

PREFACE

The first edition of subclass K was published in 1977 under the title *Law (General)*. The 1998 edition was the first to be published under the title *Law in General. Comparative and Uniform Law. Jurisprudence*. A 2005 edition cumulated additions and changes that were made between 1998 and 2005. A 2009 edition cumulated additions and changes made between 2005 and 2009.

The 2011 edition not only cumulated additions and changes since 2009 but also reflected the closing or substantial revision of numbers for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. These topics are now classed in a new area for international criminal law in subclass KZ. References have been provided in all areas of Class K affected by this new development, directing users of this schedule to the new numbers. This 2016 edition cumulates all additions and changes since 2015.

Subclass K is the first in the hierarchy of classes K-KZ, Law, and provides subject arrangements for legal materials of the most general or universal application. The largest segment of the subclass is for comparisons of various legal systems, or comparisons of the domestic law of jurisdictions in different regions, as well as uniform law resulting from international law unification efforts. The area of the schedule for jurisprudence, beginning at K201, provides for all aspects of the scientific development of legal doctrine.

Subclass K makes use of a set of standardized form division tables that are used with all of the K schedules except KD, KE, and KF. These form division tables are not included as part of this schedule. They are available in a separate file entitled *K Tables: Form Division Tables for Law*. Subclass K must be used in conjunction with that file.

Classification numbers or spans of numbers that appear in parentheses are formerly valid numbers that are now obsolete. Numbers or spans that appear in angle brackets are optional numbers that have never been used at the Library of Congress but are provided for other libraries that wish to use them. In most cases, a parenthesized or angle-bracketed number is accompanied by a "see" reference directing the user to the actual number that the Library of Congress currently uses, or a note explaining Library of Congress practice.

Access to the online version of the full Library of Congress Classification is available on the World Wide Web by subscription to *Classification Web*. Details about ordering and pricing may be obtained from the Cataloging Distribution Service at:

[<http://www.loc.gov/cds/>](http://www.loc.gov/cds/)

New or revised numbers and captions are added to the L.C. Classification schedules as a result of development proposals made by the cataloging staff of the Library of Congress and cooperating institutions. Upon approval of these proposals by the editorial meeting of the Policy and Standards Division, new classification records are created or existing records are revised in the master classification database. Lists of

newly approved or revised classification numbers and captions are posted on the World Wide Web at:

<<http://www.loc.gov/aba/cataloging/classification/weeklylists/>>

Jolande Goldberg, law classification specialist, and Libby Dechman, senior cataloging policy specialist in the Policy and Standards Division, are responsible for coordinating the overall intellectual and editorial content of subclass K. Kent Griffiths and Ethel Tillman, assistant editors of classification schedules, are responsible for creating new classification records, maintaining the master database, and creating index terms for the captions.

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