

Commercial Law

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Commercial Law in 2026: What's Ahead

Commercial law remains one of the most heavily litigated areas in American courts, with disputes making up more than a quarter of all federal civil cases. In 2026, attorneys can expect new challenges and opportunities as the field adapts to shifting business practices, emerging technologies and global uncertainties. Key trends to watch include:

AI in Contracting

Artificial intelligence is moving from theory to practice in contract drafting and review. Expect disputes over authorship, liability and enforceability as machine-generated agreements start showing up in court.

Digital and Smart Contracts

Blockchain-driven “smart contracts” and electronic transactions continue to grow. The challenge for 2026 will be how courts reconcile these with traditional contract principles and Uniform Commercial Code provisions.

Evolving Force Majeure Clauses

Global disruptions, from supply chain instability to cybersecurity threats, are forcing attorneys to rethink how risk is allocated in contracts. Clauses that were once boilerplate now demand precise drafting to withstand scrutiny.

Privacy and Compliance in Cross-Border Deals

With expanding state and international data privacy regulations, businesses entering cross-border contracts must navigate increasingly complex compliance obligations. Attorneys will need to spot risks early to keep clients ahead of penalties.

ADR on the Rise

Arbitration and mediation clauses are proliferating as parties try to avoid costly litigation. But their enforceability, especially in consumer and employment contexts, will remain contested.

As these developments reshape practice, resources like *Corbin on Contracts* and the Corbin collection give practitioners authoritative analysis and practical strategies for addressing both classic issues and the challenges ahead.

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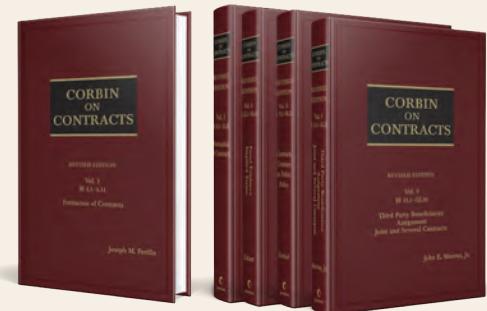
CONTRACTS LAW

Cited in over 17,000 cases, including 59 U.S. Supreme Court cases.[†]

Corbin on Contracts

Arthur L. Corbin, original author; Joseph M. Perillo, editor; John E. Murray, Jr., supplement author; and contributing authors

Recognized as one of the most influential works in American law, this exhaustive exposition of all the rules of contract law has helped lawyers understand what the rules of contract mean and how they can be used in daily practice. It provides a detailed analysis of all aspects of contract law in the U.S., covering the common law, the Restatements of Contracts, and the applicable provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code.



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NEW EDITION Corbin on Contracts Desk Edition, 2025 Edition

John E. Murray Jr., Timothy Murray

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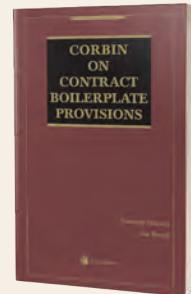
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[†]Comparison made based on data available August 2025.

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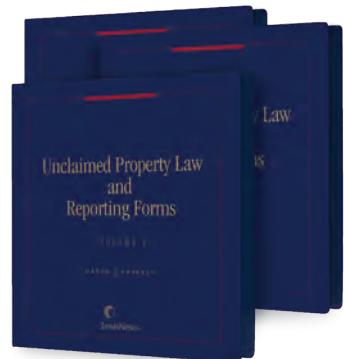


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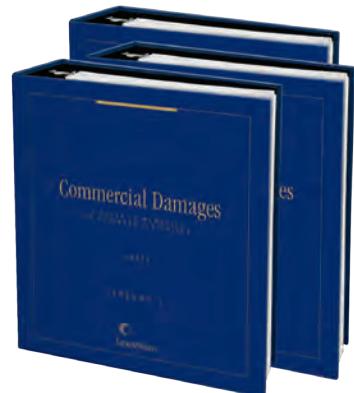


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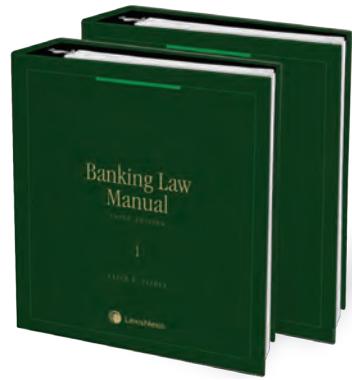
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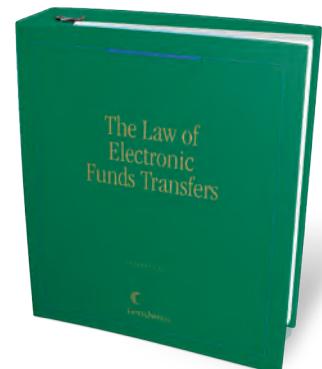
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