

# RESEARCHING CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

## Spring 2009

### PAPER TOOLS

#### Reporters

United States Reports (U.S.) - Published by the Government Printing Office, this is the official reporter for Supreme Court cases. Published slip opinions are received approximately two months after the decision is announced. These contain the volume number, but not the page number of the final version. This reporter contains tables of cases and simple indexes, but nothing cumulative.

Supreme Court Reporter (S.Ct.) - Published by West, this reporter is published faster and contains more finding aids, i.e., cumulative indexes and West's topic and key number headnotes.

United States Supreme Court Reports, Lawyers' Edition (L.Ed., L.Ed.2d) - Published by Lexis Publishing, this reporter also is published faster and contains a different system of headnotes.

#### Digests

Supreme Court Digest & West's Federal Practice Digest 4th  
Supreme Court Digest, L.Ed.

#### Law Reviews

Index to Legal Periodicals (ILP) (1908 – present): Indexes law reviews and journals by subject, author, statutes, and cases.

Current Legal Index (CLI) (1980 – present): Indexes law reviews, journals, and legal newspapers by subject, author, statutes, and cases; has more international coverage than ILP.

LegalTrac (1980 – present): Electronic version of CLI; contains a few article annotations and even fewer full-text articles.

#### American Law Reports, Annotated (ALRs)

Contain annotations of selected cases; one set is devoted to federal law, while the main set is state law.

#### USCA/USCS

The Constitution with amendments and extensive case headnotes and other references is contained in the first few volumes of each of these sets.

#### Treatises/Encyclopedias

*The Constitution of the United States of America: Analysis and Interpretation: Annotations of Cases Decided by the Supreme Court of the United States.* Law Reference KF 4527 .U55 2004. Prepared by the Library of Congress, this volume contains the constitution and annotations of Supreme Court opinions through June 2002, with a supplement through June 2004. Also available online at [www.gpoaccess.gov/constitution/browse.html](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/constitution/browse.html), with annotations of cases through June 2008.

## **Treatises/Encyclopedias, cont'd**

- American Constitutional Law*, Vol. 1, Lawrence H. Tribe, 3d ed., 2000. Law Reserve KF 4550 .T785 2000.
- Constitutional Law*, John E. Nowak and Ronald D. Rotunda, 7th ed., 2004. Law Reserve KF 4550 .N6 2004. One-volume hornbook.
- Constitutional Law: Principles and Policies*, Erwin Chemerinsky, 3d ed., 2006. Law Reserve KF 4550 .C427 2006.
- Encyclopedia of the American Constitution*, Leonard W. Levy, Kenneth L. Karst, and Dennis J. Mahoney, eds., 1986. Law KF 4548 .E53 1986. Four-volume encyclopedia.
- Oral Arguments and Decision Making on the United States Supreme Court*, Timothy R. Johnson (2004). Law KF 8742 .J64 2004.
- The Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court of the United States*, Kermit Hall, ed., 2d ed. 2005. Law Reserve KF 8742 .A35 O93 2005.
- Principles of Constitutional Law*, John E. Nowak & Ronald D. Rotunda, 3d ed., 2007. Law KF 4550 .Z9 2007.
- Supreme Court Practice*, Eugene Gressman, et al., 9th ed., 2007. Law Reserve KF 9057 .S8 2007.
- The Supreme Court Review*. Technically a law review and indexed in LegalTrac, this is an annual book of articles analyzing Supreme Court opinions. Law KF 8742 .A5 S9. Available electronically through SABIO and on Westlaw and Lexis.
- Treatise on Constitutional Law: Substance and Procedure*, Ronald D. Rotunda and John E. Nowak, 4th ed., 2007. Law KF 4550 .R63 2007. Six-volume treatise. Also available on Westlaw, CONLAW database.

## **Records and Briefs**

- U.S. Supreme Court Records and Briefs, 1832 - 1978*. Available electronically through Sabio; direct link through Law Library's Begin Researching page: [www.law.arizona.edu/Library/Research/index.cfm](http://www.law.arizona.edu/Library/Research/index.cfm).
- The Records and Briefs of the Supreme Court of the United States*. Records from 1832 - 1896 are on microfilm; 1897 - present on microfiche. Accessed by U.S. citation prior to 1977, by docket number since then. Ask a librarian for assistance in retrieving these. See below for more ways to access these documents.

## **INTERNET RESOURCES**

### **General Federal Court Sites and Links to All Circuit Courts of Appeal**

- Law Library's Legal Links - Federal Judicial Legal Links Home Page:  
[www.law.arizona.edu/Library/Research/LegalLinks/Federal/judicial.cfm?page=research](http://www.law.arizona.edu/Library/Research/LegalLinks/Federal/judicial.cfm?page=research)

### **Supreme Court Sites**

- United States Supreme Court: [www.supremecourtus.gov/](http://www.supremecourtus.gov/)  
Official website for the Supreme Court; contains slip opinions beginning with the 1999 - 2000 term, general information about the Court, history, rules, etc. As of beginning of the 2000 - 2001 term, also contains argument transcripts.

## Supreme Court Sites, cont'd

LII (Cornell) Supreme Court Collection: <http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct/>

Contains searchable database of nearly all the Supreme Court's opinions issued since May 1990; also contains over 600 of the court's most important decisions throughout its history.

Supreme Court - FindLaw: [www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.html](http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.html)

Contains searchable database of Supreme Court opinions since 1893.

Justia U.S. Supreme Court Center: <http://supreme.justia.com/>

Contains cases and links to briefs, blogs, and other resources-has stuff that Findlaw used to have.

## US Law Week Supreme Court Today

Published by BNA, this contains Supreme Court cases, summaries of oral arguments, docket information, and current news information about the Supreme Court and related issues.

Available electronically only on law school computers through BNA Electronic

Subscriptions link on the library research page:

[www.law.arizona.edu/Library/Research/index.cfm](http://www.law.arizona.edu/Library/Research/index.cfm). Also available on Westlaw in the BNA-USLWST database and on Lexis in the BNASCT database.

## Research Guides

*Supreme Court Research Guide*, Georgetown Law Library, last updated June 2008:

[www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/supreme\\_court.cfm](http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/supreme_court.cfm)

*Web Guide to U.S. Supreme Court Research*, Gail Partin, LLRX.com (Dec. 22, 2003):

[www.llrx.com/features/supremectwebguide.htm](http://www.llrx.com/features/supremectwebguide.htm).

*Supreme Court Research*, Tarlton Law Library, University of Texas,

<http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/vlibrary/spct/>.

## Blogs

*SCOTUSBlog*: [www.scotusblog.com/](http://www.scotusblog.com/). Done by a D.C. law firm specializing in litigation before the Supreme Court. If you're going to follow any Supreme Court related blog, follow this one.

*How Appealing*: <http://legalaffairs.org/howappealing/>. The first blog (and best) blog devoted to appellate litigation.

## Westlaw Databases - Supreme Court

SCT: Contains all Supreme Court cases from 1790 & current within 30 minutes of decision.

SCT-ORALARG: Transcripts of U.S. Supreme Court Oral Arguments beginning with the 1990-1991 term. Can link to oral argument from the Caption tab of opinions.

SCT-BRIEF: U.S. Supreme Court Briefs includes Merits and Amicus Briefs filed with the US Supreme Court for cases in which certiorari has been granted or probable jurisdiction has been noted and for which oral arguments have been scheduled. Merits Briefs date from the 1990-1991 Term to the present. Amicus briefs date from the 1995-1996 Term to the present. Can link to briefs from the Caption tab of opinions.

- SCT-BRIEF-ALL: U.S. Supreme Court Briefs Multibase has selected briefs and Petitions for Writ filed in U.S. Supreme Court, with coverage as far back as 1870.
- SCT-PETITION: Petitions for writs of certiorari and related documents, such as briefs in opposition and support of the petitions and amicus briefs. Selected coverage begins with 1990.
- Supreme Court Justice Database: Contains all the opinions joined or authored by each current justice; use the justice's last name as the database name. Also includes federal and state court opinions where the justice was the attorney of record and law review articles.
- SCT-PREVIEW: Contains "Preview of U.S. Supreme Court Cases," a publication of the Public Education Division of the American Bar Association with cooperation of the Association of American Law Schools and the American Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation consisting of in-depth case previews of cases to be argued before the US Supreme Court. Coverage begins in 1989.

### **LEXIS Databases - Supreme Court**

- USLED: Contains the opinions of all Supreme Court Lawyers' Edition cases since 1790.
- USTRAN: Supreme Court Transcripts from Oct. 1, 1979-present. Transcripts are received within two weeks of publication.
- BRIEFS: Selected Supreme Court Briefs from 1936; all from 1979.
- PRE-VU: Contains "Preview of U.S. Supreme Court Cases," a publication of the Public Education Division of the American Bar Association with cooperation of the Association of American Law Schools and the American Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation consisting of in-depth case previews of cases to be argued before the US Supreme Court. Coverage begins in 1991.
- USPLUS: Combines Supreme Court Cases from 1790, Briefs from October 1979, and ABA Preview from 1990.

### **Westlaw Databases - Courts of Appeal**

- CTA: Contains cases from all circuits after 1891. CTAR has reported cases & CTAU has unpublished cases.
- CTAXX: Contains court of appeals cases from 1891 where XX stands for the circuit number, i.e., CTA9 contains 9th Circuit cases. CTA9R has reported cases & CTA9U has unreported cases.

### **LEXIS Databases - Courts of Appeal**

- CONLAW;FEDCTS: Contains Constitutional Law Cases from the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, District Courts, and other federal courts; coverage varies by court.
- CONLAW;USAPP: Contains Courts of Appeals Constitutional Law Cases; coverage depends on circuit.
- GENFED;XXCIR: Court of Appeals cases from 1912 where XX equals the circuit number, i.e., 9CIR contains 9th Circuit cases.