



"I have always loved CEB. I like it because these secondary sources are written by California attorneys, and I like the up-to-date nature. **I always go to CEB first when there is an issue of California law."**

– James Creighton
Creighton Legal Resources

CEB Stories: James Creighton Creighton Legal Resources



Lessons Learned from the Good Fight

CEB is a key part of long-time attorney and law professor James Creighton's tool kit—in his groundbreaking trusts and estates practice as well as in his legal teaching.

“ I’ve never been wronged by citing from CEB. In my area of law, if you misplace a comma, people can lose property. So it has to be very precise. And that’s probably the reason I like it. **Whatever I find will be accurate.**”

The Story

James Creighton was inspired to get into trusts and estates practice to fight for LGBTQ rights during the AIDS crisis. When several friends fell gravely ill, and their partners were cut out of their lives by the friends' estranged families, he knew he had found his calling. Creighton began using his legal knowledge to help people ensure that their wishes were followed, both before and after their deaths.

- He relied on CEB books for California-focused research when he started practicing, and he continues to use CEB's OnLAW® as a law professor, writer, and practicing attorney today.
- While James Creighton relies on several national legal research tools, he always goes to CEB first when there is an issue of California law.
- As a law professor, he goes to CEB treatises for the California perspective, and recommends that his students subscribe.

“**The practice tips are very helpful.** That’s one of the things you don’t find in other research sources. I can read the law just as well as anyone else, but **I like to know what that front-line warrior is thinking** is the best way to frame an issue, either for a client or for a judge.”

“When I teach seminars to legal professionals—lawyers and paralegals—I’ll **often advise them to ‘get a subscription to CEB.’** And in writing the materials for these seminars, I do my research first and foremost from CEB.”

“**CEB does enhance my competitiveness** as an attorney practicing in California. **It is California-specific.** My paralegals or attorneys might come to me and say, ‘Well, what do you think we should do?’ ‘See if CEB’s got something on it. Go to CEB first.’ **I always go to CEB first. I’d say that over 95% of the time, we found our answer.**”

Guided by Real World Experience

When James Creighton encounters a new legal situation, or simply wants the benefit of real world California legal experience to guide his practice, he turns to OnLAW.

- For any new situation under California law, he and his staff rely on OnLAW as the place to look for an answer.
- One of the things he likes about OnLAW is the practice tips, which outline strategy from current California practitioners.
- He likes that CEB treatises are written by currently practicing California attorneys, many of whom he knows; he will even reach out and contact one if he wants to clarify a point.

In the Classroom

Creighton uses CEB resources in the classes he teaches at U.C. Hastings and U.C. Berkeley; he also uses them in seminars he holds for practicing lawyers and other legal professionals.

- He supplements his law school casebooks with CEB treatises when he needs a California perspective.
- He relies on OnLAW when researching and writing his seminar course materials.
- He believes in the usefulness of OnLAW so much, he advises his students to subscribe.

The Go-To Authority

Today, James Creighton relies on OnLAW as his go-to California legal research solution, as he has for his whole career.