



COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL

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Quick Guide to Schiller Classification**

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## ***Introduction***

The Schiller system is a locally-developed system for classifying **foreign, comparative, pre-literate, ancient, medieval, and religious law materials**. A call number in the Schiller classification system is comprised of an abbreviation to designate a legal system, followed by a number indicating the specific subject area within the system.

## ***Foreign Law***

Foreign Law call numbers begin with an abbreviation of the governing body or region. For example, **Af Eth** is the start of call numbers for materials on Ethiopian law. **Pol** is the start of call numbers for Polish law, and **Sau** is the start of call numbers for Saudi Arabian law. The [appendix to this document](#) is a complete list of Schiller foreign law areas.

## ***Comparative Law***

The **Comp** class for modern comparative law is used for materials that compare two or more modern legal systems. It is also used for materials that compare a modern system with an ancient or medieval one.

The only exceptions are materials that compare systems within the African region which use **Af** for African law, and materials that compare systems within Latin America which use **Sp.A** for Latin American law.

## ***Ancient Law***

Ancient law classification is broken down as follows:

A	Ancient law	Materials combining or comparing two or more ancient legal systems.
A.Ch	Chinese law	The legal system of ancient, medieval, and early modern China, Japan, Korea, etc. up to the introduction of European law in 1912 A.D.
A.Cun	Cuneiform law	Law within cultures using cuneiform characters, such as Assyrian, Babylonian, Hittite, Sumerian.
A.Eg	Egyptian law	Law of ancient Egypt until Hellenistic times and Alexander in 332 B.C.
A.Gr	Greek law	Greek law until Hellenistic times and Alexander in 332 B.C.
A.Hel	Hellenistic law	Law of the eastern Mediterranean beginning with Alexander and primarily reflected in Greco-Roman Egypt.
Rom	Roman law	The legal system of the Roman state, from the foundation of the city to Justinian, and then continuing to the renascence of Roman law in the West, and to the fall of Constantinople in the East in 1204 A.D.
A.Sas	Sassanian law	Sassanian or Parthian (Persian) law of the period contemporaneous to Hellenistic law, approximately 212-651 A.D.

## **Medieval Law**

Schiller's Medieval law class contains European legal systems from medieval times to the early modern period which are not included in modern or ancient law areas. The breakdown is as follows:

M	European law	Works of general medieval and early modern (to ca. 1800) application, and for works covering both civil and ecclesiastical law.
M.A	Germanic law	The law of Germanic peoples from earliest times to 888 A.D., as well as Lombard compilations of later dates (Alamannic, Burgundian, Ripuarian, Salic, Saxon, Visigothic).
M.Bel	Belgian law	The law of Belgium before 1794.
M.Fr	French law	The law of medieval and early modern France to 1789.
M.Ger	German law	The law of Germany to 1806 and the law of Austria, including Bohemia and Moravia, to 1811.
M.It	Italian law	Medieval and early modern Italian law before 1796.
M.Neth	Netherlands law	Netherlands law before 1795.
M.Por	Portuguese law	Portuguese law before 1826.
M.Sc	Scandinavian law	For works on general Scandinavian law. Early law of single countries is classed under those countries, for example, <b>Nor</b> for Norwegian law or <b>Swe</b> for Swedish law.
M.SL	Slavic law	Similar to Scandinavian law, with medieval and early modern works on general Slavic law classed here, while works on the law in individual countries are classed within each country.
M.Sp	Spanish law	Spanish law before 1808.
M.Swi	Swiss law	Swiss law before approximately 1800.

## ***Pre-Literate Law***

Pre-literate or primitive law includes the laws of peoples at the early stages of their civilizations.

Pr	General pre-literate law
Pr1.5	European
Pr2	Asian
Pr3	African
Pr4	North American
Pr5	South American
Pr6	Southeast Asian, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaya, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam
Pr7	Australian, Melanesian, New Guinea
Pr8	Polynesian, Micronesian
Pr9	Arctic, Antarctic

## ***Religious Law***

Buddh	Buddhist law	Buddhist religious law.
Ecll	Ecclesiastical law	Roman Catholic law, and also the ecclesiastical law of the Eastern churches and Protestant church law.
Hin	Hindu law	Brahmin law, particularly of India, but not to modern Anglo-Indian law.
Islam	Islamic law	Islamic law from Mohammed to the present time, wherever found, in East Indies, Asia, Africa, or Europe. Does <b>not</b> include the state law of Islamic countries like Syria, etc.
Jew	Jewish law	The biblical, talmudic, and rabbinical law of the Jews from the earliest times to the present day.

## ***Breakdown of Topical Divisions***

The subject divisions within legal systems are shown in the table below. The numbers for a given subject division apply across all countries and legal systems covered by the Schiller classification system. This fact makes searches by call number a good and quick way to find materials in the same subject area across different legal systems.

<b>0-99</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>200-299</b>	<b>Jurisprudence</b>
<b>100-199</b>	<b>Sources of the Law</b>	<b>300-399</b>	<b>Law of Persons</b>
110	Statutes	<b>400-499</b>	<b>Property</b>
120	Codes	450	Succession
130	Customs	<b>500-599</b>	<b>Obligations (Contracts &amp; Torts)</b>
140	Jurists	<b>600-699</b>	<b>Commercial Law</b>
150	Court Reports & Digests	<b>700-799</b>	<b>Civil Procedure</b>
160	Public Documents	<b>800-899</b>	<b>Criminal Law &amp; Procedure</b>
170	Non-Legal Sources	<b>900-999</b>	<b>Public Law</b>
180	Local Sources	910	Constitutional Law
190	History	930	Administrative Law

## ***Appendix: Alphabetical List of Foreign Law Prefixes***

- Af** African law
- Af AL** Algerian law
- Af An** Angola law
  - Basutoland law see Lesotho law
  - Bechuana law see Botswana law
- Af Ben** Benin law
  - [former Dahomey law]
- Af Bots** Botswana law
- Af BuF** Burkina Faso law
  - [former Upper Volta law]
- Af Bur** Burundi law
- Af Cam** Cameroon law
- Af Cent.R** Central African Republic law
- Af Chad** Chad law
- Af Con** Congo (Democratic Republic) law
  - [former Belgian Congo law]
- Af Con.R** Congo (Brazzaville) law
  - [former French Congo law]
  - Dahomey law see Benin law
- Af E.A** East African law
- Af.Eri** Eritrean law
- Af Eth** Ethiopian law
- Af Fr.A** Union africaine et malgache law
- Af Fr.Eq** French Equatorial African law
- Af Fr.W** French West African law
  - (from 1895 to 1958)
- Af Gab** Gabon law
- Af Gam** Gambia law
- Af Gha** Ghana law
- Af Gui** Guinea law
- Af Gui.B** Guinea-Bissau law
- Af HCT** High Commission Territories law
- Af Iv.C** Ivory Coast law
- Af Ken** Kenya law
- Af Les** Lesotho law
- Af Lib** Liberian law
- Af Libya** Libyan law
- Af Mal** Madagascar law
  - [former Malagasi Republic law, 1958-1976]
  - Malagasy Republic law see Madagascar law
- Af Malw** Malawi law
  - [see also Nyasaland]
- Af Mali** Mali law
- Af Maur** Mauritanian law
- Af Maur.Is** Mauritius law

- Af Mor** Moroccan law
- Af Moz** Mozambique law
- Af Nam** Namibian law
- Af Nig** Nigerian law
- Af Nig.R** Niger law
- Af Ny** Nyasaland law
  - [see also Malawi law]
- Af R&N** Rhodesia and Nyasaland law
  - [see also Malawi law]
  - [see also Zambia law]
  - [see also Zimbabwe law]
- Af Rh** Rhodesia (Northern) law
  - see also Zambia law]
- Af Rw** Rwanda law
- Af S.R** Rhodesia (Southern) law
  - [see also Zimbabwe law]
- Af SaT** Sao Tome and Principe law
- Af Sen** Senegal law
- Af Si.L** Sierra Leone law
- Af Som** Somalia law
  - South African law - use So.Af
  - Southwest African law see Namibian law
- Af Sud** Sudanese law
- Af Swazi** Swaziland law
- Af Tan** Tanzanian law
  - Tanganyikan law [incl. Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar)
  - [see also Zanzibar law]
- Af Tog** Togo law
- Af Tun** Tunisian law
- Af UAS** Union of African States law
  - Upper Volta law see Burkina Faso law
- Af Ug** Uganda law
- Af W.A** West African law
  - Zaire law see Congo (Democratic Republic) law
- Af Zam** Zambian law
- Af Zan** Zanzibar law
  - [see also Tanganyikan law]
- Af Zim** Zimbabwe law
  - [see also Rhodesia (Southern) law]
- Afg** Afghanistan law
- Alb** Albanian law
- And** Andorran law
- Ang** Anguilla law
- Ant** Antigua and Barbuda law
- Arm** Armenian law
- Aus** Austrian law
  - [from 1811; before 1811 use M.Ger]



**Aze** Azerbaijan law  
**Bah** Bahamas law  
**Bahr** Bahrain law  
**Ban** Bangladesh law  
**Bar** Barbados law  
**Bel** Belgian law  
    [from 1794]  
**Bela** Belarus (Byelorussian) law  
**Ber** Bermuda Islands law  
**Bhu** Bhutanese law  
**Bos** Bosnia and Hercegovina law  
**Bru** Brunei law  
**BrV** British Virgin Islands law  
**Bul** Bulgarian law  
**Bur** Burmese law  
**Cam** Cambodian law  
**CaV** Cape Verde law  
**Cay.Is** Cayman Islands law  
    Ceylon law see Sri Lanka law  
**Ch** Chinese law (Modern)  
    [from 1912 to 1949]  
**Ch.HK** Hong Kong law  
**Ch.M** Manchurian law  
**Ch.P** Chinese law (People's Republic)  
    for mainland China from 1949]  
**Ch.R** Chinese law (Republic)  
    [for Taiwan from 1949]  
**Cro** Croatian law  
**Cyp** Cyprus law  
**Cz** Czechoslovakian law  
**Cze** Czech Republic law  
**Danz** Danzig law  
**Den** Denmark law  
    Dutch law see Netherlands law  
**Dom** Dominica law  
**E.Tim** East Timor law  
**Eg** Egyptian law (Modern)  
    El Salvador law see Sp.Sal  
**Est** Estonian law  
**Fa.Is** Falkland Islands law  
**Fiji** Fiji law  
**Fin** Finnish law  
    French Guiana see Fr; for British Guyna see Guy  
**Fr** French law  
    [from 1789]  
**Geo** Georgia (Republic) law  
**Ger** German law

- [from 1806 to 1949 and from Oct. 3, 1990]
- Germany (West) law
- [from 1949 through Oct. 2, 1990]
- Ger.D** Germany (East) law
- [from 1949 through Oct. 2, 1990]
- Gib** Gibraltar law
- Gr** Greek law (Modern)
- Gren** Grenada law
- Guy** Guyana law (British)
- [for French Guiana see Fr]
- Holland law see Netherlands law
- Hun** Hungarian law
  
- Hong Kong law see Ch.HK
- Ice** Icelandic law
- Ind** Indian law
- IndCh** Indochinese law
- [to include Annamite, Cochin Chinese, Tongking]
- Indo** Indonesian law
- Iran** Iranian law
- Iraq** Iraq law
- Is** Israeli law
- It** Italian law
- [from 1796]
- Jam** Jamaica law
- Jor** Jordan law
- Jpn** Japanese law
- Jugo** Yugoslav law
- Serbia and Montenegro law [through 2006]
- Kampuhea law see Cambodia law
- Kaz** Kazakhstan law
- Kiri** Kiribati law
- Kor** Korean law (South)
- Kor.P** Korean law (North)
- Kos** Kosovar law
- Kuw** Kuwait law
- Kyr** Kyrgystan law
- Laos** Laos law
- Lat** Latvian law
- Latin American law see Spanish American law
- Leb** Lebanon law
- Lee.Is** Leeward Islands law
- LeW.Is** Leeward and Windward Islands law
- Lie** Liechtenstein law
- Lit** Lithuanian law
- Lux** Luxemburg law
- Mac** Macedonian law

**Mal** Malaysian law  
**Malta** Malta law  
    Manchurian law see Ch.M  
**Mar.Is** Marshall Islands law  
**Mic** Micronesian law  
**Mold** Moldova law  
**Mon** Monacan law  
**Mong** Mongolian law  
**Mont** Montenegro law  
**Monts** Montserrat law  
**Nau** Nauru law  
**Nep** Nepalese law  
**Neth** Netherlands law  
    [from 1795]  
    New Guinea law see Papua New Guinea law  
**No.Mar** Northern Mariana Islands law  
**Nor** Norwegian law  
**Om** Oman law  
**PaG** Papua New Guinea law  
**Pak** Pakistan law  
**Pal** Palestinian National Authority  
**Palau** Palau law  
    Persian law see Iranian law  
**Phil** Philippine law  
    Philippine Islands law [before 1947]  
**Pol** Polish law  
**Por** Portuguese law  
    [from 1826]  
**Ro** Romanian law  
    Rumanian law see Romanian law  
**Rus** Russian law  
    [before Nov. 7, 1917]  
**Rus.F** Russian law (Federation)  
    [after Dec. 12, 1991]  
**Rus.S** Russian law (Soviet)  
    [from Nov. 7, 1917 through Dec. 12, 1991]  
    Saint Kitts-Nevis law see StKN  
    Saint Vincent and the Grenadines law see StVG  
**Sam** Samoa law  
**Sau** Saudi Arabian law  
**Ser** Serbian law  
    [from 2006]  
    Serbia and Montenegro law [through 2006], see: Jugo  
**Sey** Seychelles law  
    Siamese law see Thailand law  
**Sin** Singapore law  
**Slova** Slovak law

**Slove** Slovenian law  
**So.Af** South African law  
**Solo** Solomon Islands law  
**Sp** Spanish law  
    [from 1808]  
**Sp.A** Spanish American law  
    [incl. Central American law]  
**Sp.Ar** Argentine law  
**Sp.Be** Belize law  
**Sp.Bol** Bolivian law  
**Sp.Br** Brazilian law  
**Sp.Ch** Chilean law  
**Sp.Col** Colombian law  
**Sp.Cos** Costa Rican law  
**Sp.Cu** Cuban law  
**Sp.Dom** Dominican Republic law  
**Sp.Ec** Ecuador law  
**Sp.Gua** Guatemala law  
**Sp.Hai** Haiti law  
**Sp.Hon** Honduras law  
**Sp.Mex** Mexican law  
**Sp.Nic** Nicaraguan law  
**Sp.Pan** Panama law  
**Sp.Par** Paraguay law  
**Sp.Pe** Peruvian law  
**Sp.Sal** El Salvador law  
**Sp.Ur** Uruguay law  
**Sp.Ven** Venezuelan law  
**Sri.L** Sri Lanka law  
**StH** Saint Helena law  
**StKN** Saint Kitts-Nevis law  
**StL** Saint Lucia law  
**StVG** Saint Vincent and the Grenadines law  
**Sur** Surinam law  
**Swe** Swedish law  
**Swi** Swiss law [from 1800]  
**Syr** Syrian law  
**TaC.Is** Turks and Caicos Islands law  
    Taiwan law see Ch.R  
**Taj** Tajikistan law  
**Thai** Thailand law  
    Tibetan law see Chinese law (People's Republic)  
**Tonga** Tonga law  
**Trin** Trinidad and Tobago law  
**TrJ** Transjordan law  
**Tur** Turkish law  
**Turkm** Turkmenistan law

**UAE** United Arab Emirates law  
**UAR** United Arab Republic law  
**Ukr** Ukrainian law  
**Uzb** Uzbek law  
**Vat** Vatican City law  
**Viet** Vietnamese law  
**Viet.D** Vietnamese law (Democratic Republic)  
    West Indies law  
**Win.Is** Windward Islands law  
**WPa.Is** Western Pacific Islands law  
    Western Samoa law see Samoa law  
**Ye** Yemen law  
    Yemen law (People's Democratic Republic)  
    Yugoslav law see Jugo

