
Microform Reviews

Records of the U.S. Judicial Conference: Committees on Rules of Practice and Procedures, 1935-1988. Bethesda, Maryland: Congressional Information Service, Inc., 1991. 3 vols. Price: 3 volumes and accompanying microfiche – \$14,175.00. Annual updates priced separately.

Records of the U.S. Judicial Conference: Committees on Rules of Practice and Procedures, 1935–1988, is a three volume set that provides indexing for the materials produced and collected by six advisory committees of the U.S. Judicial Conference; the Committee on Civil Procedure, the Committee on Criminal Procedure, the Committee on Bankruptcy Procedure, the Committee on Appellate Procedure, the Committee on Admiralty Procedure (from 1958–1966) and the Committee on Evidence (from 1961–1975). These six committees draft and propose new and revised rules for use in the Federal courts of the United States. Minutes of committee meetings, draft proposals, reference materials, correspondence among committee members, written comments of legal professionals and members of the judiciary are among the items indexed in this collection.

New or revised rules of procedure are proposed by the appropriate advisory committee. Proposals are sent to the Standing Committee on Practice and Procedure, which oversees the work of all six advisory committees. The proposal is then sent to the Judicial Conference and, finally, if all agree, sent to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Supreme Court then reports the adoption or rejection of the rule to the U.S. Congress. Congress may accept, revise or reject the rule. While attorneys have traditionally consulted House and Senate reports to determine the legislative intent of a public law, until the publication of this collection, they have been hampered in determining the rationale behind the acceptance or rejection of the procedural rules that govern court actions.

The three volume index is composed of the following volumes: "List of Documents," "Index by Rule Topics" and "Index by Names of Individuals & Organizations." A companion microfiche set provides copies of the materials indexed.

The "List of Documents" volume is arranged by committee. All materials belonging to a committee are grouped together. Because of the nature of the items indexed, the editors have established group headings

for particular types of items. For example, one group heading used is "Deskbook." Among the items appearing under this group heading are: draft rules, meeting minutes, and memoranda for discussion at meetings of the committee. If one checks under the Committee on Appellate Procedure group heading "Deskbook," one will find entries for the minutes of the December 15, 1983 meeting of the Committee, the agenda of the July 1984 meeting, and reference to a June 1, 1984 memorandum that includes a state-by-state summary of bail rules. Each entry contains a CIS accession number which refers the user to the full text of the item on the companion microfiche set. A full explanation of all group headings is included in the introduction to each of the volumes.

An "Index by Rule Topics," provides subject access to the collection. This index refers to either specific records or to the same group heading categories as found in the "List of Documents" volume. No indexing is provided under the official committee rule number, however, cross-references lead the user to the subject entry used for the rule. The "Index by Names of Individuals & Organizations" volume provides an additional access point. Both the "Index by Rule Topics" and the "Index by Names of Individuals & Organizations" are arranged by committee name. Entries under each of the committees are either in alphabetical order, as in the rules topics volume, or in date order, as in the names and organizations index.

The materials indexed in this collection have been filmed from the records of the six advisory committees which are in the custody of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Most of the materials indexed have not been available for use in libraries. With the exception of an occasional draft or final version of a rule, these records have not been included as part of the U.S. Government Printing Office Depository Library Program, as letters, minutes of meetings and committee correspondence have been considered internal documents and outside the scope of the Depository Library Program.

In an attempt to fully explore the value of this collection, an investigation of Bankruptcy Rule 2013 was undertaken. Rule 2013 involves the limitation on appointments of trustees, examiners, appraisers and auctioneers who oversee Chapter 7 or Chapter 11 bankruptcy cases. Consulting Title 11 of the *United States Code Annotated (U.S.C.A.)*, the current text of