

## Helping a Patron with a Legal Question

Does the question involve *federal law*, or *state law*, or *a combination of both*?

### **Federal law**

Examples are: bankruptcy, cases that interpret and reinterpret the Constitution and civil rights, copyright, crimes that cross state lines, customs, food and drug regulation, immigration, Native Americans, patents, trademarks and social security.

### **State law**

Examples are: child custody, crimes, divorce, powers of attorney, licensing, landlord/tenant relationships, personal injury, real estate, wills and zoning.

### **Both state *and* federal law**

Examples are: consumer protection, employment, health law, labor law, occupational safety, transportation, unemployment insurance, veteran's benefits and welfare law.

*We can* help the patron find resources to locate the answer.

*We can* refer the patron to the county law library or bar association when he needs specialized materials.

*We can* be familiar with community resources that can help.

*We cannot* tell the patron he has the correct statute, case or form, or offer an opinion or interpretation of a statute or case, *or* confirm the patron's opinion or interpretation.