

Hi, this is Chris Micheli, a partner at the Sacramento governmental relations firm of Aprea & Micheli, and an adjunct professor at McGeorge School of Law. Today's podcast is, where do we find California laws? Like the federal government, California laws are found in three places: the state constitution, the codes or the statutes, and regulations.

The hierarchy of laws in California is the same as under federal law, with the constitution on top, statutes in the middle, and regulations on the bottom. The following is a brief overview of these three sources of California laws. The California Constitution is one of the longest in the nation. It's about 110 pages in length.

The following are the articles of the constitution and what they cover: Article 1, Declaration of Rights; Article 2, Voting Initiative and Referendum and Recall; Article 3, State of California; Article 4, Legislative; Article 5, Executive; Article 6, Judicial; Article 7, Public Officers and Employees; Article 9, Education; Article 10, Water; Article 10A, Water Resources Development; Article 10B, Marine Resources Protection Act of 1990; Article 11, Local Government; Article 12, Public Utilities; Article 13, Taxation; Article 13A, Tax Limitation; Article 13B, Government Spending Limitation; Article 13C, Voter Approval of Local Tax Levies; Article 13D, Assessment and Property Related to Fee Reform; Article 14, Labor Relations; Article 15, Usury; Article 16, Public Finance; Article 18, Amending and Revising the Constitution; Article 19, Motor Vehicles Revenues; Article 19A, Loans From the Public Transportation Account or Local Transportation Fund; Article 19B, Motor Vehicle Fuel Sales Tax Revenues and Transportation Improvement Funding; Article 19C, Enforcement of Certain Provisions; Article 20, Miscellaneous Subjects; Article 21, Redistricting of Senate Assembly, Congressional, and Board of Equalization Districts; Article 22, Architectural and Engineering Services; Article 34, Public Housing Project Law; and Article 35, Medical Research.

Next comes the statutes. Just a sense of the scope of state statutes, there are 29 titles or 29 codes in the state. They contain over 150,000 statutes according to the Legislative Council Bureau.

The following are the codes: Business and Professions Code, Civil Code, Code of Civil Procedure, Commercial Code, Corporations Code, Education Code, Elections Code, Evidence Code, Family Code, Financial Code, Fishing Game Code, Food and Agricultural Code, Government Code, Harbors and Navigation Code, Health and Safety Code, Insurance Code, Labor Code, Military and Veterans Code, Penal Code, Probate Code, Public Contract Code, Public Resources Code, Public Utilities Code, Revenue and Taxation Code, Streets and Highways Code, Unemployment Insurance Code, Vehicle Code, Water Code, and Welfare and Institutions Code.

Now, California has over 200 state agencies that make public policy via their authority to adopt regulations. They adopt between 500 and 600 new regulations each year. The website of the Office of Administrative Law provides direct access to the California Code of Regulations. The CCR is organized under 27 different titles. Remember, our statutes are in 29 codes, and our regulations are in 27 titles.

Title 1, General Provisions; Title 2, Administration; Title 3, Food and Agriculture; Title 4, Business Regulations; Title 5, Education; Title 7, Harbors and Navigation; Title 8, Industrial Relations; Title 9, Rehabilitative and Developmental Services; Title 10,

Investment; Title 11, Law; Title 12, Military and Veterans Affairs; Title 13, Motor Vehicles; Title 14, Natural Resources; Title 15, Crime Prevention and Corrections; Title 16, Professional and Vocational Regulations; Title 17, Public Health; Title 18, Public Revenues; Title 19, Public Safety; Title 20, Public Utilities and Energy; Title 21, Public Works; Title 22, Social Security; Title 23, Waters; Title 24, Building Standards code; Title 25, Housing and Community Development; Title 26, Toxics; Title 27, Environmental Protection; and Title 28, Managed Health Care.

Again, the laws of the state of California are found in these three distinct locations. Of course, there are also court decisions that interpret the state constitution, the statutes, and the codes, and the regulations and the CCR. So, of course, you have to monitor state and federal court decisions interpreting these California laws. Thanks for joining this podcast. Good luck hunting in finding California laws.