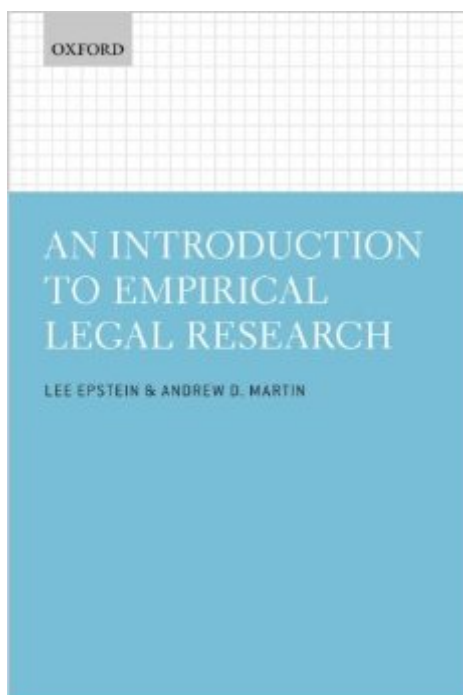


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# An Introduction To Empirical Legal Research



## Synopsis

Is the death penalty a more effective deterrent than lengthy prison sentences? Does a judge's gender influence their decisions? Do independent judiciaries promote economic freedom? Answering such questions requires empirical evidence, and arguments based on empirical research have become an everyday part of legal practice, scholarship, and teaching. In litigation judges are confronted with empirical evidence in cases ranging from bankruptcy and taxation to criminal law and environmental infringement. In academia researchers are increasingly turning to sophisticated empirical methods to assess and challenge fundamental assumptions about the law. As empirical methods impact on traditional legal scholarship and practice, new forms of education are needed for today's lawyers. All lawyers asked to present or assess empirical arguments need to understand the fundamental principles of social science methodology that underpin sound empirical research. An Introduction to Empirical Legal Research introduces that methodology in a legal context, explaining how empirical analysis can inform legal arguments; how lawyers can set about framing empirical questions, conducting empirical research, analyzing data, and presenting or evaluating the results. The fundamentals of understanding quantitative and qualitative data, statistical models, and the structure of empirical arguments are explained in a way accessible to lawyers with or without formal training in statistics. Written by two of the world's leading experts in empirical legal analysis, drawing on years of experience in training lawyers in empirical methods, An Introduction to Empirical Legal Research will be an invaluable primer for all students, academics, or practicing lawyers coming to empirical research - whether they are embarking themselves on an empirical research project, or engaging with empirical arguments in their field of study, research, or practice.

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## Customer Reviews

If you have taken a basic Statistics class in college or grad school, this book is not for you. While the authors try to make it engaging, in practice it is basic and provides little information. However, lawyers with no statistical training whatsoever might find it useful.

I had to get this book for Quantitative Analysis for Lawyers course. It starts out as an easy read, but quickly gets difficult and doesn't provide many examples (or sample problems to work through). I found it very difficult to follow the equations when I didn't get the opportunity to work through sample problems. Ultimately, that slowed down my learning significantly and forced me to find supplemental reading to get caught up.

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