISPAN and the *Digital Official Gazette* can be searched independently by the number of the Official Gazette, by keyword in title, by type of document, by date, format, legal source, and subject. The search retrieves the official text in PDF of the law in the Official Gazette.

Infojuridica - <http://infojuridica.procuraduria-admon.gob.pa/Infojuridica/> - is a legal database developed by the Procuraduría de la Administración which contains the laws of Panama since 1903 and published in the Official Gazette. The database can be searched by multiple fields, including by keyword in title, by date, and by the number of the Gazette. It differs from LEGISPAN is that Infojuridica includes norms and treaties not published in the Official Gazette and decisions of the Supreme Court of Panama in constitutional matters. The database retrieves the official documents in PDF, and traces the legislative history of the acts and its relationship with other laws.

La Gaceta Oficial Digital - <http://www.gacetaoficial.gob.pa/> - is a portal of the Digital Official Gazette. Law No. 53, of December 28, 2005 regulated by Decree No. 153, of August 30 2007, establishes the legal validity of the Digital Official Gazette. It is published by the Ministry of the Presidency in html and PDF formats.

World Law Guide (Lexadin) – Panama - <http://www.lexadin.nl/wlg/legis/nofr/oeur/lxwepan.htm> - identifies foreign legal resources worldwide and organizes these sources by country and area of law, including: constitutional law, litigation and court procedure, administrative law, labor law, construction law, e-commerce, criminal law, commercial law, and intellectual property. The end of the country page provides links to legal sources, which are mainly government websites.

Legislation by Topic

The Civil Aeronautics Authority - <http://www.aeronautica.gob.pa/> - under *Fundamentos Legales*, has the laws that regulate civil aviation.

The Maritime Authority of Panama - <http://www.amp.gob.pa/newsite/spanish/home.html> - under *Oficina de Asesoría Legal*, contains judgments; regulation of railroads, ports, and maritime trade; and resolutions of the Executive Board of the Maritime Authority since 1998. The full text is available in PDF and Word formats.

The National Environmental Authority website - <http://www.anam.gob.pa/> - contains comprehensive compilation of environmental laws and regulations of Panama.

The Panama Canal Authority website - <http://www.acp.gob.pa/esp/legal/index.html> - contains the legal framework that establishes the Panama Canal Authority, laws, regulations, and agreements related to the daily activities and operations of the Canal. Sources are available in full text, HTML, and PDF formats.

The Consumer Authority -http://www.autoridaddelconsumidor.gob.pa/legislacion_y_normativa.asp - under *Legislación y Normativa* contains the laws, regulations, and resolutions related to free competition and consumer protection. *Fallos y Sanciones* has a selection of judicial decisions from various courts on competition and consumer protection.

The National Securities Commission website - <http://www.conaval.gob.pa/reglamentacion.html> - contains legislation on securities. The Commission also prepares and makes accessible summaries of case law on securities. These summaries provide the essential data of each case, including the parties involved, the facts of the case, and the opinion of the court.

The Ministry of Health - <http://www.minsa.gob.pa/> - under *Información en Salud*, has laws and decrees in chronological order since 2009 to the present. It includes the Health Code and the Drug Act.

The Ministry of Housing - <http://www.mivi.gob.pa/> - under *Normativas* lists the laws pertaining to housing regulations. The official texts are available in PDF format from LEGISPAN.

The Superintendence of Banks of Panama - <http://www.superbancos.gob.pa/> - under *Legislación y Regulaciones*, has banking and credit card laws and regulations as well as micro financing law, agreements, and resolutions.

NATLEX - Panama - http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.country?p_lang=en&p_country=PAN - contains labor laws and regulations of Panama. NATLEX includes the labor and criminal codes, employment and labor laws, social security law, migrant workers laws, equal opportunity and non-discrimination laws, and laws on the protection of children and young persons. It also includes international and bilateral agreements to which Panama is a party.

The Doing Business Library of the World Bank - <http://www.doingbusiness.org/law-library> - provides access to banking laws, commercial and company laws, land and building laws, and securities laws of Panama. Official and non-official sources are available in PDF.

FAOLEX - <http://faolex.fao.org/faolex/index.htm> - is a database of laws and regulations on topics falling within UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) mandate, including: agriculture, cultivated plants, environment, fisheries, food, forestry, land and soil, livestock, water, wild species, and ecosystems. In many cases the documents are translated into multiple languages. Basic search options allow searching by country. It links to the full text of the document in Word or PDF formats and contains official and non-official sources.

ECOLEX - <http://www.ecolex.org/start.php> - is a database providing information on environmental law. It includes treaties, court decisions, legislation, monographs, and articles. Simple and advanced

searches can be performed, and it can be narrowed down by type of document and by country. It contains official texts of the laws in PDF.

DOALOS - UN Division of Ocean Affairs and Laws of the Seas, Maritime Space – Legislation and Treaties; it is an online database on national maritime delimitation legislation and treaties of countries around the world. Panamá -

<http://www.un.org/Depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/STATEFILES/PAN.htm>

UNODOC – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime – Panama -

http://www.unodc.org/en/browse_country.jsp?country=PAN - has laws, decrees, regulations, and resolutions since 1955 through 2001 governing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as well as laws regarding the prevention of money laundering and illicit trafficking in narcotics. English and Spanish versions of some of the laws are available.

IMOLIN – Money Laundering Information Network, administered by UNODOC, is a portal to laws and regulations on the prevention and prosecution of money laundering and illicit trafficking in narcotics. IMOLIN also includes laws on extradition, the criminal code, and the criminal procedure code. The full text of the legislation is provided in PDF or Word format. Panama -

<https://www.imolin.org/amlid2/browse.jsp?country=PAN>

WIPO Lex is the online database of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to national laws, implemented rules and regulations, treaties, monographs, and articles on intellectual property. Searches can be performed by country and subject matter, by type of treaty and organization, and full text search. The laws are available in HTML and PDF formats in the original language and are also translated into English. The Panamá page in WIPO Lex can be found at -

<http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/profile.jsp?code=PA>

The OAS, Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition website, briefly describes the legal system of OAS member states. It has legislation on assistance between countries on criminal matters. It also has the text of bilateral treaties and multilateral instruments to which the country is a party. Documents can be accessed in Spanish, English, or French, and in PDF, Word or HTML format. The Panamá page can be found at - <http://www.oas.org/juridico/mla/en/pan/index.html> -

Derecho Penal – Legislation is a portal on criminal law resources of the world in Spanish hosted by the University of Fribourg in Switzerland -

<http://www.unifr.ch/ddp1/derechopenal/?menu=legislacion#C> -

The Panamá page has the proposed Criminal Procedure Code of Panama of 1998, the Criminal Code of Panama of 1982, and the new Criminal Procedure and Criminal Code of Panama of 2008.

Jurisprudence

The Judicial Documentation Centre (CENDOJ) - <http://www.organojudicial.gob.pa/> is a free online database developed by the Judiciary containing jurisprudence, legislation, and doctrine of Panama since 1998 to date. Electronic documents are available in PDF format.

The Maritime Authority of Panama - <http://www.amp.gob.pa/newsite/spanish/home.html> - under *Asesoría Legal* has the decisions of the Supreme Court of Justice on issues related to maritime law.

The judgments of the Supreme Court of Justice are organized by topic, and within each topic they are listed in alphabetical order by the name of the plaintiff.

The Ministry of Agricultural Development has *Legis Agro*, an online database containing agricultural laws and jurisprudence of Panama - <http://190.34.208.115/Legis-Agro/Jurisprudencias/toc.asp>. This website also has an excellent coverage of agricultural legislation, including: the Agrarian Code; the Mineral Resources Code; the Health Code; and laws on natural resources, agrarian reform, and land titling. The laws are available in full text in HTML, and official documents are available in PDF.

The Electoral Tribunal - <http://www.tribunal-electoral.gob.pa/home.asp> - under *Publications, Bulletins and Judgments*, provides access to judgments, each with its own search engines. The website has the official documents in PDF since 1990 to 2010.

Doctrine

Iustitia is published by the Judiciary, only volumes No. 55 (2008), No. 56 (2008), No. 60 (2010), and No. 61 (2010) are available full text online in PDF. The tree structure under Publications and Papers to Conferences can be used to access *Iustitia* - <http://www.organojudicial.gob.pa/cendoj/cendojfields/revistas/>

Sapientia, published by the Judiciary starts with no. 1 (2010) and only this first issue is available full text in PDF online. The tree structure in CENDOJ under Publications and Papers to Conferences can be used to access it - <http://www.organojudicial.gob.pa/cendoj/cendojfields/revistas/>

The National Securities Commission - <http://www.conaval.gob.pa/reglamentacion.html> - publishes, in electronic format, research and legal commentaries on securities laws and regulations, including: *Compilación de artículos sobre la regulación y el funcionamiento del mercado de valores en Panamá* (2006 - 2007) 2 v; and *Aspectos Básicos del Mercado de Valores de Panamá*, Jorge Alexander Olivardia (2005).

The Ministry of Foreign Relations - <http://mire.gob.pa/contenido/observaciones-y-jurisprudencia-internacional-relevantes-para-panama-sobre-derechos-humanos> - under *Observations and International Jurisprudence relevant to Panama on Human Rights*, contains reports by the United Nations Human Rights bodies regarding Panama and the full text of Panamanian cases brought before the Inter American Court on Human Rights.

The University of Panama - <http://www.up.ac.pa/PortalUp/Derecho.aspx?submenu=188> – through the Faculty of Law and Political Science Legal Research Center, publishes the *Boletín de Informaciones Jurídicas*. However, only issues No. 41 (2009) to No. 44 (2010) are accessible online in PDF format.

Latindex - <http://www.latindex.unam.mx/> - the online regional bibliographic information system of scientific journals published in Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal. Latindex is hosted by the Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Latindex records six legal titles for Panama none accessible online.

Treaties

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry website -

<http://www.mici.gob.pa/base.php?hoja=homepage> has the full text of the Free Trade Agreements and other treaties in force in Panama as well as treaties under negotiation.

SICE – OAS Foreign Trade Information System contains the full text of trade agreements and bilateral investment treaties in force as well as documents on trade policy and national legislation in force on key trade disciplines such as: foreign investment, e-commerce, commercial arbitration, ADR, competition policy, antidumping, and intellectual property rights. Documents are available in English, Spanish, or French, and in Word and PDF formats. Panamá -

http://www.sice.oas.org/ctyindex/PAN/PANNatIDocs_e.asp

Commercial Databases

Legal Info Panama - <http://www.legalinfo-panama.com/leyes.htm> - is an online database containing laws of Panama in PDF format. Panamanian laws in English are accessible as well for a fee.

Sistemas Jurídicos S.A. (SIJUSA) - <http://www.sijusa.com/index.php> - is a commercial online legal information database containing the judgments of all courts and legislation, starting in 1989 to the present.

InterAm, developed by the National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade (Natlaw), is an on-line collection of codes, laws, regulations, case law, and secondary source materials on all areas related to business and economic development for countries in the Americas. It is not a comprehensive database but it covers the most important sources in each area of law. Files are in text format. InterAm includes translations into English of selected legal materials. Panama resources in InterAm covers laws since the Civil Code of 1916, the translation into English of articles 1 through 662 of the Commercial Code of 1916, the Constitution of Panama of 1972 with reforms through 2004, and case law since 2003 - <http://natlaw.com/interam/pn/>

vLEX is an online legal database covering legislation, jurisprudence and doctrine of many jurisdictions around the world. The full text is available in text format. The Panama database in vLEX - <http://vlex.com.pa/jurisdictions/PA> - covers codes since 1916 to present, the Official Gazette, jurisprudence of the Supreme Court of Justice since 1993 to the present, judgments of the Electoral Court since 1981 to 2010, case law from the District Superior Courts since 1991 to 2007, and a few issues of the legal journal *Revista Foro y Justicia Administrativa* from 2009.

IFLP – Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals - <http://www.law.berkeley.edu/library/iflp/index.html> - indexes only one legal journal from Panama, the *Anuario de Derecho*.

THE CENTRAL AMERICAN INTEGRATION SYSTEM

Central American Integration System (SICA) was created in 1991 by the States of the Republics of El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Panama, to promote the economic, social, cultural, political and ecological integration of Central America. . Belize is adhered to SICA, and the Dominican Republic is an associate. The legal framework of SICA, with the full text of the different treaties and protocols on economic and social integration, and on democratic security of the Region, is available at http://www.sica.int/sica/marco_j_en.aspx?IdEnt=401&Idm=2&IdmStyle=2

Under the SICA System we find the following bodies and institutions providing access to laws and regulations of the member States:

The Central American Parliament (PARLACEN) - <http://www.parlacen.org.gt/> - under documentation one finds proceedings and resolutions of the Parliament from 2005 through 2008; official documents in PDF.

The Secretariat of Central American Tourism Integration (SITCA) - www.sica.int/cct - has tourism legislation of the different countries in the Region.

The Central American Automated Tariff System - <http://www.aic.sieca.int/public/Default.aspx> - It contains the tariff regulations of Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and the text of the Central American Uniform Customs Code (Cauca). It allows for consultation by country, type of instrument, law, code, resolution, regulation, decree, agreement, arrangement, by year and keyword.

CUBA

Law of Transparency

Cuba has not enacted a law of transparency or anything guaranteeing the right to access public information.

Portals

iberIUS: Red Iberoamericana de Información y Documentación Judicial -

http://www.iberius.org/web/guest/recursos_juridicos - provides access to the Constitution, codes and other laws of Cuba in PDF and links to the website of the Supreme Court of Cuba.

Constitution

Official Gazette of Cuba provides access to the Constitution of 1976 with amendments through 2002 - http://www.gacetaoficial.cu/html/constitucion_de_la_republica.html

Cuba Portal has the Constitution of the Republic of Cuba of 1976, with reforms through 1992 - <http://www.cuba.cu/gobierno/cuba.htm>

Cubanet contains the Constitution of the Republic of Cuba of 1992, in Spanish -

http://www.cubanet.org/ref/dis/const_92.htm - and in English -

http://www.cubanet.org/ref/dis/const_92_e.htm - It also has the Constitution of 1940 -

http://www.cubanet.org/ref/dis/40_1.htm - and the Constitutional Reform of 2002 -

<http://www.cubanet.org/ref/dis/10290201.htm>

The National Assembly of Cuba has the text of the Constitution of 1976 with constitutional amendments through 2002. The official text is published in the Official Gazette of Cuba -

http://www.parlamentocubano.cu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1418&Itemid=83.

The website of the National Assembly also includes the Constitution of Guaimaro (1869), the Constitution of Baragua (1878), the Constitution of Jimaguaya (1895), the Constitution of Yaya (1897), and the Constitutions of 1901 and 1940.

InfoLEG provides access to the Constitution of the Republic of Cuba in HTML -

<http://www.eurosur.org/constituciones/co18-1.htm>

Political Database of the Americas has the Constitution of Cuba of 1976 with reforms through 2002

<http://pdba.georgetown.edu/Constitutions/Cuba/cuba.html> - It also includes the texts of the constitutions of 1976 and 1940, in HTML.

Constituciones Hispanoamericanas has all the constitutions of Cuba since 1869, including the Constitution of Guaimaro to the Constitution of 1940, the Fundamental Law of 1959, the Constitution of 1976 with reforms through 1992, and the Fundamental law of 2002 -

<http://bib.cervantesvirtual.com/portal/constituciones/pais.formato?pais=Cuba&indice=constituciones>

Legislation

The Official Gazette of Cuba - <http://www.gacetaoficial.cu/> - is published by the Ministry of Justice (MINJUS). The website of the Gazette contains a section on Cuban legislation displaying the most usual laws of Cuba, the Constitution, Codes and other laws. The electronic archives the Official Gazette begin in 1991 to date, and covers both the ordinary and extraordinary editions. Laws can be searched by keyword and by date.

The National Assembly - <http://www.parlamentocubano.cu/> - under *Labor Legislativa* has Cuban laws including the codes. A search box allows searches by keyword in title.

Cuba Portal, under *Leyes* - <http://www.cuba.cu/categorias.php?cat=7&subcat=53> - see under *Todas las Categorías, Leyes*, this portal contains labor and social security laws, housing and environmental laws, customs laws, investment law, copyright law, tax laws, free zones, and industrial parks law. This portal also links to other Cuban official websites containing political, economic and cultural information.

Cubanet, under *Documentos* - <http://www.cubanet.org/ref/dis/disdocs.htm> - has a section on Cuban laws and codes including labor, civil, criminal, and family codes. Cubanet is published by an NGO in Miami, Florida.

World Law Guide (Lexadin) - Cuba - <http://www.lexadin.nl/wlg/legis/nofr/oeur/lxwecub.htm> - identifies foreign legal resources worldwide and organizes these sources by country and area of law, including: constitutional law, litigation and court procedure, administrative law, labor law, construction law, e-commerce, criminal law, commercial law, and intellectual property. The end of the country page has links to legal sources, which are mainly government websites.

Legislation by topic

The National Archives website - <http://www.arnac.cu/> - under *Normas Juridicas* has laws on the preservation and organization of historical archives and contains a review of historical archival legislation since 1898.

The Ministry of Culture, under *Legislation* - <http://www.min.cult.cu/loader.php?sec=legislacion> - and under the Cultural Heritage National Council - <http://www.cnpc.cult.cu/> - contains laws regarding the protection of cultural patrimony and the legal framework of cultural institutions such as museums, libraries, and archives. The Ministry of Culture under *Normas Aduana*, has a compilation of custom laws, *Normas Aduana, 2011: Resumen de las principales regulaciones vigentes en materia aduanera* (2011), in PDF format.

MedioAmbiente Cuba - <http://www.medioambiente.cu/> - under *Legislation*, contains environmental laws, decrees, agreements and resolutions, foreign investment laws and regulations, and the criminal code. Documents are available in HTML format.

The University of Fribourg in Switzerland, in its portal *Derecho Penal*, includes the Criminal Code of Cuba and its amendments, Law No. 62 - <http://www.unifr.ch/ddp1/derechopenal/?menu=legislacion#C>

The Ministry of Finance and Prices - <http://www.mfp.cu/mfp.php> - has financial, customs, insurance, and tax legislation.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Security - <http://www.mtss.cu/gaceta.php?pag=0> - under Labor Legislation contains *Compendios Legislativos*, a compilation of labor and social security laws of Cuba, as Word documents in Zip format.

The General Customs of the Republic of Cuba - <http://www.aduana.co.cu/fondo/fondo.htm> - has the full text in PDF of customs laws and related legislation.

The Central Bank of Cuba - http://www.bc.gov.cu/Espanol/manual_regulaciones.asp - contains banking laws and regulations.

The Cuban Industrial Property Office (OCPI) - <http://www.ocpi.cu/> - under *Legislation*, has the intellectual property laws in force as well as treaties and other agreements to which Cuba is a party.

The National Copyright Center (CENDA) - www.cenda.cu/ - provides access to national and international copyright laws in PDF format.

The Center for Promotion of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment in Cuba (CEPEC) - <http://www.cepec.cu/comerciopropiedad.php> - under *Comercio Exterior*, contains foreign trade law and regulations.

NATLEX – Cuba - http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.country?p_lang=en&p_country=CUB - contains Cuban labor laws and regulations. NATLEX includes the labor and criminal codes, employment and labor laws, social security law, migrant workers laws, equal opportunity and non-discrimination laws, and laws on the protection of children and young persons. It also includes international and bilateral agreements to which the country is a party.

FAOLEX - <http://faolex.fao.org/faolex/index.htm> - is a database of laws and regulations on topics falling within UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) mandate, including: agriculture, cultivated plants, environment, fisheries, food, forestry, land and soil, livestock, water, wild species, and ecosystems. In many cases the documents are translated into multiple languages. Basic search options allow searching by country. It links to the full text of the document in Word or PDF formats and contains official and non-official sources. Additionally, FAOLEX links to the Official Gazette of Cuba.

ECOLEX - <http://www.ecolex.org/start.php> - is a database providing information on environmental law. It includes treaties, court decisions, legislation, monographs, and articles. Simple and advanced searches can be performed, and it can be narrowed down by type of document and by country. It contains the official texts of the laws in PDF.

DOALOS - UN Division of Ocean Affairs and Laws of the Seas, Maritime Space – Legislation and Treaties is an online database on national maritime delimitation legislation and treaties of countries around the world. The Cuba page can be found at - <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/STATEFILES/CUB.htm>

UNODOC – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime - Cuba http://www.unodc.org/enl/browse_country.jsp?country=CUB - has laws, decrees, regulations and resolutions, since 1948 through 2002 governing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. English and Spanish versions of the laws are available.

WIPO Lex is the online database of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to national laws, implemented rules and regulations, treaties, monographs, and articles on intellectual property.

Searches can be performed by country and subject matter, by type of treaty and organization, and full text search. The laws are in HTML and PDF formats in the original language and are translated into English. The Cuba page in WIPO Lex can be found at - <http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/profile.jsp?code=CU>

Derecho Penal – Legislation is a portal on criminal law resources of the world in Spanish hosted by the University of Fribourg in Switzerland -

<http://www.unifr.ch/ddp1/derechopenal/?menu=legislacion#C> -

The section on Cuba has the non official texts in PDF format of the Criminal Code (Law No. 62, 1987) and of Law No. 87, 1999 amending the Criminal Code.

Jurisprudence

The Tribunal Supremo Popular - <http://www.tsp.cu/> - publishes the Bulletin of the Popular Supreme Court of Cuba since 1966. The Bulletin contains the full text of the decisions of the Court. Online open access to the decisions is limited only to years 1997 through 2002, in HTML format. Decisions, instructions, and agreements of the Governing Council of the Supreme Court are also available in full text, in HTML format between 2000 and 2004. The codes and procedure codes are available in full text in HTML on the website and they can be downloaded as PDF files.

Doctrine / Articles

Cubanet.org - <http://www.cubanet.org/ref/dis/disdocs.htm> - reports on the emergent civil society and on human rights.

The Ministry of Foreign Relations - <http://www.cubaminrex.cu/index.htm> - under *Paginas Especial*, covers topics such as terrorism, drug trafficking, and human rights.

CENDA - www.cenda.cu/ - has a bibliographic database with summaries of books and documents. Some of the documents are accessible in full text.

The Ministry of Justice publishes the legal journal *Revista Juridica* - <http://www.minjus.cu/> - Only two issues are accessible on the website, issues No. 13 of 2006, and No. 15 of 2007.

CIAO, Information Center for the Lawyer, under *Digital Bulletin*, 1999 contains a Library of win zip, Word documents - <http://www.onbc.cu/homepage.asp?top=bienvenida>

The Ministry of Labor and Social Security - <http://www.mtss.cu/gaceta.php?pag=0> - publishes *Gaceta Laboral*. Online access begins with issue no. 1 (2002).

Tribunal Supremo Popular, publishes the journal *Revista Jurídica Justicia y Derecho* - http://www.tsp.cu/Archivos/rev_justicia_derecho.asp - Only three issues are accessible online in PDF, issue no. 5 (2005) through issue no. 7 (2006).

Latindex - <http://www.latindex.unam.mx/> - the online regional bibliographic information system of scientific journals published in Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal. Latindex is hosted by the Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Latindex records two electronic Cuban legal journals, the *Anuario del Centro de Investigaciones Jurídicas*, published by the Ministry of Justice (MINJUS) - <http://www.minjus.cu/html/somos.php> - this journal is not available through the

website of MINJUS, and the *Revista Cubana de Derecho Ambiental* - <http://www.proyesc.cu/rcda/inicio.html> - published by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment.

Commercial Databases

InterAm, developed by the National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade (Natlaw), is an online collection of codes, laws, regulations, case law, and secondary source materials on all areas related to business and economic development for countries in the Americas. It is not a comprehensive database but it covers the most important sources in each area of law. Files are in text format. InterAm includes translations into English of selected legal materials. Cuba resources in InterAm - <http://natlaw.com/interam/cu/> - cover laws dating back to the Commercial Code of 1959 with reforms through 1998 which are translated into English. No case law for Cuba is included in the database. The Constitution of Cuba with reforms through 2003 is available in Spanish and English.

vLEX is an online legal database covering legislation, jurisprudence, and doctrine of many jurisdictions around the world. The full text of the sources is available in text format. The Cuba database in vLEX - <http://vlex.com/jurisdictions/CU> - only has access to the legal journal *Revista Cubana de Derecho*, from March 1991 through 2008.

The Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals - <http://www.law.berkeley.edu/library/iflp/index.html> - indexes the *Revista Cubana de Derecho*.

HAITI

Law of Transparency

Haiti has not yet enacted a law of transparency or access to public information.

Portals

Most of the portals for Haiti are placed under legislation by topic. These are mainly the efforts of international and regional organizations collecting the legislation of their member state countries on specific areas of law.

Constitution

Political Database of the Americas - <http://pdba.georgetown.edu/Constitutions/Haiti/haiti.html> - has the Constitution of the Republic of Haiti of 1987 in French and English, in HTML format.

Embassy of the Republic of Haiti in Washington contains the Constitution of the Republic of Haiti of 1987. It is an unofficial PDF version, available in French, Creole and English - http://www.haiti.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=60&Itemid=108

The OAS website of Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition provides access to the Constitution of Haiti of 1987, in HTML - http://www.oas.org/juridico/MLA/en/hti/en_hti-int-const.html - English and French texts are available.

The Association of Constitutional Courts sharing the use of French (ACCPUF) provides access to the Constitution of the Republic of Haiti of 1987 - http://www.accpuf.org/images/pdf/cm/haiti/031-tf-txt_const.pdf - It is available as a PDF document in French text.

Haiti Reference provides access to the Constitution of the Republic of Haiti of 1987 in French in HTML - http://www.haiti-reference.com/histoire/constitutions/const_1987.htm - [Constitution de 1987](#).

Centre de Recherche et d'Information Juridiques (CRIJ) contains the Constitution of the Republic of Haiti of 1987- http://www.crijhaiti.com/fr/?page=constitution_d_haiti-

Le Jurist Haitian, has the Constitution of 1987 - http://juristehaitien.chez.com/tables/lois_const/lois_const.html

Université Pierre-Mendès-France, Grenoble provides access to the Constitution of the Republic of Haiti of 1987 - <http://webu2.upmf-grenoble.fr/Haiti/Const1801.htm> - in French, in HTML format.

Law Library Microform Consortium (LLMC) – contains Haiti constitutional titles, in PDF of both official and non-official texts - <http://www.llmc.com/Category.asp?CollID=5&Cat=271&Cat=698> – It provides online access to the following historical constitutions: 1889, 1912, 1928, 1932, 1935, 1939, 1944, 1946, 1950, 1957, 1964, 1971, 1968, 1974, 1983, and 1987. Access is available in English, French, and Creole.

Legislation

The Haitian Parliament - <http://www.parlementhaitien.ht/> - has the national Constitution of 1987 and the official text of laws enacted from 2006 to 2010 in PDF format.

Le Moniteur is the Official Gazette of Haiti. The index to the Official Gazette, from 1900 to 1944 is found in LLMC -

<http://www.llmc.com/TitleLLMC.asp?CollID=5&Cat=271&Cat=699&Cat=700&TID=8134&TName=Haiti>

LLMC contains laws of Haiti dating from 1801 to 1991, among which are the *Bulletin des Lois et Actes*, from 1875 through 1957; *Recueil général des lois et actes du Gouvernement d'Haïti* (1804-1888); *Annuaire des Législation 1904 – 1919*; and the main codes from 1860 to 1965.

The Global Legal Information Network (GLIN) - <http://www.glin.gov/search.action> - developed by the Law Library of Congress, is the most valuable source for current Haitian legislation. It covers laws of Haiti from 1953 until 2009. The database provides the full text of the official laws from *Le Moniteur* in PDF.

Centre de Recherche et d'Information Juridiques (CRIJ) - <http://www.crijhaiti.com/fr/?page=home> – contains a repository of legal information for Haiti. CRIJ describes the legal system of Haiti and includes codes and laws, mainly on criminal and labor matters, and commentaries on various legal issues. The documents are non-official documents in HTML, in French.

World Law Guide (Lexadin) - Haiti - <http://www.lexadin.nl/wlg/legis/nofr/oeur/lxwehai.htm> - Lexadin identifies foreign legal resources worldwide and organizes these sources by country and area of law, including: constitutional law, litigation and court procedure, administrative law, labor law, construction law, e-commerce, criminal law, commercial law, and intellectual property. The end of the country page provides links to Haitian legal sources, which are mainly government websites.

Legislation by Topic

The Central Bank of Haiti website - http://www.brh.net/fonctionnement_banques.html - contains banking laws and prudential norms, in PDF. *Bulletin des Affaires Juridiques* is a newsletter from its Legal Affairs department. Only a few issues of this journal, those from 2001 to 2003, are available online.

The National Telecommunications Council - <http://www.conatel.gouv.ht/legislation/loitaxation.pdf> - has the official text in PDF of the Telecommunications Law of 1987.

Derecho Penal - <http://www.unifr.ch/ddp1/derechopenal/?menu=legislacion#H> – is a portal on criminal law resources of the world in Spanish, hosted by the University of Fribourg in Switzerland. It has the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Constitution of Haiti, and the Decree on the organization of the judiciary. It links to the OAS website on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition.

OAS, Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition website, briefly describes the legal system of OAS member states. It has legislation on assistance among countries on criminal matters. It also contains the text of bilateral treaties and multilateral instruments to which Haiti is a party. The laws in French are the official documents from Le Moniteur. They are available in PDF format. The Haiti page can be found at - <http://www.oas.org/juridico/mla/fr/hti/>

UNODOC – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime – Haiti - http://www.unodc.org/en/browse_country.jsp?country=HAI - has laws, decrees, regulations, and resolutions from 1985 to 2002 governing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as well as laws preventing money laundering and illicit trafficking in narcotics. Laws are mainly in French and English, in HTML format.

UNESCO, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, has an online database - <http://www.unesco.org/library/> - that allows basic and advanced searches to retrieve UNESCO publications. A search for Haiti retrieved compilations of legislation on fishing and coastal environment laws (UNESCO, 2002) and on the protection of the cultural patrimony of Haiti (UNESCO, 1981).

WIPO Lex is the online database of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to national laws, implemented rules and regulations, treaties, monographs, and articles on intellectual property. Searches can be performed by country and subject matter, by type of treaty and organization, and full text search. The Haiti page, which has the French and English versions of the legal documents in PDF, can be found at - <http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/profile.jsp?code=HT>.

NATLEX - Haiti - http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.country?p_lang=en&p_country=HTI - contains labor laws and regulations of Haiti. NATLEX includes the labor and criminal codes, employment and labor laws, social security law, migrant workers laws, equal opportunity and non-discrimination laws, and laws on the protection of children and young persons. It also includes international and bilateral agreements to which Haiti is a party.

Doing Business Library of the World Bank - <http://www.doingbusiness.org/law-library> - provides access to the Constitution, banking and credit laws, commercial and company laws, labor laws, tax laws, and land and building laws. It provides access to official and non-official sources in PDF.

FAOLEX - <http://faolex.fao.org/faolex/index.htm> - is a database of laws and regulations on topics falling within the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) mandate, including: agriculture, cultivated plants, environment, fisheries, food, forestry, land and soil, livestock, water, wild species, and ecosystems. Many of the documents are translated into multiple languages. Basic search options allow searches by country. It links to the full text of the document in Word or PDF formats and contains official and non-official sources.

ECOLEX - <http://www.ecolex.org/start.php> - is a database providing information on environmental law. It includes treaties, court decisions, legislation, monographs, and articles. Simple and advanced searches can be performed, and it can be narrowed down by type of document and by country. It contains official texts of the laws in PDF.

DOALOS - UN Division of Ocean Affairs and Laws of the Seas, Maritime Space – Legislation and Treaties is an online database on national maritime delimitation legislation and treaties of countries around the world. The Haiti page -

<http://www.un.org/Depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/STATEFILES/HTI.htm> - contains the agreements on maritime boundary delimitation with Cuba and Colombia, in PDF.

Jurisprudence

LLMC – Haiti – Judicial Titles – <http://www.llmc.com/Category.asp?CollID=5&Cat=271&Cat=703> - has the official text in PDF of the judicial bulletin of the Court of Cassation from 1859 through 1949, the *Bulletin des Arrêts du Tribunal de Cassation Rendus en Toutes Matières: Affaires Civiles, Criminelles et Urgentes* since 1856. The collection is not complete but it has a significant historical content.

ACCPUF, The Association of Constitutional Courts sharing the use of French, has a page for the Court of Cassation of Haiti, which is the Supreme Court of Justice. ACCPUF briefly describes the judicial system of Haiti and its legal framework -

http://www.accpuf.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=128&Itemid=185

Doctrine

The legal journal *Revue de la Société de Législation, 1892-96*, is accessible in LLMC - <http://www.llmc.com/Category.asp?CollID=5&Cat=271&Cat=704&Cat=788> - This journal contains articles and commentaries on Haitian and International law.

The Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti (IJDH) - <http://ijdh.org/library/human-rights-reports> - is a non-profit organization that works on justice and human rights issues in Haiti, pursuing legal cases and cooperating with human rights and solidarity groups. IJDH publishes human rights reports, articles, and briefs on human rights and democracy issues in Haiti.

Latindex - <http://www.latindex.unam.mx/> - the online regional bibliographic information system of scientific journals published in Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal. Latindex is hosted by the Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). There are no legal journals recorded in Latindex for Haiti.

Treaties

SICE – OAS Foreign Trade Information System contains the full text of trade agreements and bilateral investment treaties in force as well as documents on trade policy and national legislation in force on key trade disciplines such as: foreign investment, e-commerce, commercial arbitration, ADR, competition policy, antidumping, and intellectual property rights. Documents are available in English, Spanish, or French, and in Word and PDF formats. The Haiti page is located at - http://www.sice.oas.org/ctyindex/HTI/HTINatIDocs_e.asp

WIPO Lex is the online database of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to national laws, implemented rules and regulations, treaties, monographs, and articles on intellectual property. Searches can be performed by country and subject matter, by type of treaty and organization, and full text search. The laws are available in HTML and PDF formats in the original language and are also translated into English. The Haiti page in WIPO Lex can be found at - <http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/profile.jsp?code=HT>

DOALOS - UN Division of Ocean Affairs and Laws of the Seas, Maritime Space – Legislation and Treaties is an online database on national maritime delimitation legislation and treaties of countries around the world. The Haiti page can be found at - <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/STATEFILES/HTI.htm>.

Databases (Commercial and Non Commercial)

The Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC) - <http://dloc.com/> contains Haitian laws and treatises.

As a consequence of the major devastation caused by the January 12, 2010 earthquake in Haiti, the Law Library Microform Consortium (LLMC) - <http://www.llmc.com/index.asp> - and a group of member libraries launched the LLMC Haiti Legal Patrimony Project. The LLMC Haiti Legal Patrimony Project pools and combines the strengths of collections and resources in many law libraries around the world. All materials for the LLMC Haiti Legal Patrimony Project are available through LLMC Digital and through the Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC). The types of materials that can be found in both databases include legislative, administrative, judicial, treatises, US documents and treatises, and multi-jurisdiction titles - <http://www.llmc.com/HaitiOverview.asp>.

vLEX online legal database covers legislation, jurisprudence, and doctrine of many jurisdictions around the world. Sources are available in full text, in text format. The section for Haiti in vLEX - <http://vlex.com/jurisdictions/HT> - only has the newspaper *Haiti Observateur*, from July 2009 to November 2010.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Law of Transparency

The Dominican Republic enacted *Law No. 200-04 on Free Access to Public Information*, and its regulation, Decree No. 130-05 in 2005 -

<http://rsta.pucmm.edu.do/biblioteca/bvds/Ley%20No.%20200-04.pdf> - The law requires the government to provide open access to public information related to the functions and operations of the government units, including documents on budget execution, programs and projects, bidding, purchasing, spending and the legal framework of the government entities.

Portals

IberIUS, Red Iberoamericana de Información y Documentación Judicial -

http://www.iberius.org/web/guest/recursos_juridicos - provides access to the Constitution and the codes of the Dominican Republic. Access to the full text is provided in PDF format. In addition, it briefly describes the Dominican judicial system and links to the website of the Supreme Court of Justice and other judicial organizations.

Constitution

The Judiciary has the Constitution of the Dominican Republic enacted on January 26, 2010 -

<http://www.suprema.gov.do/Normativas/constitucion.aspx>

The Political Database of the Americas provides access to the Constitution of the Dominican Republic of 2010 - <http://pdba.georgetown.edu/Constitutions/DomRep/dominicanrepublic.html>. This website also contains the Constitutions of 1994 and 2002 in HTML format.

Junta Central Electoral (JCE) has the Constitution of the Dominican Republic of 2010 -

<http://www.jce.gob.do/Legislación.aspx>

The Senate of the Dominican Republic contains the Constitution of the Dominican Republic of 2010 -

<http://www.senado.gob.do/senado/Portals/0/Documentos/Constituciones/const.%202010.pdf>

The Chamber of Deputies has the official text of the Dominican Constitution of 2010, in PDF -

<http://www.camaradediputados.gov.do/masterlex/MLX/docs/24/801B/AE39/AE3A.pdf>

The Consultoría Jurídica del Poder Ejecutivo - <http://www.consultoria.gov.do/coleconstitucion.php> - contains the official texts of all the constitutions and constitutional amendments enacted by the Dominican Republic since 1844 to the present.

The Ministry of the Presidency has the Constitution of the Dominican Republic of 2010 -

http://www.sep.gob.do/index.php?option=com_rokdownloads&view=folder&Itemid=790

The Attorney General of the Republic provides access to the 2010 Constitution of the Dominican Republic, in PDF <http://66.98.62.228/Transparencia/Marco-Legal/pgr/20100805-constitucion-rd.ashx>

Constituciones Hispanoamericanas, has the Dominican Constitution of 1994 and the Constitution of 2002, in HTML - http://bib.cervantesvirtual.com/portal/constituciones/pais.formato?pais=Rep_Dominicana&indice=constituciones

Legislation

The Legal Office of the Executive Power is responsible for the publication of the Official Gazette of the Dominican Republic. *Consulta la Legislación* is a database containing the legislation of the Dominican Republic since 1844 to the present - <http://www.consultoria.gov.do/>. Searches can be performed using multiple criteria including keywords in the title.

The Judiciary, under *Normativa* - <http://www.suprema.gov.do/> - covers treaties, agreements, codes, laws since 1989, and resolutions and regulations of different government entities. The laws, in text format, can be searched by keyword in the title or in the body of the text, by date, and by the number of the act. Under Publications one can find a compilation of the most usual laws of the Dominican Republic in *Compendio de Leyes Usuales de la Republica Dominicana* (2008). It is a 3-volume set in PDF format - <http://www.suprema.gov.do/Publicaciones/libros/2008.aspx>

The Chamber of Deputies, under *Leyes Publicadas* has the Official Gazette in PDF from 1990 to 2006 - <http://www.camaradediputados.gov.do/portalsilcamara/>.

World Law Guide (Lexadin) - Dominican Republic - <http://www.lexadin.nl/wlg/legis/nofr/oeur/lxwedom.htm> - identifies foreign legal resources worldwide and organizes these sources by country and area of law, including: constitutional law, litigation and court procedure, administrative law, labor law, construction law, e-commerce, criminal law, commercial law, and intellectual property. The end of the country page has links to the country government websites.

Legislation by Topic

The Attorney General of the Republic, under Legal Framework, contains codes, laws, decrees, and resolutions, in PDF format, related to the work of the Attorney General. <http://66.98.62.228/Transparencia/Marco-Legal/PGR/Default.ashx>

The Ministry of Public Health, under *Informes y Documentos*, includes laws, decrees, regulations, technical norms, and resolutions on public health- <http://www.sespas.gov.do/informes/default.asp>

The Ministry of Agriculture, *Base Legal Sanitaria*, is an online database of laws, decrees, and regulations on agriculture and related topics, in PDF format. Searches can be performed by multiple fields - <http://www.agricultura.gob.do/>

The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, under *Leyes y Normas, Acuerdos y Convenios* - <http://www.ambiente.gob.do/cms/> - has an extensive collection of laws, decrees, and agreements on natural resources and the environment.

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce covers hydrocarbons, foreign trade, internal trade, and energy. Each section contains the related laws, decrees, regulations and resolutions for that section, in PDF format - <http://www.seic.gov.do/default.aspx>.

The Ministry of Treasury -http://www.hacienda.gov.do/legislacion/marco_legal_deuda_publica.htm – has laws on public debt as well as the full text of the agreements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) - http://www.hacienda.gov.do/fondo_monetario.htm.

The Internal Revenue Office covers codes, laws, decrees, regulations, norms, resolutions, and international agreements on taxation - <http://www.dgii.gov.do/impresorasFiscales/Paginas/legislacion.aspx>

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, under Legal Framework, contains codes, laws, decrees, regulations and resolutions on foreign affairs and areas related to the economic development of the Dominican Republic - <http://transparencia.mirex.gov.do/Lists/Marco/AllItems.aspx>.

The Central Bank of the Dominican Republic, under *Normativa*, covers securities law, monetary and financial law, foreign investment, and exchange regulations - <http://www.bancentral.gov.do/>

The National Intellectual Property Office (ONAPI) contains legislation on intellectual property, trademarks, and patents - <http://onapi.gob.do/go/qui-nes-somos/legislacion/legislacion>.

The Superintendence of Banks, under *Legal Framework* covers not only monetary and financial laws, but also a comprehensive list of laws and regulations in other economic and financial topics, such as e-commerce, corporate law, foreign investment law, industrial law, and intellectual property law, in PDF format - http://www.sb.gob.do/?page_id=13.

The Superintendence of Energy, under Legal Framework, contains laws, regulations, and resolutions on energy and renewable energy - http://www.sie.gov.do/marco_legal.php.

The Superintendence of Health and Occupational Hazards, under Legal Framework, contains the laws, regulations, decrees, and norms, on public health. Sources are provided in PDF format - <http://www.sisalril.gov.do/BaseLegal.aspx>.

The Dominican Association of Free Zones (ADOZONA), under governing laws, contains the legal framework for the operations of the industrial free zones, foreign investment law, and international trade agreements. Access is available in English, and in Word and PDF formats - <http://www.adozona.org/ing/legal.asp>.

NATLEX – Dominican Republic - http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.country?p_lang=en&p_country=DOM - http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.country?p_lang=en&p_country=CRI contains Dominican labor laws and regulations. NATLEX includes the labor and criminal codes, employment and labor laws, social security law, migrant workers laws, equal opportunity and non-discrimination laws, and laws on the protection of children and the young. It also includes international and bilateral agreements to which the country is a party.

The OAS, Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition website, briefly describes the legal system of OAS member states. It has legislation on assistance between countries on criminal

matters. It also provides the text of bilateral treaties and multilateral instruments to which the country is a party. Documents can be accessed in Spanish, English, or French, and in PDF, Word or HTML formats. The Dominican Republic page can be found at - <http://www.oas.org/juridico/MLA/en/dom/index.html> -

The Doing Business Library of the World Bank - <http://www.doingbusiness.org/law-library> - provides access to the Constitution, banking and credit laws, commercial and company laws, labor laws, tax laws, and land and building laws of the Dominican Republic. Official and non-official sources are available in PDF.

FAOLEX - <http://faolex.fao.org/faolex/index.htm> - is a database of laws and regulations on topics falling within UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) mandate, including: agriculture, cultivated plants, environment, fisheries, food, forestry, land and soil, livestock, water and wild species and ecosystems. Many documents are translated into multiple languages. Basic search options allow searches by country. It links to the full text of the document in Word or PDF formats and contains official and non-official sources.

ECOLEX - <http://www.ecolex.org/start.php> - is a database providing information on environmental law. It includes treaties, court decisions, legislation, monographs, and articles. Simple and advanced searches can be performed, and it can be narrowed down by type of document and by country. It contains official texts of the laws in PDF.

DOALOS - UN Division of Ocean Affairs and Laws of the Seas, Maritime Space – Legislation and Treaties is an online database on national maritime delimitation legislation and treaties of countries around the world. The Dominican Republic page in DOALOS can be found at - <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/STATEFILES/DOM.htm>

UNODOC – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime - Dominican Republic - http://www.unodc.org/en/browse_country.jsp?country=DOM - has laws, decrees, regulations, and resolutions since 1957 through 2001 governing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as well as laws preventing money laundering and illicit trafficking in narcotics. English and Spanish versions of some of the laws are available.

IMOLIN – Money Laundering Information Network, administered by UNODOC, is a portal to laws and regulations regarding the prevention and prosecution of money laundering and illicit trafficking in narcotics. IMOLIN also includes laws on extradition, the criminal code, and the criminal procedure code. The full text of the legislation is provided in PDF or Word format. The Dominican Republic page in IMOLIN is available at - <https://www.imolin.org/amlid2/browse.jsp?country=DOM>

WIPO Lex is the online database of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to national laws, implemented rules and regulations, treaties, monographs, and articles on intellectual property. Searches can be performed by country and subject matter, by type of treaty and organization, and full text search. The laws are in HTML and PDF formats in the original language and are also translated into English. The section on Dominican Republic can be found at - <http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/profile.jsp?code=DO>

Jurisprudence

The Judiciary, under *Consultas/Sentencias*, contains the decisions of the Supreme Court of Justice, the Court of Appeals in civil and commercial matters of Santo Domingo, and of the Administrative

Superior Tribunal. *Boletín Histórico* is a digest of decisions of the Supreme Court of Justice (SCJ) from 1865 to 1912, in text format. *Sentencias Destacadas por el Presidente de la SCJ* is another digest that covers the most relevant cases decided by the SCJ from 1949 to 2009. The *Boletín Judicial* is the official journal of the Judiciary. It has the full text of the decisions of the Supreme Court of Justice from 1994 to 2010. *Boletín Judicial Inédito* covers unpublished current decisions. Searches can be performed by year, parties involved, area of law, or by the number of the Judicial Bulletin - http://www.suprema.gov.do/consultas/consultas_sentencias/indice_consultas_sentencias.aspx.

Doctrine

The website of the Judiciary contains treatises, annotated laws, and case reporters since 2005 - http://www.suprema.gov.do/Publicaciones/libros/indice_libros.aspx. Some of these titles are available open access in PDF format, including: *Tribunales y Salas Constitucionales de Hispanoamérica: su integración y algo más (2006)*; *La Constitución de la República Dominicana Comentada por los Jueces del Poder Judicial (2006)*; *Diez Años de Jurisprudencia (2007)*; *Normativa Procesal Penal Dominicana (2007)*; and *Historia de la Corte de Casación Dominicana 1908-2008 (2008)*.

Gaceta Judicial, is a legal journal published by Editora Judicial, that is available starting with issue no. 1 (1997). The full text is available in electronic format in LexLata, a commercial database.

Revista del Ministerio Publico, the Journal of the Attorney General Office, is available free in electronic format, starting with issue no. 18 (2010), on the webpage of the Public Ministry - <http://pgr.gob.do/portal/default.aspx>.

Latindex - <http://www.latindex.unam.mx/> - the online regional bibliographic information system of scientific journals published in Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal. Latindex is hosted by the Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Latindex records three legal journals for the Dominican Republic, *Cuadernos Jurídicos*, *Gaceta Judicial*, and *Observatorio de Derechos Humanos*, there is no open access to these journals.

Treaties

The Export and Investment Center of the Dominican Republic contains the text of the free trade agreements signed by the Dominican Republic with the countries of CARICOM, Central America, Panama, the United States, and the European Union - http://www.cei-rd.gov.do/acuerdos_programas.asp.

The *Consultoría Jurídica del Poder Ejecutivo*, the Legal Counsel Office of the Executive, contains the following texts: (1) the Inter American treaties adopted in the framework of the Organization of American States of which the Dominican Republic is signatory; (2) the Free Trade Agreement between the Dominican Republic and the Caribbean Community which links to SICE, Foreign Trade Information System; and (3) the Free Trade Agreement Central America, Dominican Republic, United States (CAFTA –DR), in PDF format - <http://www.consultoria.gov.do/acuerdosfront.php>.

SICE – OAS Foreign Trade Information System contains the full text of trade agreements and bilateral investment treaties in force, documents on trade policy, and national legislation in force on key trade disciplines such as: foreign investment, e-commerce, commercial arbitration, ADR, competition policy, antidumping, and intellectual property rights. Documents are available in English, Spanish, and French, and in Word and PDF formats. The Dominican Republic page is available at - http://www.sice.oas.org/ctyindex/DOM/DOMNatIDocs_e.asp

Databases Commercial and Non Commercial

LexLata is an online database containing the full text of laws, case law, and journal articles of the Dominican Republic - <http://www.lexlata.com/>.

Legal Database is a free accessible legal database developed by the Law Firm Ramos Messina - <http://www.ramosmessina.com/>. It is an index to the legislation of the Dominican Republic. Some of the laws are available in full text in PDF format. Search capacity is limited to keywords in the title or by the number of the Official Gazette. The Legal Database includes legislation since 1844 to the present, however it is not comprehensive.

InterAm, developed by the National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade (Natlaw), is an on-line collection of codes, laws, regulations, case law, and secondary source materials on all areas related to business and economic development for countries in the Americas. It is not a comprehensive database but it covers the most important sources in each area of law. Files are in text format. InterAm includes translations into English of selected legal materials. Dominican Republic resources in InterAm - <http://natlaw.com/interam/dr/> - cover laws dating back to the Civil Procedure Code of 1845 with reforms through 1998 and case law since 1998.

vLEX is an online legal dataset covering legislation, jurisprudence, and doctrine of many jurisdictions around the world. It provides access to the full text of the source in text format. The Dominican Republic database in vLEX - <http://do.vlex.com/jurisdictions/DO> - covers jurisprudence from the Supreme Court of Justice from 1994 to 2008, decisions of the Courts of Appeals of the National District from 1998 to 2006, and Tax Court decisions from 1996 to 2010. Legislation is not included in the database.

PUERTO RICO

Law of Transparency

The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico enacted in June 22, 2004 the Electronic Government Act, *Ley de Gobierno Electrónico*, mandating the use of information technology to make government more accessible, effective and transparent to the citizens, and make accessible the information held by the government to the citizens through government websites -

<http://www2.pr.gov/GobiernoAGobierno/ComunidadIT/Documentacion/Documents/Leyes%20de%20Tecnologias/Ley%20N%C3%BAm.%20151%20del%2022%20de%20junio%20de%202004,%20conocida%20como%20La%20Ley%20Gobierno%20Electr%C3%B3nico.pdf> -

Portals

IberIUS, Red Iberoamericana de Información y Documentación Judicial -

http://www.iberius.org/web/guest/recursos_juridicos - provides access to the Constitution and codes of Puerto Rico. It briefly describes the judicial system of Puerto Rico and it provides links to judicial organizations and to LexJuris, a legal database.

Constitutions

The House of Representatives provides access to the Constitution of Puerto Rico of 1952 -

http://www.camaraderepresentantes.org/cr_constitucion.asp?d=1&mtab=050&rtab=CPREJPOZOF

The State Department of the Government of Puerto Rico has the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico of 1952 - <http://www.estado.gobierno.pr/>

Judicial Branch of Puerto Rico contains the Constitution enacted on July 25, 1952 -

<http://www.ramajudicial.pr/leyes/constitucion/articulo1.htm> -

Law School, Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico provides access to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico - <http://www.pucpr.edu/derecho/biblioteca/index.htm> - in HTML.

LexJuris Puerto Rico has the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico of 1952 -

<http://www.lexjuris.com/lexprcont.htm> – in PDF.

The Office of Legislative Services contains the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in PDF -

<http://www.oslpr.org/english/PDF/The%20Constitution%20of%20the%20Commonwealth%20of%20Puerto%20Rico.pdf>.

FAOLEX has the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico of 1952 - <http://faolex.fao.org/> - Spanish and English texts are available in HTML.

The University of Richmond Constitution Finder, contains the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico of 1952- <http://confinder.richmond.edu/> - It redirects the user to the page *Welcome to Puerto Rico*, which is a free access private website - <http://welcome.topuertorico.org/constitu.shtml>

Welcome to Puerto Rico provides access to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico of 1952 - <http://welcome.topuertorico.org/constitu.shtml> - in HTML.

The Hispanic American Constitutions webpage - <http://bib.cervantesvirtual.com/portal/constituciones/constituciones.shtml> - includes a section for Puerto Rico which has the Autonomic Constitution of 1897 and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico of 1952. The full text of these constitutions is listed in HTML.

Legislation

The Political Code of Puerto Rico mandates the Secretary of State to print and distribute all laws enacted by the Legislature and signed by the Governor of Puerto Rico.

The House of Representative, *Trámite Legislativo* - http://www.camaraderepresentantes.org/cr_buscar.asp - is a bill tracking system for both chambers: the Senate and the House of Representatives. Searches can be performed by type of legislation, by chamber, by date (starting in January 2005), and by the legislator that introduced the bill. The full-text of the bills is attached in Word format.

The State Department - <http://www.estado.gobierno.pr> - provides the official text in PDF of the executive orders signed by the governor of Puerto Rico since 2009. It contains the historical documents on the establishment of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Constitution, and the codified Laws of Puerto Rico, in text format. They can be printed and emailed by section but not download. English and Spanish versions of the statutes are available; however the English version is updated through December 2008, while the Spanish version is current through 2010.

Regulations registered in the Puerto Rican State Department are available in Spanish, and some are available in English. Some U.S. federal regulations that apply to Puerto Rico are available through - <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html>.

The Legislative Service Office - <http://www.oslpr.org/> - has a bill tracking system called *Sistema de Interrogación del Trámite Legislativo* (SITL), and the *Prontuario de Legislación*, which is a database containing the official text in PDF of the Laws of Puerto Rico in Spanish and English. Laws, codes, regulations, and administrative re-organization plans can be searched independently. A search engine allows retrieving the norms by type of norm, date of enactment, law number, keywords in title, or by subject. This webpage also contains, under *Leyes*, the official text of the laws in Word and PDF, in chronological order by date and number enacted. Laws since 1993 to the present are available in Spanish, and laws from 1997 to the present are available in English. Under *Documentos*, the main codes and legal framework of the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico are available in PDF.

The Senate of Puerto Rico - <http://www.senadopr.us/Pages/LeyesyResoluciones.aspx> - under *Leyes y Resoluciones*, contains the laws and resolutions in chronological order by legislative session. These are the official full text of the laws, in PDF, starting in 2010 to the present.

InfoLEG Legislative Information – Codes - <http://www.infoleg.gov.ar/basehome/codigos.htm> - Puerto Rico, redirects the users to the codes in LexJuris. <http://www.lexjuris.com/lexlaboral.htm>

Legislation by Topic

The Puerto Rico Notary Association - <http://www.notariosdepr.com/> provides information about the notarial practice in Puerto Rico, commentaries to legislation affecting the practice, and general instructions to the notaries. Information is provided in text format.

The Puerto Rico Bar Association - <http://www.capr.org/> - under *Legal Research* includes laws, regulations, and Supreme Court decisions since 2009 related to the practice of law in Puerto Rico.

The Department of Justice - <http://www.justicia.pr.gov/> - publishes the official texts in PDF of administrative orders since 2002 and regulations since 2007 as well as laws and documents related to the functions of the Department of Justice and considered of public interest - http://www.justicia.pr.gov/rs_template/v2/OFSecretario/InteresPublico.html

The Health Department - <http://www.salud.gov.pr/Publicaciones/Pages/default.aspx> - provides access to administrative orders, regulations and laws, in html.

FAOLEX - <http://faolex.fao.org/faolex/index.htm> - is a database of laws and regulations on topics falling within UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) mandate, including: agriculture, cultivated plants, environment, fisheries, food, forestry, land and soil, livestock, water and wild species and ecosystems. In many cases the documents are translated into multiple languages. Basic search options allow searches by country. It links to the full text of the document in Word or PDF formats and contains official and non-official sources.

ECOLEX - <http://www.ecolex.org/start.php> - is a database providing information on environmental law. It includes treaties, court decisions, legislation, monographs, and articles. Simple and advanced searches can be performed, and it can be narrowed down by type of document and by country. It contains official texts of the laws in PDF.

The Doing Business Library of the World Bank - <http://www.doingbusiness.org/law-library> - provides access to the Constitution, banking and credit laws, commercial and company laws, labor laws, tax laws, and land and building laws of Puerto Rico. Access to official and non-official sources is provided in PDF.

Jurisprudence

The Judicial Branch of Puerto Rico - <http://www.ramajudicial.pr/> - is the main portal to the Puerto Rican court system. It directs users to the pages of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, the First Instance Courts, and the Office of Court Administration. *Opiniones del Tribunal Supremo* is the portal to access the decisions of the Supreme Court since 1991 to present - <http://www.ramajudicial.pr/opiniones/2011/2011.htm>. Searches can be performed using Boolean operators by keywords. The documents retrieved are in Word and/or PDF.

Opinions of the Court of Appeal since 1997, and from the First Instance Courts since 1991, can be searched and accessed through *Consulta de Casos* - <http://www.ramajudicial.pr/OAT/servlet/BusqCasos>. Translated opinions are not available in the portal, but they can be requested from the Library of the Supreme Court or from the Translation Office if the opinion has not yet been translated.

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Puerto Rico - <http://www.prb.uscourts.gov/> - has opinions, administrative decisions, and general and administrative orders in PDF format.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico redirects the user to PACER, which offers computer access to civil cases since 1991 and to criminal cases since 1994 - <http://www.prd.uscourts.gov/CourtWeb/Welcome.aspx>

Doctrine

The Law Library at the University of Puerto Rico - <http://derechopr.com/> - http://ls-po.law.upr.edu/portal/page?_pageid=33,151454&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL has early XX century codes and laws of Puerto Rico, in PDF.

Ernest & Young, *Doing Business in Puerto Rico (2004)*

http://www.pridco.com/english/research_center/doingbusiness/business_in_puerto_rico.pdf

Latindex - <http://www.latindex.unam.mx/> - the online regional bibliographic information system of scientific journals published in Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal. Latindex is hosted by the Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Latindex records 5 legal journals for Puerto Rico. However, only one of these journals is open access, *the University of Puerto Rico Business Law Journal* - <http://www.uprbli.com/> -

Commercial Databases

LexJuris.net - <http://www.lexjuris.net> - is a legal database containing laws, regulations, municipal ordinances, judicial decisions of the Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal, executive orders, and opinions of the General Attorney.

vLex, Puerto Rico database - <http://vlex.com.pr/jurisdictions/PR> - contains legislation since 1998 to 2008, and Jurisprudence of the Supreme Court since 1998 to date.

Consulta Legislativa - <http://www.consultalegislativa.com/> - is a legal database containing codes and laws of Puerto Rico since 1997, rules of evidence, and regulations and decisions from all state and federal courts of Puerto Rico. In addition, it contains the full text of legal articles from the Journal of the Puerto Rico Bar Association and from the law review of the Catholic University of Puerto Rico Law School.

MicroJuris - www.microjuris.com/ - is an online database containing annotated and un-annotated laws of Puerto Rico, Court rules, and regulations. In addition, it contains cases of the Supreme Court, of the Court of Appeals, and of the Federal courts of the District Court of Puerto Rico. Microjuris also indexes in full text the following legal journals: *Revista del Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico*; *Revista de Derecho Puertorriqueño*; *Revista Jurídica de la Universidad Interamericana*; and *Boletín Legal PR Business Law Developments*.

Westlaw - www.westlaw.com - provides access to Puerto Rico Statutes and cases from the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court since 1899. It also has English translations of the opinions of the Puerto Rico Supreme Court. In addition, under Puerto Rico Journals & Law Reviews, it has the

following journal titles: *Revista Jurídica de la Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico*; *Revista de Derecho Puertorriqueño*; *Revista Jurídica Universidad de Puerto Rico*; and *University of Puerto Rico Business Law Journal*.

LexisNexis <http://www.lexisnexis.com/> - covers Puerto Rico cases, statutes, regulations, administrative materials, court rules and law reviews. Sources are available in Spanish and English. In addition, it includes the full text of articles from the following legal journals: *Revista Jurídica Universidad de Puerto Rico*; *Revista Jurídica Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico Facultad de Derecho*; and *Revista De Derecho Puertorriqueño*.

JTS Online - <http://www.pub-jts.com/editorial.htm> - is an online legal database containing case law of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico and Laws of Puerto Rico since 1997.

Heinonline - <http://www.heinonline.org/> - has the full text of *Revista Jurídica de la Universidad de Puerto Rico* since 1932 and *Revista de Derecho Puertorriqueño* since 1961.

PACER, public access to court electronic records for the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico - <https://ecf.prd.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/ShowIndex.pl> - offers access to civil cases since 1991 and criminal cases since 1994.

CONCLUSION

These are some of the most significant developments made by Mexico, Central American, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Puerto Rico to guarantee the right to access to information of its citizens and make government most transparent. Mexico has two extraordinary resources: First, a single government portal to all laws published on government websites, *Orden Jurídico*, or the Juridical Order. This portal organizes and provides access in a systematic way to all laws accessible through any government website at the Federal and State level including to the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches. Second, the Legal Virtual Library, *Biblioteca Jurídica Virtual* of the *Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas* (IIJ) (UNAM) is a leading legal research institution for Latin America, providing open access to primary and secondary sources of Mexico.

Most of the countries are digitizing their Official Gazettes. However, the degree of accessibility to the Gazette varies among the countries. Mexico, El Salvador, Panama, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic are currently providing full text online access to the all the legislation of their respective countries, the Dominican Republic through *Consulta la Legislación*, Costa Rica through *Integrated Legislative System*, and Panama through LEGISPAN. Costa Rica and Panama have enacted laws granting the digital versions of the Official Gazettes the same legal value as the printed source (see Appendix 2).

It should be noted that some of the websites of the Ministries or autonomous government institutions go beyond the legal framework of their entities to collect and make accessible the laws regulating the specific sector; we find this trend in the banking and financial sector as well as in the environmental and agricultural sectors. These government entities are developing online databases to facilitate access to a significant number of laws, and are important resources in helping to centralize the law in specific subject areas.

With respect to jurisprudence, most countries have established judicial documentation centers within the Judiciary to process and systematize case law and legislation. The countries and their respective centers are: in Guatemala, CENADOJ, the *Centro Nacional de Análisis y Documentación Judicial*; in Honduras, CEDIJ, the *Centro Electrónico de Documentación e Información Judicial*; in Nicaragua, CENDIJ, the *Centro de Documentación e Información Judicial*; in Costa Rica, SCIJ, the *Costa Rican Legal Information System*; and in the Dominican Republic, *Centro de Documentación Judicial*. The work done by international, regional, and foreign organizations, such as the United Nations, the Organization of American States (OAS), the Global Legal Information Network (GLIN), the Digital

Library of the Caribbean (dLOC), and the Law Library Microform Consortium (LLMC), to collect and make publicly accessible the law of the countries in their specific areas of interest has been invaluable. This is especially true in the case of Haiti. In contrast to the other Central American and Caribbean countries, Haiti is the least developed in terms of access to legal information, and the work done by these organizations has made a noticeable difference.

Appendix 1.

MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA, SPANISH SPEAKING CARIBBEAN AND HAITI

Law of Transparency

MEXICO	Federal Transparency and Access to Public Government Information Act	2002
PANAMA	Transparency of the Public Administration Act	2002
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	Free Access to Public Information Act	2004
PUERTO RICO	Electronic Government Act - <i>Ley de Gobierno Electrónico,</i>	2004
HONDURAS	Access to Public Information and Transparency Act	2006
NICARAGUA	Access to Public Information	2007
	Law of Transparency of Public Entities of Nicaragua	2008
GUATEMALA	Access to Public Information Act	2008
EL SALVADOR	Access to Public Information Act	2011
COSTA RICA	NO	
CUBA	NO	
HAITI	NO	

MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA, SPANISH SPEAKING CARIBBEAN AND HAITI		
OFFICIAL GAZETTES		
FULL ONLINE ACC		45%
Country	Official Gazette	Accessible Since
MEXICO	<i>Diario Oficial de la Federacion (DOF)</i>	1917 -
<i>Publisher</i>	Secretaria de Gobernacion - Secretary of Government Accessible online since 1917 to date	
EL SALVADOR	<i>El Diario Oficial</i>	1847 -
<i>Publisher</i>	Imprenta Nacional - Ministerio Gobernación Available in digital format since 1847 to the present	
PANAMA	<i>La Gaceta Oficial Digital</i>	1903 -
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