

# Introduction to Legal Research on Fastcase for Paralegals (2013)



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## Getting Started: Logging in

Retail Subscribers	Bar Association Members
<p>Go to <a href="http://www.fastcase.com">www.fastcase.com</a> and click the Login button at the top right hand side of the screen</p> 	<p>Go to your bar association's website, log in, then look for the Fastcase logo or link.</p>

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## What Fastcase covers

Fastcase is a **Primary Law Database**

<b>Case Law</b>	Federal and state case law back to 1950**
<b>Statutes</b>	U.S. Code & official state statutes for D.C. plus 47 states
<b>Other Regulations</b>	Links to state and federal administrative regulations and codes (some are searchable)
<b>Court Rules</b>	Links to state and federal courts rules (some are searchable)
<b>Constitutions</b>	Links to state and federal constitutions (some are searchable)

[www.fastcase.com](http://www.fastcase.com)

[What is Fastcase ?](#)

[Go To Scope of Coverage](#)

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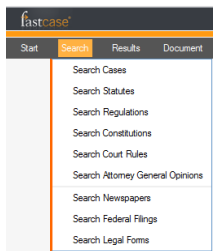
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## What content are you looking for?



Anything listed below this line is offered from one of our partners and is available on a transactional basis.

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## If you're searching for caselaw

**Quick Caselaw Search**

- Simple Keyword Search
- Citation Lookup

**Advanced Caselaw Search**

- Keyword Search (with Boolean Operators)
- Natural Language Search
- Citation Lookup

Use Quick Caselaw Search to locate known cases using reporter citations or docket numbers

Use Advanced Caselaw Search for all other types of searches




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## Types of searches

### Citation Lookup

- Pull up cases by reporter citation

### Natural Language

- Best for non-legal professionals or those who are new to online legal research or unfamiliar with keyword searching
- Less precise than Keyword search

### Keyword (Boolean)

- Most powerful, precise and flexible way to search

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## My Research Home

Quick Caselaw Search [switch to advanced caselaw search](#)

All Jurisdictions  IL Search >>

**Start a New Search**

- Advanced Caselaw Search
- Search Statutes
- Search Regulations
- Search Constitutions
- Search Court Rules
- Search Attorney General Opinions
- Search Newspapers
- Search Federal Filings
- Search Legal Forms

**Last 10 Searches**

- summary judgment standard
- arizona v. gant
- notarior & "ineffective assistance"
- "chemical waste" NOT management
- "chemical waste" NOT management
- katz v. saucier
- sentencing guidelines downward departure
- sentencing guidelines downward departure
- pullman abstention
- hearsay & (minor or child\*)

**Help Options**

- FAQs
- User Guide
- Tutorials
- Live Chat
- E-mail Support
- Resources

**The Fastcase Blog**

Litigating Innovation  
The Apple v. Samsung case

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## Quick Caselaw Search

Simple citation lookup using 384 U.S. 436

Quick Caselaw Search [switch to advanced caselaw search](#)

All Jurisdictions Search >>

produces this result:

[Click on the hyperlinked case caption to view the full text of the case.](#)

Relevance	Case	Decision Date	Authority Check
100%	<a href="#">384 U.S. 436, 110 S.Ct. 1631, 108 L.Ed.2d 813, 68 S.Ct. 361, 36 L.Ed.2d 389</a>	June 15, 1966	F 36363

The cases below are new positions which go to the heart of their respective American criminal law systems. The materials herein must always be consulted with the Federal Constitution in particular in relation to crime. Also specified are cases with the advantage of opinions delivered from an individual who is subjected to qualified police interrogation and the reasons for procedures which occur that the individual is accused in a process under the 14th Amendment to the...

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## Citation Lookup

You can locate cases by citation using the Advanced Caselaw Search page as well. If you need help with the formatting, just take a look at the search tips located under the search box. You can even enter multiple citations, separated by commas, to retrieve several cases at one time.

[Click for search tips](#)

**Advanced Caselaw Search**  
 Keyword Search (Default)  Natural Language  Citation Lookup

Search >>

Keyword	Example (Click for more examples)	Result
Volume, reporter, first page number	100 F.2d 302	cases with citation Adreaga v. Plammons,100 F.2d 302, 305 (9th Cir.1994)
Multiple citations separated by commas	100 F.2d 302, 100 F.2d 100, 418 S.Ct. 453	cases with the citations specified
Incorrect citations	100 F. 30202 100 F. 30202 100 F.30202	no results as there is an error in spacing and/or punctuation

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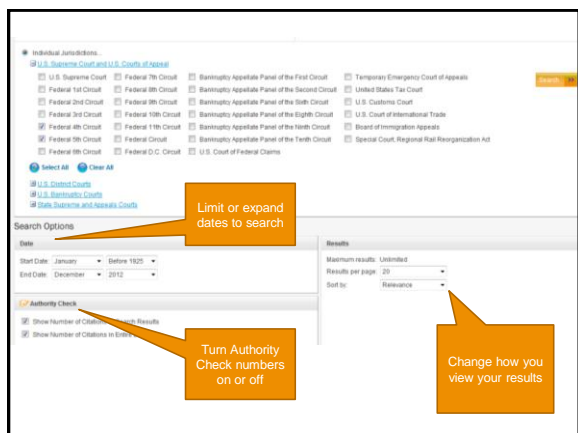
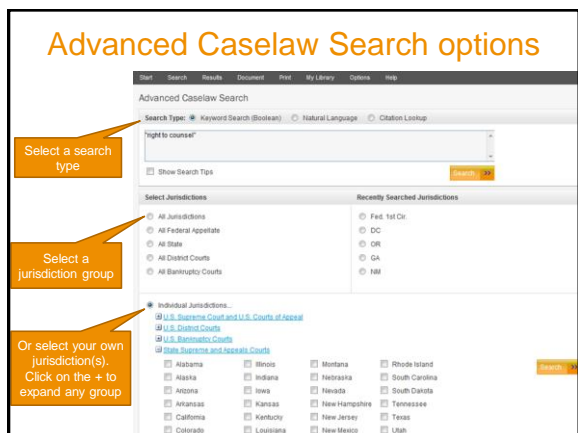
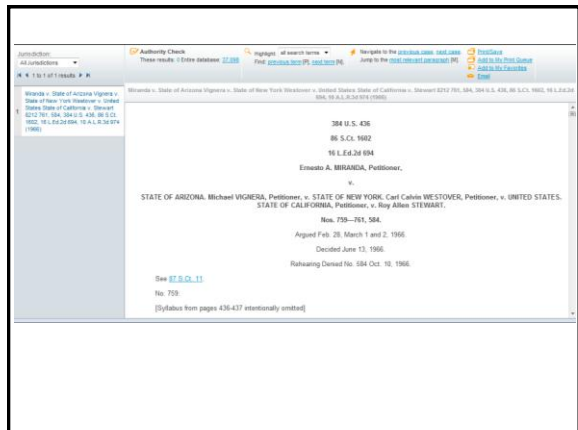
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## Batch retrieval and printing

Quick Caselaw Search [switch to advanced caselaw search](#)

612 F. Supp 2d 90, 534 F.3d 1282, 510 F.3d 870, 285 F.3d 298

All Jurisdictions

Start a New Search

- Advanced Caselaw Search
- Search Statutes
- Search Regulations
- Search Constitutions
- Search Court Rules
- Search Attorney General Opinions
- Search Newspapers

Last 10 Searches

- 372 US 335
- 42 USC 1983
- 29-4-4-110
- "18 u.s.c." w/3 '924"
- Blood w/10 warrant & "fourth amendment"
- Blood w/10 warrant & "fourth amendment"
- (warrant or warrantless) & "fourth amendment" & (blood w/3 draw")
- (warrant or warrantless) & "fourth amendment" & (blood

Help Options

- FAQs
- User Guide
- Tutorials
- Live Chat
- E-mail Support
- Resources



Results Interactive Timeline

Jurisdiction: All Jurisdictions

1 to 4 of 4 results

Print List of Results

Print/Save Documents in Queue

Relevance	Case
100%	1. <a href="#">Wade v. Brady, 612 F.Supp.2d 90 (D. Mass., 2009)</a> INTRODUCTION... Robert Wade ("Wade") brings this action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 to vindicate his right to a Due Process right to postconviction access to biological evidence under certain circumstances. He aims to subject that evidence to DNA testing and use the results, which he believes that there was a Due Process right to postconviction access to biological evidence under certain circumstances.
100%	2. <a href="#">Bryson v. Gonzales, 534 F.3d 1282 (10th Cir., 2008)</a> David Bryson was convicted of rape and spent 19 years in jail until exonerated by DNA evidence. Chemist Joyce Gilchrist, District Attorney Robert Macy, and former Oklahoma City Police Chief prevented him from obtaining access to DNA evidence that he believed would demonstrate his innocence.
100%	3. <a href="#">Cooper v. Brown, 510 F.3d 870 (9th Cir., 2007)</a> Kevin Cooper appeals the district court's denial of his third federal petition for a writ of habeas corpus. He seeks a writ of habeas corpus and a new trial. He also seeks a writ of habeas corpus and a new trial. He also seeks a writ of habeas corpus and a new trial.
100%	4. <a href="#">Harvey v. Horan, 285 F.3d 298 (4th Cir., 2002)</a> ORDER... Appellee filed a petition for rehearing and rehearing en banc... Judge King voted to deny the petition for rehearing and rehearing en banc... Chief Judge King voted to deny the petition for rehearing and rehearing en banc... The Court denied the petition for rehearing and rehearing en banc...



fastcase

Start Search Results Document **Print** My Library Options Help

Results Interactive Timeline

Jurisdiction: All Jurisdictions

1 to 4 of 4 results

Print Results

Print Document

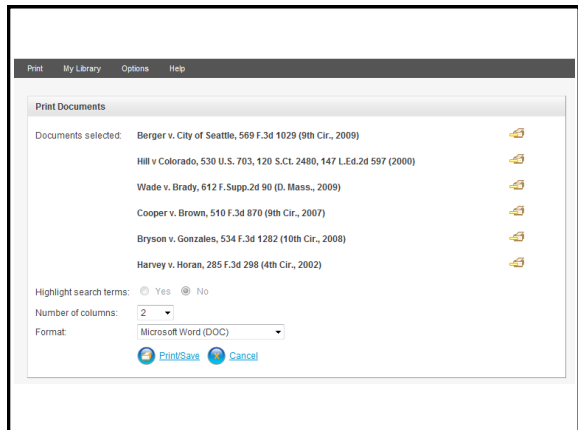
Print List of Results

Print/Save Documents in Queue

View Print Queue

Relevance	Case
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100%	2. <a href="#">Bryson v. Gonzales, 534 F.3d 1282 (10th Cir., 2008)</a> David Bryson was convicted of rape and spent 19 years in jail until exonerated by DNA evidence. Chemist Joyce Gilchrist, District Attorney Robert Macy, and former Oklahoma City Police Chief prevented him from obtaining access to DNA evidence that he believed would demonstrate his innocence.
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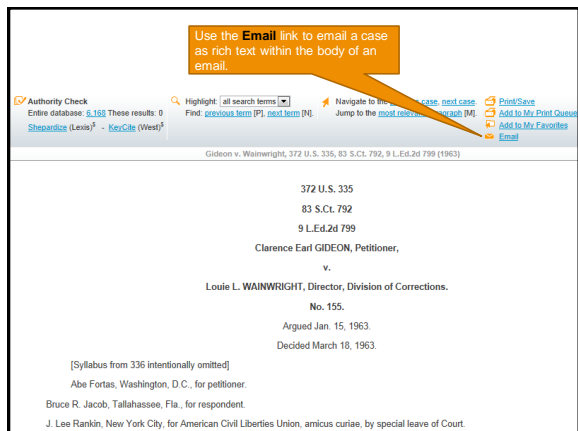
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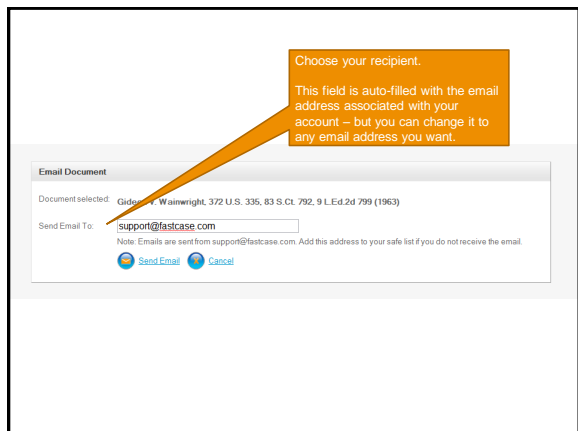
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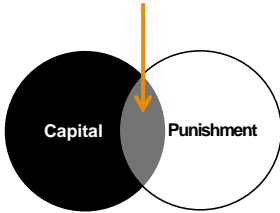
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### AND Operator

Capital AND Punishment → Cases containing both words



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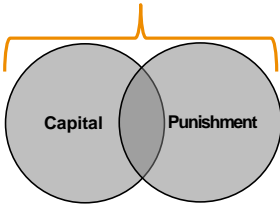
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### OR Operator

Capital OR Punishment → Cases containing at least one of the two words



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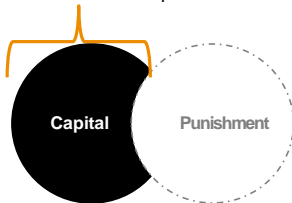
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### NOT Operator

Capital NOT Punishment → Cases containing the word capital but not the word punishment



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### “Within” Operator

Jury w/3 Trial → Cases containing the word jury within 3 words of the word trial

... jury trial ...  
... trial by jury ...  
... jury for the trial ...  
... jury. Moreover, trial ...  
... jury question, the trial ...

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### \* = Multi-letter Wildcard Operator

Delib\* → Cases containing any word that begins with “delib”

deliberate  
deliberation  
deliberator  
deliberately

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### ? = Single Letter Wildcard Operator

Less?r → Cases containing any word that has “less\_r”

lessor  
lesser

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## Quotation Marks

"Miranda warning" → Cases containing the **exact phrase** "Miranda warning"

Using quotation marks helps to filter out less relevant results. By entering an **exact phrase in quotation marks**, you rule out the possibility of finding cases that contain just the words "Miranda" or "warning".

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## Parentheses

(trial OR hearing) AND delib\* → Cases containing either word *trial* or hearing *and* words beginning with *delib*.

Using **parentheses** when entering in **multiple boolean operators** helps to determine which operators you are applying to which terms.

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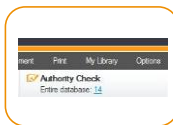
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## ADVANCED TOOLS



**Authority Check**



**Interactive Timeline**



**Forecite**

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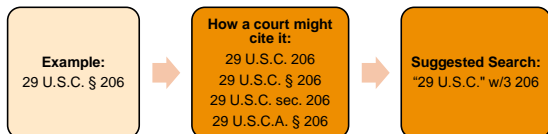




## “Annotating” Statutes

How to annotate a statute on your own by using the statute’s citation and some of what we’ve learned today.

- Since each court might cite the statute slightly differently, you may need to try several different variations.




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- To narrow down the results, you could also try adding keywords that are relevant to your topic of research.

Syntax	Example (click to run a search)	Result
AND, &	copyright AND preemption	cases with both the words "copyright" and "preemption"
OR	landlord OR lessor	cases with either the word "landlord" or "lessor"
NOT	chemical waste NOT management	cases with the words "chemical" and "waste" but not "management"
()	(security OR pledge) AND assignment	cases with either "security" or "pledge", and also the word "assignment"
..	"felony murder"	cases containing the exact phrase "felony murder"
w/2, /2	capital w/2 punishment	cases in which the word "capital" appears within 2 words of the word "pu"
*	mitig*	wildcard - cases containing variations of the stem, such as "mitigate", "r"
?	adv?s*	single letter wildcard - cases with the words "advisor", "adviser"

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## Customer Support



<b>CALL</b> 1-866-773-2782	<b>EMAIL</b> support@fastcase.com	<b>LIVE CHAT</b> Help → Live Help
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Available 8 am - 8 pm Eastern, Monday through Friday  
(excluding holidays)

Additional Training Resources:

<a href="http://www.fastcase.com">www.fastcase.com</a>	Help & Training	Documentation & Downloads
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