Finding a Regulation by Statute:

As you learned in the overview section of this tutorial, agencies’ authority to make regulations comes primarily from statutes. If you are already at a point in the research process where you have found a relevant statute, you may be able to use that statute’s citation to help you find relevant regulations.

There are numerous ways to look up regulations using a statute citation. For example you can:

- Use the Parallel Table of Authorities and Rules in the print CFR Index and Finding Aids volume or on the FDSys web site;
- Pull up the statute on Westlaw, then click on the Context & Analysis tab and then Code of Federal Regulations; or
- Pull up the statute on Lexis, then click the Code of Federal Regulations link within the Research References & Practice Aids section at the bottom of the statute to link to the related regulations.

First, let’s look at the Parallel Table of Authorities and Rules on FDSys (http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/). In the following example based on the “fake coin” scenario introduced earlier, let’s assume that we’ve already found the statute 15 U.S.C. s. 2101, which deals with marking requirements for imitation coins. Remember, a partner at your firm is annoyed because her 10-year old son ordered a supposedly rare coin from an online merchant, but found later that it was a mass-produced imitation – she wants to know if a federal agency could intervene.

On FDSys, we can select the Code of Federal Regulations. On the left, there’s a link to the PDF of “Parallel Table of Authorities and Rules for the Code of Federal Regulations.” This Parallel Table of Authorities page shows rules promulgated under the different sections of Title 15 of the United States Code. And here’s our statute’s citation - so note the C.F.R. title and part to which the table refers.

Next, let’s look at the statute on WestlawNext and Lexis Advance:

Having retrieved 15 U.S.C. 2101 by typing its citation into the WestlawNext search box, we hover over the Context & Analysis tab and click the Code of Federal Regulations link. WestlawNext refers us to sections of 16 C.F.R. Part 304, with links to those sections.

On LexisAdvance, having also retrieved the statute by typing its citation into the search box, we can scroll down to the Research References & Practice Aids section below the text of the statute, you will see that a link to the Code of Federal Regulations is provided here.

In addition, it is also possible to search the CFR database on Westlaw, Lexis, or Bloomberg for the statute citation. In order to limit the results, it will be helpful to utilize more advanced search techniques. On Westlaw, the citation could be searched for in the CR, or Credit, field. On Lexis, it could be searched for in the Authority segment.

Let’s try this search on WestlawNext: from the WestlawNext home screen, start by selecting the Federal Materials tab – then select the Code of Federal Regulations link. Click the advanced search link, scroll down to the credit field and enter a terms and connectors string such as: the phrase “15 USC” within the same sentence as 2101 and click Search. You can see that this search retrieved several regulations authorized by 15 U.S.C. 2101, including those in 16 C.F.R. Part 304.