

RESEARCHING CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

Spring 2004

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. Paperback versions combining several slip opinions are received approximately nine months after the decision. Hardbound versions are published approximately two years after the decision. 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) - Now published by Lexis Publishing, this reporter also is published faster and contains a different system of headnotes.

US Law Week - Law Reserve KF 101 .N47 - Published every week by the Bureau of National Affairs (BNA), this used to be the fastest way to get copies of published opinions. It also contains summaries of oral arguments, docket information, and current news information about the Supreme Court and related issues.

Digests & Citators

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

Shepard's United States Citations - The set contains separate volumes for each reporter and a parallel table of cases volume.

Shepard's United States Supreme Court Case Names Citator

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, Law Reference, & Law Reserve KF 4527 .U55 1996. Prepared by the Library of Congress, this volume contains the constitution and annotations of Supreme Court opinions through June 2000. Also available online at www.access.gpo.gov/congress/senate/constitution/toc.html with annotations of cases through June 28, 2000.
- 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.
- The Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court of the United States*, Kermit Hall, ed., 1992. Law & Law Reserve KF 8742 .A35 O93 1992.
- A Practical Companion to the Constitution: How the Supreme Court has Ruled on Issues from Abortion to Zoning*, Jethro K. Lieberman, 1999. Law Reference KF 4548 .L54 1999. Has two supplements updating it through the 1999 - 2000 term.
- How to Research the Supreme Court*, Fenton S. Martin and Robert U. Goehlert, 1992. Law KF 8741 .A1 M36 1992.
- Treatise on Constitutional Law: Substance and Procedure*, Ronald D. Rotunda and John E. Nowak, 3d ed., 1999. Law KF 4550 .R63 1999. Five-volume treatise.
- Constitutional Law*, John E. Nowak and Ronald D. Rotunda, 6th ed., 2000. Law Reserve KF 4550 .N6 2000. One-volume hornbook.
- American Constitutional Law*, Laurence H. Tribe, 2d ed., 1988. Law KF 4550 .T75 1988. ? Two-volume set.
- American Constitutional Law*, Vol. 1, Lawrence H. Tribe, 3d ed., 2000. Law Reserve KF 4550 .T785 2000.
- Constitutional Law: Principles and Policies*, Erwin Chemerinsky, 2d ed., 2002. Law Reserve KF 4550 .C427 2002.
- Supreme Court Practice*, Robert L. Stern, et al., 8th ed., 2002. Law Reserve KF 9057 .S9 2002.
- 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. Also available electronically through SABIO, the electronic catalog.

Microforms.

- Records and Briefs*. Supreme Court records and briefs beginning in 1832. 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.

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:
http://www.law.arizona.edu/library/internet/legal_links/federal/judicial.htm

Supreme Court Sites

United States Supreme Court: <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.

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: <http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.html>

Contains searchable database of Supreme Court opinions since 1893.

Constitutional Law Center - FindLaw:

http://supreme.lp.findlaw.com/supreme_court/resources.html

Contains the Supreme Court docket, orders, briefs beginning with the 1999-2000 term, etc.

US Law Week - Available electronically only on law school computers through BNA Electronic Subscriptions link on the student intranet page.

Blogs

How Appealing: <http://appellateblog.blogspot.com/>. The first blog (and best) blog devoted to appellate litigation. If you're going to follow any legal-related blog, follow this one.

SCOTUSBlog: <http://www.goldsteinhowe.com/blog/>. Done by a D.C. law firm specializing in litigation before the Supreme Court.

Westlaw Databases - Supreme Court

SCT: Contains Supreme Court cases after 1944.

SCT-OLD: Contains Supreme Court cases before 1945.

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.

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.

WLB-SCT: Westlaw Bulletin - U.S. Supreme Court. Contains brief summaries of court decisions or other legal activity of interest prepared by the West editors summarizing recent Supreme Court developments. Will initially bring up a listing of current decisions, including denials and grants of certiorari; to search, click on "Edit Query".

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.

LEXIS Databases - Supreme Court

CONLAW;USLED: Contains the opinions of all Supreme Court Lawyers' Edition cases since 1790.

GENFED;USTRAN or CONLAW;USTRAN: Supreme Court Transcripts from Oct. 1, 1979-present. Transcripts are received within two weeks of publication.

CONLAW;BRIEFS or GENFED;BRIEFS: Supreme Court Briefs from 1979.

GENFED;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.

Westlaw Databases - Courts of Appeal

CTA: Contains cases from all circuits after 1944. CTAR has reported cases & CTAU has unpublished cases.

CTA-OLD: Contains cases from all the courts of appeals from 1891 to 1944.

CTAF: Contains cases from the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit from 1945.

CTAFEDR has reported cases; CTAFEDU has unpublished cases.

CTAF-OLD: Contains cases from the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit from 1856 to 1944.

CTAXX: Contains court of appeals cases from 1945 where XX stands for the circuit number, i.e., CTA9 contains 9th Circuit cases.

CTAXX-OLD: Contains court of appeals cases from 1891 through 1944 where XX stands for the circuit number.

CTADC: Contains cases from the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit from 1945.

CTADC-OLD: Contains cases from the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit from 1919 - 1944.

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;USAPP: Contains all Court of Appeals cases.

GENFED;XXCIR: Court of Appeals cases from 1912 where XX equals the circuit number, i.e., 9CIR contains 9th Circuit cases.