

Genealogical Research with the Witkin State Law Library Presented By Elean Smith

Did your ancestor commit a crime? Maybe they filed a lawsuit or maybe there was a law passed in their honor! Learn how to mine legal resources for genealogical treasures that that can provide rich details about your ancestor's life in this talk. We will discuss which records are available from the comfort of your home (or at your State Law Library) and which types of records are available elsewhere. Then we'll explore how you can use those resources to find information about your ancestors via several research examples.

I look forward to talking with you further about the possibility of presenting to your group! There is so much legal material likely to be of interest to a genealogist.

Elena Smith is a Reference and Outreach Librarian for the Witkin State Law Library, a premiere collection of legal materials that is especially strong in California law but also has impressive national and international collections with resources dating back to the 16th century. She has over a decade of experience helping patrons with their research in a wide variety of local libraries and archives. Her professional passions include historic California law, especially as it relates to genealogy and public access to legal resources.