How to Conduct FREE Legal Research Online

Barbara Bavis
Bibliographic and Research Instruction Librarian
Law Library of Congress
202-707-5080 / bbav@loc.gov
Overview

- Law Library of Congress
- Primary Sources
  - Legislative Resources
    - Current
    - Historical
  - Judicial Resources
    - Court Opinions
    - Citators
  - Executive Resources
    - Presidential Documents
    - Regulations
- Secondary Sources
- Tips for Searching

The Law Library of Congress - Overview

- Established by law in 1832 as a separate department of the Library of Congress to serve the legal research needs of all 3 branches of government
- Largest law library in the world
  - Approximately **2.9 million volumes** of federal, state, and foreign materials, including codes, constitutions, official gazettes, law reports, treatises, serials, and laws from all historical periods
  - Covering some **267 nations and jurisdictions**
  - Working reference collection of about **30,000 volumes in the public reading room**
The Law Library of Congress - Overview

- The Law Library of Congress offers research assistance for U.S., foreign, international, and multinational law questions

**Public Services Division**
- Professional librarians offer assistance regarding U.S. legal and legislative research
- Librarians are available at the reference desk at any time from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday

**Foreign and Comparative Law Divisions**
- Staffed by foreign law experts who provide reference assistance on non-U.S. law and build the Law Library’s foreign law collections

To reach these professionals, call the Law Library’s reference desk, at 202-707-5080, or click the “Ask a Librarian” button on our homepage
The Law Library of Congress - Websites

- Homepage: www.law.gov
- Other Key Online Resources
  - Guide to Law Online:
    - www.loc.gov/law/help/guide.php
  - Digitized Historical Legal Documents
    - http://www.loc.gov/law/help/statutes-at-large/index.php (Statutes at Large)
  - Current Legal Topics:
    - www.loc.gov/law/help/current-topics.php
  - Global Legal Monitor:
    - http://www.loc.gov/lawweb/servlet/lloc_news?home
  - In Custodia Legis:
    - http://blogs.loc.gov/law
  - Congress.gov:

Guide to Law Online
Online sources of information on government & law by region, country or U.S. state. Read more »

Indigenous | International | Nations | U.S. Federal | U.S. States & Territories

In Custodia Legis - Law Library Blog

Three most recent blog posts:

Happy Birthday, Benito Juarez!
March 21, 2016 by Francisco Mancias

Manuscript Waste Bindings at the Library of Congress – Pic of the Week
March 18, 2016 by Nathan Dom

New Resource Covers the Laws of 157 Countries on the Extradition of Citizens
March 17, 2016 by Ruth Lewisch

Read more blog posts | Subscribe to the blog via e-mail or RSS.

Legal Reports
Legal commentary and recommended resources from around the world.

› Bitcoin
› Campaign Finance
› Children's Rights
› Crimes Against Humanity
› Education
› Second Amendment
› Sex Selection & Abortion
› War Powers

Current Legal Topics Comprehensive Index of Legal Reports »

Global Legal Monitor
Three most recent articles:

Vietnam: Reduction in State Holdings of Businesses Being Considered
March 22, 2016 by Constance Johnson

Ask a Librarian
Ask us for help with reference questions and challenging legal or legislative research.

Upcoming Training
Wednesday, March 2, 2016
Legal Research and the Use of Law Library Collections

Thursday, March 24, 2016
Orientation to Congress.gov Webinar
Learn More and Sign Up »
Guide to Law Online


- Legal Portal of over 9,000 links
  - Annotated compilation of Internet links
  - Organized by jurisdiction and topic
  - Multinational, international, U.S., and state materials
  - Full text of laws, regulations, and cases
  - Legal commentary
  - Indigenous Law Portal – includes links to American Indian constitutions and legal materials
The Guide to Law Online, prepared by the Law Library of Congress Public Services Division, is an annotated guide to sources of information on government and law available online. It includes selected links to useful and reliable sites for legal information.

Select a Link:

- International and Multinational
- Nations of the World
- U.S. Federal - includes U.S. Code and Constitution links
- U.S. States and Territories
- Indigenous Law Portal
- Guide Index

The Guide to Law Online is an annotated compendium of Internet links; a portal of Internet sources of interest to legal researchers. Although the Guide is selective, inclusion of a site by no means constitutes endorsement by the Law Library of Congress.

In compiling this list, emphasis wherever possible has been on sites offering the full texts of laws, regulations, and court decisions, along with commentary from lawyers writing primarily for other lawyers. Materials related to law and government that were written by or for lay persons also have been included, as have government sites that provide even quite general information about themselves or
States and Territories

- Alabama, Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, Arkansas
- California, Colorado, Connecticut
- Delaware, District of Columbia
- Florida
- Georgia, Guam
- Hawaii
- Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa
- Kansas, Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana
- Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Northern Marian Islands
- Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon
- Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina, South Dakota
- Tennessee, Texas
- Utah
- Vermont, Virgin Islands, Virginia
- Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
District of Columbia

Executive

- District of Columbia Municipal Regulations and Register
  - District of Columbia Register Table of Contents, 1998-2003 (B. Flowers)
    - Table of Contents v. 45, no. 27-v. 50, no. 6 (July 3, 1998-February 3, 2003)
    - DC Register Index - Table of Contents Vol. 45-48 (1995-2001)
- District of Columbia Mayor
- District of Columbia Council
- District of Columbia Directory of Agencies and Services
- District of Columbia Board of Elections
- District of Columbia Office of the Attorney General (formerly the Office of Corporation Council)
- Decisions of the Mayor's Agent for Historic Preservation of the District of Columbia (Georgetown University Law Library)

Judicial

- District of Columbia Court of Appeals
  - Opinions August 1998-
Legal Guides


› Cornell Legal Information Institute: District of Columbia

› **DC Historic Preservation Law Project** *(Georgetown University Law Library)*

› District of Columbia Bar
  › Legal Ethics Committee Opinions
  › Rules of Professional Conduct


› FindLaw: District of Columbia

› Forms: U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia

› Georgetown University Law Library: District of Columbia

› **How a Bill Becomes Law** *(DC City Council)*

› Law Librarians’ Society of Washington, DC

› Law Schools:
  › American University Washington College of Law - Library and Catalog
  › Catholic University of America School of Law - Library and Catalog
  › George Washington University Law School - Library and Catalog
  › Georgetown University Law Center - Library and Catalog
  › Howard University School of Law - Library and Catalog
  › University of the District of Columbia School of Law - Library and Catalog

› Legal Research:
  › District of Columbia Research Guide *(Georgetown University Law Library)*
  › Legal Research Guide for the District of Columbia *(PDF)* *(George Washington University Law Library)*

› Legalese *(DC Council Office of the General Counsel)* newsletter; Vol. 1, no. 1 (September 1995-

› LLSDC Legislative Source Book: District of Columbia
The Law Library of Congress has added several primary sources to Law.gov, including:

- **Joint Digitization Offering with HeinOnline** - http://loc.heinonline.org/loc/LOC
  - United States Code (1925 to 1988)
  - Code of Federal Regulations (1938 to 1995)
  - Federal Register (1925 to 1988)
  - U.S. Reports (1754 to 2004)

- **Statutes at Large** (1789 to 1950) - http://www.loc.gov/law/help/statutes-at-large/index.php

- Charles I. Bevans’s **Treaties and Other International Agreements of the United States of America, 1776-1949** (currently vols. 1-4, soon will include vols. 5-12) - http://www.loc.gov/law/help/us-treaties/index.php
<table>
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- Current international issues
- In-depth legal commentary and comparison of international laws
- Bibliographic resources

- Worldwide Legal News
- Frequently updated
- May be searched by topic, country, keyword, author, date, etc.
- Persistent URLs
Current Legal Topics

The Law Library of Congress produces reports primarily for members of Congress. The legal research reports listed below by topic provide commentary and recommended resources on issues and events. These reports are provided for reference purposes only and do not constitute legal advice. The information provided reflects research undertaken as of the date of writing, which has not been updated unless specifically noted.

This page highlights the most recent reports. See the Comprehensive Index of Legal Reports for our complete list of reports.

Adoption, Custody, and Parentage

Adoption Law, Turkey and the United States
This report discusses the intercountry adoption systems employed by Turkey and the United States. The individual country systems are described, legal and practical issues in the adoption process are presented, and possible reforms and future developments are addressed.
Right to Peaceful Assembly: Selected Foreign Jurisdictions

France

I. Right to Peaceably Assemble and Notification Requirement
Whereas the preamble of the French Constitution protects the right to strike,[1] there is no explicit protection of the right to peacefully assemble. The right to peacefully assemble can be inferred, however, from the 1789 Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, which is incorporated into the current French Constitution. Article 10 of the Declaration states that ‘no one should be bothered for his opinions, even religious ones, so long as their manifestation does not disturb the public order established by law.’ Furthermore, the right to peacefully assemble is guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights, to which France is a party.[2]

Since 1936, the right to assemble in a public space has been contingent on prior notification.[4] Notification must be given to the local prefecture or to the town hall (mairie) of the town(s) where the demonstration or assembly is supposed to take place, at least three days, and no more than fifteen days, before the date of the demonstration or assembly.[5]

II. Authority to Prohibit Demonstrations
The authorities (the prefect or the mayor) may prohibit a demonstration if they believe that it would disturb public order.[6] Peaceful demonstrations must generally be allowed. If a demonstration is prohibited, the organizers may challenge the decision before an administrative judge, who will verify whether such a prohibition is necessary to protect public order and security.[7]
From the homepage of GLM, you can:

1. Choose to do a keyword search of the GLM archive;
2. Browse all topics and/or jurisdictions for a subject of interest; and
3. Set up a GLM RSS feed, so you are alerted to new GLM articles as they are released.
You can search for GLM articles by topic, jurisdiction, author, keyword, and/or date.
In Custodia Legis

http://blogs.loc.gov/law

- *In Custodia Legis* is the Law Library’s Blog
- New posts published on weekdays
- Posts cover:
  - Research Guides;
  - Current legal trends;
  - Information about additions and changes to Congress.gov;
  - International law developments, written by our foreign legal specialists;
  - Interviews of Library staff, interns, and researchers;
  - Legal history and arcana (inspired by items in our collection);
  - And much more!
Legislative Resources

• Bills and Resolutions
• Legislative History
  • Public Laws
• United States Code
Congress.gov

http://www.congress.gov

- Content:
  - Bill text: 1989 to the present (1993 to the present in PDF)
  - Bill summaries: 1973 to the present
  - Congressional Record: 1995 to the present in PDF
  - Congressional Committee Reports: 1995 to the present in PDF
  - Member Profiles: 1973 to the present
  - Nominations: 1981 to the present
  - Appropriations Table: Fiscal Year 1993 to the present
  - For the most up-to-date coverage information, visit https://www.congress.gov/about/coverage-dates
Additional Features

- Founding Documents Resources  
  (https://www.congress.gov/founding-documents)

- Resources A to Z  
  (https://www.congress.gov/resources/display/content/Resources+A+to+Z)

- Accounts – users can save searches

- Alerts – users can set up e-mail alerts for:
  - Updates to saved searches
  - New legislation sponsored or cosponsored by a Member of Congress
  - Actions taken on a specific bill or resolution
  - Updates to the Congressional Record
To search for bills and resolutions, select “All Legislation” from the pull-down menu.

Then enter the bill number or short title into the search box and hit enter.
If you would like to save this search, set up an account and click “Save this Search.”

Select the Congress in which the bill was introduced on the results page.

Click the bill number to open up the bill’s “Bill Summary and Status” page.
On the Bill Summary and Status page, select the “Text” tab to find copies of all the versions of the bill as it moved through Congress, using the drop-down menu.

Bill text is available in TXT and PDF formats.
If you select the “Actions” tab, then the “All Actions” radio button, you will get a listing of everything that happened to the bill as it moved through Congress.

In addition, links to the Congressional Record pages on which these actions are noted are provided (where available)—indicated by “CR.”

Note the “Bill History” link, which will take you to an itemized list of links to CR pages on which the bill was mentioned in Congress.
Select the “Committees” tab to find information about the committees that dealt with the bill, including dates of activity and links to any committee reports (if available).
To get e-mail alerts for a specific bill, simply select “Get Alerts” under the bill name on the Bill Summary and Status page.

To view any previously-set alerts or saved searches, click the down arrow next to your account name at the top of the screen.
There are three main ways to find congressional committee reports on Congress.gov: (1) linked to a bill’s Bill Summary and Status page; (2) through a keyword search, selecting “Committee Reports”; or (3) by following the “Committees” link, selecting a committee of interest, and using limiters to find the report you seek.
Similarly, there are three main ways to find Congressional Record articles on Congress.gov: (1) linked on a bill’s list of Actions; (2) through a keyword search, selecting “Congressional Record”; or (3) by following the “Congressional Record” link, and using the “Find an issue of the Record” feature on the Congressional Record page.
Federal Digital System (FDSys)
http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys

- Made available by the Government Publishing Office, FDSys provides free online access to official federal government publications

- Content Highlights (in PDF):
  - **Public Laws**: 1951 to the present
  - **Congressional Reports** (selected): 1995 to the present
  - **Congressional Hearings** (selected): 1993 to the present
  - **Congressional Record**: 1994 to the present
  - **United States Code**: 1994 to the present
  - **Code of Federal Regulations**: 1996 to the present
FDSys offers links to many of its legislative resource collections on its homepage.

You can choose from bills and resolutions, congressional committee documents, the Congressional Record, public laws, and the United States Code, among many others.
As seen here, these legislative history document collections are typically laid out by Congress/date, then by type of document, then by document citation or page number.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collection</th>
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FD Sys – Advanced Search

http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/advanced/advsearchpage.action

Click the “Add” button to add the source to the search list

Select the source(s) you want to search from this list

Add your keywords to this box and hit “Enter”
The Office of Law Revision Counsel (OLRC) is the organization that prepares and publishes the official version of the *U.S. Code*

- Coverage - 1994 edition to the present
- Frequent updates – typically updated within a week of a public law’s passage
- Easy to navigate – can find the Code section you need by:
  - Keyword Search
  - Title Browse
  - Popular Name Table
  - “Jump to” and “Cite Checker” citation features
  - Statutes at Large “Title III” Tool
The Popular Name Tool enables you to search or browse the United States Code Table of Acts Cited by Popular Name. For printing purposes, the PDF file is recommended. A detailed explanation of the Table is located here.

Act of
Short title, see 26 U.S.C. 1 note

1950 Amendment to Public Law 38
Aug. 5, 1950, ch. 592, 64 Stat. 414

1951 Amendments to the Universal Military Training and Service Act
June 19, 1951, ch. 144, title I, 65 Stat. 75
Short title, see 50 U.S.C. App. 451 note

1955 Amendments to the Universal Military Training and Service Act
June 30, 1955, ch. 250, 69 Stat. 223

1959 Amendment to the Texas City Disaster Relief Act

1964 Amendments to the Alaska Omnibus Act

1970 White House Conference on the Arts Act

1979 White House Conference on the Humanities Act

1984 Act to Combat International Terrorism
Short title, see 18 U.S.C. 3071 note

1984 Olympic Commemorative Coin Act
See Olympic Commemorative Coin Act

1988 Olympic Commemorative Coin Act
The new OLRC U.S. Code website includes helpful information about each U.S. Code section, including a source credit and explanatory notes regarding amendments, textual references, codification, etc.
Historical Resources

- A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation
  - [http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/mlaw/lawhome.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/mlaw/lawhome.html)
  - Contains selected congressional documents from 1774-1875

- Avalon Project
  - [http://avalon.law.yale.edu](http://avalon.law.yale.edu)
  - Not limited to U.S. documents
  - Contains important “documents in law, history and diplomacy,” like treaties, state charters, and legislation (4000 BCE to present)
Judicial Resources

- Opinions
- Citators
- Records and Briefs
Google Scholar

http://scholar.google.com

- Content:
  - U.S. Supreme Court Opinions – 1791 to the present
  - U.S. Federal District, Appellate, Tax, and Bankruptcy Court Opinions – 1923 to the present
  - U.S. State Appellate and Supreme Court Opinions – 1950 to the present
  - Scholarly articles, papers, and reports
  - Patents
    - U.S. Patents – 1790 to the present
    - European Patent Office and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Patents – 1978 to the present
Google Scholar – Sample Case Search

To do a case law search (of state and federal cases) in Google Scholar, simply select the “Case law” radio button, enter your keyword(s) into the search box, and click enter.

If you would like to specify which courts to search, click the “Select courts” link.
Use the facets on the left-hand side to narrow your search by court and by date. You can also choose to sort your search results by date rather than by relevance.

Activating the “My Library” feature will allow for you to save cases and articles for easy retrieval.

Click “Create alert” to set up a Google e-mail alert for your keyword search.
Where possible, opinions on Google Scholar will also include page citation information.

When a case that is also in the Google Scholar database is cited, a hyperlink to that case will be available in the opinion.
If you click the “How cited” link at the top of the opinion page, you will see a listing of other cases in the Google Scholar database that either cite your case or are related to your case.

The How Cited feature also provides examples of how these other cases have dealt with your case.
Casetext

http://www.casetext.com

Content:
- U.S. Supreme Court Opinions – 1791 to the present
- Federal Court of Appeals and District Court Opinions - 1925 to the present
- State Supreme and Appellate Court Opinions - 1950 to the present
- U.S. Code and Code of Federal Regulations– current editions

Features
- Communities – topic headings used in creation of feeds
- WeCite – citator-like feature using moderated crowdsourcing
- Legal Pad – allows users to add quotes from Casetext primary source content (with legal citation) into a text editor
- CARA – users can upload a document, and CARA will suggest “cases of interest” pertinent to the cases in the document that are not cited within the document
- Uses quotes from other judicial opinions in the Casetext database to summarize the case at hand
- Users can add briefs, legal memoranda, and other documents, as well as add annotations to any existing resource on the site, for other users to see and use
Casetext provides a clean, all-inclusive search box on the homepage that can be used to search all of its resources, by keyword, citation, or title.

Casetext is free, but will require users to create an account to view cases and other materials.

Research better.

Search state and federal law. For free.

Access our library of over 10 million up-to-date federal and state cases, statutes, and regulations, for free, forever.
Casetext is centered around “Communities,” or subject groups.

Users can join a Community in order to view and subscribe to a blog feed on that topic and connect with other users interested in that topic.
Users can:
(1) narrow their search by adding additional terms;
(2) change the way the results are sorted (by relevance, date, or number of times cited); and
(3) filter by jurisdiction

Search results are sorted by “Legal Texts” (opinions, statutes, and regulations), links to Community posts, etc.

Previews regarding where keywords appear in the results are included.
BURLINGTON INDUSTRIES, INC. V. ELLERTH

SUMMARIES FROM SUBSEQUENT CASES (25)

"Holding a tangible employment action "requires an official act of the enterprise" against the plaintiff, such as "firing, firing, failing to promote, reassignment with significantly different responsibilities, or a decision causing a significant change in benefits . . . ."

KEY PASSAGES FROM THIS CASE (95)

"A tangible employment action constitutes a significant change in employment status, such as hiring, firing, failing to promote, reassignment with significantly different responsibilities, or a decision causing a significant change in benefits." Quoted 378 times

JUSTICE KENNEDY delivered the opinion of the Court.

We decide whether, under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 253, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e et seq., an employee who refuses the unwelcome and threatening sexual advances of a supervisor, yet suffers no adverse, tangible job consequences, can recover against the employer without showing the employer is negligent or otherwise at fault for the supervisor’s actions.
“Citing Cases,” in the right-hand margin, provides a listing of other cases in the Casetext database have been found to cite to or be related to the current case. Annotators can define the type of treatment through the “We Cite” feature.

Users can filter the results by court, date, and depth of treatment.
Cornell Legal Information Institute (LII)
http://www.law.cornell.edu/

- Content:
  - U.S. Supreme Court Opinions – 1793 to the present
  - Federal Court of Appeals Opinions - 1995 to the present (may be expanded, based on the court)
  - *U.S. Constitution*
  - *Wex Legal Encyclopedia*
  - Provides links to official websites and other information about Federal and State Courts
The Legal Information Institute (LII) provides the ability to search its large collection of resources by keyword from the search box on the homepage. Additionally, if you know what specific resource you need, you can select that resource from the list on the homepage.
Searches in LII can be easily limited by content type. Enter terms "hostile work environment" to search within the database. Note, however, that a search done in the new search box will not search within your results, but will instead perform a new search of the entire database.
BURLINGTON INDUSTRIES, INC. V. ELLERTH

Syllabus

BURLINGTON INDUSTRIES, INC. v. ELLERTH (No. 97-569)
123 F. 3d 490, affirmed.

- Syllabus [HTML] [PDF]
- Opinion, Kennedy [HTML] [PDF]
- Concurrence, Ginsburg [HTML] [PDF]
- Dissent, Thomas [HTML] [PDF]

BURLINGTON INDUSTRIES, INC. v. ELLERTH

certiorari to the united states court of appeals for the seventh circuit


Respondent Kimberly Ellerth quit her job after 15 months as a salesperson in one of petitioner Burlington Industries' many divisions, allegedly because she had been subjected to constant sexual harassment by one of her supervisors, Ted Slowik. Slowik was a mid-level manager who had authority to hire and promote employees, subject to higher approval, but was not considered a policy-maker. Against a backdrop of repeated boorish and offensive remarks and gestures allegedly made by Slowik, Ellerth places particular emphasis on three incidents where Slowik's comments could be construed as threats to deny her tangible job benefits. Ellerth refused all of Slowik's advances, yet suffered no tangible retaliation and was, in fact, promoted once. Moreover, she never

Where possible, LII provides a link to a PDF copy of the syllabus, opinion, concurrence(s), and dissent(s) of U.S. Supreme Court cases.

Additionally, copies of other legal items in the LII database (U.S. Code sections, other opinions, etc.) referenced in the opinion are hyperlinked in the opinions, so they can be seen with one click.
FindLaw
http://caselaw.findlaw.com

- Content:
  - U.S. Supreme Court Opinions – 1791 to the present
    - *U.S. Supreme Court Center* (http://supreme.findlaw.com) - includes selected briefs (for the 1999-2007 terms), Court opinions, and a blog that examines recent Supreme Court events
  - U.S. Federal Appellate Court Opinions – 1995 to the present (may be expanded, based on the circuit)
  - U.S. State Supreme, Appellate and Trial Court Opinions – 1997 to the present (may differ, based on the jurisdiction)
  - *Federal Register* – 1995 to 2006
  - Selected State Statutes – current editions
  - Current Law-Related News Stories
On the home page, you can search for summaries of opinions by topic and by court.

Select the state in which you would like to focus your research to find links for court opinions, statutes, and regulations of that state.

Scroll down to find links to federal statutes, regulations, and court opinions.

FindLaw – Cases and Codes

FindLaw® FOR LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

Cases and Codes

FindLaw’s Cases and Codes section contains resources and links for both state and federal laws. This includes resources pertaining to constitutions, statutes, cases, and more. Run a search for case summaries or select a jurisdiction to browse applicable laws.

For historical documents and background information on the U.S. courts and government, view introductory material.

Popular Federal Resources
- US Supreme Court
- US Code
- US Constitution

Popular State Resources
- California Caselaw
- New York Caselaw
- Texas Caselaw
- Florida Caselaw

Search Opinion Summaries

- Court: Select One
- Legal Topic: Select One
- Search

Browse Cases and Codes

Federal Laws
- US Constitution
- US Code
- Federal Register
- Code of Fed. Regulations
- US Courts of Appeals - Opinions & Resources
  - United States Supreme Court
  - 1st Circuit Court of Appeals
  - 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals

State Resources
- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- District of Columbia

FindLaw Career Center

Search for Law Jobs:
- Attorney
- Corporate Counsel
- Paralegal
- Judicial Clerk
- Investment Banker

Search Jobs: Post a Job | View More Jobs

Latest Blog Posts
- 10 Things to Do Before You Start 1L, Hell
- How to Become General Counsel: 3 Tips
- The Pros and Cons of Hiring New Staff by Holding a Contest
- The Source of Apple’s New iOS, Messaging Features? Other Companies
- Meet the Super Lawyers 2013 Pro Bono Award Recipients

View More >
On the Case Search page, you can search by party name, by keyword ("Free Text Search"), or by Docket Number.

You can also browse opinions by date.

Browse United States Ninth Circuit Opinions

Browse opinions by calendar year:

2016: JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

2015: JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC
If you perform a search using the box at the top of the screen, the search results are sorted by relevance, but can be narrowed by type of result—Corporate (secondary resources), Caselaw, U.S. and State Codes, etc.
United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit.

Hugh HARDAGE, Plaintiff-Appellant, v. CBS BROADCASTING INC., a New York Corporation; Viacom Television Stations Inc., a Delaware Corporation; Viacom Broadcasting of Seattle Inc., a Delaware Corporation; Kathy Sparks, an individual, Defendants-Appellees.

No. 03-35906.
Decided: November 1, 2005


The district court entered summary judgment dismissing Hardage's sexual harassment and retaliation claims against CBS Broadcasting Inc., Viacom Television Stations Inc., and Viacom Broadcasting of Seattle Inc. (collectively, CBS), pursuant to Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the Washington Law Against Discrimination (WLAD). The district court concluded that CBS was entitled to assert an affirmative defense to liability based on the Supreme Court's decisions in Burlington Industries, Inc. v. Ellerth, 524 U.S. 742, 118 S.Ct. 2257, 141 L.Ed.2d 633 (1998) and Faragher v. City of Boca Raton, 524 U.S. 775, 118 S.Ct. 2275, 141 L.Ed.2d 662 (1998), and it accordingly denied Hardage's motion for partial summary judgment on that issue. In addition, the court declined to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over Hardage's WLAD claims against Kathy Sparks (the alleged harasser) and dismissed those claims without prejudice. See 28 U.S.C. § 1367(c). The court also dismissed Hardage's Title VII claims against Sparks with prejudice, and Hardage does not appeal this portion of the court's judgment. We have jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1291, and we affirm.
Justia

http://www.justia.com/

- Content:
  - U.S. Supreme Court Opinions – 1791 to the present
  - U.S. Federal Appellate and District Court Opinions – 1924 to the present (may be expanded, based on the court)
  - U.S. Federal Appellate and District Court Dockets and Filings – 2004 to the present
  - U.S. State Supreme and Appellate Court Opinions – 1992 to the present (may be expanded, based on the court)
  - *Federal Register* – 2005 to the present
  - Selected U.S. Federal Appellate and District Court dockets and orders – 2004 to the present (may be expanded, based on the court)
  - Selected State Statutes
  - Current Law-Related News Stories
This sample search shows the breadth of resources that can be returned from a simple keyword search on the Justia homepage—the top results include a state statute, a proposed federal rule, a scholarly review of a section of the federal constitution, and a Supreme Court opinion.

At this point, there are no facets to limit your search to a specific type of resource.
A case opinion in Justia will contain, where available, both a summary of the opinion and a downloadable PDF of the opinion as it would have been initially released by the court. Also, Justia has added accounts, which allows users to attach annotations to cases of interest.
Public Library of Law

http://www.plol.org/

- Created by the same organization that owns Fastcase
- Content:
  - U.S. Supreme Court Opinions – 1791 to the present
  - U.S. Federal Appellate Court Opinions – 1950 to the present
  - U.S. State Supreme and Appellate Court Opinions – 1997 to the present
- Provides links to official websites for the following:
  - Federal and State Court Rules
  - *U.S. Code* (links to ORLC U.S. Code page)
  - *Code of Federal Regulations* and *Federal Register* (links to FDSys)
  - State Statutes and Regulations
Researchers can perform a keyword search of PLoL’s entire collection of court opinions from the front page. To limit results by year or by jurisdiction, use the “Advanced Options” tab under the search box.

PLoL offers a set of tutorials, user guides, and factsheets to help researchers navigate the site.
PLOL – Sample Search Result Page

Case law results are organized by relevancy, with a relevancy percentage applied. The results list also provides date and citation information, as well as a preview of where the search terms appear in the decision.
Users can access cases in the PLOL database after creating an account on the site. Registration is free.
Ravel
https://www.ravellaw.com/

- **Features**
  - *Interactive Visual Map* – Ravel’s search results are presented in a map that shows the comparative relevance of cases and their relationships to each other
  - Provides links to other cases in Ravel’s database that are cited in the current case
  - Offers helpful training videos and FAQs regarding how to use Ravel

- **Content depends on level of subscription**
  - Free users have access to:
    - U.S. Supreme Court Opinions (1791 to the present)
    - Federal Court of Appeals and District Court Opinions (1950 to the present)
    - State Court Opinions (1950 to the present)
  - Paid subscription includes “opinion analytics” and access to research history and support
Ravel depicts the significance of cases and their relationships to each other via a visual map:

- More significant opinions will have larger “bubbles”
- Opinions are connected by citation lines (both incoming and outgoing citations)

Researchers can sort by type of court, by relevance, and by date of opinion.
CourtListener
https://www.courtlistener.com/

- Operated by the Free Law Project, a non-profit organization striving to “provide free access to primary legal materials”

- Content:
  - U.S. Supreme Court Opinions – 1791 to the present
  - U.S. Federal Appellate Court Opinions – 1890s to the present for most circuits
  - U.S. Federal District Court and Bankruptcy Court Opinions – coverage dependent on district
  - U.S. State Supreme and Appellate Court Opinions – coverage dependent on state

- Features:
  - “Cited By” citator-like feature
  - Open source and open access – allows users bulk downloads of the cases on the site
  - Oral arguments included for certain courts
    - Currently the U.S. Supreme Court and most Federal Appellate Courts
    - Coverage is largely 2013 to present
The results page allows for several limiting options, including jurisdiction, the precedential status of the source, filing date, judge, case name, etc.
Opinions provide pagination information and a table of linked authorities

The “Cited By” feature provides links to other opinions available on CourtListener that cite to the opinion you are currently viewing, arranged by number of times those opinions are cited.
Citators

- Free Options? Unfortunately, not entirely
  - Defunct tool: PreCYdent (2006-09)
  - Incomplete citation tools:
    - How Cited (Google)
    - WeCite & CARA (Casetext)
    - Cited By (CourtListener)

- Subscription Options:
  - LexisNexis (Shepard's)
  - Westlaw (KeyCite)
  - Bloomberg (BCite)
  - Fastcase (Bad Law Bot)

- Low-Cost Options
  - Some public law libraries offer access to online subscription citators (i.e. Westlaw Patron Access) and print copies of Shepard’s
  - Some Bar Associations provide free access to a subscription database as a part of membership
Records and Briefs

- Free Resources
  - U.S. Supreme Court
    - SCOTUSBlog (http://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/terms/) – 2005 to the present
    - ABA Preview (http://www.americanbar.org/publications/preview_home.html) – 2004 to the present
  - Other Courts
    - Check your local court’s website for records, briefs, and opinions

- Low-Cost Options
  - PACER (http://www.pacer.gov/)
    - Records and briefs for federal appellate, district and bankruptcy courts
    - Charges $0.10 per page retrieved and a cap of $3 per document
  - Clerk of Court – copying costs are typically cents per page
Executive Resources

• Presidential Papers
• Regulations
The American Presidency Project (APP)
http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/

- Content:
  - Executive Orders – 1826 to the present
  - Proclamations - 1789 to the present
  - Presidential Signing Statements – 1929 to the present
  - *Public Papers of the Presidents* (statements, speeches, news conference remarks, etc.) –1929 (approx.) to the present
  - *Messages and Papers of the Presidents* – 1789 to 1913
  - State of the Union Addresses – 1790 to the present
  - Assorted documents relating to presidential elections
If you know the type of document you seek, as well as when it was created, you can browse by selecting the “Documents” link.

If you would like to perform a keyword search, however, simply scroll down.
The search feature on the homepage allows for:

1. A keyword search, with limiters like date, President, and document category;
2. A “select” feature that allows for a search by document number; and
3. A direct browse feature, where documents are narrowed by category, President, and year.
Search results are organized by date, and provide information about the date the document was produced, the President (or other actor) who issued the document, and the title of the document.
Executive Order 13160 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Race, Sex, Color, National Origin, Disability, Religion, Age, Sexual Orientation, and Status as a Parent in Federally Conducted Education and Training Programs

June 23, 2000

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including sections 921-932 of title 20, United States Code; section 2164 of title 10, United States Code; section 2001 et seq., of title 25, United States Code; section 7301 of title 5, United States Code; and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and to achieve equal opportunity in Federally conducted education and training programs and activities, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Statement of policy on education programs and activities conducted by executive departments and agencies.

1–101. The Federal Government must hold itself to at least the same principles of nondiscrimination in educational opportunities as it applies to the education programs and activities of State and local governments, and to private institutions receiving Federal financial assistance. Existing laws and regulations prohibit certain forms of discrimination in Federally conducted education and training programs and activities—including discrimination against people with disabilities, prohibited by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 701 et seq., as amended, employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or religion, prohibited by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000e-17, as amended, discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or religion in educational programs receiving Federal assistance, under Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d, and sex-based discrimination in education programs receiving Federal assistance under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq. Through this Executive Order, discrimination on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, and status as a parent will be prohibited in Federally conducted education and training programs and activities.

1–102. No individual, on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, or status as a parent, shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in, a Federally conducted education or training program or activity.

Sec. 2. Definitions.
Regulations.gov

http://www.regulations.gov/

- Content (selected documents from late 1800s to present):
  - Proposed and Final Regulations
  - Supporting and Related Materials
  - Notices
  - Scientific and Technical Findings
  - Guidance
  - Adjudications
  - The Unified Agenda and Regulatory Plan

- Other Features
  - Ability to provide public comment via the website
  - Ability to see comments submitted by other members of the public
Use the tabs to navigate:

1. **Search** – to allow for keyword searching of documents; 
2. **Browse** – to see regulations by topic; and 
3. **Learn** – to find information about the rulemaking process

You can perform a site-wide search here, or use the “Advanced Search” link for more control over your search.
Use the facets on the left-hand side of the screen to narrow your results by several features, like: whether the comment period is still open, the document type, the agency, the subject, and many more.
AP44 - Proposed Rule - Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

This Proposed Rule document was issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

For related information, Open Docket Folder.

Action
Proposed rule.

Summary
The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing to amend its medical regulations to permit full practice authority of all VA advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) when they are acting within the scope of their VA employment. This rulemaking would increase veterans' access to VA health care by expanding the pool of qualified health care professionals who are authorized to provide primary health care and other related health care services to the full extent of their education, training, and certification, without the clinical supervision of physicians. This rule would permit VA to use its health care resources more effectively and in a manner that is consistent with the role of APRNs in the non-VA health care sector, while maintaining the patient-centered, safe, high-quality health care that veterans receive from VA. The proposed rulemaking would establish additional professional qualifications an individual must possess to be appointed as an APRN within VA. The proposed rulemaking would subdivide APRNs into four separate categories that include certified nurse practitioner, certified registered nurse anesthetist, certified nurse specialist, and certified nurse-midwife. The proposed rulemaking would also provide the criteria under which VA may grant full practice authority to an APRN, and define the scope of full practice authority for each category of APRN. VA intends that the services to be provided by an APRN in one of the four APRN roles would be consistent with the nursing profession's standards of practice for such roles.

Dates
Comments must be received by VA on or before July 25, 2016.

Addresses
Written comments may be submitted: Through http://www.Regulations.gov, by mail or hand-delivery to Director, Regulations Management (02REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Room 1068, Washington, DC 20420; by fax to (202) 273-9026. Comments should indicate that they are submitted in response to "PR 2000-AP44-Advanced Practice Registered Nurses." Copies of comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Room 1068, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays). Call (202) 488-6920 for additional information.

On the right-hand side of the page, you can:
- Click the “Comment Now!” button to make a comment;
- Download a PDF copy of the Federal Register pages;
- Find out more information about the rule/proposed rule;
- Check others’ comments; and
- Learn more about related documents.
Other Helpful Resources

• Analysis
• Articles
LexisWeb

http://www.lexisweb.com/

- Perform a broad search on the homepage, and on the results page, limit by:
  - Type of document/site
  - Topic
  - Legal citations included
  - Jurisdiction
  - Practice Area
- Focus is on articles written by legal practitioners, but LexisWeb also links to products in the Lexis database
HG.org provides links to:

- Research Guides on certain areas of law (see “Learn About the Law”)
- Articles written by legal practitioners (see “Articles” and “Publications”)

To search HG.org’s resources, use the search box at the top right of the homepage.
Searching Tips
Searching Tips – Search Engines

- Utilize multiple search engines: Google, Bing, Yahoo! Search, Ask.com, etc.

- Utilizing a search engine’s advanced search allows for more search limiters
  - Example:  
    [http://www.google.com/advanced_search](http://www.google.com/advanced_search)
  - Many search engines will also have limiters that you can add directly into the search box—for example, adding “site:.gov” in Google will only search for sites that have a .gov domain

- If you don’t want to visit all the search engines individually, you can use a meta-search engine like Dogpile or WebCrawler, to search several databases at once
Searching Tips – Other Websites

- If you are seeking case law, statutes, or regulations from a specific jurisdiction, look to see if there are judicial or governmental websites offering free resources.

- In addition, there may be subject-specific websites to help with different practice areas.

- To find links to some of these resources, visit our website:
  - In Custodia Legis: http://blogs.loc.gov/law/
Questions?

• **Contact the Law Library Reference Desk**
  • Open 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET, Monday through Saturday
  • Phone: (202) 707-5080

• **Use the Law Library’s Ask a Librarian page:**
  • [http://www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/ask-law.html](http://www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/ask-law.html)