

FINDING CASES

Library Research Guide

Cases are published in volumes called "case reports", "report(s)" or "reporter(s)". Every reported (published) case has a unique citation. As long as you have the citation, you can find any case published in a standard case reporter. A case citation usually contains the case name, the name of the reporter(s) where the case is published, the volume number(s) of the reporter(s), the page number, and the year the case was decided. The following is an example of a case citation:

<i>Miranda v. Arizona</i>	384	U.S.	436	(1966)
Case name	Vol. No.	Abbreviated name of reporter	Page No.	Year of the decision

CASE SOURCES

You can find cases in print or CD-ROM format in our library; you can also find cases through the Internet. Details of the print/CD-ROM sources and the URLs of the case finding web sites are given below. [For more abbreviations, please see *Black Law's Dictionary* REF KF156.B53.]

1. Print/CD-ROM Sources in Houston Cole Library:

a) ***United States Reports*** (U.S.)

KF101.U5 (10th Floor, Reference Section)

Official Supreme Court reports. Covering cases and decisions from the year 1790 to present. Compiled chronologically. Decisions first appear in slip opinion form, then on an official advance sheet (called the "preliminary print"), and finally the bound U.S. Reports column. Library Has: Vol. 259- Present (print)

Librarian's Suggestion: *Good place to look up Supreme Court cases from year 1921.*

b) ***United States Supreme Court Reports, Lawyer's Edition*** (L.Ed.)

KF101.U52 (10th Floor, Reference Section)

Commercial Supreme Court reports. Covers all Supreme Court decisions since the court's inception in 1790. Compiled chronologically. Library Has: Vol. 1- Vol. 67 (print)

Librarian's Suggestion: *Good place to find supreme court cases from 1790 to 1922.*

c) ***United States Supreme Court Reporter*** (S.Ct.)

KF 101.S9 (10th Floor, Reference Section)

Commercial Supreme Court reports. Covers Supreme Court cases since 1882. Compiled chronologically.

Library Has: Vol.52-Vol.110A (print)

Librarian's Suggestion: *Good place to find cases between Oct. 1931 to Oct. 1989.*

d) ***Federal Supplement*** (F. Supp.)

KF 120. F4 (10th Floor, Reference Section)

U.S. District Court cases and decisions. Includes decisions of the U.S. Court of International Trades cases. Compiled chronologically under each district court.

Library Has: F. Supp.: Vol. 176-Vol.949 (print), Vol.475-Vol.999 (CD-ROM) F.Supp.2d. Vol.1-Vol.118 & Table of Cases (CD-ROM)

Librarian's Suggestion: *Good place to find district cases and international trade case.*

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- e) ***Federal Reporter Second Series/Third Series*** (F.2d/F3d)
KF 105.F42 (10th Floor, Reference Section)
Lower federal cases and decisions of the U.S. Courts of Appeals from 1880. More emphasis on the U.S. temporary emergency at present. Compiled chronologically under each circuit court.
Library Has: F.2d: Vol. 176-Vol.999 (print) Vol.604-999 (CD-ROM) F.3d: Vol. 1- Vol. 104 (print) Vol.1-Vol.228& Table of Cases (CD-ROM)
Librarian's Suggestion: *Good place to find appeals cases of the lower federal courts.*
- f) ***Alabama Reporter*** (Ala)
KFA 45.A22 (10th Floor, Reference Section)
Report cases argued and determined in the Supreme Court of Alabama. Compiled chronologically.
Library Has: Vol. 97-Vol. 687 (print) So.: Vol.1- Vol. 200 (CD-ROM) So.2d: Vol. 1- Vol. 762 (CD-ROM)
Librarian's Suggestion: *Good place to find Alabama supreme court cases.*
- g) ***Alabama Appellate Court Reports*** (Ala.App.)
KFA 47.A2 (10th Floor, Reference Section)
Report cases argued and determined in the court of appeals of Alabama. Compiled chronologically.
Library Has: Vol. 16-Vol. 57
Librarian's Suggestion: *Good place to find Alabama appeal court cases.*

2. Internet Resources

- FindLaw
<http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.html> (supreme court cases)
<http://www.findlaw.com> (state court cases)
- The Metaindex for U.S. Legal Research
<http://gsulaw.gsu.edu/metaindex/> (supreme court cases)
- FedWorld/FLITE Supreme Court Decision 1937-1975
<http://www.fedworld.gov/supcourt/index.htm>
- InfoSynthesis
<http://www.uscplus.com/> (supreme court cases)
- Legal Information Institute
<http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct/index.php> (supreme court cases)
- Selected History Decisions
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/cases/historic.htm> (supreme court cases)
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/states/index.html> (state court cases)

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- Oral Arguments
<http://oyez.nwu.edu> (supreme court cases)
- National Federation of Paralegal Associations
<http://www.paralegals.org/LegalResources> (state court cases)
- Court TV
<http://www.courtTV.com>

[Find newest cases by keyword search in the following sites:]

- Yahoo
<http://www.yahoo.com>
- FindLaw's Law Crawler
<http://www.findlaw.com>
- Altavista
<http://www.altavista.com>
- VersusLaw
<http://www.versuslaw.com>
- Law News Network
<http://www.lawnewsnetwork.com>

More

Cases can also be found via Westlaw Campus electronic database from library home page. For more detailed information on this, go to

<http://www.jsu.edu/depart/library/graphic/handouts/FindingCasesWestLaw.pdf>.