How to Conduct FREE Legal Research Online

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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

- Established by law in 1832 as a separate department of the Library of Congress
- Largest law library in the world
  - Over **2.84 million volumes** that include U.S. state and Federal materials, foreign codes, constitutions, official gazettes, law reports, treatises, serials, and laws from all historical periods
  - Covering some **267 existing nations and jurisdictions**
  - Working reference collection of approximately **30,000 volumes in the public reading room**
- Global Legal Research Center
  - Staffed by foreign law experts who help to provide reference assistance for public correspondents and build the Law Library’s foreign law collections
  - May be reached by contacting the Law Library’s reference desk, at 202-707-5080, or through the “Ask a Librarian” service
The Law Library of Congress
Global Legal Research Center

Foreign Law Specialists, Principal Jurisdictions:

- Argentina
- Brazil
- Canada
- China
- Eritrea
- European Union
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- India, Pakistan
- Israel
- Japan
- Lebanon
- Mexico
- New Zealand, Australia
- Nicaragua
- Russian Federation
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Augmented by Contract Foreign Law Specialists and Senior Legal Research Analysts
The Law Library of Congress - Websites

- **Homepage:** [www.law.gov](http://www.law.gov)

- **Other Key Online Resources**
  - Guide to Law Online:
  - Current Legal Topics:
  - Global Legal Monitor:
  - Congress.gov:
  - *In Custodia Legis*:
    - [http://blogs.loc.gov/law](http://blogs.loc.gov/law)
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
  - New Indigenous Law Portal – includes links to American Indian constitutions and legal materials
Guide to Law Online

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 Mariana 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

Research & Reports | Congressional Reports | Guide to Law Online | How Do I Find...? | Current Legal Topics | Guides to Our Collections

International | Nations | U.S. Federal | U.S. States & Territories | About the Guide | Guide Index

Constitution | Legislative
Executive | Legal Guides
Judicial | General Sources

Executive

› District of Columbia Municipal Regulations and Register
› District of Columbia Register Table of Contents, 1999-2003 (B. Flowers)
› Table of Contents v. 45, no. 27-50, no. 6 (July 3, 1998-February 3, 2003)
› DC Register Index - Table of Contents Vol. 45-43 (1995-2001)
› District of Columbia Mayor
› District of Columbia Council
› District of Columbia Agencies
› District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics
› 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 August 1998-
› District of Columbia Superior Court
› U.S. District Court, District of Columbia
› Opinions 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
- **Federal Depository Libraries** *(U.S. Government Printing Office)*
- **FindLaw: District of Columbia**
- Forms: **FindLaw**, **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 Columbus 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 Materials Bibliography from the Washingtoniana Division *(PDF)* *(Matthew Gilmore, via LLSDC)*
- **Legalese** *(DC Council Office of the General Counsel)* newsletter, Vol. 1, no. 1 (September 1995-)
- **LLSDC Legislative Source Book: District of Columbia**
- **Regulatory Reform in the District of Columbia: A Proposed Revision of Administrative Rulemaking Reform** *(Brian K. Flowers)*
- **Voluntary Bar Associations** *(District of Columbia Bar)*
Legal Topics

http://www.loc.gov/law/help/current-topics.php

- Current international issues
- In-depth legal commentary and comparison of international laws
- Bibliographic resources

Global Legal Monitor

http://www.loc.gov/lawweb/servlet/lloc_news?home

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

Legal Topics

The guides listed below provide legal commentary and recommended resources on issues and events with legal significance.

- Banking and Finance
- Constitutional Issues
- Corruption and Money Laundering
- Education
- Elections
- Government Spending
- Government Systems
- Healthcare and Bioethics
- Immigration, Nationality and Citizenship
- Indigenous and Cultural Property
- Military
- Plants, Animals, and the Environment
- Privacy Rights and Ownership
- Religion and the Law
- War Crimes and Terrorism

Banking and Finance

Regulation of Bitcoin in Selected Jurisdictions

This report surveys forty foreign jurisdictions and the European Union, reporting on any regulations or statements from central banks or government offices on the handling of bitcoins as well as any significant use of bitcoins in business transactions. Topics covered include whether bitcoins are recognized as legal tender; the possibility of negative impacts on the national currency; concerns about fraud, and how transactions using the Bitcoin system are viewed by tax authorities. (Jan. 2014)
Medical Malpractice Liability: United Kingdom (England and Wales)

Executive Summary
Medical liability for staff employed by the National Health Service (NHS) in England is addressed through the tort principle of vicarious liability. Where claims for negligence of employees of the NHS arise a program known as the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts addresses these issues. The program is funded through contributions by NHS Trusts that are members and operates on a “pay-as-you-go” basis, funding claims out of the monies it raises. The NHS Litigation Authority administers this program.

Introduction
This report addresses how the National Health Service (NHS) in England and Wales manages clinical negligence issues. The NHS was founded in 1948 with the aim of providing free health care at the point of use.

NHS Indemnity
The focus of medical liability in England and Wales is under the law of tort, specifically negligence. It is general practice in cases of clinical negligence that National Health Service Trusts and Health Authorities are the bodies that are sued, rather than individual clinicians. Under this practice, NHS Trusts and Health Authorities are vicariously liable for the negligent acts and omissions of their employees – including doctors, nurses, and clinicians. This liability arises from the duty of care that the NHS Trusts owe to their patients. This application of vicarious liability has resulted in a government policy known as NHS

Legal Topics articles include supporting endnote links
Samoa: New Crimes Act Comes into Force

To link to this article, copy this persistent link:
http://www.loc.gov/lawweb/servlet/loc_news?disp3_1205403580_text


The Crimes Act 2013 contains a range of new offenses, including "computer-related offences, people smuggling and trafficking, offences that cater for complex fraud offences such as stealing land, offences relating to invasion of privacy pertaining to people engaging in sexual activities [i.e. voyeurism], [and] offences relating to the distribution of sexual material using mobile phones." (Updated Crimes Act Passed, Samoa Observer (Apr. 28, 2013).)

The penalties for sexual offenses have also been increased under the Act. The maximum penalty of life imprisonment for rape has been maintained, while the penalty for incest has increased from 7 to 20 years of imprisonment, and the penalty for attempted rape increased from 10 to 14 years. (Samoa Gets New Crimes Act, Radio New Zealand (Apr. 30, 2013).)

Commission having published several issue papers and leading public consultation processes on possible reforms. (Id.; References, Samoa Law Reform Commission website (last visited May 1, 2013).)

- **Author:** Kelly Buchanan  [More by this author »]
- **Topic:** Criminal law and procedure  [More on this topic »]
- **Jurisdiction:** Samoa  [More about this jurisdiction »]
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://beta.congress.gov

- **Content:**
  - Bill text: 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
  - Standing Committees Page
  - Congressional Glossary
  - Law Library manages content
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.
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, Including Floor Amendments” link, 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”.
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).
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 “Browse by Date” feature on the Congressional Record page.
Federal Digital System (FDSys)
http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys

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

- Content Highlights (in PDF):
  - **Public Laws**: 1951 to the present
  - **Congressional Reports** (selected): 1989 to the present
  - **Congressional Hearings** (selected): 1993 to the present
  - **Congressional Record**: 1995 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.
Select the source(s) you want to search from this list.

Click the “Add” button to add the source to the search 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. 6, 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  

1973 White House Conference on the Arts Act  

1973 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/ammlaw/lawhome.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ammlaw/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
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
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.
When a case that is also in the Google Scholar database is cited, a hyperlink to that case will be available in the opinion.

Where possible, opinions on Google Scholar will also include page citation information.
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.
FindLaw
http://www.findlaw.com/casesandcodes/

- Content:
  - U.S. Supreme Court Opinions – 1791 to the present
    - *U.S. Supreme Court Center* ([http://supreme.lp.findlaw.com/index.html](http://supreme.lp.findlaw.com/index.html)) - 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
  - *Code of Federal Regulations* – 1996 to the present
  - *Federal Register* – 1995 to the present
  - 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. Scroll down to find links to federal statutes, regulations, and court opinions. Select the state in which you would like to focus your research to find links for court opinions, statutes, and regulations of that state.
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.
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

Before: WALLACE, SILVERMAN, and PAEZ, Circuit Judges. Claudia Kilbreath, Short Cressman & Burgess PLLC, Seattle, WA, for the plaintiff-appellant. Harry J.F. Korrell and Kathryn S. Loppnow, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, Seattle, WA, for the defendants-appellees. 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 GAO Reports – 1970 to the present
  - Selected State Statutes
  - Current Law-Related News Stories
Justia allows users to browse for legal resources by practice area, by jurisdiction, and by type of resource. Researchers can also do a general keyword search of all the resources available on Justia, which may return cases, codes, regulations, and/or secondary sources.
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 GAO report, a federal appellate court opinion, a state statute, a court filing, and a U.S. 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.
Cornell Legal Information Institute (LII)
http://www.law.cornell.edu/

- Content:
  - U.S. Supreme Court Opinions – 1790 to the present
  - Federal Court of Appeals Opinions - 1995 to the present (may be expanded, based on the court)
  - U.S. Founding Documents - *Declaration of Independence, 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.

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.
LII – Sample Supreme Court Opinion

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.
Public Library of Law

http://www.plol.org/

- Created by the same organization that owns Fastcase
- Content:
  - U.S. Supreme Court Opinions – 1754 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.
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.
OpenJurist
http://www.openjurist.org/

- Content:
  - U.S. Supreme Court Opinions – 1790 to the present
  - Cases from the Federal Reporter 1st, 2d, and 3d Series – 1880 to the present
  - U.S. Founding Documents - *Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution*
  - Provides links to official websites and other information about Federal and State Courts
Researchers can also perform a keyword search of available court opinions, the *U.S. Code*, or practice area materials on any OpenJurist landing page.

If interested in a specific resource, simply click the “Browse OpenJurist” link at the top of the page to find the list of content options.
Opinion search results are listed by relevance, and include reporter citation and party information.

Researchers might not want to sort by label at this point, as the labels do not always match the Circuit in which the case was brought.
Casetext

http://www.casetext.com

- Content:
  - U.S. Supreme Court Opinions – 1790 to the present
  - Federal Court of Appeals Opinions - from the Federal Reporter 2d to the present
  - Federal District Court Opinions (published in F.Supp. and F.Supp.2d) - from 1980 to the present
  - Delaware cases published in Atlantic Reporter 1st (from vol. 30 forward), 2d, and 3d Series

- Annotations
  - Both Casetext editors and outside contributors can add annotations to sources
  - Contributors are given a “reputation score” based on the amount of annotations they provide, and the amount of upvotes those annotations get from other contributors
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.
There are a wealth of options for filtering a search.

Community-created tags can be found on the right.

On the left, users can filter by type of source (statute vs. opinion) and jurisdiction.

Users can also add additional search terms, and/or change the sorting of the results.
Each case includes “Navigate” and “Tools” menus. The Navigate menu will link directly to a summary of the case, text of the opinion, the “WeCite” feature, and links to third party websites with information about the case.

The Tools menu provides options for saving, downloading, or sharing the opinion.
Clicking on an annotation link will open the annotation and take you to the part of the case that is being annotated.

Note here that a user (who is signed in) can up- or down-vote the annotation, as well as add additional tags.
Clicking “WeCite” will produce a listing of other cases in the Casetext database that—either by Casetext itself or by an annotator—have been found to cite to or be related to the current case.

Annotators can mark the cases as distinguishing the current case or citing the current case positively or negatively.
Citators

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

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

- 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
  - Casemaker’s CiteCheck ([https://citecheck.mycasemaker.net/](https://citecheck.mycasemaker.net/)) – allows for citation checking of a brief or other document for $10
Records and Briefs

- Free Resources
  - U.S. Supreme Court
    - SCOTUSBlog (http://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/terms/) – 2007 to the present
    - ABA Preview (http://www.americanbar.org/publications/preview_home.html) – 2003 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
  - *Messages and Papers of the Presidents* – 1789 to 1913
  - *Public Papers of the Presidents* (statements, speeches, news conference remarks, etc.) –1929 to the present
  - 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 616 of title 10, United States Code; section 9001 et seq. of title 29, United States Code; section 1701 of title 5, United States Code; and section 301 of title 8, 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, 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
Regulations.gov - Homepage

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.
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
MOOTUS
http://www.mootus.com/

- Allows members to ask questions about different legal issues
  - First “Issue” is free, but a small monthly fee to ask about additional “Issues”
- Members provide “answers” consisting of citations to pertinent case law, statutes, or regulations
  - Viewing answers is free
- Other members can vote answers as being “On Point” or “Off Base”
LexisWeb
http://www.lexisweb.com/

- Perform a broad search on the homepage, and on the results page, limit by:
  - Type of document
  - 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 “About Laws”)
- Articles written by legal practitioners (see “Law Publication”)

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, Yippy, 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)