How to Conduct Free Legal Research Online

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Law Library of Congress
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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:
    - [http://www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov)
  - *In Custodia Legis*:
    - [http://blogs.loc.gov/law](http://blogs.loc.gov/law)
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](http://loc.heinonline.org/loc/LOC)
  - *United States Code* (1925 to 1988)
  - *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](http://www.loc.gov/law/help/statutes-at-large/index.php)

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
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

Executive
- District of Columbia Municipal Regulations and Register
  - District of Columbia Register Table of Contents, 1999-2003
    - Table of Contents v. 45, no. 27-2000
    - 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
- 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
- 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)
Current 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

THE LAW LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
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
- Aeronautics and Space
- Banking and Finance
- Constitutional Issues
- Crime and Law Enforcement
- Education, Family, and Children's Rights
- Emergency and Disaster Relief
- Government Spending
- Gun Control and firearm Possession
- Healthcare, Safety, and Bioethics
- Immigration, Nationality, and Citizenship
- Indigenous and Cultural Property
- Intellectual Property Rights and Ownership
- Marriage, Divorce, and Estates
- Military
- Minority and Human Rights
- Plants, Animals, and the Environment
- Privacy Rights and Data Protection
- Property and Land Rights
- Religion and the Law
- War Crimes, Terrorism, and National Security

Adoption, Custody, and Parentage
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 Redress.
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).)
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
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

- Accounts – users can save searches
- Alerts – users can set up e-mail alerts for:
  - 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): 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONGRESSIONAL REPORTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Congressional reports originate from congressional committees and deal with proposed legislation and issues under investigation. There are two types of reports:</td>
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<tr>
<td>House and Senate Reports: Reports of congressional committees concerning proposed legislation and/or contain findings on matters under investigation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate Executive Reports: Reports of the Committee on Foreign Relations relating to treaties between the United States and foreign nations which have been submitted to the U.S. Senate for ratification, or are reports of various Senate committees regarding nomination of individuals.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### About Congressional Reports:
- 113th Congress (2013 - 2014)
- Executive Report (Ex. Rept.)
- House Report (H. Rept.)
  - 0 - 99
  - 100 - 199
  - 200 - 299
  - 300 - 399
  - 400 and above
- Senate Report (S. Rept.)
- 112th Congress (2011 - 2012)
- 111th Congress (2009 - 2010)
- 110th Congress (2007 - 2008)
- 107th Congress (2001 - 2002)
- 104th Congress (1995 - 1996)
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.

<table>
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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1950 Amendment to Public Law 38</td>
<td>592</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951 Amendments to the Universal Military Training and Service Act</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955 Amendments to the Universal Military Training and Service Act</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959 Amendment to the Texas City Disaster Relief Act</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964 Amendments to the Alaska Omnibus Act</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979 White House Conference on the Arts Act</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979 White House Conference on the Humanities Act</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984 Act to Combat International Terrorism</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984 Olympic Commemorative Coin Act</td>
<td>3071</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988 Olympic Commemorative Coin Act</td>
<td>3071</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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/amlaw/lawhome.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/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
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.
Casetext

http://www.casetext.com

Content:

• U.S. Supreme Court Opinions – 1791 to the present
• Federal Court of Appeals Opinions - 1925 to the present
• Federal 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
• Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Appellate Procedure, & Bankruptcy Procedure

Features

• Communities – topic headings used in creation of feeds
• WeCite – citator-like feature
• Legal Pad – brand-new feature allows for adding quotes from Casetext primary source content (with legal citation) into a text editor
• Uses quotes from other judicial opinions in the Casetext database to summarize the case at hand
• Crowdsourcing - Users can add blog posts, 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.
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.
Casetext – Sample Search

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

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
BURLINGTON INDUSTRIES, INC. V. ELLERTH

JUSTICE KENNEDY delivered the opinion of the Court.

We decide whether, under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 255, 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 that 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. Code – current edition
  - 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.
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
If you perform a search using the box at the top of the screen, the search results are laid out by type of result—Law Library (secondary resources), Caselaw, Caselaw Summaries, 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)
  - U.S. Code – 1994 to 2012
  - Federal Register – 2005 to the present
  - Selected U.S. Federal Appellate and District Court dockets and orders – 2004 to the present
  - 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.
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 Opinions (1925 to the present) and District Court Opinions (1933 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,” and be higher on the y-axis the more relevant they are to the issue you searched.
- 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.

Users can also easily change how the results are sorted, including by number of times the case is cited.
CourtListener – Sample Opinion

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 (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/) – 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 (approx.) 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.
## American Presidency Project – Search Results

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Actor / Type</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 23, 1847</td>
<td>James K. Polk</td>
<td>Executive Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 18, 1862</td>
<td>Abraham Lincoln</td>
<td>Executive Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 7, 1883</td>
<td>Chester A. Arthur</td>
<td>Executive Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 13, 1883</td>
<td>Chester A. Arthur</td>
<td>Executive Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 14, 1886</td>
<td>Grover Cleveland</td>
<td>Executive Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2, 1886</td>
<td>Grover Cleveland</td>
<td>Executive Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2, 1886</td>
<td>Grover Cleveland</td>
<td>Executive Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 6, 1896</td>
<td>Grover Cleveland</td>
<td>Executive Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 29, 1934</td>
<td>Franklin D. Roosevelt</td>
<td>Executive Order - Civil Service Rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 19, 1939</td>
<td>Franklin D. Roosevelt</td>
<td>Executive Order - AMENDING THE FOREIGN SERVICE REGULATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES CHAPTER XIV PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF AMERICAN ECONOMIC INTERESTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 26, 1941</td>
<td>Franklin D. Roosevelt</td>
<td>Executive Order - 6763 Creating of the First National Labor Relations Board.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 27, 1945</td>
<td>Franklin D. Roosevelt</td>
<td>Executive Order - AMENDING THE FOREIGN SERVICE REGULATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES CHAPTER XIV PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF AMERICAN ECONOMIC INTERESTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 18, 1945</td>
<td>Harry S. Truman</td>
<td>Executive Order - Establishing a Committee on Fair Employment Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 18, 1946</td>
<td>Harry S. Truman</td>
<td>Executive Order - 9664 - Continuing the Work of the Fair Employment Practice Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 4, 1946</td>
<td>Harry S. Truman</td>
<td>Executive Order - 9682 - Providing for the Furnishing of Information and Assistance to the Joint Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Jewish Problems in Palestine and Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 25, 1947</td>
<td>Harry S. Truman</td>
<td>Executive Order - 1932 Prescribing Procedures for the Administration of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 26, 1946</td>
<td>Harry S. Truman</td>
<td>Executive Order - 9990 - Regulations Governing Fair Employment Practices Within the Federal Establishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 20, 1948</td>
<td>Harry S. Truman</td>
<td>Executive Order - 9996 - Prescribing Portions of the Selective Service Regulations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 1764 of title 10, United States Code; section 9001 et seq., of title 25, United States Code; section 7501 of title 5, United States Code; and section 901 of title 5, 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.

1–102. 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.

1–103. 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/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:
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)