

Government Contracts Research Guide

Overview

This research guide includes information and resources related to federal, state, and local government contracts, as well as contract litigation involving government entities. A “contract means a mutually binding legal relationship obligating the seller to furnish the supplies or services (including construction) and the buyer to pay for them. It includes all types of commitments that obligate the Government to an expenditure of appropriated funds and that, except as otherwise authorized, are in writing.” (*FAR 2.101*) The resources listed below are not exhaustive and may not include the most up-to-date information. It is for information purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice or act as the substitute for legal counsel.

Related guides: Administrative Law, Judicial Review of Administrative Action, Suits Against Government Agencies

Statutes and Codes

Texas Statutes Online www.statutes.capitol.texas.gov

Texas Government Code

- Ch. 791 Interlocal Cooperation Contacts
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/GV/htm/GV.791.htm>
- Ch. 2251 Payment for Goods and Services
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/GV/htm/GV.2251.htm>
- Ch. 2260 Resolution of Certain Contract Claims Against the State
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/GV/htm/GV.2260.htm>

Texas Local Government Code

- Ch. 252 Purchasing and Contracting Authority of Municipalities

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/LG/htm/LG.252.htm>

- Ch. 262 Purchasing and Contracting Authority of Counties
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/LG/htm/LG.262.htm>
- Ch. 271 Purchasing and Contracting Authority of Municipalities, Counties, and Certain Other Local Governments
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/LG/htm/LG.271.htm>

Civil Practice and Remedies Code

- Ch. 114 Adjudication of Claims Arising Under Written Contracts with State Agencies
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/CP/htm/CP.114.htm#114>

Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR)

<https://www.acquisition.gov/browse/index/far>

Secondary Resources in Print

Corbin on Contracts Desk Edition KF 801 C65

- Ch. 84 Bargains Harmful to Public or Performance of Fiduciary Duty §84.04 Bargains for Services in Procuring Government Contracts

Government Contracts under the Federal Acquisition Regulation KF 849 .K49

Texas Litigation Guide KFT 1730 .T4

- Vol. 14, Ch. 210A Contracts
- Vol. 18, Ch. 260 Improvement Contracts

Texas Transaction Guide KFT 1268 .K45

- Vol. 12, Ch. 61A, Federal Government Contracts
- Vol 12, Ch. 61C Texas Government Contracts

CLE Materials

Advanced Government Law KFT 1399 .G6 S94

- 2021 Ch. 4 Basics and Pointers of Interlocal Contracting: A Multi-Jurisdictional Look at Issues
- 2020 Ch. 17 Pitfalls with Construction Projects and How to Prevent Them
- 2018 Ch. 17 The Proprietary-Governmental Dichotomy in Breach of Contract Cases

Suing and Defending Governmental Entities Boot Camp KFT 1399 .A75S7

- 2009 Ch. 2 The ABC's of Sovereign Immunity
- 2006 Ch. 3 Government Contracts
- 2005 Ch. 10 Pitfalls to Avoid When Suing the Federal Government
- 2004 Ch. 6 Contracts 101

Contracting in the Covid and Post Covid World (PDF only)

- 2022 Ch. 5 Government Contracting in a Pandemic World

Federal Contracting References, Assistance, and Organizations (U.S. Department of State)
<https://www.state.gov/Federal-Contracting-References>

Government Contracts: A Beginner's Guide – Statutes and Regulation (Library of Congress)
<https://guides.loc.gov/government-contracts/statutes-and-regulations>

Government Contracts Compliance Assistance (U.S. Dept. of Labor)
<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts>

Government Contracts: A Beginner's Guide – Online Resources (Library of Congress)
<https://guides.loc.gov/government-contracts/websites>

Holland and Knight Law (Government Contracts Blog)
<https://www.hklaw.com/en/insights/blogs/government-contracts-blog>

U.S. Small Business Administration: Contracting Guide
<https://www.sba.gov/federal-contracting/contracting-guide>

Online Resources

Tarrant County: Contracts and Procurement Summary
<https://www.tarrantcountytexas.gov/en/openbooks/contracts-and-procurement-summary.html>

Texas Attorney General: Procurement and Contract Operations
<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/procurement>

Texas Judicial Branch: Office of Court Administration: Contracting and Procurements
<https://www.txcourts.gov/oca/contracting-procurements/>

Federal Government Contracting: A Resource Guide – Historical Government Contracts
<https://guides.loc.gov/federal-government-contracting/historical-contracts>

Legal Assistance

Legal Lines – Ask Attorneys simple legal questions (free service)

- Tarrant County LegalLine Sign-up
<https://www.tarrantbar.org/>
- Dallas County LegalLine Sign-up
<https://www.dallasbar.org/index.cfm?pg=legalline>

Tarrant County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service: 817-336-4101 (\$20 for the first 30 minutes)