



How CEB's Post-WWII Origins, Self-Supporting Status Shape Its Mission and Values Today

It's almost impossible to conceive, but there once was a world without CEB. That's right — no course catalog, no network of contributors, and no California-specific content. Or any other resources for attorneys and judges, for that matter.

At one point, CEB was merely the seed of an idea dreamed up by a pioneering bunch of scholars at the University of California (UC).

Their idea was simple: to invest in and support California legal professionals in keeping updated and informed about their practices. The implementation was, of course, somewhat trickier. But now, more than 75 years after the founding of CEB, we are the state's premier authority on legal research, practical guidance, and education.

There's no way to separate CEB's origin story from the work we do today, so travel with us — if you don't mind — back to a time when jukeboxes were all the rage, the Golden Age of Hollywood was in full swing, and the suburbs were becoming a thing.



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CEB's Origins and Evolution

It was 1947, and the United States was emerging from the shadow of World War II. After a wartime economic boom, California was adjusting to peacetime population growth – and that included an influx of veterans who sought a speedy return to civilian life.

Some of those veterans were attorneys who resumed practice amid increased demand for legal services across various sectors. And yet, many of them felt underequipped, having discovered that the rules and dynamics of their practices had changed significantly during their time in the war.

What these attorneys needed, UC recognized, was some sort of efficient, accurate, and large-scale program to bring them back up to speed.



CEB's learning resources now include authoritative research that's both statewide and hyper-local, explainers on key statutory and case law developments, guidebooks, webinars, articles, and more.

The solution became CEB, a self-supporting organization with the goal of assisting WWII veterans in their return to the practice of law. It was a groundbreaking program that pioneered formal continuing legal education in California, hosting live presentations and events throughout the state that were attended by hundreds of attorneys eager to review program materials and talk shop.

The success of those live events led to the development of printed handouts and practice handbooks, which by 1953 evolved into detailed, routinely updated publications for all California attorneys. Tape recordings, video clips, and legal research software followed until we launched our website in 1997, then began releasing online programs in 1999.

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Today, as in 1947, our goal is to set the standard for the finest research, writing, and presentation by California's top lawyers and judges.



Who Does CEB Serve?

While CEB was initially established for veterans, it quickly became apparent that all legal professionals could benefit from continuous learning. (The more you learn, the more you realize you don't know, after all!)

CEB's members run the gamut from solo practitioners and attorneys at small and midsize firms to law schools, in-house lawyers, and attorneys at Am Law 50 firms with California outposts. We're also a go-to resource for judges and government agencies. Especially in California, where legal nuances and regulations can be distinct, CEB's focus on producing comprehensive, state-specific guidance is crucial for attorneys continuing their legal education.

Our resources cover:

- ✓ Business law
- ✓ Criminal law
- ✓ Employment law
- ✓ Family law
- ✓ Litigation practice and procedure
- ✓ Personal injury
- ✓ Real property
- ✓ Trusts and estates
- ✓ Workers' compensation.



Affiliation with UC

One of the most distinctive aspects of CEB is our affiliation with UC. As one of the university's self-supporting programs, CEB was established in sync with its altruistic mission.

That means, unlike that of other legal research organizations, CEB's work is a labor of love, guided by UC's principles of creating, disseminating, preserving, and applying knowledge for the betterment of our global society. In the spirit of UC, we seek to improve access to justice and the delivery of legal services to California's underserved communities by teaching attorneys and law students human-centered lawyering skills and promoting inclusivity.

Self-Supporting Status: What It Means for You

Newcomers to CEB are often surprised when they learn we're a self-supporting program — and we like to think that's a testament to the extensive, interconnected ecosystem we've built for legal professionals beyond UC.

We're proud of our status because it allows us to put service over profit and make a true difference. Our mission is not to generate income, but rather to serve the California legal community by providing innovative resources and practice-oriented tools.

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What does this mean for our customers?



Unbiased, authoritative content: CEB is not beholden to shareholders or profit margins. That means we lead with quality, accuracy, and relevance to our audience — and no commission is attached to our sales. CEB's team of 30 in-house expert authors and editors are renowned practitioners and scholars in their fields, and they ensure our content is accurate, up to date, and free of commercial bias. We also collaborate with a vast network of contributing authors, who include practicing attorneys and judges across California.



Value: While all quality legal research and resources come with a price tag, CEB is committed to providing great value. Because we are self-supporting, CEB can keep its prices competitive, making our resources available to solo practitioners, small firms, and large firms alike. This commitment ensures that no matter an organization's size or budget constraints, all members of California's legal community can access CEB's invaluable resources.



The latest technology: Our self-supporting status also ensures we can invest in leading-edge technology to it easy to use CEB to put the right information in the hands of users when they need it. We are always looking for ways to leverage innovation and improve functionality.



Investment in the legal community: From our sophisticated research tools to the exhaustive local procedural guidance that is unique to CEB, we are the resource of choice for anyone seeking California legal guidance. Our self-supporting status allows us to invest in the legal community we serve to help it thrive. We take our role as a trusted ally seriously and stay true to our mission of strengthening the legal profession in California.



A lot has changed since 1947, but our commitment to service remains the same. In an industry often led by for-profit giants, CEB has aimed to be a beacon of stability, excellence, and continuous learning since its inception.

As we've journeyed through the decades, adapting to the evolution of legal practice and education, CEB has become more than just a provider of legal resources; we are a trusted partner in the professional development journey of every attorney we serve. Our dedication to supporting California's legal community goes beyond simply providing learning materials, as we actively engage with our members, seeking feedback and continuously refining our offerings to meet their evolving needs.



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Want to see first-hand how CEB can transform your California legal practice?

[Schedule a free demo.](#)

